

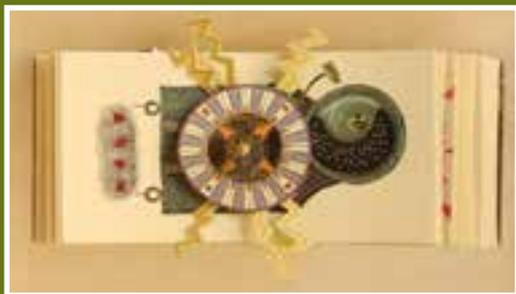


MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NO. 94 - November 2013

INCORPORATING THE MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

2013 Miniature Book Competition DISTINGUISHED WINNERS



Memories of Science,
Dorothy Yule, Left Coast Press



Metamorphosis, Jarmila Sobota



Tree, Peter and Donna Thomas



A Giant Book Houses Tiny Competition Books!

2013 Miniature Book Society Competition Exhibit

*designed & bound
by*

**Tony Firman
2013 MBS
Competition
& Exhibition
Chair**



President's Message



Stephen Byrne

Friends in the MBS, I would like to thank the membership for putting their trust in me and giving me the privilege of the Presidency of MBS. I am following a long line of worthy members, and would like to pay tribute to Mark who has led us through the past six years, and also to the hard working Board members who ensure that the MBS runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible. The new Board is now up and running, already dealing with business, and, I am sure, looking forward to the coming year.

This year's Conclave in the beautiful city of Vancouver was a great success, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Jan Kellett, her sister Maryann Brock and Jim Brogan. For those who were unable to attend a report follows later in this issue. This brings me to more thanks, to Barbara Williamson for her excellent production of the MBS Newsletter. She cannot do the job without contributions from members (and non-members too) so please do consider what you might be able to send for inclusion in a future newsletter.

The future of the MBS is in the hands of members, and much discussion has been had about how we encourage new members, especially young people. I would appeal to all our members to consider this, to work as a group or individually to promote the whole genre of miniature books. Ideas such as holding an exhibition in a local library, going to schools to talk about miniature books, give demonstrations of making books in a local bookshop etc. All these and many more ideas can be explored. Do please give the issue some thought.

Finally, I am always pleased to communicate with fellow members, and should you have any thoughts about the MBS please do get in touch.

Editor's Note - Q & A with MBS's New Scottish President, Stephen Byrne

Editor: How and why did you first get involved in miniature books? How long have miniature books been your passion?

Stephen: I first became interested in miniature books after I retired from teaching and was looking for something to keep me occupied in my "spare" time. I have always made miniature furniture and musical instruments, so when I saw a miniature bookshop I took an interest in it, found that it was full of faux books, and decided I could make real ones for a similar creation. That was fifteen years ago. Many experiments, failures and a few minor triumphs later I created my first book, "Seeing Beyond", a manipulated letter alphabet book. Things took off after I joined MBS and attended Conclave in Koblenz. There I saw the enormous variety of miniature books, which opened a wide horizon for me. Together with Marian my wife I now

make and collect miniature books, our titles number about thirty five, and my collection has grown to almost 3,000.

Editor: You are a miniature book publisher. What is the most favorite book you have published and why?

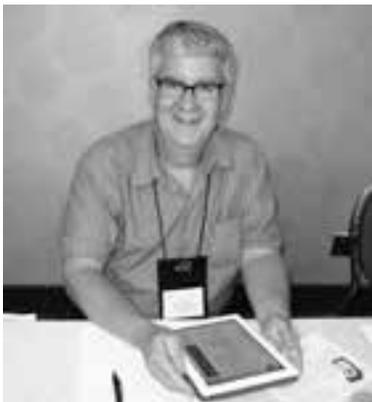
Stephen: I think many people would say that the book they are working with at present is their favourite, because it is such an engrossing process. However, my favourite book of all is the first of our medieval series, *Medieval Labours*. Marian illustrated each copy individually using egg tempera paint on vellum, with gold and the book turned out to be a gem in my eyes. My very first letterpress book *Haiku* is also a favourite. *Haiku* is a collection of my own haiku, which I submitted for the MBS Exhibition and which won a Distinguished Book Award, much to my delight and surprise.

Editor: Why should the Miniature Book Society continue in the future? What will help it do that?

Stephen: I am sure the MBS will continue whilst ever there are avid collectors and publishers of miniature books. The Society is a channel for all that is good in miniature books, bringing like-minded people together, people who freely offer encouragement, advice and friendship to all their fellow members. If we all continue to do that, and work to encourage new members, particularly amongst young people, then I am sure the future of the Society is assured.

Editor: If you could accomplish one particular goal in your tenure as MBS President, what would that be?

Stephen: My primary goal as MBS President is to encourage our members to broaden public knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the world of miniature books. How we do that has been the topic of much discussion, and will continue to be so, but discussion is only part of the goal. Action is more valuable than discussion, and I really hope to hear of members promoting the love of miniature books by whatever means they are able, and wherever they can find a willing audience.



Much gratitude to the MBS outgoing President, Mark Palkovic, for his years of leadership and generous friendship to the Miniature Book Society.

MBS Grand Conclave XXXI

By Robert Orndorff



Conclave hosts, Jan Kellett and Jim Brogan with new MBS President, Stephen Byrne.



Stephen Byrne and Tony Firman at Friday dinner and Silent Auction.

The MBS Vancouver meeting was the thirty-first Conclave and the thirtieth anniversary of the very first one. Vancouver 2013 was put together by Jan Kellett (BC) and Jim Brogan (new society vice president). In the months leading up to the Conclave, Angelika Jaeck's (Germany) informative blog had given us some idea of what we had to look forward to in Vancouver.

Jan and Jim's Conclave ran like clockwork. Friday was the board meeting, registration, buffet dinner and silent auction. Saturday was the membership meeting, presentation by master printmaker Peter Braune (New Leaf Creative Solutions), Granville Island treasure hunt, Peter's printmaking workshop, dessert buffet, and auction. Sunday was the book fair and awards banquet, with the tour on Monday.

There were 47 registrants and 45 attendees. At the last minute, Edward Hoyenski (University of North Texas, outgoing society secretary) and Lou Pitschmann (University of Alabama) could not be with us. First time attendees included Gail Faulkner (MI), Helen Sell (MI), Marie-France Laurent-Atthalin (France), Jan's sister Maryann

Brock (who, among other things, made the near-miniature guide for our Granville Island afternoon), Isabel Parkin (BC), Dodo Uiterwaal (Netherlands) and Molly Schwartzburg (University of Virginia). Please also be sure to read the lively, wonderful account of the Conclave by Joan Knoertzer (MI) in *The Microbibliophile* (September, 2013). If you are not a subscriber but would like a copy of Joan's article, please contact Jim Brogan at jbrogan1@verizon.net.



The Conclave was held at the recently remodeled Holiday Inn on West Broadway where the seating area in the lobby became our informal meeting place. The hotel location was convenient, adjacent to the new train and subway system, built for the Olympics. The closest station was just a block or two away and water taxis could be had at the bottom of the hill.



Speaker Peter Braune and Conclave host, Jan Kellett.

Even those of us who had been to the world-class city of Vancouver before were surprised by how much it had changed. The temperature was unusually warm. In the bright northern sunlight, with sky and water behind them, the many new tall slender towers, seemingly built of glass and aluminum, looked as if they were lighter than air.

The traditional, informal get-together on Thursday evening took place at the local branch of the Canadian owned and operated Cactus Club Café. We sat together at several tables in a corner of the restaurant, meeting old friends and making new ones.

On Friday night, the 19 silent auction items brought in \$595, with 50% going to the Society. The silent auction was organized by Karen Nyman. Carol Cunningham (CA) donated seven items, Caroline Brandt (VA), four, Paul Ritscher (CA), two, Karen Nyman (CA), two, and Mark Palkovic (OH), four.

The bargain of the evening was the Sunflower Press book *The Sun: An Alphabet*, one of Carol



Silent Auction Chair, Karen Nyman.

Cunningham's last books, which sold for \$50, or less than one third of what it usually fetches. Carol's items were certainly the highlight of the silent auction. She passed away on September 7 at the age of 88.

Outgoing president Mark Palkovic's books also did well. His early book *Etiquette* (Flying Pig Press, 1982) by Mark Twain sold for \$52.



Friday night Silent Auction.

After the silent auction, Tony Firman (TX) announced the three Distinguished Winners of the juried 2013 Miniature Book Competition (see his article about the competition in this issue): Dorothy Yule (CA) for Dorothy A. Yule, *Memories of Science* (Left Coast Press); Jarmila Sobota (Czech Republic) for Franz Kafka, *Metamorphosis*; and Peter and Donna Thomas (CA) for John Muir, *Tree*.

As reported in the general meeting, income and expenses were respectively \$44,838.49 and \$35,112.22. The accounts contain a total of \$48,970.90. There are now 319 members, 255 from the United States and 45 from elsewhere. This year 19 new members joined the society, and 31 old members decided not to renew. The 2014



Mark Palkovic conducting Annual MBS Business Meeting.

Conclave will be in Boston, hosted by Father Joe Curran.

Peter Braune's Saturday morning talk on printmaking and afternoon workshop gave us a good deal to think about. His wealth of experience is priceless. With many examples, he successfully convinced us that printmaking is an art form of manifold methods and considerable subtlety, and not merely reproduction. Many of his methods cannot be found in books. We thank Peter for the gift of the book about Granville Island.

At the Saturday evening auction 94 items earned \$2,141 for the society. The auction items were donated by Caroline Y. Brandt, Stephen Byrne, Darlene Cordova, Elma Cousins, Ellen Diamond, Julian Edison, Tracy Fritz, MBS, Karen Nyman, Robert Orndorff, and Doris Selmer.

The Msgr. Weber, *Dean of Microbibliophiles* (Juniperos Serra, 1993) sold for a surprising \$70. The Final Score books did well, too, going for \$150 (Robert Burns collection), \$110 (the only copy that will ever be sold, of the miniature edition of the Edison *Miniature Book News Index*) and \$50 (Michael Garbett's Bryce bibliography).

The two books from St. Onge were notable bargains: Msgr. Weber's *California on United States Postage Stamps* (\$17) and Johnson *Inaugural Address* (\$25). Bargains also included Julian Edison's *A Miniature Lesson in the History of the Book* (\$60) and the miniature paper edition of the Bromer and Edison *Miniature Books—4,000 Years of Tiny Treasures* (\$50).

The bookends from previous Conclaves proved compelling. The keepsakes from previous Conclaves were popular. As usual, the old newsletters and catalogs drew bids.

Once the action started, it did not stop. The incoming president of the Society bid fiercely against the incoming first lady. Joan Knoertzer was an unstoppable force. All in all it was a lopsided room with much of the action coming from the same side of the aisle.



Father Joe Curran as auctioneer for the MBS Book Auction.

Father Curran, as always, was superb as auctioneer. Jan Becker, Joan Boring and Kathy King as usual made everything go very smoothly, with Angelika Jaeck and Robert Orndorff as runners.

Though there were fewer tables than usual, everybody that I spoke to was happy with the book fair results on Sunday, both before noon when the room was limited to Society members and later to the public.

The following participants had tables:

- Jim and Elaine Brogan (The Microbibliophile)
- Tony Firman and Pat Caernarven-Smith (Plum Park Press, Moon Pear Publishing, and Tony Firman Bookbinding)
- Arno Gschwendtner (Arno Gschwendtner Antique Miniature Books)
- Angelika Jaeck (Angel Press and Miniature Books International)
- Ian Kahn and Aidan Kahn (Lux Mentis)
- Jan Kellett (De Walden Press)

- Carol Kouyoumdjian
- Karen Nyman (Karen Nyman Miniature Books)
- Mark Palkovic (Flying Pig Press and Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig)
- Miniature Book Society
- Molly Schwartzburg (Curator, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia)
- Pat Sweet (Bo Press)
- Jill Timm (Mystical Places Press)
- Georges Toneman (Mini A – Z)

The competition entries were displayed in the middle of the room in a very nice book-shaped display case made by Tony Firman (see inside front cover for Competition display case). At her table, Molly Schwartzburg demonstrated making custom cradles (to display open books) from cardstock, plastic bands and double-sided tape. For photos of the book fair taken by Jason Vanderhill (a photographer for the Alcuin Society), go to: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/alcuinsociety/sets/72157635031401985/>.



The brilliant miniature fan-style menus made by Jan Kellett and Maryann Brock set the tone for a memorable Sunday banquet. Because this was the thirtieth anniversary of the very first meeting in Ohio in 1983, the program included reading or recounting reminiscences from that first Conclave. Accordingly, after the meal, the following reminiscences were read:

- Msgr. Weber (read by Stephen Byrne)
- Carol Cunningham (Sunflower Press) (read by Mark Palkovic, Carol died on September 7, 2013, at the age of 88.)
- Duane Scott (Scott Free Press) (read by Jim Brogan) [Several days after the conclave, Duane Scott died at the age of 92].
- Miriam Irwin (Mosaic Press) (read by Mark Palkovic)
- Eloise Massman (read by Jim Brogan)
- Peter and Donna Thomas (read by Jim Brogan)
- Evron Collins (read by Jim Brogan)
- Attendees Father Curran and Caroline Brandt spoke for themselves.



Molly Schwartzburg and her custom book cradles.



The 2013 MBS Awards were then presented:

- Glasgow Cup: Jim Brogan.
- Anderson Yarnell Award: Kathy King.
- Norman Forgue Award: Msgr. Francis J. Weber



The Monday tour was another opportunity to spend time with friends. As our guide explained, those airy towers cost the world. In Stanley Park we enjoyed the flora and fauna (the latter being mainly other tourists but also including a man playing the Chinese *erhu*—not only did he play the Chinese classics but also songs like “The Way We Were”).



Another highlight that we took home with us were the keepsakes:

- Byrne, Stephen and Marian. *O Canada. The Final Score.* Sorbie, Scotland.
- Kellett, Jan. *Vancouver 2013.* DeWalden Press. British Columbia.
- Brogan, Jim and Elaine, Pat Sweet, and Margaret Challenger. *Friendship Forever.* Bo Press. Riverside, CA.
- Jaeck, Angelika. *Places of Interest in Vancouver Canada for Miniature and Book Lovers.* Angel Press. Berlin.
- Nyman, Karen. *Mini Catalog of Miniature Books.* Karen Nyman Miniature Books. San Diego, CA.
- King, Kathy, and Janet King. *Vancouver, British Columbia.* Delaware, OH.
- Abney, Cathie. *2013 Grand Conclave XXXI.* Middletown, OH.
- Palkovic, Mark. *Hell Notes: Money to Burn.* Flying Pig Press. Cincinnati, OH.
- Becker, Jan. *Needle Book 2013 MBS Keepsake.* Middletown, OH.
- Edison, Julian. [Miscellaneous Wise Kwak books.]
- Cordova, C. Darleen. *Weber's 101 and Counting: A Supplement to "Weber's 100," Describing Miniature Books Written or Edited by Monsignor Francis J. Weber 1994-2013.* Anaheim, CA.
- Brock, Maryann. *Granville Island Treasure Hunt.* Vancouver, BC.
- MBS Vancouver Conclave Paperweight.



Julian Edison announcing Norman Forgue Award winner.

**The 2014 MBS Grand Conclave XXXII
will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on
Friday, August 15, 2014 – Monday, August 18, 2014**

Conclave host: Father Joe Curran

Conference hotel is the Taj Boston

More details to follow on www.mbs.org and in the MBS Newsletter March issue.

MINIATURE BOOK NEWS

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

COTSEN CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Princeton University's large Harvey S. Firestone Library houses on its first floor a complete separate and special library of children's books. The website of The Cotsen Children's Library describes what it is and what it does very well:



The Library was dedicated in 1997 with a gift of over 20,000 children's books and other primary source material plus an eight million dollar endowment from Lloyd E. Cotsen. Cotsen was the Chairman and CEO the Neutrogena cosmetics company, a collector of many interests, and a 1950 Princeton graduate.

Cotsen told the *Daily Princetonian* that he "wanted this to be a 'living' library... with a capacity for interaction with primary and secondary school children as a key part of its mission. I expect it to entertain and stimulate children to enter the world of books and reading. The broader mission of the Cotsen is the study of childhood --- using these materials from many countries and different eras to describe the education, socialization and development of children in different cultures."

The collection includes mostly illustrated books but also prints, drawings, manuscripts, games, puzzles, hornbooks, recordings and toys, dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries. Andrea Immel, the current and longstanding librarian, indicated there are over 100,000 items in the collection today, in 40 world languages.

We visited the Library earlier this year together with Jim Brogan. Andrea took us around and showed us some of the 500 to 1,000 miniature books in the collection.

One of the early English rarities is the *Infant's Cabinet of Fruits, Roots, etc.* Printed and Sold by John Marshall, 1802. Another rarity is *The Infant's Library*, also by Marshall, c. 1800, printed in Latin!

It was a joy to visit!

Title page and frontispiece of the rare *Cajanus* book in the *Gigantic Histories* edition by Thomas Boreman, from the 1740's, the first non-religious children's books in miniature. ⇨



⇨ Two pages of an organ from the rare latin edition of the *Infant's Library* of 1800.

A scene of the Cotsen Children's Library. ⇕



LONDON TELEGRAPH

“The mad world of the miniature book”

The London Telegraph advertises itself as “Britain’s Best Selling Quality Newspaper.” A two-page full color article appeared in it’s July 21, 2013, Sunday Magazine section entitled: ALL IN THE SMALL PRINT, and subtitled in part, “...the mad world of the miniature book.”

How did this article come to be?

Out of the blue, about July first I received an email from Emma Gosnell, Deputy Editor of the Sunday Telegraph Seven Magazine. She wanted to do a double page spread in their Sunday arts and culture magazine on miniature books, and was I the right person to contact. I called her right away and we had a nice chat about the project.

Emma followed the phone call next day with another email further explaining what she was after:

“In terms of the article: we’d like to make it very visual, using a selection of photographs of these beautiful and intriguing books for a spread in our magazine. I’m very interested in the story behind them too, how miniature books came about, the different forms they took, the expertise it takes to make one, the kind of people that owned them, those that are very rare etc etc.

“It’s great that you’re a collector yourself, and kind of you to offer to send over images for us to look at. From my point of view, as many as possible would be great. That way we can really get a feel for your collection and start to assemble those that we think would work best together in our pages. It would also be great to get a variety; children’s books, famous novels, advice books, history books, art books...I’m no expert in this field so I’m ad-libbing of course! Whatever springs to mind.”

The email continued later:

“Does this sound like something that would interest you? I do hope so. (I must confess I bought my first miniature book recently, not vastly expensive, from around 1900 I think, and a collection of ‘Kings and Queens of England’ with good pictures and some rather funny and dated words about them!).”

Of course it did interest me. First we had to get her acquainted with the subject and I suggested several source materials to “educate” her. Then I had to select about 50 photographs from my IPHOTO file to send to Portia, the Telegraph’s picture editor. And of course they wanted to run an article in the next Sunday’s issue!!!

Next Emma had Horatia Harrod, Commissioning Editor and the designated writer, to contact me. Horatia and I spent over an hour on the phone answering her questions and discussing the article.

Horatia and Portia must have gotten right to work because I did not hear further until the article appeared on Sunday, July 21. I felt that they had done a wonderful layout and that Horatia had done an excellent text and captions.

On the next two pages is a color miniature rendition of the two page article:

BOOKS

There is a certain madness to the world of miniature books. The smallest ones, which measure less than a quarter of an inch, cannot be opened; even if they could, their type could not be read without the aid of a microscope. Louis Bondy, the now-deceased guru of 20th-century miniature book collecting, once had a terrifying experience with one that measured less than a millimetre: he breathed onto it and it blew away “like a speck of dust”. “It was a miracle,” he later wrote, “that I managed to find it again.”

Tiny books inspire grand passions. Neale Albert, a 75-year-old former lawyer, has been collecting them for 20 years. The reason, he says, speaking from his home in Manhattan, is practical: “What would you do,” he says, “if you loved to collect things and you lived in a two-bedroom apartment?” Yet as time went on, and his collection swelled to 3,500 volumes, Albert found it necessary to purchase a second apartment to accommodate his burgeoning library. Julian Edison was hooked by miniature books in 1960, when his wife presented him with a complete miniature set of Shakespeare on their first wedding anniversary: “I said



‘A BOOK OF SMALL FLIES’ This 1983 book holds the coveted title of the only miniature book to incorporate actual fishing flies, inset under glass.

JOAN MIRÓ’S ‘POINT DE MIRE’ Miró was commissioned by French publisher Pierre-André Benoit to illustrate four miniature books; this one-inch square example was the finest. Benoit also commissioned books from Picasso and Braque.

ALL IN THE SMALL PRINT

They’re written with a magnifying glass, cost anything up to £3 million and are sometimes so small they cannot be opened. Horatia Harrod enters the mad world of the miniature book

what you would say, “Wow! I’ve never seen anything like that.” Four years later, the library of a chemist, Percy Spielmann, came up for auction; Edison bought all 800 books, housed in custom-made Lilliputian bookcases, and his collection now runs to 15,000 volumes.

Small books don’t necessarily mean small prices: London-based dealer Sam Fogg recently sold a 16th-century miniature prayer book for close to £3 million. Edison himself recently acquired a miniature diary kept by a 13-year-old girl who was in the last lifeboat to cast off from the Titanic; it is worth just over £15,000. However he is keen to point out that he aims to create a comprehensive collection: “I’d buy something for a \$1 or \$5, if it was of interest.”

Miniature books – books of three inches or less – have been around for almost as long as full-size books. “They were created for reasons of practicality, curiosity and aesthetics,” says Edison, who owns two-inch clay tablets onto which ancient Babylonians inscribed cuneiform lettering in around 2200 BC. Within 20 years of Gutenberg printing his Bible in 1455, miniature printed books were being produced and for several centuries afterwards religious books dominated the market. Book-makers worked with magnifying aids and miniature tools, binding their creations in leather, and adorning them with gold thread and precious gems.

Edison’s most prized book is *The Fruits of Philosophy*, a guide to contraception published in 1832 by a Massachusetts physician in a 3-inch-edition, hoping, perhaps, to evade the authorities. The tiny type did not save him. He was fined and imprisoned for his corrupting text.

Edison likes to read his books, but Albert thrills to the bindings. His favourite is one he acquired in Barcelona. “It was bound in the year I was born,” says Albert. What’s it about? “I don’t know! It’s in Catalan, so I can’t read it.”

For more information on miniature books, visit mbs.org



‘THE CHAMELEON’ Until recently the smallest book in the world, this edition of a Chekhov short story measures 0.9mm, and was made by Siberian artist Anatoly Konenko. The white squares to its left are the book’s unbound pages.



AMERICAN ALMANACS Unlike their elegant European counterparts (see below), American almanacs were generally printed to advertise products. Hazeltine – later the Pico Company – began producing theirs in 1879.



‘THE LONDON ALMANACK’ This 1736 almanac was part of a series printed from the mid-17th to the 20th century. Almanacs were filled with useful information: dates, statistics and maps. Proto-iPhones, you could say.

ADELL VENUS COLLECTION OF MINIATURES

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK | SEVEN

'BIBLE DE L'ENFANCE'
Miniature and abridged versions of the Bible were a popular way of introducing children to Christian teachings; this 1815 French offering has 48 hand-coloured engraved plates.



'THE DIVINE COMEDY'
This 1878 edition of Dante's 'Divine Comedy' was created by the Salmin brothers of Padua in two-point "fly's eye" type; it is said that those involved in making the book lost their eyesight in the process.



'ATLAS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE' The smallest atlas in the world, published in around 1928, is a copy of the original in Queen Mary's Doll's House Library at Windsor Castle.



'EL DIAMANTINO LIBRITO DE MISA'
Although leather is the most common luxury binding for miniature books, mother-of-pearl covers were popular in the 19th century, when this missal was produced in Paris.



The Leslie Hindman auction house in Chicago held an enormous sale of miniature property on July 17, 2013 at their salesroom in West Chicago.

With thousands of items, the sale encompassed 767 lots of objects of such a comprehensive accumulation that the auctioning which started at 10:00 a.m. did not end until after 8 o'clock in the evening!

The elaborately illustrated catalogue described the project as follows;

"The Adell Venus Collection of Miniatures encompasses a diverse selection of miniatures, dolls and accessories, ranging from antiques to modern day miniaturists' works. Spanning five decades, Adell's passion for collecting led to the accumulation of tens of thousands of items and is undoubtedly one of the largest and most profound collections of its kind."

In a press release following the auction, the Hindman company said that the single owner sale had realized nearly \$750,000 and that 100% of the lots were sold. That meant that there were no buy-ins or unsold lots.

The sale must have been a miniaturist's delight. In a further description Hindman indicated that over 30 countries were signed up to bid, and that several record prices were realized.

Miniature books were a strong presence, with 39 lots. A collection of over 100 miniature books published by Barbara Raheb at the Pennyweight Press was the top lot of the entire sale, bringing \$23,750, including the buyer's premium.

Some other photos and prices realized, before buyer's premium, are below:

'THE INTERNATIONALE'
Hungary was the world's greatest producer of miniature books in the second half of the 20th century. This copy of the communist anthem was one of more than 2,000 titles printed after WWII.



'MY TINY ALPHABET'
When this ABC was published at the end of the 19th century it was the smallest book printed in colour. It was divided into two parts: 'Tiny Alphabet of Animals' and 'Tiny Alphabet of Birds'.

A collector breathed on a book and it blew away like a speck of dust

ANSWERED PRAYERS
The smallest Renaissance manuscript in existence, less than an inch square, is a book of Latin prayers, and includes 17 paintings of saints, evangelists and apostles, including a delicately executed Virgin Mary.



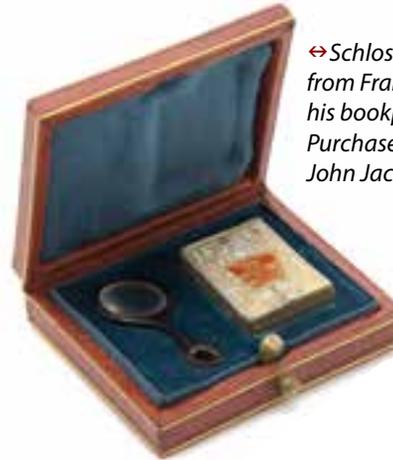
'THE HANDBOOK OF PRACTICAL COOKERY'
This deluxe, 836-page-long edition of Matilda Lees Dod's miniature cookbook was bound in leather and ornamented with a sterling silver plaque.



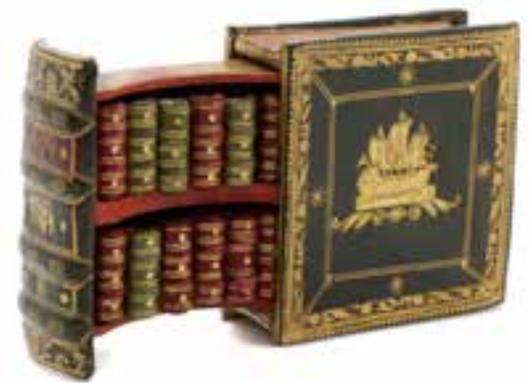
MINIATURE GEMS Some of the smallest books ever produced: a 17th-century Dutch poem (13mm x 9mm); a letter from Galileo to Queen Christina (18mm x 13mm); a book of trivia (25mm x 20mm); the 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam' (10mm x 9mm)



EYVINE STEVE ADAMS STUDIO/JUAN EDISON



↔ *Schloss' English Bijou Almanac for 1841, from Franklin D. Roosevelt's collection. with his bookplate tipped to the bottom of the case. Purchased by Roosevelt in 1936, or a gift from John Jacob Astor. \$3,800.*



Complete 12-volume set of miniature ↔ Calendar of Saints, 19th Century. \$9,000.



↔ A partial row of over 100 Barbara Raheb miniature books. \$19,000.

| 21.07.13 | SEVEN | 13 |

COLLECTING MINIATURE BOOKS



19th century Carlsruhe almanacs (12) \$1,600.



Two miniature Indian manuscripts, 19th-century. \$6,500.



Galileo a Madama Cristina de Lorena. Padura: Salmin, 1896. In original decorated vellum gilt cover. \$5,500.



A Pair of Georgian style bookcases, made by Barbara Raheb, with 86 volumes of her Sherlock Holmes books. \$6,500.



A partial row of 80 Borrower's Press books. \$1,900.

Adell's collection was exceptionally comprehensive and diversified. The world of miniatures and miniature collectors is usually a world apart from miniature books. There is usually little connection. The magazines that deal with miniatures, doll house accessories, and home furnishings (furniture, household goods and art), very rarely have articles or even advertisements about miniature books. There are few people who collect miniatures that gravitate to miniature books, but even fewer in reverse.

Adell herself was born in Chicago. Her passion for miniatures did not develop until the late 1960s when she was in her 30s. She and her husband were visiting her uncle in his jewelry store in New York where she noticed a pair of miniature silver candlesticks. She was so enamored that her uncle gave them to her as a gift, and her ardor took off. As her collection grew over the years, she did not consider miniatures as a hobby, but rather a serious collector and an authority on the subject. She died in 2011 and the sale at Hindman's came from her estate.

Miniature books, as we know, have been around since before the Christian era. Babylonian tablets were the first miniature objects of communication back in the year 2,000 BCE.

In the 14th and 15th century manuscript books in miniature format, many with illuminated pages, began to be produced, one at a time.

Then, around 1450, Johannes Gutenberg appeared with his printing press and books in the codex form began to be published.

Book collecting, per se, began with manuscripts, and gained speed with printed books, which, after Gutenberg, could be produced in multiple copies.

The COLLECTING of books is a separate activity, apart from their production. Wikipedia describes book collecting as "the collecting of books, including seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloging, displaying, storing, and maintaining..."

Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792 – 1872), a bibliofanatic of England was able to amass the largest collection of books and manuscripts. Late in life he attempted to sell the hoard to the British Library, but this was not completed. After his death, the dispersal of his collection took over 100 years!

As book collecting moved into America, it wasn't until 1930 when The Book Collector Quarterly appeared. This publication has continued, with interruptions, to today.

COLLECTING miniature books is a story different from the PRODUCING miniature books. Perhaps the first collection described in the 20th century, was **A SHORT LIST OF MICROSCOPIC BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE GROLIER CLUB MOSTLY PRESENTED BY SAMUEL P. AVERY.**

Published by New York: [Grolier Club], 1911.

This collection of 176 volumes, given in 1911, is currently housed in a glazed wall case in the Grolier Club in New York.

This collection has since been augmented to about 300 items today.

But it was not until the 1920s when Wilbur Macey Stone assembled a major collection that collecting miniature books began to be noticed as an activity.

Stone (1862 – 1941) was a mechanical engineer and patent attorney living in East Orange, New Jersey. He was a tireless book-lover, collector and author, well known in the book world. He specialized in early juvenile and miniature books, exhibited portions often, wrote many articles and several books on the subject, and became known as the "Dean" of miniature book collecting.

An excellent write-up about Stone appeared in the July, 2012, issue of The Microbibliophile.

One of Stone's best but least known articles was published in 1941 in the *Dolphin*, entitled: *Books That Never Grew UP*. The article was reprinted in MBN 24 (June 1971).

Stone exhibited his collections at several libraries in the 1920s including the Newark, Boston, and New York Public Libraries.

In January, 1925 over 25 duplicates from Stone's collection were auctioned at Anderson Galleries in New York.

In February of 1928 the largest collection of miniature books ever auctioned, up to that time, came up at the American Art Association in New York, for which Stone wrote the foreward. Stone wrote that "To most lovers and collectors of books the little world of miniature books is *terra incognita*". In this offering, over 200 lots were listed, with rare items from the 17th century to modern miniatures in several languages and sizes.

The catalogue, rare today, of this auction is titled: **An Unusual Collection of Miniature Books, Formed by a Lady.** The lady wished to remain anonymous, but a handwritten note on my copy indicates a "Mrs. Menges." The total realized for this sale was just over \$2,900, but the note doesn't say whether Mrs. Menges was pleased or not!

The other major collector of miniature books during the first half of the 20th century was James D. Henderson of Brookline, Mass. Henderson was in the real-estate business in Boston, with an avocation of collecting miniature books and newspapers and writing about them.

In 1930, Henderson had privately printed a little treatise, entitled, not surprisingly, *MINIATURE BOOKS*, in which he recounted how he got into his collecting. He explains that three years earlier he had a dream about a set of volumes of the Ellen Terry Edition of Shakespeare that he had purchased some years before. In the morning he "announced to my family that I was about to start a library of the world's smallest books."

Henderson says his family thought he should be committed to a mental institution. He then consulted a friend who happened to be a well known book dealer in Boston, who said "you're crazy." But the dealer gave him a card of admission to the Grolier Club in New York to see its collection of "microscopic books." On his next trip to New York, Henderson stopped by the Grolier Club "to see these books and then my own peculiar form of dementia of microphilates, if you will, became a certainty."

At the suggestion of W. M. Stone, Henderson started the *NEWS-LETTERS of the LXIVMOS* which became the earliest American periodical focused solely on miniature books. Twenty-one issues of the *NEWS-LETTERS* ran from 1927 to 1929, published in different cities in the US and Europe. Henderson's substantial collection passed on to his son Robert, also of Boston. The books were eventually disbursed after his death.

Mention should also be made of Franklin D. Roosevelt. FDR collected his miniatures in the 1920s and 30s. While the collection was not one of the largest, it was certainly owned by the most prominent collector. In 1964, 162 of FDR's miniatures were auctioned at the Hammer Galleries in New York City.

After World War II, miniature book collecting began to come into its own. Of the major collectors of this era, Ruth Adomeit stands alone. A teacher in Cleveland, Ohio, Adomeit had long collected, but it was her editorship of the eight volume quarterly publication of the *The Miniature Book Collector*, (MBC) from 1960 to 1962, published by Achille J. St. Onge, that greatly encouraged others. Her accumulation grew to over 12,000 volumes.

In the last issue (1962) of the MBC Adomeit addressed the issue of collectors in an article: *The BIGGEST Collection of Little Books*. She identified the largest private collections in America at that time. In alphabetic order these were:

Ruth E. Adomeit
Frances Dunn
Robert L. Henderson
Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Walcott
Doris V. Welsh
Julia P. Wightman

Of the above, Adomeit's 12,000 plus books went to the Lilly Library in Bloomingham, Indiana at her death in 1996.

Several rare items from Dunn's nearly 1,500-book accumulation were auctioned at Christies, New York on May 17, 1989.

Henderson's large collection was disbursed over time after he died.

Houghton's corpus went on sale at Christies in London on December 5, 1979.

Walcott's books were presumably disbursed.

Welsh willed her books to Kathryn Rickard at her death in 1970.

Wightman's children's books, bookbinder's tools, and miniature books went to the Morgan Library in New York.

Overseas, the largest private collections Adomeit was aware of were the Irene Winterstein concentration in Switzerland, the "Vera von Rosenberg collection which was described in detail in *Mikrobiblion* in 1928 and which is still in the hands of the original owner...and the Percy E. Spielmann collection...recently described in detail in a catalogue written by Dr. Spielmann."

Since, and quite possibly because of, Adomeit's MBC, a number of new major private collections in America have sprung up. In alphabetical order, (and where they are presumed to be going), those that I can recall are:

Neale Albert (available for sale or donation)
Robert C. Bradbury (to Tracy Bradbury)
Carolyn Y. Brandt (to University of Virginia Library)
Eileen Cummings (selling privately)
Julian I. Edison (major portion to Washington University Library in St. Louis)
Robert E. Massmann (Disbursed)
Stanley Marcus (Disbursed)
Patricia Pistner (no knowledge)
Kathryn L. Rickard (privately disbursed)
Charlotte Smith (to University of Iowa Library)
Msgr. Francis J. Weber (to Huntington Library in San Marino, California).

With apologies to any missed, or any inaccuracies --- please inform us.

DORIS VARNER WELSH

Doris Welsh was probably the greatest authority about miniature books in the second half of the 20th century.

She collected, wrote about, and published miniature books entirely by herself. Born in 1907 in Pittsburgh, and after receiving her A.B, B.L.S. and M.S. degrees from different colleges, she eventually joined the Newberry Library in 1947 as cataloguer. She remained at the Library until 1970 when she retired.

Welsh explains in a long article in Ruth Adomeit's 1961 publication, *Miniature Book Collector* (MBC), that she had long been interested in miniature books and had a collection, which eventually totaled about 500. In 1952, she learned through various sources how to print and make them.

Because of her intense interest and tireless effort, she was able to assemble everything about the subject she could --- catalogues, newspaper clippings, letters, etc. Her exhaustive efforts eventually led to her writing a history of miniature books, a typed bibliographic listing of over 250 pages and 7172 item entries, as well as a chronological list of miniature books from 1501 to 1949. Welsh's *History of Miniature Books* was published in 1987, and the exhaustive *A Bibliography of Miniature Books (1470 – 1965)* in 1989 through the efforts and financing of Kathryn L. Rickard who had by then become a close friend. Her Bibliography encompassed the list she had made through 1965 when she suffered a stroke and could not continue. Msgr. Francis J. Weber was the editor for the Bibliography.

Doris Welsh died in 1991, and willed all of her miniature books to Rickard. Rickard, by then a substantial collector, later wrote two miniature books: *A Lady And Her Books, the Biography of Doris Varner Welsh*, in 1988, and *My Adventures in Minibibliomania*, in 1996.

In *My Adventures*, Rickard recounts the unfortunate fall-out of the books she received from

her friend Doris. Welsh's estate lawyer informed her that "Before I could receive Doris's books they had to be appraised and I must pay inheritance taxes. The lawyer hired someone who knew nothing about miniature books to do the appraisal." They appraised value turned out to be overly high. "Since Doris had few other assets, I had to pay all her expenses to receive her books. Those expenses included the lawyer, hospital, doctors, nursing home, and the appraisal fee of \$1,700 plus what I paid Bondy (for a second opinion). To top it off I had to pay a 15% inheritance tax to the state of Pennsylvania." The total cost, Rickard said, was thousands of dollars, and it took 13 months before she received the books! It turned out that there were about 1,000 miniature books, including some very rare antiquarian ones. It turns out that many of these books were later sold to Donn Sanford, a subsequent President of the Miniature Book Society. And over 300 of those books are now being sold in a lovely illustrated catalogue, number 303 just released this year, from Oak Knoll Books of New Castle Delaware.

Doris Welsh was one of the major players in the miniature book world. According to Louis Bondy, in his magnum opus, *Miniature Books*, published in 1981, Doris Welsh "was a great expert on miniature books." Little did he realize then that her *History* and *Bibliography* would become one of the standard reference books in the field.

Baku Miniature Book Museum Award

The Russian Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Rossotrudnichestvo, has awarded Honored Art Worker of Azerbaijan, founder and curator of the Baku Miniature Books Museum Zarifa Salahova with a Badge of Honour "for friendship and cooperation", AzerTac state news agency reported.

At the awarding ceremony, Zarifa Salahova expressed her gratitude to Russian ambassador to Azerbaijan Vladimir Dorokhin.

Salahova highlighted the activities of the library. She noted that 5,240 miniature books from 71 countries were being demonstrated at the museum.

The Baku Miniature Books Museum is the only museum of miniature books in the world, settled in the old part of Baku, called Inner City. It was founded on April 23, 2002. Exhibits of the museum have been collected by Zarifa Salahova over the period of 30 years.

The collection includes miniature books published in post-revolutionary Russia and in the Soviet period. It also features books of Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus as well as Middle Asian and European countries.

The museum also showcases books of Russian writers and poets Chukovsky, Barto, Gogol, Dostoyevsky, and Pushkin, as well as miniature books of outstanding Azerbaijani classics, such as Vagif, Khurshidbanu Natavan, Nizami Ganjavi, Nasimi, Fizuli, Samed Vurgun, and Mirza Fatali Akhundov.



The 2013 Miniature Book Competition

By Tony Firman,
MBS Competition and Exhibition Chair

I have just completed my first year managing the Miniature Book Competition and Exhibition; it was an eye-opening experience! I came away greatly impressed by the books submitted, and by the work done by my fellow committee-members: Ray Williamson, who was responsible for the outstanding photography; Barb Williamson, who retouched the photographs so they reproduced so well in the catalog; and Pat Caernarven-Smith, who assisted with research and proofreading.

First a few facts. There was a total of 28 entries, coming from eight different countries: the USA (13 entries), Iceland (3), Japan (4), the UK (3), the Czech Republic (2), Argentina (1), Mexico (1), and Spain (1). This means that there were more entries from outside the USA (a total of 15) than inside (13). In all, there were fewer entries in this year's Competition than we have had in some earlier years, but the quality was outstanding. The judges undoubtedly faced a real challenge, but their comments (see below) make it clear that they faced that challenge very thoughtfully.

The entries are shown and described in the Competition Catalog, which has now been provided to every MBS member. For each entry we tried to provide representative photographs of both the outside and the inside of the book, and we tried to provide a brief paragraph on the subject matter (in other words, the contents of the book), plus another on the format and binding (in technical terms, "the container").

Subject Matter

The entries covered a wide range of subject matter. Some books were classic fiction such as Jarmila Sobota's *Metamorphosis*, and Mark Palkovic's *The Gift of the Magi*. Others were pure non-fiction such as Cyril Turner's continuing series on classic British apples, which forms an outstanding example of books that are not only decorative, but also contribute to the world's store of knowledge.

Other books covered disparate subjects including humor (Mark Palkovic's *Let Me Feel Your Pulse*), poetry (Camille Riner's *Flight*), and mythology (Eggert Isolfsson's *Grettis Saga*).

Two entries featured hand embroidery in spectacular ways. Junko Inoue and Kunie Ogoshi's *Semamori* exquisitely reproduces traditional Japanese embroidered designs formerly used to identify children's clothes. And Yvonne Perez-Collins' *Catillion Cats* whimsically uses embroidery to illustrate many varieties of feline.

Then there is Lucia Farias' *The Truth*: a beautiful conventionally bound copy of *The New Testament*, altered by having the pages individually folded to represent the ways in which the subject matter of the book has been misinterpreted over the centuries. An equally beautiful presentation case exhibits the book to the best advantage, forming a three-dimensional sculpture.

Format and Binding

There was a corresponding variety in the formats and binding of the entries. Some books are what you might call "standard books" – codices just like most of the books we all buy and read, except miniature. Others were basically conventional, but featured exceptional bindings of leather, with gold stamping, marbling, slipcases, and so on.

Manuel Garcia de Fuentes' book *Los Diez Españoles* is an outstanding example, right down to its perforated slipcase.

While all the books were of course miniature, some were especially so. Miyako Akai's *Twinkle, Little Star* is a conventional book, but is only 16 millimeters (5/8 inch) tall. Furthermore, it comes in a glass bottle just big enough to hold it.

Several books were not codices, but were accordion-folded. These include one of the winners (the Thomas's *Tree*), and also Loraine Klinger's *Butterfly Royalty*, which has the added distinction of being circular in format, and coming in a circular box.

Several books featured pop-ups. Again, these include one of the winners (Dorothy Yule's *Memories of Science*), but also the spectacular *I Love New York*, which made an arduous journey from Maria Victoria Garrido Bianchini's home in Argentina to the USA by way of Spain – and got lost along the way the first time it was sent.

A couple of entries included "packaging" – display cases too elaborate and beautiful to be described as mere slipcases. The winner *Memories of Science* comes in a display case that includes a drawer containing a miniature CD and a compass. The winner *Metamorphosis* comes in a display case that includes a real cockroach encapsulated in a block of resin – creepy, but undeniably effective!

The Winners

So many of these entries are winners in my mind! I would love to own all of them! Somehow the judges managed to select three of them to receive Distinguished Book Awards.

Winner: *Memories of Science*; written by Dorothy A. Yule, illustrated by Dorothy A. Yule and Susan Hunt Yule, and published by Left Coast Press. The judges' comments are:

Memories of Science is exquisite in its workmanship and presentation. The pop-ups (such as the pinwheel and compass) are masterfully engineered, colorful, and supportive of the text. *Memories of Science* represents an instance where incredible skill, creativity, and attention to detail combine to make the object as-a-whole our top choice. This item reflects a sincere artistic vision that is incredibly engaging.

Beyond that, the narrative as an original piece only adds to the complexity of the work; the text is interesting and flows well. The pop-ups portray both creativity and fanciful design; the entire book was clearly executed with great intention and consideration; it grants a sense of intrigue and feels innovative and unique. The typography was executed expertly

on high quality paper; the pop-ups are at times extremely intricate while being expertly coupled with elegance of design. An incredibly well-crafted case with two components: a removable top case with Plexiglas lid which allows the book's cover to show through (reminding one of a 19th century cabinet of curiosity) and a small drawer that serves as a CD holder, including a compass in the center of the accompanying CD.



Winner: *Metamorphosis*; written by Franz Kafka, designed, bound, and published by Jarmila Sobota. The judges' comments' are:

Metamorphosis is well crafted and executed. The cover art with its onlay of a man falling is well done. The encased cockroach adds a touch of realism and supports the theme of transformation/entrapment central to Kafka's text. The case, the binding, and the typography all work together to support the artistic vision. The quality of the piece as a whole is superior. This piece is so effective and attractive, we can ignore that the printing almost feels like an afterthought in the design process. The book is highly creative; the addition of the laid-in ambered roach is intriguing; the box is expertly crafted and artistic in-and-of-itself so much so that it adds greatly to the experience of the user. The book itself is wrapped in a leather strip chemise; the leather painted binding in black and yellow with the human figure affixed to the cover with "Metamorphosis" gold stamped on the cover is artfully done; the leather title spine label with gold stamping and similar painting to binding is a nice touch.



Winner: *Tree*; written by John Muir, designed, bound, and published by Peter and Donna Thomas. The judges' comments are:

Wood and leather are bound with a wooden fore-edge closure (reminiscent of a miniature wooden walking stick or wooden needle) that passes through the leather closure; the piece is primarily image-based with a brief John Muir (environmentalist) quotation – it feels natural and very rustic; highly creative; original art ties well with the root of the text design elements; being so closely aligned with the topic of the piece is highly attractive. The illustrations are lovely and work well with the text. We thought the accordion-bound wood boards were a nice touch given the subject. *Tree* makes appropriate use of materials to illustrate its theme. Its hand-colored images coupled with the use of a binding made from wood and leather support the organic, handmade feel of the book.



Conclusions

The quality of this year's entries tells us that miniature bookbinding is alive and well. It reaffirms that even a "simple" codex can be a significant work of art. And how much more so a book that incorporates pictures, pop-ups, movables, and unusual binding. All I can say to our member-bookbinders is: Keep up the good work! I look forward to another fine batch of entries next year – it isn't too early to be thinking about them.

The Miniature Book Society fondly remembers:



Duane C. Scott, Scott Free Press, passed away on August 23, 2013 at the age of 92.

Carol Cunningham. The Sunflower Press, passed away on September 7, 2013 at the age of 88.

MBS members, please notify Barbara Williamson, MBS Newsletter editor, of member deaths you may know. We are a family and want to recognize all.



BRIEF NOTES

Catalogues received:

Karen Nyman Miniature Books
Miniature Book Catalog 46
November 1, 2013
<http://www.karenymanminiaturebooks.com>

Oak Knoll Books
Catalogue 303 Miniature Books from the Collection of Donn Sanford
www.oakknoll.com

Sherry Mayo announces that she has for sale REM (Robert E. Massman) miniature books from Jon Mayo's collection. In addition she has the rest of Jon's entire collection sorted by publisher and available in Excel. To request REM books, please put "REM Miniatures" in the subject line of an email to: oldfarmhouse@myfairpoint.net.

In June 2013, Monterey County's *The Herald* had an interesting article about MBS member, Paul Ritscher. A wonderful video along with the article is still available at: http://www.montereyherald.com/entertainment/ci_23514872/miniature-bookmaker-paul

Stephen Byrne saw a news story on the BBC News website about National Library of Scotland puts tiny books on display. See full story at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/uk-scotland-24124626>

Martin Wartelsteiner, Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig, announces a beautiful new two-volume miniature book set, **TREASURE ISLAND** by Robert Louis Stevenson housed in a treasure chest case. Text in English. For more information, go to: www.miniboox.de

There are two miniature books listed in the July Veatchs catalog 75. Item 21. Sarah Chanberlain, Alphabetarium, \$200. Item 53. The Fleece Press Guide to Wood Engraving. \$150.

Special Thanks for Grand Conclave photos go to:

Neale Albert, Jason Vanderhill (Alcuin Society), Kathy King, Angelika Jaeck and Stephen Byrne.

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Miniature Book Society Newsletter

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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 in Microsoft Word would be preferred. Articles in the Newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Board or of the Editor.

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