

# NEWSLETTER

INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS



Condensed by... Chori, Jim McWhirt-  
... Rezek,



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Bela Bla



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### Conclave I

1. Ward Schori, Jim McWhirter, Margaret Schori, Yvonne Rezek, Norman Forgue, Ruth Adomeit

### Conclave II

2. Group at the Boston Public Library

### Conclave III

3. Bela Blau & Ward Schori at A-1 Bookbinding
4. Msgr. Weber and Small Pax, Burbank, CA:
5. Eileen Cummings printing keepsakes at Richard Hoffman's
6. Barbara Raheb and her dioramas

### Conclave IV

7. Mary Helen Dawson & Ruth Adomeit

### Conclave V

8. Julian Edison

### Conclave VI

9. Rebecca Bingham and Carol Cunningham

### Conclave VII

10. Kal Levitan and his books
11. Presented to Miriam Irwin at Conclave (1989)

### Conclave VIII

12. Coleman & Caroline McGehee (now Lindemann) Glasgow, 1990
13. Helen & Ian MacDonald
14. The Thomas girls

### Conclave IX

15. The McGehee Clan

### Conclave X

16. Jim Delancey, Deane Gattone, Evron Collins
17. The BookPress

## FRONT COVER



## BACK COVER



## President's Message

I am very much looking forward to our 27th Grand Conclave, to take place August 27-31, 2009 at the Wyndham Princeton Forrestal Hotel and Conference Center in Princeton, New Jersey, hosted by MBS member Jim Brogan. Registration information is available elsewhere in this issue of the MBS Newsletter. Jim has designed a schedule of events for us—including some time on the campus of Princeton University—that promises to be interesting, educational and fun! Please plan to attend.



*Mark Palkovic*

If you have never attended a conclave before, I guarantee that you'll quickly make many new friends. I look forward to seeing you in Princeton!

## Editor's Note

One more plea--actually a series of them! As usual we are hoping for volunteers to help out at the Princeton Conclave. You don't have to be terribly organized; just willing. We often recruit people as they show up since life carries no guarantees, especially with travel plans. Also please be generous with donations for the Auction, the Silent Auction, and what I so gracelessly refer to as freebies. That's for the Keepsakes bag that everyone looks forward to each year. It is always fun to see what incredibly clever items people manage to create.

Caroline Lindemann is doing a brief series on her memories of Conclaves past, as well as providing the cover photos from her visits. This should jog some happy memories in other attendees or at least give you a glimpse into what you may have missed.

And you don't want to miss out this year or in the future. It seems that each Conclave just gets better and better, as do the offerings from miniature book publishers. I am trying to save as much as possible for visiting those display tables. If you haven't been to a Conclave you will understand what I mean when you see all the tempting creations laid out for you. See you there!

## Welcome to FABS!

Congratulations to all of us as we are now members of the Fellowship of American Bibliophiles Society (FABS). For us this means a copy of their twice a year publication which goes to the other 31 Book Club members nationally, and to nine international Book Clubs. Our message will appear in each edition and reaches about 9500 people, all of whom are interested in the printed word. I am the representative for the MBS as well as the Book Club of Detroit. In 2007 I approached the FABS Executive Committee with an attempt to tweak their interest in MBS. They gave me permission to approach the MBS Board, which I did in San Diego in 2008. We became officially members on April 2, 2009, at the annual FABS Board meeting in New York City at the Grolier Club, where we were accepted by acclamation. Now the mission of the MBS will gain a much broader audience, and hopefully, some exciting new members.

Joan Knoertzer

# Miniature Book Society Conclaves through the Years

Caroline Y. Lindeman

As most of you know – and have heard ad nauseum - it has been my great good fortune to attend all 26 Conclaves since our inception in 1983. I can truly say they have been highlights of each year. In this brief synopsis, I shall try to point out some of the memorable moments. Check your Yearbook for the Chairs for each event.

## I. 1983. Tipp City, OH

The excitement of our founding Grand Conclave will never be forgotten. Meeting so many publishers and dealers with whom I had corresponded was the equivalent of dropping a rabid movie fan into the middle of Hollywood! Ian and Helen Macdonald, whose visit led to our meeting, Norman Forgue, Ward Schori, the Dawsons, Ruth Adomeit, Frank Anderson, Jim Yarnell, Dave Serette, and so many others. I could hardly believe I was talking with them face to face. At one point I walked to the far bank of the lake on Miriam's beautiful family farm and looked across. I could hear the babble of happy voices and see Norman Forgue holding court for a rapt audience. We had delicious home cooked meals provided by Miriam's family and friends. One person took exception to this, Bela Blau, who kept repeating "but they said it would be catered!" Following our first book fair I couldn't stand up straight for several days!

## II. 1984. Boston, MA

Highlights included visiting Bromer Booksellers on Boylston Street, and the tour of the Boston Public Library. I shall never forget while there asking to see their copy of the Kingsport Press Lincoln and they couldn't find it! We knew then that our work was partly to teach libraries how to handle miniature books. Our first auction was held.

## III. 1985. Burbank, CA

We had memorable tours of the Huntington Library and the special display of 15th and 16th century miniature books; Bela and Mariana Blau's A-1 Bookbindery; and Dawson's Book Shop. David Bryce's granddaughter, Bridgie Unicum, Louis Bondy, and Mrs. Achille St. Onge were with us. We visited Richard Hoffman, met Small Pax Weber and were awed by Msgr. Weber's book display and his diorama created by Barbara Rehab. Carol Cunningham told us how the four "California Girls," she, Maryline Poole Adams, Susan Acker and Dianne Weiss, formed the Splendid Press and Paper Works, Ltd. Plans for the Yearbook were formulated and our logo, designed by Kal Levitan, was approved.

## IV. 1986. Washington, DC

Outstanding events included a visit to Jim DeLancey's home in Georgetown and viewing his impressive collection of miniature books in specially made cases. Talented Helene Sherman gave a slide presentation on her illuminations. We visited dealer Jo Ann Reisler in Vienna, VA, where I was thrilled to see a number of original W.W. Denslow drawings from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." Norman W. Forgue had died the preceding October, and the first Forgue Award was presented in absentia to Irene Winterstein.

## V. 1987. Skokie, IL

We toured Coleen Moore's Fairy Castle at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and Mrs. Thorne's miniature rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago, both life-long wishes fulfilled on my part. The highlight for me was visiting Ward and Marty Schori's home in Skokie and seeing his printing shop in the basement.

## VI. 1988. San Antonio, TX

The first miniature book competition was announced, organized by Frank Anderson and Jim Yarnell. Our traveling exhibition was viewed with astonishment by members of a motorcycle racing club, dressed in outfits complete with studs and chains. "Geez," commented one of them, "look at all de liddle books!" Our host, darling Val Poska, was banquet speaker. I was having such a good time I missed my plane home and spent an extra night. Yvonne Rezek and I had fun exploring the River Walk shops and cafés.

## VII. 1989. Cincinnati, OH

I was very impressed with the vitality of downtown Cincinnati. Kal Levitan entertained us lavishly in his new home in Englewood. We were all impressed with the beautiful organization of his miniature books. The first miniature book competition was held and was a great success. Miriam Irwin, MBS president and Conclave Chair, was so tired at the end that she fell asleep and slid off the sofa at her house.

## VII. 1990. Glasgow, Scotland

This was our first overseas Conclave, and an outstanding one. Glasgow was the Cultural Capitol of Europe that year and was very proud to have beaten out Edinburgh. We all enjoyed the miniature book display at the Mitchell Library and the world famous Burrell Collection. Mrs. Susan Baird, Lord Provost of the city, attended our banquet, at which Ian Macdonald and my husband, Coleman McGehee, were resplendent in their kilts. The Macdonalds gave the Glasgow Cup, and I awarded it to Donn Sanford, an enthusiastic new member who later chaired Conclave XI and served as president from 1999-2001. Among the attendees were Dr. Lajos Babos of Budapest, Gordon Murray (Silver Thimble Books), Ralf Quast from Koblenz, Irene Winterstein and her son-in-law from Zürich, Martin Znidarsic of Yugoslavia and Pavel Pochtovik of the USSR. The Thomas's daughters, Suzanne (5) and Tanya (7) made the Conclave an especially lively one.

## VIII. 1991. Williamsburg, VA

The Williamsburg Conclave was a big one for me as I chaired it and was also president. It was held in early October, and the weather was perfect – blue skies, gentle breezes, gorgeous fall leaves. Over 125 members and guests attended. The schedule included a picnic at nearby Carter's Grove Plantation and a reception at the President's House at the College of William and Mary. The Bookpress, Ltd., a local book shop, exhibited reference material and over 500 miniature books from my collection that are mentioned in the Newsletters of the LXIVMOS. It was the Devenyis first Conclave.

Look for more of Caroline's Conclave memories in the next Newsletter.

## My First Conclave

For the last several years I have become a temporary “miniature book widow” as Stephen deserted me to travel to Conclaves around the world meeting his friends from MBS. I knew he had enjoyed himself because he always came back with tales of all the wonderful people he had met, of amazing miniature books, and enthusiasm for the whole experience – hopefully to be repeated every year.

His solo trips ended this year when, following retirement from teaching, I was able to accompany him. Immediately we started meeting his friends, who have now become my friends, I knew exactly what had made him so enthusiastic about the Conclaves. His idea of being on the registration table on the first day so that he could meet everybody as they congregated meant that I too was in the same situation. There were so many names to learn, although at last I was able to put faces to the names I had heard spoken about so much, and to the people who I know had bought our books.

From the very first I was made to feel welcome, and could see why Stephen thinks of his MBS friends as a family. Everybody seems to get on so well, each supporting and encouraging the other, and always so appreciative of what each person has to offer.

Karen made us feel very welcome in her home on the evening before Conclave began. The company was great, the food superb, and the opportunity to talk to so many people made for a wonderful evening.

On registration day I enjoyed the “make your own keepsake” event – a fun and creative way to get to know more people. The Polynesian Buffet left me wondering if my efforts to sculpt my new figure were going to be wasted, but I eventually showed restraint, knowing that there was more to come in the next few days.

On the Saturday I was very interested to hear the speakers and participate in the workshops. They were a great idea to see how other people work and to gather ideas. I hope such events will continue at Conclave. The Old Mexican Fiesta necessitated more reluctant restraint in the eating department, but the company made up for it. I got to know my new friends better, had a good number of laughs, and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Sunday brought the Book Fair, an event I had been eagerly anticipating ever since I decided to attend Conclave. Setting up was a necessary chore, but the opportunity to see everybody else’s books on their displays had probably the same effect on me as Stephen’s first similar experience in Koblenz so many years ago. I was amazed at the variety of styles, content and ingenuity shown in the production

of miniature books. Craftsmanship is alive and well! I think the idea to let the public into the sale in the morning must have been worthwhile, as all the sellers I spoke to agreed that we had seen more people during the day than in past years.

Sunday evening brought the banquet and a decision that for once restraint was not on the agenda. Again, good company and conversation, together with Michael’s amusing address, made the whole evening something I will remember for a long time.

We had a treat on Monday when we were able to visit two libraries, each of which had displays of miniature books. A good look around La Jolla followed,

My thoughts overall about Conclave? Well the most memorable event for me was seeing the look of absolute amazement and disbelief on Stephen’s face when it was announced that he had been awarded one of the Distinguished Book Awards. Who would have thought that such small items as miniature books could bring together such great hearted people, who all showed me nothing but kindness at my first Conclave.

Thank you, Karen, for all your hard work to ensure the success of Conclave in San Diego.

Marian Byrne



*Stephen and  
Marian Byrne,  
Joan Knoertzer  
at San Diego  
Conclave*

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## Neale Albert Exhibit in England

Neale exhibited miniature designer bindings relating to Shakespeare at MINATURA in Birmingham while staying with the Garbetts in Bristol. Michael sold miniature books there, while Stephen Byrne joined them to sell miniatures and to display the MBS European Traveling Exhibit.

# Peter Thomas on The History of Miniature Books

A miniature book is nothing more than a book that is miniature in size. Of course, there is more to the story than that...

Some consider Sumerian clay tablets, with cuneiform writing, to be the first miniature books. These were made as early as 2500 BCE. Others would claim the first miniature books were made in the Middle Ages by the scribes who created the grand hand-written, illuminated and illustrated devotionals, bibles and other manuscript books, like the Book of Kells, as they also made a number of those books in a miniature format. The question of which was the first “miniature” sized incunabula, or early printed book, would probably bring the answer: the “Officium”, or Book of Hours, printed by Nicholas Jenson in Venice, 1474 (Hain 11895). Its page dimensions are about 3 1/8 by 2 1/8 inches and the type area is only 2 x 1 1/4 inches. At that time there was no “standard” for the size of a miniature book. If a book fit in a pocket, or if it would be lost when shelved with normal sized book it was considered a miniature. In the mid-twentieth century the common limitation became 3 inches, but there was no agreement on whether that meant 3 inches of printing in the book, three inches of page height, or a binding that was a maximum of three inches. When the Miniature Book Society was founded in 1983 they defined a miniature book to be one that is no more than three inches in size--height, width or thickness. Of course even that definition is not universally accepted; outside the United States, where other measuring systems are used, books of up to four inches are often collected as miniature books.

To confuse things even more, miniature books are usually thought to come in four different size categories, regular miniature books, dollhouse miniature books, over-sized miniature books and micro-miniature books. Regular miniature books conform to the three-inch limitation. Dollhouse size book are made on an inch-to-foot scale, so a regular size dollhouse book is about three-quarters of an inch tall. Oversized miniature books are just a bit too big to be regular, but still seem like they ought to be called a miniature book, like all those four inch “Little Leather Library” books. Micro-miniature books get as small as possible. For years the Guinness Book of World Records listed the Gleniffer Press’s 1986 edition of Old King Cole, which measures one millimeter square, as the record holder. (As a point of interest, they defined a book as a series of at least 7 pages connected at a spine). That book was printed on an early laser printer and the pages were glued together at the spine. (As another aside, Ian MacDonald, who made that book once challenged me to try to beat his record. “It is not that hard,” he said to me, “you just have to find a text that only has three or four letter words, or else your whole book will have to be hyphenated!”)

## Our first miniature book:

I started my career making books in the late fifteenth century, working at the Renaissance Pleasure Faire in Agoura, California. I continued by studying fine printing with William Everson (aka Brother Antoninus) at the University of California Santa Cruz, Lime Kiln Press. In 1980 my wife Donna and I made a small book, “Yotan’s Vision” from scraps of English handmade paper salvaged from the Lime Kiln Press’s Granite and Cypress. In accordance with fine press tradition I had designed it to have golden section proportions with wide margins and deckle-edged paper. I showed it to Los Angeles bookseller Muir Dawson who I had met through our mutual interest in papermaking and by the coincidence that his son was in my graduating class at UCSC. He did not express much interest but said, “You

should show that to my brother, he likes that sort of thing.” Without much hope I showed it to Glen Dawson. He took a quick look, pulled a ruler out of his pocket, measured the book and said, “If it was only a quarter of an inch shorter I would have bought twenty. There are folks that collect miniature books, but they won’t buy one if it is over three inches.” Back home, we trimmed the pages, cutting off the deckle edges and ruining my perfect proportions and then sold him twenty books. That’s how we started making miniatures.

## Why make miniature books?

People love small things. When you hold a miniature book in your hand, it is like holding a jewel. Although some need magnification to be read, most can be enjoyed with the naked eye. They are indeed like jewelry, with words and images instead of gemstones and wonderful structures instead of precious metals. Cradling a miniature book in your hands is a delight compared to lugging a ten-pound textbook around.

Miniature books are generally easier to make than larger books. It is cheaper to acquire small-sized materials. The materials can generally be of a lighter weight than required by a big book and so they are easier to cut. Gluing up the materials is easier as there is less surface area to cover. Miniature books generally do not warp when drying, so you do not need a press, which is a heavy and expensive (but for large books, necessary) piece of equipment. Only two things might be harder about making miniature books. They require the use of little measurements, like the thirty-seconds scale on a ruler, which will be a challenge for some people and the binder must have excellent manual dexterity to work with the tiny measurements and materials. Miniature books can be very inexpensive to make. The materials can be scraps like mat board and paper cut-offs from other projects. You can use portions of old drawings and paintings for your covers or endpages. If you have tried to make your own marbled paper, but it always comes out flawed, you will find there is always a perfect part large enough to make an incredibly beautiful miniature book.

Text for miniature books can be found in the full range of human endeavor in literature, theology, politics, art, leisure activities, children’s stories, and any other subject you can think of. Miniature books are the perfect literary vehicles when you have very little text. A favorite saying, a thought, a poem, a fragment of a dream can be made into a book and since the text is short and the object small, your book can be completed in a day or a week, rather than the months or years a larger book would require.

## How do you learn to make a miniature book?

The same techniques that are used to make a large book are also used to make a miniature book. Everything learned in any bookmaking classes can be applied to making a miniature book. The advantage to taking a class like ours, which focuses on the miniature book, is that we will share the big and little tricks and techniques we have discovered during our many years of making miniature books. Those tips can help to save you some time and grief.

In the beginning, at the Renaissance Faire, Our goal was to learn how to make paper and bind books as they did in the sixteenth century. We made a few blank books and they sold immediately so we made more, and more and more. I don’t know how I actually learned anything. I read books, talked to people who knew something about the craft, but mostly I just learned by doing, prodded on by the childhood memory of my neighbor saying again and again, “If you are going to do something, do it right.” An old bookbinder once stopped by our booth at the Faire. He looked at our books and said, “You can’t buy experience.” I still don’t know if that was a compliment or a slight, but it was the truth.

## 2009 MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY CONCLAVE XXVII GENERAL INFORMATION

The MBS Conclave will be held at the Wyndham Princeton Forrestal Hotel & Conference Center, 900 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ 08536, Friday 08/28 – Sunday 08/30

**HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS:** The hotel has reserved a block of rooms at a discounted rate of \$132 plus NJ sales tax and occupancy tax for members of the Miniature Book Society. Reservation must be made by 5:00 PM on August 4, 2009. Hotel reservations can be made by directly contacting the hotel at 877-999-3223. Reservations can also be made via the hotel web site at: [www.wyndham.com/groupeventsnew/ewrcc\\_minibook/main.wnt](http://www.wyndham.com/groupeventsnew/ewrcc_minibook/main.wnt)

*Click on the 'Make A Reservation For This Event Now' box*

The \$132 room rate is for a standard single or double occupancy. The Triple/Quad occupancy rate is \$142 plus taxes. Room rates have been extended from August 26 thru September 02. The hotel is located about 4 miles from Princeton University between Philadelphia to the South and New York to the North. Air transportation can be arranged thru either Newark or Philadelphia International airports. Newark has the most convenient ground transportation. [www.goairporter.com](http://www.goairporter.com) (\$30.00). You may want to take rail transportation from Newark airport to the Princeton Junction train station and then the free hotel shuttle (609-936-4200) to the hotel facility. Driving directions are available at the hotel website. Hotel amenities include free parking, indoor pool, full service fitness center, outdoor running path, dual line telephones, and complementary 'in-room' internet service.

**CONCLAVE REGISTRATION FEE:** \$240.00 per person

### DEADLINES:

- Conclave Registration: **August 3**, mail check & registration form, to be received by date, to James M. Brogan, 53 Dreahook Road, Branchburg NJ 08876
- Hotel Registration: **August 4**, 'see the above information,' reservations must be made by this date to receive the discounted rate
- Auction Items: **July 31**, proceeds benefit the MBS; please mail items to Jan Becker, 1700 Dix Rd, Middletown OH 45042
- Silent Auction Items: **July 31**, proceeds split between donor & MBS; please mail items to Karen Nyman, 702 Rosecrans Street, San Diego CA 92106
- Keepsakes: **July 31**, please mail items to Edward Hoyenski, UNT, Rare Book & Texana Collections, 1155 Union Circle #305190, Denton TX 76203-5190 (should prepare quantity of 100)

**QUESTIONS:** Any questions or concerns should be directed to Jim Brogan – 53 Dreahook Rd., Branchburg, NJ 08876, 908-526-0166, or [jbrogan1@verizon.net](mailto:jbrogan1@verizon.net)

## 2009 MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY CONCLAVE XXVII PROGRAM SCHEDULE

*(A detailed packet will be distributed to all registered participants by August 12)*

### Thursday, August 27

(pre Conclave)  
6:00 – 8:00 PM  
8:00 – 9:00 PM

Dinner at the Witherspoon Grill, Princeton  
*(at your own expense)*  
Walking tour of Princeton Village

### Friday, August 28

7:30 – 9:00 AM  
10:00 AM – Noon  
2:00 – 5:00 PM  
6:00 – 7:00 PM  
7:00 – 9:00 P M

Buffet Breakfast, *(hotel guests only)*  
Board Meeting, with lunch provided  
Lunch for all other members at your own expense  
Registration  
Reception with Cash Bar  
Buffet Dinner  
MBS Publishers will be available to sign your books  
Book Swap – Bring your books to trade with members

### Saturday, August 29

7:30 – 9:00 AM  
9:00 – 11:00 AM  
1:00 – 2:00 PM  
2:15 – 3:15 PM  
3:30 – 4:30  
7:30 – 9:00

Buffet Breakfast, *(hotel guests only)*  
MBS Annual Membership Meeting  
Lunch for all members at your own expense, in Princeton  
Guided Tour & Presentation at the Cotsen Children's Library, Princeton University  
Guided Tour & Presentation at the Rare Manuscript Library, Princeton University  
Guided Tour at the Princeton University Art Museum  
Dinner for all members at your own expense, in Princeton  
Dessert Buffet and Silent Auction at the Wyndham  
Auction with Fr. Joe Curran

### Sunday, August 29

7:30 – 9:00 AM  
9:00 – Noon  
Noon -1:00 PM  
1:00 - 4:30 PM  
6:00 – 7:00 PM  
7:00 – 9:00 P M

Buffet Breakfast, *(hotel guests only)*  
MBS Book Fair for MBS members only  
Buffet Lunch provided for all members  
Book Fair *(open to the public)*  
Reception with Cash Bar  
Awards Banquet

### Monday, August 30

7:30 – 9:00 AM

Buffet Breakfast, *(hotel guests only)*

Evron Collins has donated the bulk of her miniature book collection to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She retained 200 of her favorites, but sent off 4500-4800 miniature works to Valerie Hopkins for hands-on use in a special program on Rare Book and Special Collections Librarianship. Cases are being built for public displays, but most of the collection will be utilized for actual class work.

Evron could not give an exact count for the collection as she had not yet had the time to classify everything she had!

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### Kostyuk Elected Chair of MCMBL

On April 8, 2009, MBS member Yaroslav Kostyuk was elected Chairman of the Board of the Moscow Club of Miniature Book Lovers, along with Board members Yuri Balaklienko, Alexander Gromov, Galina Kiteava, and Gennady Smirnov. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at the Ex Libris Museum, 7/5, Pushechnaya Street, Moscow.

Questions to [yaroslav@mtu.ru](mailto:yaroslav@mtu.ru) or by mail:

Yaroslav Kostyuk,

123, 3/1 Borisovski Proezd, Moscow, 115563, Russia

*Emblem of Moscow Club of Miniature Book Lovers*



# MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

8 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE • ST. LOUIS, MO • 63124

## ARCHIVING MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY MATERIAL

The Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana is the legal repository of the archives of the Miniature Book Society. An agreement to this effect was made between the MBS, signed by Doris Selmer and the Lilly around 1990 after Rabbi Kalman Levitan and Evron Collins, who served as the Archives Committee, had completed working on the project.

The Lilly Library is one of the nation's premier research libraries and is part of Indiana University. It was selected no doubt because of its close relationship with Ruth Adomeit of Cleveland, Ohio. Ruth bequeathed her entire collection of about 12,000 miniature books as well as a lot of reference material, books, correspondence, articles, photographs, etc. that she had accumulated over a lifetime of collecting.

Today, Edward Hoyenski, Secretary of the MBS Board, is the MBS Chair of the Archives Committee, with Peter Thomas as a member.

In an effort to update the status of this important activity for this article, we have been in touch with Cherry Dunham Williams, Curator of Manuscripts, who is the contact person at the Lilly for the MBS archive.

The URL for the Lilly website in general is:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/index.php>

And the one for the MBS archives in specific:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/lilly/mss/html/miniaturebooksoc.html#xtocid2796289>

Cherry has told me of a daylong symposium held in March, Islamic Book Arts, which included a talk on "Between Amulet and Devotion: Islamic Miniature Books in the Lilly Library." Another recent talk was given by Janet Rauscher entitled "Ruth E. Adomeit: An Ambassador for Miniature Books." These events testify to ongoing miniature book activity at the Lilly. Cherry indicated they are always actively collecting miniature materials of all kinds and interested in receiving non-duplicative miniature books and other related material. The MBS archive, as well as the Adomeit collection, is available for use in the Lilly Library Reading Room. We welcome visits not only by those with a research need for the materials but also by members of the interested general public.

At the same time, Edward indicates that the University of North Texas, in Denton, Texas, not far from Dallas/Fort Worth, where he is Library Associate I, Rare Book Room, continues to support the collecting of miniature books and also works at becoming a center for research about miniature books. The UNT library has about 3,000 volumes, two-thirds of which are presently catalogued. They are actively seeking "not only books, but also ephemera, catalogs, prospectuses, books about, and archives of authors/publishers/collectors/dealers, materials about and from the MBS - including keepsakes, etc," according to Edward. He also reports that most past issues of Miniature Book News as well as issues of the Miniature Book Society Newsletters have been digitized. This project will enable these journals to be put online hopefully in June where they will be available for anyone to access by computer.

## SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Bookseller and author Anne Bromer enjoys writing about miniature book items that have not been extensively examined in other miniature reference sources.

She recently sent me an interesting article of historical interest, reproduced below:

### MAX ROSENTHAL & THE SIGNERS TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

By Anne C. Bromer

One hundred years after the United States officially declared independence from the British Empire, a postage stamp-sized panorama containing thirty-two portraits of signers to the Declaration of Independence was published. Max Rosenthal, a Polish immigrant, was the publisher. He was born in 1833, and at age fourteen traveled to Paris to study with the greatest lithographer of his time, Martin Thurwanger. From his teacher Rosenthal learned how to create a color print through a process of lithography called chromolithography. In 1849 he followed Thurwanger to America and then to Philadelphia, where he produced in partnership with his brother Louis the earliest American book to be illustrated with chromolithographs, *The Hunter-Naturalist, Romance of Sporting: Or, Wild Scenes and Wild Hunters*. This was a large octavo volume, but barely approaching the size of what he drew and lithographed in 1854 as an interior of the old Masonic temple in Philadelphia. This plate by Rosenthal measured 22 by 25 inches, the largest chromolithograph printed in America to that time.

What inspired Rosenthal to produce a one-inch sized chromolithographed miniature book two decades after printing the largest chromolithograph print? Perhaps as he succeeded in producing the largest plate, he was challenged to attempt the smallest. He honed his lithographic work during the Civil War, drawing and printing portraits of distinguished American military and political figures. Then in 1876 he printed a tiny book, 1 inch tall by 7/8ths inch wide, which appears to be the only size in which it was published. The title reads: *The Signers to the Declaration of Independence – chromed by Max Rosenthal – Philadelphia 1876 – patented*. What follows are thirty-two portraits of the original fifty-six men who signed the Declaration.\* Why Rosenthal chose only these thirty-two men is not known. Their names are listed the way they appear in the panorama, beginning left to right (rear to title): “Arthur Middleton; Thos: Lynch, Jr.; Thos: Heyward, Jr.; Edward Rutledge;



Joseph Hewes; Jefferson; Richard H. Lee; George Wythe; Charles Carroll; Thos: Stone; William Paca; Samuel Chase; Thos: McKean; George Reed; George Ross; James Wilson; Geo: Clymer; Benj: Franklin; Benjamin Rush; Rob: Morris; Francis Hopkinson; John Witherspoon; Philip Livingston; William Floyd; Oliver Wolcott; Sam: Huntington; Roger Sherman; Elbridge Gerry; Robt: T. Paine; John Adams; Sam Adams; John Hancock.”

Thomas Jefferson is the one signer Rosenthal printed using just his last name.

In March 1981 at Sotheby's in London the lone copy of the panorama sold through auction. It was described as being one of six known copies. The winning bidder bought it for 95 pounds, the equivalent in dollars of \$211.85.

- For a full listing of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence, go to <http://www.usconstitution.net/declarsigndata.html>
- Sources: University of Pennsylvania Special Collections; University of Delaware Library
- With appreciation to Philip Salmon, Bromer Booksellers, for research assistance

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## ARNO GSCHWENDTNER Austrian microbibliophile extraordinaire

Arno Gschwendtner is graduate science student who lives in Vienna, Austria who describes himself as a “great fan of knowledge about miniature books.”

Arno and I have been corresponding by regular mail and email for several years, exchanging information and resource material. He understands several languages and is a profound researcher in the field of both miniature and other unusual books and manuscripts generally. He has accumulated a broad reference library, including many rare and obscure articles and books about miniature books in several languages. He has added unusual reference material to my reference library and I have added to his.

Arno has sent me a number of interesting emails about subjects and photographs, some of which have been used in articles in past issues of MBN. Recently he sent me two emails with information that we are excerpting for this MBN issue.

The first article is about a Polish individual, unknown to your editor, who created 165 miniature books in the 1970s and later. His name is Zygmunt Szkocny and he died in 2003. The article about him was translated from Wikipedia into English (as best it could), and we excerpt from this report below:

### Zygmunt Szkocny and his 165 miniature books

*Zygmunt Szkocny was born on 31 July 1911 in Czeladź. A graduate of the Department of Architectural Construction Silesian Technical Scientific Works. After school he was an*



employee of the Regional Project Office in Katowice. In 1934, the first miniature book. *Natchnięty a newspaper of the Dutch Queen Juliana and exhibits belonging to it, the size of a stamp booklet, printed by the Dutch office Zandan.*

In 1955, aged forty four years, he obtained a degree - civil engineering at the Technical University of Krakow. After his retirement, after completion of the course for the Law of Chartered for 25 consecutive years, he became a member of the Regional Court of the experts in Katowice. Since 1970, he was an active member of the Silesian branch of the Society of Friends of Books.

In 1976, he created by hand, using only the stylus technique and magnifying glass the only kind in its work, Latin alphabet, with 28 pages of mikroskopijnym format 1x0, 8 mm. This item has been placed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's smallest prayer book.

Zygmunt Szkocny died on 19 February 2003 in his home in the Katowice district Piotrowice dożywszy age 92 years.

Zygmunt Szkocny created a total of 165 miniature books, part of which was destroyed during the war. Some works were recreated again. 87 examples can be admired at the Museum of World Book smallest Sigismund Szkocnego. Some of his works were given to different institutions or individuals around the world. Such gifts were: John Paul II, Beatrix, the queen of the Netherlands, Mikhail Gorbachev, Ronald Reagan, and Wislawa Szymborska, Polish winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Among the institutions and companies that have unique gifts as found in: Museum of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, and the Museum of the History of Katowice, Czeleadź City.

Some Decorations of honor and professional he received:

- \* 1976 - Diploma in Guinness Book as the smallest of 0.8 mm
- \* 1984 - Diploma of the Ministry of Culture and Art of the Great Jubilee in the 40-year anniversary of Polish People's
- \* 1989 - Honorary Diploma of the Ministry of Culture and Arts for achievements in the promotion of culture

Source "http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zygmunt\_Szkocny"

## OLD AND NEW LINKS TO MBs

This is the second email that Arno Gschwendtner recently sent to me. This email is a list of about thirty websites dealing with articles about miniature books in Prague, India, MIT, Germany, Japan, and Spain. A few of these links bring up articles which MBN previously covered, and there are a couple that do not open up, but several have interesting reports or photographs of doings in the miniature book world.

These websites are printed below and on the next page.

<http://www.nls.uk/50years/1997.html>

<http://www.philobiblon.com/hbc31st/nakazawa.htm>

[http://www.whatsupmag.com/home-garden/antiques/08-05-01/Miniature\\_Books.aspx](http://www.whatsupmag.com/home-garden/antiques/08-05-01/Miniature_Books.aspx)

<http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/exhibits/smallbooks/index.html>

<http://travel.webshots.com/photo/2611482400013686283FmbAgW>

<http://travel.webshots.com/photo/2941307940013686283yJYuqC>

<http://megastarchiranjeevi.rediffblogs.com/>

<http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2003/minibook-0514.html>

[http://www.kleinstes-buch.com/de/00\\_%C3%9Cberblick.html](http://www.kleinstes-buch.com/de/00_%C3%9Cberblick.html)

[http://www.zvab.com/catalogSearch.do?numCat=28&id=3137&anyWords=miniaturbuch&ref=nl\\_0209\\_06](http://www.zvab.com/catalogSearch.do?numCat=28&id=3137&anyWords=miniaturbuch&ref=nl_0209_06) <[http://www.zvab.com/catalogSearch.do?numCat=28&id=3137&anyWords=miniaturbuch&ref=nl\\_0209\\_06](http://www.zvab.com/catalogSearch.do?numCat=28&id=3137&anyWords=miniaturbuch&ref=nl_0209_06)>

[http://news.zvab.de/res/5809/EndkundenNewsletter/Februar09/kleinstes\\_Buch.JPG](http://news.zvab.de/res/5809/EndkundenNewsletter/Februar09/kleinstes_Buch.JPG)

<http://www.mueller-buch.de/images2/bibel400.jpg>

<http://www.mueller-buch.de/miniset.htm>

<http://www.raremapsandbooks.com/images/jan27shakespeare1.jpg>

<http://magazine.wustl.edu/Fall08/small.html>

<http://cgi.ebay.co.uk/101-MINIATURE-CLASSIC-BOOKS-REPLICAS-COMPLETE-FULL-SET-W00QqitemZ350184231847QQcmdZViewItemQQimsxZ20090329?IMSfp=TL090329139002r20968>

<http://www.shakespeareinamericanlife.org/identity/bard/treasure/index.cfm>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/nlscotland/1471885521/>

<http://www.onegoodbumblebee.com/blog/?m=200712>

[http://www.azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/ai112\\_folder/112\\_articles/112\\_miniaure\\_museum.html](http://www.azer.com/aiweb/categories/magazine/ai112_folder/112_articles/112_miniaure_museum.html)

<http://www.barbarazuckerman.com/2inchart/>

[http://ve.tpl.toronto.on.ca/collected\\_works/visual\\_cello.html](http://ve.tpl.toronto.on.ca/collected_works/visual_cello.html)

<http://www.life.com/image/57033105>

<http://www.life.com/image/57032956>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/archive/200802A39.html>

<http://www.usadisply.net/minibook.htm>

<http://www.davewood.com.au/news.php>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/alexandra.davis/UrdaibaiYSantoA#5168072738889950834>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/tonostudio/2908790092/>

[http://lh3.ggpht.com/\\_EqZ2W22byVg/RbZ0eSA\\_BtI/AAAAAAAAADk/sCrmK9p1xEQ/P1040184.JPG](http://lh3.ggpht.com/_EqZ2W22byVg/RbZ0eSA_BtI/AAAAAAAAADk/sCrmK9p1xEQ/P1040184.JPG)

<http://www.wydawca.com.pl/index.php?s=info&kat=11&dzial=51&poddzial=0&id=303> <<http://www.wydawca.com.pl/index.php?s=info&kat=11&dzial=51&poddzial=0&id=303>>



## EILEEN CUMMINGS HUGE SALE

Eileen Cummings, a past President of the Miniature Book Society, is putting her large collection of miniature books up for sale.

Eileen has been collecting miniature books for over 45 years and has recently decided to put most of her accumulation of over 5,400 books on the market. She started collecting at 12 years old and later seriously to start again in 1980. Spanish miniature books was a primary focus as well as dictionaries, children's, fore edge, pop ups and antiquarian in general.

A detailed list of all these books has been prepared by Eileen. This list is in alphanumeric order with columns that include author, publisher, country, size, binding material, number of pages, prices and notes. In order to obtain this list, you need to contact Eileen, preferably by email (INKYDEW@aol.com), and she will return the email with a link which opens an excel file with the list. She has also added the information on the Yahoo Groups, miniature book website to reach a wider audience.

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## UNUSUAL LONDON ALMANAC

The London Almanacs were produced every year in the U.K. from the late 1600s to the early 1900s, a run of over 250 years. Many had an engraving of a prominent building in London. They were bound mostly in leather, but copies were made with a variety of covers such as metals, silk, multicolored onlaid morocco, silver or gold filigree, painted, even enamels. MBN has had a number of articles describing several aspects of these useful calendar books over the years.

One of the most unusual London Almanacs appeared for sale at a Bloomsbury Auction in London on May 15, 2009. Here is the catalogue description:

“(lot) 486. London Almanac for the Year 1861, engraved throughout, original wallet-style dark burgundy morocco, g.e., stamp pockets inside back and front covers, with the original pencil and miniature scissors, clasp (in working order), 60 x 40mm., 1821.” It was estimated to bring L 150-200.



## MINIATURE BOOK IN AN APPLE

One-of-a-kind miniature books seem to be sprouting like apples on a tree these days. They are by definition unique, and some are more unusual than others.

Swann Galleries in New York had an auction on May 5, 2009 of the Ritter Collection of Modern Illustrated Books and Livres d'Artiste. One of the more unusual items was The Golden Apple. This item, lot 24, as described in the catalogue, consisted of an “illustrated miniature book, 20 pages, 35x30mm, golden boards sewn with gold thread; sits inside a wooden apple painted gold (with removable top).

The apple sits inside a glass bell jar.” The one-of-a-kind book object was signed by Mare Blocker, presumably the author, and was produced in Ames Lake, by the M. Kimberly Press in 1993.



This item brought \$480 at the sale.

Photos courtesy of Swann Auction Galleries.

Another miniature sold in this auction was a book by Edward Hutchins, entitled Mosaic, in an edition of 20 copies. The description of lot 100 reads: “Gocco-printed pages with small mosaics, piano hinge binding, 2 1/2x2 3/4 inches; 8 1/2x5 1/2-inch dark blue clamshell box. Number 7 of only 20 copies signed by Hutchins... Catskill: Editions, 1992. A fun toy book where messages are revealed as pages turn and mosaic tiles move to cover text and expose new words.”

This book fetched \$330.



## BRIEF NOTES

### New Catalogs

Michael Garbett: No. 29. **A Catalogue of Miniature Books.**  
April, 2009. Almondsbury, South  
Gloucestershire, UK

**Bromer Booksellers**, Catalogue  
#130, June, 2009. Approximately  
270 miniature books, most from a  
private collection. Boston, MA.

**Miniature Books.** Bradbury  
Miniature Books Catalogue #47,  
April, & #48, July, 2009. Brooklyn,  
NY.

**Miniature Book Catalog #20**,  
May 2009. Karen Nyman,  
San Diego, CA. (Online)

### Conclave reminders:

**Send keepsakes to:**  
Edward Hoyenski  
308 Normal #16  
Denton, TX 76201

**Send auction donations to:**  
Jan Becker  
1700 Dix Road  
Middletown, OH 45042

**Send silent auction donations to:**  
Karen Nyman  
Karen's Consignment Gallery  
4051 Voltaire Street  
San Diego, CA 92107

A brief quotation from Caroline Lindemann that she believes  
comes from the Japanese:

“Accept a typo as the gift that it is for it's the imperfections  
that make us human.”

## CHANGEABOUTS

### New Members:

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Minneapolis Public Library  
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Minneapolis MN 55401-1992

Marcia Preston  
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mapreston@columbus.rr.com

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Jill Timm  
Mystical Places Press  
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Wenatchee WA 98801-2565

University of North Texas Libraries  
Rare Book & Texana Collections  
1155 Union Circle #305190  
Denton TX 76203

Cherry Williams, Curator of  
Manuscripts  
Lilly Library  
Indiana University  
1200 E. 7th St.  
Bloomington, IN 47405

### Email Changeabouts:

Judy A. Kelly  
keljudy@windstream.net

Lonnie Smith  
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Coloradoprinter@comcast.net

University of North Texas Libraries  
edward.hoyenski@unt.edu

## Advertising Rates

Full Page	4.5 x 7.5"	\$100.00
Half Page	4.5 x 3.75"	\$50.00
Quarter Page	2.25 x 3.75"	\$30.00

Send ads to:

Joan Boring  
3204 Wildwood Rd.  
Middletown, OH 45042  
jboring@middletownlibrary.org

Mail payments for ads (in \$ US dollars)  
(paypal address minibook@cox.net) to:

Karen Nyman  
702 Rosecrans Street  
San Diego, CA 92106-3013

## Miniature Book Society Newsletter

A publication of the Miniature Book Society Inc. Number 81

Issued in March, July, November. Items for publication, including advertising material should be sent to the Editor. Publication deadlines are: February 1, June 1, October 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](http://www.mbs.org)  
Toll-free phone (USA & Canada):  
1-877-MBS-1983

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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.

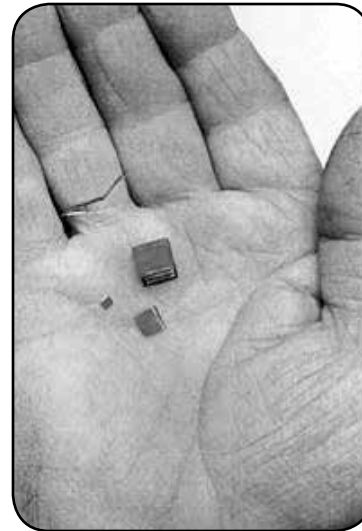
Deadline for the next issue: October 1, 2009.

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Middletown, OH

## 5400 MINIATURE BOOKS TO BE SOLD

After 45 years of collecting, I will sadly, sell my collection. Please send an email to [inkydew@aol.com](mailto:inkydew@aol.com) In the subject line, please write "MINIATURE BOOK INVENTORY". It will be in an EXCEL file spreadsheet. Shipping is extra. Paypal is extra (3.9% plus \$.30 as per Paypal fees). I do accept checks. All money to be in US DOLLARS. I have established a website: [www.myminiaturebooksforsale.com](http://www.myminiaturebooksforsale.com) I reserve the right to refuse to sell anything to anyone. Allow one week to find, pack & ship. I will be saving some items in my collection such as book keychains, Aunt Laura & Fanny, David Bryce, jewelry, etc. I have MANY full-size reference books and if you're looking for a rare one, I might have it. All reference material for sale. MOST prices are not updated for today's value: my loss, your gain! If you're considering the purchase of certain Presses, I will consider a "lot" price.

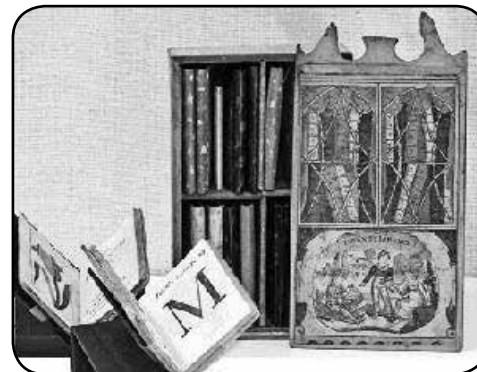
– Eileen Cummings



*Books by Zygmunt Szkocny*



*Miniature mid-19th century Hebrew Bible that turned up on the Antiques Roadshow in 2008.*



*The Infant's Library by John Marshall (c. 1800) with 16 illustrated volumes. (From Julian Edison's display at Washington University in 2008.)*



The Miniature Book Society  
 was founded on this farm  
 in  
 Tipp City, Ohio  
 by  
 A dedicated group of miniature book  
 publishers and collectors  
 on  
 Sunday, September 4, 1983  
 During the First Grand Conclave

(Glasgow, Scotland) THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1990 19

**SOCIAL NEWS**

Photo: MARTIN O'LEARY



Sumner Thomas, five, and her sister, Tanya, seven, holding one of the miniature books made by their parents, Peter and Donna, at their home in California.

**Micro-bibliophiles meet**

DELEGATES from all over the world have gathered in Glasgow for Europe's first miniature book convention, organized by the American-based Miniature Books Society, founded in Ohio in 1983 to stimulate interest in the dying art. To qualify as a miniature, a book must be less than three inches high. Mrs Caroline McGehee from Virginia, the society's president, said: "For most of us the fascination is seeing a real book with real binding and real type reduced to miniature size. Every subject is covered — I have, for example, everything from miniature Bibles to Japanese erotica." Mr Pavel Pochtaevik, SS, president of the Moscow Miniature Book Lovers Club, on his first trip abroad, said the earliest Russian contribution to the art was The Art of Being Amusing in Conversation (1788). Miniatures were traditionally popular because of paper shortages, he said, and best-sellers included Pushkin, Gorky — and Robert Burns.

