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May 19, 2010, **Thomas Hahn**, "*The Adventures of Robin Hood: The Americanization of an Outlaw Hero*"

Howard Pyle's 1883 *Adventures of Robin Hood* was a landmark in the history of children's books as well as in the history of the story of Robin Hood. Thomas Hahn takes us through the history of the production of the massive and unique Robin Hood of Howard Pyle.

May 14, 2010, **Janice Katz**, "*The Caxton Connection in the Art Institute's Fabulous Japanese Illustrated Book Collection*"

Much of the Art Institute's collection of Japanese Illustration comes from the collections of Frederick W. Gookin and Martin Ryerson, both Caxtonians. There were, not coincidentally, a number of talks and exhibitions at the Caxton Club on Japanese art. The Weston Associate Curator of Japanese Art brings that period back to life for us. 55:39

April 21, 2010, **Joan Houston Hall**, "*American English Dialects Are Alive and Well*"

Editor of the Dictionary of American Regional English, a mighty reference book thirty years in the making, explains that regional English has not been so homogenized as some people think. She explains how knowing what people in different parts of the country call, for example, the last slice in a loaf of bread has been helpful to writers, doctors, and police. 1:02:22

April 9, 2010, **Nathan Mason**, "*Chicago's fantastic Public Art*"

Curator of Special Projects for Chicago's Public Art Program, Mason explains the whats and wheres of the many pieces of sculpture sprinkled around the city for the delectation of residents and visitors. 1:01:09

March 16, 2010, **Michael Russem**, "*Postage Stamps by Type Designers*"

Book designer and letterpress printer Russem also tracks down the designers of postage stamps, and collects examples of stamps designed by type designers, which has led him down many bypaths in typography and philately. 51:38

Feb. 17, 2010, **James Ballowe**, “*Joy Morton’s Chicago*”

Not the least of the speaker’s many accomplishments is the composition of the Morton Arboretum’s official poem. He here describes some of the many accomplishments of Joy Morton, Caxtonian, salt magnate, backer of the first teletype machine, and founder of the Arboretum that bears his name. Along the way, some of the accomplishments of some of the other busy and talented Mortons are also outlined. 52:56

Feb. 12, 2010, **Sally Kalmbach**, “*The Jewel of the Gold Coast: Mrs. Potter Palmer’s Chicago*”

Bertha Palmer is best remembered for having a large house and a lot of jewelry. Here her role in the world of art and architecture, particularly her collecting of Impressionist art and her work for the Columbian Exposition, expand her role beyond Society woman. 49:31

Jan. 20, 2010, **Robert Williams**, “*Teaching America to Write*” or “*Bob Williams Tries to Give a Talk*”

Bob Williams, longtime designer at the University of Chicago Press, had an excellent talk to give on early methods of teaching penmanship to American schoolchildren. This evening, however, technology undermined the talk, and Bob here fills time by taking questions from the audience while a technical crew of up to four, at times, tries to get the computer projector to work. He discusses design at the University of Chicago press, design generally, his career in design and his work in calligraphy, and even a little of the intended talk. While you hear only a little about penmanship and pedagogy, there is much here to interest the viewer. (In England today, vegetarian calligraphers need not cut quills or write on vellum.) 43:53

Jan. 8, 2010, **John S. Railing**, “*Development of the Art of Movable Books*”

John Railing covers over 400 years’ worth of work in the art of the movable books: books with pieces that pop up, revolve, and otherwise shift position to educate or amaze the viewer. A representative selection from his own collection is part of the program; he shows, among other items, his personal top ten favorites. 58:39

Dec. 11, 2009, **Susan Hanes**. “*My Persistent Phantom: A Literary Journey of the Heart*”

Susan Hanes outlines the life of (William) Willkie Collins, an author still considered one of the most readable of the Victorian greats. She takes us along on her trips to England to visit his haunts as well as Collins’s own trips to Chicago. 48:35

Nov. 18, 2009, **Marvin Bolt**, “*Through the Looking Glass*”

Held at the Adler Planetarium, this talk accompanied a special viewing of an exhibition of the same name. The talk stands by itself, however, with a voyage of discovery through the world of early telescopes, their various forms, and their depiction in the literature of their times. Pictures are shown of virtually all known surviving telescopes made before 1650, demonstrating the difficulties of their current owners in recognizing what they have. The visuals are great, but the acoustics are a bit difficult. 42:37

Nov. 13, 2009, **Mrs. Robert Newberry McCreary**, “*Two Legacies of Walter Loomis Newberry: A Great Library and Julia’s Remarkable Diary*”

The Diary of Julia Rosa Newberry is at the heart of this talk, which illustrates with pictures and excerpts how important a record can be left behind by a diary-keeper who has some talent as a writer (her sister Mary’s diary comes out as little better than a travelogue.) Julia’s observations on Chicago, the world, and life present a stirring tale of a young woman “determined to live life to its fullest” (so described by Mrs. McCreary) in the few years she had. 54:48

Oct. 14, 2009, **Nicolas Barker**, “*Some Book Collectors I Have Known*”

A cheerful anecdotal history of book collecting and book collectors, from the editor and proprietor of *The Book Collector*. 1.01:38

Sept. 16, 2009, **William Hesterberg**, “*Observations on Thomas Bewick*”

William Hesterberg shows slides, exhibits actual Bewick blocks, airs a 13-minute documentary, and otherwise illustrates the life of one of the great artists of animal life. The meeting of young John James Audubon and the aging artist is covered, as well as Hesterberg’s own printed tributes to Bewick. 59:37

Sept. 11, 2009, **Dan Crawford**, “*Caxtonians You Didn’t Expect*”

In this sequel to his 2004 luncheon talk, “Famous Caxtonians You Never Heard Of”, Dan Crawford alerts you to members of the Caxton Club whose exploits on the battlefield, in the world of popular music, or in the realm of crime and/or law might not be what you expected in a Club devoted to the book arts. Brief break in the presentation at the one hour mark: do not let this keep you from hearing the tasteless tailpiece of the talk. 1.11:52

June 17, 2009, **Travis McDade**, “*The ‘Lunacy’ of Book Theft: A Chicago Story*”

The author of *The Book Thief* tells a wild 19th century tale of library book theft, imposture, and attempted kidnapping, allowing him to examine the role of insanity in bookstealing. “Perhaps these people, like the dog poisoners whom they resemble, cumber the earth merely to teach humility to those of us who are apt sometimes to think too complacently of human nature.” (*Dallas Morning News*, 1907) 48:36

June 12, 2009, **James S. Tomes**, “*World War I Letters to ‘Dear Mother’ from a Soldier and Poet*”

The rediscovery of a box of letters written by the speaker’s father to the speaker’s grandmother included an account of his combat experience during the First World War, very close to the area where poet Wilfred Owen fought, also writing letters about the experience to HIS mother..

53:57

May 20, 2009, **Nancy H. Ramage**, “*Literary Circles in Baltimore and Paris: The Cone Sisters and Gertrude Stein*”

May 8, 2009, **Paul Gehl and Jenny Schwartzberg**, "*Behind the Scenes of a recent Popular Newberry Exhibit*"

For many years, children's books had accumulated at the Newberry Library for all sorts of reasons without anyone looking at them as a collection in their own right. Jenny Schwartzberg was the first Newberry staffer to take a serious interest in the books from the point of view of children's reading. Eventually, she and Paul Gehl worked to present an exhibition along those lines, but by then she had identified so many children's books in the collection that deciding what would and would not go into the exhibit became an epic in its own right. 51:46

Apr. 15, 2009, **Peter Stanlis**, "*Robert Frost: The Poet as a Philosophical Dualist*"

A student and associate of Robert Frost's at Bread Loaf who once promised Frost that he would write a definitive life of the poet, Stanlis presents a view of Frost's philosophical dualism as discussed in that life of Frost, which he did finish up only about 45 years after he made the promise. One of the highlights is Stanlis's recitation of "Stopping By Woods On a Snowy Evening". 1.01:05

Apr. 10, 2009, **Penelope Bingham**, "*Dishing Up History: Two Centuries of American Cookbooks*"

The "Cookbook Lady" shows several of the roads down which a look at old cookbooks can take you: class, social history, national identity, religious schism...there's hardly a facet of human life where food was not involved. Just a look at the illustrations in some of the books Penelope brought to his luncheon shows how American life has changed. 1:02.35

Mar. 18, 2009: **Paul Saenger**, "*Chapter and Verse*"

The author of Spaces Between Words here examines the origin of those little numbers in the Bible. His examination of Biblical manuscripts brought him to an understanding of the beginnings of these devices, long before they were traditionally thought to have originated. 59:06

Mar. 13, 2009, **Paul T. Ruxin**, "*Hester Thrale Piozzi: The Emancipated Bluestocking*"

After James Boswell, Hester Thrale (later Hester Thrale Piozzi) is one of the most notable names associated with the life of Samuel Johnson. Paul Ruxin here tries to introduce her as completely as possible, through or in spite of everything written about her from the 18th through 21st centuries. 1.02:25

Feb. 18, 2009, **Jon Solomon**, "*Ben Hur at the Crossroads of Popular Culture & Commerce*"

Best-selling book and the basis for two landmark motion pictures, Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ was also the source of endless types of merchandise, from steamboats to cologne. Professor Solomon shows what can be learned about the history of this kind of product/literary connection from the examination of General Lew Wallace's masterpiece on popular culture. 1.02:26

Feb. 13, 2009, **Robert McCamant, William Drendel, Martha Chiplis, Rob Carlson, Hayward Blake**, *“Homemade Book Show ‘n’ Tell”*

Five students, makers, and fans of the hand-made book show examples from their collections, spanning three centuries, explaining not only the techniques and philosophies of the artists but also exhibiting their own surprise and delight at the craft and ingenuity of the masters of the art form. 40:49

Jan. 21, 2009, **Greg Prickman**, *“Gutenberg Meets GIS: The Atlas of Early Printing”*

Fifteenth century technology as seen through 21st century technology: Greg Prickman outlines the work in developing an online atlas showing the spread of printing throughout Europe. An excellent demonstration of how the maps and animated printing press can be accessed and manipulated accompanies the talk. 53.23

Jan. 9, 2009: **John Lupton**, *“Will the Real Abraham Lincoln Please Stand Up?”*

Starting off the year of the Lincoln Bicentennial, the Associate Director and Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, tells the tale of the hunt for Lincoln documents previously ignored and unknown, how these were authenticated, and what they can tell us about Lincoln the man. 58.49

Dec. 5, 2008: **Drew Mattot, Drew Cameron, Eli Wright**, *“Combat Papers: Paper-making Iraq Veterans”*

Often wrenching discussion of how the Combat Papers project was born and grew into workshops where veterans used their old uniforms to make paper, and heal the wounds caused by the life in war. 58.31

Nov. 19, 2008, **Samuel Crowl**, *“From Page to Stage to Screen: The Shakespearean Cinema of Kenneth Branagh”*

Samuel Crowl follows up his Shakespearean talk of a decade earlier with this discussion of Kenneth Branagh’s work, thoroughly and thoughtfully punctuated by scenes from the films themselves. A lively and interesting speaker, aided and abetted by a lively and interested audience, made for a delightful evening. 1:12.25

Nov. 14, 2008, **Art Shay**, *“Picturing WWII Chicago, Plus Much More”*

A travelogue through a world gone by, this luncheon presentation had Art Shay telling the stories behind some of his most famous photographs. Hugh Hefner, Muhammed Ali, and, of course, Nelson Algren and Simone de Beauvoir appear on the screen, but so do non-celebrities frozen in a moment of their lives. 1:00.06

Oct. 15, 2008, **Jon Lellenberg**, *“Mothers, Don’t Let Your Sons Grow Up to be Biographers”*

Jon Lellenberg is able here to look back with relief and amusement at the time and effort spent on the book Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters. Anyone who feels an author/editor’s life is undiluted fun will benefit from the misadventures involved in a Trans-Atlantic, two-publisher escapade.

Oct. 10, 2008, **Bruce Barnett**, *“The Dance of Death”*

Selections from Bruce Barnett’s collection help illustrate this exposition on a theme that interested authors, artists, and theologians from the days of the Plague onward, showing the presence of death in life. 1:01.05

Sept. 17, 2008, **Robert Ravneberg**, *“The Hawkesworth Copy: James Cook, John Hawkesworth, and the 1773 Account of the Voyages...”*

James Cook’s voyages of exploration and discovery were high points in science as well as in history. Robert Ravneberg discusses the voyages themselves, and the process of reporting Cook’s findings to the public with the publication of his accounts of the voyages. His own discovery began as a badly mutilated copy of the first edition which turned out to be the copy used to correct the text for the second edition. 1.02:31

Sept. 12, 2008, **Malcolm Hast**, *“A Book That Changed the World of Medicine, Fully Translated for the First Time”*

Andreas Vesalius’s *De humani corporis fabrica* (or just *Fabrica*) changed the course of medicine and science from its publication in 1543. Dr. Hast explains the book and the life of its author, and discusses his fifteen-year quest to translate and annotate this masterwork. 58:35

June 18, 2008, **Michele Cloonan**, *“The Brilliant Career of Alice Millard in Chicago and California”*

Caxtonian Cloonan examines the life of a young woman whose career took her from her time as apprentice (and wife) of Caxtonian George Millard, to her days as the antiquarian book dealer who helped direct the collecting tastes of Estelle Doheny, among others. Her two homes built by Frank Lloyd Wright figure in the tale as well. Filmed at The Fortnightly 1.01:18

June 13, 2008, **Hayward Blake and Junie Sinson**, *“From the Shores of Utah Beach to the Halls of Graphic Design”*

Junie Sinson interviews one of Chicago’s legendary designers about his life from his military career to his design career, with laughter, toil, and tears in between. 59:57

May 21, 2008, **Heidi Ardizzone**, *“An Illuminated Life: Belle DaCosta Greene”*

J.P. Morgan’s librarian was a social star and a woman of mystery; friends and enemies in her own time tried to guess at her national origin, her background, and even her race. Dr. Ardizzone summarizes what she learned about the life of the rare book expert whose sex and race made her an anomaly in the world of bibliomania. Filmed at Petterino’s. 55:57

May 9, 2008, **Jack Weiner**, *“An Extraordinary Bibliophile, Art Collector, and Philanthropist Uncovered”*

Caxtonian Weiner takes us along the winding road followed by collector Oscar Benjamin Cintas, a rival in the collecting world to such men as Henry Clay Frick and J.P. Morgan. Weiner tracks down the facts of the Cuban millionaire’s life, and the whereabouts of his legendary library. 56:45

Apr. 16, 2008, **Charles R. Middleton**, “*Key Books That Changed the Nature of Writing History*”

Dr. Middleton speaks with passion on the writing of history, and on the books of three men who changed the direction of the discipline: Thucydides, Jacob Burckhardt, and Francis Parkman. Reading generously from each man’s work, he points out how each affected style and philosophy in the field. Filmed at the Woman’s Athletic Club 57:18

Apr. 11, 2008, **Valerie Hotchkiss**, “*Caxton’s Club: Early English Printers and Printing*”
Rare Book librarian Hotchkiss discusses her exhibition at the Grolier Club of great English works in print from William Caxton through John Milton. The history of printing in England is accompanied by photographs of some of the treasures on exhibit. She also brings the audience up to date on the mold problem in the rare book library at the University of Illinois. 56:51

Mar. 14, 2008, **Diane Dillon**, “*Ellen Gates Starr and the Hull House Bindery*”
Diane Dillon enthusiastically fits one of the founders of Hull House into the Arts and Crafts Movement. Pictures of some of the great works from her bindery show how she attempted to realize their goal of reuniting the work of the mind with manual labor. 1.00:02

Feb. 20, 2008, **David Spadafora**, “*Tradition and Innovation: Strategies for the Newberry Library*”
The President of the Newberry Library gives an account of what goes into the creation of a strategic plan for a major cultural institution. A brief disturbance in the audience creates a break between the discussion of the strategic plan and an account of some of the treasures of the Library, and how the plan is meant to serve an institution with such cultural artifacts. Filmed at the Union League Club. 59.51

Feb. 8, 2008, **Paul Ruxin**, “*James Boswell: Spin Doctor Extraordinaire*”
The owner of the largest collection of Samuel Johnson/James Boswell material in private hands gives an account of Boswell’s work in one of the most famous cases in 18th century litigation. Boswell’s work as writer of ballads and of one short story and how these fit into the lawsuit involving love, money, and skullduggery make for a sprightly and suspenseful tale. 51:46

Jan 16, 2008, **William Noel**, “*The Archimedes Palimpsest*”
The Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books at the Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, tells two stories in this lively talk: the history of this unique manuscript and the history of what amazing material was discovered in the palimpsest after the Walters Art Museum began its high-tech analysis at the behest of its anonymous new owner. Filmed at the Cliffdwellers. 1.11:18

Jan. 11, 2008, **Marvin Bolt**, "*Mapping the Universe*"

Marvin Bolt, Vice-President of Collections at the Adler Planetarium, guides a Caxton luncheon audience through the Adler exhibit which was part of the citywide festival of maps in 2007-08. There is a brief introduction in a room which echoes, and then we are taken to see some of the amazing works exhibited by the Adler to show how humans on one small planet tried to chart the vastness around themselves. 31:43

Dec. 21, 2007, **The Holiday Revels**

Disc I: "*The Caxton Club and The Mid-Day Club: 60 Years Under the Same Roof*"
The 2007 Revels constituted the last Dinner meeting held at the Mid-Day Club, which closed its doors after over a century at the end of 2007. For this event, John K. Notz, Jr., Hayward Blake, Don Krummel, Harry Stern, Karen Skubish, Dan Crawford, and Junie Sinson each contributed recollections of happy evenings gone by

Disc II: "*Remembrance of Meetings Past: The Caxton Club 1997-2007*"
Tom Joyce and Dorothy Sinson culled a representative selection of highlights from ten years of recorded dinner talks for the occasion as well, but rather than show a recording of this recording as part of Disc I, you can have a copy of the actual recording

Dec. 14, 2007, **Tom O'Gorman**, "End of Watch: Chicago Policeman Killed in the Line of Duty, 1853-2006"

The author of numerous books and articles on Chicago and the Irish Diaspora here looks at the history of Chicago through the history of Chicago policemen killed in the line of duty, with pictures and stories from the book he and Alderman Edward Burke produced on the subject. Among the topics covered in the question and answer period is the hot topic: "Who WAS the first policeman killed in the line of duty in Chicago?" 54:04

Nov. 14, 2007: **Peter Barber**, "A Passion for Maps: George III and His Geographical Collections"

Don't let the title put you off. The head of the Map Collection at the British Library, in presenting information on George III's collection gave one of the top ten liveliest, most interesting, and, at times, most touching presentations in the recent history of the Club.

Oct. 17, 2007, **Paul F. Gehl**, "Chicago Graphic Designers of the 20th Century"

The Caxton Club was joined by the Society of Typographic Arts on this occasion, which marked the 80th anniversary of the S.T.A. Paul Gehl uses slides to help investigate the work of a number of significant designers (many of whom were members of Caxton or the STA, or both) and discuss whether one can speak of a "Chicago School" in design. A number of the designers discussed were present in the audience.

Oct. 12, 2007, **Robert W. Karrow**, "*Maps Maps Maps*"

The centerpiece of the mighty Festival of Maps is the exhibition at the Field Museum, featuring several thousand years' worth of significant, amazing, and quirky maps. Co-curator of the exhibit and co-editor of the catalog, Bob Karrow gives a brief tantalizing glimpse of what the visitor will see, with explanations of why this map or that one was important enough to make the exhibit. (One or two maps which did not, in the end, make it in are described as well.)

Sept. 19, 2007, **Carl Smith**, "*The Making of The Plan of Chicago*"

Chicago was changed forever by the 1909 publication of Daniel Burnham's Plan. Carl Smith looks into the story behind the preparation, publication, and promotion of the Plan, with plenty of anecdotes and slides along the way.

Sept. 14, 2007, **James C. Hagy**, "*Dazzled By Diamonds: Evanion and Houdini*"

The acquisition of the Evanion collection was the centerpiece of Houdini's own collection of magic materials. James Hagy outlines the life of this 19th century magician and bibliophile, and concludes with a bit of conjuring and some reflections of the madness of book collectors.

June 20, 2007, **Gary Johnson**, "*Author! Author! Assessing the Impact of a Research Collection*"

The president of the Chicago History Museum (formerly the Chicago Historical Society) explains the theory of running a research collection and how it engages the attention, and with any luck the interest, of the public. 54:05

June 8, 2007, **Kay Michael Kramer**, "*Celebrating Benjamin Franklin as Author, Printer and Publisher*"

Caxtonian Kramer apologizes for being unable to cover the entire career of Benjamin Franklin in the time allotted, but does an entertaining and informative job on Franklin's association with the printed word. The show ends during a discussion of Franklin collectibles produced through the years. 1.00:40

May 16, 2007, **Robert Jackson**, "*Rockwell Kent: The Man, the Artist*"

Jackson recounts his explorations into the life of the writer, painter, adventurer, printmaker, and "antisocial Socialist". Anecdotal and well-illustrated with slides, the presentation brings out facets of Kent's life and work which were unfamiliar to many members of the audience. 59:58

May 11, 2007, **Lesa Dowd**, "*Biblio-Artistry Examined*"

The fifth anniversary of the "One Book, One Chicago" program led book artist Lesa Dowd to curate a celebrated exhibition at the Chicago Public Library of specially-bound copies of the works of literature chosen for the program. She here explains the process of setting up the exhibition and choosing the books, and shows the actual winning books. (The fact that two-thirds of the jury choosing the books to be displayed were Caxtonians is given due attention.) 44:31

April 18, 2007, **Stuart Sherman**, "*David Garrick: The Most Famous Actor on the English Stage*"

The life and career of a great performer, from the time that he revolutionized acting on the London stage until the time he found himself outmoded and surpassed by younger men, is put into context. The whole question of the mortality of an artist whose career involved so much dying is also considered. 1.01:27

Apr. 13, 2007, **Peter Thomas**, “*Treasures of Intricate Craftsmanship: The Amazing World of Artists’ Books*”

Peter Thomas explains how he came to the world of artists’ books, shows examples of how such books come about, and plays the ukulele. His enthusiasm is contagious, and the whole concept of rare and beautiful books which are brand new amazes some members of the audience. 52:24

March 9, 2007, **George Ritzlin**, “*A Map Thief I Have Known: The Story of E. Forbes Smiley, III*”

The story of a noted map dealer and the revelations about how he came by his inventory, which rocked the worlds of rare map librarians and dealers alike, is here recounted by one of Chicago’s leading map experts. 35:11

Feb. 21, 2007, **Geoffrey Smith**, “*American Puritan Library*”

What books were read by the Puritan settlers of America? Geoffrey Smith’s research into the question presented him with several surprises, which he shares with the audience, along with slides showing some of the actual books to be found in the libraries of America’s early spiritual leaders. Cuts off rather suddenly. 15:23

Feb. 9, 2007, **George Anastaplo**, “*Simply Unbelievable: Conversations with a Holocaust Survivor*”

One of the famous names in the world of law, George Anastaplo goes through the interviews which led to his book on the genocidal program of the Hitler government. There are fifteen minutes of questions and answers. 57:58

Jan. 17, 2007, **John Crichton**, “*Whither the Antiquarian Bookseller in the 21st Century?*”

Proprietor of the Brick Row Bookshop John Crichton covers the history of the antiquarian book trade in America and considers the massive changes wrought by the introduction of the Internet to the trade. The rise of a younger generation of book collectors with different methods and different desires is discussed at length. His work in tracking down “The New England Forger” is briefly covered in the question and answer period. 58:50

Dec. 8, 2006, **Valerie Hotchkiss**, “*An Embarrassment of Riches*”

Valerie Hotchkiss tells of the many activities and collections of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, from improving the facility itself, promoting rare book scholarship, printing books, and encouraging scholars and collectors alike. This third largest university collection of incunabula is given due attention. 42:24*

Apr. 19, 2006, **Ronald Gordon**, “*Joseph Blumenthal and the Spiral Press*”

The founder of the Oliphant Press recalls the work and life of his cheerfully curmudgeonly mentor at the Spiral Press. Many examples of the work turned out under the demanding Blumenthal are shown in slides. 52:57

April 14, 2006, **Bob Cotner**, “*The Interpersonal Intelligence of Abraham Lincoln*”
Caxtonian founder Bob Cotner combines Carl Sandburg’s Lincoln with Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences to explain the genius of the 16th president. His imitation of Carl Sandburg’s pronunciation of “Abraham Lincoln” is worth the price of admission by itself. 45:39

Feb. 15, 2006, **Darla D’Arienzo, John Lancaster**, “*Cries of New York: Printing and Revelry at the Harbor Press*”

The Harbor Press was a champion of fine printing in New York between 1925 and 1942. Two experts on the Press give a tag team presentation on the artists who worked there, and the fun they had along the way. The slides show just a sampling of the work produced at the press, some with and some without its trademark seahorse. 59:53

Dec. 9, 2005, **Dorothy Anderson (speaking for Truman Metzel), Tom Joyce, Bill Mulliken, Paul Ruxin, Junie Sinson, Karen Skubish**, “*A Book That Changed My Life*”

One of the points of belonging to the Caxton Club is being able to talk about the books in one’s life. At this luncheon, six Caxtonians, interspersed with similar remarks from the works of Denton Cooley, John Grisham, and Bob Woodward, discuss books which made a major difference to them. 50:51* (the room is very dark)

Nov. 16, 2005, **Samuel Ellenport**, “*The Economics of Delight: A History of the Club Bindery*”

The Club Bindery, founded in the 19th Century to serve book collectors belonging to the Grolier Club, eventually failed, despite excellent work, and, reincarnated for the Rowfant Club, failed a second time. The perils of fine binding (providing slow, painstaking, high-priced work for a small audience) in America are well illustrated by the experiences of the binders and businessmen involved. 51.16

Oct. 19, 2005, **David Richards**, “*Collecting Kipling*”

In collecting Kipling, Richards found so much material that had not previously been recorded that his work became the basis of a new bibliography of this widely-published and still controversial writer. (Note the sudden intake of breath on the part of the audience when the speaker relates Kipling’s work to current events.) 59.09

Sept. 21, 2005, **Gail Kern Paster**, “*Finding the Body in Elizabethan Almanacs*”

Director of the Folger Library since 2002, Gail Kern Paster is an expert on the perception of the body in Elizabethan literature. In this lecture she examines ephemeral almanacs of the period, with all their advice on how to own and operate a human body. The audience was so engaged that the question and answer period takes some twenty minutes. 55.33

May 18, 2005, **Peter Koch**, “*The Future of the Hand-Printed Book*”

Publisher and professor, Peter Koch reflects on fine printing, and the phenomenon of the special edition. His own special edition books have tried to present material not readily available elsewhere, as in his famous Fragments of Parmenides.

Jan. 19, 2005, **John Barr**, "*Birth of a Foundation*"

John Barr, President of the Poetry Foundation, discusses the Foundation and the Ruth Lilly gift which led to massive changes at Poetry Magazine. He also covers his own literary life, from his earliest poetry to his transformation in his mid-forties from money-man to head of a non-profit enterprise. 52:45

Nov. 17, 2004, **David Buisseret**, "*The Oxford Companion to Exploration*"

David Buisseret, editor of the Companion, discusses the design of what he hoped would be a readable reference work, exploring the concept of exploration, the concept of companions, and everything else that went into preparing the work in question. His talk is bright and cheerful, as are his answers to the questions from the audience, which are unfortunately almost impossible to hear. 42:38

Sept. 10, 2004, **Thomas J. Joyce**, "*Anecdotes of Chicago Booksellers*"

Over thirty years as a professional rare bookseller and appraiser (and raconteur) in the Chicago area qualifies Tom to tell tales of bygone used and antiquarian book dealers (some of them members of the Caxton Club). 56:02.

June 16, 2004, **Ralph Ehrenberg**, "*Collecting Maps at the Library of Congress*"

Ehrenburg here examines the history of the map library at the Library of Congress, of which he is director, showing slides of some of the most important maps and cartographic items as he explains what it took to get them INTO the Library of Congress. 1.02:30

May 19, 2004, **Arthur Young**, "*Horatio Alger, Jr.*"

Alger as juvenile writer, durable metaphor, and collectable author is considered in this presentation. Was Alger any good as a writer? If not, how did he have such a wide-ranging impact on American society and American literature? And, for a collector, how much fun and adventure can one experience in hunting down books by an author so widely printed, pirated, and parodied? (It apparently takes Luck and Pluck.) Art Young was the first Dean of Libraries at Northern Illinois University, home of the world's best collection of Horatio Alger material. 58:40

Apr. 21, 2004, **Maud McNerny**, "*Caxton's Trojan War and the Ethics of Translation*"

The first printer of books in English, Caxton had a choice of the whole known world of literature. How did he choose what to print and what to translate? (He translated over two dozen himself.) Was it simply a matter of what would sell best, or did he have literary aims as well? Maud McNerny examines the intersection of the businessman and the literary man in Caxton. 59:44

Mar. 17, 2004, **Clair Van Vliet**, "*Form Follows Content*"

The internationally known book artist and MacArthur Fellow here presents a slide show of some of the 110 books to her credit, along with observations on her work with the authors and artists who helped make them so wonderful. Beautifully illustrated with slides and copies of the books themselves. 1:02.18* (turn the sound way up to hear this one)

Feb. 19, 2004, **Richard Kuhta**, "*Caxton to Langston: Celebrating Books and their Owners*"

The Librarian of the Folger Library gives a slide talk derived from the 2002 Folger exhibition, "Thys Boke Is Myne", about the previous owners of some books in the collection. How celebrated people have handled their books, arguing with the authors in marginal notes and marking endpapers to prove their possession, is covered, as is the difficulty of proving that a book and a famous person actually did belong to each other. 1.22:42

Jan. 21, 2004, **Sid F. Huttner**, "*Lucile: The Other Woman in My Life*"

"In literature as in love, we are astonished at what is chosen by others." Sid Huttner here explains how he came to collect as many copies as possible of Owen Meredith's 19th century novel in verse, which was popular enough to be printed in dozens of formats in gilt-laden bindings of assorted colors. 1.03:01

Nov. 19, 2003, **David Starkey, "*Six Wives: The Queens of Henry VIII*"

So somebody asked David Starkey why he bothered to write a book of the six wives of Henry VIII, since so many had already been written. He replied, simply, "Because mine is better". Entertaining and unsentimental, Starkey examines everything from the teenaged sexuality of Catherine of Aragon to the king's literary career to Henry's role in the founding of the British Navy. 1.02:27

Oct. 15, 2003, **Thomas Slaughter**, "*Exploring Lewis and Clark*"

Derived from Slaughter's book of the same title, he examines here the story of Lewis and Clark's expedition as they wrote it, and as it probably really was, noting omissions and alterations made not so much to mislead as to present the tour of exploration as the authors felt the public wanted to see it. His lively talk is not meant to debunk the real achievements of the expedition but to point out a possible variant reading of the texts. 1.03:01* (the camera person had some trouble following Professor Slaughter as he moved and talked.)

Jan. 16, 2002, **Glen Wiche**, "*Samuel and Elizabeth and Me: A Pepysian Show and Tell*"

One of the greatest of Glen Wiche's many interests is the life and work of bureaucrat/diarist Samuel Pepys. Here, illustrated with slides, his talk concerns the life of Pepys and Pepys's wife Elizabeth, and his look at the places where they experienced the life documented in the diaries. 1.02:44

Nov. 14, 2001, **Columba Stewart, O.S.B.**, "*The Arca Artium Collection at St. John's University*"

The Ark of the Arts was established at St. John's University with the collection of Fr. Frank Kacmarcik, liturgical artist and designer. Fr. Stewart's slide show begins with a history of St. John's and its library, and goes on to feature many of the highlights of this collection. He goes on to discuss significant Bibles, Bible-related artwork, and then, of course, the masterly St. John's Bible. 1.02:27

May 16, 2001, **Daniel Stashower, “*Spittoons and Spiritualism: Conan Doyle in America*”

Novelist, author of an award-winning biography of A. Conan Doyle, and self-described expert on twisting any conversational topic around to Doyle or Sherlock Holmes, Stashower here discusses the visits the author of Sherlock Holmes made to the United States, and what (and whom) he encountered here. 41:31

Apr. 18, 2001, **Peter J. Stanlis**, “*The Political Life of Edmund Burke*”

Those who know Dr. Stanlis primarily from his articles on Robert Frost in The Caxtonian might be surprised to find that he is also a widely-known expert on the 18th century political and economic theorist. He here puts his bibliographic finds into historical perspective, all through a narrative account of the life and work of Burke. The question and answer period digs into Burke’s relationships with Hume, Paine, Franklin, and Johnson. 58:08

Feb. 21, 2001, **Joe Parisi**, “*Dear Editor: Letters From the Poetry Magazine Archive*”

Longtime editor of Poetry Magazine and author of books on modern poets and their poetry, tells of some of the discoveries in the magazine’s archive, as Harriet Monroe discovers new talents, sometimes with and someone opposing the help of Ezra Pound, and the letters involved. (Many of them pleading for manuscripts on time or pleading in return for more money for those manuscripts.) **Karen Skubish** assists in reading Monroe’s letters as Joe performs Pound. 1.03:01

Jan. 17, 2001, **Rosemary Cowler, Arthur Miller, Franz Schulze**, “*Thirty Miles North*”

Five years in the making, Thirty Miles North is the history of Lake Forest College, from its early years as an alternative for northsiders who didn’t want their children going to Northwestern to its establishment as a noted liberal arts college in its own right. The three authors discuss the discoveries they made during the quest, illustrating their talk with slides of noted alumni and important benefactors. 1.05:56

Oct. 18, 2000, **Ed Quattrocchi**, “*Thomas More’s Utopia*”

The hero of Utopia, Raphael Hythlodæus, carried 17 books with him, several printed by Aldus Manutius. Copies of most of these books can be seen at the Newberry Library. Ed Quattrocchi discusses the effect of Manutius on the Renaissance humanists, and shows slides of the books carried by Hythlodæus, books which he used to teach the inhabitants of utopia about printing and paper-making. 59:37

Sept. 20, 2000, **Junie L. Sinson**, “*Acceptance Speeches of Nobel Laureates in Literature*”

Subsequent President of the Caxton Club Sinson made his first address to the Club on this occasion, explaining the fascination of these speeches by men and women who were presumably the best the world had to offer in literature. Much insight into the history and workings of the Swedish Academy, which presents the Prize and controls more money than some nations, was also included. 1.02:01

Sept. 8, 2000, **Charles A. Kelly**, “*Collecting Samuel Johnson*”

At this luncheon talk, Charles Kelly presented some materials from his Johnson collection, and spoke primarily on Johnson himself, his life and his opinions (which he was never shy about sharing.) 41:52*

April 18, 2000, **John Sherman**, “*On Eric Gill*”

One of the most prolific and yet most admired illustrators of his generation, Eric Gill’s work covered too much ground to be summarized in one talk. Instead, Professor Sherman focused on Gill’s work with the Guild of St. Dominic, in a preview of an exhibition which opened that fall at Notre Dame. His style is jovial and conversational, and he drew a number of thoughtful questions from the audience, which continue as the DVD comes to an end. 1.03:01

April 14, 2000, **James S. Tomes**, “*A Serendipitous Journey of Family*”

The April, 2000 Caxton Club lunch featured Jim Tomes’s account of the discoveries made in a cache of unpublished manuscript material left by two of his ancestors, leading his genealogical hunt through the work of Herman Melville and the early years of Chicago. The entertaining climb among the branches of the family tree is augmented by a video examination of the books that were displayed as part of the talk. 1.33:57

March 15, 2000, **Barbara Ballinger**, “*Collecting Book One: The Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*”

Caxtonian Barbara Ballinger considers her love of the poetry of “the most scrupulous word artist of the nineteenth century”, particularly when she declines to get into any analysis of his rhyme schemes or rhythm but instead concentrates on the content and beauty of the language. **Bob Cotner** and **Peggy Sullivan** take part as well, reciting their favorite Hopkins sonnets. 51:49

Feb. 16, 2000, **Dr. Seymour Schwarz, “*The Anatomy and Physiology of a Collection*”

The author of *Principles of Surgery* explains his passion for map collecting, and how it grew. His slides show up reasonably well, and he lovingly explains why and where he acquired each. His final story, of the one map he owns which does not show America, is a treasure hunter’s dream. 1.01:14

Jan. 19, 2000, **Frank Piehl, Martin Eberhard, Paul Baker, “*New Technologies for Book Lovers in the New Millennium*”

Three mini-presentations on technology and the book celebrated the use of the number 2 in the writing of the year. Frank Piehl discussed “How the Internet Changed My life”, Paul Baker, one of America’s pioneer Website designers, discussed the designing of the Caxton Club Website, and Martin Eberhard discussed the development of the Rocket eBook Pro, a device capable of carrying 36,000 pages in a 22 ounce package. Audience participation became very lively during Mr. Eberhard’s question and answer period. 1.15:40

Oct. 21, 1999, **Anthony James West, “*Shakespeare’s First Folio*”

Professor West gives an entertaining and informative introduction to one of the most famous volumes of all time, covering its publication, sales, and subsequent history as an iconic rare book, a sort of a “First Folio for Dummies”.. 58:51

June 16, 1999, **Priscilla Juvelis**, “*The Adventures of a Bookseller*”

Author, editor, and lecturer, Priscilla Juvelis is primarily known as one of America’s foremost book dealer. Here she relates some tales of books and the people who love them. The audio is not ideal. 47:31*

May 19, 1999, **Samuel Crowl**, “*Shakespeare: The Book and the Movie*”

One of the most talked-about Caxton dinner lectures, this dealt with Shakespeare on the silver screen, from the silents through Kenneth Branagh. So popular was it that Dr. Crowl was asked to write a sequel for the Caxtonian, and did a follow-up dinner presentation in 2008. 57:23

April 23, 1999, **Harry Mark Petrakis**, “*From Homer to Halsted*”

Harry Mark Petrakis, Greek-American author of such bestsellers as Pericles on 31st Street, A Dream of Kings, and The Hour of the Bell, tells tales of his childhood, and his early days in Chicago. 48:23

March 17, 1999, **Robert K. O’Neill**, “*Sting: The Irish Stones Caper at Boston University*”

Something special was needed when the Caxton dinner fell on St. Patrick’s Day. Robert O’Neill, Director of the John J. Burns Library at Boston College spoke on Irish National Culture, and how he assisted in capturing an international trafficker in stolen Irish monuments. 1.01:02

Feb. 17, 1999, **Rose Marie Burwell**, “*Hemingway’s Last Novel: Things We Never Dreamed, He Dreamed*”

Professor Burwell, a specialist on the life and work of Hemingway in his later years, discusses a book, True and First Light, which had not, at that point, yet been published, but which she, as a Hemingway scholar, had been allowed to read. 1.02:30

Dec. 16, 1998, **Charles Fanning**, “*Mr. Dooley at 100*”

The Caxton Holiday Revels were held at the Newberry Library in 1998, where Prof. Charles Fanning spoke on the work of Finley Peter Dunne and its role in the recording of Irish immigrant life in Chicago, with readings from the declarations and philosophical pronouncements of Mr. Dooley, his star character. **John S. Railing** and **Jay Marshall** performed encores to their conjuring at the preceding year’s revels. The DVD breaks off toward the end of Fanning’s remarks. 1.03:01

Nov. 18, 1998, **Michael Dirda**, “*Being Paid to Read*”

Pulitzer-winning reviewer for the Washington Post and author of books on the love of books, Michael Dirda here speaks on how a book review section at a major newspaper comes to be, and how he has seen his job during some twenty years of work. His question and answer period is very generous. 1.01:39

September 16, 1998, **George Lane, S.J.**, "*19th Century Chicago Churches and Synagogues*"
The Executive Director of the Loyola University Press, and author of a book on Chicago Churches and Synagogues here presents a slide lecture on Chicago's oldest houses of worship. He covers a great deal of material, with a wealth of illustrative slides and, in fact, is still going when the DVD breaks off. 1.03:01

Aug. 19, 1998, **Gretchen Lagana, "*Collecting Chicago Design*"
The Chicago Design Center at the University of Chicago Illinois is named for Caxtonian R. Hunter Middleton. He and a number of other past Caxtonians are highlighted in this discussion of the material available in the collection. The DVD starts in mid-sentence. The slides show up nicely, but just a trifle off-kilter, and there is a pause while someone in the audience tries to figure out the projector. 34:32

June 17, 1998, **John Astin**, "*Ulysses in Nighttown*"
A Bloomsday special: Tom O'Gorman delivered a tribute to James Joyce and then John Astin recounted tales of a legendary production of Joyce's "Ulysses in Nighttown", produced by Burgess Meredith (with Astin as assistant producer), and starring Zero Mostel, Carroll O'Connor, and Bea Arthur. 1.27:19

May 20, 1998, **R.H. Love, "*Carl W. Peters: On the Road to Publication*"
Founder and namesake of the R.H. Love Galleries, the well-known art expert spoke on how he came to discover the work of, and produce a book about, American regionalist Carl Peters. 1.03:01

April 15, 1998, **Eliot Stanley**, "*Rockwell Kent Rediscovered*"
This meeting was a special one, held in the Gaylord Donnelley Library at the headquarters of the R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company, where a special Rockwell Kent exhibition was held in conjunction with the talk. A nationally known expert on Kent who republished some of Kent's earliest work, Stanley gave a thoroughly researched and well-illustrated talk on this notable artist. 1.34:56

Mar. 18, 1998, **Jon Lellenberg**, "*Sherlock Holmes, Vincent Starrett, and Literary Memory*"
For many years the American representative of Lady Jean Conan Doyle, Lellenberg here speaks on the contribution of Vincent Starrett (Chicagoan and Caxtonian) to the memory and appreciation of Sherlock Holmes. 1.02:30

Feb. 18, 1998, **Nicolas Barker**, "*My 30 Years at The Book Collector*"
Barker, editor of The Book Collector from 1965 on, is also one of the world's great spokesmen for bibliophilia generally. He served as well as Deputy Keeper of the British Library and consultant to the Rosenbach Museum and Library. 44:51

January 21, 1998, **Bernice E. Gallagher**, "*Illinois Women Novelists of the 19th Century*"

Dr. Gallagher was interested first in the Women's Building at the Columbian Exposition, and only later wondered what books by women were included in the library there, the first Women's Library in America. True to her promise to neglect theories of literature and instead let the books speak for themselves, she tells the stories of some of the authors and reads excerpts from some of the novels. The DVD begins in mid-sentence, and cuts off in the middle of a question from the audience. 1.02:30

December 17, 1997, **James Finn Garner**, "*Politically Correct Holiday Stories*"
Or How to Wish Someone a Merry Chrishanukwazaa. The Holiday Revels took place that year at the Chicago Yacht Club, where Mr. Garner's presentation was augmented by the auction of a rare book by **Earl Talbot**, and Caxtonian Conjurers **John McKinven**, **Jay Marshall**, and **John S. Railing** also took part. The camera handler was uncertain about the focus, and adjusted it on frequent occasions. 1.03:45

Nov. 19, 1997, **Mikhail Karasik**, "*Lithography and Book Art of Mikhail Karasik*"
The presentation of this Russian master of book art made for a memorable evening, not only because of the beauty of his work (one example of which was shown off as a particular treasure at the 2007 FABS visit to the Library of Congress) but because he spoke no English whatsoever. His brother accompanied him as translator, and one of the highlights was an extended argument—in Russian—between speaker and translator on the proper answer to a question from the audience. 43:07

Oct. 15, 1997, **Paul Ruxin**, "*An Heroic Poet: Rolfe Humphries and Ezra Pound*"
Paul Ruxin's hero is Rolfe Humphries, whose work brought him up against famous and infamous poet, Ezra Pound, whose poetry was indisputably important but whose anti-Semitic political and social theories could not, in Humphries's opinion, be ignored. Breaks off in mid-narrative. 27:43

Sept. 24, 1997, **Craig Showalter**, **Karen Skubish**, **Leonard Meldman**, "*An Evening with Somerset Maugham and His Friends*"
The Caxton Club made a pilgrimage to The Casino on the centennial of the publication of Maugham's first book. A panel of avid Maugham collectors discussed his effect on their lives and literary interests. 48:36

August 20, 1997, **Peter Fortsas**, "*Collecting the Writings of Rev. J.G. Woods*"
One of the joys of belonging to the Caxton Club is associating with people who can tell you about authors you never heard of before. The Reverend J.G. Woods was a best-selling author of nature texts in the 19th century, and his influence on readers of his day and writers since are covered in this talk. 42:05

June 18, 1997, **Donald J. Terras**, "*Lighthouses*"
The only lighthouse keeper, so far as we know, to have addressed the Caxton Club speaks on the literature and lore of the lighthouse. Keeper of the Grosse Pointe Lighthouse in Evanston and author of an award-winning book on lighthouses, he could be said to know something about the subject. 1.01:47

May 21, 1997, **Robert H. Jackson**, "*Charles Dickens and Victorian Serial Fiction*"

Former president of the Rowfant Club Robert H. Jackson shows samples from his collection of Victorian serial fiction and explains the phenomenon, with special attention to the role of Charles Dickens in the development of the genre. Note the avant-garde nature of the camerawork in this early Caxton video. 53:25

March 19, 1997, **Kate Ridler Wilson, "*The Poetry of Anne Ridler*"

Daughter of a poet and a printer, Kate Ridler Wilson here speaks of the life and poetry of her mother, the only living poet in the Oxford Book of English Poetry. When this presentation was made, two operas being performed in London utilized libretti translated by Mrs. Ridler. The poet's work with T.S. Eliot is also discussed. 53:18

Feb. 12, 1997, **Sherman Beverly**, "*The Harlem Renaissance: U.S. History Through Black Literary Eyes*"

Professor Beverly's account of the cultural renaissance in African-American Harlem in the 1920s was later developed into the three-part article in the Caxtonian. 1.03:01

January 15, 1997, **Anthony Hoskins**, "*Anthony Wydville, Earl Rivers*"

Internationally known genealogist Anthony Hoskins speaks about one of his own ancestors, patron of William Caxton and translator of the first book printed in England. He also discusses the importance of genealogy to historians, the conduct of the Wars of the Roses, and the tangle of medieval British politics. 33:28

Jan. 12, 1996, **Bruce Beck**, "*The Art of the Book*"

Few members have the qualifications for talking on this subject as long-time designer and Honorary Caxtonian Bruce Beck. The discussions with the audience which break out during the talk are lively, intelligent, and altogether the sort of thing the Friday luncheons were established to make possible. Unfortunately, much of this takes place in front of the picture windows at the mid-Day Club, and in spite of the fog, appears in silhouette. 1.07:00*

Nov. 10, 1995, **Ed Quattrocchi**, "*How the Computer Helped Me Examine Books at the Newberry Library*"

What could be more appropriate for the first existing tape of a Caxton meeting than that it should be about a new technology available to scholars? AND that it should be by the original Chief of Friday Luncheons? This talk was given in the Fellows' Lounge at the Newberry Library. The slides show up very well, but there is an annoying silver ghost around the speaker and the audience members. 43.42 *

SYMPOSIUM SETS

\$30 each

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2008 Caxtonian Symposium

April 12, 2008, **RARE BOOKS AND THE COMMON GOOD**

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April 4, 2009: **PILLAGE, PUNISHMENT, AND PROVENANCE**

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