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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

2002-2003 Board of Governors
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Vice-President - Jon Mayo
Secretary - Patricia Pistner
Executive Secretary & Treasurer - Mark Palkovic
Past President - Donn W. Sanford
Governors:
Suzanne Pruchnicki
Kathy King
Angelika Jaeck
Barbara Williamson

Membership in the Society is open to all. 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.

Membership inquiry and dues payment: Mark Palkovic, 620 Clinton Springs Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1325, USA (513) 556-1964 (w) (513) 861-3554 (h) (513) 556-3777 (fax) mark.palkovic@uc.edu

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Cover image is made from Conclave photos submitted by Tamela Camp and Arthur Keir.

Founding President Levitan Dies

Rabbi Kalman L. Levitan - writer, teacher, retired Air Force colonel and one of the founders and first Chairman (President) of the Miniature Book Society - died August 22nd of complications from lung disease.

He was 85.

Rabbi Levitan served as a military chaplain for 30 years. After retiring in 1973, he turned his energy toward a wide variety of pursuits. He cooked. He took up woodworking, once made a grandfather clock by hand. He wrote and published a volume of poetry. In addition he published his own miniature books

and wrote and edited volumes about miniature books.

In 1983 he was instrumental in bringing together the collectors and publishers from around the United States that eventually formed the basis for the Miniature Book Society. Elected the Society's first "Chairman" he helped draft by-laws and began an informal newsletters.

As a child, Rabbi Levitan's father gave him a pocket-sized Hebrew prayer book printed in Warsaw in 1903. That was the beginning of a 2,000 volume collection that David Bromer (Bromer

Booksellers, Boston) said was considered one of the most important collections. It spanned five centuries and included many rare and precious volumes.

While his illness limited his participation in recent years, he was always proud of how self-sustaining and professional the Society had become.

He was missed at this year's conclave in Cincinnati (so close to home) and he will continue to be loved and missed by all who had known him.

—Dean Gattone

Barbara Raheb Retires

"I won't be doing any more books. I can't see the pages. I can't read the type" Barbara Raheb, age 69, announced in the August 25, 2002 edition of The Los Angeles Times.

Barbara's Pennyweight Press has produced 530 micro miniature titles in 27 years. These books are 15/16 of an inch high and 5/8 of an inch wide. Many are colorful pop-up storybooks with minuscule cut-outs of playful animals, trees and characters such as pirates that come to life when pages are turned.

As the nation's biggest little-book publisher, her leather-bound thumb-sized volumes of hand-set printed type are coveted by serious collectors and dollhouse hobbyists alike.

Worries about the quality of future books have prompted Raheb to turn down offers to sell her publishing house.

These days, Raheb is fielding phone calls and letters from long time clients who are ordering copies of her old books and lamenting the closure of Pennyweight Press.



2002 MBS Book Exhibition Awards



Poole Press

Maryline Poole Adams

Timothy Dexter, Maryline Poole Adams

Berkeley, 2001, 14 pp. 2-7/8 x 2-1/2". Edition of 40 copies.

A biography, in verse, of an American eccentric, Timothy Dexter (1747-1806). Carousel style, five-double page, and one-triple page, three-tiered watercolor illustrations depict his extraordinary exploits and lifestyle. Bound in Arts-and-Craft movement three-piece brown suede binding with inlaid Dexter portrait, braided linen tie closure. Designed, illustrated, written, printed, and hand-bound by Maryline Poole Adams.

Shoestring Press

Philip and Anna Morrison

Classic Haiku, Robert Hass, Translator

Orinda, 2001, 74 pp. 2"x3". Edition of 75 copies.

Printed letterpress on a Washington hand press. Mulberry paper with Suminagashi marbling on reverse side. Printing by Philip Morrison. The Japanese-style binding in red textile covers with red end sheets is sewn with black thread. A printed red title label with Haiku typeset vertically is on the front cover and repeated on the black slip case. Anna Morrison created the binding. Verses by Basho, Buson and Issa; Masters of The Haiku genre.



Open Art

Betty Kennedy

The Happy Prince, Oscar Wilde

Budapest, 2002, 121 pp. 2-1/2" x 2". Edition of 50 copies.

Two color title page. Printed on Halicue acid-free paper. Full leather binding with gold tooling including a bird. Top edge gilt. Head and tail bands, marbledpaper end papers. This exhibition copy has four semi-precious stones set into the cover. Contained in a leather covered clam shell box lined with marbled paper, and a printed title label pasted on the front.



MBS World

This past summer I had a double dose of serendipity. This came in the form of acquiring two miniatures of Cervantes. The first was "The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote de la Mancha" from the distinguished Catharijne Press of Guss and Luce Thurkow, the Netherlands. This book is an unquestionable example of physical beauty short of perfection: 2 3/4 in. x 1 1/4. It is the whole of Chapter 8 of the translation by Samuel Putnam, who is unknown to me. It provides the smoothest reading of any translation I have ever read. The second

authority of Spanish history (1955). It compared favorably. There are a few line drawings scattered through the book, and at the very end the ISBN 84-8832-49-4 numbers, which I have inquired of the Library of Congress and still await a reply.

I felt the brief mention of the passing of Yolanda Carter in the last Newsletter was inadequate. Mrs. Carter was one of the pioneers in the world of modern miniature books. She was well-known as an advocate of using real doll-house size books in doll houses in place of

lishers of miniature books have dozens of titles that deal generally with pop topics and even trivia. Celebrity stories are very rare, as is the one given me recently and appropriately to the times, "Tiger Woods, Links Legend." This book by Jennifer Loya is too big to be a small book at 3 1/2 in. x 3 3/4, but then some collectors will be happy collecting such sizes. One other celebrity title from the Kansas City publishers: "Elvis the Legend," a collection of quotes and pictures collected by Margaret Lannamann. Know of any others?

People Magazine for October 7, 2002, had an interesting story and pictorial coverage of Nancy Bass of the Manhattan Strand Bookstore. Nancy is sitting atop a ladder and holding what obviously is an early miniature book. Maybe one of our New York members can go by and ask her about the book.

Known editions of Boethius Exist — Louis Bondy records that one edition was 2 11/16 in. x 1 1/4 and was published in Antwerp in 1610. Others of comparable size were published in 1620, 1625, and 1632.

Where are you, Jesse James? "Renno's Raiders" by J.L. Weygand, 2 5/8 in. x 1 3/4, repeats a newspaper account of the first train robbery ever. It took place in Seymour, Indiana, October 6, 1866, when two safes were tossed off the train by the robbers.

—Val Poska

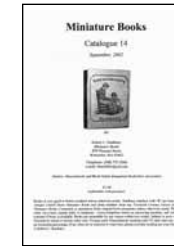


joy came as a gift from a friend who found it in a bookstore in Florence, Italy: "Don Quijote de la Mancha", Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra 1547 Alcala de Henares 1616 Madrid. 1 in. x 3/4, black leather cover, with gold stamped head of the author and his name, Don Quijote. The name appears on the spine as well. The text is in Spanish from the original of 1605. Sixty-six pages. I asked an Hispanic friend, Elvia Trevino, to translate most of the text and compare that to the popular edition of Walter Starkie, a noted

the usual imitation wooden ones. Through her unique newsletter, The Amistad Courier, she advocated every facet of the miniature book from construction to collecting. She was one of the original charter members in 1983, but was unable to continue but for her devotion to her ailing husband. She was a stickler for perfection not only in the physical development of her books, but for the contents as well, often consulting experts for verification. She was a great lady.

The Andrews McMeel pub-

Catalogs

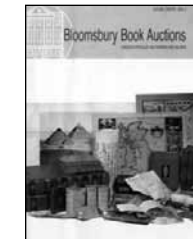


Bradbury, Robert C. "Miniature Books, Catalogue 14" (September 2002) Worcester, MA.



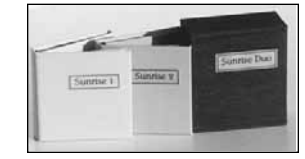
Bromer Booksellers. "Further Pleasures, A Late-Summer Sequel.

Catalog 116" Boston, Mass. 2002.



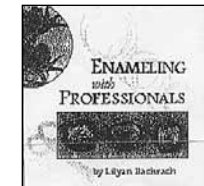
"Bloomsbury Book Auctions, Autumn/Winter 2002-3". London, England.

New Books



Jill Timm, "Sunrise Duo" 2.25 x 2.75. A two-book set of serigraphs

images designed to unfold into prints. (22 copies). Mystical Places Press, Wenatchee, WA 2002.



"Enameling with Professionals" by Lilyan Bachrach. Worcester MA 2002. 8.25" x 10", 200pp with 32p

color photos, cloth bound.



"Gods in Love" (series) by Roger Huet. Montreal, Canada 2002.

12 books cased in rosewood box. Each book gold/silver stamping on leather covers. Each volume numbered and signed. (199 cop-

MBS Silent Auction Results

Grand Conclave XX October 2002

Bible Immortelles (donor: Michael Garbett)
Auction price: \$45.00

Lilliput Maori Proverbs (donor: Joy Tonkin)
Auction price: \$40.00

Adventures of Ginger Meggs (donor: Joy Tonkin)
Auction price: \$40.00

The Problem With Dreaming (donor: Tuttle Antiquarian Books)
Auction price: \$40.00

Wallace & Cora Nethery on Beerbohm (donor: Tuttle Antiquarian Books)
Auction price: \$75.00

Miniature Designer Bindings (donor: Mel Kavlin)
Auction price: \$80.00

Praying Hands (donor: Georgianne Matthews)
Auction price: \$70.00

The Twelve of Hearts (donor: Anne Bromer)
Auction price: \$375.00

THE MICROBIBLIOPHILE: A Bi-Monthly Journal About Miniature Books

Robert F. Hanson, Founder
Jon H. Mayo, Editor and Publisher

25 years of continuous publication. Timely articles about miniature books old and new. Reviews of new miniature books. A special feature of every issue is a mounted full-color cover photo. Recent and planned articles include "Girdle Books", "Mark Twain in Miniature", "Frank Ellison, Waltham, Mass., 1857", "Miniature Books Printed by Darrell Hyder", "Any One for Christmas Seals?", and many more.

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Website: www.tuttlebooks.com

Miniature books are our specialty.
We have been in business since 1832. Catalogs issued regularly; please ask to be placed on our mailing list.
Want lists welcomed.
We purchase collections; details on request.

Jon Mayo, Librorum Custodiat

News from Europe

The MBS European Travelling Exhibition in Scotland and England

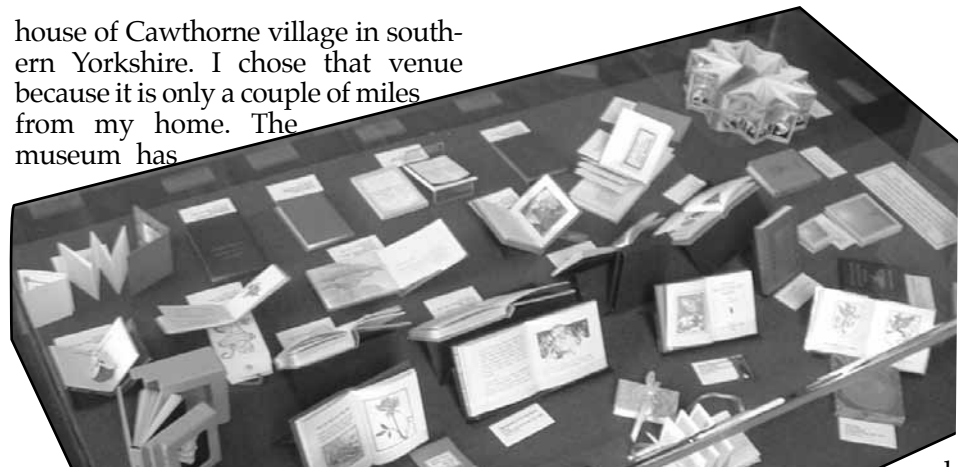
In May the MBS European Travelling Exhibition arrived in England, together with Angelika, for its first showing in the UK – not in England, but in Glasgow, Scotland. We were very fortunate that the organisers of Scottish Miniatura (prompted by Ian Macdonald) allowed us to display the exhibition at Scotland's premier miniature fair free of charge. Angelika spent a few days in Yorkshire where I was able to show her some of the beautiful city of York and the inside of several bookshops. We then went to Wigton to stay with Ian and Helen Macdonald where we just had to suffer the terrible ordeal of visiting all twelve bookshops in the town! Ian and Helen were perfect hosts, and an extra special treat was a ride in Ian's pride and joy, an Austin 10 car dating from 1938.

We left Wigton and went to Glasgow where we set up the exhibition in a spacious hall together with many traders and dealers in miniatures, mainly doll house material. The exhibition looked very good, thanks to Angelika's careful labelling of the books. Several thousand people visited the show over the next two days, and reaction to the MBS exhibition was very positive. Both Angelika and myself managed to sell books too, which was a bonus, and Ian, who had the smallest book in the world on display, was very pleased with his time at the show. We managed a trip to see Robert Burns' cottage and some of the town of Alloway, scene of the Tam O'Shanter story, and to beautiful Loch Lomond.

Following the exhibition we had a meal together, and I set off back to England. The lasting impression of Scotland, other than the wonderful hospitality of Ian and Helen, was the rain! It started when we arrived, and I finally saw the last of it five days later as I left Scotland behind.

The exhibition then went to Canon Hall, a popular museum set in a large house which was the estate

house of Cawthorne village in southern Yorkshire. I chose that venue because it is only a couple of miles from my home. The museum has



just opened a dedicated gallery for local artists to display their wares. I was the first person to request a place, and the Curator was very pleased to be able to give us the space for a month. During that time I spent two or three days a week demonstrating how I make miniature books, helping people to make their own books, and having some very interesting talks with members of the public who visited the exhibition. Publicity was handled by the museum, and as a result press photographers came from one county-wide paper and three more localised papers, and managed to publish some good photos of the books (and me too!) As a result of the publicity Annie Parker, who is the step-daughter of James Weygand, (the Indiana Kid press) and who lives about twenty miles from Cawthorne, came to visit, bringing her miniature books

and some larger ones which had been printed by her step-father. We had a long and interesting discussion, and agreed to be in touch again in the near future. I also had a visit from Simon Lawrence, an MBS member (the Fleece Press) who has his print workshop in the village of Cawthorne. Simon has just published his eighth miniature book, 'The Whole Benefits that Paper Brings' by Thomas Churchyard, and he was very interested in the exhibition.

Several visitors brought miniature books for me to see, most of them being Bryce bibles or dictionaries. Nothing of any exceptional interest came to light, although I spoke to one lady who said she has a full set of Shakespeare in a revolving mahogany cabinet, all beautifully gilded and embossed, and in really good condition. I presume this is the one mentioned in Bondy p.115.

The exhibition is now in store, although I am about to negotiate with another venue, and Ferial Rogers has arranged for it to be displayed at a major arts festival next year. I believe that the exhibition has been able to show people that miniature books are not just the novelties which so many people think of them as, but beautiful objects in their own right, carefully designed and made, and covering a wide variety of subjects.

— Stephen Bryne



Old and new friends reconnecting.



Our entertainment at the Banquet

MBS Conclave
Photo Album
Photography by Ray Williamson



Guinness certificate for Smallest Book.





Demo making paper.



Hands on demo of box making.



Belle's Captan in the wheel-less wheelhouse.



The Belle for lunch.



Demo of paste paper.



Entranced audience watching a demo.



Checking out the books.



Activity at the Sunday Book Fair.



Yummy lunch on the Belle.



Letterpress demo.



"Now which books do I want to bid on?"



Bidder in action.

Conclave XXI, Toronto, Canada

Conclave XXI, the 20th birthday conclave for the Miniature Book Society will be held in Toronto, Canada, October 10-13, 2003 and will be hosted by Toronto residents Paul and Mary Devenyi.

The Conclave venue will be the classy Royal York Hotel, one of the greatest hotels in Canada, with its fabulous facilities, elegant rooms and unparalleled central downtown Toronto location.

Paul and Mary write: "We are delighted to host this very special Conclave!

Toronto, our home city, is cultured, lively, clean and safe. It is easy to get to with many airlines having direct flights from many US cities and European airports. For drivers,

the highway access is excellent and you can even take the train! Union Station is directly across from the Conclave hotel.

The program will include, of course, the traditional and familiar, as well as some new features. Friday starts with the Board meeting and Conclave registration, continues with a welcome reception and buffet dinner and swap session. Saturday breakfast will be followed by the annual meeting. Then we will walk over to a nearby harbourfront gallery for a special welcome by the Canadian Bookbinders and Book Artists Guild and to view their major juried show called



"The Art of the Book" which coincides with the Conclave. Saturday afternoon will be free for independent activities and to sample the many attractions of Toronto on your own. Saturday evening is auction time. The Sunday schedule consists of breakfast, the Book Fair and banquet in the hotel's world famous Imperial Room. For Monday we plan an optional tour to Niagara Falls and to lovely Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Toronto usually has a nice Indian summer in October. While it is too early to guarantee the weather, we can assure you of a memorable Conclave. Please plan to join us and watch subsequent Newsletters for more details."

Conclave Awards

Anderson-Yarnell Award: Glen & Mary Helen Dawson

(Established in 1989 to honor a significant contribution to the Society during the previous year or years.)

Glen and Mary Helen have been active in the Miniature Book Society since its founding. Glen himself grew up in a book shop, taking it over from his father and running it later with his wife Mary Helen. Acting as dealers, publishers, and experts the Dawsons encouraged collecting especially on the west coast of the USA and hosted Conclave III in Burbank, California in 1985.

Norman Forgue Award: Juniper Von Phitzer Press

(Awarded to a publisher for outstanding contributions to the world of miniature books)

Californians Marvin R. Hiemstra and Lloyd L. Neilson have been creating miniatures for some time. When they discover an intriguing idea, they transform it into a miniature book: the idea happily reflected in materials, illustration, typography, and design.

Glasgow Cup: Kalman L. Levitan

(Given in 1990 by Ian and Helen Macdonald and presented by the

President for dedication to the Society and friendship to the membership)

Our first Chairman (President) of the Society, Dr. Levitan was, along with Miriam Owen Irwin, the organizers of the first conclave at Tipp City, Ohio in 1983. Kal worked almost single handedly in the early years to establish an on going organization, helping to create by-laws and writing a newsletter. Despite a far-flung group of sometimes very difficult personalities, Kal mediated, lobbied and cajoled the early members into meeting regularly, recording minutes, establishing a treasury—all of which we are benefiting from today.

MBS General Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2002

Vice President Jon Mayo called the Annual Meeting of the Miniature Book Society to order at 3:00 p.m. Jon advised the membership that he would be standing in for President Neale Albert who was recovering from surgery and unable to attend the Conclave.

Jon extended MBS's appreciation to Conclave XX hosts Gabrielle Fox, Mark Palkovic and Miriam Irwin for a job well done. Charter Members of MBS, Evron Collins and Caroline Lindeman were recognized for having perfect attendance at all twenty Conclaves. Jon welcomed new members and first time Conclave attendees.

A moment of silence was observed for those members and friends who passed away during the past year – Kalman Levitan, Esther Beamer, Charlotte Smith, Mick Goessling, Helen Hanson, Russell Logan and Burt Nieman.

The minutes of last years General Members meeting as published in the

MBS Newsletter were approved. MBS has \$53,570.36 in its checking account, some of which will be dispersed to cover Conclave costs. Membership is reported at 376 members, including one member who joined at this Conclave. Jon suggested that the best way to increase membership is for each current member to get another person to join MBS.

Jon announced the election results: Mark Palkovic - Treasurer, Pat Pistner – Secretary, and Angelika Jaeck and Kathy King as Members at Large. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow Mark Palkovic to serve a third term as Treasurer.

Jon announced that the next Conclave would be chaired by Paul Devenyi and held in Toronto, Canada. Paul Devenyi briefly spoke about Toronto and the upcoming Conclave. Michael Garbett proposed the idea of holding the 2004 Conclave in Bath, England. Michael asked for a show of hands to estimate attendance, it appeared that the majority of those present would be willing to travel to Bath to attend a Conclave. Tammy

Camp also expressed the willingness to host the 2005 Conclave in New Orleans during the summer.

Pat Pistner outlined the Traveling Exhibits schedule for 2002 and mentioned there were six additional groups interested in the exhibit for 2003.

Jon Mayo mentioned that Barbara Williamson was appointed to fill Donna Thomas's Member at Large position on the Board of Governors. Dean Gattone will retire as Newsletter editor after the October issue, and Edward Hoyenski, a new MBS member, has volunteered to become the Newsletter editor.

Jon expressed MBS's appreciation to Jill Timm and Dean Gattone for their work on the Newsletter, Pat Pistner and Angelika Jaeck for the traveling exhibits, Pat Baldwin for the website, Jan Kellet and Phil Morrison for the Yearbook, and all the volunteers, without whom MBS could not function.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

MBS Conclave XX 2002 Keepsake List

The Cabin in the Clearing: Jim Baker. Cincinnati, OH: Mosaic Press & Flying Pig Press for the MBS, 2002. (Miniature Book Society Conclave XX Committee)
Flying Pigs Miniature Bookends: Kevin Heekin. [Ft. Thomas, KY]: Heekin Pewter, 2002. (Miniature Book Society Conclave XX Committee)
Covington '02. [Autograph Album]. [Cambridge, MA]: Michael Canoso, 2002. (Michael Canoso)
More Not In Adomeit: Robert E. Massmann. New Britain, CT: REM Miniatures, 2002. (Robert & Eloise Massmann)
"Hinge Book" M.P.Adams. Berkeley, Calif. : Poole Press, 2001 (M.P.Adams) [Note: 3 versions/titles: Ruminating Ruminant, Gardener's Lament, and Binge. Each keepsake bag contained one of the three].
Rise to Vote Sir: (Foldout) Peter & Donna Thomas. Santa Cruz, CA: Peter & Donna Thomas, 2002. (Peter & Donna Thomas)
'T' Divil On't Chimley': Stephen Byrne. W. Yorkshire, England: The Final Score, 2002. (Stephen Byrne)
Words Words Words!: Ann Bain. Fairborn, OH: Ann Bain, 2002. (Ann Bain)

Cincinnati Pigs: Kathy King. Delaware, OH: Kathy King, 2002. (Kathy King)
Ohio Bicentennial 1803-2003: Janet King. Delaware, OH: Janet King, 2002. (Janet King)
Ohio River: Evron Collins. Bowling Green, OH: Evron Collins, 2002. (Evron Collins)
Kentucky: Joyce & Carl Barton. Woodbine, KY: Bluebird Press, 2002. (Joyce & Carl Barton)
Ohio (Foldout). Spartanburg, SC: Kitemaug Press, 2002. (Frank & Jeanette Anderson)
The Biography of Gramma [Esther Beamer]: Linda Bender, Karen Wiley, & Diana Bender. Sl.: s.n., 2002. (Linda & Diana Bender, Karen Wiley)
Miniaturist to Mogul. Lockerbie, Scotland: Hestan Isle Press, 2002. (Peter Grant)
Six Poems: Ogden Nash. Esko, MN: Gray Goose Press, 2002. (Jeanne C. Goessling)
What is it?: P.P.M. Orinda, CA: Shoestring Press, [2002]. (Philip & Anna Morrison)
City of Cincinnati, Ohio, Armorial Bearings. S.l.: s.n., 2002. (Ferial Rogers) [Note: 2 sizes of the cards designed by Ms. Rogers, one postcard sized, one calling card sized. One of each size was in every Keepsake bag.]
Wooden open book kit. Columbus, OH: European Papers, 2002. (Lisa Ohmer / European Papers) [Note: 2 versions: Antique Map; Illuminated Manuscript. One title was in each keepsake bag.]
[Paper samples]. Cincinnati, OH: Poème, [2002]. (Jane Pennells / Poème)
Bibliographie der Miniaturbücher: (preprint) Drs Siegfried Hempel & Erhard Walter. Leipzig, - Germany: Miniaturbuchverlag, [2002] (Martin Warteistener)
Dolly, The Story of Patty Reed's Doll. [S.l.: s.n.], 2000. (Patty & Gordon Marchal)
Inches & Millimeters. [Columbia, MD]: Ray & Barbara Williamson, [2002]. (Ray & Barbara Williamson)
"Glen Dawson": (Special issue of Hoja Volante, #217, May 2002). Los Angeles, CA: Zamorano Club, 2002. (Msgr. Francis J. Weber)
Chapbook kits: Horse Lovers Coloring Book (1975); Roaring Lion's Cookbook (1981); Philadelphia (1981); The Herons at Happy Harbor (1981); Dog Lover's Coloring Book (1981); Miriam D. Irwin. Cincinnati, OH: Mosaic Press, 1975, 1981. (Miriam D. Irwin / Mosaic Press)
Kimono Ornament. University Park, MD: Rebecca Press, 2002. (Gabrielle Fox and Rebecca Bingham)
Various Versicles: David Serette. Sebasco, Maine: Yellow Kid Press, 1983. (Robert C. Bradbury) [Note: Bags contained a card to be redeemed for the keepsake. Some were personalized.]
Your Old Books: Wingen, Peter Van. (3 fold brochure). Chicago, IL: American Library Association, 1994. (Val Poska)
Shopping bags donated by Joseph-Beth Booksellers of Lexington, KY; Cincinnati & Cleveland, OH.

MBS Changeabouts

New Members

Kimberly & Scott Byerly
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Changeabouts

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Miniature Book News

Number 114

Julian I. Edison, Editor

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October

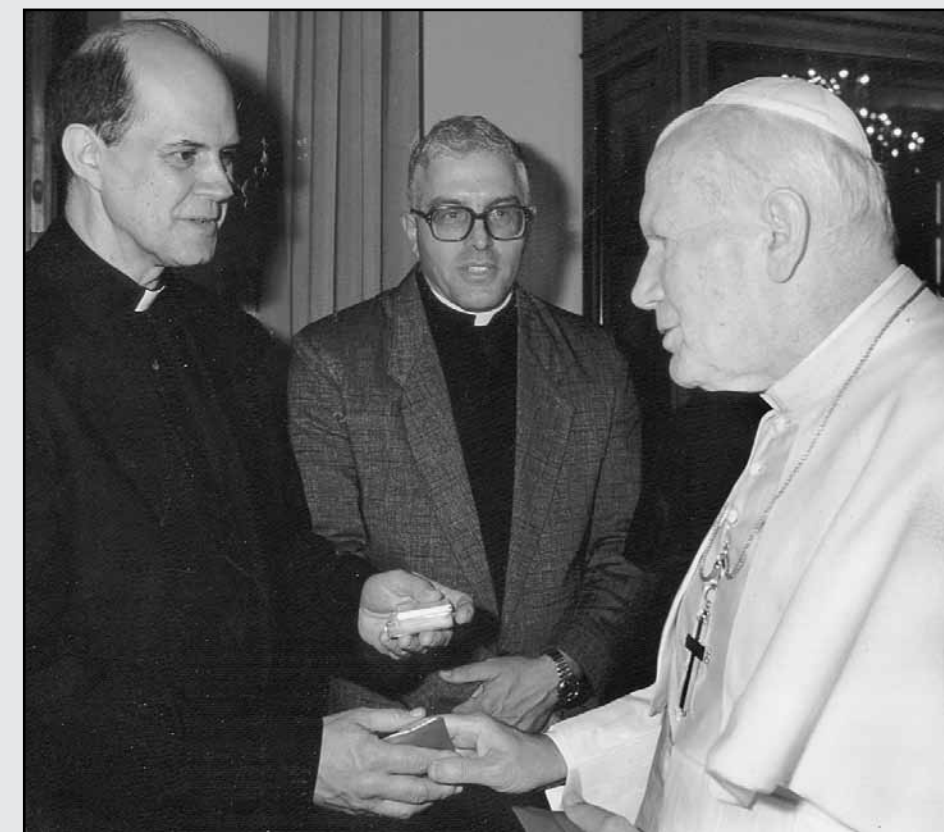
2002

World Leaders Intrigued with Mini Books

For some reason world leaders, like other microbibliophytes (that's a mouthful meaning miniature book beginners!), seem to be intrigued by miniature books. And when they are shown a mini book, their fascination often makes news.

Take, for example, Prince Juan Carlos de Bourbon, then king designate of Spain, and his wife, Princess Sofia, who were visiting Cape Kennedy in Florida in 1971 to view the launching of the Apollo 14 space launching. They were presented an autographed copy of Joan Wickham's miniature book, *Saint Augustine, Florida 1565-1965*, when they visited that ancient city for several days in late January, prior to their journey to Cape Kennedy. A photograph of the Prince and Princess smiling in wonderment with the little book in their hands was published in the local newspaper. MBN recorded this event.

Pope John Paul II is no stranger to miniature books. In 1995 MBS's own Reverend Joseph Curran took a group of parishioners to Rome, and brought along a copy of Msgr. Francis Weber's miniature book, *Peter Comes To The Promised Land*, to give to the Pope should the occasion arise. Curran had tickets for a general audience at the Vatican when the night before he was invited by phone to celebrate Mass with the Pope in his private chapel early the next morning. Curran was given instructions and told to "tell no one and to come alone." After the Mass and a change back into street clothes the Pope entered, escorted by two secretaries, and began to visit briefly



Rev. Joseph Curran presenting miniature books to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican, 1995.

with each person. Gifts were exchanged as shown in the accompanying photograph. Curran reports that the Pope was pleasantly surprised, and asked "Oh, for me?," when he saw several miniature books in Curran's hand.

Just last year, in March of 2001, French President Jacques Chirac, accompanied by Chancellor Gerhard Schroder of Germany went to the 21st Salon du livre (Book Exhibition) in Paris to inaugurate its opening. Chirac was photographed prominently holding and reading a very miniature vol-

ume with Schroder looking on. This photograph appeared with an article on the health of the book business in a Paris newspaper.

Comes now Chairman Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader who, you may recall, made a 10 day pilgrimage to Moscow by train in almost complete secrecy (for security reasons it was reported) in August of 2001. A single two-day stop was made at the "dusty Siberian metropolis" of Omsk, as the New York Times reported. The August 2 account in the Times went on to say that "The most forthcoming account

of the trip came from workers at the Pushkin State Scientific Library, a prestigious research center with expertise in foreign languages and rare books. Mr. Kim spent more than an hour there this morning, nearly a third of that time gazing into a microscope at a collection of poems

in what is said to be the world's smallest bound book. Afterward, he told Larisa Lonomarova, a rare book curator, that he was amazed at its workmanship."

And of course, as we have reported, we know that President Franklin Roosevelt as well as his

wife, Eleanor, collected these little things!

Do you think we could get George Bush interested?



Chancellor Gerhard Schroder of Germany, left, looking on while France's President Jacques Chirac examines a mini book in Paris, 2001.



Prince Juan Carlos de Bourbon and Princess Sofia of Spain looking at a miniature book on a visit to Florida in 1971.

Smallest books: Three different lists

What exactly are the smallest books in the world?

Well, that depends on how you choose to analyze the question: smallest chronologically, smallest by category or purpose, the absolute tiniest, or other definition.

The MBS Newsletter for July, 2000 contained an article sub-titled: "A chronological list of the smallest books in the world" compiled by Lajos Babos. Babos, who resides in Budapest, Hungary, started the list with the Bloem-Hofje of 1694, sized 12 by 8 millimeters, and then went on to list 18 more books from 1900 to 1996 in descending order of size. Here is Babos's list, abbreviated:

Date	Size (mm)	Title
1694	12x8	<u>Bloem-Hofje</u>
1900	9x8	<u>Rubaiyat</u>
1932	4x6	<u>The Rose Garden</u>
1958	5x5	<u>The Lord's Prayer</u> <u>I Love You</u> <u>The Olympic Oath</u> <u>Oath of Freedom</u>
1964	4.5x3.5	<u>The Holy Bible</u>
1965	3.5x3.5	<u>Gettysburg Address</u>
1971	3x2.5	<u>Bilder-ABC</u>
1974	2.75x1.75	<u>Knijga</u>

1978	2.1x2.1	<u>Three Blind Mice</u>
1979	2x2	<u>Birth Stone</u> <u>Language of Flowers</u> <u>The Zodiacal Signs</u>
1980	1.4x1.4	<u>The Ants</u>
1980	1.4x1.4	<u>The Lord's Prayer</u>
1985	1x1	<u>Old King Cole</u>
1996	0.9x0.9	<u>Kameleon</u>

Ruth Adomeit, the preeminent collector of miniature books who died in 1996, produced two different lists over a period of years. One list contained a number of the tiniest that must have been prepared before 1985 because it includes a Gleniffer Press mini before Old King Cole. Cole was published in that year as the smallest book in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records. This list must have been prepared for display purposes because the books were laid out in a large plastic envelope for just this reason. The group in its envelope was displayed at the Lilly Library's mammoth exhibition in 2001 in a separate room, and may even be on permanent display. Here is that list, without individual measurements which range from about 1/2 inch (13 mm) in height, down:

The Smallest Books in the World!

- The Mite, 1891, England
- Galileo, 1896, Padua
- Meig's Rubaiyat, 1900, Cleveland
- Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam, 1932
- Lord's Prayer, Olympic Oath, Freedom's Oath, Serment's d'amour, c 1950
- Gettysburg Address, 1965
- Gettysburg Address, 1971
- ABC Picture Book, Leipzig, 1971
- Book, Novi Sad, 1974
- Three Blind Mice, Gleniffer Press
- 10 Commandments in 10 Languages, smallest Spanish book
- Ave Maria, smallest Hungarian
- Poems, by Edgar Guest, Arkansas, 1940; smallest handwritten book by Burt Randle
- Songs by the King, Bangkok, Thailand, c 1972
- IMP Book, Auckland, NZ, 1977; printed from type
- Woodblock prints for poem Jama, Yugoslavia 1982. Describes a concentration camp.
- Gutenberg Lied, 1952, Switzerland
- Smallest Complete New Testament, Glasgow, 1896, Bryce
- Almanac, Carlsruhe, Germany 1823, Lithograph, C F Muller
- Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Arkansas 1940, hand-

written by Burt Randle

Adomeit also produced another list, sort of by type or purpose, with interesting comments about each book. This list might have been prepared as part of a lecture Ruth was giving or as part of her mammoth exhibit at the Cleveland Public Library in 1989. Here is that list, without measurements:

The Smallest Books In The World

1. The 2d Smallest Printed Book in the World, with proof sheet of four pages:

The Rose Garden of Omar Khayyam, Commonwealth Press, Worcester, Mass.

This book was not printed from type, but was set and then reduced photographically and plates made from which the book was printed. It is bound in Morocco leather and weighs a gram and a quarter, and the edition was limited to 150 copies.

2. The Smallest Book in the World Printed from Moveable Type:

Galileo a Madama Cristina di Lorena, Salmin Brothers, Padua, Italy, 1896.

This book has 207 pages and has a portrait of Galileo as a frontispiece. The type used is called "Fly's Eye" and was cut by Antonio Farina in 1834. It took one month to print 30 pages and is probably the greatest marvel of bookmaking in the history of miniature books.

3. Second Smallest Book in the World Printed from Moveable Type:

The Mite, E. A. Robinson, Grimsby, England., 1891.

This book is printed in two colors, in Brilliant type, and has a number of illustrations. It was the smallest book in the world printed from type at the time of its publication.

4. Handwritten Books, The Smallest Books in the World, with Sample Page:

Verses from the Rubaiyat, Burt Randle, Arkansas.

5. Handwritten Books:

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address (Red binding).

Quatrains from the Rubaiyat (Purple binding). Burt Randle.

6. The Smallest Complete New Testament in the World. David Bryce, Glasgow, Scotland; 520 pages, printed from plates.

7. The Smallest piece of Municipal Publicity in the World. Printed for the LXIVMOS, 1929.

8. The Smallest Newspaper in the World: News Letter of the LXIVMOS. Facsimile copy of the regular edition., Printed for the LXIVMOS.

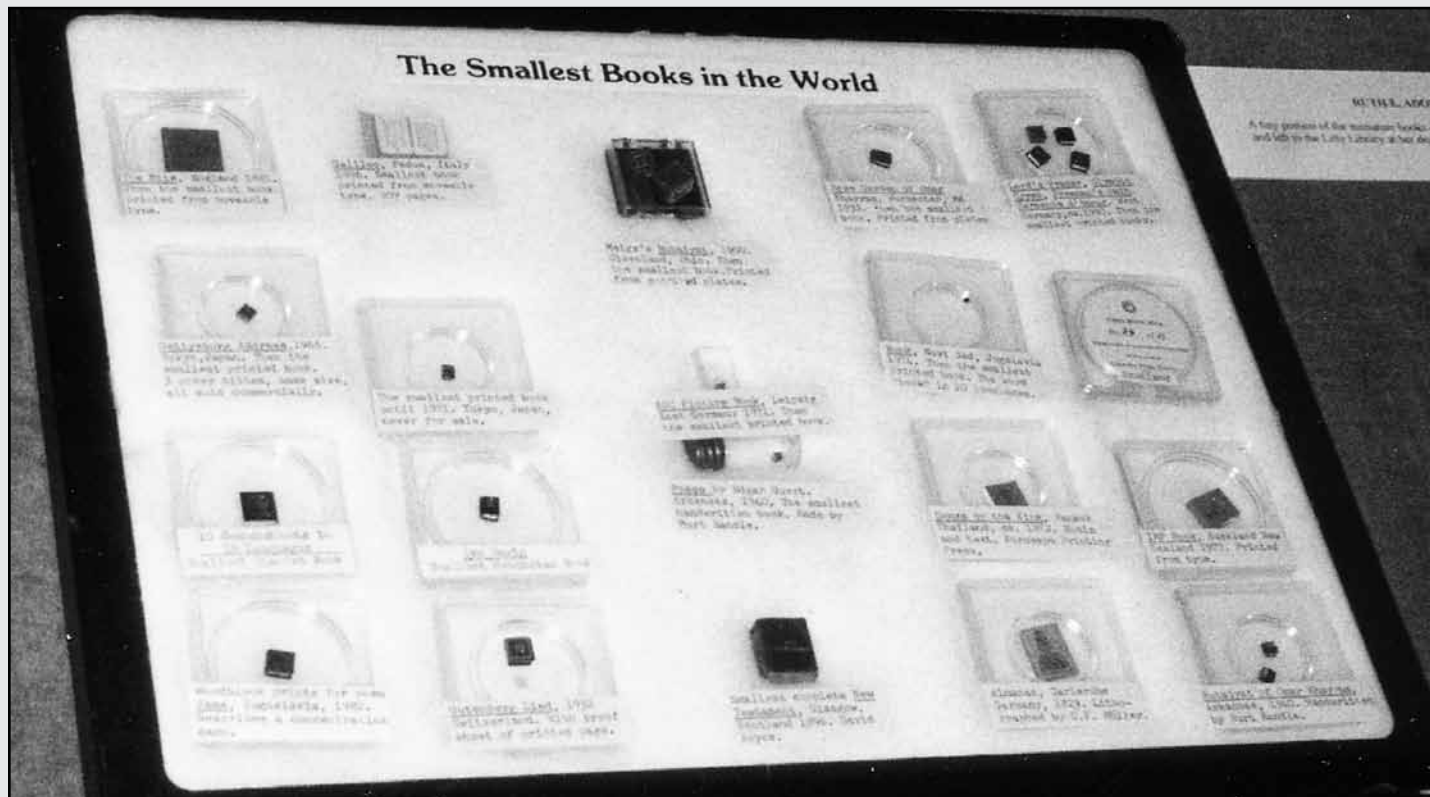
9. One of the Smallest Editions of the Koran. Printed in Arabic, contains about 1000 pages - a reproduction of a manuscript copy made in 1683.

10. The Smallest English Almanac in the World (in slipcase and special box). One of the famous series: Schloss's English Bijou Almanac for 1837. Contains the smallest portraits in the world of Goethe and Coleridge.

This book has 936 pages and over 100,000 copies have been sold.

16. The Smallest Color plate Book in the World: Alphabet Book. David Bryce, Glasgow, Scotland, 1896.

17. The Kingsport Miniatures: Extracts from the Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge, 1930.



Ruth Adomeit's exhibit of *The Smallest Books in the World* at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana.

11. A Book Printed from the Smallest Type in the World: Evangile Selon St. Matthew, Haarlem, Jean Enschede et fils, 1900. The type used for this book is called "Microscopic" and was cut by Henri Didot in 1827. It is smaller than the "Fly's Eye" used in the Galileo.

12. The Smallest Book in the World with Goffered Edges: Facsimile reprint in German Black Letter of a German Prayer Book printed in 1607.

13. One of the Smallest Books in the World printed from moveable type: The Sun by Harry Crosby, Black Sun Press, Paris, 1929. An unusual book from a famous press, set by hand by Francois Bret in 3 point type. Printed in two colors. One of 100 copies.

14. The Smallest English Dictionary in the World, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow, Scotland.

15. The Smallest Complete Bible in the World. Reduced facsimile of the Oxford Nonpareil Bible, with illustrations. David Bryce & Son, Glasgow, Scotland.

Washington's Farewell Address, 1932.

Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, 1929.

The Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tenn.

18. The Smallest Song Book in the World: Old English Scotch and Irish Songs with Music, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow, Scotland.

19. The Smallest Book of Robert Burns' Poems. Facsimile copy in miniature of the first edition of 1776 Poems written in the Scottish Dialect, David Bryce & Son, Glasgow, Scotland.

20. Books photographically reproduced from handwritten copies:

Kipling's Poems

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Burt Randle, 1940

Miniature Book Society Newsletter

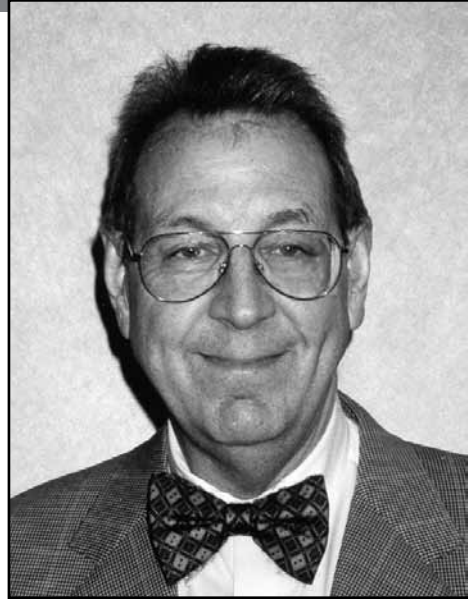


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President's Corner



Neale Albert

Sometimes things change. And not always for the better. In my last President's Corner I closed by saying "See you soon in Cincinnati." Well, it didn't quite work out that way. I underwent a serious operation in August and was still recuperating in October, which caused me to miss the Conclave. But it was a huge success without me.

Thank you for all the kind messages of caring and support. MBS is a wonderful family.

Barbara Williamson has taken

Donna Thomas' place on the Board. Welcome to Barbara. A new member, Edward Hoyenski, will be the Editor of the Newsletter, replacing Dean Gattone who has retired after years of good service. Send your newsworthy items to Edward.

The next Conclave will be in Toronto, hosted by the Mary and Paul Devenyi. I hope that many members who haven't gone to a Conclave yet will be there. Plan now. The Conclaves are the highlight of the miniature book year. They are a lot of fun. Please come.

Editor's Word

With this issue we truly pass the torch: I would like to introduce to you your new editor, Edward Hoyenski. Edward works in the Rare Book Room at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas and works with the library's special collections which include miniature books.

As I bow out, I would like again to thank the many contributors and supporters who have helped Jill and I over these past three years to improve this publication. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your editor.

"I am excited and feel privileged to be taking over as editor...." With this phrase, Dean opened his first Editor's Word column in the January 2000 issue of the Newsletter. I can now say I know how he felt, and that I feel the same way. I am excited to

be able to do this work for the members of the Society, who gave me the warmest and most friendly welcome at Conclave XX of any conference or convention I have ever attended. I feel very privileged to be asked to edit the Newsletter, and hope I can do at least half as well as Dean and my other distinguished predecessors.

My thanks to Jill Timm, for her patience in teaching the system to "the new guy," to Dean and all the others who have offered help, and to everyone who was so wonderful at the Conclave, over e-mail, or by letter. Here's to the beginning of a very happy and informative relationship!



Dean Gattone

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