

Not So Funny Anymore

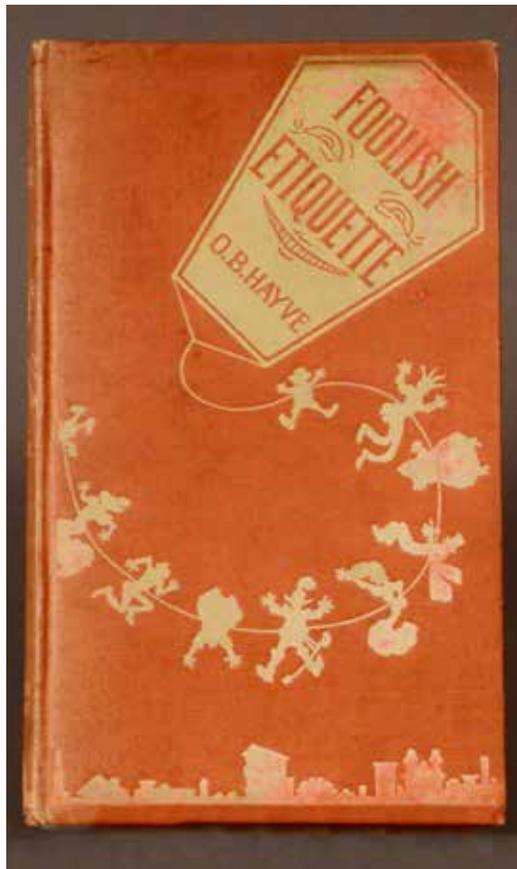
Four Books Meant to Amuse, Circa 1906-1912

David Meyer

Old jokes can be funny, but time takes its toll on them as it does on everything. Perhaps because they were never intended to be taken seriously, collections of jokes in book form were seldom carefully cared for over time. This is about four volumes intended to entertain and induce laughter in the early years of the 20th century. Each was singular in its format, although not in its approach to humor, often aimed at immigrants, minorities, and those whose cultures did not easily blend in with the generally accepted perception of what it was to be “an American.” Those living at the lowest levels of the social and economic scale were targeted. On the other end, clergymen and captains of industry were also the butt of jokes. While the majority of stories and sketches in the following four books have lost whatever excited amusement in readers of the time, the jokes taken from them were selected because they are still faintly funny – although, in two instances, also racially insulting.

The four volumes may have been offered in bookstores, but were more likely found in dime stores, train depots, and city subway stations, and possibly in general stores in small towns. Whether stacked on countertops, displayed on shelves or sales racks, their covers were meant to attract attention. They were there to be bought on impulse or by travelers passing time on their way somewhere. A hundred years later most show signs of neglect.

Foolish Etiquette was published in 1906 by John W. Luce and Company of Boston and London. The subtitle advises that “any fool may find clear, concise and conclusive reflections on behavior under all possible and



Foolish Etiquette, 1906. 156 unnumbered pages. 4-1/4" x 7-1/2".

impossible circumstances [such as] how to behave in a balloon, how to conduct oneself when the Flat Iron Building blows over,” etc. The author was O.B. Hayve (“Oh behave!”), a “pseudonym” for Gideon Wurdz (Giddy-on-Words). Other books in the series included *The Foolish Dictionary* and *Foolish Finance*. *The Foolish Almanack* was compiled from a number of authors, Indiana humorist George Barr McCutcheon among them. Other more serious Luce publications consisted of works by popular British writers, such as plays by George Bernard Shaw, and epigrams and aph-

orisms by Oscar Wilde.

The front cover of *Foolish Etiquette* shows the title and “author’s” name on what looks like a funny-faced kite. (Its eyes and toothy grin are barely distinguishable among the title lines.) Below it, stamped in white on the red cloth covers, is an illustration of a string on which silly silhouettes are attached, as if flying through the air. The string of comical characters runs across the front cover to the bottom of the back. The last hapless figure is that of a woman grasping a baby carriage. Along the bottom of both covers is an outline of a cityscape, on the very edge of which is a silhouette of Punch holding the severed string. The covers definitely exhibit foolishness.

Wide lavender borders take up an extraordinary amount of each page’s space. The text itself is printed in lavender. Cartoons intrude on every page: within the borders, inserted among the text, and in blocks at the bottom of chapter pages. The effect is fanciful, comical, at times crazy, and, in most instances, more amusing than the text. For example:

Table Manners After a Dinner

You need not know your friends’ names – but don’t forget your own.

How to get home: The best way is to sit on the curb and watch the houses go past. When you recognize your residence among the rest hook it with the handle of your walking stick.

The lavish covers, heavily illustrated texts, and facetious rendering of supposedly sophisticated advice appear to imply that the foolish books were designed to be given as gifts. After 112 years, the interior condition suggests it was a book seldom opened.

One cannot imagine a more stodgy title

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CAXTONIAN

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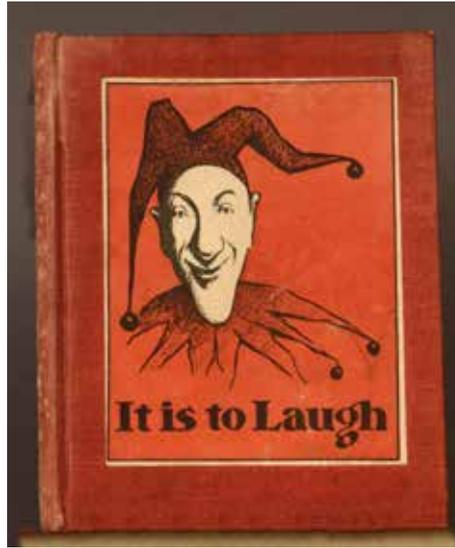
Caxtonian

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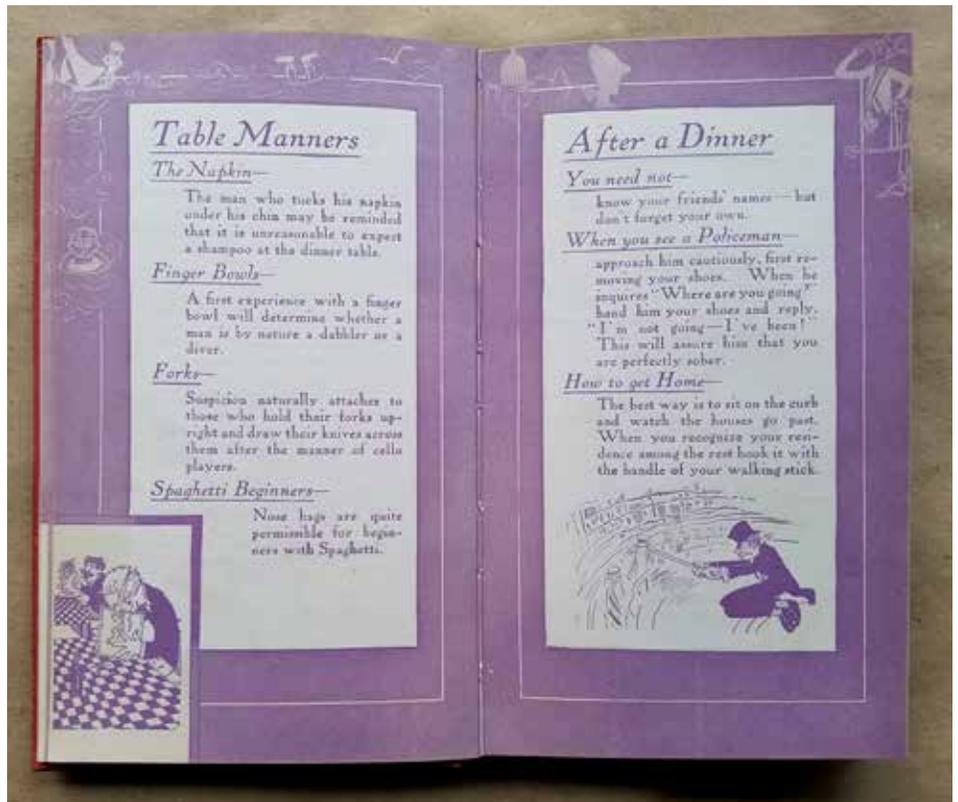


It Is to Laugh, 1907. 177 pages. 4-1/2" x 6".

NOT SO FUNNY, from page 1

for "a collection of the best short stories and amusing anecdotes" than *It Is to Laugh*. The title page declares it to be "a book for a dull hour at home or a tedious journey abroad." Issued in 1907 by Dodge Publishing Company in New York, its square shape and noticeable heft are comparable to a block of wood. The cover pastedown is a cartoon portrait of a court jester with bells on his collar and cap. A lingering look at the jester's expression might

A page from Foolish Etiquette.



set one to wondering whether he's grinning or sneering.

Henry Martyn Kieffer (1845-1930), a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church of Easton, Pennsylvania, compiled a number of very dissimilar books. Humor and hymn books were his chief topics, although the title page of *It Is to Laugh* lists *The Recollections of a Drummer Boy* (about his military service) and a church history, *The First Settlers of the Forks of the Delaware*. Kieffer's experiences and interest in these subjects account for references to the Civil War and to ministers' mishaps in his book of humor. Repeated mention of Philadelphia gives a hint that a number of his narratives came from those cities' newspapers. The stories and anecdotes are often more curious than funny and their individual titles not only reveal the subject but also point to the concluding "punch line." For example:

The Cyclone at Home

The wife of a Philadelphia businessman was traveling out in Dakota with a company of tourists. One day the chief clerk received an ominous dispatch from the conductor of the tourist company to the general effect that they had encountered a cyclone, and with the dispatch in hand he went into Mr. Brown's office to break the news to him as gently as possible, saying, "Mr. Brown, I am sorry, but we have – er – had bad news from Mrs. Brown. She has – er

– er – encountered a cyclone.” Brown laid down his pen, lit a cigar, leaned back in his chair and slowly remarked, “I pity the old cyclone!”

Surprisingly, considering that Kieffer was an ordained minister, racism abounds in his book, particularly marking African-Americans and Jews:

A Remarkable Announcement

A darkey preacher once announced as follows: “On next Sabbath, de Lawd willin’, dere will be a Baptism in dis chu’ch, at half pas’ ten in de mawnin’ – a Baptism of two adults an’ six adulteresses.”

The Israelite and the Fire

The clothing house of Mr. Isaacs was burned out, and the insurance adjuster promptly appeared to investigate the situation. Mr. Isaacs was of the opinion that the fire had originated in connection with the arc-light on the third floor, but the insurance man could not see how it could have happened there. “Then,” said the proprietor, “it must haf been de arc-light on de second floor.” But the insurance man shook his head. “I tell you what I think,” said he. “I think it wasn’t the arc-light on the third floor, nor the arc-light on the second floor, but I think it was the Israel-ite on the first floor!”

Kieffer did not provide a title for the following “story” nor any indication of where it might have originally appeared in print. Or it could have been Kieffer who described (in the same sentence) Helen Hunt Jackson’s grave as being both “lonely” and “much visited.”

Mrs. Helen Hunt Jackson was a celebrated writer of fiction and poetry. She lies buried in a lonely grave in a canyon of the Rocky Mountains; a spot that is much visited by literary people. A good story is told about her before her marriage to Mr. Jackson, when she was just plain Helen Hunt.

As she was on her way to church one Sunday morning she found a pocketbook. Thinking that it might have been dropped by some churchgoer, she requested the rector to announce that she had found a pocketbook and would cheerfully return it to the owner. And the good man made the announcement in this way:

“I am requested to announce that a pocketbook has been found. If anyone present has lost one, he is requested to go to Helen Hunt for it!”

If you can’t see the point with your eyes, gentle

reader, just ask someone to read the above to you – and you may hear it with your ears.

Another version of this story was recorded live in an English music hall in the 1920s. The showman made an announcement from the stage that the theater manager, Helen Hunt, had found a purse. Any members of the audience who thought they might have lost one should go to Helen Hunt for it.

Several adjectives are needed in an attempt to describe the face on the cover of *Cheer Up*. “Strange” is a good start. “Lunatic.” “Idiotic.” Yet they still don’t add up to what is shown under the porkpie hat: highly arched eyebrows, narrow nose, nearly crossed eyes, and oversized, lopsided lips. (Are those lips or just one lip? It’s impossible to tell.) Whatever the expression adds up to – whether frightening or funny or both – *Cheer Up* must have drawn attention wherever the book was displayed.

This collection of humorous stories was compiled by E.C. Lewis and published by The Mutual Book Company in Boston in 1912. The format was familiar (the title declaring the subject and hinting at the “punch” line) and the jokes about persons and places did not pretend to be anecdotes.

Discrediting an Expert

A certain great physician and a lawyer of the same city are close friends, but one time when the physician was called as an expert witness in a case, the lawyer was on the opposite side and had to cross-examine the physician.

“Were you in attendance on George M. Pullman?”

“I was.”

“Where is Mr. Pullman now?”

“He is dead.”

“Ah, yes! And were you called in by Mr. Marshall Field?”

“I was.”

“Where is Mr. Field now, may I ask?”

“He is dead.”

“Indeed! And were you in attendance on Philip D. Armour?”

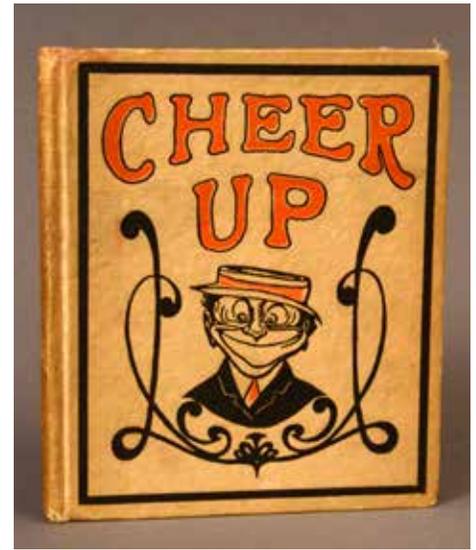
“I was.”

“And where is Mr. Armour now?”

“He is dead.”

The lawyer knew that his friend was called into consultation in almost every big case in Chicago, and there was a malicious gleam in his eye as he named dead man after dead man and asked if the expert had attended him.

After he had named about a dozen promi-



Cheer Up, 1912. 64 pages. 5" × 5-7/8".

nent citizens who had passed away, he turned to the jury with a wave of his hand, as if to say, “There’s your expert!” and sat down.

The above story harkens to the past; but the next, although contemporary for its time, is also of current, intense 21st century interest.

She Diminished His Appetite

A young salesman recently entered a restaurant, glanced at the menu and then looked at the waitress.

“Nice day, Little One,” he began.

“Yes, it is,” she answered, “and so was yesterday, and my name is Ella, and I know I’m a peach and have pretty blue eyes, and I’ve been here

See NOT SO FUNNY, page 4

Your editor has a red face.

Somehow, in the process of preparing to run Brenda Rossini’s review of James Delbourgo’s *Collecting the World: Sir Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum*, which was supposed to run on the cover of the *May Caxtonian*, your editor switched to working on her article about John Aubrey which had appeared back in 2017. The result: Aubrey appeared a second time.

Rossini’s actual article will appear in the July *Caxtonian*.

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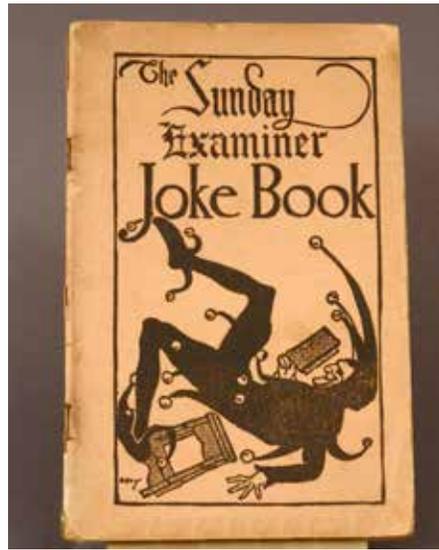
quite a while, and I like the place, and I don't think I'm too nice a girl to be working here. If I did I'd quit my job. My wages are satisfactory, and I don't think there's a show or dance in town to-night, and if there is I shall not go with you, and I'm from the country, and I'm a respectable girl, and my brother is cook in this hotel, and he weighs two hundred pounds, and last week he wiped up this floor with a fifty-dollar-a-month traveling man who tried to make a date with me. Now what will you have?"

This little book offers 117 jokes, yet despite its "cheerful" title, many are on the sour side.

The *Sunday Examiner Joke Book* was a pamphlet issued as a supplement to the *Chicago Examiner* newspaper in 1911.

According to Harden B. Leachman's 2014 study, *The Early Advertising Scene*, the Hearst *Examiner* publications "boasted" a circulation of 600,000, which would have been twice the amount of the *Sunday Tribune*.

Twenty-nine pages were devoted to jokes attributed to popular entertainers – of one kind or another – of the time. The group included Lew Dockstader, "The Minstrel King"; Ben Jansen, "The Burlesque Comedian"; John L. Sullivan, "Ex-Heavyweight Champion"; Press Eldredge, "Commander-in-Chief of the



The *Sunday Examiner Joke Book*, 1911. 36 pages. 4-3/4" x 7-1/2".



Ad from *The Sunday Examiner Joke Book*.

Army of Fun"; Charley Chase, "The Man Who Talks About His Folks"; "Yankee" Fowler, "The 'Rube' Comedian" – and 16 others, all with epithets listed beneath their names.

The joke book, however, was not all jokes. The inside front cover offered free boat rides "on the magnificent lake steamers Theodore Roosevelt and United States" with instructions to "clip the coupon in to-day's *Sunday Examiner*." Season Pass Books for amusement parks White City and Riverview were featured on another page. The back cover showed a smiling bald man with a Santa Claus "beard" of shaving cream and an Ever-Ready Safety Razor in hand, touting "\$1 with 12 blades – every blade a wonder."

Of the multitude of short and lengthy jokes only one stands out:

This is a great age we're living in, with its wonderful inventions. Look at the *Lusitania*, for instance, with its modern improvements, elevators, etc. All you've got to do if you feel her sinking is to take the elevator upstairs.

This fateful joke was told by Cliff Gordon, "The German Senator."

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Thanks to Sandy Marshall for his gift of a duplicate copy of *Cheer Up*.

Caxton Club COUNCIL NOTES

Leora Siegel, Secretary

The monthly meeting of the Caxton Council took place on April 18, 2018 at the Union League Club. Agenda items included committee reporting and the formation of an ad hoc Inventory Committee to discuss the Club's book inventory and make recommendations to the Council for its dispersion.

The Development Committee was pleased to report that the annual fund-raising initiative for the year exceeded its goal.

The Membership Committee reported

that renewals are at 93% with 335 active Caxtonians. One candidate was presented for membership. D. Bradford Hunt (Resident Member), nominated by Bob Karrow and seconded by Suzanne Karr Schmidt, was unanimously approved by the Council.

In his position at the Newberry Library, Brad supports four research centers; oversees the Newberry's fellowship program; and encourages the Library's undergraduate and continuing education efforts. He is the co-author, with Jon B. DeVries, of *Planning Chicago* (American Planning Association Planners Press, 2013). His history of the

Chicago Housing Authority, entitled *Blueprint for Disaster: The Unraveling of Chicago Public Housing* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), won the Lewis Mumford Prize from the Society of American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) for 2008-09. He is President of SACRPH for 2018-19. Since 2008, he has served on the board of the National Public Housing Museum.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of five candidates for the Class of 2021, which was unanimously approved by the Caxton Council.

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Ray Boehmer, 1946-2018: a Remembrance

Robert McCamant

Ray Franklin Boehmer was only briefly a Caxtonian. He had the distinction of being among a very small number of members who joined under the influence of a son. (We have long enjoyed the membership of many Caxtonian offspring.) He joined in 2017 and died on April 19 of this year.

The elder Boehmer was born in Woodstock on August 9, 1946, and grew up in nearby Wauconda. His father, Kenneth A. Boehmer, ran the local Chevrolet dealership, and his mother, Marguerite A. Pence, was a homemaker. Ray was the second of five siblings, with two brothers and two sisters. He was a member of the Wauconda High School class of 1964. In 1968, Ray graduated from North Central College in Naperville. From there he joined the Peace Corps, serving two years in Cali, Colombia, where he became fluent in Spanish. He was awarded a master's degree in education by the University of Illinois in 1974 and, in 1981, earned a doctorate in science education from the same institution.

Ray first met Liesel Wildhagen when they were Trivial Pursuit partners at a holiday gathering. Ray knew the science and geography answers, Liesel music and popular culture; together they beat the other teams soundly. They married in 1986 at a friend's home on the Sangamon River.

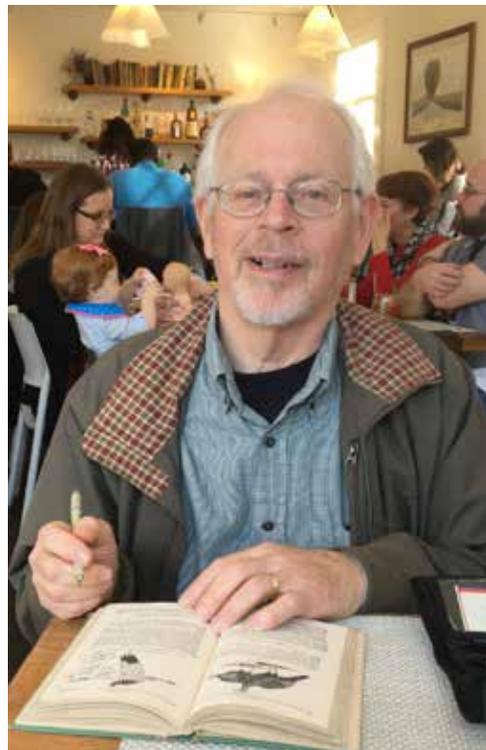
Ray was an extremely involved and supportive father to Tad, who is now a librarian at Michigan State University.

From 1998 until his retirement in 2016, Ray was a professor of science education in the

school of education at Millikin University in Decatur. Prior to that, he taught at the University of Illinois and Illinois Wesleyan University, as well as in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and at a public high school in Los Angeles. He was a member of numerous professional organizations, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Illinois Science Teachers Association, as well as groups that reflected his personal interests and concerns, including the American Radio Relay League, the Illinois Audubon Society, the Illinois Native Plant Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and many others.

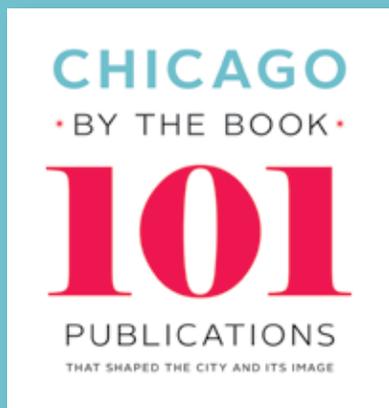
Ray was always an educator, by profession and by nature. He spent his career preparing thousands of college students to become educators themselves. In retirement, he volunteered in Spanish-speaking classrooms at Leal School in Urbana. Every conversation with Ray was an education, as his interests and reading spanned a broad range of topics, including science, politics, philosophy, birds, ecology, religion, and social justice. A friend commented, "Ray had a gift for making us feel interesting. He always wanted to ask questions and find out what we were doing rather than tell us about his activities, but, when he did talk, he told colorful stories!"

Ray's physical abilities were limited by infant polio that deprived him of the use of one leg. This, however, did not diminish his adventurous spirit and served to enhance his resourcefulness. For example, as an avid birdwatcher, he took birding excursions with friends to Newfoundland, South Africa, England and Wales, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica,



and Colombia, among others. He participated in annual bird counts in Illinois and made trips to numerous destinations across the country. His other hobbies included raising orchids and being a ham radio operator, which he was for over 55 years, and through which he made friends all over the globe. Many who did not know him personally recognized him from his sturdy walking stick which allowed him greater mobility. Walking with Ray necessitated slowing down and being mindful of each step, an apt metaphor for his influence.

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SAVE THE DATE . . .
MARK YOUR CALENDAR . . .
PREPARE TO CELEBRATE . . .

Our new publication *Chicago by the Book: 101 Publications That Shaped the City and Its Image* will launch at our October 17, 2018, Caxton Club dinner meeting at the Union League Club.

All authors have been invited.
Full details will be released closer to the event and reservations will be mandatory.

Book- and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

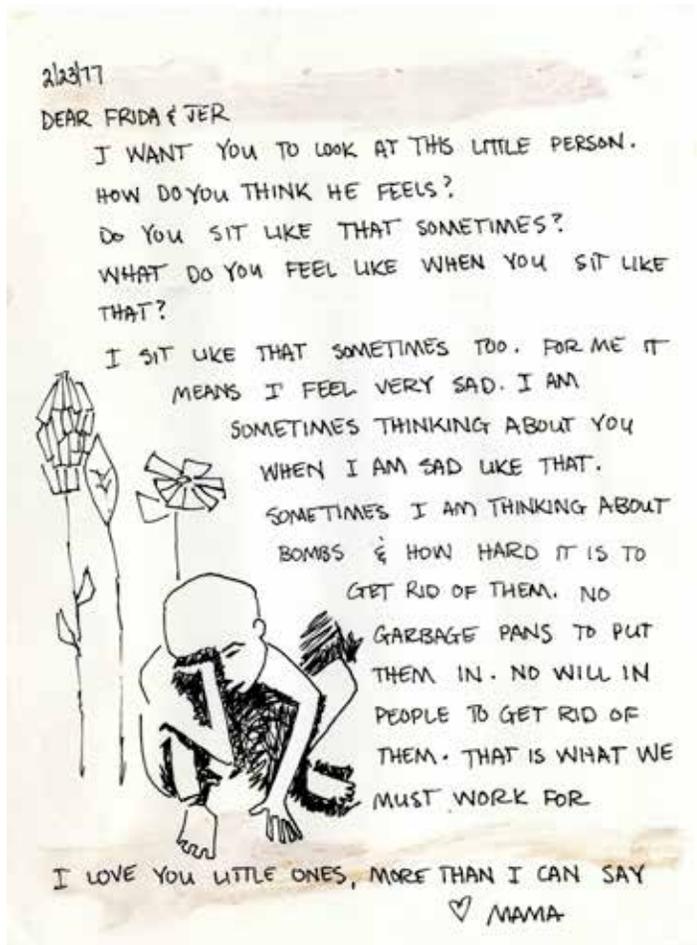
Compiled by Lisa Pevtzw

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

American Writers Museum, 180 N. Michigan Avenue, second floor, Chicago, 312-374-8790: **"Capturing Stories: Photographs of Writers by Art Shay"** (unique angles on the moments and personalities making the news), Meijer Gallery, ongoing. **"Laura Ingalls Wilder: From Prairie to Page,"** Roberta Rubin Writer's Room, ongoing.

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: **"Memoir of a City: Selections from the David Garrard Lowe Historic Chicago Photograph Collection"** (highlights from Lowe's collection of photos and ephemera), through June 15.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: **"Color My World"** (color taxonomy, including color charts and color samples, through July 15.



DePaul Library / Incarceration Art

LETTER FROM ELIZABETH McALISTER TO FRIDA AND JERRY, FEB 23, 1977



Pritzker Military Museum/ Lest We Forget

JAMES DIETZ / THE 131ST U.S. INFANTRY AT CHIPILLY RIDGE

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: **"Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural"** (36 original panels of the mural created in 1989), Sidney Yates Gallery, fourth floor, ongoing.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: **"Chicago and the Great War"** (Gold Star memorial portraits, collected 1919-21), through November 12.

DePaul University John T. Richardson Library, 2350 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, 773-325-2167: **"Incarceration: Art Activism & Advocacy"** (prisoners and activists revealed by words and artistic expression), through summer.

Northwestern University Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: **"On Board with Design: Passenger Transportation and Graphic Design in the Mid-20th Century,"** ongoing. **"African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean: Culture, Resistance, and Survival"** (aspects of the history, culture, and religion of people of African ancestry in the subject areas) Herskovits Library of African Studies, ongoing.

Open Books Warehouse and Bookstore, 905 W. 19th Street, Chicago, 312-243-9776: **"Pablo Helguera's Librería Donceles"** (an installation repurposing used bookshelves from closed CPS facilities and Spanish books from an exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center), ongoing.

Pritzker Military Museum and Library, 104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-374-9333: **"Lest We Forget: Sailors, Sammies, and Doughboys Over There in World War I"** (explores the experiences of those who served in the war), ongoing.

Spudnik Press Cooperative, 1821 W. Hubbard Street, suite 302, Chicago, 312-563-0302: **"Entre Rios y Montañas (Between Rivers and Mountains)"** (solo exhibition of collographs by Chicago-based artist Jonathan Herrera investigating the relationships between collective memory and state-sponsored violence), through June 9. **"States of I: A Conversation"** (prints by artists Mary Jones and Jolynn Reigeluth) through August 15.

University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8705: **"Well Equipped: Library Technology from Days Past"** (technological innovations from years ago), Crerar Library, through June 8. **"War, Trauma and Memory"** (explores how those involved in modern war or contemporary terrorism represent their experiences), through August 31.

Send your listings to Lisa Pevtzw at lisa_pevtzw@yahoo.com

Caxtonians Collect: Jill Gage

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

The Johnsonians is a club of book collectors who meet once a year to celebrate the birthday of Samuel Johnson with a black-tie dinner on the Friday evening closest to his actual birthday. The late Caxtonian Paul Ruxin was a regular participant, and in 2008 he organized the event in Chicago. He invited Jill Gage (then a master's-holder in both English literature and librarianship) to attend, but asked her to give a presentation of Johnson materials at the Newberry Library (where she was a part-time bibliographer) on the following morning.

As the event approached, Gage became terrified. But it ended up being the experience that solidified her choice of career: these people were *interested*. They hung on her every word, asked smart questions, and conveyed the notion that these fusty old volumes were *important*. She had found her people.

Actually, she had been moving in that direction for some time. But this was the point where it became clear that no other occupation would do. She had been an English major at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and had worked simultaneously on master's degrees in both English (achieved in 2006) and library and information science (2004) while serving as both a reference librarian and bibliographer of British history and literature at the Newberry.

The Johnson experience convinced her that she needed and wanted a PhD in English literature, which she proceeded to get from Queen Mary University of London. The English department at Queen Mary agreed to let her do a year of research in England, then finish writing up her dissertation in Chicago while working full-time at the Newberry.

She has now succeeded Paul Gehl as the fifth custodian of the John M. Wing Foundation on the history of printing (which will celebrate its centenary in 2019), combining it with her role as British bibliographer. Her biggest project, accomplished before she became custodian, was in organizing the 2016 exhibition "Creating Shakespeare." In connection with that, the Club was invited to the Newberry in fall 2016, and she gave the dinner talk and arranged for guided viewing.

"You know," she says, "my training didn't really prepare me for anything but working at the Newberry." Her informal knowledge

of library life was based first on Don Krummel, whom she encountered in library school, and subsequently at lunches with Paul Gehl, Bob Williams, and Bob Karrow while working at the Newberry. "Just about everything I know about the reality of how libraries work is from that group of people, which may be a little scary," she admits. (Ed note: from this list of Don, Paul, and Bob I detect a note of irreverence.)

At the Newberry, she was exposed to the Wing Collection and felt an immediate affinity for Wing's own extra-illustrated books. She quoted Wing in a paper for RBMS in 2008, "I love to adorn my books with rare and curious plates. . . . I love to do this work with my own hands, getting it all ready for the binder. . . . There is a pleasure and sport in extra-illustrating books, rendering a volume unique, with not another like it in the world, which is fascinating and aristocratic."

Gage confessed to doing a bit of extra-illustration herself. But in this and any other collecting she does, she is mindful that she cannot be competing in her own collection with what she buys for the Newberry. "I collect things people give me, of course," she says, "as well as books associated with scholars who study the 18th century. It is really interesting the way a secondary source can become a primary one. Suppose I get a book about the rise of the English novel. Knowing that it was owned and annotated by the great 18th-century scholar – and former University of Chicago professor – J. Paul Hunter makes it into a primary source."

And there is no conflict in collecting something suggested by the collection. For example, the Newberry has some wonderful diaries



written by Julia Newberry during her trips to Europe after her father's death. One has a list of "my favorite books" and "books and authors I hate." So Gage is at work, in her leisure, trying to find editions of the books mentioned that Julia could have purchased.

Her Twitter description admits to being fond of walking, of being a wine drinker, a cat lover, a student of the 18th century, and of being interested in the Whig politician Charles James Fox. She has a boyfriend (February 2013 Caxton speaker Eric Slauter), and together they collect not just any wine, but madeira, which has the distinction of improving with extreme age. Madeira is affordable from the year of your birth if you're in your 20s, but grows vastly more expensive for those of us in the graying set.

She served our Club as Program Chair for two years. "It took me three years to recover," she says with a smile.

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Bookmarks...

**Luncheon: Friday, June 8, Union League Club
Michael Burlingame on “Lincoln’s Inner World”**

There’s an award given to historians who excel at illuminating Abraham Lincoln’s life, career, and impact. Ken Burns, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and James McPherson have each been recognized. In their company you’ll find another Lincoln Prize recipient, who will be in our company at June’s luncheon.

Historian Michael Burlingame will offer some lively insight into Lincoln’s inner world, providing a frank look at his marriage, his temper, his relationship with his father, his own permissiveness as a parent, sources of his melancholy, and more. As a freshman at Princeton, Burlingame took a Lincoln course taught by Lincoln scholar David Herbert Donald. He was hooked, and his life’s work began. After Princeton he received a PhD from Johns Hopkins and became the author and editor of multiple Lincoln volumes.

This generously illustrated presentation will reveal much about Lincoln and delight both Abe scholars and those who are just getting to know Illinois’ favorite son better.

June luncheon: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Buffet (Lincoln dining room on six) opens at 11:30 am; program (in a different room, to be announced) 12:30-1:30. Luncheon is \$35. Program free but please let us know you’re coming. Reservations or cancellations for lunch by noon Wednesday. Call 312-255-3710, e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org, or reserve through the member-only section of our website.

**Dinner: Wednesday, June 20, Union League Club
Timothy Barrett on “The Mystery of Incunabula
Period Papers”**

Why is 15th-century paper often in such excellent condition? Why does paper from this period exhibit a distinct integrity and character compared to modern papers? Learn the answers to both – and more – from Tim Barrett, director of the University of Iowa Center for the Book. Barrett, a Fulbright scholar and MacArthur fellow, will share his career-long quest to answer these questions. His presentation will include historical specimens that attendees will be encouraged to examine and touch. He’ll also include an update on University of Iowa Center for the Book initiatives and programs.

June dinner: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. The evening will follow this order: social gathering 5-6 pm; program 6 pm; dinner to follow. Program is free and open to the public. Beverages available for \$6-\$12. Three-Course Dinner: \$63. Reservations are required for either program only or dinner/program combination. Reservations must be received by NOON Monday, June 18. Dinner cancellations after the deadline and no-shows will require payment. To reserve call 312-255-3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org.

There will be no Club luncheons or dinners in July and August.

One-Time Exclusive Offer to Members!

As most of you know, the Caxton Club has a storied history in the publication of books. Most of our titles are not only out of print but command significant premiums in the rare-book market. What you may not know is that the Club maintains an inventory of uncirculated copies from the original runs of several of our volumes. We would like to offer exclusively to members a one-time opportunity to purchase them at special low prices.

The titles included in this one-time offer are: 1) *The Caxton Club 1895-1995* (Caxton Club history, signed and numbered) (1995); 2) *Chicago under Wraps* (1999); 3) *The Chicago Diaries of John M. Wing* (2002);

4) *Inland Printers* (2002); 5) *Memories of the Life of John Adlum in the Revolutionary War* (1968); 6) *Other Peoples’ Books* (2011); 7) *RHM: Robert Hunter Middleton* (1985); and 8) *Western Life in the Stirrups* (1965). The books are described in detail on the Club website and will be available for inspection and ordering at the Club’s June dinner meeting.

An e-mail with specific information on the discount price for each title and payment methods will be sent to every member at the end of May or early June. If you do not receive the e-mail, please contact the Club at caxtonclub@newberry.org. Please signal SPECIAL BOOK OFFER on the subject line of your e-mail.

This special offer will extend through the end of August.