

## Gerald Fitzgerald [1925-2010]

as remembered by Mary Beth Beal

Gerald F. Fitzgerald, Sr. – pictured here as “himself” in the prime of his life – saw himself in his mind’s eye – to his dying day – as full of life and full of plans for the future. And he was.

He was enormously self-assured, highly intelligent, seldom wrong, and rarely in doubt. His knowledge was encyclopedic. His curiosity was insatiable. His passions were many. His enthusiasm was boundless.

He was a successful banker, a collector of books, maps, and paintings, a big and small game hunter, a fly fisherman, an owner of race horses, and a gifted teller of stories. He was larger than life and lived it to the fullest.

He had high standards and higher expectations. He could be difficult and sometimes was. He was accustomed to having others do his bidding – except at auction where he liked to bid for himself.

He believed in working hard, saving, investing, planning for the long term, short haircuts for men and boys, and seizing good fortune with both hands.

A voracious reader of history, biography, and literature, he was interested in everything. He seemed to be especially intrigued by exploration, travel and adventure, scientific discovery, how men respond to tests of courage and skill, how to evaluate risk, and which qualities make good leaders. He began collecting books when he worked in the Loop in the 1950s.

He never stopped. He was pursuing a major purchase at the time of his death. It had all of the elements that Gerald loved – the hunt, the thrill of discovery, research, anticipation of acquisition, rarity, historical significance, personal association, the provenance of an illustrious private collection, and intrigue.

If you did not know him, or if you did not know him well, you can gain insight into the man “in his own words” by reading his travel memoir of a circumnavigation of Africa [in 1973] in a private plane with his good friend, Jock Henebry. Jock had been a Major General in the Air Force and was the



Gerald Fitzgerald in 1953

pilot. It was Jock’s airplane. Gerald was the navigator. Gerald took “enough” flying lessons to learn how to land the plane “in case it was necessary.” Gerald combined the spirit of adventure with careful planning always. In the Preface, in a playful and semi-serious attempt to put his own voyage of discovery in the context of the books he so loved, Gerald posits that in several hundred years, the

Hakluyt Society might find a copy of his account of their travels, designate some retired senior professor to re-edit, add the mandatory footnotes, explain where the author was in error, and update the story for the modern reader. Published in 1992, *Africa by Air* begins with a quote from Dr. Samuel Johnson: “The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by See GERALD FITZGERALD, page 2



# CAXTONIAN

**Caxton Club, Founded 1895**

**David S. Mann, President**  
**Wendy Cowles Husser, Vice-President**  
**Bruce H. Boyer, Secretary**  
**Thomas E. Swanstrom, Treasurer**  
**C. Steven Tomashefsky, Past President**

**Council**

Class of 2011  
**Martha Chiplis**  
**Don Chatham**  
**Bradley Jonas**  
**Dan "Skip" Landt**  
**Alice D. Schreyer**

Class of 2012  
**Susan Hanes**  
**Robert McCamant**  
**Margaret Oellrich**  
**Morrell McKenzie Shoemaker, Jr.**  
**Mary S. Williams**

Class of 2013  
**JoEllen Dickie**  
**Matthew Doherty**  
**Tom Joyce**  
**Lynn Martin**  
**Jackie Vossler**

**Appointed Officers**

**Robert Karrow, Programs**  
**Paul F. Gehl, Archivist-Historian**  
**Hayward R. Blake, FABS Representative**

**Committees**

**Margaret Oellrich, Audio Visual**  
**J. William Locke, Dorothy Sinson (Co-Chairs), Friday Luncheons**  
**Dan "Skip" Landt, Membership**  
**Susan Rossen, Kim Coventry, Publications and Exhibitions**  
**Martha Chiplis, Scholarship**  
**Charles Spohrer, John M. Dunlevy, Matthew Doherty, Web Site and Directory**

**Caxton Club Staff**

**Dan Crawford, General Manager**

**Caxtonian**

**Robert McCamant, Editor**  
**Brenda Rossini, Copy Editor**  
**Robert Cotner, Founder**  
**Matthew J. Doherty, Wendy Husser, Paul Ruxin, Florence Shay, Contributing Editors**

©2010, Caxton Club. The Caxtonian is published monthly by the Caxton Club, whose office is in the Newberry Library. Printing: Kelmscott Communications, Aurora, IL.

GERALD FITZGERALD, from page 1

reality, and instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are." It was not necessary to see the world as Gerald saw it to appreciate him or his point of view, but it helped.

I knew his parents only through the stories that he told about them. He was one of four children of John and Olivia Trader Fitzgerald of Oak Park. He seemed to me to have inherited the best qualities of each parent. Together they produced a man with his mother's sense of propriety and discipline and his father's zest for life and gift for story telling.

He came of age at the outbreak of World War II. He served his country proudly as an Army sergeant in the combat engineers in the European theatre. He told irreverent stories about the Army. He was a patriot.

His formal academic training – not to be confused with his many fields of expertise – was a bachelor's degree in commerce from Northwestern University in Evanston. It was at Northwestern in 1949 that he met and married Marjorie Gosselin, his devoted wife of more than sixty years. Together they have five children including four bankers, three big-game hunters, two lawyers, one professor of art history, and one former U.S. Senator. And nine grandchildren.

After Northwestern, Gerald worked as a salesman for his father's firm, Premier Printing Company. He knew the printing business well. He then learned the public relations business by establishing his own PR firm. The PR firm specialized in providing counsel to banking clients. In 1961, he found his calling. He became a community banker when he bought two suburban banks. Gerald understood banking and knew financial history backwards and forwards and used that knowledge to advantage. With careful planning, conservative values, and financial ingenuity, Gerald built the two suburban banks into a \$1.3 billion empire of 13 community banks with 30 locations. In 1994, he sold to Bank of Montreal's Harris Bancorp for \$246 million. As part of the deal, he kept his expansive office on the top floor of the Palatine bank building. He went in to the office every day until just before his death.

While he sought and accepted guidance on his

collections and collecting, he always made his own informed decisions. His vision and imagination were leavened by careful study of catalogues and his knowledge of the marketplace. He knew every aspect of his own collections and those of many others.

His own included Americana, voyages and travels, general and military history, banking and economics, maps and atlases, Africa, sport – including fish and fishing, celestial – including modern space exploration, and the most extensive of all – Arctic and Antarctic exploration. His opinion of the polar explorers, he often said, was best summed up in a statement made by Sir Edmund Hillary: "For scientific discovery, give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel, Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton."

He gave his collection of polar books, maps, and art to the Newberry Library along

with a carefully compiled and scholarly catalogue of the collection. He served as a trustee of the Newberry from 1994 until his death. He was a friend of the Library and a generous benefactor. He was a friend and generous benefactor to many.

Gerald joined the Caxton Club in 1981. Along with Sam Rosenthal and Stan Friedberg, Gerald was a mentor, stalwart advocate, and advisor when I served as the first woman president of the Club.

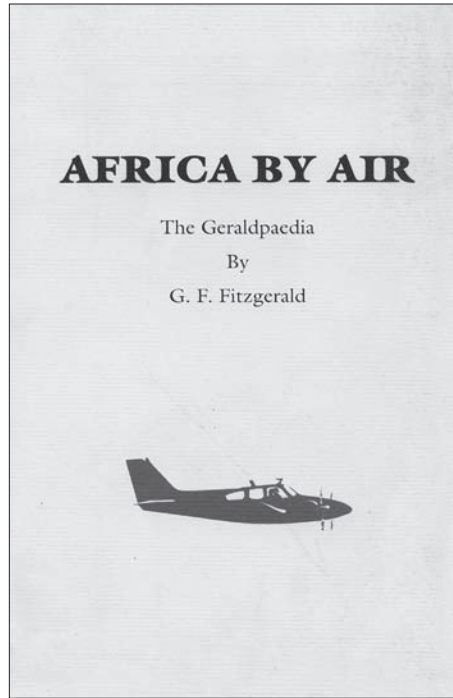
He loved sharing good conversation, Jack Daniels, and a good cigar with convivial company at the Caxton Club and in various venues around the world.

He balanced his catholic tastes with a Catholic faith. Shortly before his death his family placed a call to the parish priest to discuss last rites. Gerald happened to answer the telephone when the priest called back. Gerald assured the priest that he was fine – and then invited him to stop by for Jack Daniels and a cigar.

A gentleman of the old school with conservative values and manners, he stood when a lady entered the room, and expected other gentlemen to do the same. He opened doors – literally and figuratively – for younger persons and other bookmen and women. He was gracious and generous with his time and knowledge always.

We will not see his like again. He will be missed.

§§



# Gerald Fitzgerald, Consummate Collector

Harry L. Stern remembers 40 years of doing business

Gerald Fitzgerald was a gracious gentleman of the “old school” despite his occasional outwardly gruff demeanor. He built a banking empire for nearly half a century while simultaneously acquiring thousands of books relating to history, exploration, science, economics, and wildlife. The countless hours he spent after work reading these volumes were a recreational release from the daily stress of business. Consequently, Gerry gained an expertise in these fields which few independent scholars ever attain. Eventually, he knew which original texts of the classical works he had admired should be purchased. These antiquarian books were acquired as testaments to the modern editions he had previously read.

Gerry pored over the catalogues of the major auction houses, assiduously marking off the items that were relevant to his interests, often annotating each with notes and comments. Then he would call in his maximum bid just prior to the auction, or stay on the telephone with a house employee during the auction. He loved to bid for himself if he happened to be in New York. Frequently we sat together if I was also there. He would frequently seek my advice and raise his paddle

with gusto. However, Gerry was a disciplined buyer who dropped out at whatever maximum price level he had previously determined from his research.

Gerry was also a gut-instinct buyer of objects which told a story. He considered globes, instruments, maps, paintings, and paraphernalia of all kinds if they were related to some facet of his collections. The only negatives for Gerry were excessive price and substandard condition. His eyes lit up one time when I showed him a painting of Admiral Robert Byrd dressed in his Arctic regalia along with proof of direct provenance from the famous explorer’s nephew. The painting is now with the Arctic collection he donated to the Newberry Library.

Another time we toured the San Francisco antiquarian book fair together looking at maps and atlases. He bought several of both after asking my opinion. We then had a convivial seafood dinner together at Fisherman’s Wharf while discussing both his purchases and the many items he had rejected.

Gerry was much heralded by his banking peers. He wrote extensively in financial journals and lectured often on economic condi-

tions. He was an expert on every financial bubble since Holland’s Tulipmania in the early 18th century. Nevertheless, he savored his reputation as an unconventional banker. The best example was his view of collateral, which is considered the bedrock basis for lending money. One day I brought him an album of watercolors of western views borrowed from a New York dealer. I assured him they were worth more than double the asking price. Gerry was familiar with the subject matter from his study of American expansion prior to the Civil War. He gave me \$150,000 to buy the album and kept it in his vault as collateral until I sold it a few months later. We split the profit, earning his bank an exceptional amount for a short-term loan. Gerry knew that if I couldn’t sell the album privately in a year, he could recoup his cost at auction. Only a serious collector would have taken that risk.

This was the man I knew for forty years—jovial, decisive, incredibly well read and intelligent, generous, warm-hearted but not sentimental. Gerry was both liberal and giving of himself and yet conservative in every positive sense which that word evokes.

§§

## Gerald Fitzgerald: Banker, Bookie, and Backer

Thomas J. Joyce recounts Fitzgerald’s attempt to put the Club in permanent quarters

I heard about Gerald Fitzgerald years before I ever met him. He was a genuine *rara avis*. He was a banker who would loan money to rare book dealers and would accept rare books and first editions as collateral for loans. Oh, where could we find such a one today?

After graduating from Northwestern, Gerry worked as a salesman for his father’s Premier Printing Co. Apparently that was not commercial enough for him, for he soon moved on to open a public relations firm specializing in banks. He must have been his own best client for he soon bought two small-town banks.

I do not know it, but I am pretty sure that Gerry was instrumental in backing my mentor, Van Allen Bradley, when he opened the Heritage Bookshop in Long Grove, Illinois. I am also of the opinion that it was through Bradley that my last employer, Lawrence Kunetka of J&S Graphics Rare Books, was introduced

to Fitzgerald’s Palatine Bank. As a source of funds, it was a long way from the South Loop, but I do recall leaving a box of rarities at the Palatine Bank for collateral circa 1974 for Mr. Kunetka.

Inasmuch as J&S Graphics specialized in literary first editions, while Mr. Fitzgerald eagerly sought books on polar exploration—especially Antarctica—our paths did not cross in the bookshop. But Fitzgerald was enough of a connoisseur to appreciate the culture of rare books, and the distinct value of rare books, that he confidently lent to rare book firms. So far as I know, that practice ended at least by the time he sold the 31 locations of his 13-bank Suburban Bank Group to Harris Bank in 1994 for a reported \$246 million.

My memory of first meeting Gerald Fitzgerald was the night of the Caxton Club centennial dinner at the Newberry Library in

1995. The memorabilia display in the Donnelly Gallery was designed to evoke the earliest days of the Club, when booze and ash trays were de rigeur. Seated on the chair as if he were part of the display—and looking the part—was banker and bon vivant Gerald F. Fitzgerald, smiling broadly.

Later, after a delightful evening, Fitzgerald buttonholed me, the Vice President, and announced that he so enjoyed the occasion, the spirit of the Club, the Caxtonians etc., that he was going to give us funds for the purpose of acquiring permanent quarters as a home for the Caxton Club.

I accepted his remark in the general bonhomie of the evening and nothing more. It was only later, when \$50,000 worth of First National Bank of Chicago stock arrived, that I realized how much it was going to determine

See *GERALD FITZGERALD*, page 4

GERALD FITZGERALD, from page 3

the course of my term in office as President of the Caxton Club.

When Richard Seidel was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Club in the 1980s, after 90 years of club activity, the non-book assets of the Club were between \$17,000 and \$18,000. When I was elected President, after the membership boom of the centennial, and after changes such as an initiation fee and the start of a Second Century Fund, the club's non-book assets had doubled. Then, in one swift gift, they had more than doubled again.

But, it was not an unrestricted gift. True to a conservative banker's view, Gerry put an expiration date on the package. If the Club could not apply the gift for its sole purpose, then the funds were to revert to the Newberry Library, where Gerry was a Trustee.

Now that we were fiduciaries not only for the Caxton Club, but also, possibly, for the Newberry, we had to learn new tricks. Treasurer Christopher Oakes and I opened a trading account for the stocks at Charles Schwab. To safeguard the "nut," Chris gradually sold batches of the stock and converted it to cash. The stock kept rising.

Meanwhile, I appointed an ad hoc committee to explore acquiring space or quarters or property. Not every Council member favored getting quarters and expanding the Club's responsibilities. Despite the fact that the Fitzgerald challenge money was more than double the assets of the club after a century of existence, some people argued that it was not enough to do anything, and that Fitzgerald should donate much more. (I asked. He declined.) Others realized that other Caxtonians would likely need to donate to "sweeten the pot." In fact, other not insignificant sums came into the Second Century Fund.

Mr. Fitzgerald had been a long-time member of the Chicago Athletic Club. It owned a building on Michigan Avenue, the top floor of which was being vacated by its long-time renter. Gerry urged us to explore our becoming a tenant.

It had four rooms, a small kitchen, and his-and-her washrooms. One or two of the bedrooms could have been used as conference areas, an office for the Caxton manager, and an exhibition space for revolving exhibits. Council meetings and Friday luncheons could have been held there. But the larger attendance at Wednesday evening meetings would have meant dinner in one of the Chicago Athletic Club dining halls downstairs.

While the Rooms Committee worked on refining the details and preparing to "pitch"

the plan to the Council, I was working on trying to get some large donations from other members. For example, Carl Kroch, of Kroch's & Brentano's, had been a member since 1936, and there was no memorial to his father or to the famous K&B bookstores. For a gift of \$100,000, we would have named one of the rooms for Adolph & Carl Kroch. Cheap at twice the price. But the new library at Cornell University already bore Carl's name, and Carl kept his checkbook closed.

After weeks of negotiating with the Chicago Athletic Club, suddenly the offer was "off the table." It seems that the club had underestimated the rental value of their private suite. Now, it became a profit center for them. It was reliably reported that Vice-President Gore stayed there during the Democratic National Convention at Chicago in 1996.

Simultaneously, Cliff Dwellers was exploring for new quarters because the Chicago Symphony Foundation was, after a century, pushing them out of Orchestra Hall's top floors. Leaders from both clubs met and explored mutually enjoyable property possibilities. One I really liked. It involved our clubs co-habiting in the shuttered Engineer's Club Building adjacent to the Union League on Jackson by the Federal Courthouse. The seven-story Engineer's Club was narrow and long, with a ground floor bar room, and sleeping rooms, a dining room, and offices in the upper floors. It had no kitchen, but food service would have been supplied by Union League, who had only been using the Engineer's building for overflow storage, and as a buffer from the large parking deck nearby.

But Union League did not accede to our wishes: on one hand an earlier fire in the base-

ment had weakened some of the supports, and the repairs alone were estimated at a million dollars; on the other hand they wanted us to meet in their clubhouse, but that would not meet our criteria of separate quarters (however, they did offer to let us decorate one of their upper conference rooms as we liked, and with our own memorabilia).

Cliff Dwellers was also considering re-designing all or parts of the upper floor or two of the Fine Arts building next to Roosevelt University; there, too, they would have shared with us. It had sentimental appeal because the Fine Arts building was the location of the original rooms of the Caxton Club a century ago. But Cliff Dwellers ended up moving to the top of the Borg-Warner Building, opposite the Art Institute, but the footprint there "was not big enough for the both of us."

As the clock ticked down to the final weeks, there were still other inquiries made, including both of two adjacent townhouses, old greystones, in the 1000 block of North Dearborn, just north of the Newberry Library. The northern one of them is, apparently, still owned and used by the Collectors Club of Chicago. We envisioned that either of those could have housed our properties and provided meeting space for small clutches of members and meetings. But nothing happened there, or with the Scottish Rite of the Masons, who owned the entire city block immediately southeast of the Newberry.

Those heady days of the Clinton era are just a memory now, but during the two years of holding on to that bank stock our fund increased by twenty thousand dollars or more! Some of the Council were relieved that we had not been successful in finding a clubhouse (which surely would have multiplied the amount of work asked of the Council), but all of them liked the idea of suggesting to Mr. Fitzgerald that he let us give the principal to the Newberry while keeping the increase for the Club, but that did not come to pass.

The money gift and my term as President expired about the same time. Since then, I had had virtually no contact with Gerry Fitzgerald. I do not recall that he attended any meetings since the Centennial dinner. I do know that in the meantime he spent a lot of time traveling, and at his home in Florida, and that his son, Peter, won and served a full term, with honor, as one of Illinois' U. S. Senators. And I also know that I will forever link Gerald Francis Fitzgerald with the vision to see things other people could not see, and the generosity of spirit and money to try to make it a reality.

§§

We note with sadness the passing of  
**Abel Berland '57**  
on December 6. A remembrance  
will appear in a future issue.

We note with sadness the passing of  
**William W.  
McKitrick '79**  
on December 25. A remembrance  
will appear in a future issue.

# Robert Mangler: Sherlockian and Caxtonian

Robert McCamant

Robert Mangler '88 died on November 29, 2010. In his professional life, he was a lawyer. He attended Loyola University and got his law degree from Northwestern. (Junie Sinson was a classmate at Northwestern.) He served in the Corporation Counsel offices of Chicago and Evanston and became the Corporation Counsel for the Village of Wilmette in 1965. He served until 1992. Subsequently he was in private practice.

His specialty in municipal law was traffic. He was Chairman of the Illinois Traffic Court Conference, a position he held starting in 1977. Within the specialty, his subspecialty was the evaluation and treatment of DUI offenders. He attended and lectured at several conferences around the country and one in Oslo, Norway.

He was the subject of a "Caxtonians Collect" article in July of 2009, and this is adapted from that story.

He knew Caxtonians since the 1960s, but he didn't join the Club until 1988. It may have been the late Ely Liebow, or perhaps Fred Kittle, or Karen Skubish, or Tom Joyce, who proposed him. He'd had friendly dealings with all of them around the project of getting an appropriate headstone for Vincent Starrett's grave in Graceland Cemetery. That project was accomplished just in time for the 100th anniversary of Starrett's birth, on October 26, 1986.

It was the love of Sherlock Holmes that brought Mangler into contact with Vincent Starrett (himself eventually a Caxtonian as well). "I was always a mystery fan," Mangler explained. "I've been reading Sherlock Holmes as long as I can remember. When I was in law school, I started hearing about the Baker Street Irregulars. I was fascinated by them, but didn't know how to get in touch with them. Then, in 1953, I read a popular paperback, *Blood on Baker Street*. It was fiction, but in the back there was a note that said, '...there really

are Baker Street Irregulars. If you wish to get in touch with them, write to Edgar Smith in New York City."

Mangler wrote, and heard back from Smith immediately. Yes, Smith told him, there are Baker Street Irregulars in Chicago. They have two groups, one called Hounds of the Baskervilles; Vincent Starrett is in charge. There is also another group, Hugo's Companions, run by Dr. Richard Schwartz. "I've been members of both ever since," Mangler beamed.



Robert Mangler with wife Geraldine.

When Mangler met Starrett, Starrett asked him if he was related to Billy Mangler of the eponymous restaurant. "I guess I looked like him," Mangler explained. "He was my grandfather." In 1906, Billy Mangler's restaurant still had a "free lunch", and Starrett was only making \$12 a week at the Chicago Interocean.

Vincent Starrett had founded the Hounds in 1943. It was the second of the "scion" societies, organized under the guidance of New York's Baker Street Irregulars. (Boston had the first scion.) It was a logical thing to do, since in 1933 Starrett had added fuel to the fire of Holmes interest by writing *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. The book is still in print, in a revised edition; 1934 editions fetch \$200 or more today.

By 1960, Starrett was ready to retire from heading the Hounds, and he hand-picked Mangler to take his place. Mangler held the

position until 2005!

Actually, municipal law and Sherlock Holmes worked well together. Wherever Mangler travelled in his work for the International Municipal Lawyers Association as its President 1994-1995, he would try to look up the local scion society and make new friends. When he would mention Vincent Starrett, people's eyes would grow wide and they'd exclaim "You know Vincent Starrett!"

"You meet very interesting people," Mangler explained. "You know the phrase, 'people from all walks of life'? That really applies to Sherlock Holmes fans. In the Baker Street Irregulars (which I was invited to join on Starrett's recommendation), members have included two Nobel prize winners, FDR, a famous boxer (Gene Tunney), lots of travel agents and doctors, an astronaut, judges and lawyers, pretty much everyone as members."

Mangler travelled many times to New York for the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars. "But I've never made it to the annual dinner of the The Sherlock

Holmes Society of London, although I did join it. But I visited there several times, just not at the annual dinner."

Mangler perfected a talk called "Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction," which he gave often, at libraries in Wilmette, Park Ridge, Niles, and at DePaul, the University of Illinois, Northern Illinois, and countless clubs and groups. Like any good lawyer, he was prepared to argue on either side of the case.

Mangler and his wife Geraldine (who survives him) had four children, three sons and a daughter. Two sons are in computers, and one is a painting contractor. But his daughter works in the corporate counsel office for Skokie. "It's interesting that the only acorn which fell near the tree was my daughter," Mangler mused.

§§

Photograph from the DignityMemorial web site

# Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Robert McCamant

(Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit.)

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: "Paper Architecture: Visionary Structures on the Printed Page" (drawings, printed material, and collage representing fantastic and sometimes surreal unbuilt forms), through March 15.

Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 South Michigan, Chicago, 312-922-3432: "Chicago Model City" (unique models of downtown, of a digital visualization of demolition and rebuilding on Chicago's Near South Side, more.) Atrium Gallery, ongoing.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Bibliotheca Sylva," through February 6; "Caring for Collections: Conservation of the Rare Book Collection" (techniques used by professionals in stabilizing rare books), opening February 11.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: "Chicago and the Diana: Toy Camera Images" (Dan Zamudio's intimately scaled black and white images are reminiscent of faded works in old photo albums), through March 27. "Finding Vivian Maier: Chicago Street Photographer" (recently-discovered pictures which capture the people and fashions of the 50s, 60s, and 70s), through April 3.

Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Alfred Appel on Classic Jazz" (works by the late Alfred Appel, Northwestern professor, who wrote widely on the history of jazz with special focus on Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller), Upright Case, Eighth Floor, through June 30; "Made by WPA: Illinois Art Project Chicago" (exhibition and film highlight the history and legacy of government-funded arts programs during the 1930s in Illinois), Chicago Gallery, third floor, through April 3.

Columbia College Center for the Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash, Chicago, 312-369-6630. "Counting on Chance: 25 Years of Artists' Books by Robin Price, Publisher" (a mid-career retrospective of the contemporary book artist and fine press printer), second floor gallery, through April 9.

DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 East 56th Place, Chicago, 773-947-0600: "Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits" (photographs from the 19th century to the present, in conjunction with the National Portrait Gallery), through March 6.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660: "Urban China: Informal Cities" (a retrospective of the magazine combined with a space transformed into a physical manifestation of its pages), through April 3; "Jim Nutt: Coming Into Character" (the first major exhibit of his work in 10 years), through May 29.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: "French Canadians in the Midwest" (documents – including a 1692 fur contract and a Hull House map of Chicago ethnicities – exploring the history of the French-Canadian presence in Illinois), Spotlight Exhibition Series, R. R. Donnelley Gallery, through March 12.

Northern Illinois University Art Museum, NIU Altgeld Hall, DeKalb: "Frances Whitehead: Documents, Proposals, Installations" (the Chicago artist shares her mind in the form of maps, documents, pro-

posed projects and material explorations), through March 11.

Northwestern University, Charles Deering Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "From the Heroic to the Depraved: Mainstream and Underground Comic Books at Northwestern University Library" (featuring comic books from the Pre-Golden, Golden, Silver, Bronze, and Modern eras, as well as the Underground; including a selection of Big Little Books, dime novels, woodcuts, and engravings that chronicle the beginning of comic books as they are known today), Special Collections and Archives, through March 24; "Best of Bologna" (reproductions of children's-book illustrations), newly-installed permanent exhibit, 4th floor, main library.

Oriental Institute of Chicago, University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond" (illustrations of new research on the origins of writing: artifacts from the four "pristine" writing systems of Sumer, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica; examples of the forerunners of writing, such as rock paintings and pot marks, photographic tablets from Uruk/today's Iraq, seal impressions from the tombs of early Egyptian kings, and oracle bones used in Chinese rituals; examples of early alphabetic texts in Proto-Sinaitic, Old South Arabian, and Hebrew, all of which re-evaluate the origins of the alphabet; a video kiosk demonstrating how photographic techniques can examine sealed clay Token balls ca. 3350-3100 BC, whose previously unread contents are thought to be the ancestors of Latin letters), through March 6.

University of Chicago, John Crerar Library, 5730 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-8740: "Sweet Home Chicago: Chocolate and Confectionery Production and Technology in the Windy City" (drawing from items in the substantial cookery collection at the Library, this exhibit explores the history of chocolate and confectioners in the city and the science and technology of the candy making process), Atrium, through June 11.

Until a replacement exhibit editor is found, please send your listings to [bmccamant@quarterfold.com](mailto:bmccamant@quarterfold.com), or call 312-329-1414 x 11.



MCA: Jim Nutt

JIM NUTT: PLUMB, 2004. PRIVATE COLLECTION. DAVID NOLAN GALLERY, NYC.

# Caxtonians Collect: Matthew Doherty

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Matt Doherty is among the small cohort of Club members who go beyond reading and collecting books to also design and produce them. That means he also gets stuck with design projects for the Club, including the 2002 FABS keepsake, directories, and plenty of ephemera, frequently working hand-in-hand with Hayward Blake. He's currently a member of the Council class of 2013, too.

According to official records, he joined the Club in 1998. But he's known many members much longer than that, because of his involvement in the Society of Typographic Arts and other design activities. The late Bruce Beck was his nominator.

"I was thinking back to when I 'caught the bug' of letterpress printing and historic book design," he explains, "and I realized that the turning point was the 1990 Typocrafters meeting that Bruce organized in Chicago. It was an amazing collection of people who were serious about making the printed word beautiful and useful. The ironic thing was the way it came at the time when the whole design world was in the first throes of total transformation. Pagemaker had appeared in 1985, but by 1990 people were starting to see that it could be applied to real design work. And then the Web was just five years in the future."

Doherty had moved to Chicago after his undergraduate work at Northern Illinois. He completed his master's studies while working. His first job was a stint at the Institute of Financial Education, part of the U.S. League of Savings Institutions, both now gone. ("This was just before the S&L meltdown, but that wasn't my fault.") There, he occasionally got to work on book projects, which he found to be an interesting part of the job. So when he was presented an opportunity at Scott Foresman, the textbook publisher, he jumped at it.

Two and a half years later, that company was merged and Doherty decided to hang out his own shingle. He has worked on a huge variety of projects over the years. One landmark was a five-year book project he worked on with (Club vice president) Wendy Husser. (Wendy

was the editor.) It was the centennial history of the American Urological Association. It was 5 years in the making, and it emerged as 900 pages in two volumes, with 1400 images. It was printed at Stinehour in Vermont, and shipped on its original planned ship date.

Another unusual job was *The Little Man in the Map*, a self-publication of its author, E.



Andrew Martonyi. It's a book intended to help grade-school students learn to identify all the states in the map of the U.S. "The author had gathered plenty of great material," he explains, "but there was about twice as much as could be reasonably included and illustrated. So my job was as much counseling the author as it was designing the book."

These days, though, Doherty is as likely to be grading papers as he is to be designing. Each semester he teaches one or more sections of "Management for Designers" at Columbia College. The course description reads: "Course teaches students to function effectively in real world design management situations. Students receive practical insights into the business of design management situations and the business of design – for example, how to start a business, how to bill, how to prepare con-

tracts/proposals, network and solicit clients, deal with printers/photographers, and gain insight into copyright law...."

"The irony of the design world today," he explains, "is that this is about the only course the students take in college which they can apply throughout their careers. What they learn about design principles, the foundation courses, are likely to be challenged by fashion and technology's influence; what they learn about design technology will be old news a year from graduation; and what they think they know about media, let alone have mastered, is likely to be jettisoned before they really understand it. But finding and keeping clients, sending out bills, planning, and dealing with business problems are all things that apply throughout anybody's career."

Though one glance around Doherty's office establishes without doubt that he is a collector, he denies that he is a *book collector*. He did inherit one important book-related collection from Bruce Beck, however. It is Beck's carefully-organized set of ephemera from other people's private presses, accumulated over twenty or more years. I flipped through the folders, spying famous local, national, and international names. "Now all I have to do is figure out how the most use can be made of it," he confesses. "But in the meantime it's tremendously inspirational just to open the drawer and take a close look at the first item you come across."

Doherty lives in north Evanston with his wife Karen. Books have had, and continue to have, a disproportionate influence in a home without television or electronic games. Karen develops recipes and produces several cook books a year. Anna will earn her Print Paper Book undergraduate degree from Minneapolis College of Art and Design in Spring 2011, and Michael is in his second year of the Great Books program at Shimer College on IIT's campus. "They chose their paths, but we get a vicarious kick from both. Anna is talented with paper and the book arts, and Michael has a library of hundreds of books he's actually read, sampled, and referenced. Now, that's not by design, but it's pretty cool."

§§



NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 437  
AURORA IL

# CAXTONIAN

Caxton Club  
60 West Walton Street  
Chicago, IL 60610  
USA

Address Correction Requested

## Bookmarks...

Luncheon: Friday, Feb. 11, 2011, Union League Club  
Cynthia Liebow  
An American in Paris, Extraordinaire:  
25 Years as Translator, Editor and Publisher

We heartily welcome Cynthia Liebow, daughter of Caxtonian Eli Liebow (1924-2007), known for his ground-breaking biography of Dr. Joseph Bell (on whom Sherlock Holmes was based). Cynthia received a BA from Princeton and two MAs and a doctorate from universities in France, leading to teaching assignments there and a successful part of the world of Paris publishing, culminating in the founding of her own publishing house in 2007: Les Editions Baker Street. In her job of finding and buying French rights to foreign books (primarily British and American), Cynthia has formed close relationships with Harold Pinter, Antonia Fraser, Arthur Miller, Shimon Peres, Hillary Clinton, Balthus, and Queen Noor to name a few. Hear also how publishers find their authors, about the game of "stealing" authors, the genius needed to predict which foreign book will "work" in France and then about publishing's most fun, most creative and most exhausting aspect: promotion. Join us as Cynthia Liebow walks us through her fascinating career. Anecdotes abound!

*The February luncheon will take place at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Luncheon buffet (in the main dining room on six) opens at 11:30 am; program (in a different room, to be announced) 12:30-1:30. Luncheon is \$30. Details of the February dinner: it will take place at Cliff Dwellers, 200 S. Michigan, 22nd floor. Timing: spirits at 5:00, dinner at 6:00, program at 7:30. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5 to \$9. \$10 parking.*

### Beyond February...

#### MARCH LUNCHEON

On March 11, 2011, the Group will hear from Caxtonian Jack Cella, longtime manager of what often has been called the best academic bookstore in America: the Seminary Co-op in Hyde Park.

#### MARCH DINNER

Friday, March 18 at the Newberry Library we will celebrate the launch of the club's Association Copy book with a gala party feting 25 of the book's authors and ample opportunity to claim autographs.

Dinner: Wednesday, February 16, 2011, Cliff Dwellers  
Christopher Woods  
Visible Language: The Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Near East and Beyond

There have been four instances in human history when writing was invented from scratch, with no previous exposure to writing – in Mesopotamia and Egypt in the second half of the fourth millennium BC, in China at the end of the second millennium BC, and in Mesoamerica in the first millennium BC. These are the four "pristine" writing systems from which all others likely developed. Christopher Woods, curator of the current exhibit of the same title at the Oriental Institute, will illustrate and talk about some of the more important objects on display, discuss the newest research on the origins of writing in Mesopotamia and Egypt, and how these relate to the Chinese and Mesoamerican inventions.

*after 4 pm, at the garage on the SE corner of Jackson & Wabash – enter just south of Potbelly on Wabash. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or use the newly augmented Caxton web site; **reservations are needed by noon Tuesday for the Friday luncheon, and by noon Friday for the Wednesday dinner.***

#### APRIL LUNCHEON

We will meet Friday, April 18 at the Union League Club with speaker and topic to be announced.

#### APRIL DINNER

Nonresident Caxtonian and former Chicagoan Ed Colker will talk on April 20 about his work creating *livres d'artiste*, many featuring the work of esteemed modern poets and all including his own prints.