



Aldus Society Notes

Autumn 2011

Volume 11, No. 3

Homage to Writers' Homes Will Begin Fall Programming

Our September 8 speaker will be Dr. Anne Trubek, author of *A Skeptic's Guide to Writers' Houses*. Her talk is titled "The Compensation of Paul Laurence Dunbar," and will focus in part on Ohio writer Dunbar, the first African-American poet to garner national critical acclaim.



Dr. Anne Trubek

The phenomenon of visiting writers' houses as a form of literary homage has existed for centuries, as literary enthusiasts have toured the homes of Shakespeare and countless other writers to connect, become inspired, or pay tribute to a favorite author.

She has written that she first conceived of her book as a "reverse travel guide, a guide to places you shouldn't bother to visit." Her initial cantankerousness, though, is understandable. Some of these sites, such as the Poe House in Baltimore (where Poe lived for two years), have only a tenuous connection to the author's most important work. According to Trubek,

(continued on page 3)

Poet E. E. Cummings' Artwork Subject of October 13 Program

Aldus member and bibliophile Steven Katz, has long had very special interests in both poetry and art. Ten years ago he was surprised to learn that writer E. E. Cummings was a serious painter throughout his lifetime when 1200 works by Cummings became available for public consumption through rare book dealer Ken Lopez.

E. E. Cummings was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1894. Intensely creative, Cummings was a poet, playwright and novelist and also a fine artist; his life and art were tightly interwoven. Known for typographic innovation, Cummings controlled both the look and the content of his poems.

Mesmerized by Lopez' on-line exhibition of Cummings' paintings

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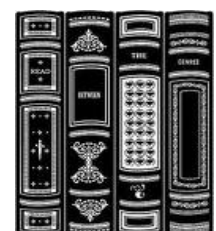
E. E. Cummings' *Self Portrait* can be found at the National Portrait Gallery.



Aldus Society Meetings

Regular meetings (beginning in September) are held at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at

**The Thurber Center
91 Jefferson Avenue
Columbus, Ohio**



The Aldus Society

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2011-2012 Program Year

September 8

Anne Trubek on authors' houses including Paul Laurence Dunbar

October 8

First Saturday: 17th Century Drama OTHER than Shakespeare

October 13

Steven Katz on E. E. Cummings, author and artist

October 15

Field trip to Denison University Library's Special Collections

November 5

Field Trip to Buckeye Book Fair

November 10

Steven Galbraith discusses biblio-forensics related to Shakespeare's First Folio

November 12

Ladies' Luncheon

December 4

PREVIEW for Holiday Silent Auction

December 5

Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction

January 12

Aldus Collects: members share their collections

February 9

Carrie Bebris: "Following Jane Austen's Literary Footsteps"

March 8

Richard Minsky, book designer and author of *The Art of American Book Covers*

April 12

To Be Announced

May 10

Fred Porcheddu: "Destroying Medieval Manuscripts for Pleasure and Profit"

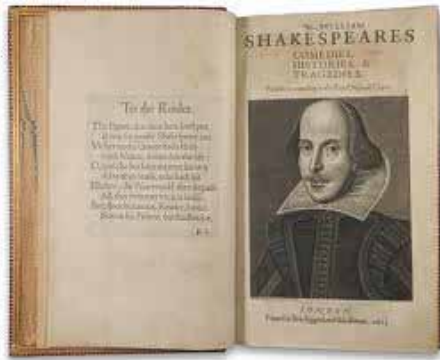
(TRUBEK from page 1)

others try too hard: Mark Twain's hometown of Hannibal, Mo., has become a Twain-inspired theme park, where Ms. Trubek has difficulty finding something as basic as cold medicine.

Anne was born, improbably, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Her life has continued in similarly improbable veins, and has included stints in Madison, Wisconsin, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Cleveland, Ohio, her current home. When she is not writing about writers' houses, she is teaching at Oberlin College or writing for publications such as *The New York Times*, *Mother Jones*, and *GOOD*. She might also be found hiking with her son or watching the weeds cover the perennials in her garden.

November 10: Folio, Where Art Thou?

Stolen in 1998 from an exhibition case, Durham University's copy of the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays (1623) arrived at the Folger Shakespeare Library ten years later in the briefcase of a shady character looking for an appraisal. Thus began a tale which involved the FBI and Scotland Yard detectives, a Cuban mistress, a trial, and the eventual repatriation of the book to Durham University.



Former Folger curator Steven Galbraith will share how the Durham First Folio was identified in a fascinating story of rare book forensics.

Steven K. Galbraith, is Curator of the Cary Graphic Arts Collection at Rochester Institute of Technology. Prior to this position, he was the Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. He has also worked as a rare book and manuscripts curator at The Ohio State University and a reference librarian at the University of Maine. He holds an MLS from the University at Buffalo and a PhD from Ohio State.

(E. E. CUMMINGS from page 1)

and frequently looking at the gallery on line, Katz began to consider purchasing one of the paintings and eventually flew to Boston to see the paintings and drawings in person; ultimately he purchased his first piece of Cummings' art.

He began to study Cummings' exhibition history (lifetime and posthumous), the institutions that have collected these works, and their auction history. Over the past eight years, he has collected 14 artworks by Cummings and has also researched exhibition reviews, journal articles and writings about E. E. Cummings the artist. In addition, he has collected exhibition catalogs and other ephemera related to the exhibitions and illustrations of his artwork. He has started a database of pictures on behalf of the E. E. Cummings Society and gave the lecture "E. E. Cummings: A Small-Eye Painter From New England" to the American Literature Association in Boston two years ago.



Fourth Dimensional Abstraction by E. E. Cummings is from Katz' personal collection.

Katz' program for Aldus will first address the modernist movement in the arts and its influence on Cummings the painter and poet, and he will present the exhibition history, and institutions that have Cummings' artworks.

Editor's note: The E. E. Cummings Society has been working to correct the misinformation that Cummings had an all lower case version of his name legalized. They state: "We hereby proclaim it to be so, and we hope the dismal lower case custom will disappear from the face of the earth. At the very least, this journal henceforth will print it properly in all of its contents."

The Pamphlet that Created an American Myth

At our May 12 program, Aldus member Don Rice told us about the booklet *A Message to Garcia*. This essay by Elbert Hubbard presented a tale from the Spanish-American War and became a publishing phenomenon in the early twentieth century. It also inspired Hollywood to make two movies based on it. Rice shared his adventures in pursuing the real story behind this best-seller, which included obtaining special permission to travel to Cuba.

Elbert Hubbard's *A Message to Garcia* was a sensation at the turn of the last century. Andrew Rowan—the man who carried the message to the rebels in Cuba during the Spanish-American War—was transformed into an American folk hero. In one of the film versions, lieutenant John Boles is guided through the treacherous Cuban jungle by Barbara Stanwyck, doing her best to convince us that she's a Hispanic señorita.



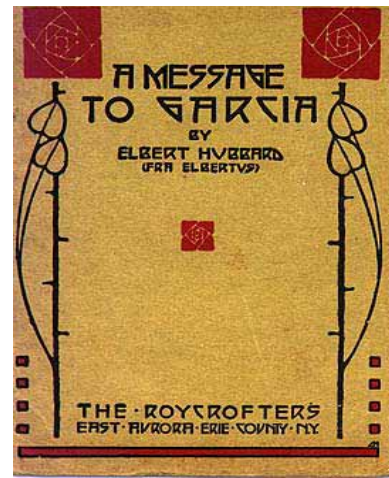
Andrew Rowan

Don told us that there was just one problem with Hubbard's—and Hollywood's—version of Rowan's life: almost none of it is true.

Rice based his talk on six years of research into the life and times of Rowan, a West Virginia native and a graduate of West Point. His investigation took him to Charleston, West Virginia, Tampa, The Hoover Institution

Archives (16 boxes of Rowan material), San Francisco, the Philippines, and Guatemala. He also spent five week-long sessions poring over documents in the National Archives. His personal library on the period grew from a dozen or so volumes to well over 150 – some of them rare – and eight linear feet of documents.

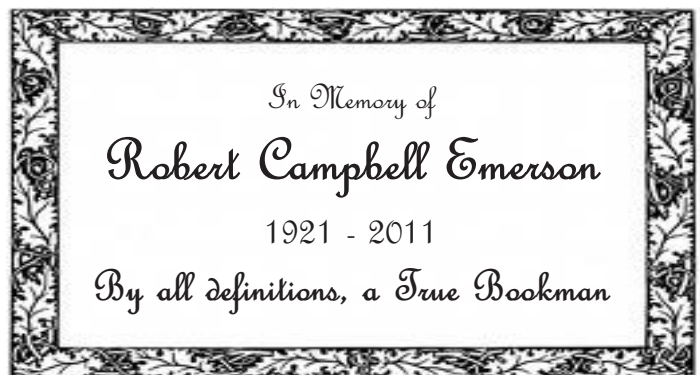
But there was one country that was essential for his project: Cuba. Rice convinced the Bush administration to issue a special license for a two-week visit, and he was able to stand in the room where Rowan supposedly delivered his message to Garcia.



The key word is “supposedly.” Rice has uncovered many new facts to relate about the history of Hubbard's pamphlet, and he showed that not only Rowan didn't deserve the adulation bestowed on him, he came very close to being court-martialed for having failed to complete the assigned mission.

There was just one problem with Hubbard's—and Hollywood's—version of Rowan's life: almost none of it is true.

At this time, Rice is working on a full-length biography of Rowan. Rice has worked in the advertising departments of seven newspapers and ran his own typesetting company for twenty-five years. He's had three plays produced, one of which earned him an Ohio Arts Council Playwright's Award. His short stories, articles, and satires have been published in many periodicals. And this past year the book won Rice a \$5,000 Individual Achievement Award from the Ohio Arts Council.



Second Book Crawl Held August 20

George Cowmeadow Bauman



On Saturday, August 20, Aldus held its second Book Crawl, which visited four used bookstores in Columbus and Westerville. We counted twenty Aldines who joined the event at one time or another.

A special THANKS to Deb Lewis who organized the event and developed a special “book game.” A winner was chosen from her Columbus bookstore themed game cards which participants filled out while visiting the morning locales. A drawing of the cards was held during lunch and Isabelle Bateson-Brown won a \$25 gift card to buy — more books.



LEFT: The Johnson family (Eric, Kurt, Craig and Susan) found treasures at Acorn Bookshop

ABOVE: We lunched together at Matt the Millers in Grandview, where a drawing was held for a gift card

RIGHT: Bill Evans knows that sometimes the sweetest treasures can be found on the lowest shelves at Hoffman's Books



Summer Picnic Blessed with Fine Weather

Our annual summer potluck went without a hitch as the weather held up and several dozen members and their guests enjoyed an abundance of book talk, beverages and home-made goodies. Awesome tours of Bea and Bill Rich's house and collections provided inspirational fodder for new members and repeat guests as well.

Many thanks to Bea and Bill for yet again providing their home for this event and to members who brought their tastiest covered dishes and incomparable cheerful conversation.



First Saturdays—Looking Back

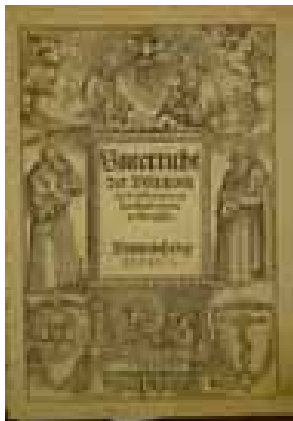
When was the last time you had an opportunity to touch—and read—the first Madrid edition of *Don Quixote*? Or a twelfth century manuscript leaf? A 1597 edition of Thomas More’s *Utopia*?

For many years, Geoff Smith has hosted programs for Aldus members on Saturday mornings at the Rare Books & Manuscripts space at OSU. These programs, usually based on a theme, have given Aldus members the opportunity to get up front and personal with the fantastic holdings at RB&M. Our recent programs have been no exception.

At the June First Saturday, Geoff shared some of the most recent acquisitions which he purchased at the New York Book Fair. Pictured below are some of RB&M’s latest acquisitions:

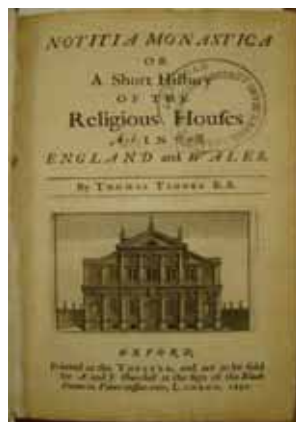


ABOVE: **A Godlie Garden**, “out of the which most comfortable herbes may be gathered for the wounded conscience of sinners.” This little gem of a book is one of only two recorded copies of the first edition printed in London by William Griffith in 1569



LEFT: The first edition of Martin Luther’s and Philip Melancthon’s **Saxon Visitation Articles**, one of the most important documents of the first decade of Protestantism

RIGHT: Thomas Tanner’s **Notitia Monastica; or, A Short History of the Religious Houses in England and Wales**, 1695



For our July First Saturday program, Isabelle Bateson-Brown reviewed Ohio State’s collection of early printed books and esoterica on witchcraft, the occult and alchemy. Among the highlighted works was a 1496 copy of the notorious *Malleus Maleficarum* (The Hammer of Witches) (See the accompanying article on the *Malleus Maleficarum* by Don Rice which starts on the next page.)

Isabelle presented some of the items in RB&M’s witchcraft and occult-related material. The exhibition also included James I’s *Daemonologia*, and Johannes Wier’s *De Praestigiis Daemonum* just to name a few. Isabelle shared her experiences in cataloguing this collection to make it more accessible to library patrons.



Donald Tunnicliff Rice

This copy of the Bishops’ Bible (1568) was one of the wonderful artifacts on display in the exhibition gallery.

Then we walked over to the library’s main exhibition gallery and viewed the current exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. Eric Johnson, the exhibition curator, discussed the development of the English Bible. The exhibit included sixteen William Blake engravings based on the Book of Job. Exhibit preparator Harry Campbell discussed the behind-the-scenes work of preparing a major exhibition. Finally, Bob Tauber of Logan Elm Press printed copies of the broadside he created for this exhibition.

Upcoming First Saturdays

Our First Saturday meetings will be a bit truncated this fall due to home football games and several other conflicts. However, circle **October 8th** on your calendar. Our program that day will be a show and tell and appreciation of 17th century drama *OTHER* than Shakespeare. This program was the result of our scheduling Steven Galbraith (former curator at the Folger Shakespeare Library – and formerly Geoff’s assistant curator in RB&M) to return to Columbus to tell us about Shakespeare’s First Folios.

A Witches Tale

by Donald Tunncliffe Rice*

You never know quite where an Aldus meeting might lead you. During the First Saturday get-together in July (held on the second Saturday to avoid holiday conflicts), Isabelle Bateson-Brown regaled 30 or so Aldines and other guests with an informative discussion of OSU's extensive collection of early printed books on witchcraft.

The star of the show was a 1496 copy of the *Malleus Maleficarum*. The *Malleus*, which was a guide for the detection and judicial torture and murder of witches, contributed to the deaths of many thousands of people – most of them women – who, in some cases, were guilty of nothing more serious than having a birthmark or living alone.

The very next night I watched *The Pale Horse*, a Masterpiece Mystery based on the Agatha Christie novel of that title (itself based on Revelation 6:8). At one point I was pleased and surprised to hear one of the characters say: “Miss Grey, you really do have some wonders here. An original *Malleus Maleficorum*. And this – *Grimoire Sadducismus Triumphatus*. Very rare indeed.”

Previously those titles would have sailed right over my head, but after listening to Isabelle I had a newly informed reaction and some questions to ask: first, why would a middle-class British witch – and that's what Miss Grey claimed to be – want to own a copy of the notorious book that had been the bane of so many of her former colleagues? Second, what did the speaker mean by “original” copy? A first edition (1487) or a later edition printed when its contents still had currency – as opposed to a modern reprint? And, third, how could she have afforded to buy it, particularly if it was a first edition? Sotheby's sold one in 2003 for £78,000 (about \$130,000).

Then there was the speaker's masculinizing of the title. I later listened online, and he very definitely said *Maleficorum* and not *Maleficarum*, which is the actual title and, as Isabelle mentioned, was a pointed reference to the feminine nature of witchery.

I wondered if Russell Lewis, who wrote the screenplay, had jumbled Christie's words just as he'd jumbled the

**If you Google “Don Rice” you'll get approximately 155,000 hits. Some of those are me, but you'd have a difficult time finding them. So I've taken a page from George Cowmeadow Bauman's book, so to speak, and added my mother's maiden name as my middle name and – voila! – I'm unique. Thanks, George.*

whole story – and jumbled it was. Although the PBS version features Christie's famous sleuth, Miss Marple, she does not appear in the book. Instead, it is Christie's alter-ego, the middle-aged mystery writer, Ariadne Oliver, who takes that part.

This substitution is never mentioned in any of the PBS promotional material. Even Julia McKenzie, who plays Miss Marple, carefully avoided the truth during an interview when she said that the teleplay “has been adapted from a novel,” leaving us to assume it was a novel that featured Miss Marple.

Why would a middle-class British witch...want to own a copy of the notorious book that had been the bane of so many of her former colleagues?

To find out how faithfully Lewis had followed Christie's words, I read the same scene in the novel as described by the narrator, Mark Easterbrook:

The whole of one long wall was lined with books. I went across to them and was presently exclaiming, “You've got some very rare works here, Miss Grey. Is this an original *Malleus Maleficorum*? [Aha! So it was Christie who masculinized the title.] My word, you have some treasures.”

“I have, haven't I?”

“That Grimoire—very rare indeed.”

I took down volume after volume from the shelves. Thyrsa watched me—there was an air of quiet satisfaction about her which I did not understand.

I put back *Sadducismus Triumphatus* as Thyrsa said, “It's nice to meet someone who can appreciate one's treasures. Most people just yawn or gape.” [Many of us can identify with that observation.]

It was probably a matter of carelessness on Lewis's part when he condensed the original text and tacked the word “Grimoire” to the beginning of *Sadducismus Triumphatus*. (Whether you spell it with one *d* or two, seems to depend on the edition.) A grimoire, as I learned online, is a textbook of magic – a how-to for creating spells, summoning demons, and so forth. (And, of course, one must be very careful to read the instructions for undoing magical effects, as well, in order to avoid Mickey Mouse's classic error.)

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Pulp Publisher was Featured July Speaker

At the end of July, Columbus hosted PulpFest, the venerable convention catering to fans and collectors of vintage popular fiction. The convention presented a number of publishers and speakers, including Steven Haffner, who has been the go-to person for fans of author Edmond Hamilton.



We were pleased that Steven agreed to speak to Aldus on Thursday evening, July 28. He spoke on the life and work of Hamilton, the pioneering science fiction writer who created the interstellar hero Captain Future. Hamilton pioneered and popularized many themes that later became staples of modern science fiction, and he also had a long career in the comic book industry, writing Superman and Batman stories for DC comics between 1946 and 1966.

Haffner shared interesting stories of Hamilton's marriage to writer Leigh Brackett. He also shared a chapbook that he has published for an event honoring Hamilton and Brackett held annually by the Kinsman (Ohio) Historical Society.

Haffner has been publishing anthologies of short stories and essays by pulp authors such as Hamilton, Brackett, and Jack Williamson since 1998. These stories have remained unpublished since their first appearances in the vintage pulp magazines. He takes pride in publishing these books on high grade paper with colorful dustjackets that feature original art first published with the stories; his books can also include bibliographies, images and sidebars, unlike the current print-on-demand publishers.

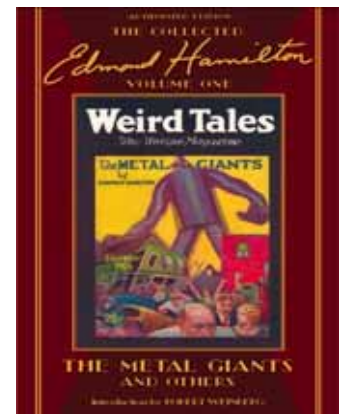
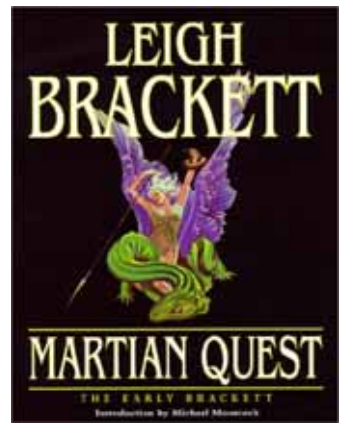
Ladies Luncheon – More Aldus Fellowship

On August 13 we held our quarterly ladies luncheon at La Chatelaine on Lane Avenue. These luncheons are open to all the Aldus ladies, wives of members, and friends of Aldus. After a spate of terribly hot weather, we were happy that after eating we could convene to the patio outside and enjoy the pleasant weather.

While we were seated outside, suddenly a teeny-tiny baby rabbit was spotted hiding in a pile of leaves that had blown against the stone retaining wall. After a bit of disarray and photo snapping, the bunny was chased into the bushes where hopefully the remainder of its family was waiting.

Several wags noted that Lapin à La Cocotte is a delicacy in France. Uh-oh.

Our next Ladies Lunch is scheduled for November 12. We will be keeping a close eye on La Chatelaine's menu.



Susan Brooks-Reed



One Less Luddite!

In our last newsletter, we published the web addresses of potential resources to help feed your bibliographic predisposition. Just as we published this list, another dealer in rare books has come online, and we proffer his website for your perusal.

Long-time Aldus member and author and book dealer and raconteur Jack Matthews is now at your fingertips (well, at least his books are). His site, managed by his daughter Barbiel, will save you a drive down to Athens, Ohio (although it's a beautiful drive, especially this time of year. And chatting with Jack is so much fun!) But we digress...listed for sale are some of Jack's own collection of valuable rarities with a focus on Americana, Civil War titles, the occasional 17th and 18th century work, plus some of the 20th century's notables.

You can find ol' Jack's books at www.jackmatthewsoldandrarebooks.com

Save December 5 for Aldus Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction

Over the past years, Aldus has established a number of traditions; our annual holiday dinner and silent auction is one of the highlights of each program year.

Scheduled this year for December 5, we will convene again at La Scala Italian Bistro. Auction Chair Laralyn Sasaki continues to add to the fun activities which include an auction preview scheduled for Sunday December 4th at the Ohioana Library; a raffle coordinated by Lois Smith; and an extraordinary array of auction items including books (of course).

Laralyn will be collecting donations through November 1. If you have something you'd like to donate to the auction, just

Aldus Fall Field Trips

October 15

We're scheduled for a tour of the Denison University Special Collections and Archives in Granville. We will be viewing their many collections in the morning and then will have lunch at the new Italian Bella restaurant. Following lunch, plan to spend the afternoon shopping or leaf peeping in the beautiful Granville area. Carpooling is recommended.



November 5

At this year's annual Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster, Ohio, 100 notable Ohio writers, illustrators and photographers will be available to discuss and sell autographed copies of their latest books at a discount.

After lunch, feel free to take in some of the local bookstores (a list will be available), or visit the juried 41st Annual Seasons Splendor Arts & Crafts Show.

Wooster is approximately 96 miles from Columbus, so carpooling is recommended.

Watch the Aldus listserv for details closer to these events. You are welcome to bring guests.



call Laralyn at 614/975-0765, or email her at laralynsasaki@yahoo.com.

Proceeds raised at this event help to defray the cost for speakers including the Ravneberg Memorial Lecture, and for other events held by Aldus throughout the year.

Watch the listserv for more details closer to the event.



Book Hunting Notes

Archaeology: Fort Ancient and the Hilltop Enclosures of Ohio Part Two

Bill Rich



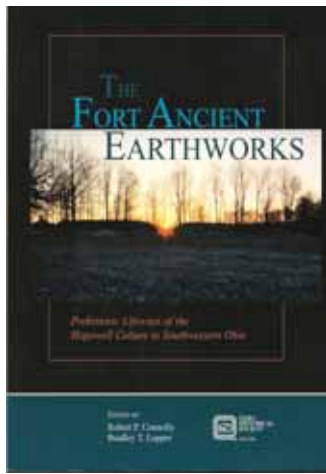
In our last issue, Bill began telling of his adventures finding the sites and artifacts from ancient Hopewell Indian sites in Ohio, and about some of the books in his collection which relate to this hobby. He continues:



I began to collect and read more books and articles on Fort Ancient and related structures. Pictured at left is author and scholar Warren K. Moorehead who penned the classic work: *Fort Ancient. The Great Prehistoric Earthwork* (Cincinnati, 1890). My copy came from Hoffman's Bookshop here in Columbus.

Moorehead might be considered one of the fathers of Ohio archaeology. He was instrumental in getting the Ohio General Assembly to appropriate funds to buy the site and have it protected as a State Monument in 1890. This status has continued to the present day. Moorehead was a careful archaeologist, being cautious not to speculate beyond his evidence, but nevertheless believed that he was investigating a fort.

The next illustration shows the cover of what I believe is the latest complete book on Fort Ancient, *The Fort Ancient Earthworks*, edited by Robert P. Connolly and Bradley T. Lepper, published by the Ohio Historical Society in 2004.



This wonderful comprehensive work has a history of the Fort Ancient investigations, an extensive bibliography useful for the collector, and many expert chapters on various aspects of the site, including extensive theories of its use as a “ceremonial center,” with noted alignments to the solstices and other astronomical orientations. But most importantly, it

reports much of the modern archaeology on the site, in this era of sophisticated soil analysis (no posthole molds would be missed now), plant flotation and screening techniques, and radio-carbon dating.

Now, what have I learned? I hope that what follows will not be considered “selective use of evidence,” that damning criticism of all amateur scholars who have an axe to grind.

It appears fairly clear that Fort Ancient was not built all at once. The south fort, the part directly overlooking the Little Miami, was probably the first, followed by the middle and north forts. Radiocarbon dates are surprisingly scattered, but use from 100 BC to 350 AD is likely. It is not possible to show continuous habitation, but animal and plant food evidence does not show only strict seasonal population. No huge habitation sites within the enclosure, but, currently, evidence has been discovered of a very large circular building in the northern fort.

What of the 72 openings, which show no “evidence of a gate, fence, or stockade”? Well, excavations deep into a small portion of the enclosure wall at Fort Ancient, recently published in the Connolly/Lepper book, show evidence of thick postholes, leading to a tentative conclusion that a “palisade-type structure was in place” in the early construction of this part, at least, of the enclosure. And, as noted in this book and elsewhere, modern excavation in another hill fort, the “Pollock Works,” has shown rather conclusive evidence of stockade structures and their destruction by fire.

But what of the asserted impracticality of the 72 openings in the Fort Ancient walls, even conceding the possibility that they were closed by gates and wooden stockade type structures? It is important that most of the hilltop

enclosures, not just Fort Ancient, also show this abundance of openings or “gates,” and this is one of the most common arguments advanced against the structures’ use as forts.

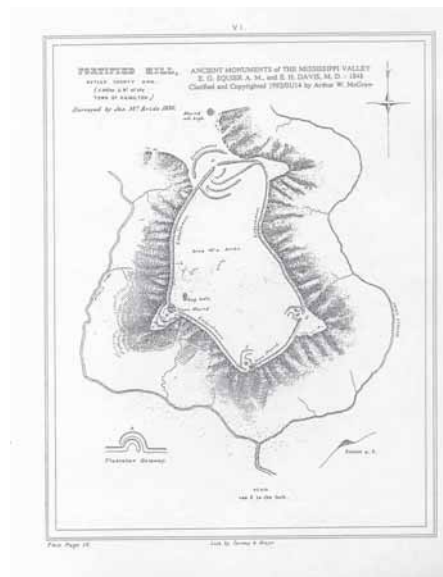
But could this be just a failure of historical imagination? It must be remembered that the culture had no ready projectile-type weapons, no bows and arrows. If, as suspected, the fort was a refuge redoubt for the surrounding populations, it is hard to imagine a family fleeing the invader, running around the length of the long walls seeking a sole gate. Perhaps the planners designed easy access for Ma, Pa, and all the kids after only a few hundred foot chase. All they had to do is make it to the nearest entrance—no one was shooting at them.

What of the interior ditch system, “not suitable for defense”? It’s interesting that these “ditches” have been altered significantly over the years. The drawings and the texts in both the Atwater and the Squier and Davis books show quite extensive reservoirs and even ponds on the inward sides of most of the hill forts, which are not as evident now. One of the works of “restoration” had been to drain these—at Fort Ancient, such drainage was a CCC project as recently as the 1930s. According to the early books, some of these show considerable care to provide water retention—clay and even stone lining of the bottoms was sometimes observed.

Therefore I can only suppose that if the forts were places of refuge for a larger surrounding population, a water supply is essential, even if it only consists of rainwater catchment basins.

And, not a bad idea to have an invader, who has climbed the 200 plus feet up the embankment, made his way over or through any palisade, to have to wade through the “ditch” in the face of a defender with a spear. And maybe this defense did not require 5000 folks—an average of about 1000 defenders per mile of wall. Well, maybe a few less would be possible! Certainly the Roman army, with an order of magnitude less density of defenders, managed to hold a hundred miles of Hadrian’s Wall for many years against northern invaders. But, those guys had projectile weapons, horses, and presumably faster communications. Leave this one an open question.

Finally, I had long speculated that it would be nice to find a Hopewell hill fort that was relatively undisturbed, and more like what was found by the first Europeans. My attention was drawn to a description and a map in my copy of Squier and Davis, labeled simply “Fortified Hill, Butler County, Ohio.”



The map pictured above shows the site on the west side of the Great Miami River, and, according to Squier and Davis, is about three miles below the town of Hamilton, Ohio. As almost always, the site is the end of an upland plateau overlooking the river bottom land, being 250 feet above the streams at its base.

This map intrigued me because this one looked incontestably like a work of fortification. Note the complex system of walls guarding the only flat access from the rest of the plateau—a medieval or Roman engineer could not have designed walls better suited to enfilade invaders striving to enter. The other entrances were protected by smaller walled gates (called on the map “Tlascalan Gateways,” after Aztec fortifications), and dominated by stone towers. There was a surprising silence about this large work in more modern books—the fort is about a third of a mile long.

I supposed it was long gone, but I consulted Google Earth, and tried to see if I could at least get an aerial photo of the modern site. After much fooling around (even the location of the Great Miami riverbed has shifted since 1848, and the place is now on the outer fringe of the western suburbs of Cincinnati), I located the hill in question, but could see nothing—why Google Earth prefers to show photos taken in high summer, I don’t know, but everything was obscured by tree cover. Except, alarmingly, most of the foot of the hill, and extending upward from the highway along the river (State Route 124), was — a trailer court!

I feared the worst, but nevertheless, one fine fall day went joy riding with my ever-tolerant spouse, and drove to the location. On the highway, next to the trailer court is a country store and grocery, at which we inquired. The very nice young lady behind the counter had lived in the area

all her life, but she had never heard of a fort, an Indian mound, or anything of the sort nearby.

Quite cast down, we were about to leave, when she suggested we consult the owner of the local gravel and building supply business, located on the river directly across from the store. “She is an old resident, and owns considerable property here.” We scooted across the street, and met this kind lady in her office. I showed her my 1848 map, and she said, “Of course.”

The southernmost entrance to the fort is just outside the back door of the beautiful house she has built on the side of our hill. And she offered to take me there. Cutting this story short, this was the first of a couple visits to this site. I returned accompanied by my friend Harry Campbell, an authority on Hopewell archaeology whose day job is being the chief book conservator at OSU. And, we were accompanied on this trip by a neighbor whose family had once owned the entire site and had it registered as a National Historic Site in 1974.

After a lot of hiking and puffing (for me), we were able to confirm that “although much is taken, much remains.” Of the complex fortifications at the main gate, only two walls remain easily visible, the rest presumably destroyed by agricultural activity—the enclosed plateau has been used as pasturage within human memory. The walls are low, and covered with woods now, and the remains of the other gates are in the brush and detritus of these woods, but still visible. Almost all the stone is gone.

Our informant told us that this site was used for generations as a ready source of flat stone, and many a wagonload of it traveled up to the town of Hamilton—the older houses have their basement foundations made of it. And, he confirmed that his family retains extensive collections of artifacts, surface finds from the site.

But, as far as I know, no professional excavation has ever been made of this major fort. Take that, Indiana Jones—and I can still dream.



WITCHES TALE continued from page 7



The title of this book translates as something like “Triumph over Sadducism,” the Sadducees being the Doubting Thomases of ancient Israel.

The *Sadducismus Triumphatus*, subtitled *Full and Plain EVIDENCE Concerning WITCHES AND APPARITIONS*, was first published in En-

gland in 1681, and is anything but a set of instructions for would-be witches and sorcerers. Its main purpose was to affirm the existence of witches and to attack those who didn’t believe in them. The title translates as something like “Triumph over Sadducism,” the Sadducees being the Doubting Thomases of ancient Israel.

Part of the book’s interest today is due to its influence on Cotton Mather. For our viewing pleasure, Isabelle also included a copy among the books on display.

But wait! I suddenly remembered that on July 6 there was a reference to *Sadducismus Triumphatus* on the Booktryst site (www.booktryst.com), complete with a reproduction of the cover.

That makes three sightings in just five days. Could this be mere coincidence? As something of a modern-day Sadducee myself, I have to believe it’s nothing more than that. I don’t see any witchery at work here, but I do recognize that I’ve become temporarily spellbound by this whole train of thought. Miss Thyrsa Grey explained the process when she replied to a query about her interest in witchcraft: “One looks into a thing idly—and then—one gets gripped!”

It’s time for me to undo the spell, but I will mention one more thing. Even though Agatha Christie was no expert on the early literature of witchcraft, she did know her poisons. In this case it was thallium, and she so accurately described the symptoms that in two instances readers of the book in the 1970s were able to save the lives of poisoned victims. In a third case a doctor conferring with Scotland Yard was tipped off by the book in time to identify a serial murderer.

And now on to my next transient obsession...



The Completist

Do You Have A Picture-Perfect Book Collection?

This is the second installment of a series of articles designed for those who secretly suspect they may be completists but need help in recognizing such, and also for those who are trying to understand these curious, passionate collectors. Some Aldus members may be completists without recognizing this unruly passion. So we're here to help.

Ask yourself: do I have a photograph or poster on the wall of my favorite author? Perhaps a commemorative plate with the author's image or landmarks associated with said author? Bookends featuring an author? Or bookmarks? In our last issue we looked at the area of philatelic (or near-philatelic) treasures which completists might wish to include in their collections. Well, another popular area is photographic authorial images and the like.

The first photographs, called **daguerreotypes**, caused a sensation when they were introduced in 1839 and remained popular until the 1860s. Printed onto a highly polished plate, they required a case to keep from being damaged from handling. This earliest photographic process was introduced by the Parisian artist Louis J. M. Daguerre in the summer of 1839; news of his discovery reached America the following autumn, and provided employment opportunities for many enterprising business persons willing to learn this fascinating new trade.

Nicknamed "dags," those with images of authors, particularly of American authors, are particularly scarce and rarely — if ever — found outside museums. If you were to stumble across a dag of an American author at a garage sale or thrift store (or even in an on-line auction), the story of what happened regarding an original Edgar Allan Poe image should alert you to possible repercussions. What follows here is a retelling of "The Purloined Portrait," sourced to the Antiques Roadshow website, where you can find it in its entirety:

Once upon a time (February, 2005), Wes Cowan was presented with beautifully cased dag of Poe (*see accompanying image*) to authenticate and appraise. The owner said she was browsing a little "antique/junk shop" in Walnut, Iowa, when this daguerreotype caught her eye amid a jumble of other bits and pieces. As an aficionado of the form — and suspecting the man it depicted might be Poe,



the owner says she eagerly paid \$96 for the photograph (*pictured above*) and took it home.

Cowan confirmed on-air that the picture was indeed a daguerreotype of Poe — an amazing fact, given that only six such photographs of the poet were known to exist. Since the episode aired, the peculiar meanderings of this Edgar Allan Poe daguerreotype, and the dispute surrounding it, seems to have reached an end.

According to FBI spokesman Jim Margolin, the portrait's authenticity was finally verified and the FBI returned the daguerreotype to the Hampden-Booth Library in New York City on November 8, 2005. Raymond Wemmlinger, the library's curator, confirmed that the Poe picture was their copy and is now once again back in the library's holdings. No speculation can be found as to how this priceless object might have exited the museum and wandered into the junk shop over a thousand miles away. Like Travelocity's wandering gnome, it probably had some interesting adventures.

Carte de visite photographs (CDVs), became popular during the mid-1850s and superseded dags. Created through an entirely new process, they are small albumen prints which are mounted to a card which usually measured about 2-1/2 to 4 inches. The term Carte de Visite translates to "visiting card" and photographs were often used on early **Victorian Calling Cards**, making calling cards a close cousin of CDVs. Also introduced by the French, they became extremely popular and they became highly collectible during their day.

The Victorians were passionate “card” collectors, and it is reported that Queen Victoria filled between 35 and 100 CDV carte albums with CDVs she had personally collected.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's calling card gives his address as London's "Reform Club."

Celebrity CDVs are a narrow collecting category which depicts authors and poets, painters, politicians, heads of governments and statesmen, military heroes, actors and actresses, religious figures, scientists and folks famous in 19th century American and Victorian culture abroad. This early collecting mentality was similar to popular baseball card collecting in our modern times.

Celebrity CDVs can often be found at the back of family albums, filling out left-over spaces. By pure happenstance we have found a real photo CDV of Abraham Lincoln pictured with his son Tad, one of Martha Washington (taken from a painted portrait) and a photo CDV of Salmon P. Chase at the back of several old family albums we've acquired. So it always pays to carefully examine these albums when garage-sale-ing.

Cabinet cards are a larger print measuring about 4-1/2 x 5-1/2 inches affixed to a cardboard mount. They were most popular during the 1880-90s. Cabinet card photo albums became a Victorian fad, as well as the highly decorative stands and frames designed to display this larger format photograph. The actual term “cabinet card” is



A “Celebrity CDV” of author George Sand

thought to refer to the fact that these cards were often displayed atop a cabinet, where they could easily be viewed from across the room.



Cabinet Card of Abraham Lincoln, Presented to Every Purchaser of Chapman, Smith & Co.'s Western (The Superb) Baking Powder

All of the cards mentioned herein can be located in live and internet auctions. More and more auction houses are now publishing their catalogs on the ‘net, making these items easier to find and bid on. Depending on the quality of the image and popularity of the author, they will *usually* sell at auction between \$30 and \$300, although Mark Twain might command more than \$500 (at least that’s what Heritage Auctions is projecting for an image that they are currently auctioning). If this price range is beyond your wallet, our next issues will suggest more interesting authorial-related items you might want to pursue.

After reading this article, can you now raise your hand and say, “My name is xxx, and I’m a completist”? If you’re still not sure, watch for our next issue, which will consider other collectible items which could possibly put you over the line, in a manner of speaking, of course.



“PHOTOGRAPHY CAN ONLY REPRESENT THE PRESENT. ONCE PHOTOGRAPHED, THE SUBJECT BECOMES PART OF THE PAST”

- BERENICE ABBOTT

Autumn 2011 Book Sales and Events

Sept 6 - 10

AAUW Lima, Ohio Branch Book Sale

AT LEAST 75,000 ITEMS

Preview Tuesday evening, from 5-9 p.m.
(also includes a silent auction with 150+ items).

Preview admission is \$5

2720 Elida Road (next to Shoe Carnival), Lima, OH
419-235-1470

Sept 9 - 11

AAUW Ann Arbor Branch Book Sale

AT LEAST 75,000 ITEMS

Dealers and other buyers invited to Friday early PREVIEW
with \$15 admission, 8-10 a.m.

Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Bldg
4800 Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor (a.k.a. "that town up North")
734-973-6287

Sept 25

54th Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show

Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$4.50 admission

517-332-0112

Sept 23 - 25; Nov 4 - 6

Friends Library Sale at Old Worthington Library

Friends Preview: Th 7 - 9 p.m., join at door \$25 & up
820 High St., Worthington, OH

Part of Market Day Celebration weekend

614-807-2604

Sept 28 - Oct 1

Wooster, Ohio AAUW and Kiwanis Used Book Sale

30,000 books

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Buss Hall, Wooster, OH

begins at 9 a.m. each day

330-262-9446

Oct 2

NOBS Cleveland Antiquarian Book Fair

Cleveland Skating Club, 2500 Kemper Road,

Shaker Heights, OH

10 a.m. - 5 p.m., admission is \$5

Oct 13 - 16

8th Annual Friends of the Elyria Public Library Book Sale

60,000+ books DVDs CDs & more

at St. John Lutheran Church

1140 West River Rd. N, Elyria, OH

opens at 10 a.m. each day, \$5 admission Thurs Oct 13 ONLY

440-323-8698

Oct 13 - 16

Friends Book Sale Columbus Metropolitan Library

Friends Preview on Thursday Oct 13, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

96 South Grant, Columbus, OH 43215

849-1056

Oct 21 - 23

Friends Book Sale Grandview Library

Friends Preview on Friday Oct 21, beginning at 6:30

1685 West First Avenue, Grandview, OH 43212

486-2954

Nov 5

Buckeye Book Fair, Wooster, OH

Aldus will be organizing carpooling to visit this event. Watch
the listserv for more information

Nov 11 - 13

41st Annual Friends of Planned Parenthood Book Fair

250,000 Books CDs, DVDs, & LPs

Montgomery County Fairgrounds

1043 S Main St., Dayton OH

Opens at 10 a.m. each day, \$10 admission on Friday only

937-274-5835

Nov 13-27

Friends of Upper Arlington Library Book Sale

Begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13

2800 Tremont Road, Upper Arlington, OH

486-0900





The Aldus Society

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The Bibliomaniac's Prayer

Keep me, I pray, in wisdom's way
That I may truths eternal seek;
I need protecting care to-day,—
My purse is light, my flesh is weak.
So banish from my erring heart
All baleful appetites and hints
Of Satan's fascinating art,
Of first editions, and of prints.
Direct me in some godly walk
Which leads away from bookish strife,
That I with pious deed and talk
May extra-illustrate my life.

But if, O Lord, it pleaseth Thee
To keep me in temptation's way,
I humbly ask that I may be
Most notably beset to-day;
Let my temptation be a book,
Which I shall purchase, hold, and keep,
Whereon when other men shall look,
They'll wail to know I got it cheap.
Oh, let it such a volume be
As in rare copperplates abounds,
Large paper, clean, and fair to see,
Uncut, unique, unknown to Lowndes.

— *Eugene Field*