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The Miniature Book Society, Inc is a non-profit organization chartered in 1983 by the State of Ohio. Its purposes are to sustain an interest in all phases of miniature books; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; and to serve as a clearinghouse for information about miniature books. www.mbs.org

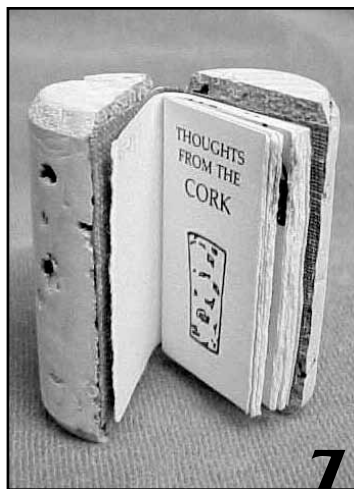
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Membership in the Society is open to all that have an interest in miniature books. USA dues: \$30.00 individual/couple, \$40 corporate; Canada dues: \$35.00 (US) individual/couple and \$45.00(US) corporate; Outside N. America: \$45 (US) individual/couple and \$55.00(US) corporate.

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Cover Photograph: Mark Palkovic with some books from his collection, including publications of Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig, Yanico Publishers, Mosaic Press, and Flying Pig Press. The centerpiece of his collection is the current "smallest book in the world," Pushkin's Chameleon published in Omsk, Siberia.

## Editor's Word



Dean Gattone

I hope you all enjoy this issue as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. This publication is finally becoming what we all want it to be: information about the Society and its members.

So many of you sent in contributions large and small which I enjoyed editing together for everyone. Keep it up! We need

to hear from more of you in 2001.

The diverse level of collecting,

publishing, exhibiting, and buying/selling/swapping that goes on demonstrates the great strength of our group singly and collectively.

Happy New Year!

### Member Jack Morrison Dies

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Jack R. Morrison, of La Jolla, California. The Society wishes to express its sympathy to his wife and MBS member Betty A. Morrison.

### Publisher Cliff Helbert Dies

Long-time member Clifford D. Helbert died in Milwaukee at the age of 80 in September. Proprietor of the "ABCDarium of Clifford Helbert," he printed and published five miniature books between 1987 and 1991. The titles were "Peasants of the Vistula," "Mother Bickerdyke," "Ecce Littera," "Dunlap and Claypool," and "Reflections on Mortality in Prose and Poetry."

The retired dean of Marquette University's College of Journalism, Helbert maintained a studio where he continued his letterpress printing activities. In addition to miniature book publishing, he built an admirable collection of miniature books. In 1961 he received the "Outstanding International Craftsman (Benjamin Franklin) Award," and in 1975 was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Art. His specialty was typology and graphic design.

Warren Bovee, Marquette professor emeritus of journalism, said: "What I always thought was important was that he was both an artist and a craftsman. Usually people in education can do one or the other. He had both."

## Meet the Board: Mark Palkovic (Treasurer)

Like so many of us, Mark came to miniature book collecting through accident/happenstance. While working as a cataloger of rare books at the Auburn University in 1980, a small book fell off his shelf behind his desk. Picking it up, he discovered it was Lincoln's Gettysburg Address published by Bela Blau. Fascinated that there could be such things, Mark remembered walking by a dollhouse shop on his way to work. He stopped to see if they had others and discovered Miriam Irwin's books and that was it—he was off collecting!

A new job in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1981, led to a meeting with Miriam and to a visit to the first book fair of the yet to be created Miniature Book Society in Tipp City, Ohio.

Before becoming Treasurer, Mark helped with the Cincinnati Conclave in 1989, exhibited his



Mark Palkovic and Virginia Wisniewski in the MBS travelling exhibit host library, College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning, University of Cincinnati.

books in the Cincinnati area, and chaired a committee that set standards for the MBS Newsletter.

Mark's collection is mainly "smaller ones" as he describes it. Besides the dollhouse size books, a summer in Graz, Austria in 1986 as a librarian for a school for aspiring opera singers, led to a visit to

Budapest where he discovered the prolific publishing of the Hungarian press at that time. A new specialty, Hungarian miniatures, was opened. As many of these books were about major Hungarian composers like Bartok and Liszt, this fit with Mark's other interest, which is music.

Mark has worked at the College-Conservatory of Music Library at the University of Cincinnati for 20 years, and is now head librarian there. He has also been employed as a librarian at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, and Auburn University in Alabama. After authoring a book titled "Musical Boxe" in 1983 for Miriam Irwin's Mosaic Press, and publishing one himself in 1996 about etiquette, Mark is looking forward to publishing another title in 2001. His imprint is "Flying Pig Press."



University of Cincinnati graphic design students examining miniature books.

## Dues Reminder

Please renew now & help us avoid the extra work & postage of a reminder:

Dues run from January through December. You must renew prior to December 31, 2000 in order to be included in the 2001 Yearbook.

Remittance must be in US dollars or by International Postal Money Order. ONLY checks drawn on US banks will be accepted. Please make all checks payable to The Miniature Book Society, Inc. and mail them to our Treasurer, Mark Palkovic, whose address is noted elsewhere in the Newsletter.

There are many of us in the Society who claim they know Monsignor Francis J. Weber. Of course they know him through the some 111 miniature books he has published as well as his presence at the annual Conclaves. The Monsignor is a Charter member of the Society and has been one of its moving spirits. I thought I knew him, but it took the reading of his latest full size "big book" to give me

later when she was recognized with a star on the famed Hollywood Walk of Fame. At the age of seventy-three, she discovered the art of fine printing under the direction of the internationally famed printer, Ward Ritchie. She has published ten fine-press books, including two miniatures.

In an old book (1956) *BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS*, the smallest

duced by N.V. Lettergietyery "Amsterdam"--a firm of Dutch type founders on the occasion of their 100th year in business. They are approximately 4.1mm (5/32) of an inch square, leather bound, stamped in gold, and containing 20 pages. On the first page is a reproduction of the Lord's Prayer.

Lois Hall Barrington's "My Grandfather Was a Yankee Peddler", 2 7/8 X 2 1/16 inches, 27 pages was in an edition of 300 numbered copies. It was a miniature book with some kind of record for time required for production. The colophon records the printing of it from 1962-1964. Then, as a note in the front states--the printed pages were in storage for twelve years, then it took a year and a half for the making the cover and complete the binding!

--Val Poska

“...one can get fired up to proselytize the whole world with the spirit of our tiny tomes.”

the full treatment of the man also best known as the Archivist of the Los Angeles Roman Catholic Diocese. A full size book covers the picture pretty well, with its 691 pages. *MEMORIES OF AN OLD COUNTRY PRIEST* caps a writing career that began in 1961 with additional works still in progress. I was not only impressed with this interesting autobiography, but I was more and more amazed as I read along. Of special interest to us in the Society is Chapter Nineteen "Miniature Books". It describes his life-long affair with books in general and miniature books in particular. Examining the contents of this chapter more carefully, one can get fired up to proselytize the whole world with the spirit of our tiny tomes. Thanks to this book I now feel like I know the Monsignor much better and can appreciate him as not an acquaintance, but as a friend.

Back in January 1999, the now defunct *BIBLIO* magazine did a cover and story on Gloria Stuart "Princess of Print, Titanic's Gloria Stuart." Movie-goers remember her role as Rose, the 101-year-old survivor of the *TITANIC* which won her an Oscar nomination. That nomination led to another honor two years

book in the world was a handwritten one--*POEMS* by Edgar Guest. It was penned by Burt Randle in 1942. It is less than one-inch square and is held together by a metal clasp. The smallest "printed" books in the world were probably those pro-

## Miniature Book Society's Travelling Exhibit Schedule

The Society's travelling exhibit will appear in locations throughout the United States during the year 2001. The exhibit presents fine miniature books along with photographs of collectors, designers, and publishers as a way of promoting the Society. It is worth a visit should it come to your area.

(January - end February 2001)  
Geauga County Public Library,  
Geauga West Branch, Chesterland,  
Ohio

(March - end of April 2001)  
J. Drake Edens Library, Columbia  
College, 1301 Columbia College  
Drive, Columbia, SC 29203. (for infor-  
mation: 803-786-3691)

(May - end of June 2001)  
Public Information Office, Fort Bend  
County Libraries, Texas. (for informa-  
tion: 281-341-2679)

(July - end of August 2001)  
Loveland Public Library, 300 North  
Adams Ave., Loveland, CO 80537 (for  
information: 970-962-2404)

(August 31 - September 3, 2001)  
MBS Conclave XIX, Indianapolis,  
ID.

(September - end of October 2001)  
Book Arts & Special Collections  
Center, San Francisco Public Library,  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA  
94102 (for information: 415-557-4560)

### Come to Berlin in May! We invite you to attend the first European Miniature Book Meeting May 18 - 20, 2001 in Berlin, Germany

Publishers, collectors, dealers, binders and printers with an interest in miniature books will get together for a day of lectures, trading, buying, selling and talking about miniature books.

The society "Freundeskreis Miniaturbuch Berlin e.V.", member of MBS, is organizing this event. You can find out more about the FMB on their web site: [www.minibuch-berlin.de](http://www.minibuch-berlin.de).

Berlin is a fascinating and fast changing city, with many attractions for absolutely every interest. The city has over a hundred museums and galleries, 3 opera houses, concert halls, many theaters and an uncountable number of shops. The transportation system is very good. You can get around the town fast by bus, subway, city train (S-Bahn) or trams and if you travel as a group, it's even quite inexpensive!

On Friday, May 18, we are planning an informal dinner so people can get to know each other.

The main events will take place on Saturday, May 19. The morning is reserved for different lectures and in the afternoon a book fair will be held. These two events will be held at the Zentral und Landesbibliothek, a library in the heart of Berlin. This library has a special department for miniature books and an ever growing collection. They are planning a special exhibition of miniature books in May 2001. The MBS European Traveling Exhibition will also be on display.

On Sunday, May 20, an optional sightseeing tour around Berlin can be organized.

Costs will be kept low. There will be an admission fee for the lectures and book fair, as well as a fee for tables at the book fair. These prices



depend on room rental, charges for extras and the number of people attending. Everyone who registers will receive the details and some hotel suggestions.

Anyone wishing to take part in this event should register no later than February 28, 2001 by sending a letter, e-mail or fax to:

Angelika Jaeck  
Schivelbeiner Str. 10  
10439 Berlin  
Tel: +49 30 444 23 97  
Fax: +49 30 883 55 95  
E-mail: [ajaeck@knuut.de](mailto:ajaeck@knuut.de)

Let us know in which events you want to participate (Dinner on Friday, Lectures, Book Fair), if you need a table at the book fair and if you are interested in the sightseeing tour on Sunday.

French and German Cathedral on the Gendarmenmarkt.



Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church.

## A New Rubaiyat — A Review

In my MICROBIBLIOTRIVIA Book 3 (1986), I list 27 miniature editions of THE RUBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM, most of these dated early 1900's. Since then more miniatures have appeared, including Miriam Irwin's Mosaic Press edition of 1984. Over the years the RUBAIYAT in miniature form has been highly collectible and this recent work by the JEN Press fits right in. First of all, J. Ed Newman's work has a different title: THE TENT MAKER; Omar took the name of his father's profession. Next, the book contains a brief biography of the Persian poet, thus saving the reader hours of research and appreciation



of the fact that this classicist is so often repeated. Edward Fitzgerald first published the RUBAIYAT anonymously in 1859. The first printer he sent it to kept it for a year unnoticed. Fitzgerald got the copy back and had 250 copies printed at his own expense where again, unnoticed, it sat on the shelves. Finally

the bookseller reduced the price to a penny and dumped them into a bargain barrel. A browser eventually snapped them up for distribution to his friends. So says Edward Uhlan in his ROGUE OF PUBLISHERS ROW. From then on the RUBAIYAT became the biggest selling volume of poetry and his heirs sold first edition copies for thousands of dollars.

This latest edition contains a selected number of the quatrains, tiny color illustrations hand-colored, with the title on the cover and the spine.

—Val Poska

## Member News

(I have corresponded, mainly through the internet, with various members of the Society these last few months in an effort to generate stories for our NEWSLETTER. The following is a compilation of member news from this correspondence. --ed)

Pat Pistner is heading up the Women's Republican Club annual Fashion Show Scholarship Luncheon and Silent Auction in her area and promises to report on the Miniature Exhibit for Naples (Florida) Museum of Art for our next issue.

Caryl McHarney has been teaching the book arts to elementary school children while creating very limited edition books using paper she makes herself. Her recent works

include "My Dog" and "Chile". Escribiente, her New Mexico calligraphy group, is looking forward to sponsoring the Society's traveling exhibition in 2002.

Anna Olswanger is busy working on a new miniature book publishing company. She hopes to let us know more about it in a couple of months.

Dr. Lajos Babos reports from Budapest, Hungary that while interest in miniatures has dropped off in the past decade with many enthusiastic collectors passing away, their club in Budapest still has about twenty members.

Clare Bolton is busy printing linocuts for "An Autumn Garden"

with her artist friend Muriel Mallows. This "Jacob's Ladder book" is the third in a set of garden books. Once finished she hopes to start the fourth: "Winter Garden".

Catherine Burkhard hosted John and Joy Tonkin from Australia (who spoke at the Conclave in Vermont) at her Books 'n Letters Studio in November. They taught a workshop on French simplified binding, doing a miniature entitled "The Quirky Alphabet" with text printed on handmade paper. Kangaroo leather was used in some of the binding work.

The Dawsons keep in touch with members and friends by post  
continued on page 12

## The Miniature Wine Book

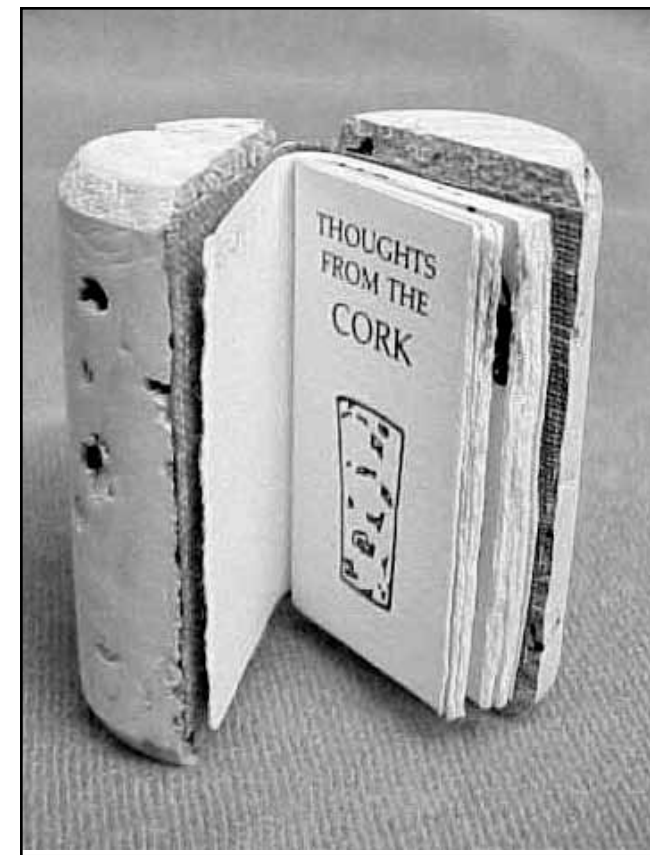
(Leonard Bernstein is both a fan of little books and of wine. He shares his enthusiasm and knowledge with us courtesy of THE WAYWARD TENDRILS NEWSLETTER (Vol 10, No.3 July 2000) from which this is reprinted with permission.--ed.)

Among the books collected about grapes and wine, there are few that measure under three inches high. Those that do are defined by the miniature specialists as miniature books and they have been intriguing collectors—not just wine book collectors—for a long time.

Many years before Gutenberg, miniature books were a popular format made by hand to fit comfortably in small hands. They were usually produced to convey religious or moralistic messages. Those early ones, and those that came after, have been prized for their charming format—but few, other than in a clever title, can be found specifically relating to grapes and wine.

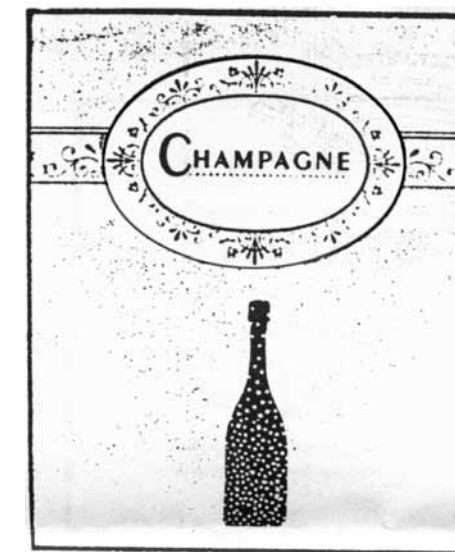
Aunt Laura's "A Bunch of Grapes" (Buffalo: Breed, Butler & Co., 1863) measures 1 1/2" X 1 1/4". Despite the title, the book presents a 19th century moral semi-religious lesson for young readers, emphasizing hard work and virtuous living. It is a long way from Haraszthy or Hyatt, which deal directly with grapes and wine, but it does provide the collector looking for a different kind of challenge something that is not common and fun to pursue.

The unique size of miniature books is only one reason why they are interesting. Many miniatures can be thought of as novelties or doll-house furniture, and there are many that have been used this way. But many miniature books share the



same qualities of fine printing, binding and art work that make "normal"-sized books so appealing.

Two early developments in typography contributed to the production of miniatures: "Diamond" type, measuring 4 point, was used in the early 1700s; "Fly's eye" type,



measuring 2 point, was used in the early 1830s. These tiny sizes were hand set, and require a good magnifying glass to read.

Novel in design, the next two titles manage to provide substance and form, even though one is not in a traditional book format: "The Corkscrew Book" (Salisbury, CT: Lime Rock Press, 1981) measures 3" X 7/8". Bound in grosgrain ribbon and "slip-cased" in a corkscrew handle, it contains fifteen pages of wine proverbs: "One barrel of wine can work more miracles than a church full of saints (Italian)."

"Thoughts from the Cork" (Salisbury, CT: Lime Rock Press, 1981) measures 1 1/4" X 7/8" and uses two halves of a cork as a binding.

This little gem has twenty-eight pages of quotations related to imbibing: "I fear the man who drinks water and so remembers this morning what the rest said last night--Greek Philosopher"

"Champagne" by Jane McDonald (Kansas City: Ariel Books, 1996) has a beautifully designed dust jacket, the front cover of which has a silhouette cut-out of a bottle under the title showing white bubbles on a blue paper background. This company also published in 1998, "Wine, The Universal Drink." (2 1/4 X 1 3/4")

Edgar Allen Poe's "Cask of Amontillado", was produced in miniature (2 1/2" X 2") by Boston's Bromer Booksellers in 1981. It is an elegant finely designed and crafted book in an attractive binding. The edition was limited to 150 copies of which 35 deluxe copies were specially bound and illustrated.

--Leonard Bernstein

# MBS Conclave XIX

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**August 31-  
September 3, 2001**

The Conclave will be held at The Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana and will begin Friday August 31 with a Board Meeting, Registration, and Hospitality Suite during the afternoon. Following a reception with cash bar, the Welcome Dinner will take place in the evening.

## Saturday September 1

Schedule includes:

- Continental breakfast
- Annual Business Meeting
- Bus trip to Indiana University

Fine Arts Plaza to tour the Lilly Library and a major exhibition of the Ruth E. Adomeit Collection of Miniature Books and other miniatures from the Library's collection. Workshops and talks will include presentations on:

Artists' books

The Printing of Miniature Books  
Dimensional Graphics

James Lamar Weygand, The Indiana Kid

After returning to Indianapolis, there will be time for the Swap Meet and dinner on your own in Indianapolis before the Annual Book Auction.



## Sunday September 2

Schedule includes:

- Continental breakfast



•Annual Book Fair (There will also be an opportunity to explore the shopping and cultural facilities available in Indianapolis)

•Evening reception, and Annual Banquet

## Monday September 3

Schedule includes:

- Continental breakfast

•Visits to several points of interest in the area. A final decision hasn't been made yet, but several sites are under consideration. Final details will be available in the April issue of the NEWSLETTER.

The Conference Hotel:

The Westin  
50 South Capital Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-262-8100 Fax 317-231-3928  
e-mail: india@westin.com

Be sure to mention the Conclave when making reservations.

Questions and inquiries can be addressed to:

Conclave XIX  
Miniature Book Society  
c/o Lilly Library  
1200 East Seventh Street  
Bloomington, IN 47405-3301  
Stephen Harris Cape  
Paul T. Brown

## Auction Donations Needed

Please keep in mind that we will be in need of member contributions for next year's Conclave Auction.

Items will be received and acknowledged beginning as of now. Please keep us in mind for possible donations not just before the Conclave but throughout the year. Your generosity will be

much appreciated.

The deadline for receipt of donations is June 15, 2001. Anything received after June 15th will be saved for the following year's auction.

Please send your donation to:  
Robert Massmann  
478 Glen Street  
New Britain, CT USA 06051

# What's in an Alphabet?

The 14th Alphabet Book will appear from Juniper Von Phitzer Press in January 2001. It's titled A B C FOR DOGS: featuring sprightly color illustrations reduced in size from an early 20th Century children's book printed in The Netherlands. Antique dog engravings of various breeds are a delightful and interesting bonus.

Alphabet books created at Juniper Von Phitzer Press are known for their enlightened diversity. In 1985 the very first miniature book produced by Juniper Von Phitzer, A LATIN ABECEDARIAN, reflected its creator's profession: Juniper Von Phitzer had just begun teaching Latin and was inspired by the beauty of the language. Each alphabet letter is represented by a Latin quotation and its translation.

An A B C of WORDLESS CUTS anticipated what would become one of the greatest assets for Juniper Von Phitzer Press: an immense and varied collection of vintage illustrations, i.e. printer's cuts or engravings. Each alphabet letter: one or more images whose identification begins with that letter.

The Marvelous Male, An A B C has a great time stretching the imagination to match the letter to the activity each image represents. Each colored alphabet letter: one or more males in action from throughout History.

An Alphabet for Flora soon followed to placate cries of sneaky gender favoritism. Flora, the Roman goddess of flowers, was given tribute in a book filled with radiant colored ink and hand-tinting. Each alphabet letter: one or more flowers or plants. Caution: often the Latin Botanical Names are the key to alphabet placement.

A Fantasy Title Page for a

Phantasy Literary Tome is a magnificent theme and variations on a popular late Victorian parlor game which demands the players to create the most bizarre and delightful fantasy book titles. The core titles were created by Victorian Charles Carroll Bombough. For example, Choice Chunks from Chaucer to Cather or the sheer terror of any alphabet book, the x entry, Xcellent Xtracts Xactly Xpressed. Each alphabet letter: zany book titles that appear in several typefaces and finally in ravishing illuminated title pages.

Statistics show that within any 24 hour period there are only four compliments given in the entire United States and that includes kind words from understanding Cappuccino Jerks. 26 Compliments by Marvin R. Hiemstra gives the reader a happy, handy, color-illustrated, reusable compliment for each letter of the alphabet. "H — Have your picture taken right now. You look so great."

ANIMAL PARADE, a 14 panel accordion, marches gleefully forth with happy animals drawn by Marcie Collins. Each alphabet letter: an animal with a letter banner. Letter "S" is carried by the kind of snake you'd love to meet. The parade concludes with "Z" — a zebra mounted by monkey playing jazz on a xylophone.

LETTERS IN A TRUNK is surely one of Juniper Von Phitzer's greatest printing triumphs. Five tiny books, 1 1/4" x 1 7/16" wide, burst with elegant initial letters from eight famous typefaces: Dutch, Egmont, Mirabel, Mayfair, Menten, Monotype, Massey, and Cloister. The intricate, colorful alphabet books nest in a miniature wooden traveler's trunk.

Chromolithograph facsimiles

from an early children's book were reduced to create a bright aviary, Birds, An ABC. Each alphabet letter: a bird in color with two lines verse giving a wry anthropomorphic twist.

An Alphabet Coloring Book features an illuminated letter in the medieval style by Theodore Menten. A tiny plastic crayon is attached to the accordion book which was presented as a keepsake from Juniper Von Phitzer Press at the Grand Conclave XV in 1997.

Twenty-six verses from the Psalms of David were selected by Marvin R. Hiemstra to form An ABC Psalter. The book's format was inspired by Mira Calligraphiae Monumenta, an 16th Century calligraphic manuscript executed by Georg Bocsday as a model book for scripts and later illuminated in a universe of styles by Joris Hoefnagel. Each verse in An ABC Psalter is surrounded by illustrations in a kaleidoscopic variety of styles.

Silhouettes in Miniature is an extensive 90 page collection of images with an informative Preface by Caroline Y. McGehee Lindemann. Each book contains several actual handcut silhouettes. Each alphabet letter: an intriguing group of silhouettes printed in black and in color.

A Printer's Personal A B C D offers an alphabet list of some important ideas and devices in the history of the printer's art. Myriad illustrations include rare types of paper, fabric, and coloration. For example: ponder the letter "Q. — Q has had many design variants. Q's tail has been always the subject of imagination & experimentation."

--Marvin R. Hiemstra

# NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

## Building Membership And Friendship Through eBay

Eileen Cummings of La Mesa, California (inkydew@aol.com) regularly buys and sells miniature books and antique American teddy bears on eBay. One consequence of this activity has been new members for the Miniature Book Society. Barbara and Ray Williamson met Eileen through eBay while bidding on miniature books. They attended the conclave in Rutland and we enjoyed some of their conclave photos in the last issue.



In addition Eileen has recruited Randy Auman (New York, New York) and Grigoris Polychronidis (Athens, Greece). Grigoris promises to tell us about the printing of his first miniature book in a future article for the NEWSLETTER.

Eileen regularly advises on bidding. We quote: "We have formed a great eBay relationship: they'll ask advice on price and condition of an item they are bidding and sometimes, when there's several books involved on one listing, if I want only one, we won't bid against each other and will sell me the book at auction end (Barbara Williamson). Or with Randy Auman, he sent me an ALMOST complete set (250+) of Spanish books (various stories) because he knew I collected Spanish books. He said he wants no money; only to send him some books as trade. WOW! With Grigoris, he bought one of my books and I sent him some extras. In return, he was so grateful, he printed a book for me! How good does it get!!!"

## The Haarlem Bookfair (Holland)

We set out from Bristol at 8am and arrived in Folkstone for the mid-day train/shuttle. This Channel Tunnel is really amazing and twenty-five minutes after driving into the "tube train" we were in Calais, France! The drive was no great fun as it was dark and rainy in Belgium and Holland with the extra fun of the rush hour around Utrecht and Amsterdam. We enjoyed a wonderful dinner which made it all worthwhile. Restaurants in Amsterdam are excellent, the shops interesting and the exchange rate for us Brits great.

The book fair was held in the Beijnes Hal, near the Square, from Friday to Sunday and was full of people on all three days. The glass case that contained my miniature books was a continuing focus of interest and I made several sales. One man who agonized for a long time over a Schloss Bijou Almanac (1838) finally pur-

chased it by phone after we returned home. Whether the MBS literature I gave out bears fruit only time will tell.

Sabine Keune, a German member of MBS, visited on Saturday. She specializes in children's books and left with several. She told me that she had attended four sales in the last two weeks each in a different country. There are not many border crossings in Europe these days with the European Union taking effect making it much easier to shop cross country.

The fair was good and I certainly brought back fewer boxes than I took over. However we look for better weather as we travel to the USA next year starting with the San Francisco Bookfair (February), St. Peterburg (March) and of course we will see a good many of you in Indiana in September.

—Michael Garbett

## Panel Discussion at MBS Book Exhibit

Mark Palkovic (MBS Treasurer) and University of Cincinnati College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning Librarian Jane Carlin, organized a panel discussion in conjunction with the University's hosting of the MBS Traveling Book Exhibit through January 15, 2001. Over 50 people attended the session December 1st with Mark, bookbinder Gabrielle Fox, and miniature book publisher Miriam Irwin.

Mark shared his thoughts about the appeal of miniature books for collectors. Fox discussed the special challenges of miniatures and the equipment needed to bind such books. Irwin talked about publishing and marketing miniatures and soliciting and editing suitable manuscripts as part of the operation of her Mosaic Press. Mark told the audience that miniature books come in all price ranges, some for as little as \$1.98.

The audience consisted of art students, art department faculty, as well as area book enthusiasts. Also attending was Kevin Grace, University of Cincinnati Archivist, one of the MBS Book Competition judges in 2000. The event was covered by the local CBS television affiliate.

Host Jane Carlin commented on the event, "With so much emphasis on the internet lately, it is extremely gratifying to have on display these marvelous examples of book design. The miniature book display has really intrigued our art and design students and motivated many to attend the panel discussion. Certainly this event confirms that the book as a work of art is still very much alive and an important part of our cultural history."

## New Books

Devenyi, Mary & Paul, "Mini-Contract Bridge" Beaux Art Publishing 2001 (29 copies). Bd goat-skin.

"A Booklover's Calendar 2001" Kitemaug Press, 2000. (350 copies). calendar pages and quotations for each month.



Donna Thomas, "Halfdome - A Climbing History" Peter and Donna Thomas, 2000 (150 copies). Wood cover



Donna Thomas, "The John Muir Trail" Peter and Donna Thomas, 2000 (40 copies). Fully Illustrated.



Cheryl Wheeler, "If it Were Up To Me" Peter and Donna Thomas, 2000. (75 copies) Scroll book.

## 14th Annual Miniature Book Exhibition

The Miniature Book Society, Inc. announces the 14th annual Miniature Book Exhibition, open to all publishers, printers, designers, and binders of miniature books. To be eligible, books and their slipcases must measure three inches or less and have been published in an edition (not one-of-a-kind) during the past two years.

A jury composed of professionals representing different interests in the book arts, chosen by the Board of Governors of the Society, will select three books for the Miniature Book Society Distinguished Book Award. These awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the Society to be held this September in Indianapolis, Indiana.

A catalog of the exhibition will be produced and a show will tour for one year with the Miniature Book Society Traveling Exhibition. Deadline for entry is May 1, 2001

For more information and an entry form send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

James DeLancey  
2212 South Canterbury Road  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
or online at  
jdelancey@ec.rr.com

## Catalogs

Bradbury, Robert C. "Miniature Books, Catalogue 5" (November, 2000). Worcester, MA.

Iron Bear Press. "Winter Supplement, 2000" San Diego, CA.

Miniature Book Society, Inc. "Miniature Book Exhibition Catalogue 2000". (800 copies).

Tuttle Antiquarian Books. "Catalog 426 Miniature Books Our October-November 2000 Offerings. Rutland, VT

Tuttle Antiquarian Books. "Catalog 427 Miniature Books December 2000 Offerings. Rutland, VT

## Miniature Book Society 2000-2001 Committees & Coordinators

Awards Committee  
Gabrielle Fox, Chair  
Tammy Camp  
Doris Selmer

Book Exhibition Committee  
James DeLancey, Chair  
Frank Anderson  
Barbara Williamson

Nominating Committee  
Evron Collins, Chair  
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Frank Anderson

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Neale M. Albert, Chair  
Michael Garbett  
Donna Thomas  
Steve Byrne

Conclave Committee  
Paul Brown, Co-Chair  
Stephen Cape, Co-Chair

Newsletter  
Dean Gattone, Editor  
Jill Timm, Art Director

Internet Web Site  
Pat Baldwin

Auction Catalog  
Bob & Eloise Massmann

Archives  
Evron Collins

Traveling Exhibit  
Pat Pistner

Yearbook  
Neale M. Albert

continued from page 6

and e-mail. Glen continues to get interviewed on his specialty, mountain climbing history, while Mary Helen continues to collect miniature books and has a book talk scheduled for January.

Soraya Marcano, continues to be busy as a teacher and artist for the Guggenheim Museum and Studio. Some of her mixed media works were selected for the U.S. Department of State Art in Embassies Program for the US Embassy in San Salvador, El Salvador. Soraya will have entries in an exhibition at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and has been asked to design a mug for an exhibition to take place in Bristol, England and New York in 2001. A new miniature book is in the works for 2001 as well.

Natalie Buchman put her interest in miniature books to good use during Christmas, making albums for her children. They are all under an inch, bound in fine leather and hand stitched and contain tiny family photos.

Jane Conneen is overwhelmed with her two latest books which she reports started out as a labor of love and have taken more time than expected. It takes at least four hours to hand-color the illustrations for each book! Jane is seriously thinking about a computer to assist her on the next book.

Ian & Helen Macdonald continue working hard at producing their latest miniature Bible. They report that 770 copies of the expected 2000 copy edition are completed. Their next project will be a book called "Greyfriars Bobby", the true story of a little dog from Edinburgh that sat at his master's grave for 14 years. A visit is planned for Berlin in 2001 to see Angelika Jaeck and other European members.

Pat Frost is interested in miniatures of all kinds: dolls houses, tiny accessories, and other small-scale

items. In August she attended the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts convention in Charlotte, NC and created tiny "photo albums" of her pictures from the convention which she sent to members as gifts. In sorting her husband's mother's things, they came across two tiny books, both Bibles - further additions to her collection.

Tara Bryan reports she just finished her new tunnel book, "World Without End." 2001 ambitions include continuing her series of

landscape books about Gros Morne National Park.

Jane Adelson is already working on the Pomfret School book auction scheduled for August 2001. The Auction is followed by the Vermont Antiquarian Booksellers Association Book Fair at which several exhibitors come with miniature books.

## MBS Changeabouts

### New Members

Oriel Y. Benmoshe-Shlomo  
Sd. M. Dayan 157/005, PZM  
Yerushalayim 97826  
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home/office/fax 972-2-5853915

John G. Henry  
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Netherlands

Jody Schwarz  
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Alden F. Jacobs  
54

### Changeabouts

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Jane Adelson

### Changes in E-Mail

booksjra@together.net

Mary Brady  
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Edie Eisenstern  
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Tracy Fritz  
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Carol Grossman  
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For the 10% discount the same ad must run 4 consecutive times, and a check for the full ad run must be sent with ad. Make check payable to MBS, send to Jill Timm (address on page 1).

### We specialize in miniature books!

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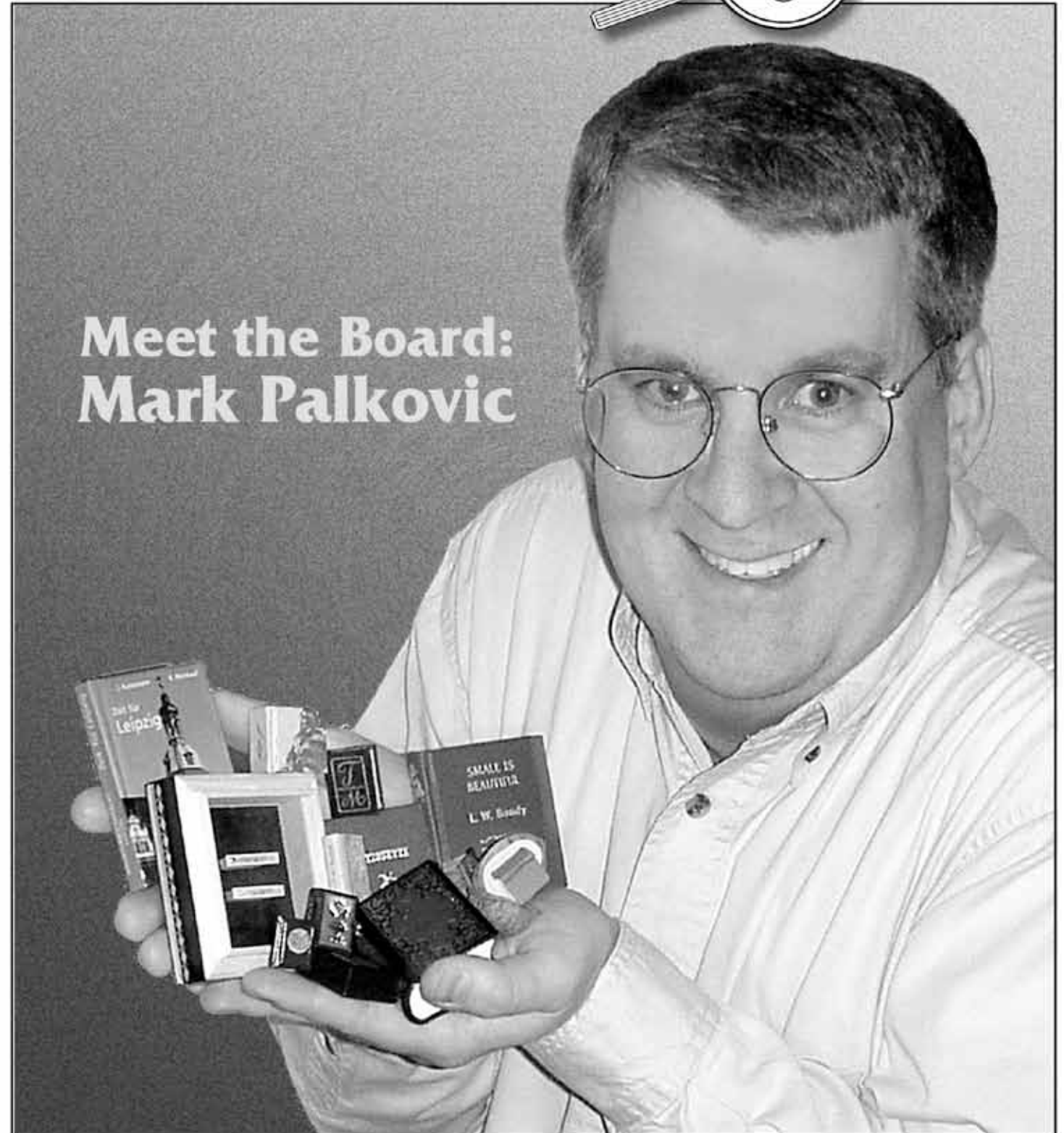
# Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication, New Series, Number 49

January 2001



## Meet the Board: Mark Palkovic





# President's Page



Donn Sanford

## New Faces . . . and Old

I hope that your new year is off to a good start, and that you've greeted the new millennium with enthusiasm and determination! Enthusiasm for whatever excites you and makes you happy, and a real determination to make a contribution to that, or some other endeavor.

A number of our members are enthusiastically involved in helping extend the Society's outreach programs, especially our annual book exhibition. The article in this issue highlights last year's competition, and we thank Regis Graden for guiding it through to a successful finish. This program honors the best of the year's new miniature books . . . and provides new material for the traveling exhibition, our most visible external activity. The exhibition is seen by thousands of non-collectors every year, introducing potential new collectors to the world of miniature books.

His successor, Jim DeLancey, has already launched the 2001 program, intending to use it as a springboard to reach new groups and individuals, enticing them to explore miniature books and to participate. His committee goes to work in earnest this month.

Pat Pistner, who is responsible for the actual traveling exhibit itself, appointed a Task Force to work with her in redesigning the well worn exhibit case. This group, composed of Barb Williamson, Diane Weintraub and Kathy Miller, is looking at the needs of the libraries where the exhibit is displayed, and how those needs can be met while also meeting the Society's public relations and educational objectives.

Their preliminary work has been outstanding, and I'm certain the result will be equally impressive. Peter Thomas, who has assisted with the exhibit in recent years, is also contributing his expertise.

Secretary Neale Albert reports that the 2001 Yearbook - due any day now -- will be redesigned and easier to use. The Newsletter's facelift continues to evolve, issue by issue, thanks to Dean Gattone and Jill Timm.

The 2001 Conclave in Indianapolis is already shaping up as one that any serious miniature book collector can't afford to miss . . . with its focus on truly notable collections and unique publishers. Paul Brown and Steve Cape assure us of a memorable event, including a visit to the venerable Lilly Library!

This issue contains a listing of the MBS Committees that are responsible for all the various activities this year. I was exceptionally pleased to appoint a number of first-timers to some of these committees, and express our collective appreciation for the role they have taken.

And, as new faces begin to emerge as leaders, we note with sadness the passing of the old guard. Too many of the people who created the miniature books we so avidly collect today are leaving us - Cliff Helbert (ABCdarium of C. L. Helbert) and Eleanor Irwin (Hillside Press) among the most recent. They, along with St. Onge, Fergue, Schori, Lathourakis, and others, leave a proud legacy of little books to keep their names alive, forever.

I think there could be no greater tribute.