

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY

NO. 76 - OCTOBER 2007

NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS



Preparing an Auction Catalog

2008 Conclave Plans

Plans for our 2008 Conclave continue to be in flux, but Karen Nyman of San Diego, California, has most graciously offered to host the Conclave in her city. Karen is considering several dates, including Labor Day Weekend (August 29-31), some other September dates, or October 3-5 to coincide with a local college book fair.

Nothing is definite at this point, but we felt it appropriate to give members a “heads-up” for planning ahead. Karen would welcome any thoughts or suggestions—and especially any volunteers to help in the planning.

Karen can be reached at karennyman@cox.net
or 619-226-4411 by telephone
or Karen Nyman
702 Rosecrans Street
San Diego, CA 92106

At the same time, we are looking at other options. A venue in an Eastern city for 2008 (to juxtapose Seattle in 2007) would be great if a host can be found willing to take this on. Please contact Peter Thomas at peteranddonna@cruzio.com or 831-475-1455.

Editor's Note

This is a sort-of good news/bad news plea. We are not receiving enough information from members to continue publishing four newsletters a year. We are considering cutting back to three issues, something on the order of mid-March, mid-July, and a Conclave issue to come out shortly after the Conclave to provide rather more immediate reporting than we can do now.

If you really want to have four issues send information on your activities. Is everyone so reticent that they do not want a little free publicity for their work? If you have special interests you want to share, write a short article and you may find others who want to discuss your topic or you may ignite a new interest for someone else.

Joan Boring



Publishers Take a Hike

MBS members have interests that range widely beyond their small books. Donna and Peter Thomas are avid hikers who have trekked the 300-mile route they refer to as “John Muir’s trans-California ramble.” They started out at the San Francisco ferry landing where Muir took a boat across the bay to Oakland in 1868 and from there followed hiking trails, diverting through public lands to avoid highways and urban sprawl.

They divided the hike into four segments: a stroll or bike ride along the Bay Trail, a multi-day backpack through Henry Coe State Park, a two- or three-day bike ride across the Central Valley, and then long hikes through the Sierra foothills before the final descent into Yosemite. The trail ends at the Merced River below El Capitan, today one of the most heavily visited areas of any U.S. national park.

The trail affords the view that Muir first had of Bridalveil Falls, when he referred to it as a “dainty little fall.” Actually Muir was so far away that the 620 foot fall, now one of the most photographed in the world, seemed tiny.

The couple hope to someday see the trail actually available to hikers with the help of a guidebook they are writing. Currently some sections are very rough going—rockslides and fallen tree limbs can obscure the path. They would eventually like to see directional markers and even overnight accommodations available to open this spectacular area to many more people.

Of course, this devotion to the Sierra area has led to a number of miniature books. Donna illustrated and published *Half Dome – a Climbing History* in 2000, followed by *Landscapes of the John Muir Trail* and *Wildflowers of the John Muir Trail* in 2002. They have also produced one-of-a-kind books on the area, *Bridalveil Falls* and *Yosemite Falls*, two tunnel books done in 2004 and *The Range of Light*, an accordion pop-up structure done in 2006.

Ed. note: I found this particularly interesting since some friends just published a guide to hiking the Alps. They took up hiking in their 50’s and found the trails in the U.S. too difficult because they wanted to be able to stop the night in a bed and to have a real meal in the evening. What Peter and Donna propose could be just the way to bring hiking the U.S. back for more people.



The Auction Catalogue—a Most Peculiar Job

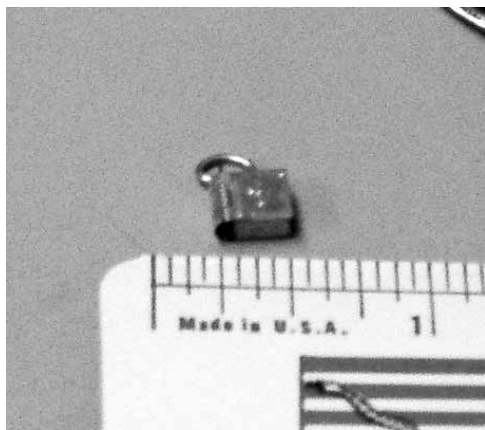
Volunteer positions all have their own particular aspects. The auction at the Conclave is over in a matter of hours, but it requires detailed preparation. The person preparing the catalogue has to receive the materials, write up their descriptions providing available bibliographic data, and decide what items can be grouped together to allow the sale to move efficiently. Just consider how long it would take to auction hundreds of items individually!

The cataloguer needs to let the donor know that the material arrived safely and, if the donor cannot attend the Conclave, send them a catalogue afterwards. Major sales are reported for inclusion in the next Newsletter.

It is especially helpful when donors can provide details on the items, since they sometimes appear in unidentifiable languages or unfamiliar formats. The more information the donor can provide, the better for both the cataloguer and the auctioneer.

One strictly subjective aspect of the job is deciding in what order items should be listed. From a pure marketing point of view, you want to put the item likely to bring the highest bids first. That way, the people who do not have the winning bid know that they have money available for bidding on other items. (We can be much more practical than our seemingly whimsical little books might suggest!)

Unfortunately, this approach is not as obvious as it might seem because bidding is entirely dependent on the interests of the auction attendees. You may be absolutely convinced that you have made the best choice, but come auction time the people who are



there may have totally different objectives. The year Val Poska sent a copy of the miniature biography of Fred Gipson, author of *Old Yeller* and a good old Texas boy, he sent along a framed thank-you from Presidential wife Laura Bush for a presentation copy



he had sent to her. The book and letter were placed together at the end of the auction and the bidding went over \$200!

The only physical aspect to the job is bagging the items for the auction and transporting them to the site of the Conclave. In bulk those little books can take a surprising amount of space.

This year Jan Becker is doing the catalogue, adapting Karen Nyman's spreadsheet format from her web based catalogue. This should make it easier to pick out details quickly as we move through the auction.

The joy in doing this job is seeing and handling the wide variety of items that members donate. From the tiniest of publications to the bookcases that hold them, there are always some new delights. While Jan is willing to do this job another year, bear in mind that at some time in the future she will need to relinquish the position and we will need someone else to step in. Volunteers are the way we operate.



Tiny Bible Found in British Boot!

That is not as in the British vernacular meaning the boot of a car, but in a literal child's boot that was stuffed into a cottage chimney in Ewerby in central England. In February of this year renovators made the find while working on a cottage on the Winchelsea Estate owned by the heirs of adventurer Denys Finch-Hatton.

The Bible was published by David Bryce & Son of Glasgow in 1901. It is described as "just around 1-inch wide and less than a half an inch thick" "complete but not illustrated" and packaged in part of a hinged metal case accompanied by a tiny magnifying glass.

Archaeologists explained that the boot was used as a sort of spirit trap to ward off evil, but placing a Bible in it was unusual. Using a shoe or boot in such a manner has been a folk tradition since the 14th century when one of England's unofficial saints, John Schorn of Buckinghamshire, reputedly performed the remarkable feat of casting the devil into a boot.

Reported by Jennifer Viegas in *Discovery News*



Addenda on Emblems and Pins

An article by Yaroslav Kostyuk entitled “Emblems & Pins of Miniature Book Clubs and Societies” appeared in the July 2006 edition of the MBS Newsletter. Cuts had to be made for space constraints, but that left out one change to an emblem for the Clubs of Russia and the USSR. Under “Leningrad Section of the Miniature Editions” there should have been an indication that in 1991 the sign was modified slightly by Makhonin to reflect the renaming of the city and the transformation of the Section to “St. Petersburg Club of Miniature Book Lovers” (SPCM).

I can email the complete original article to anyone who would like to see the pins in color. There is also an attached bibliography for those interested in pursuing the topic.

(jborning@middletownlibrary.org)

The St. Petersburg Club emblem for 1991.

A Curiosity

Jason Fiscus, our layout designer with Alliance Printing, sent a web address that may interest our members. It is for an article called “A Minor History of Miniature Writing” by Joshua Foer, from *Cabinet*, a quarterly magazine of art and culture that takes its name from the 17th century vogue for cabinets of curiosities.

The article is an extremely rapid history that moves from the Sumerian cuneiform clay tablet in the Lilly Library’s miniatures collection to the 2003 entry in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for a five-square-millimeter silicon chip with the *New Testament* printed on it in 24-karat gold, each letter being the size of a red blood cell.

Of special note is the entry for 1894 which describes Parisian miniature book collector George Salomon’s 700-title collection as able to “be carried in a moderate-sized portmanteau.” The article goes on to say that “His spirit lives on today in the Miniature Book Society”.

<http://www.cabinetmagazine.org/issues/25/foer.php>



The earliest known example of miniature writing appears on a Sumerian cuneiform clay tablet measuring 1 5/16 inches by 1 5/8 inches. (Courtesy of The Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana)

MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

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RECENT AUCTION SALES

The PBA Galleries of San Francisco held a pair of large sales of miniature books this past spring.

On March 29 some 61 lots, comprising hundreds of volumes from the library of the late Diane Peterson, and the collection of Frank Anderson were sold to benefit Wofford College. Diane and Frank, both deceased, had been long time active members of the Miniature Book Society. Frank was the first winner of the Anderson-Yarnell Award, established in 1989, for making a significant contribution to the Society. Diane was a dealer, describing herself as “The Book Lady,” who carried a wide variety of antiquarian and modern miniature books and graced many Conclaves with her presence.

A second sale at PBA Galleries on July 12 continued the March 29 auction.

Here are some of the notable offerings and prices realized (which includes the buyer’s premium):

On March 29:

Lot 213. Doyle, Arthur Conan. Set of 45 miniature volumes of Sherlock Holmes novels and stories. This charming group of books was published by Barbara Raheb in Tarzana, California in the 1970s. The set came with its own miniature bookcase and realized \$4,025 at the sale.



Lot 235. Lot of 16 “ingenious creations” from the Poole Press of Berkeley, California. Realized \$1,610.



Lot 238. Lot of 15 miniature volumes from the Rebecca Press of Hyattsville, Maryland. “Captivating examples of miniature bookmaking.” Realized \$1,265.

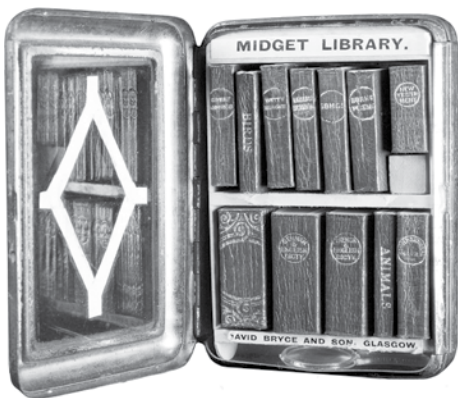


Lot 237. Lot of approximately 35 miniature books from the Black Cat Press of Chicago. Realized \$1,265.

Lot 239. Lot of 9 miniature books published by David Bryce & Son of Glasgow, Scotland, c. 1890-1910. This group brought \$2,185.



Lot 240. The Midget Library of David Bryce & Son containing 11 volumes in its original folding metal and glass case. Realized \$6,900.



Lot 245. Set of 5 Christmas Books in miniature by Charles Dickens, published by Henry Frowde, 1904. With a "slight rubbing to spines," the set brought \$489.

Lot 256. Large collection of miniature books published by REM miniatures. This group of 86 volumes comprised "A magnificent collection of books from the press of Robert E. Massmann, including a majority of the works of this press." This lot brought \$863.



Lot 258. Lot of approximately 30 miniature books published by Achille J. St.. Onge of Worcester, MA. Most were printed by Joh. Enschede in Holland from the 1940s to the 70s and bound in full leather. The group brought \$2,875.



GROLIER CLUB EXHIBITION

Since the second World War there have been several large and comprehensive exhibitions of miniature books around the world. *Miniature Book News* (MBN) has accounts and photographs of several of these exhibitions.

Ruth Adomeit's exhibit at the Cleveland Public Library in 1989 was perhaps the first very comprehensive display. Adomeit was the preeminent collector and author of our times, finally collecting some 11,000 miniature books which were bequeathed to the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana after her death.

The Cleveland exhibition included about 3,500 of her books in a large room, and was extended due to the popular response. *Miniature Book News* issue #63 contains an article and photographs about this exhibition.

An exhibition was held in late 1999 at the Rutgers University Library in New Jersey of the miniature books from the Alden Jacobs collection. Jacobs was a graduate of Rutgers and had a library of some 1500 individual books from 1702 to 1999. About 300 books were on display.

In 2001, after Adomeit's books had been transferred to the Lilly Library, the Library held an exhibit of over 900 books to coincide with the MBS Conclave being held at the time in Indianapolis. Articles in MBN recorded this event and showed some photographs.

Martin Znidarsic of Ljubljana, Slovenia had a large exhibit in Ljubljana in 2003 with 650 books and a smaller exhibit in Pruj with 280 volumes.

Hubert Silvain's exhibition of some 500 of his miniature books took place in 2004 in Southern France, followed up with a repeat in 2005 in Quebec, Canada.

In 2005, Harvard University's Houghton Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts was host to an exhibition of almost 400 tomes from your editor's collection.

This year an exhibit was held at the Boston Public Library, in connection with the publication of the book, *Miniature Books: 4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures*, co-authored by Anne Bromer and Julian Edison.

A larger exhibition occurred from May to July this year at the Grolier Club in New York City, with your editor as the curator. This exhibit followed up on and expanded upon our recent book. Below we will talk a bit about this exhibit and include some photographs.

The exhibition was meant to be partly historical and part thematic. Twelve segments or chapters were contained in 10 glassed cases, each about 7-8 feet wide, in the main gallery.

The 12 segments were sequenced in the following order:



GROLIER MINIATURE BOOK EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION and SEQUENCE

Chapter sequence

- 1) Manuscripts
- 2) Early Printed Books
- 3) Religious Works
 - Thumb Bibles
- 4) Almanacs
 - Company of Stationers
- 5) Children's Books
- 6) Art of the Book
 - Paper making
 - Printing & Tiny Type
 - Artistic Bindings
- 7) Presidents, Politics, Propaganda
- 8) Smallest Books
- 9) Life's Pleasures
 - Eating, Drinking, Smoking
 - Music & Laughter
 - Forbidden Fruits
 - Travel
- 10) 19-20th century to WWII
- 11) WWII to present
 - Hungary & USSR
- 12) Curiosities and Books as Object
 - Contemporary artist's books

The exhibition received world wide press attention. Lengthy and favorable articles appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, plus several other magazines and newspapers. CBS and Reuters Television each had features. The Reuters feed was shown on Beijing TV!

We are showing the wall texts that briefly explains each segment together with some photographs of the chapter/segment. The 12 segments were fitted into the 10 wall cases, so some cases contain 2 or more parts of two different segments. Because of space limitations this may require two issues of MBN to complete this report.

MANUSCRIPTS AND BOOKS BEFORE PRINTING



A variety of manuscripts including both illuminated Renaissance and some modern examples.

Before Gutenberg books were written by hand. Miniature manuscripts occur throughout the history of human record keeping. The earliest examples of record-keeping in miniature are cuneiform tablets from Babylonia (Iraq today) and other Near Eastern countries, where they were produced as early as 4,000 B.C.E. Usually of clay, these tablets might be described as precursors of miniature books as we know them. Such tablets were in use until about 100 C.E. as legal documents and receipts.

With the advent of more convenient writing materials such as papyrus, vellum or parchment and then paper, miniature manuscripts were produced as small rolls or scrolls and later in the form of codex books. Even though each book had to be written by hand, manuscripts were produced for religious use in great quantity before and during the Renaissance period in Western Europe and in Persia. Some were ornamented with elaborate colors and gold leaf of great beauty. This outpouring continued throughout the Middle Ages and for the better part of a century, even after Gutenberg had introduced printing with moveable type about 1450.

Psalms, *Books of Hours*, *Korans*, and other religious works were made in miniature so that they could be conveniently carried for personal use. Often colorful decorations or miniature images of religious scenes and holy personages were painted on the miniature pages. Such Western and Persian manuscripts are highly sought after today by collectors of books, calligraphy and art.



Top picture shows a photo of the gold manuscript that Henry VIII gave Anne Boleyn, now in the British Library.



An Ethiopian manuscript in accordion shape; another Ethiopian book with painting and text; an Indian manuscript at right.

EARLY PRINTED BOOKS



Some 17th – 18th century books at left: Early religious books section starts at right part of the display case.

The first substantial book printed from moveable type was Gutenberg's *Bible*, produced in Mainz, Germany, in the mid-fifteenth century. Books printed after this initial work but before 1501 are known as incunabula, i.e., books from the cradle period of printing. There exist only a dozen or so examples of incunables in miniature format.

The sixteenth century saw the production of religious books including Books of Hours, Psalters and New Testaments, examples of which mark the beginnings of English miniature book publishing.

By the seventeenth century miniature books began to appear in greater quantity. Editions of Greek and Latin classics include works by Cicero, Epictetus, Boethius, Lipsius and even a miniature Hippocrates. The renowned Plantin Press in Antwerp produced many miniature editions, including *De imitatione Christi* by Thomas à Kempis, a widely read religious work of the period. An extraordinary book from 1660 is the *Whole Book of Psalms in Meter*, together with the *New Testament*, which appeared in an edition by Jeremiah Rich, engraved entirely in a form of shorthand writing rather than printed from type.

The seventeenth century also saw the introduction of the so-called *Thumb Bibles*. These small thumb-sized *Bibles* are abbreviated histories of the *Bible* in prose or verse. An *Agnus Dei*, a life of Christ in verse, by John Weever in 1601, together with *Verbum Sempiternum* by John Taylor in 1614, were the precursors of this popular format.

The eighteenth century ushered in the Age of Enlightenment, when miniature books began to be printed in editions designed for women and children. A key example, printed in London in 1740, is Thomas Boreman's *Gigantick Histories*, the first example of a book for children intended for entertainment rather than religious instruction.

During this century there was also a flowering of miniature books such as Latin and Greek classics, Dutch song and history books, French and German devotional books and Hebrew prayer books.



Books by Cicero, Hippocrates, etc.



World's first printing on paper, an eighth century Japanese prayer scroll with its Pagoda, at right.

RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND THUMB BIBLES



A variety of religious books in this case.

Gutenberg's first printed book was the *Bible* and the first books in all formats have dealt with Biblical and other religious and moral themes. Miniature editions of the *Bible* or Bible selections in small sizes have been issued almost from the beginning of printing.

During the nineteenth century, large numbers of miniature books were published by the religious tract societies of England and America. Titles such as *Dew Drops*, *Honey Drops*, *Small Rain upon the Tender Herb*, *Crumbs from the Master's Table*, *Milk for Babes* and *Children's Bread or Daily Texts for the Young* were distributed in many editions to whet religious appetites and to attract children.

Thumb Bibles, so called because of their small size, are a special genre. The origin of the term probably lies in the popularity of General Tom Thumb, a well known nineteenth-century British midgit. Thumb Bibles really begin with *An Agnus Dei*, a life of Christ in verse by John Weever, published in London in 1601, followed by *Verbum sempiternum* and *Salvator mundi* by John Taylor in 1614. The fashion for such miniatures continued into the late nineteenth century in England and America. Thumb Bibles, usually measuring from 1-1/2 to 2 inches in height with many examples containing woodcut illustrations, provided paraphrases or selections of verses to introduce the *Bible* to children. In England, an abbreviated Bible entitled *Biblia, or a Practical Summary of ye Old & New Testaments* was printed for R. Wilkin in 1727. This was followed by the first of many editions of *The Bible in Miniature*, published by W. Harris in London in 1771, and by the popular leather-bound edition printed for Elizabeth Newbery in 1780. In the United States, Thumb Bibles appeared from 1811 to about 1865, published in Boston, New York, Hartford and elsewhere, with titles such as *Miniature Bible*, *History of the Bible*, or *Bible History*.

Thumb Bibles also became popular on the Continent. Examples include German titles such as *Biblia oder Inbalt gantzer H. Schrifti*, Dutch editions of *Biblia ofte inhoud en kern der gantschen H. Schrifti*, and French versions such as *Sommaire de la Bible* and *Bible du Petit Poucet*, published as early as around 1800 in Paris.



Bryce Bible, c. 1900, shown with its lectern



Accordion strip showing 48 hand colored woodblock illustrations of Japanese Temples, by Hiroshige, c. 1835.



Three Victorian hallmarked silver covers for *The Book of Common Prayer*.

ALMANACS AND CALENDARS



An array of almanacs in various sizes and bindings, mostly 19th–20th century, shown in this case.

Almanacs and calendars were among the earliest and most extensively produced of all miniature books. They provided useful daily and monthly information, could easily be carried in pockets or pocketbooks, made great gifts and were often attractively illustrated and encased in handsome and unusual bindings.

Miniature almanacs began to appear in the late seventeenth century in England and on the Continent. The London Almanack – at that time the British spelled the word with an added k – was first published about 1690 and continued to be issued by the renowned Company of Stationers for over 200 years. These almanacs are likely the longest running series of books of any size issued by the same publisher. Except for some early examples, each engraved almanac contained an illustration of a well known London building, astrological information on the sun and moon, data on English royalty and government officials, currency exchange rates, stamp duties and other useful statistics.

Other publishers' almanacs sometimes contained literary prose or poetry by popular authors of the day, accompanied by scenic views, portraits or depictions of national costumes. From 1836 to 1843 Albert Schloss, London stationer to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, published The English Bijou Almanacs, tiny marvels of engraving, illustration, binding and unusual presentation. Many of these little volumes, less than one inch in height, were provided with leather bindings and slipcases and occasionally came housed in attractive leather boxes with an enclosed magnifying glass.

On the Continent, tiny postage-stamp-sized almanacs were issued from 1817 to about 1840 by C. R. Müller in Carlsruhe and Munich. These little volumes were produced using lithography, a printing process invented by Alois Senefelder at about that time. The art of the almanac reached its peak in France in the early nineteenth century with series of livres minuscules or almanachs microscopiques produced by several Paris publishers. The books were available in several miniature sizes and provided with lovely leather or needlework bindings.

During this period there was a profusion of Hand Calendars, Wiener-Kalenderls, Fingerl-Kalenders, Mignon Almanachs, Trachten-Almanachs, Taschen-Kalenders and Rokoko Kalenders from France, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands.



Enamel examples at left, Taschen Kalenders, and tiny Carlsruhe almanacs at right.

ALMANACS AND CALENDARS (contd.)



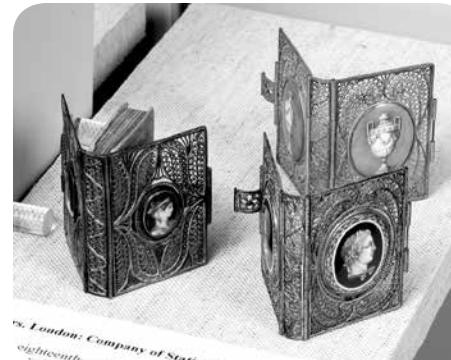
London Almanacs in various bindings.



A closer look showing jeweled, velvet, and painted examples.



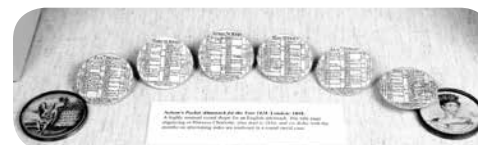
London Almanacs bound in inlaid morocco leather.



Silver filigree bindings with center enamel figures.



Silver and gold filigree examples.



Early 19th century English almanac in unusual round shape.



A variety of early to modern children's books, a hornbook, picture panorama, *Infant's Library*, etc.

From 1740 to 1743 Thomas Boreman, a London bookseller and publisher created a series of ten miniature books for children, entitled *The Gigantick Histories*. Each book in this series dealt with a story embracing a famous London building such as the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, or Westminster Abbey, complete with an attractive woodcut illustration of the building.

Books for children's pleasure began to emerge in earnest in the early 1800s. John Marshall and John Harris, London printers and booksellers, published attractive children's libraries housed in specially designed wooden book cases with ornamented sliding front lids. The sixteen volume *The Infant's Library* by John Marshall was published around 1800 and reprinted several times. Later it was copied in French, German, and Latin. J. Harris published a similar set of twelve volumes, *The Cabinet of Lilliput*, in 1802.

A few years later the publishers Darton, Harvey and Darton & J. Harris published a series of children's books with engravings by Alfred Mills. This series included *Pictures of Grecian History in Miniature*, *Pictures of Roman History in Miniature*, *Natural History of 48 Quadrupeds*, *Biography of Eminent Persons and Costumes of Different Nations*. This series continued until 1828.

Bible histories and *Thumb Bibles* for children appeared in many different editions and were copied in America from 1811 to the 1860s. On the Continent, the French in particular published many similar types of children's books in the nineteenth century, taking the lead from their British counterparts.

The appeal of small books for small hands has been ongoing since the eighteenth century.



Close up of *Infant's Library*, c. 1800, showing sliding wooden cover.



Earth and It's Inhabitants: colorful panorama of citizens in costumes of their country.



This display case shows books about printing, an engraving by Picasso, some unusual bindings, and even miniature books about miniature books.

The physical properties of most miniature books are the same as those of standard-size volumes --- paper, type, printer's ink, photographs and illustrations and binding. Dard Hunter, the great American papermaker, said that "there must be a better understanding between the three arts (papermaking, type design, and printing) and when this better understanding exists, we will produce the much-talked-of, but seldom seen, book harmonious."

The first miniature bibliography, *A Short Account of the First Rise and Progress of Printing*, is "one of the rarest books in typographical literature" according to Bigmore and Wyman. It was published only in miniature book form and was printed for T. Parker of London about 1763.

The master American printer, Theodore Low de Vinne (1828-1914) was a founder of the Grolier Club. An authority and author on fine typography, he printed many of the early Grolier Club publications. In 1895 he published *Brilliant: A Setting of Humorous Poetry in Brilliant Types*, printed in a clear 3 1/2-point type and measuring 2 1/4 inches tall.

In the 1820s Henri Didot the Elder created a tiny 2 1/2-point type in France that was first used to print several miniature books. This type compares to the 4 1/2-point type used by Corroll in the *Pickering Diamond Classic* editions, also printed in the 1820s. (The usual newspaper print size is about 6 point).

The ne plus ultra of microscopic typefaces used to print miniature books is the occhio di mosca or "fly's eye" type. This type was made in 1850 by Giacomo Gnocchi of Milan, but it was not until 1867 that it was used by the Salmin brothers of Padua to print an edition of Dante's *Divina commedia*. In 1896 this "fly's eye" type was used again to produce the smallest book printed from moveable type, the *Galileo a Madama Cristina de Lorena* (1615). The *Galileo*, measuring 3/4 by 1/2 inches in paper wrappers, continues to hold this record.

Miniature books are an ideal vehicle for artistic bindings. While leather remains the most commonly used material for covering, there are examples in such exotic materials as mother-of-pearl, jewels, enamels, embroidery, precious metals, elaborate needlework, tortoise shell, lacquer and snakeskin.

Modern designer bindings introduced modern art and the integration of typography to book covers and has become an increasingly utilized and varied facet of the book arts. What has evolved recently is a genre of truly exotic forms, materials and constructions, even oddities or curiosities, dealing with the book as an object, that challenges the definition of what is a book.



Above: Silver hallmarked covers on literary books.

At far left: A binding with 148 emeralds, one of which is real!

At left: Revolving wooden bookcase housing Shakespeare volumes by David Bryce.



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Advertising Rates

Full Page	4.5 x 7.5"	\$100.00
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Quarter Page	2.25 x 3.75"	\$30.00

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Mail payments for ads (in \$ US dollars) to:

Kathy King
402 York Avenue
Delaware, OH 43015, USA

Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A quarterly publication of the Miniature Book Society Inc. Number 76

Issued in January, April, July and October. Items for publication, including advertising material should be sent to the Editor. Publication deadlines are: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1. Payment for advertising should be made to Miniature Book Society Inc. and sent to the Treasurer.

The Miniature Book Society is an international non-profit organization founded in 1983 and chartered by the state of Ohio, USA. Its purposes are to sustain interest in all aspects of miniature books; to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; to serve as a clearinghouse for information about miniature books.

Website: www.mbs.org
Toll-free phone (USA & Canada): 1-877-MBS-1983

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Secretary: Janet King
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Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals, organizations and institutions.
Membership dues in United States dollars: \$40.00 individual/couple for USA members, \$45.00 individual/couple for Canadian members; \$55.00 individual/couple outside North America. Corporate membership: \$40.00 (USA), \$55.00 (Canada), \$65.00 (outside North America).

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Manuscripts, letters and news items are welcomed and are subject to editing due to space and style limitations. Preferably submissions should be made electronically, by e-mail or disk. Attachments on Microsoft Word would be preferred. Articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Board or of the Editor.

Deadline for the next issue: December 1, 2007.

Printed by:
Alliance Printing & Mailing Services, Middletown, OH USA
Design: Jason Fiscus

New Publications

Five Visits to Haworth by Suzanne Pruchnicki. The Bronte Press. 8 original handcolored illus., under 3 inches. Bound over boards. Ed. of 40.

Exhibits

The MBS Traveling Exhibit will be at this year's Conclave in Seattle.

Society of Bookbinders annual exhibition. Birmingham, UK, 6th Floor, Central Library, Sept. 19 – Nov. 3.

New Catalogues

Michael Garbett: No. 27.
A Catalogue of Miniature Books.
South Gloucestershire, UK
July 2007.

(Tracy) Bradbury: No. 38:
Miniature Books. (an extension of Catalogue 37, from the collection of James F. Delancey)
Brooklyn, NY.

Miniature Books For Sale

**From the private collection of Norman W. Forgue of
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grandson to Norman W. Forgue**

Passing the Torch

Tracy Bradbury is taking over the business side of her father's (Robert C.) miniature book work. He will continue to research and write on the subject, but Tracy will be doing the catalogues and selling from her NY base (P.O. Box 370552, Brooklyn, NY 11237). She is maintaining her father's high standards for her work and, in addition to his tutelage, has worked with a reference publisher in Manhattan for seven years.

Tracy won't be able to join us for this year's Conclave, but we welcome her to our ever expanding group.