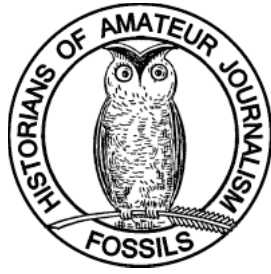


The



Fossil

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An Updated History of a “Small World”

by Alan Brignull

IN AUTUMN 1964, William F. Haywood of New Jersey wrote an article for *THE FOSSIL* about the co-operative annual *It's a Small World*, which had just reached its tenth issue. His piece finished with optimistic thoughts for the future: “As long as there are amateurs with something to say about printing and enough ambition to produce their inserts there will be annual editions of *It's a Small World*.” I wonder whether he could have imagined that a similar article would appear half a century on, following the appearance of the 61st annual edition. There have been other collaborative periodicals like this, *Home Shop Printers*, *Ink Cahoots*, *Treasure Gems* and *Small Printing* for example, but none that I am aware of have lasted for so long.

The project was first conceived in 1952 when Bill was hospitalized for surgery. He was corresponding by mail with fellow amateur printer Reg Hollins of Sutton Coldfield, England, who was also in hospital undergoing a similar procedure. They agreed to spread the word and recruit participants in their respective countries, leading to the first issue in 1955, which included pages from ten printers: five in Britain, four in North America and one American in Japan. Over the subsequent years it has grown, the most recent issue having 29 contributors. The high point of about 40 per issue occurred in the 1990s. Over the years more than 250 printers have sent pages. Starting in issue number 20, Bill Haywood listed an “Honor Roll” of those who had contributed to ten issues or more; then there were nine names on the list but this year's has 61, an indication of the loyalty which this publication inspires. Top of the list is Frederick Gage with an incredible 51 annual contributions, but David M. Norton and Rich Hopkins are close behind with 50 and 49. Inevitably the list includes many printers who have passed away but leave their printed work to inspire us still. I enjoy leafing through old issues, learning and getting ideas from the printing of people whom I will never meet.

The nature of the contributions has changed only a little since the early issues. Pages of body text are becoming less common from the letterpress printers but some beautiful typography is appearing from skilled computer users. Mike Elliston's dictum was that it doesn't have to be letterpress but should look like it: not only is it a small world, but a traditional one. The subject can be anything



Assembling the 2015 edition took about two weeks: (a) A heap of parcels from around the world. (b) Pages ready for collating. (c) Pages collated and stacked. (d) Covers and prelims added. (e) Binding. (f) Completed books.

of interest to printers which is the contributor's own work and hasn't appeared elsewhere. The 7 by 5 inch format has remained unchanged since the beginning, even if fewer people are observing the recommended margins nowadays.

"Tauber Tubes" were used to bind the first four issues (plastic rings similar to a single section of a comb binding) but subsequent issues have been perfect bound, first with a paper wrapper then with separate covers and spine tape. The quantity of each page requested at the beginning was 250. With only ten contributors at first, I wonder what happened to all the others; it is possible that a lot of back issues were destroyed on Bill's death for the early numbers are now not at all common. The quantity was later reduced and currently stands at 125. There is no "entry fee," the whole project being financed by voluntary contributions from supporters. *It's a Small World* has no cover price and is not sold; it is distributed to current and recent contributors, and those whose record of support has gained them an effective life-subscription.

Bill continued to produce *IaSW* single-handed (Reg Hollins had to drop out after a few issues) until 1995 when he felt the need to retire because of eyesight problems and arthritis at the age of 79. From issue 42 the coordination and production passed to Mike Elliston of Basildon in England. At that time the membership had become almost entirely American; of 40 contributors in

1995, Mike was the only one from Europe, though there were two from New Zealand. Under Mike's leadership the balance slowly swung back across the Atlantic and this year's issue was once again evenly divided between Britain and America, plus one each from New Zealand and Costa Rica. I would like to spread the range but it does seem that this sort of amateur journalism is a phenomenon of the Anglophone world.

Mike produced 16 issues until, in 2011, he too felt obliged to retire and appealed for volunteers to continue the tradition. At the time, I had reached 15 on the Roll of Honour and was already happily running another printers' postal bundle called the "Letterpress Exchange Group" so I offered to take over. So far I've done four issues and am still enjoying it. To quote Bill Haywood from 1964 again, "It has been a pleasure to discover new contributors and to receive many heart-warming compliments from hobby printers who have received the little books". It has also been rewarding to play a part in continuing such a longstanding project with its roots before my lifetime. I hope that, when my time comes to retire, I can find a suitable successor so *It's a Small World* may even reach its century.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact Alan Brignull at 33 Heath Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester CO7 9PU (UK) or email adanaland@gmail.com ♦

President's Message

Visiting LAJ and Considering a July 2016 AJ Conference in Madison

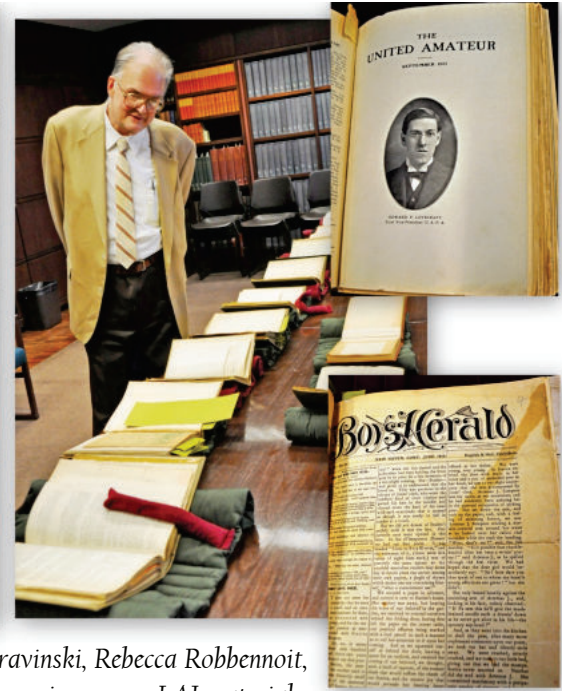
by Ken Faig, Jr.

BARRY SCHRADER, MY WIFE, and I paid an enjoyable and informative visit to the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Library on May 20, 2015. Ben Strand of the UW Development Department hosted us and Special Collections staff for a preliminary luncheon at the University Club. We had the opportunity to meet and to talk with Special Collections curator Robin Rider, Special Collections librarian Susan Stravinski, and Special Collections graduate student cataloger Rebecca Robbenoit, among others. Rebecca has been busy with the cataloging of the LAJ Collection over the past two years, and has a tremendous knowledge both of the collection and of the amateur journalism hobby.

Special Collections staff assembled a generous sample of LAJ Collection material for our viewing in the Special Collections Department conference room. There we viewed not only bound volumes from the Edwin Hadley

Smith Collection, but also amateur correspondence, amateur photographs, and convention memorabilia. We saw not only rarities like Tad Lincoln's *Brown School Holiday Budget* but also familiar items like Willametta Keffer's *Literary Newszette*. The Willametta and Martin Keffer correspondence files have been organized using archival boxes and acid-free folders. The ultimate aim is to organize all the "loose" items comprising the LAJ Collection in this manner. Some material will remain organized by bundle.

We even got a look at the Special Collections vaults where LAJ is stored. Here the materials are all housed in a climate-controlled environment protected by a fire suppression system. We saw the fabled volumes of the Edwin Hadley Smith collection massed on the shelves—olive green or tan bindings (American & Canadian papers), blue bindings (foreign papers), and red bindings (ajay-related newspaper cuttings). Some of the contents of these volumes are in fragile condition.



Left: Fossils Carol & Ken Faig and Barry Schrader with UW-Madison staffers Susan Stravinski, Rebecca Robbenoit, and Robin Rider at the Special Collections Department in Memorial Library. Center: Ken reviews some LAJ materials. Right: close-ups of two amateur papers on display.

After visiting with Special Collections staff, we adjourned to the printing department housed in Memorial Library, where Tracy Honn presides over Silver Buckle Press, a working museum of letterpress printing. Ms. Honn has incorporated the LAJ Collection into the printing department curriculum, and Silver Buckle Press has printed several amateur-themed items.

Some photographs taken by Barry Schrader and by Ben Strand during our visit to the LAJ Collection and Silver Buckle Press will illustrate this message.

Ms. Rider provided us with a provisional draft of the finding aid for the LAJ Collection, which is expected to come on-line within the coming months. A significant portion of the LAJ Collection will then be available for use by visitors to the Library. Barry and I both left with the strong impression that UW-Madison Special Collections is strongly committed to the LAJ Collection. There is no question there are still decades of work ahead—there are conservation issues relating to the bound Edwin Hadley Smith volumes—but a workable beginning has been made. Amateur donors to the cataloging effort and to the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Memorial Endowment Fund have helped to make the progress to date possible. Future donations can ensure that progress continues and that the Hawes Memorial Fund reaches the \$10,000 minimum for a permanent endowment fund. Making the LAJ Collection an endowed collection will help ensure its future regardless of future fluctuations in UW-Madison library budgets. In a word, UW-Madison staff are proud to have the LAJ Collection and believe it will be a rich resource both for academic scholars and for amateur journalists and printers.

Both Development and Library staff reacted enthusiastically to the idea of an amateur journalism conference in July 2016 to celebrate the LAJ Collection at UW-Madison. There are several university guest facilities that could be used to house conference attendees. Rates would be best for a weekday conference as opposed to one extending into the weekend. Given the age profile of today's amateurs, I wonder if a weekday schedule would have much dampening effect on attendance. Madison is not an inexpensive city for hotel accommodations, but I hope we could hold per night double occupancy lodging cost under \$100 if we accept a weekday schedule. The university lodging facilities have their own conference rooms, but Robin Rider also suggested that conference rooms might be made available in Memorial Library. There are a myriad of dining options—to fit all budgets and culinary preferences—within easy walking distance of the university facilities, including an army of student-budget-friendly food wagons right outside Memorial Library.

The year 2016 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of LAJ as a Fossil collection. Charles C. Heuman purchased the collection from Edwin Hadley Smith on March 15, 1916, for \$250—the same price Smith had paid the Salvation Army bindery in New York City to bind the pre-1908 volumes of the collection in 1907-08. Heuman transferred ownership of the LAJ Collection to the Fossils, who proudly displayed it in their offices in the American Tract Society building in New York City starting August 1, 1916. From 1916 to 1935, a visit to the LAJ Collection at Fossil headquarters was a part of each annual Fossil meeting in New York City. In 2004, The Fossils turned over ownership of the LAJ Collection to

UW-Madison, where the collection arrived on December 30, 2004.

The real question relating to a possible celebratory conference in Madison in July 2016 is whether there is enough interest among amateur journalists and printers — both individuals and organizations — and other potentially interested parties (e.g., librarians, academics, fans, and zinesters) to make such a conference viable. There are now more direct flights to Madison than there were in former years, and hobbyists looking to economize by flying into O'Hare Airport in Chicago or Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee can make the final leg of their journeys by Van Gelder Bus Co. or Badger Coaches, respectively. There are a wealth of sight-seeing, dining, and cultural opportunities surrounding the University in Madison — visit the website www.visitmadison.com for a sampling. Afternoon programming could include visits to UW-Madison Special Collections, Silver Buckle Press, and the August Derleth Comics Collection at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin—all within walking distance. A half-day bus or car caravan tour to the Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin (140 miles from Madison) is another possibility.

There has been some interest from both the American and National Amateur Press Associations regarding a meeting in Madison, but it is too early for them to make a commitment. NAPA's 2015 convention, held in July, will vote on their next convention site. The AAPA president selects their convention site, but a new slate of officers to be elected in August won't take office until October. In the meantime, The Fossils can lay the groundwork for a conference. Other amateur journalists—or those interested in amateur journalism who may not be affiliated with an organization—would be welcome.

Perhaps The Fossils could host a complimentary wine, beer, soda, cheese, and cracker reception to mark the occasion. I hope I could convince my fellow Fossil trustees to spring for the expenditure. Ajay organizations wishing to hold business or other meetings during the period of the conference could do so. The Fossils would only ask that these meetings not conflict with scheduled afternoon and evening programming. Meetings of individual ajay organizations could be open or closed to non-members at the determination of each organization. I think we could maintain the tradition of an evening auction of ajay-asso-



Tracy Honn, director of Silver Buckle Press at UW-Madison, shows some of the smaller presses to Ken & Carol Faig.

ciated material and a closing banquet for the conference. Consigners could designate the portion of proceeds to go to themselves, their ajay or printing organization, or the Hawes Memorial Fund. Of course, the banquet would have to be fee-based. Subject to availability, I am hopeful we could recruit Robin Rider or another UW-Madison staff member to serve as our keynote speaker. Perhaps The Fossils could make the celebratory reception and a banquet meal for the speaker happen for \$500. I am hopeful the banquet could also provide a venue for any award presentations by participating organizations. If they preferred to do so, the organizations could also present their awards in their individual meetings.

I think that twenty-five persons would be a very comfortable size for such a conference. Fifteen would be on the low side and fifty on the high side. We would probably have to cancel if we had fewer than ten confirmed reservations by a cut-off date. Can it happen? Is your ajay or

printing organization willing to hold a meeting—national, regional or otherwise—in conjunction with the conference? If your organization is willing to designate Madison as the site for a two- or three-day conference in July 2016, are you willing to name a co-host to co-operate with The Fossils in planning the conference? Can your organization accommodate a weekday (e.g., Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday) schedule for the conference as opposed to a schedule including weekend days?

My prediction is that the year 2104—marking the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the LAJ Collection at UW-Madison—will see the collection well-established as a vital part of the University's cultural resources. Whether amateur journalists, printers, and others meet in Madison in 2016 to celebrate the centenary of The Fossils' first acquisition of the LAJ in 1916 and the opening of major portions of the LAJ Collection for use at UW-Madison Special Collections is a matter of lesser consequence. However, it can happen if enough of you want it to.

I am planning to be available to answer questions about the LAJ Collection by telephone at some designated time during the 2015 NAPA convention in Columbus, Ohio. If you have questions or concerns of your own regarding the LAJ Collection or a possible 2016 ajay conference in Madison, please feel free to call me at 847-657-7409 between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. Central time. Or, you can e-mail me at president@thefossils.org. ♦

Two Books Reviewed

by Ken Faig, Jr.

THE JUVENILE REBELLION is the third book in the series “The Lost Works of Oliver Optic” as edited by Optic scholar Peter Walther. It has been published as a handsome 198-page trade paperback by Tumbley & Coombs of Machias, Maine. Like its predecessor volumes, *The Juvenile Rebellion* is reproduced in high-quality facsimile from the original sources, preserving the original illustrations where present. The title piece of *The Juvenile Rebellion* reprints from *Student and Schoolmate* (1861-65) a series of “dialogues” concerning the impact of the Civil War on contemporary school children. Of course, it is solidly pro-Union in sentiment: France and England are depicted as doing business with the Confederacy while offering lip service to the Union; dissident girls like Miss Allie Balmy (i.e., Alabama) get their comeuppance when trying to secede from their academies. (I couldn’t figure out what state or personage “Miss Sue Wyre” was intended to make fun of. Mr. Walther tells me that “Missouri” was intended.) The dialogues involving young ladies made me think of the Marx Brothers short that depicted them drinking toasts to South Carolina, Mississippi, and Louisiana, and with three saloon girls in the employ of their nemesis. A black cat appears in some of the dialogues as a symbol for Southern slavery. Oliver Optic (William T. Adams) (1822-1897) was a schoolmaster before he became a fulltime writer and editor. He was beloved by amateur journalists for the support he offered to the hobby in his periodical *Our Boys and Girls*. The Fossils commissioned a plaque honoring Optic in 1917; the plaque was displayed at Fossil headquarters in New York City (1917-35) and subsequently at the Franklin Institute.

Optic was well known for “sugar-coating” learning that might otherwise fail to appeal to his young readers, and “The Young Philosopher,” also reprinted in *The Juvenile Rebellion*, belongs to this genre. The contemporary illustrations add to the charm of the work. Optic reveals his limitations as a teacher in only a few instances. A derogatory illustration of “Uncle Sam” and an unappreciative Japanese (p. 134) elicits praise of the American advancement of commerce without any appreciation of centuries of Japanese culture. The illustration of an ostrich (p. 148) draws forth the anecdote that the Roman Emperor Heliogabalus (reigned A.D. 218-222) had six hundred of the species slaughtered so that he and his guests could feast on their brains. Many of the extreme anecdotes concerning the decadent young emperor—another alleges that he had guests suffocated by rose petals dropped from the ceiling of his banquet hall—have been questioned by later historians. Contemporary chroniclers obviously wanted to make Heliogabalus look as bad as possible.

This volume concludes with a series of book reviews written by Adams. Optic was not so jealous of his own

success that he could not appreciate the work of his competitors. There is an introduction by John T. Dizer and helpful commentary by editor Peter Walther. A fourth volume in the series “The Lost Works of Oliver Optic” is anticipated. *The Juvenile Rebellion* sells for \$19 plus shipping and can be ordered from sylvania1877@gmail.com.

P.S. The Optic plaque became separated from the Library of Amateur Journalism sometime during or after its tenancy (1935-64) at the Franklin Institute. The late Stan Oliner last saw it displayed at the Franklin Institute on a visit in 1957. Mr. Walther has been trying to trace it. The American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts—home to a famous collection of nineteenth-century amateur journals—has offered to provide display space for the plaque if it can be recovered. Sadly, metal objects not appreciated for their own value have sometimes been scrapped for their metal content. The junk men who canvass my own neighborhood in advance of waste collections can always be counted upon to take anything metallic.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Peter Walther wrote about Oliver Optic in the October 2011 issue of *THE FOSSIL* (no. 350), available on *The Fossils'* website. Ken Faig reviewed the first two volumes of the “Lost Works” series in that same issue.

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The Collected Works of Martha Elizabeth Sherwood Shivers: Volume Two: Poetry and Verse (Denver CO: Florecer, 2014) collects the poetical works of our former Fossils' membership chair, edited by her grand-daughter Dianna D. Shivers. The volume was published to celebrate the occasion of Martha's one hundredth birthday on February 13, 2015. An earlier volume, collecting Martha's prose fiction, was edited by Dianna for her grandmother's ninetieth birthday in 1995. Martha began writing as a child, and has never stopped. She has been affiliated with many writers' and poets' groups including the round-robin poetry criticism group The Rhymers. She has been a long-time participant in the amateur journalism hobby, including the United Amateur Press Association, the National Amateur Press Association, and The Fossils. During my term as editor of *THE FOSSIL* (2004-12) it was my privilege to print or reprint many of Martha's fine poems in our pages. All of this Martha accomplished while raising a family of four children, caring for an ailing husband, and nurturing grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Martha, I think, has always been a chronicler of both the hardships and the rewards of life. Some of her strongest poems are those of nature—perhaps “In Retrospect” is her masterpiece. Who can forget its beautiful opening lines:

*In the land of Iowa
Where the Fox and Sioux once roamed,
and the conclusion:
Now lies a region plowed and baring
Man's cultured crops, another's faring.*

One might be tempted to hazard that “baring” is a typo for “bearing” but I think “baring” is the word intended by the poet.

Most of Martha’s poetry in this collection is grouped thematically, but two earlier collections *As The Wheel Turns* (1975) and *Across the Plains* (1981) are reprinted entire. Martha never neglected the counsel of her mentors to use vivid, poetic language. A few examples will suffice:

*listen to sounds all creatures intone
soils gave birth to sustenances
snapdragons tell a joke
breathing sweet smells of crabapple blooms
we cannot hold you to this earth of pain
trees’ brown arms quiver and shake
the jiggling leaves make their bows
shade trees cascade their dresses*

Some combinations of phrase are particularly felicitous. Listen to Martha describe young lovers (“The Lovers’ Tryst”):

*Swinging, swaying, soft and slow
In rhythm tenderly
Embracing, parting all aglow*

Or the whisperings of her garden (“Have You Heard?”):

*blackeyed susans repeat the tales
as they swing in summer’s breeze...
but the secrets remain dark secrets
because daisies will never tell.*

Martha’s verse also displays a wonderful sense of humor, and her poem concerning her husband Woodrow’s rounds as a mail carrier (“Mud-Road Mac”) is hilarious. (It was appropriately first published by *The Iowa Letter Carrier* in 1979.) Martha’s verse often bears an underlying message and her strong Christian faith often shines through. However, she never hammers her points home and she always remains primarily a poet rather than a teacher. She concludes a poem written in memory of her father (“The Doors of Life”) with the words:

There are always doors to open.

In another poem (“By My Side”), she compares the vicissitudes of life with the security offered by a beloved childhood doll. She writes:

*The hills of trouble that followed,
and the valleys of deep despair
were travelled in faith.*

But then concludes with the reflection:

*The doll of yesteryear sits with me, again,
on my rocking chair.*

I am reminded of the line written by Martha’s contemporary and fellow poet Robert Hayward Barlow (1918-1951):

Nothing that we love is ours to keep.

Martha worked hard to master the technical requirements of her poet’s craft. She knew the importance of observing rules, both in poetry and in life. She was fascinated with special verse forms, like the “lantern”

poem (defined by lines of successively increasing length, followed by lines of successively decreasing length, thereby forming the shape of a lantern) and the “solomette.” The only notice of the latter verse form I find on the Internet is the mention of a twenty-page treatise *Acquiring Expertise with the Solomette* by Lucy Ellen Eaton.¹ Something by way of analogy with an acrostic poem, the solomette starts with a brief saying, words displayed vertically. Then the lines are filled with additional words to make a meaningful whole. I found the two examples printed here fascinating.

Editor Dianna Shivvers has meticulously sourced this volume. The poems are supplemented by a section of daily prose devotions written by Martha (I can remember my father’s love of these monthly compilations)², a brief autobiography by Martha, and notes concerning the writing and amateur press organizations in which Martha was active. The same beautiful photograph of Martha that served as frontispiece for the first volume of Martha’s collected works serves as frontispiece for the second. However, readers should not abandon the end-matter too quickly, lest they miss the beautiful photograph of Martha and the editor (2004) which forms the tail-piece for this second volume.

Overall, the book is beautifully designed, with ample margins and spacing. The editing is meticulous and I found only three typos in the entire work. This volume is not sold commercially, but the electronic edition (PDF) can be requested from the editor (dshivvers@gmail.com). The electronic edition of the first volume of Martha’s *Collected Works*, containing her fiction, may also still be available from the editor.

Martha celebrated her one hundredth birthday with her family in an Iowa nursing home this past February. I hope the turning of the seasons in 2015 will not escape her attentive poet’s eyes and ears. Martha can rest secure in the rewards of a life well-lived, including her wonderful writings.

I do not know whether Dianna Shivvers intends further collections of her grandmother’s work. The first two volumes document a remarkable writing career spanning more than eight decades.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ This chapbook was published in an edition of 200 copies. Today, the Toronto Public Library and the Library and Archives of Canada in Ottawa hold copies. In her later years, Lucy Ellen Eaton (b. 1905) was a resident of Castlegar, British Columbia. A 1978 news report stated that she had invented the Solomette based on a Biblical reference to King Solomon.

² Like Martha’s verse, her prose devotions always tell a story, with vivid imagery, and do not strive to hammer home their lessons. ◆

Lovecraft and the Whittiers

by David Goudsward

HOWARD PHILLIP LOVECRAFT'S familiarity with John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) is well documented. In his 1931 "Description of the Town of Quebeck," Lovecraft included the story of Baron de St. Castin, noting the Baron is mentioned by Whittier (in "Mogg Megone," 1836). In 1923, he spent the afternoon in Amesbury, Massachusetts, exploring the local Whittier home, gravesite, and "other typical reliquia" with Edgar Davis. Lovecraft's letters also mention in passing the poet's Haverhill, Massachusetts, birthplace site several times on the trolley heading from Haverhill's train station to Merrimac and Amesbury. He never specifically states he had actually paid the admission and toured the interiors of the Haverhill or Amesbury buildings, but a letter to Helen Sully in 1933 suggests he may have done so during one of his trips.

At the time of Lovecraft's visits to the area, Greenleaf Whittier Pickard (1877-1956), the only son of Whittier's niece Elizabeth Pickard, was a trustee of Haverhill's Whittier shrine. Showing a relative lack of interest in his great uncle's legacy, he served as a trustee for 40 years but attended few meetings. Pickard, however, had made an impact that Lovecraft's keen eye for architecture could not help but note. Pickard moved into the Amesbury house in 1903 with his family, much to the irritation of the Whittier Home Association, who had previously leased the home as a museum and assumed the agreement would be extended.

To the Association's horror, Pickard built a large, two-story ell on the western end of their beloved landmark, and he did not try to blend it in with the original house. This addition included a modern kitchen and a laboratory for Pickard to continue his experiments with the new technology called radio. Those experiments led to Pickard's first patent in 1906 for the silicon crystal detector, the "cat's whisker crystal" that remains the heart of radio receivers to this day. To the eternal relief of the Whittier Home Association, Pickard moved to a larger home in 1917 and sold the house to the Association.

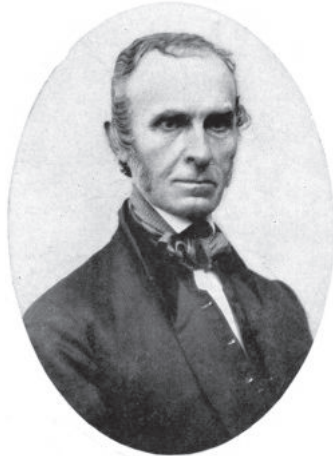
But it is with David Horn Whittier (1897-1925) that Lovecraft's connection to the Whittier family is most di-

rect. David Whittier was a new recruit to the United Amateur Press Association (UAPA) when he sent "a long, bitter, and unsolicited criticism" of Lovecraft's "Crime of the Century" article in the first issue of *The Conservative* (April 1915). Apparently Whittier was chafed by Lovecraft's lament about how unfortunate it was to find England and Germany, two sides of the same Teutonic coin, fighting each other. Lovecraft replies to the letter in the October 1915 issue of *The Conservative*. The response, "The Youth of Today," comes across initially as encouraging Whittier to continue challenging the status quo, but by the end of the commentary, the sarcasm is dripping off the page.

Lovecraft's reference to "Master Whittier, like his famous poetical relative, pounces virtuously upon unorthodox ideas wherever he may find them" may be referring to John Greenleaf Whittier's abolitionist support, but it is unintentionally ironic. Lovecraft could not know that David H. Whittier, although distantly related to the poet Whittier (he was J. G. Whittier's third cousin four times removed), the two Whittier lines were as different as possible. The poet was a Quaker, while David Whittier's ancestry was a decidedly less pacifist limb of the family tree. His father served in the Civil War; his grandfather in the War of 1812, and his great-grandfather in the American Revolution. World War I had been raging in Europe for months, and as the war grew so did the clamor for the U.S. to join the conflict.

Whittier attended Boston University (BU) for a year and it is interesting to note that his involvement in amateur journalism coincides with his involvement in certification program for teachers that included a writing component. His major, however, was Business Administration. Indicative of his career track, the business college included courses in Military Organization that taught "business methods involved in handling troops."

There is some indication Whittier enlisted in the Massachusetts National Guard while at BU, which would explain his declining to replace Lovecraft as UAPA's First Vice President after winning the ballot. His last contribution to amateur journalism was the March 1917 article



(Left) John Greenleaf Whittier was one of America's most famous poets in the nineteenth century. This photo was taken in 1859. (Right) David H. Whittier, distant relative of the poet, tangled with Lovecraft in the UAPA. Here, he is wearing his West Point cadet uniform.



“The Association” in Verna McGeoch’s *Excelsior*. Lovecraft critiqued the article as “teem[ing] with good advice concerning the proper management of the United.”

In April of 1917, the U.S. entered the war. In June of 1917, Cadet David H. Whittier reported to West Point. He received his commission from West Point in November 1918 under an expedited war emergency program. Before he could be assigned duties, the war ended. Whittier and his graduating class were recalled for additional classes and graduated again in June 1919. The same day, Whittier married a local girl before shipping out to tour the European battlefields.

Returning stateside, he was assigned to the Coast Artillery Corp at Ft. Monroe, Virginia, and quickly became a student officer of the Coast Artillery School. Graduating as a 2nd lieutenant, he was assigned closer to home, Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. After a year in the Department in the Panama Canal Zone and a promotion to 1st lieutenant, he was assigned to a joint military program with MIT where he attended classes and worked to improve military ordinance as a student officer. It was a short lived as-

signment. On June 4, 1925, Whittier succumbed to injuries from an automobile accident near his home in Dedham. He was buried at West Point the next day.

Lovecraft makes no mention of the premature passing of David Whittier, but Lovecraft himself had just moved into his decrepit apartment in Brooklyn Heights, so there were other distractions in his life

Comparative obscurity seems to be a Whittier family trait. David Whittier is forgotten. Pickard, in spite of inventing the technology that allowed radio receivers and cell phones to exist, is barely a footnote in history. John Greenleaf Whittier’s success was rivaled in his lifetime only by Longfellow, but his stature and fame have diminished as time has passed. Fortunately, Lovecraft’s trajectory is heading in the exact opposite direction.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Fossil David Goudsward’s book H. P. Lovecraft in the Merrimack Valley was reviewed in the July 2014 issue of THE FOSSIL (No. 360). This article originally appeared in issue 1 of his personal publication Sanders Grove Picayune, “Sent gratis to all amateur journalists who may desire it.” ♦

Official Editor’s Message

Looking Ahead

by David M. Tribby

KEN FAIG’S REPORT from the meeting in Madison (beginning on page 2) is positive regarding an amateur journalism conference for next summer, but there are a number of components that need to align for a successful gathering, and we may not know the full prognosis until January. It’s possible The Fossils could be the sole hosts, or there might be official participation from the National and/or American Amateur Press Associations.

Madison is on the ballot to host the 2016 NAPA convention, and it will be voted on at this year’s convention in early July (just past this issue’s deadline). If Madison is selected, NAPA will need to find volunteers for their convention committee and deal with other details. If another city is selected, the 2016 NAPA convention could compete with a Madison conference in July. Even with a commitment to hold the convention in Madison, it’s hard to know how many members will make the trip. On the plus side, the Library of Amateur Journalism is a unique attraction. On the minus, Madison is a bit further from members than recent venues. We’ll see how this part aligns not only after NAPA decides at the convention in July but also how individual members react in the aftermath.

The AAPA president decides where to hold its convention – if one is held at all. Balloting results won’t be

known until August, and the new president won’t take office until October 1. AAPA has not held a national convention since 2012 (a joint meeting with NAPA in Dayton, Ohio), although there have been several regional meetings since then. Once the new president is known, we should have a clearer idea of whether the conference will make it onto the AAPA schedule, either as a national or regional meeting. This could also be an opportunity to mark the 80th anniversary of AAPA’s founding in September 1936, and perhaps draw in some former members.

Members of The Fossils will be invited to participate whether or not they belong to NAPA or AAPA. Early next year we should poll our own members about interest in attending.

There could be people outside the amateur journalism fraternity who would participate in a conference: librarians and academics interested in amateur journalism would want to see what is available at the LAJ; a session or two on H. P. Lovecraft and his connection with AJ could draw some of his followers; there could also be interest from fanzine and SciFi APA groups; letterpress printers would be interested in seeing the Silver Buckle Press. Some of these non-ajay folks would be interested, but how can we reach them?

The May meeting in Madison provides a solid founda-

tion for moving ahead, but much work remains to hold a successful conference.

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Since the next issue of THE FOSSIL starts a new volume, I'm considering changes to the format. Most articles currently use the typeface 11 point Californian. I may choose a more compact typeface/point-size combination for volume 112; would that be a problem for any current readers?

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This issue includes information on two deaths and six membership expirations, leaving only 25 names on the membership list. All people who have an interest in amateur journalism history – whether or not they have participated in an organized group – are welcome to join. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested, let them know about our group. Recent issues of THE FOSSIL can be read for free on our website, making it easy for prospective members to check us out. And those non-members who have been reading on-line: we are happy to provide this service, but would be even happier to welcome you as a member.

Membership in The Fossils is also an excellent way to stay in touch with other amateurs if you have ceased active participation or dropped out of other groups.

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I have been working with a reader in Germany who has been researching events surrounding the 1927 NAPA election between Jacob Moidel and Caddie Whitsitt. Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* notes, "The campaign had been a warm one, but after the election harmony seemed to reign." Gary Bossler has been kind enough to provide scans of relevant entries from *The National Amateur* of that era, but we have not been able to determine what controversies divided the factions. We are hoping to turn this research into an article for an upcoming issue of THE FOSSIL.

I would enjoy hearing from anyone who has NAPA publications from 1926 to 1928 (particularly *The Tryout*, *The Brooklynite*, and *Bacon's Essays*) and is willing to share the contents. See my contact information in the masthead.

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In *D.I.Y. Printer Wannabe* number 4, circulated in the December 2014 NAPA bundle, James Dawson suggests adding a Letters to the Editor section to both THE FOSSIL and *The National Amateur*. "Writing a letter is more informal and therefore much easier than writing an article, which many members probably don't have the time or skill to do, myself included. Would this generate some enthusiasm and participation? Would valuable information of interest to amateur journalists come to the surface, if only a little at a time?"

That's a great suggestion! If you have comments you

would like to share on any topic related to amateur journalism, send them along to me. I'd also like to know what you would like to read in THE FOSSIL. I always enjoy hearing from readers—even non-members who read issues via our website. Please note whether your communications are intended for publication. ◇

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Letter to the Editor

THERE IS ANOTHER METHOD of preserving zines for the future, that of scanning them into PDF files and posting them on archival Websites. It is not a guarantee for survival any more than paper, but the more places that zines are scattered about, then the greater likelihood of survival.

It is also the case that the next generation only reads online. Placing zines on the Internet ensures a better chance they will actually be read, as opposed to sitting on a shelf unknown to all but a handful of researchers.

My zine *Opuntia* was paper only from its first issue in March 1991 until March 2014, when ruinous postage hikes by Canada Post changed everything. Since then it has been only a PDF file, posted at the archival websites www.efanzines.com and www.fanac.org. If I knew of other such sites, I would post there as well. I have scanned all the paper back issues of *Opuntia* and am gradually posting archive issues.

To scan library collections of zines will take big money, beyond the capability of amateurs to finance. However, I encourage zinesters to get their own publications into pdf and posted online. If you don't do it, no one else will.

The best archival websites will be institutional ones that exist long after individuals have sunk into the grave. This is something that could be done by The Fossils. It is not enough to preserve zines; they should be easily discoverable by kids these days and free to download for reading.

Dale Speirs
Calgary, Alberta

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dale points to an area where fanzines are far ahead of traditional amateur journalism: the creation of an archive where publishers can add images of their zines at no cost to them. Perhaps someday the process will be less expensive and scans from the *Library of Amateur Journalism* can be made available through the University of Wisconsin. But what can be done in the meantime? The Fossils' website has only a limited amount of storage space (after all, we pay only \$25 per year). Issues of THE FOSSIL have been put on-line as PDF files since issue 322 (October 2004). The earliest are text-only, but beginning with number 346 (October 2011) images are also included. It's very handy to search the Fossil website for keywords using search engines such as Google or Bing and applying the "site:thefossils.org" specification. ◇

75 Years Ago in THE FOSSIL

EXCERPTS FROM issue number 95 for June 1940:

THE ANNUAL DINNER

Forty members and friends attended the thirty-seventh annual meeting and reunion dinner of The Fossils, which was held at the Hotel Astor, New York City, on Saturday, April 27, 1940.

After the dinner, the meeting was called to order at 8:20 P.M. by Vice-President Edward H. Cole, in the absence of the president, Josephus Daniels.

Mr. Spencer reported on the "History of Amateur Journalism," outlining the scope of the history and the progress made to date. Mr. Morton was then called upon for the report of the Memorial Committee, and read the names of eighteen members who died during the past year.

Dr. Rothlander spoke of his pleasure at being able to attend this reunion and of some of his early experiences as an amateur journalist in 1882. Joseph J. Lane, our newest member, gave his recollections of his experience as an amateur in Boston in 1907.

The presiding officer then called upon some of the present day amateur journalists present to arise, among them Bernice C. McCarthy, Harold Segal, George Trainer, and Robert Telschow.

The meeting then adjourned at 9:45 P.M., but those present sat around talking for several hours after that, reluctant to depart from such a happy occasion

VINCENT B. HAGGERTY,
Secretary.

THOSE WHO WISHED TO BE THERE

FRANK C. WICKS: Dear Antediluvian, I wish I might be with the never-grow-ups April 27. I would like to exhibit what a life of virtue means, in my hale and hearty old age. I am surprised that so many of you can afford a three dollar dinner, and that they are warned not to come in dress clothes. I did not think Fossils wore dinner clothes every night.

CHARLES C. HEUMAN: My enforced leisure has brought many odd fancies to my mind. One is, that if the organization had made no change in its requirements for membership only a very few would fore-gather next Saturday. What a profound change from the old days when the attendance sometimes numbered more than a hundred – nearly all now with God. And how affluent we were! As I remember it, nearly two thousand dollars were contributed in a single year, and spent on THE FOSSIL.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paid for Fossil No. 94:	\$86.90
Collected and spent for annual dinner:	\$120.00
Treasury Balance:	\$99.50

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Includes 170 entries. ◆

Over \$9,800 Given to LAJ

by David M. Tribby

ONE YEAR AGO, The Fossils announced a gift of \$1,000 for the ongoing work of cataloging the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ), which is housed at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. In September the American Amateur Press Association matched that gift, plus they gave \$2,000 toward establishing a permanent endowment fund, named in memory of Leland M. Hawes, Jr.

According to Ben Strand, Director of Development for UW Libraries, a total of \$9,853.87 has been given to the two funds through June 30, 2015. In the past year, AAPA donated a total of \$3,500, The Fossils \$3,000, and individuals \$3,353.87. A grand total of \$4,976.87 went toward ongoing cataloging, and \$4,877 for the Hawes endowment. UW requires a minimum of \$10,000 to establish an endowment, so another \$5,133 is needed in that fund.

Donations made to the University of Wisconsin Foundation are tax deductible. Complete information on how to make a gift can be found on The Fossils' website, at www.thefossils.org/supportlaj.html ◆

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Secretary-Treasurer

TOM PARSON SENT an informal report to Fossil officers on June 8. In it, he noted:

Reimbursement to Gary Bossler for The Fossil #363: \$48.88

Two renewals: \$15 each from Jack Scott and Gary Bossler

Bank balance as of May 31: \$4,018.67 ◆

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An Unexpected Reference

by David M. Tribby

AS WE SETTLED into our seats for the flight, my wife started reading her mystery, *Unprintable* by Julie Kaewert. "Do you know Tom Parson?" she asked. "He's The Fossils' secretary-treasurer. Why do you ask?" "Here—read the Acknowledgements." Tom was mentioned at the top:

This book could not have been written without the help of many extraordinarily kind people. Tom Parson of Denver, in the tradition of fine printers, went out of his way to demonstrate the art of hand printing, lend me rare books, and explain the intricacies of the history and culture of printing.

The first paragraph of the story was a real grabber: "There's nothing like the joy of placing pristine handmade paper in a press, clicking bits of type into a composing stick, and breathing the exotic aroma of oil-based ink. Nothing, that is, except perhaps changing the history of Europe." ◆

Allan Bula

July 28, 1931 – April 18, 2015

by David M. Tribby

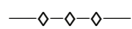
ALLAN BULA JOINED the British Amateur Press Association in 1975 in order to have an outlet for his letters and essays. After seeing Lauren Geringer's *People Watcher* in the BAPA bundles, he joined the American APA on November 30, 1977. He became a Fossil in 1979.

Born in the Balham neighborhood of London, he grew up in nearby Croydon where he experienced the Blitz during World War II. In 1951 he graduated from London University with a degree in Economics. In 1958 he moved ten miles south to Croyden, then in 1961 another 30 miles southeast to Guilford. Finally, in 1981, he moved to the seaside town of Bexhill. He and wife Angela had three children: Caroline, Christopher, and Clair.

Professionally, he was a reporter for a local newspaper in the 1970s, and later was employed in public relations. He also worked in education and was remembered as "a stalwart of the Workers' Educational Association for more than 40 years."

A longtime secretary of BAPA, in 2004 he wrote a report about the 114-year-old organization for THE FOSSIL that noted it had dwindled to about 14 members. It did not last much longer.

Allan found a way to participate in AAPA despite the prohibitive expense of shipping his *Letter From England* across the Atlantic. He had it printed in the USA, first by Les Boyer (beginning in May 1998) and later by Ivan Snyder (from February 2012). The final issue appeared in the February 2015 AAPA bundle. ♦



Mavis L. Swenson

May 27, 1924 – May 24, 2015

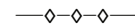
by David M. Tribby

MAVIS LUCILE SMITH SWENSON, known as Vicki, died Sunday, May 24, 2015, at a care center in Mandan, North Dakota, only three days short of her 91st birthday. Mavis joined The Fossils in 1998, during her husband Jack's first stint as president, and about 14 years after he first became a member. Mavis had joined the American Amateur Press Association as a family member in December 1996 (almost 13 years after Jack joined). She and Jack hosted the 1996 AAPA convention in Rapid City, South Dakota. In 2003 they filled out a term as AAPA mailer, then were elected co-mailers later in the year.

Mavis, the daughter of George and Maria Kiehne Smith, was born and grew up on a Minnesota farm about 70 miles south of the Canadian border. She graduated

from Blackduck High School, then attended French's Business College in Bemidji. During World War II she worked for the Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island, Washington. Returning to Minnesota in the summer of 1944, she renewed her friendship with Jack, and they were married in early 1945. Over the next few years they had three daughters (Janet, Joanne, Suzanne) and a son (David).

Jack's career, first as a news broadcaster and later as an oil industry executive, took the family to North Dakota (Fargo and Bismarck), Chicago, and Denver. After Jack's retirement in 1987, they lived in Rapid City, South Dakota, and Hines, Minnesota. In 2012 they moved to Bismarck to live near their son. They moved 23 times during their 70-year marriage. ♦



Smithsonian's AJ Collection

by David M. Tribby

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE'S National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, holds a significant collection of materials related to amateur journalism. Named "Kelsey Company Records and Amateur Journalism Collection, 1873-1964," it totals 54 boxes and takes up 15 cubic feet.

The Kelsey Co. of Meriden, Connecticut, manufactured table-top printing presses from 1872 until the 1980s. Many amateur journalists (including this writer) started printing on a Kelsey press.

The first 18 boxes in the collection hold Kelsey Company records, including press orders from 1873 to 1923, ledgers, inventory records, and correspondence.

There are another 28 boxes of amateur journals, including such titles as *Aarrets Gang*, *The Aonian*, *Boy's Herald*, *The Californian*, *The Cornerstone*, *Feather Duster*, *The Idler*, *Lucky Dog*, *Merry Printer*, *The North Star*, *The Nosyap*, *The Quasi-Occasional Kitty Kat*, *Reflections & Refractions*, *Second Mowing*, *The Tryout*, *Villa de Laura Times*, and *Young America*. *The National Amateur 1878-1963*, is in four boxes, while *THE FOSSIL 1917-1963* requires one. Memorabilia from both The Fossils and the National Amateur Press Association round out the collection.

It seems likely the materials in this collection came from Glover Snow (1896-1969), a member of NAPA and The Fossils who ran the Kelsey Company from 1923 until the 1960s. A "Glover Snow Collection, 1884-1955" at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford contains amateur journals Snow published between 1908 and 1916 as well as documents related to the Kelsey Co.

Both of these recent finds have been added to the "Collections" page on The Fossils' website. ♦

The Fossils Membership List

July 1, 2015

Members:

Bossler, Gary T., 145 Genoa Ave SW, Massillon, OH, 44646
Brignull, Alan, 33 Heath Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex, C07 9PU, UK
Chamberlain, Kent Clair, 321 Clay St, Space #11, Ashland, OR, 97520-1340
Davis, Ken, 4352 Woodview Ln, Racine, WI, 53404-1220
Dawson, James N., P.O. Box 950, Spokane, WA, 99210-0950
Donaldson, Linda K., 709 Fourth St, Portsmouth, OH, 45662-4005
Faig, Kenneth W. & Carol, 2311 Swainwood Dr, Glenview, IL, 60025-2741
George, Richard S., 5276 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA, 31210-2136
Goudsward, David, 5141 Second Rd, Lake Worth, FL, 33467-5615
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Horvat, Martin M. (Mike), 22275 SW 102nd Pl., Tualatin, OR, 97062-7199
Lichtman, Robert, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, CA, 94611-1948
Moe, Frederick, 36 West Main St, Warner, NH, 03278-4213
Parson, Tom, 157 South Logan, Denver, CO, 80209
Peyer, Donald W., 338 East Desford St, Carson, CA, 90745
Schrader, Barry, 511 Roberts Ln, DeKalb, IL, 60115
Schaub, Peter E., 212 Ladybank, Williamsburg, VA, 23188-8945
Scott, Jack E., 15 Mallard Pointe, Mt Vernon, OH, 43050
Shepherd, W. Hal, #1 Hidden Hills, Shoal Creek, AL, 35242
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Swenson, Jack G., 521 East Calgary Ave, Apt. 312, Bismarck, ND, 58503-0528
Tribby, David M., 1529 Fantail Ct, Sunnyvale, CA, 94087-4712
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Whitbread, Thomas B., Univ of Texas English Dept, 208 W 21ST, STOP B5000, Austin, TX, 78712-1040

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Speirs, Dale, Box 6830 Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, Canada

Shivvers, Melvin & Linda, 645 46th St, Des Moines, IA, 50312

Recently Expired:

Belt, William G., Carroll Lutheran Village, 1000 Weller Circle, Apt. 222, Westminster, MD, 21158
Brosey, Alice & Marc, 11009 Wellesley Ln, Knoxville, TN, 37934-5044
Gage, Frederick H., 1394 Minot Ave, Auburn, ME, 04210-3724-3724
Donnelly, Sean, University of Tampa Press, 401 West Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL, 33606
Row, Heath, 4367 Globe Ave, Culver City, CA, 90230

If you know someone on the "Recently Expired" list, please contact them and invite them to rejoin. ♦

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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