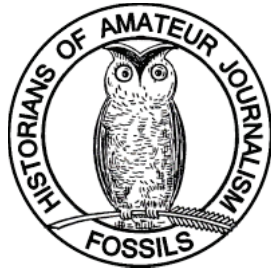


The



Fossil

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Former NAPA President Leah Warner Remembered

by David M. Tribby

LEAH WARNER WAS RELUCTANT to join the National Amateur Press Association. Husband Jake and son David signed up in 1969 as part of a flood of recruits enticed by a brochure included with The Kelsey Co.'s publication *The Printers' Helper*. She liked reading their bundles, started attending conventions in 1971 (eventually making it to 45 consecutively), and enjoyed friendships with many people in the organization, but saw few additional benefits to formally becoming a member.

Her *Rosewood Rambler* number 1 for September 1974 described how circumstances changed: "Before David left home for college, I decided to learn to print, partly to fill time and avoid the empty-nest syndrome, partly to avoid losing contact with Jake who can barely spare time from the print shop for meals, and partly from a genuine interest. ... As soon as I started printing, both Jake and Dave began urging me to join NAPA. ... At a post-convention luncheon ... I found Jake giving my name and dues as a new member to Keith Gray. He had decided I had procrastinated long enough." Jake also was taking advantage of NAPA's new "family member" category.

Jake and David both served NAPA as president (elected in 1973 and 1976, respectively) and her turn came in 1982. (Granddaughter Alice Warner Brosey would serve in 2011-12.)

Historian Keith M. Gray noted significant drama during Leah's administration due to ill feelings over the garbled transcription of a laureate judge's convention comments, which the official editor was slow to correct. It was a trial for President Warner to keep the peace, but her efforts "paid off in preventing an unhappy situation from becoming explosive."

In her final report as president, she reflected on her term: "I started this year with the strong belief that our hobby should be fun, and in spite of some stormy waves I have not changed my mind. ... Let us please work together to keep NAPA a strong organization and a fun hobby."

Leah served in a number of other NAPA offices, including mailing manager, recorder, vice president, official editor, and executive judge.

Jake and Leah were married in 1949, when she was employed as a registered nurse. At the birth of their daughter, Helen, in 1953 she left nursing to become a full-time homemaker.

Health challenges in recent years did not diminish her enthusiasm for attending conven-

tions. In *Boxwooder* 495, Jake described the "minor nightmare" of getting to the 2010 confab near Chicago. "[In] June, Leah's doctor decided she needed additional oxygen to avoid strain on her heart." They secured a portable oxygen concentrator, and all went well on the first day of their drive from Maryland – until they stopped for the night and found the power cable was a mismatch. After resolving that problem, the next day they had to deal with a dead car battery. After driving 90 miles the following morning, they had to return to the hotel to recover a laptop computer that was left behind. Despite these and other setbacks, they made it to the convention and enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones. They even found signs of hope after all their struggles: "Leah and I marveled at how much generous and cheerful help we had received."

Leah died peacefully at home with her family nearby on November 24, 2014, at the age of 90. ♦



Leah Warner at the 2003 NAPA Convention held in Chattanooga, Tennessee. (Photo by Gary Bossler.)

The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection: Processing Update

by Robin E. Rider

Curator of Special Collections, University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries

THE LIBRARY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM Collection, both rich in scholarly potential and daunting in size and in processing and preservation challenges, arrived in Madison during a bitterly cold winter in 2004–2005. The collection, which came bundled on eight pallets, was housed temporarily in its original cartons and bankers' boxes in another library building on campus. Once room was carved out in the Department of Special Collections, the collection was shifted to Special Collections.

In the years since, work on processing the collection has proceeded; and numerous graduate and undergraduate student employees in Special Collections have applied themselves to tasks—both arduous and detail-oriented—of moving and unpacking hundreds of cartons of materials; cleaning and sorting the contents; rehousing materials in archival folders and cartons as appropriate; and shelving them in Special Collections. Our collection spaces in Special Collections are equipped with special temperature/humidity controls and fire suppression and alarm systems designed for rare books and manuscripts. Researchers use our holdings, including materials in the LAJ Collection, in a special supervised Special Collections reading room; the collection, like our other holdings, does not circulate. A catalog record in the UW-Madison Libraries' online library catalog (and also available in WorldCat) alerts researchers to the availability of the collection.

The processing work began with the early materials from the Edwin Hadley Smith (or EHS) collection, then addressed the task of sorting more recent packets of amateur journals. Indeed, Special Collections continues to receive current packets of amateur journals

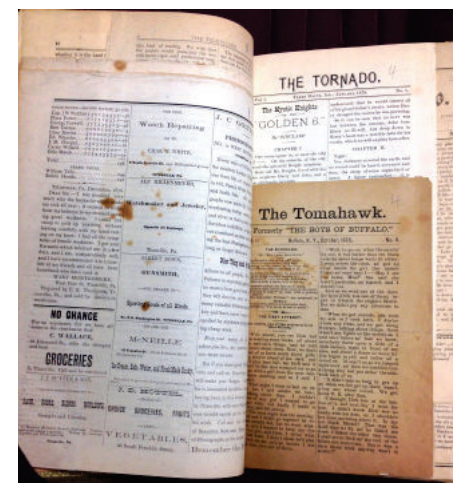
produced by members of several organizations. The processing project in its early days benefited from the close attention and advice of Barbara Walden, who had just retired as bibliographer in Memorial Library. More recently, under the supervision of Susan Stravinski (senior academic librarian in the Department of Special Collections), Rebecca Robbennolt (graduate student in the School of Library and Information Studies at UW-Madison with considerable experience in archival processing) has taken the lead in organizing, foldering, and labeling much of the collection, including the many cartons of correspondence,



The heart of the Edwin Hadley Smith Collection: bound volumes of AJ issues arranged by year and then alphabetically within a year.



A browned and crumbling amateur journal issue follows relatively sturdy issues in one of the Edwin Hadley Smith (EHS) bound volumes (for 1917).



*Smith had issues of various sizes bound together by year, as shown in this volume for 1878, where *The Tornado* from Terre Haute, Indiana, follows *The Tomahawk* (formerly *The Boys of Buffalo*).*



Bound volumes of "professional clippings of amateur journalism" from the Edwin Hadley Smith Collection, as shelved in one of the vaults in Special Collections.

amateur journal issues, photographs, subject files, and other miscellaneous materials that came from the estate of the Keffers and elsewhere. Others among our current and past student employees, including Katherine Winiecki and Sam Hurwitz, have also labored long and hard on the LAJ processing project. All told, thousands of student hours of processing have thus far been devoted to the LAJ Collection.

The collection we call the LAJ contains sub-collections that came to us arranged in many ways (and, it must be said, some were largely unarranged). All pose challenges of description, preservation, and use by researchers. Such sub-collections will be described, in greater or lesser detail, in the full finding aid for the LAJ Collection. That finding aid will be available (and searchable) online. As with finding aids for most archival collections in American libraries and archives, the LAJ finding aid will function as a starting point for the researcher, describing in

general terms the sub-collections comprising the full collection, the size of each sub-collection (either in number of archival cartons or in linear feet, a measure of how much shelf space each occupies), and the way each sub-collection is organized. So, for example, some parts of the collection—notably the bound Edwin Hadley Smith volumes—are arranged chronologically and then by title within each year; other parts are arranged by title. Still other portions of the collection remain as bundles arranged by organization and then date, and so on. Correspondence has been separated out, organized, and foldered, according to standard archival practice, which favors rough sorting and basic description over detailed sorting and listing so as to facilitate access to the collection as a whole.

Rebecca Robbenolt expects to complete a working finding aid for the collection before she finishes her master's degree in library and information studies later this

spring. The next major processing task will be to finish sorting the Keffers' sizable collection of amateur journals (perhaps as many as 100 standard archival cartons' worth). In a subsequent update in *THE FOSSIL*, we will talk about the most pressing conservation needs for the collection, particularly difficulties presented by fragile 19th-century materials. Suffice it to say, the more acidic the paper, the more brittle it becomes; and paper with high acid content was relatively inexpensive, and hence in common use, during the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

We in Special Collections are honored to help preserve the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection and to make it available to researchers, and we appreciate very much the generosity of amateur journalism organizations and individuals for their direct contributions in support of processing the collection and contributions to an endowment fund for further work on the collection. We welcome your inquiries and would be delighted to welcome you in person in the Department of Special Collections. ♦



An EHS scrapbook page: the badges are in far better shape than the pages on which they are mounted.



What lies ahead: sorting the contents of large cartons from the Keffers collection.



One of the cartons of AJ issues from the Keffers collection still to be sorted, foldered, and rehoused in archival cartons.



Archival carton upon carton containing AJ bundles, arranged by organization, and housed in one of the climate-controlled Special Collections vaults.



Amateur journals from the archival cartons: issues of *The Gator Growl* over thirty-plus years, published by Leland M. Hawes Jr., namesake of the LAJ Endowment Fund.

The Wonderful Diversity of Institutional Collections of Amateur Journals: What Does It Betoken for the Future?

by Ken Faig, Jr.

IT CAN BE SAID with near certainty that each collection of amateur journals—institutional or individual—has some unique characteristics.

As noted in my last message, Jessica Isaac, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, has done notable research on nineteenth-century amateur journalism using the resources of LAJ (Library of Amateur Journalism Collection, University of Wisconsin-Madison Special Collections) and AAS (American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA). You can take a look at some of her presentations and published papers at:

<http://pitt.academia.edu/JessicaIsaac>

On her personal website, you can view illuminating graphs she has constructed to compare the nineteenth-century holdings of several institutional collections of amateur journals:

<http://jessicaisaac.net/GraphingAmateurism.html>

It is interesting to view the peaks and valleys in amateur activity which Ms. Isaac detected during her 1870-1890 focus period. Her Figure 2 shows that LAJ holds more titles through the mid-1870s, after which the AAS collection exceeds the LAJ holdings. I can hypothesize an explanation for AAS's superior holdings for the period 1875-1890. The primary donor of the AAS collection, Truman J. Spencer (1864-1944), entered amateur journalism as early as 1881. Edwin Hadley Smith (1869-1944), who assembled the LAJ collection, did not enter the 'dom until 1889, so he was playing "catch-up." We have to keep in mind that the bundle system did not take hold in American amateur journalism until the 1930s, so earlier amateur journalism collections were dependent upon exchanges and, to a much lesser extent, upon subscriptions.

AAS's supremacy in New England holdings reflects Spencer's location in Connecticut. I suspect the Hyman Bradofsky collection in the Bancroft Library at UC-Berkeley would easily exceed either AAS or LAJ in Pacific Coast titles. Mr. Bradofsky spent most of his lifetime in California, and merged many fine Pacific Coast collections into his own. The Warren J. Brodie collection at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio undoubtedly has great strength in Midwestern amateur journals, reflecting Brodie's longtime residence in Cleveland. One conclusion we can draw from these graphs is that institutional holdings of nineteenth-century amateur journals are both incredibly rich and incredibly diverse.

Nevertheless, I think the survival rate of nineteenth-century amateur journals—and even of later ones—is significantly less than 100%. In my Edith Minter collection *The Coast of Bohemia* (Moshassuck Press, 2000), I published

a list (pp. 967-968) of Mrs. Minter's amateur writings which I had been unable to find in surviving collections of amateur journals. I am hoping some of these items will turn up in LAJ when the collection is opened. There are probably some amateur journals with no surviving earthly examples. Examination of these fugitive journals will have to await our advent to the eternal amateur print shop (and its attached archive). Doubtless many of the predecessor generations of amateur journalists have been keeping the presses in good order pending our arrival. On the other hand, if we take the opposite route into eternity, I am not sure what if any printing activities will await us in Hades—perhaps an everlastingly-replenished heap of pied type needing to be sorted.

For myself, I like to think of institutional collections of amateur journals in three principal tiers. Tier 1 includes active collections of amateur journals, generally holding 50,000 or more individual titles. Tier 2 includes substantial collections of amateur journals, holding 5,000-49,999 titles, often closed to new acquisitions. Tier 3 includes smaller collections of amateur journals, holding fewer than 5,000 titles, also often closed to new material. The following non-comprehensive list (reflecting my own knowledge and opinions) includes a few examples of institutional collections in each category. (A much fuller listing of institutional collections, including links, can be found at www.thefossils.org/collections.html.)

Tier 1:

American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, MA; Truman J. Spencer, Frank R. Batchelder, Edward H. Cole, Victor A. Moitoret and other donors)

University of Iowa Special Collections (Iowa City, IA; Mike Horvat, Elliott Ruben, Guy Miller, Heath Row, Lauren Geringer, Ken Faig and other donors)

University of Wisconsin Special Collections (Madison, WI; Edwin Hadley Smith and Willametta Keffer collections)

Tier 2:

National Library of New Zealand (Robert G. Barr collection)

New York Public Library (C. W. "Tryout" Smith and other donors)

University of California-Berkeley Bancroft Library (Hyman Bradofsky collection)

Western Reserve Historical Society (Warren J. Brodie collection)

Tier 3:

Library of Congress (Foster Gilroy, Ernest R. Burton, and other donors)

New York Historical Society (Louis C. Wills collection)
University of South Florida (Tampa, FL; William Haywood collection)

Scholars, librarians, and hobbyists all benefit from the diversity of institutional collections of amateur journals. We would not want any one institution to hold a monopoly even from the very limited perspective of catastrophe risk. It is also a fact that institutional collecting interests do change over time. Modern-day donation agreements reflect this reality. There has been some confusion regarding whether *The Fossils* made an irrevocable gift of LAJ to UW-Madison or merely executed a deposit agreement with the library. The “Memorandum of Agreement” relating to LAJ was printed in *THE FOSSIL* for July 2005, but since it is not included in the July 2005 number as posted to our website, I have asked our editor David Tribby to reprint it in the current number. You will note that *The Fossils* made an irrevocable gift to UW-Madison (provision 1). UW-Madison has not, so far, elected its right to return duplicate materials to *The Fossils* (provision 3). It does have the right to place duplicate materials with other institutional libraries—AAS is to have the first choice of nineteenth-century duplicates. The library has the right to determine how the collection will be organized (provision 5) and when it will be opened for use (provision 6). If its ability to house the collection changes, the library does have a “put option” (analogous to this financial term for the right, but not the obligation, to sell a security at a specified price and timeframe) to place the collection with another institution or to return it to *The Fossils* (provision 8).

I think these are very typical provisions in modern donation agreements. The old paradigm of preservation, entire, in perpetuity, is changing to reflect present realities. The advent of digitalization probably means that more and more collections of original materials will eventually be primarily archival in nature. Of course, originals do matter, particularly for letterpress material. Some scholars will always need to examine original materials. But physical visits to archival collections can be expected to decline as digitalization becomes more and more common. The moral for the hobby is that we must be prepared to accept changes in institutional collecting as they occur in the future. We know that institutional budgets—particularly for state institutions—can change over time. The collecting passion of one generation of librarians can become the collecting burden of the next generation. I cannot cite a specific example of an institutional amateur journalism collection which has been consigned to the dumpster, but I will not deny that some small collections have probably perished in this manner.

More commonly, institutional collections will either go into hibernation or seek a new home. I can cite an example of each case. The Warren J. Brodie collection at the Western Reserve Historical Society was in inaccessible storage for many decades after its donation in 1918. Even

in 2006, when I consulted the collection during my attendance at that year’s AAPA convention in Cleveland, the Brodie collection, while accessible, still did not have even a summary entry in the library’s computerized catalog. Only a few of the librarians at Western Reserve knew of the collection’s existence. Probably the most notable example of a collection migration relates to the twentieth-century amateur materials once owned by AAS. The librarians at AAS determined that they wished to focus on their collection’s nineteenth-century core. So, over the past few years, the former twentieth-century holdings of AAS have been transferred to University of Iowa Special Collections—another one of my Tier 1 collecting institutions.

In summary, I think that the probability that any Tier 1 or Tier 2 institutional collections will end up in the dumpster at any time in the foreseeable future is very low. Small, seldom-used Tier 3 collections are probably at highest risk of being deaccessioned by institutional libraries. Most libraries will try to sell material marked for discard before resorting to the dumpster. Virtually every book collector has had the experience of owning “ex-lib” discards. The biggest problem for librarians responsible for Tier 3 collections who face a mandate to find a new home for their amateur journalism collections may be a lack of knowledge concerning possible transfer institutions. Tier 2 collections tend to receive more attention. I have been told that the New York Public Library (NYPL) is undertaking a renovation of its heavily-used amateur journalism collection. NYPL was one of the original contenders for LAJ in 1908; but NYPL insisted upon an irrevocable gift while Edwin Hadley Smith preferred the deposit agreement offered by the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. The former director of the Western Reserve Historical Society told me at one point the library was considering the replacement of tied cardboard holders with acid-free folders for the housing of its amateur journalism collection.

I do have one suggestion respecting the collecting of amateur journals to offer to the institutional library community. I think an amateur journal/fanzine “section”¹ of a broad library organization would benefit the institutional collecting of amateur journals. Of course, librarians at institutions collecting amateur journals do communicate with each other already. You can bet that librarians at Tier 1 institutions are very aware of the other institutions which actively collect amateur journals. This may be less so for Tier 2 institution librarians, and markedly less so for Tier 3 institution librarians. This is where I think an amateur journal/fanzine “section” could be of potential value. Let’s say that the librarian at a Tier 2 or Tier 3 institution has been charged with finding a new home for an amateur journalism collection that no longer fits the institution’s collecting preferences. The existence of an amateur journal/fanzine section within a broad, well-recognized library organization could potentially be of

great value in such a situation.² Who knows, perhaps such a section might even host panels dedicated to amateur journals/fanzines at meetings of librarians. Librarians would probably find Jessica Isaac's graphs just as fascinating as do amateur journalists.

Institutions are served by individual human beings who are capable of mistakes and even of dishonesty, but institutions have an inherent advantage over individuals when it comes to the preservation of precious materials. Over the years, THE FOSSIL recorded a number of instances when individually-owned collections of amateur journals were consigned to the trash following the owner's death. "If I had only known that someone might have wanted these!" or the equivalent words were a commonly-cited survivor's refrain. When you consider how many homes LAJ had over the years—Pratt Institute (1908-13), Columbia University (1913-16), American Tract Society Building NYC (1916-35), Franklin Institute (1935-64), Stan Oliner (1964-67), New York University (1967-80), Mike Horvat (1980-2004), UW-Madison (2004+)—it is probably amazing that the collection survived, largely intact. (The card catalog was unfortunately lost in the course of the aborted microfilming effort in 1980-82. The Theodore G. Meyer puzzle paper collection was disposed of to the National Puzzlers' League at about the same time.) I think The Fossils can be proud of preserving LAJ for nearly a century—from 1916 to 2004.

We have not always been uniformly successful in achieving our objectives. Sheldon and Helen Wesson furnished the greater part of their amateur journalism collection, including nearly 500 bound volumes of amateur journals, to our late historian Daniel Graham. After his death, many loose amateur journals and some 200 bound volumes of amateur journals were found in a Staten Island, New York garage and sold as unclaimed property. With financial help from AAPA and NAPA, The Fossils were able to acquire this material from a Connecticut bookseller. The material passed into the custody of Stan Oliner for review prior to placement. After Stan's death, Tom Parson was called in by the Oliner family. Tom found the loose amateur journals from the Wesson-Graham collection in Stan's apartment, and has continued to work to organize them on behalf of The Fossils. But The Fossils have been unable to find the 200 bound volumes of amateur journals which had been in Stan's custody.

Tom Parson has a catalog of the bound volumes and a receipt for their purchase from the Connecticut bookseller, but we do not know what Stan did with the bound volumes. If he had them in a storage locker, we have been unable to find any keys or receipts. If he consigned them to a friend or an institution for storage, no one has so far come forward to ask for further instructions. The law regarding unclaimed property is very clear, and the purchaser of the contents of a storage locker being sold for unpaid storage charges generally has clear title to the property purchased. (The only exception is usually a clear

case of stolen property.) The Fossils at this point cannot afford to pay another "ransom" to recover the 200 missing bound volumes from the Wesson-Graham collection. We can try to assert a "moral right" to the volumes, but the law is the law. For personal property, the law respects the old dictum that possession is nine-tenths of the law. Trying to build a successful case on the other tenth of law can be a challenging endeavor. A Gustav Klimt painting appropriated by the Nazis is one thing. A collection of 200 bound volumes of amateur journals which The Fossils purchased, entrusted to one of its members and subsequently lost track of is yet another.

I mention this situation not to cast any discredit on The Fossils or on Stan Oliner. If there was ever a man who loved the amateur journal, it was Stan Oliner. Stan was a retired librarian, and lived on a very modest retirement income. Nevertheless, he would pay bookseller's prices out of his own pocket for amateur journals that he believed needed to be "rescued." With some financial aid from The Fossils, he acquired for \$500 a batch of amateur journals which included one of LAJ's EHS bound volumes, which had somehow become separated from its fellows. (The Fossils subsequently donated this stray volume to UW-Madison.) If Stan did make an institutional placement of the 200 missing bound volumes from the Wesson-Graham collection, I am confident that The Fossils will respect his decision. My purpose in mentioning this unfortunate situation is (1) to highlight the preservation advantage enjoyed by institutional libraries and (2) to make a statement in print of The Fossils' "moral claim" to the 200 missing bound volumes from the Wesson-Graham collection. If we had had the 200 bound volumes from the Wesson-Graham collection shipped directly from the Connecticut bookseller to a Tier I institutional collection which had agreed to accept them, this sad situation would never have arisen. Perhaps a happy ending is still possible for this story—only time will tell.

Elsewhere in this number, Editor David Tribby will update our membership on the funding drives for (1) current LAJ cataloging expenses and (2) the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund for LAJ. NAPA Official Editor David Warner was kind enough to send me a copy of *The National Amateur* for December 2014, wherein both he (pp. 4-5) and President Michelle Klosterman (p. 8) commented on the current LAJ funding drive. They both encouraged individual donations at the donor's discretion, but indicated that NAPA is unlikely to make any organizational donation. While we are disappointed, The Fossils certainly respect the viewpoints of the NAPA officers. If all funding for cataloging activity relating to LAJ at UW-Madison were to dry up because of budget cuts, my expectation would be that the librarians there would be likelier to place LAJ on "hibernation status" than to try to find a new home for it—at least for the shorter term. Some institutional collections of amateur journals have survived for many years in inaccessible storage. Of course,

that is not the future we would like for LAJ.

UW-Madison has estimated that \$13,000 in donations for current expenses would allow Special Collections to complete the cataloging of LAJ. I believe that AAPA commenced the current funding drive with the hope that the opening of LAJ could be expedited. Even if the hobby cannot raise sufficient funds to complete the cataloging progress, the funds raised certainly can allow for incremental progress. A continuous, start-to-finish process is more efficient than a stop-and-go process, but if the cataloging of LAJ has to progress in stages, incremental progress is still better than no progress. So let us thank every donor whose generosity allows progress to be made in the cataloging of LAJ. Let us also respect those amateur organizations who decide that their own limited funds would be better spent for other purposes. The Fossils are grateful both to AAPA and to NAPA for sending their monthly bundles and quarterly official organs to UW-Madison for LAJ. Their generosity in sending their bundles and official organs means that LAJ will continue to record the amateur journalism hobby in the twenty-first century.

The completion of minimum \$10,000 funding for the Hawes Fund is one objective which I hope the hobby can achieve. LAJ will enjoy an advantage as an endowed collection at UW-Madison. Even if the investment income on the endowment fund can only pay for incremental cataloging progress, any progress is better than none. An additional advantage would arise when and if UW-Madison ever elects to exercise its “put” option under provision 8 of the “Memorandum of Agreement.” I would anticipate the Hawes Fund would travel along with LAJ to any new institutional home. The long and short of the matter is that money talks. The Hawes Fund will help to assure that some incremental progress on cataloging LAJ continues at UW-Madison, even if UW-Madison Special Collections has to cut staff because of budget reductions. Even if the baseline UW-Madison budget allocation for work on LAJ is \$0, the investment income from the Hawes Fund will still be available for work on the collection.

My own perception is that UW-Madison has already formed a strong bond with LAJ. Special Collections curator Robin E. Rider—an historian of science by profession—and UW Libraries director Ken Frazier (now retired) went out on a limb to acquire our privately-owned collection. Graduate students like Jessica Isaac have been able to use the resources of LAJ by arrangement. UW-Madison has also integrated LAJ into its printing curriculum under Tracy Honn. (UW-Madison has its own private press, Silver Buckle Press.) Special Collections librarian Susan Stravinski has fielded LAJ inquiries even though the collection is not yet officially open for use. LAJ integrates well with UW-Madison’s Marvin Szukov collection of little magazines and its Ralph A. L. Breed collection of British amateur magazines.

(The Breed collection, consisting of some 8500 items, is fully cataloged and open for research.) When The Fossils’s LAJ committee was working on finding a new home for LAJ, member Stan Oliner, a professional librarian in his own right, checked his sources and told us that UW-Madison enjoyed an excellent reputation for developing its collections.

In summary, I think UW-Madison Special Collections has already demonstrated a strong organizational commitment to LAJ during its first ten years with the collection. My expectation and hope is that LAJ has found its final home in UW-Madison Special Collections. It is only a question of how long it will take to complete the cataloging process. I agree wholeheartedly with AAPA that sooner is better as respects the cataloging process and the opening of LAJ. However, whether the progress is rapid or slow, I think that strong organizational commitment to LAJ is present at UW-Madison. The chances are virtually nil that LAJ will be left an orphan without an institutional home at any time in the foreseeable future.

I hope to visit UW-Madison Special Collections later this year. I plan to report back to the membership of The Fossils on what I find. In the meantime, I ask that amateur journalists consider donating to the LAJ funding campaign for (1) current cataloging expenses and (2) the Leland M. Haws, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund. Every dollar helps, and the UW Foundation website accepts donations as small as \$5. I donated \$10 (and got a very nice return email receipt for my 2014 tax return), so I’m not writing as Mr. Big Bucks trying to set an example. I’m retired—both from my former professional work and from amateur journalism. In 2014 I donated my own former *ajay* collection to University of Iowa to form the William H. Groveman Memorial Amateur Journalism Collection, so I am not even any longer an active researcher. Active amateur journalists can speak to matters affecting the hobby with greater authority than I. Sitting on my president’s perch at The Fossils, I’m mostly an outsider looking in. Nevertheless, I am proud of our 111-year-old organization, despite its diminished membership. How many other hobbies can claim that ten percent of active hobbyists belong to an organization dedicated solely to the history of the hobby?

In Madison, I hope to cast sight for the first time on the famous EHS bound volumes about which I have written so much. Ten years ago, helping to decide the fate of these volumes (and the other components of LAJ) occupied a lot of my time and the time of my fellow Fossil LAJ committee members. I hope that future historians will conclude that we made a wise decision in sending LAJ to UW-Madison. I realize that past amateur journalists had the same hopes for the placements of LAJ at the Pratt Institute (1908), Columbia University (1913), the Franklin Institute (1935) and New York University (1967). Not to mention the hopes that we had for LAJ in the Fossil offices in the American Tract Society Building in New York

City (1916-35), with Stan Oliner (1964-67) in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and with Mike Horvat (1980-2004) in Stayton, Oregon. If you ask ten amateur journalists about LAJ, you are likely to get ten different opinions. Nevertheless, in some sense, most of us³ share similar aspirations for the future of LAJ and of other institutional collections of amateur journals. We hope these collections will be well-patronized both by scholars and by amateur journalists. The papers of Ms. Isaac and other researchers show the way for future research concerning our hobby. Whatever the configuration of institutional collections of amateur journals may be on the centenary of LAJ's arrival at UW-Madison on Dec. 30, 2004, I hope that future historians will remember all the amateur journalists and librarians who worked so hard to preserve the heritage of our hobby. Perhaps a few of these future historians will even venture to opine: well done, good and faithful servants.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ The librarians would of course have to decide the exact domain of the section. Fanzines (aka "zines" for short) share many of the attributes of traditional amateur journals, although they are not typically produced within the framework of a hobby organization. There are, however, many special-interest amateur press associations which focus their interests more narrowly

than NAPA and AAPA. As the website <http://efanzines.com/> testifies, more and more amateur publishing activity is gravitating to the electronic domain. Of course, some hobby organizations dedicated to letterpress printing, like the Amalgamated Printers' Association (APA) (<http://apa-letterpress.com/>) will necessarily remain paper-based.

² I recall one instance which involved a New England public library which had a single bound volume of amateur journals on its shelves. The library approached our member Stan Oliner for guidance in finding a new home for the volume. Despite our declining membership, I believe The Fossils can also play a useful role in the placement or the relocation of amateur journalism collections. The bottom line, however, is that librarians are usually more comfortable dealing with fellow librarians than with hobby organizations. Librarians and their institutions tend to be sensitive regarding disposition of donated materials.

³ Historians of science fiction fandom like to divide fans into two persuasions: FIAWOL (fandom is a way of life) and FIJAGH (fandom is just a god-damned hobby). Amateur journalists of the FIJAGH persuasion might advocate consigning amateur journals to the ash heap once we are finished with them. Of course, they can do so with their own amateur journals, but they can't stop scholars from being interested in the "silent testimony" offered by surviving amateur journals to the hobbyists' love for the printed word. ♦

Memorandum of Agreement

(Reprinted from THE FOSSIL for July 2005)

This Memorandum of Agreement is made by and between the parties

The Fossils, Inc. ("Donor"), owner of the Library of Amateur Journalism ("Collection"), with offices in care of its president, Guy Miller, 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield OH 45503 and/or Ken Faig, Jr., Chair, Fossil Library of Amateur Journalism Committee, 2311 Swainwood Drive, Glenview IL 60025,
and
the University of Wisconsin-Madison, General Library System ("the Libraries"), with offices at 728 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, a public university research library.

WHEREAS Donor wishes to give the Library of Amateur Journalism as received at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2004, consisting of bound and unbound amateur journals, photographs, printed ephemera, correspondence and manuscript materials, including the correspondence of Willametta Keffer, and an amateur press, to the Libraries; and

WHEREAS the Libraries wish to receive the Collection;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follow:

1. This gift is irrevocable.
2. The Library agrees that the collection shall be held by the Libraries and named the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection.

3. Materials found not within the scope of the Libraries or otherwise inappropriate for permanent housing and maintenance in the Libraries shall be returned to the Donor within a reasonable period of time, with the following exceptions: Duplicate 19th-century materials shall be first offered to the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts. The Libraries may also trade duplicate materials with other institutional libraries and archives collecting amateur journals. The Libraries are not obliged to retain duplicates.
4. The collection shall be maintained in the Libraries.
5. The Collection shall be organized and described according to the Libraries' policies and procedures.
6. The Collection shall be closed to researchers until processing, including preparation of finding aids and catalog records, has been completed.
7. The Collection shall be made available for research in accordance with the Libraries' rules and policies.
8. In the event that the Libraries find that they are not able to retain the Collection intact, the Libraries shall either transfer the Collection to another repository or return the Collection to the Donor or its assigns.

APPROVED:

Jack Swenson, for The Fossils, Inc., Chmn Bd. of Trustees,
4-27-05

Guy G. Miller, for The Fossils, Inc., President, 5/2/05

J. F. Killie, for The Fossils, Inc., Bd. of Trustees, 5/26/05

Kenneth Frazier, Director General Library System, 4/5/05 ♦

AJ Collections Briefs

by David M. Tribby

ONCE AGAIN, MY message has turned into a grab bag of items too small to stand as their own articles. This time, the pieces all relate to amateur journalism collections.

Laura Peterson, a researcher working on the Dictionary of American Regional English project at the University of Wisconsin-Madison came across a reference to a 1967 article written by Donald Boyd, a fieldworker on the original project. It appeared in *Bias*, an NAPA journal co-published by Boyd, Terence Austin, and Fossil Thomas B. Whitbread. She was able to connect with Bill Boys, and in early February a request for the article was distributed in his *NAPA Email News*.

I found the issue and several others in my personal collection and quickly provided scans. (Tom had only begun to search in his "rampant accumulata" for a copy.)

Laura, pleasantly surprised at how quickly an obscure title could be located, wondered why I had kept it. "Out of pure curiosity, why did you keep them for so long? What other publications have you held on to and why? I'm very interested in the logic and emotion behind keeping certain items, mostly ephemeral. The stewardship of information is a very important factor in continuing literary traditions." What follows is my reply.

"I joined the American Amateur Press Association in 1970, while still in high school. The monthly mailings of amateur journals were fascinating, not only as a way to get to know other people but also as a way to see how other printers used their letterpress equipment. I wrote to some members to request earlier copies of their journals; some long-term members had been active back to the 1940s, and seeing the work of that era – when some of my new adult friends were my age or younger – provided more insights into the hobby. I suppose my collection began as a way of connecting with friends. I knew that if I discarded the amateur papers, they would be impossible to replace, so of course I had to keep them.

"Several established amateurs provided copies of other people's papers. Among those were a gift from Ray Allen Albert of many of the monthly AAPA and NAPA mailings from the mid- and late-1960s, which I imagine is where the issues of *Bias* came from. I also received a number of the better amateur papers from mainly the 1930s and 1940s, but some going back to 1900, from Sheldon C. Wesson when I helped him sort his collection. These papers showed me amateur journalism's long history filled with interesting personalities and raging controversies.

"About 1977 I finally got my collection fully sorted. Some long-running publications were too bulky to fit in a folder, so they were put into boxes. The Official Organs (*American Amateur Journalist*, *National Amateur*, *THE FOSSIL*)

were kept on a shelf for easier access. The rest were filed in manila folders by title. They take up three drawers of a filing cabinet.

"I kept that file up-to-date for a couple of years. Long-time AAPA members Leslie W. Boyer and Leland M. Hawes, Jr., pointed out that keeping amateur papers in their original mailing envelopes was handier when researching a topic – that way, it was easy to see how a variety of people reacted to issues of the day. So the largest part of my collection (AAPA and NAPA mailings from 1980 to the present) are stored in drawers or boxes in chronological order.

"Since the paper you wanted was from before 1980, it was easy to locate it in the filing cabinet. And we were lucky that it happened to be among the papers that had been donated to me."

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The December issue of *National Amateur* (mailed in February) was "dedicated to exploring some of the issues surrounding the Library of Amateur Journalism." Included were AAPA President Peter Schaub's September letter requesting assistance from NAPA and The Fossils in raising funds to support the LAJ, comments from NA Editor Dave Warner about Schaub's letter, and a brief history of the LAJ written by me. A large portion of President Michelle Klosterman's message also focused on the LAJ.

Editor Warner expressed skepticism that a few thousand dollars in donations would solve all long-term problems. He noted, "the LAJ has been kicked out of university libraries before," and the current Wisconsin governor's priority on tax cuts could affect UW's ability to care for it. He encouraged "all individual members who believe their financial support is needed to donate freely to the cause," but added, "The NAPA budget calls for expenses of more than *twice* our revenue; even with substantial assets, that hardly puts the organization in good position to be making significant donations."

President Klosterman's message echoed some of the same concerns, but noted a lack of solid information upon which to make a decision. She called for an informed discussion at NAPA's 2015 convention. "I feel NAPA's stance should be that if you would personally like to donate then you should. But NAPA has no plans to donate at this time."

The aftermath brought a spirited e-mail discussion. One NAPA officer had the impression that LAJ was looking for a new home. In order to clarify ownership issues, Fossil President Ken Faig suggested reprinting the 2005 memorandum of agreement between The Fossils and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (see previous page).

His message in this issue addresses the stated concerns. He also agreed to attend NAPA's convention in July to lead a discussion about the LAJ.

Even though NAPA has not chosen to make a financial contribution at this time, it continues to support the LAJ in other ways. It dedicated a significant portion of its official organ to present information about LAJ to its members, and both its president and official editor encouraged individual members to make donations. (There are indications that some individuals may indeed contribute.) For many years, NAPA has mailed *National Amateur* and its monthly bundles to LAJ without charge.

The Fossils and AAPA made their own LAJ donations only after determining it would not hurt their long-term financial health. The Fossils compared the cost of printing and mailing four 12-page issues of THE FOSSIL and supporting the website versus the annual dues; by folding the issues and using a reduced-cost printer, expenses were in balance. Similarly, AAPA's increase in dues to \$25 a few years ago brought them in balance with expenses so they felt confident committing some of their bank balance to the LAJ.

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The latest figures provided by Ben Strand, Director of Development for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, shows over \$9,000 has been donated to support the LAJ. There have been gifts of \$4,976.87 for ongoing work and \$4,335 to the Hawes Endowment Fund.

Full information on how to make a gift is available online at www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html

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Research for last July's article "United APA: Gone But Not Forgotten" turned up this quote from J. Roy Erford in

HEADED CITY'S CENSUS



District Census Supervisor Roy Erford appeared on the front page of the *Seattle Sunday Times* for May 16, 1920. Today, is he remembered most for AJ activities?

The Seattle Amateur for May 1915 (when he was 31 years old): "Amateur journalism is a permanent institution. Its history will be preserved. Those participating therein are not devoting their time to something transitory or soon to be forgotten. The only thing for which some of us will be remembered a hundred years hence may be our connection with amateur journalism."

Erford may have overstated the importance of AJ, but, indeed, he is still remembered in 2015 – mainly for his UAPAA power play shenanigans and vituperative attacks on any who disagreed with him. It seems unlikely that 68 years after his death he is remembered as King County Democratic chairman, county superintendent of elections, unsuccessful 1924 candidate

for Secretary of State in Washington State, or district supervisor of the 1920 census.

Few of us participate in amateur journalism in order to be remembered long into the future – we're mainly interested in having fun – but it is intriguing to contemplate how long our efforts will be remembered. Perhaps academics will have an interest in how a slice of the early 21st century population lived their everyday lives; or maybe amateur journalists of the 22nd century will be curious how we published using our primitive tools.

In any case, supporting the Library of Amateur Journalism seems the most direct way to ensure we leave an accurate record.

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As noted in the President's Message, there are many public collections of amateur journals in addition to the LAJ. More continue to be added to the "Collections" page on The Fossils' website. The following libraries are new since January: Boston Athenaeum (39 items); Chicago History Museum (1 folder of United Amateur Press Association material); The Massachusetts Historical Society (six different collections); Smith College (John Green Oliver Scrapbook); University of Virginia (ten collections); and Worcester Historical Museum (Whipple collection).

Among new links in existing entries is a description of a 90 box collection of amateur journals at the University of South Florida that is likely the William F. Haywood collection, and the University of Iowa's list of Xine and Amateur Press Collections. Also added is a link to ArchiveGrid, a new way to access archival materials in libraries worldwide that includes over fifty amateur journalism entries. ◆

Ajay News Items

by David M. Tribby

IN A SPECIAL ELECTION held in February, American Amateur Press Association members overwhelmingly (78 to 7) approved an amendment that allows the board of directors and mailer to skip the mailing of a monthly bundle if only a few items arrive. According to the *March American Amateur Journalist*, "with the improvement in numbers in the past year, it is hoped the mailer will not have to exercise that flexibility."

THE MARCH *National Amateur* celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of Bill Boys' membership in the National APA. Bill has served in a number of offices, including two consecutive terms as president beginning in 1971. Not one to rest on his laurels, Bill continues to be an active force in the organization: he is the current secretary-treasurer (serving since 2002); he produced a colorful 32-page-plus-cover *Pennant Bravo* for the March bundle; he keeps members informed via *NAPA Email News*; and he is heading up the reception committee for NAPA's 140th convention in July. ◆

Fossil Trustees Grant Life Membership to Horvat

by David M. Tribby

IN FEBRUARY, the Fossil Board of Trustees voted to extend an honorary lifetime membership to Martin M. "Mike" Horvat, in recognition of his long and distinguished service as Fossil Librarian and Custodian of the Library of Amateur Journalism for a quarter century (1980 to 2004).

In THE FOSSIL for April 1977 new member Mike Horvat introduced himself as a collector of science fiction magazines and 78 rpm records. He had served a two-year hitch with the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam, and left with the rank of sergeant. After teaching at a junior college for two years, in 1975 he moved "into the mountains of Northern California, fully ten miles from the nearest road: no electricity, no modern conveniences." It took him three months to haul a 10x15 C&P press and 300 fonts of type up the trail. By 1977 he and his wife Susan had moved to Albany, Oregon, and two years later they lived in nearby Stayton.

Mike was also active in the National Amateur Press Association. In 1981 he was elected official editor, and in 1986 he was elected president.

In 1980, amid concerns that the LAJ was not being properly cared for at its home with New York University, Mike, who has a Master's Degree in Library Science, offered to house the entire collection at his home and also provide the services to put it in order and maintain it, all free of charge. After some debate, The Fossils accepted Mike's offer, but authorized the papers first be sent to a company for microfilming. That first stop was a disaster: the company went into bankruptcy before images were produced, and it took persistent effort by Mike over three years to secure delivery of all the collection's parts.

Mike dug into the job of putting the huge collection in order, impressing long-time Fossils Victor Moitoret and Ralph Babcock with his tenacious, hard work. In THE FOSSIL for April 1984 Editor Babcock, after several visits with the Horvats, concluded, "His background shows Horvat capable of tackling anything, able to face and conquer substantial unknowns. He adds an impressive facet to the static Smith Collection; and he welcomes additions of our old papers which will help fill in the gaps left."

During 1990, Mike and Fossil Stan Oliner worked with the heirs of prominent amateur journalists Martin and Willametta Keffer to allow their vast collection of amateur journals, hobby-related books, and correspondence to be donated to the LAJ. Mike and Stan made their way

to the Keefers' Virginia home for an intense week of finding a-jay-related materials and packaging them up. Eventually they shipped 137 cartons, totaling almost 3,000 pounds, back to Oregon.



Martin "Mike" Horvat

In 2002, the LAJ was moved from the Horvats' home to the nearby Paris Woolen Mill, which housed several other nonprofits. Mike paid for the rent and utilities on his own. Unfortunately, the old mill had not been well maintained, and in 2003 the building was scheduled for demolition. Mike hoped to move the collection back to his home, but declining health interfered with his plans. The Fossils' LAJ Committee searched for a new place to hold the collection. On December 20, 2004, about 15,000 pounds of LAJ materials left Stayton on a truck bound for the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

When Ken Faig wrote his 2003 history of the LAJ (available on-line), he noted, "The loving care which Horvat has provided for the collection for the

past twenty-two years of its existence speaks for itself. He has spared no expense or labor when the future of the collection has been at stake ... The 1980 decision of Edward Sherman Cole and his board to commit the library to Horvat's care has been vindicated on many fronts."

Mike donated four collections to the University of Iowa in December 2004. The **M. Horvat Science Fiction Fanzines Collection** (97 boxes, 97.4 linear feet) contains 15,000 to 20,000 issues of fanzines dealing mostly with science fiction, and chronicles the development of fandom going back to the 1920s. The **M. Horvat Genre Apazines Collection** (78 boxes, 58 linear feet) has a large number of zines related to topics such as fantasy, comics, role-playing games, and mysteries. The **M. Horvat National Fantasy Fan Federation Collection** (3 boxes, 1.5 linear feet) includes materials from N3F, a major science fiction fanish organization. The **M. Horvat Science Fiction Convention Materials Collection** (9 boxes) holds items related to science fiction conventions from 1943 to 2000.

In a recent e-mail exchange, Mike disclosed to Fossil President Faig that he was in a serious battle against cancer that had drained his enthusiasm and finances. In telling Mike about the board's decision to confer a lifetime membership, Ken remarked, "We all wish you victory in your battle with cancer. We are confident that the collections you preserved and developed which are now at U-Wisconsin and U-Iowa will continue to grow in importance." ♦

Alan Brignull

by David M. Tribby

ALAN BRIGNULL, current coordinator of the international collaborative publication *It's a Small World*, joined in February after he saw an *NAPA Email News* that included information about The Fossils. "This set me thinking that I really ought to support the group."

Alan notes, "The nearest I come to producing an amateur journal is a periodical postcard called *The Rambling Urchin*, but I've been contributing to exchange bundles (the British Printing Society Publishing Group and the Letterpress Exchange Group) for years, have a collection of amateur printing, and enjoy reading them and about them."

Inspired by John Ryder's book *Printing for Pleasure*, Alan founded The Hedgehog Press in 1976 as a hobby press after inheriting an Adana 8 by 5 press from his grandfather. The Press was later appointed philatelic printer to the Kingdom of Adanaland.

Originally started by the late Fossil William F. Haywood in 1955, *It's a Small World* has attracted the loyal participation of hobby printers who have an interest in the art of printing for its creative satisfaction. The 2014 edition listed 35 contributors, and its "Roll of Honour" of participants in ten or more issues included 64 names (36 of whom are deceased). After Bill Haywood stepped down as coordinator in 1995, Mike Elliston took on the job from 1996 to 2011 before handing off to Alan. "IaSW dominates my hobby printing for a couple of months a year, but I'm enjoying it, and it puts me in touch with a lot of interesting and talented people, which is the main idea of amateur publishing I suppose."

After completing processing of the 2015 issue, he hopes to write about the publication for an upcoming issue of THE FOSSIL. In the meantime, those who want further information can e-mail him at adanaland@gmail.com ♦

Make a Donation to Support the Library of Amateur Journalism!

TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT:

- ☛ Ongoing work to sort & catalog
- ☛ Long-term endowment

TWO WAYS TO DONATE:

- ☛ Mail to The Fossils' Secretary-Treasurer
- ☛ Directly to Univ. of Wisconsin (*tax deductible*)

For further information visit

www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html

Secretary-Treasurer Report

SECRETARY-TREASURER Tom Parson reports he was slow posting and depositing renewals, partially due to a January computer crash and subsequent switchover to a new laptop.

As of late March, Tom had received 17 membership renewals (one for two years) and two subscription renewals since January 1. There was also a new member: Alan Brignull of England. Five individuals and one couple whose memberships expired on January 31 had not yet renewed.

Several members chose to include donations for the LAJ fund with their renewals, so Tom sent a check for \$32 to the University of Wisconsin Foundation on March 18. Other first quarter expenses include \$24.95 for the annual payment to our website's Internet Service Provider and \$46.68 for printing and mailing the January issue of THE FOSSIL. There is also a monthly \$2 fee for the checking account.

On March 17, Tom deposited \$302 to the bank account, bringing the balance to \$4,045.55. ♦

The Fossil

THIS IS THE Official Publication of The Fossils, a non-profit organization of those interested in the history of amateur journalism. Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join. Dues are \$15 annually, or \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to THE FOSSIL without privileges of membership is \$10. For further information, visit our website:

www.thefossils.org

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