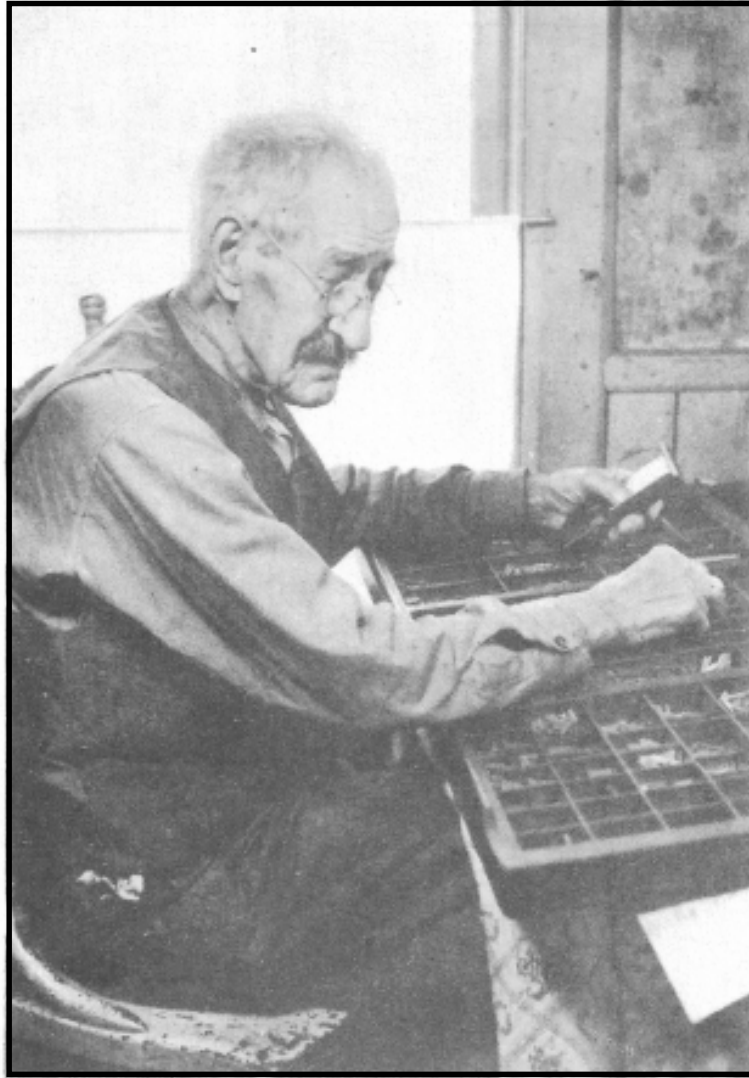


# The



# Fossil

*Official Publication of The Fossils, Inc., Historians of Amateur Journalism*  
Volume 108, Number 4, Whole Number 353, Glenview, Illinois, July 2012



Charles William "Tryout" Smith  
born October 24, 1852, died February 17, 1948  
photographed at his typewriter in his home at  
408 Groveland Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts  
in his ninetieth year  
by his grandson Daniel F. Pond

## “YOUNG BLOOD” SMITH

THE most extraordinary amateur journalist of all time is C. W. Smith of Haverhill, Mass., affectionately known in the fraternity as “Tryout” Smith.

On October 24th, 1944, Mr. Smith will be 92 years of age. He has been in amateur journalism since 1872, when he published his first paper, *The Boys' Companion*. His *Tryout* has been published regularly (until recently) since 1914, or for thirty years. He has published to date 253 issues of *The Tryout*, which, with an average of 20 pages each, give him a grand total of 5060 pages — all personally hand-set, — and which, it may be predicted, will never be approached for volume in amateur journalism.

All of his *Tryouts* have been printed on an 8x10 Pilot hand press. Estimating his editions at 250 copies and the pages printed two-up, he has made 632,500 impressions on his little press. Of course the total is much more, as his publications prior to *The Tryout* have not been included.

For “Tryout” Smith’s biography, we refer you to Vol. 72, No. 1, of *The Boys' Herald*, issued January, 1943, by the late Edwin Hadley Smith.

Our illustration shows C. W. Smith at *The Tryout* type case in his 90th year. The picture was taken by his grandson, Daniel F. Pond.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Guy Miller**

As I reminded everyone in our previous issue of *The Fossil*, even-numbered years spell election time for the Fossils. Elections are limited to the three members on our Board of Trustees who, in turn appoint members to the other offices in our organization, i.e., Secretary-treasurer, Official Editor, Historian, Librarian, and Webmaster. Actually, since the incumbent president is a carry-over, we cast our ballots for two candidates.

June 30 is the deadline for you to submit your name to Secretary-treasurer Tom Parson as a candidate for Trustee. As of this writing we have two submissions for the offices: Jack Swenson and Barry Schrader. Jack has been a Trustee for a number of years now; Barry is an interim appointment replacing the late Stan Oliner.

Election ballots are normally mailed by July 10, This year, however, since it appears that only two candidates will be filing for the two offices, I have sought advice from the officers and present Board of Trustees with a proposal that we dispense with elections and move on to appoint these two candidates as members of the Board. Your officers and Trustees have been unanimous in accepting this proposal. This decision on my part to deny members the franchise is, admittedly, more than merely high-handed, but is made in the light of present pressing conditions. Not only will this short-cut save us postage and printing, but, more importantly, it will also remove pressures on your President and, especially, Secretary-treasurer Tom Parson who has his hands full enough with his own personal obligations as well as with his job of sorting through and processing materials connected with the Graham-Wesson collection which Stan Oliner was handling before his untimely death. Tom will give a report of his progress to the AAPA and NAPA members attending the dual convention in Dayton this July. We can all agree that Tom has taken on a tremendous task, and it will be some time before all materials have been placed in secure repositories.

At present, the consensus on the part of those responsible for deciding on the placement of these materials is that the bulk of the collection be directed toward the University of Iowa Libraries. Our Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will undoubtedly play a part in this distribution somewhere along the line. I should mention that collection decisions have been assumed by the presidents of the AAPA, NAPA, and Fossils, plus those of our members with a background in archival experience—Mike Horvat, Barry Schrader and Ken Faig among them.

I have notified Tom and other interested parties that the full treasury of the Fossils is dedicated toward assuring that these materials are properly taken care of. Likewise the presidents of both AAPA and NAPA have offered financial support.

I confess that I have made another arbitrary decision having to do with dues notifications. As we are sadly aware, our long-serving Membership Chair Martha Shivers has had to resign from the task. The forever-heralded belief is that no one is indispensable, but the absence of Martha as our Membership Chair threatens to seriously challenge this truism. Therefore, I am not in a hurry to hunt out a replacement. In the meantime, be informed that members will not receive notices until December, regardless of when their dues would normally be payable.

That temporary patch having been applied, your president must march on to meet another challenge: Selection of an Official Editor. With this July issue, our present Editor Ken Faig, who has held the post for eight years, will be stepping down; but he will be willing to submit contributing articles upon request. So Editor Ken, Publisher Gary Bossler, and I are in the process of discussing the future of our official publication. There is not much doubt that *The Fossil* will still be arriving at your door. Size, shape, format, frequency of publication, however, are as yet unknowns. Meanwhile, it would be an overwhelmingly welcome event if some member would come forth and offer to take on the job of Official Editor.

I am holding my breath.

June 30, 2012.

## “TRYOUT” SMITH’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

“Life gives us only moments, but those moments give us life”

*Reprinted from Boys’ Herald, January 1943*

I was born in Haverhill, Mass., October 24, 1852. In my 90th year I haven’t lost any ambition, nor interest in life and world affairs.

In the late 60’s, before I heard of A.J., I was playing with a Lowe Press, printing visiting cards. It was n.g., so when the Novelty Press came out in 1870 I purchased one, and my brothers, H.C. and F.H., and I did quite a bit of small printing.

One day in 1872 a boy who lived in Exeter, N.H., showed me a *Wingate’s Boys’ Gem*, and said it was printed by a boy. I showed it to my brothers when I got home. They were greatly interested and wanted to start a paper, but we had no body type.

I got in touch with Wingate who gave me information about A.J. Later I met him, Frank H. Pinkham, and Hoyt at Exeter. I made arrangements to go to Boston with Wingate and organize the Eastern Amateur Press Association, but I could not make it for lack of funds.

Later my brother H.C. had a chance to buy a small printing outfit. There were two fonts of body type, a lot of fancy type, and a 13 by 19 Cottage Press. This gave us type for a paper, so in 1872 we started the *Boys’ Companion*, of which four numbers were printed. We also printed the *Jolly Joker*, *Pick Me Up*, and the *Nonpareil*.

Postage on papers was paid then at the receiving office, but most of the amateurs were printing for exchange and exchanges went free. So the postage cost nothing. Later the post office put the postage on the publisher and at 1 cent on each paper. This caused the suspension of many papers, the *Boys’ Companion* among them.

I started a mail-order business of “50 cards for 10 cents,” but I didn’t print many of them. My father moved and having no place for the printing material, it was stored away. Later he moved to 4 Auburn Street and my brother, who was ill and unable to do any hard work, suggested that we start an advertising paper. He thought he could obtain enough ads to make it pay. We had the equipment to print such a paper, but the suggestion did not appeal to me, as I was thinking of getting into the card printing business again. Still, I thought if my brother had something he could do, it might help him. So the *Monthly Visitor* was started in 1888 by F.H. Smith & Co. I was the Co. The first three numbers went along fine and the profit was upward of \$20.

When it came to the fourth month, my brother was in bed and unable to solicit any ads. The *Visitor* would have ended then had it not been for a subscription list of several hundred. I knew of A.J. and had kept in touch with it by subscribing to the papers that had been sent to me. In order to fill out the *Visitor’s* subscription list I decided to continue it as an amateur publication. It was the first widely circulated amateur paper ever printed, 700 to 800 copies each issue. One credit to it was the recruiting of James F. Morton and his brother Nelson, their first contributions being printed in it.

I received many letters of encouragement from the amateurs. Harriet C. Cox sent a bundle of papers, among them the official organs of the New England and Massachusetts A.P.A., with application blanks. I joined both. Charlie Burger wrote in his masterful style: “You are eligible to membership in the National Amateur Press Association, so you will at once fill out the enclosed application blank and return it to me with \$2 for initiation fee and dues.” I did and was then a full-fledged amateur and I have been ever since. I suspended the *Monthly Visitor* in 1899 as I had gone into business for myself.

In the early years I bought short stories and novels from Richard Gerner, later the father of Nita Gerner Smith. H.C. Smith & Co. (I was the Co.) printed his *Lord of Monteith*, and I printed the *Curse of Passion*,

as booklets in 1873. We also bought Gerner's novel *Born to be Hung*, but sold it to Almon Pitts, of Akron, Ohio, who printed it in 1874.

About 1911 Edith Minter wanted me to print a memorial to Susan B. Robbins. I wanted to do it, as I held her in high esteem. But I had no press nor type, and told Edith I couldn't do it. But it kept bobbing up in my mind, and at last I bought an 8 x 10 Pilot Press and type, and the memorial was issued. Having material to print and getting my fingers again in the type case and my hand on the lever of a press, I hated to stop printing. My eyes were bothering me and I didn't think they could stand the strain of setting type. I chawed over the matter for some time and I thought I can give my eyes a tryout anyway. If I issue a paper I thought, I'll call it *Tryout*. And that's how *Tryout* came to be named in 1914. Calling myself Tryout was the suggestion of Howard P. Lovecraft. One of my letters to him was signed Tryout and it pleased him. Since then I have signed all my letters Tryout. I get letters addressed to Tryout Smith, Chas. Tryout Smith, and several other combinations. I never thought or expected that the name or the paper would become so well-known throughout A.J.

When a youth of 14 to 17 I enjoyed playing billiards. I was a member of the Penny Ante Club, which used to meet evenings. One night when I was absent the police raided the club. About that time a chum learned the printer's trade. It fascinated me to watch him set type and kick the little press. I wanted to print. So I bought the Lowe Press. As evenings were the only time I could devote to printing, I quit the gang and stayed home. That little press was the turning point of my life. Printing has always been a hobby. I never made a business of it, unless card printing may be considered such. I have printed a lot for my friends, but never considered I was in the printing business. At 90 I haven't lost my interest in type or press since I got that Lowe Press in 1867. Never could do good work, but it has been one of my greatest pleasures for 75 years. I am as eager to print and mail-out *Tryout* now as when I sent out the first number in 1914. [He wrote EHS Nov. 23, 1939, "Mailed *Tryout* yesterday and started the next number today."]

Two years ago Hadley Smith started a movement, which was endorsed by Spink, Vondy, Edkins, and others, to elect me president of the National, but I refused the nomination. Had I wanted the office I would have made a try for it long ago when I had the strength to administer its affairs. But when the Philadelphia convention elected me the first and only honorary life member, I accepted the unusual honor, as no one else had achieved it.

In August 1939 I wrote Vondy: "I have a commission I want to accomplish and I'm going to ask you to be the 'victim.' I have a large trunk full of amateur journalistic publications, and I am looking around to find a home for them. I understand the New York Public Library has quite a collection and wants more. A bound file of *Tryout* is on exhibition there, and the Library has a complete file because sometime ago it applied to me for some missing numbers. If the Library will accept and file my collection, I will send it. I want to put it where there is some interest in it."

Vondy reported that the Library would be very glad to have my collection. So I sent about 10,000 papers and some amateur books and convention photos. An exhibition entitled "Amateur Periodicals: Selections from the Charles W. Smith and Other Collections" was on view from April 10 to May 11, 1941, in room 112, the New York Public Library.

I have always lived in Haverhill, except for three years in Plaistow, N.H. Educated in public school, one term in Grammar School. Left school to go to work when 13. The soldiers were returning from the Civil War, wounded and sick, and many of them unable to work. Business started up and help being scarce, many boys went to work at good wages. My first job was in a stock room in a factory. I gave it up to work in a large wooden-box factory as an "all-around." Later I learned to nail boxes, then to fit them. In about five years the boss of the mill made me foreman, which job I held over 18 years. In 1897 I purchased the box business and went into business for myself and made some money. I developed a fine case of nervous prostration which came near putting me among my folks in Hinsdale Cemetery. Owing to the illness, I gave

up the business in 1903 and retired.

I married Ida J. Boynton, a nurse, in September, 1878. She died December, 1885, and I never married again. We had two children, Jennie and Susan. They married and had 3 boys and 3 girls, who have had 11 children. My 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren are living.

I came to 408 Groveland Street in 1900 to live with my daughter Susan. She died and I still live with my son-in-law. Three old fellows make the home now—one is 68, another is 78, and I am 90. We do the housekeeping and cooking on a gas range, but a woman comes in several days a week to wash and clean. My press and type are now in my bedroom.

I have a library of old books, mostly of the nineteenth century. I like history and narratives best, but read everything from “Penny Dreadfuls” to the Bible. All my folks were Methodists.

I smoke “like a house afire.” My first smokes were cheroots which I swiped from my father’s box when 8 years old. I smoked them in my room under the skylight, so that the smoke might pass outdoors. I kept swiping those cheroots until I was caught and got a spanking. I never was much of a cigarette smoker, but sometimes when friends drop in to play whilst I take one from the package on the table. I like best a clay pipe, which men smoked many years ago.

### **“TRYOUT” SMITH, OUR HONORARY FOSSIL**

Nita Gerner Smith

*Reprinted from The Fossil, January 1947*

Amateur journalism can point with great pride to the fact that it has interested a man, now 94, for 74 years. Is there another hobby with such a devotion?

At one period in his life Charles W. Smith did not own a press, but on Edith Minter’s insistence that he print a memorial to Susan B. Robbins he invested in a printing outfit, this time a Pilot. Printing this memorial, with his fingers again in a type case and his hand on a press level, brought back the urge and satisfaction which our printers through the years have conveyed to us so many times. But his eyes were bothering him and he was uncertain how they would stand the strain of setting type. After mulling over it for some time he decided to give his eyes a tryout anyhow and if he issued a paper to call it *Tryout*. That is how his famous paper was born—the first number December, 1914. It was the suggestion of the late Howard Lovecraft that he call himself “Tryout” and he has signed himself that way ever since, but, modestly, is surprised that the name and the paper have become so famous. He has received letters addressed to Tryout Smith, Charles Tryout Smith, and other combinations.

Smith was born in Haverhill, Mass., October 24, 1852. As a youth of 14 to 17 he enjoyed playing billiards and was a member of the Penny Ante Club. One night, when he was absent, the police raided the club. Looking elsewhere for amusement, he became fascinated watching a friend set type, and the desire arose to print too. He purchased a little press, and as evenings were the only time he could devote to this new acquisition, he left his gang to print visiting cards and small jobs for friends, but never considered he was in business. It has always remained a hobby.

His first knowledge of a.j. came when, on a visit to New Hampshire, he was shown a paper, *Wingate’s Boys’ Gem*, and heard it was printed by a boy. He was greatly interested and, learning more about the hobby, planned to go with Wingate to Boston to organize the Eastern Amateur Press Association, but was unable to finance the trip.

Charles’ brother, Herbert, in 1872 had an opportunity to buy a small printing outfit, including two fonts of body and some fancy type, and a 13 x 19 Cottage Press. Together they printed *The Boys’ Companion* (four numbers), *Jolly Joker*, *Pick Me Up*, and *Nonpareil*. One of his activities was to obtain stories from



Richard Gerner (one of the founders of the National) and print them as booklets, but he sold Gerner's best-known melodrama, "Born to be Hung," to Almon Pitts of Akron, Ohio, who printed it in 1874. During that period most of the amateurs were printing for exchange, and postage one exchange cost nothing. When the post office raised the price to one cent a paper, *Boys' Companion* had to be suspended.

The printing equipment was stored away, but Charles' brother, Frank, became ill and was able to do only light work, so they discussed getting out an advertising paper. The idea did not particularly appeal to Charles, as he wanted to do card-printing again, but, wishing to help Frank, in 1888 *The Monthly Visitor* was begun, issued by F. H. Smith & Co. Profit for the first three months was \$20, but in the fourth month Frank was too ill to solicit advertisements and the project would have ended then had it not been for a.j. Charles had subscribed to various amateur papers, and in order to fill out the *Monthly Visitor's* subscription list he continued it as an amateur publication. He says, proudly, "It was the first widely circulated amateur paper ever printed, 700 to 800 copies each issue." It has to its everlasting credit the recruiting of James F. and Nelson Morton, whose first contributions were printed in it.

Then he really became acquainted with the amateurs and joined both the New England and Massachusetts A.P.A. The office of Official Editor for one year in the latter association is the only one he has ever held. Charlie Burger wrote him that he was eligible to join the National Amateur Press Association. Smith joined and has considered himself a "full-fledged amateur ever since."

Tryout Smith was educated in public schools, but left at 13 to go to work in a factory as a stock clerk. He gave that up for employment with a wooden-box manufacturing company, being gradually promoted, and in 1897 bought the business. His marriage to Ida J. Boynton, a nurse, was to last only for seven years, as his wife died, leaving him with two daughters. Hard work led to an attack of nervous prostration, and he retired in 1903. At the time his autobiography was published in *The Boys' Herald* his descendants included six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Smith has always lived in Haverhill, except for three years in Plaistow, N.H., and at 408 Groveland Street, his daughter's home, since 1900. He tells about Plaistow that he had gone there with a box of books, that it was a pretty little village, and the first month passed pleasantly, the second month more drearily, and in the third he desperately attacked a woodpile for activity. One day in the cellar the idea came to him to partition off a corner and install his press, and while on second thought it did not seem at all feasible, the next day found him on the electric car bound for Haverhill. He returned on a truck bearing the *Tryout* printing outfit. *Tryout* magazine was issued from there for two years under amazing difficulties—except to an amateur! The cellar was cold, the floor was of sand, and to reach the press one had to go into a coal bin, crawl through a bulkhead, and walk the length of the cellar. There was always the danger of losing type in the sand, freezing to death, or being drowned out during a spring thaw. He was then 70.

On moving back to Haverhill Smith intended to give up printing, send his type to the melting pot and his press to the junk pile, but at the sight of the little 10 x 12 den from which his paper was first issued, the old urge asserted itself and, to the joy of the a.j. world, *Tryout* came back. The Library of A.J. includes a resolution by the Hub Club of Boston, expressing the hope that Mr. Smith would renew his publication or otherwise resume the activity of which he has shown the most remarkable instance in the history of amateur journalism.

Lovecraft has described Tryout's office as being in the rear of the flower garden, the inside walls covered by pictures, stamps, buttons, postcards, and other delightful accumulations. For the last few years the press and type have been in Smith's bedroom.

Some years ago Tryout requested Edna McDonald to approach the New York Public Library with an offer of a trunkful of amateur journals, as they already had a complete file of his magazine. Vondy reported the library would be very glad to accept his collection, and about 10,000 papers, amateur books, and convention photographs were on exhibition there in the spring of 1941. At the Franklin Institute there is also

a file of *The Tryout*, the *Monthly Visitor*, and other early papers. The last issue of *Tryout*, bound in colorful wall paper, is dated August 1944 and contains a tribute to Edwin Hadley Smith.

Smith has a library of old books, mostly of the nineteenth century. He prefers history, but reads anything from the Bible to dime novels. He smokes a great deal, preferring a clay pipe, but when friends drop in to play whist he will sometimes take a cigarette. Another hobby is stamp collecting, and he has acquired an enormous number of uncanceled postals and ancient stamped envelopes, which he sometimes uses. A cat was a beloved companion for many years. He still makes his home with his son-in-law and describes the household as consisting of "three old fellows who do the housekeeping and cooking, but a woman comes in several days a week to wash and clean."

Few of the amateurs have been privileged to meet him. Due to deafness, he has never attended an amateur convention, but takes a lively interest in elections and association affairs. In 1940, when Hadley Smith started a movement, endorsed by Edkins, Spink, and others, to elect Tryout Smith as president of the National, he refused with the plea that he did not have the strength to serve. But when the Philadelphia convention elected him as the first and only honorary life member, he deemed it an unusual honor. He has this year been unanimously elected honorary member of the Fossils. His latest thought for the beloved hobby is the offer of \$50 to start a trust fund, the interest to be devoted to the publication of the *National Amateur*.

Through the years younger members have been severely critical of Tryout's numerous typographical errors, but his defense is characteristic: "Sometimes I fear that the word care is not in my vocabulary and that inattentiveness and indifference have marked me for their own. \* \* \* *Tryout* will continue to be printed and bound in the same old way. Why? Because it is the easiest way. It saves both time and labor."

To quote Lovecraft once more: "I find Smith a very interesting person, since his character renders him almost a living incarnation of the conventional types of pastoral poetry. As he roams the fields and woods with his diminutive mascot, I fancy he is much like the old poets' conception of some Arcadian, who spent the day in innocent sport and danced to the homely melody of the oaten reed. He reminds me of a character in the drama 'Rosemary'—whose seventy winters rested but lightly upon him and who would frequently declare that he was still 'a boy at 'eart!'"

### **"POP" MELLINGER REMINISCES**

Walter E. Mellinger

*Reprinted from The Fossil, October 1948*

After attending the '94 convention at Boston, I took my wife and little girl up into the mountains of New Hampshire for the summer (I used to have money), where I stayed awhile. One day I took the train back to Haverhill and called on C. W. Smith. He never published his street address, so I went to the Post Office to try to get it, but the clerk rightfully said he could not furnish it. I implored him stating that I had come all the way from Chicago to visit him. He glanced out of his window and said "Perhaps that man can tell you."

I found Smith to be a man about forty years of age, very deaf, retiring, and yet pleased at my visit. Although living so near Boston, he said that I was the first amateur he had ever met! I saw his shack at the rear of his house, situated right on the river where he could fish. The room was filled with his printing outfit and his many amateur papers and relics. I enjoyed the visit very much and I think he appreciated my interest in him, which continued until his passing. I am very happy to have met dear old Smith.



## THE HAVERHILL CONVENTION

H. P. Lovecraft

*Reprinted from Tryout, July 1921*

Of the various shrines renowned in the annals of amateur journalism, none surpasses in importance that which bears the title of 408 Groveland St., Haverhill, Mass. It is here that *Tryout* is issued faithfully from month to month, and here that C. W. Smith, leader in publishing enterprise since 1889, presides like a patron deity over an Arcadian domain.

Yet notwithstanding these things, 408 Groveland St. still remains a *terra incognita* to most amateurs. Like the forbidden city of some royal dynasty, it is sacred ground, trodden only by the elect. Now and then some favoured mortal makes the pilgrimage and returns, but the number of such pilgrims is not great. It is therefore scarcely to be wondered at that a pardonable pride fills the souls of those who, on the afternoon of Thursday, June 9 [1921], participated in the unofficial Haverhill convention.

This convention was, in truth, not large; consisting only of the host, his learned and brilliant author-neighbour, Miss Myrta Alice Little, A.M., of Hampstead, N.H., Historian-Elect of the U.A.P.A, and the undersigned; together with Thomas Tryout, the Official Cat, and small Annette, the Official Mascot. In enthusiasm, however, it atoned for its slender attendance; for, as may be imagined, there is amateurical inspiration in every cubic inch of the atmosphere of the *Tryout* office. Each delegate is eager for a repetition of the event on a longer scale.

My own credentials for admission to this conclave were those of a servitor and scribbler. For some years I have been attached to the *Tryout* staff as rhymester, rhyme-collector, historian and proofreader (of limited sections only), and had naturally acquired an increasing desire to behold with physical eye my benevolent "boss" and his publishing plant. Was not my one and only "book," *Looking Backward* here given the immortality of print? Now the hour had arrived, and guided by the new lettered luminary whose kind invitation had brought me north, and whose delightful family had royally entertained me at Little Towers in Hampstead, I entered the Elysian meads and groves of *Regio Tryoutiana*. Haverhill, let me add, is the most delectable of disappointments. Prepared to behold a dingy manufacturing town, the traveller is astonished by a city of beautiful homes, lawns, trees and gardens; in taste and attractiveness second to none. Amid such an environment, it is not strange that Tryout should possess its delightfully Doric air of pastoral grace.

Flanked by fertile flower and vegetable gardens, and blessed with a background of mystical faun-peopled woods dear to the editor's heart, stands the pleasant cottage numbered 408 Groveland St. In the rear, reached by a broad verdure-bordered path, is the Holy of Holies—*Tryout* office. Here, with walls made colorful by pictures, stamps, buttons, post-cards, and countless other accumulations of delightful nature, rests the faithful *Tryout* press with its type-cases, piles of paper, files, and other accessories, the whole establishment ruled by the genial editor.

To do justice here to Mr. Charles W. Smith is impossible, since it is he who will put these remarks into type; so I will content myself by describing *Tryout's* creator as a slender, wholesome, outdoor-looking man. He claims to have been born many centuries B.C., but in aspect and carriage nothing but youth is suggested. From his trim iron-grey hair and beard, and erect, well-proportioned form, one might pronounce him forty-five or fifty; yet he vows that this is a gross underestimation. Mr. Smith is a shining embodiment of those doctrines which teach the blessings of contentment and rural retirement. As Mr. Pope hath it:

“Happy the man whose wish and care  
A few paternal acres bound;  
Content to breathe his native air,  
In his own ground.

\* \* \* \*

Sleep by night; study and ease,  
Together mix’d; sweet recreation;  
And innocence, which most does please  
With meditation.”

Gifted with health, our Tryout is never idle or listless; but spends his days as Nature intended, at once pleasing himself and conferring pleasure on others. He is a monarch in his fair domain; a spirit ever youthful, constantly revived by his quiet pursuits—editing, printing, walking, exploring “Whittierland,” stamp-collecting, and conversing with his grandchild-mascot and playful nine-year-old Thomas cat. He recalls the familiar lines of the Mantuan swain:

Tityre, tu patulae recubans sub tegmine fagi  
Silvestrem tennui Musam meditaris avena;  
Nos patriae finis et delicia linquimus arva;  
Nos patriam fugimus: tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra,  
Formosam resonare doces Amaryllida silvas.

Mr. Smith’s own writing reflects much of this Arcadian colour in inimitable fashion, and it is to be regretted that he does not allot a large portion of magazine space for such quaint and unforgettable essays as “Anent the Melancholy Days” and “Scared? No-o-o!”

Two hours is all too brief an interval for a full-sized convention, but much can be compressed therein amidst an atmosphere as saturated with amateur tradition as it that of *Tryout* office. Files of *Tryouts* and *Monthly Visitors* were produced, old convention photographs studied, and vain inquiries made as to the identity of “Lester Kirk” and “Dame Gossip.” The meeting of two Merrimack Valley leaders like Miss Little and Mr. Smith, representing the newest as well as the oldest traditions of the amateur world, should augur well for future local activity, especially since another gifted Haverhill litterateur is about to join the ranks of the United.

Altogether, the Haverhill convention was a decided success. Washington and Boston may furnish imitations impressive in point of numbers, yet neither can command so central a position in the ocean of amateur efforts. *Tryout* is the social lifeblood and nervous system of the fraternity today; if any doubt it, let him try to picture an amateurdom devoid of this indispensable bond and inspiration.

*The quotation from Alexander Pope is from “Ode to Solitude.” The Latin verses are from Virgil’s Eclogues. See S. T. Joshi’s edition of Lovecraft’s Collected Essays Volume 1: Amateur Journalism (New York NY: Hippocampus Press, 2004) (pp. 289-291) for thorough notes on this essay.*

## IMPRESSIONS OF “TRYOUT” SMITH

H. P. Lovecraft

*Reprinted from The Californian, Summer 1937*  
*H. P. Lovecraft to Reinhart Kleiner, July 17, 1917*

I had heard of C. W. Smith’s retiring disposition, but had no idea of the extent of the latter quality. He once sent me a photograph of his “office,” as well as of his two mascot— Annette and the “Tryout Cat.” Characteristically enough, he failed to send a picture of himself! He is an ardent stamp collector, and has acquired an enormous number of uncanceled postals and stamped envelopes of ancient vintage, which he sometimes uses. A short time ago, he used an 1880 envelope in writing me. A card I received from him yesterday is a relic of the 1890’s. I find Smith a very interesting person, since his character renders him almost a living incarnation of the conventional types of pastoral poetry. As he roams the fields and woods with his diminutive mascot, I fancy he is much like the old poets’ conception of some Sicilian or Arcadian Damoetas, who spent the day in innocent sport, and danced to the homely melody of the oaten reed. He reminds me of the old “post-boy” in the drama “Rosemary”—whose 70 winters rested but lightly upon him, and who would frequently declare that he was still “a boy at heart.”

## SIR THOMAS TRYOUT

Ward Phillips

(pseudonym of Howard P. Lovecraft)

*Reprinted from The Tryout, December 1921*

Died Nov. 15, 1921

To the venerable cat of a quaint gentleman in His Majesty’s Province of ye Massachusetts-Bay, who publishes an amateur magazine call’d *The Tryout*.

The autumn hearth is strangely cold  
Despite the leaping flame,  
And all the cheer that shone of old  
Seems lessen’d, dull’d, and tame

For on the rug where lately doz’d  
A small and furry form,  
An empty space is now disclos’d,  
That no mere blaze can warm.

The frosty plain and woodland walk  
In equal sadness sigh  
For one who may no longer stalk  
With sylvan hunter’s eye.

And if as olden Grecians tell,  
Amidst the thickets deep  
A host of fauns and dryads dwell,  
I know that they must weep.

Must weep when autumn twilight brings  
Its mem'ries quaint to view,  
Of all the little playful things  
That TOM was wont to do.

So tho' the busy world may pass  
With ne'er a tearful sign  
The tiny mound of struggling grass  
Beneath the garden vine,

There's many an eye that fills tonight,  
And many a pensive strain  
That sounds for him who stole from sight  
In the November rain.

No sage can trace his soul's advance,  
Or say it lives at all,  
For Death against our curious glance  
Has rear'd a mighty wall.

Yet tender Fancy fain would stray  
To fair Hesperian bow'rs,  
Where TOM may always purr and play  
Amidst the sun and flow'rs.

### **SELECTIONS FROM THE TRYOUT**

*Reprinted from Boys' Herald, January 1943*

February 1923

After I had decided to give up my printing and reside in Plaistow, I packed some books and papers in a box, locked Tryout office, and hied myself to this pretty village in N.H. The first month passed pleasantly, there being so many things to do and see. The second month was somewhat dreary. It was not a case of "Nothing to do 'till tomorrow," but not much to do for months to come. I got so desperate one day for something to do that I attacked a woodpile with a saw.

One afternoon while in the cellar the idea came to me. Why not partition off a corner and install my press in it? But I dismissed the thought as not being a suitable place for a print shop—and it isn't. But I could not dispel the idea. It "haunted" me all the evening, and it was first in my mind on awakening in the morning.

After breakfast I boarded an electric car Haverhill bound. When I returned in the afternoon it was on an auto truck carrying Tryout printing outfit.

Tryout will for the present be printed from the “hole in the ground,” provided I don’t lose all of my type in the sand, or freeze to death, or get drowned out during the spring thaw.

February 1923

For the ‘teenth time I have been told that Tryout’s pages are not printed properly, and that the short stitch that binds its “fluttering pages” together is not the proper one. Two facts I knew long before my critics shed their swaddling clothes.

Tryout publisher is one of those individuals who “takes the line of least resistance,” and believes that “the shortest distance between two points is an air line.” He “cuts” corners whenever possible, climbs over or crawls under barb-wire fences, and reaches his point of estimation in the shortest time possible. Tryout will continue to be printed and bound in the same old way. Why? Because it is the easiest way. It saves both time and labor.

July 1923

Tryout publisher is not under 6 feet of earth—yet, despite the fact that it is printed about that depth below terra-firma—down in the cellar, under the rafters, and amid cobwebs. I have always maintained that one who really wanted to do a possible thing would derive ways and means to accomplish it. I have gotten this issue of Tryout out and I intend making a try for another.

The entrance to my present “sanctum” is somewhat difficult. One must pass through a doorway which opens into a coal bin, crawl through a bulkhead, and walk the length of the cellar. P.S. The floor of Tryout is sand.

I have been “sentenced” to pass about two years in Plaistow, N.H., after which I expect to return to Haverhill. Plaistow is a pretty village just across the line that separates Massachusetts from New Hampshire. It impresses me as being an enterprising and up-to-date village. Already I have kicked up the dust on many of its dirt roads, and sauntered through a few of its growth of forests.

September 1924

I am contemplating a “Want to Know” department in Tryout. A reader wants to know “Why I don’t take more care in my proofreading?”

“Alas and alack!” Sometimes I fear the word care is not in my vocabulary, and that inattentiveness and indifference have marked me for their own. Possessing somewhat of a “What’s the odds, as long as you’re happy” disposition, I am not prone, as a more exacting person might be, to look after details.

I know that have is not spelt with two “v’s”; that lightning would strike just as hard if it did not contain an “e”; and that Italy would look better if spelt correctly.

Maybe what Tryout needs is a font of type that will spell itself correctly without any manipulation on his part.

December 1926

Last July, when Tryout suspended publication, I intended giving up printing; to send my type to the “melting pot,” and my press to the junk pile. Removing to Haverhill, my former home, and again to the little

10 x 12 “den,” from which Tryout was first issued, I felt the urge to again “pick the type” and pull the lever of my press, so, “I’m at it again.” No regularity is promised, but having in mind the remarks of Dr. Howe, made at the Washington, D.C., 1896 convention, who said in substance “The project of amateur papers is good. You should have more of them. Get them out weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, or tri-monthly—that’s it, get it out this month, and try for the next.”

## RESOLUTION OF REGRET

*Reprinted from Boys’ Herald, January 1943*

Tryout removed to New Hampshire in 1922 and suspended publication six months. He evidently sent the following Resolution years ago to Leonard E. Tilden, as his nephew and executor, C. Leonard Shaw, of Worcester, Mass., recently sent it with Tilden’s amateur collection to the Library of A.J. The Resolution reads:

“At the regular monthly meeting of the Hub Club on November 9, 1922, at the home of Nelson G. Morton in Melrose Highlands, the following resolution was unanimously adopted. The signatures appended are those of the members of the club present at the meeting.

“Resolved, That the Club, learning with great regret of the suspension of Tryout, hereby extends to Mr. C. W. Smith an expression of the appreciation of its members for the remarkable work he has done and the devotion he has shown to Amateur Journalism, of its thanks for the benefit which its members in common with all other amateur journalists have derived from the regular receipt of *Tryout*, successor to the *Monthly Visitor* which some of us recall with equal pleasure, and of its hope that circumstances will permit Mr. Smith at no distant date to renew its publication or otherwise to resume the activity of which he has shown the most remarkable instance in the history of Amateur Journalism.”

J. BERNARD LYNCH, President.

EDITH MINITER, Secretary.

## THE “TRYOUT” SMITH CANON

With Thanks To Tom Parson For Listings From The Moitoret Index

Smith published some 255 numbers of *The Tryout*, from December 1914 through August 1944. Emerson Duerr published vol. 22 no. 4 of *The Tryout* dated August 1947 and four numbers of a “New Series” between October 1947 and May 1949. Duerr and Alma Weixelbaum also published at least two numbers (December 1947, June 1948) of *Tryout Junior*. My calculation of 255 numbers produced by Smith himself rests on the presumption that vol. 22 no. 4 was the first produced by his successor Emerson Duerr and that vol. 22 no. 3 (August 1944) was the last produced by Smith himself. Each full volume consisted of twelve numbers, so the span from vol. 1 no. 1 (December 1914) through vol. 22 no. 3 (August 1944) makes  $21 \times 12 + 3 = 255$  numbers produced by Smith. For readers bibliographically inclined, a checklist compiled by Edwin Hadley Smith of numbers of *The Tryout* through July-September 1942 appears in *Boys’ Herald* for January 1943.

Smith published 115 numbers of *Monthly Visitor* from Haverhill, Mass., the first nine annual volumes with twelve monthly numbers per volume dated continuously between January 1888 (vol. 1 no. 1) and December 1896 (vol. 9 no. 12). Of volume 10, six numbers were issued in 1897 (January-June) and a final number in August 1899. A July 1892 supplement entitled *The Nightingale* was also published. The publisher was F. H. Smith & Co. in 1888-93 and Charles W. Smith from 1894 forward. Frances A. Parsons was co-editor from 1895 forward.

The early amateur magazines published by Smith and his brother Herbert C. Smith from Haverhill, Mass., are quite scarce. Of the four numbers of *The Boys' Companion* published in 1872, Edwin Hadley Smith's "Check List of Papers" [EHS] (*Boys' Herald*, January 1943)—based on the holdings of LAJ—records all four, while the American Antiquarian Society's electronic index [AAS] records the June 1872 number. Of *The Nonpareil*, EHS records 1872, vol. II no. 3 and 1873, Vol. III, nos. 2, 3, 4 while AAS records July and December 1872. Of *The Jolly Joker*, EHS records 1872, vol. I no. 2 while AAS records none. Neither EHS nor AAS records any number of *Pick Me Up*.

Smith was also co-editor with C. S. Ellis of *The Tyro*, published from Worcester, Mass., in 1878. The Moitoret index [Moitoret] lists vol. 1 no. 1, February 20, 1878; vol. 1 no. 3, April 20, 1878; vol. 1 no. 4, May 20, 1878. AAS lists February through July, September, and November/December 1878 for this title.

Smith also published a number of separate publications (all from Haverhill, Massachusetts) including:

Richard Gerner, *The Lord of Monteith, or The Secret of the Red Chamber*, H. C. Smith & Co., 1873, 21pp., 15cm. Copy held in Bradofsky Collection, Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley.

Richard Gerner, *The Curse of Passion, or \$10,000 Reward, Dead or Alive*, C.W. Smith, 1873, 15pp., 21cm. Copy held in Beinecke Collection, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University.

*In Memory of Susan B. Robbins*, 1914

H. P. Lovecraft, *Looking Backward*, 1920 [Moitoret]

Rev. Eugene B. Kuntz, *Thoughts and Pictures*, 1932 [Moitoret]

*In Memory of Edith May Minitier*, 1934

Undated:

*Inward Music* [Moitoret]

*Poetical Melange* [Moitoret]

*Summer* [Moitoret]

## TRYOUT SAYS

Charles W. "Tryout" Smith

- 24 -hen I finished printing and mailing No. 12 of Vol. 21 I had no intention of starting another *Tryout*.

But I had some copy on hand and I decided to print once more the "Swan Song" issue.

After that came another number, the last, I thought. But the lure of the type was strong and I started still another *Tryout*. I had set and printed six pages and set four more when eye strain wrote "30" on my publishing.

Now *Tryout* is revived, and beginning with this issue Editor Duerr will take up where I left off. To those who have contributed to the *Tryout* during the past years I express my thanks—and my apologies for so many diths which have annointed their contributions.

I shall be 95 years old October 24—if I live until then. My health is good, but the passing years diminished both my strength and my activities. But I am still able to care for myself and my chamber, and have no present intention of retiring to the chimney-corner with pipe and paper. If I have business in the city I board the bus, ride in, and transact it.

I think I have grown old gracefully and I am thankful to my Creator for the good health I have enjoyed during my long life.

[Editor Emerson Duerr added this note: "Amateurs interested in acquiring Mr. Smith's complete printing outfit, consisting of Pilot press, type, leads and slugs, brass rule, etc., are invited to communicate with him \$75.00—will close the deal provided the buyer comes and takes it away." I don't know the story



*of who acquired Smith's equipment and if any Fossil does know this story, I hope they will communicate it to me.]*

## **NINETY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY POEM**

Charles W. "Tryout" Smith

*Reprinted from Tryout (New Series, No. 1), October 24, 1947  
(edited by Emerson Duerr)*

I am ninety-five today,  
An age that but few attain;  
Not strong, but enjoy good health,  
And I hope the years I have lived  
Have not been wholly in vain.

## **SOME SMITH FAMILY NOTES**

Charles William "Tryout" Smith was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on October 24, 1852, the son of Daniel F. Smith, born ca. 1823 in New Hampshire of New Hampshire-born parents, and Susan M. Smith, born April 1825 in Massachusetts of Massachusetts-born parents. Daniel F. Smith was born in Effingham, New Hampshire, the son of Ebenezer Smith and his wife Lydia (Hildreth) Smith, who married in Chesterfield, New Hampshire on December 24, 1815. (Daniel's 1846 Andover, Massachusetts marriage record gives the names of his parents as Ebenezer and Lydia Smith.) There were two heads of household named Ebenezer Smith in Cheshire County, New Hampshire when the 1820 census was enumerated: one in Langdon (household of ten, husband and wife apparently age 45+) and one in Winchester (household of six, husband and wife apparently age 26-44). By 1850, there were two Ebenezer Smiths in Winchester, Cheshire County: one, 69 years old, a laborer at the poor farm, and another, 70 years old, living with the Wise family.

It is possible that Smith's paternal grandfather Ebenezer Smith can be identified with the Ebenezer Smith, born 1779 in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, who died, aged 79, on January 9, 1859, in Winchester, New Hampshire, although Ebenezer's marital status was recorded as single in his death record. If this Ebenezer Smith was Smith's paternal grandfather, then his great-grandparents were Jedediah Smith, born in Dorchester, Massachusetts, ca. 1740-50, and Deborah Dunton, born in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, on May 6, 1757. Jedediah married Deborah Dunton, the daughter of Ebenezer Dunton and Beulah Cheney, in Sturbridge on March 12, 1775. He may well be the Jedediah Smith who died in Hinsdale, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, age 83, on September 25, 1826. A household headed by Jedediah Smith was enumerated in Hinsdale in both the 1790 and 1800 censuses. There was a head of household Jedediah Smith in Langdon, Cheshire County, New Hampshire when the 1820 census was enumerated. I have not so far been able to identify parents for Jedediah Smith born 1743 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. The *Boston Transcript* (v. 162, p. 96) published a genealogical query concerning Jedediah Smith born 1743 in its June 10, 1925 edition.

The 1850 census recorded Daniel F. Smith, age 30, as a farmer with real estate of \$3,000 in Hinsdale, Cheshire County, New Hampshire. Also in his household in that year were Fanny Smith, age 52; Pardon Smith, age 22; John Smith, age 19; Samuel Smith, age 15; Orson Smith, age 11; and Deborah Smith, age 93. Everyone in the household except Deborah Smith was born in New Hampshire; Deborah was born in Massachusetts, which provides some support for the thesis that Daniel F. Smith's paternal grandmother

may have been the Deborah Dunton who married Jedediah Smith in Sturbridge, Massachusetts in 1775.

Daniel F. Smith, age 23, married Susan Marshy Ellis in Andover, Massachusetts, on June 4, 1846. Susan was born in Bradford, Essex County, Massachusetts on September 30, 1825, the daughter of George and Susan Ellis. In 1855, the Massachusetts State Census enumerated Daniel F. Smith, age 30, and his family in Haverhill, Massachusetts. His household included Susan Smith, age 29; N. E. Smith, age 7; C. W. Smith, age 2; and Frank Smith, age 0. The 1860 federal census recorded in Haverhill D.F. Smith, age 37, a New Hampshire-born shoemaker, Susan Smith, age 37, born Massachusetts, and their presumed children Nancy E., age 12, Charles W., age 8, Frank H., age 5, and Herbert C., age 2—all the children listed as born in Massachusetts. Also in their household were Robert Hayes, age 24, shoemaker, born Massachusetts, and Sarah A. Hayes, age 19, born Massachusetts. On July 1, 1863, Daniel F. Smith, a 40-year-old lumber dealer resident in Haverhill, registered for the draft; hopefully, because of his young family, he did not have to serve.

By 1870, Daniel, age 47, still in Haverhill, was working in a box factory. His wife Susan, age 44, kept house, while son Charles, age 17, worked in a box factory, son Frank, age 15, worked in a shoe factory, and sons Herbert, age 12, and George, age 8, attended school. The household in that year also contained Emma Sanderson, age 22 (no employment), Mabel Sanderson, age 2, Martha Sanderson, age 9 months, servant Hattie Carleton, age 17, and boarder Maggie M'Pay, age 27, born Ireland, worker in a saloon. (I believe Emma Sanderson was Daniel's and Susan's daughter Nancy Emma Smith, who married George A. Sanderson.) By 1880, Daniel, age 56, a carpenter, and his wife Susan M., age 50, were living at 4 Auburn Street in Haverhill. Also in their household in that year were son Frank H., age 25, a box maker; son Herbert C., age 22, a box maker; son George A., age 17, a fish market worker; son Charles W., age 27, a box maker, Charles's wife Ida J., age 28 (born Massachusetts of New Hampshire-born father and Massachusetts-born mother), and their daughter Jennie L., age 2, born Massachusetts.

In his "Autobiography," Charles W. Smith recorded his marriage to Ida J. Boynton, a nurse, in September 1878. In 1860, the Haverhill, Massachusetts household of Issac Boynton (age 38, born Massachusetts, \$1500 real estate, included in addition to the head of household Jane C. Boynton, age 28 (born New Hampshire), Edgar A. Boynton, age 6 (born Massachusetts), Ida Jane Boynton, age 8 (born Massachusetts), Sarah N. Eaton, age 28 (born Maine, tailoress), Fanny A. Eaton, age 6 (born Massachusetts), and Fanny Whittier, age 16 (born Massachusetts, servant). In 1870, Ida J. Boynton, age 18, shoe factory worker, born Massachusetts and brother Eddie Boynton, age 16, scholar, born Massachusetts, were recorded in the Haverhill, Mass. household of Jennie Boynton, age 37, housekeeper, born New Hampshire. Charles and his wife had daughters Jennie (born May 1878 Massahusetts\*) and Susie (born December 1879 Massachusetts\*) before Ida (Boynton) Smith died in December 1885. In 1900, Charles and his two daughters were living in the household of his widowed mother Susan M. Smith at 6 Auburn Street in Haverhill. Jennie was by this time married to Charles E. Britton and her two sons Truman Boynton Britton (born September 1898 Massachusetts) and Fred Shaw Britton (born May 1900 Massachusetts) were also in the household of widow Smith in that year. (Note(\*): dates of birth from 1900 census. I'm not sure how reliable the dates of birth are for the 1900 household of Susan M. Smith: the date of birth of her son Charles W. Smith was recorded as August 1851 rather than October 1852.)

Charles' daughter Jennie married William H. Pond of Newburyport, Mass., the son of Charles W. and Harriet S. (Howland) Pond, in Haverhill on December 31, 1901, but the marriage was not to last. Jennie Pond, the mother of three children (son Daniel Francis Pond and daughters Ida Pond and Florence Margar Pond) was boarding in the home of Ernest and Hattie Hasletine in Haverhill, Mass., in 1910. By 1920, she was rooming with Florence Spurr in Haverhill and working as a corder in a shoe factory. William H. Pond apparently relocated to the west coast: he was boarding in San Francisco and working as a shoemaker in 1910 and he remarried in Washington State by 1920. He and his new family had by 1930 relocated to San

Francisco, where he continued to work as a shoemaker.

By 1910, the famous household at 408 Groveland Street in Haverhill was well-established. Head of household was Charles E. Britton, age 32, born New Hampshire of Massachusetts-born parents, watchman in a car barn. Also in the household were his wife Susan (Smith) Britton, age 29, mother of two children (both living), son Truman Britton, age 11, son Fred Britton age 10, and father-in-law Charles W. Smith, age 57, living on his own income. The household was essentially the same in 1920, except that a third child, a daughter Annette S. Britton, age 7, had joined the two brothers. Charles Britton was by 1920 working as a heel cutter in a shoe factory while his wife Susan (Smith) Britton beaded shoes at home. Sons Truman, age 21, and Fred, age 19, both worked as cutters in a shoe factory, while father-in-law Charles W. Smith, aged 67, lived on his own income.

By 1930, the 408 Groveland Street household had undergone some changes. Susan (Smith) Britton had died. The widowed Charles E. Britton, age 52, was working as a wood heeler in a shoe factory. Sons Truman and Fred no longer lived at home, but daughters Annette S. Britton, age 16, and Arlene M. Britton, age 5, still lived at home. Charles Britton's parents Phineas D. Britton, age 89, and Annette E. Britton, age 88, had joined the household, as well as his brother William F. Britton, age 63, who worked as a laborer in a nursery. Still in the household was father-in-law Charles W. Smith, age 77, as well as sister-in-law Jennie E. Pond, age 51, who did private home housework. The household also included one servant.

By 1940, the 408 Groveland Street household was still headed by Charles Britton, age 66, who now worked as a fish peddler. His brother William Britton, age 74, was still in the household, as well as boarder Charles W. Smith, age 87, and housekeeper Jennie Pond, age 64. Charles Britton's aged parents had doubtless died during the 1930-40 decade while all the children: sons Truman and Fred and daughters Annette and Arlene had removed from home.

My research revealed seven grandchildren for Tryout Smith.

(A) By his daughter Jennie Smith and her husband William H. Pond:

(1) Daniel Francis Pond, born March 6, 1903, Newburyport, Massachusetts; died June 6, 1985, Belmont, Massachusetts. Daniel was undoubtedly named in honor of his mother's father Daniel F. Smith, whom Jennie would have known as a young girl. Daniel and his two sisters and their mother were boarders in the home of Ernest C. and Hattie V. (Sanderson) Haseltine in Haverhill in 1910. (Hattie V. Haseltine was Jennie's cousin, the daughter of Tryout Smith's elder sister Emma (Smith) Sanderson.) Daniel, age 16, was boarding with George and Gladys Couillard at 15 West Broadway in Gardner, Worcester County, Massachusetts in 1920, and working as a laborer in a chair shop. Daniel took the famous photograph of his grandfather Tryout Smith at his typecase in his ninetieth year (ca. 1941-42).

(2) Ida Pond, born 1906-07 in Massachusetts. Ida, age 13, was boarding with John E. and Florence Goodfellow in Fitchburg, Worcester County, Massachusetts, in 1920.

(3) Florence Margar Pond, born February 7, 1909, Newburyport, Massachusetts. Florence was boarding in the home of John G. and Georgia H. Ellis at 499 Merrill Avenue in Haverhill in 1920. It is possible that she was the Florence Pond, age 21, born Massachusetts, who was a student at the Walter E. Fernald State School in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1930.

(B) By his daughter Susan Smith and her husband Charles E. Britton:

(1) Truman Boynton Britton, born September 24, 1898, Haverhill, Massachusetts. He married Irene May Scott, daughter of Ernest and Caroline W. Scott, in Haverhill, Mass. on October 3, 1923. At the time of their marriage, Truman Boynton was a store clerk and Irene Scott was a shoemaker. Truman Boynton Britton died December 1976 in Salem, Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

(2) Fred Shaw Britton, born March 26, 1900, Haverhill, Massachusetts, enlisted as a private at Ft. Devens on November 30, 1942. In 1930, he had been boarding with his uncle and aunt Herbert C. and Florence Britton at 412 Groveland Street in Haverhill, while working as an automobile mechanic. (Herbert C. Britton

remained a next-door neighbor of his brother Charles E. Britton when the 1940 census was enumerated.) Fred Shaw Britton died July 19 or 20, 1991, age 91, in Volusia County Florida.

(3) Annette Susan Britton, born March 1, 1913, in Massachusetts, married Charles Fred Witley, age 20, in Atkinson, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, on July 21, 1930. Annette S. Witley died in Atkinson, New Hampshire on June 22, 2003.

(4) Arlene Britton, born 1924-25 in Massachusetts, living with her widowed father Charles E. Britton in Haverhill, Massachusetts when the 1930 census was enumerated.

Charles' father Daniel F. Smith was living as late as March 1888, when he advertised his Champion Lock agency from 4 Auburn Street in Haverhill in *Monthly Visitor*. Charles' mother Susan Marshy (Ellis) Smith was a 75-year-old widow by the time she was listed as head of household at 6 Auburn Street in Haverhill in the 1900 U.S. census. Susan Marshy (Ellis) Smith, age 86, died on September 7, 1911, in Haverhill.

Charles' sister Nancy Emma Smith, born 1848 in North Andover, Massachusetts, married George A. Sanderson, age 19, the son of George W. and Abby Sanderson, in Haverhill on April 20, 1867. She and her two daughters Mabel, age 2, and Martha, age 9 months, were were living in her parents' home in Haverhill when the census was taken in 1870. George Sanderson, 31, and Emma Sanderson, 32, were enumerated at 16 Eastern Avenue in Haverhill in the 1880 census. Also in their household in that year were daughters Mabel A., 12, Martha A., age 10, Lilly May, age 7, and Hattie V., age 2. George was working as a stock fitter, Emma kept house, and all their daughters except the youngest were in school. Emma (Smith) Sanderson died in Haverhill, Massachusetts, aged 49, on October 29, 1897, and was buried in Hilldale Cemetery. Her daughter Hattie V. Sanderson, born June 1878, had married Ernest Costello Haseltine, age 21, the son of John C. and Celista Haseltine, in Salem, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, on March 12, 1896. The widowed George A. Sanderson lived with the Haseltines in Groveland, Massachusetts in 1900 and in Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1920. In 1910, the Haseltines, living in Haverhill, took in Mrs. Haseltine's cousin Jennie Pond, the daughter of Tryout Smith, and her three children.

Charles himself, of course, died in Haverhill Massachusetts, aged 95, on February 17, 1948. It is interesting to note that his sister Emma (Smith) Sanderson's daughter Hattie V. (Sanderson) Haseltine and her husband Ernest Costello Haseltine were living at 126 North Main Street in Plaistow, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, with their children George R., age 16, Earl A, age 11, and Marion I., age 8, when the 1930 census was enumerated. Ernest C. Haseltine and his wife were still living in Plaistow when Ernest registered for the draft in 1942. His employer was the Eagle Wood Heel Company in Haverhill. It is possible that Tryout Smith spent his 1923-26 "exile" in Plaistow with his niece and her family.

Charles' brother Frank H. Smith, age 27, married Sylvina Winslow, age 24, the daughter of William Winslow, in Kingston, Rockingham County, New Hampshire on January 14, 1882. Frank, a widowed box maker, died, age 41, in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on December 9, 1896.

I believe Charles' next brother Herbert C. Smith was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on January 2, 1858. Herbert Smith, a locomotive engineer, born April 1857 in Massachusetts to a New Hampshire-born father and a Massachusetts-born mother, lived at 59 Downing Street in Concord, Merrimack County, New Hampshire between 1900 and 1930. However, his January 1, 1883 Concord, New Hampshire marriage record records his middle initial as "L" and his parents as Calvin S. and Maria L. Smith. His bride was Ida P. Smith, age 21, daughter of James and Lydia Smith. I do not believe that Herbert Smith of Concord, New Hampshire can be identified with Charles's brother Herbert C. Smith.

Charles' youngest brother George A. Smith also remained in Haverhill. In 1920, George A. Smith, age 57, an electrical contractor, was living with his wife Maria A. Smith, age 57, a box factory trimmer, at 89 Water Street. By 1930, George and Maria lived at 16 Kent Street.

V. 1  
No. 1

# THE TRYOUT.

PUBLISHED FOR RECREATION.

---

DECEMBER, 1914.

---

ISSUED OCCASIONALLY BY C. W. SMITH,  
HAVERHILL, MASS., TO WHOM ALL  
COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE  
ADDRESSED.



C. W. Smith, Haverhill, Mass.

# THE TRYOUT

FROM THE BED ROOM PRINTERY.

Haverhill, Mass. Aug. 1944.

## RELIGION.

RELIGION is to do to  
others,  
As you would have them do  
to you:  
To honor God, who is our  
Father,  
To laws of justice to be  
true;  
To speak no evil, to be  
friendly  
To always kind to man and  
beast;  
To pray, to trust, to smile,  
be happy.  
And richer play a part the  
least.

May M. Duffso.



C. W. SMITH, HAVERHILL, MASS.

ERCIALLINE

# THE TRYOUT.

---

Vol. 2, Haverhill, Mass., June, 1916. No. 7.

---

## WHEN THE SHIP COMES IN.

HOW funny it will seem,  
(After life's transient dream)  
When breath grows short  
To those on Stygian Coast  
Who watch my little ghost  
Come sailing into port!

How pitiful--how droll--  
To see my little soul  
Naked and unashamed!  
Thanking the breezes kind  
For perils left behind  
And neither known nor named!

Will it be lonely there  
When thither I fare  
Across the unfathomed sea?  
Nay! all my vanished dreams  
(And Paradisiac gleams)  
Shall bear me company!

ARTHUR GOODENOUGH.

C. W. Smith,

Haverhill, Mass.



# THE TRYOUT.

---

Vol. 3. Haverhill, Mass., Dec., 1916. No. 1.

---

## BRUMALIA.

O'ER the bleak, barren hills see the storm-clouds  
    impending,  
Where lately the herds of Alexis were rang'd;  
On the sere, stricken mead see the tempest descending;  
And white fleecy flocks for snowdrifts exchange'd.  
By the deep frozen fountain the poor Naiads languish,  
Their chaplets of wild-flow'rs all withered and dead;  
In the grove, drooping Dryads complain of their  
    anguish,  
Whilst bare, wind-blown boughs plead their cause  
    overhead.  
But mourn not, ye Nymphs, at the winds of December,  
Nor weep thou, Alexis, at Winter's brief pain;  
For Flora and Ceres earth's children remember,  
And Phoebus his car turneth northward again.  
So deck your fair temples with evergreen garlands,  
And bid the great Yule-log refulgently blaze;  
Though cold is the world, through the high vaulted  
    star-lands  
Come tokens of sunshine and sweet summer days.  
H. P. LOVECRAFT.

---

C. W. Smith,

Haverhill, Mass.

## THE FAPA CONSTITUTION MEETS THE INTERNET AGE

Robert Lichtman

*Reprinted from King Biscuit Time 58, February 2012*

Our venerable constitution was written originally by Don Wollheim with some assistance from John Michel. In his article, “The Founding of the FAPA,” which appeared in the June 1942 *Fantasy Amateur*, Wollheim writes that it was while corresponding with H. P. Lovecraft he “first heard of the existence of national amateur press associations where persons interested in publishing and editing for the fun of it and not for profit would exchange magazines in general mailings.” This seemed to him something easily transferrable to SF fandom.

In order to launch the concept on the fans of the day, he had some advance preparation to do. As he continues: “In June 1937 John B. Michel and I decided to start definite work on the organization of the F.A.P.A. We decided to have a simple clear workable constitution already written...After studying the constitutions of existing general amateur press groups, I took the Constitution of the New England Amateur Press Club as the simplest and best model, and wrote the first FAPA constitution. It followed the wording and organization of the NEAPC in most particulars.”

The FAPA constitution was as much a political document as an organizational one, and looking through my complete file of the *Fantasy Amateur* I find many instances of situations in those early years where elections were hotly contested, members’ renewal credentials questioned, and even one time where a member was thrown out of the organization. That was the notorious Claude Degler, although in his case he was ousted by an extra-constitutional petition vote, which in the aftermath of its success led to the proposal of an amendment to formalize the procedure covering such instances. This was offered in the same mailing (September 1944) announcing Degler’s removal from membership. It read as follows:

“*Impeachment of Officers and Suspension of Privileges of Members:* A petition to impeach an officer of the Association, to be valid, must contain the reasons for the proposed action, and a statement in defense of the officer in question, unless said officer declines statement. it shall be presented in the form of a ballot, ample time being provided for all members to vote ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive these ballots and inform the membership of the results of the voting thereon, unless he is the subject of the impeachment, whereupon the Official Editor shall perform this duty. A petition to suspend the privileges of any member, or members, shall follow the same procedure as that of impeachment of officers; if the suspension be carried it shall be considered as effective indefinitely, to be withdrawn only by a majority vote on a petition to rescind.”

Accompanying the above there was also an amendment dealing with the procedure for amendments. Since I have no copy of the original FAPA constitution, I have no idea what it was until this was adopted:

“*Amendments:* Amendments to the Constitution shall be proposed in writing, signed by four members. The original shall be sent to the President, copies to the other members. Such amendments shall be voted upon at the annual election, unless the President shall order a special vote. An affirmative vote by a majority of the active membership shall be necessary for the adoption of new amendments. A similar majority may, at any time, through an instrument in petition form which has been sent to the entire membership, over-ride any acts of, or impeach officials, or suspend sections of this Constitution in particular cases without repealing them.”

The requirement to publish the FAPA constitution contained in Section 6.12 of the current document (under the duties of the Official Editor)—“The constitution shall be included in the *Fantasy Amateur* not less often than once every six months”—clearly did not exist in the original document, because the first full

publication wasn't until the Autumn 1945 *FA*. However, in the many *FAs* before that there were references to the constitution and several amendments offered, voted upon, and accepted (though by what mechanism I don't know.) By this time Wollheim, though still a member, had retreated from his need to control (as much as he was capable) the machinations of the organization, and it was Jack Speer, that year's Official Editor, who first published the constitution in the *FA*.

A little over a year later, Speer undertook its first major revision. He simplified the document—by then a patchwork of amendments not necessarily (in his view) logically placed—and presented it as a whole to be voted up or down, though not without choices in several areas, the most notable of which established (among several other alternatives) February, May, August and November as the months in which mailings would go out. It passed handily, and governed the organization until 1958, when a fresh revision was spearheaded by Bob Pavlat. It was then that the six-month rule was instituted, and has been generally followed—although in more recent times it has sometimes gone as long as a year without being published. Amazingly, the organization hasn't fallen apart, nor has anyone proposed impeaching the Official Editor for this failure—which is actually mine since I provide the OE with a hard copy for the purpose.

The next major revision was my work circa 2000, albeit with input and assistance from other interested members. It more specifically set out the definition of a “page” for activity credit purposes, reinstituted a section allowing for reimbursement of officer expenses that had mysteriously dropped out in a retyping error sometime in the '70s or '80s, allowed that the Official Editor was not required to read everything in the mailing before sending it out to comply with the requirement that there be no violation of “federal law,” and changed the sequencing of officer elections and assumption of office so that a postmailed teller's report was no longer necessary.

In 2004 I sponsored an amendment that added electronic fanac to the list of possible “credentials” qualifying one for membership, and in 2009 I floated an amendment to eliminate the offices of President and Vice-President, folding their duties into those of the Secretary-Treasurer and Official Editor. Both passed, and these were the last amendments that were introduced, voted upon, and passed per the requirements of Section 8.1:

“Proposed amendments to the constitution, in writing, endorsed by four members, no more than two of whom are officers, shall be submitted to vote. The proposers shall send the proposal, with the signatures, to the Secretary-Treasurer. The gist of the amendment must be given in the *Fantasy Amateur* before it comes up for vote. Unless the Secretary-Treasurer orders a special vote, amendments shall be voted on at the annual elections. A majority of the votes must be favorable for the amendment to be adopted, and such majority must be more than one-fourth (1/4) of the membership.”

In 2010 a very significant (for me) milestone was reached: I finally obtained the e-mail addresses of *all* FAPA members. The old system of amending the constitution, which was a tip of the hat in acknowledgment of the pre-internet days when everything had to be done by postal mail, was in my view no longer necessary. Accordingly, as all of you are aware, I began polling FAPA via e-mail on constitutional issues.

The first of these was in April 2010, when it appeared that the post office was on the verge of abolishing Saturday mail delivery. I proposed that if this came to pass the deadline for each mailing be changed in the constitution from “Saturday” to “Friday.” To my amazement, within a single day I received 22 votes, all but two of them approving of the change (those two thought Monday would be better because it would “allow more time for procrastinators”!). So far the postal service hasn't followed through, so this is an amendment in waiting.

And most recently, in the November *Fantasy Amateur* I made my annual call for a volunteer to conduct the egoboo poll, and also wrote: “Given the low participation in the poll in recent years, I've been wondering if this is a FAPA custom whose time has passed. The Spectator Amateur Press Society (SAPS) did away with its annual egoboo poll sometime in the '90s. No one seems to miss it, and there was no mass

exodus of members as a result. I'd appreciate it if the membership would voice its views on continuing the FAPA egoboo poll. Drop me an e-mail with "Continue the poll" in the subject line to robertlichtman@yahoo.com and let me know your thoughts."

Because of Official Editor Bob Sabella's untimely and unfortunate passing, the mailing didn't go out until just before Christmas, so rather than wait for it to reach members I sent an e-mail on December 23rd asking for a show of hands on the above subject. Within days I had an overwhelming response: only three in favor of retaining the poll, nine against, and seven neutral on the subject. I followed this up with a proposed amendment removing references to the egoboo poll in the constitution. Within twelve hours I received eleven "yes" votes, followed by six more in another day or so. The amendment is passed and the revised constitution will appear in the February 2012 *Fantasy Amateur*.

So what's the point of all this? To me, the success of e-mail balloting is overwhelming acknowledgment that the old system of conducting FAPA business is obsolete. I see no need immediately to modify Section 8.1 to remove the six-month window between the publication of proposed amendments and their being adopted and implemented. There are many other sections of the document no longer observed and yet retained. It seems to me, as we approach the seventy-fifth anniversary mailing this fall, that FAPA is a smooth-running machine in need only of more members and that the controversies and personality conflicts that were rampant in its early years are entirely absent.

But perhaps that's just me. After all, I've been Secretary-Treasurer for a quarter century now (nearly as long as Hosni Mubarak was president of Egypt), and while I believe I operate in the best interests of the organization maybe there's a "FAPA Spring" lurking in the wings.

Your move, dear fellow FAPAn!

*The Fantasy Amateur Press Association is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2012 and Fossil Lichtman, its Secretary-Treasurer for the last quarter-century, notes that there are open slots on the membership roll. Please write to Fossil Lichtman at robertlichtman@yahoo.com if you are interested in FAPA membership.*

**JAMES F. DUHAMEL**  
(1858-1947)

**THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE BOYS OF '76**

Truman J. Spencer's *The History of Amateur Journalism* (The Fossils, 1957) proudly listed on pp. 209-210 all of the delegates to the July 4, 1876 organizing meeting of the National Amateur Press Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

With the passing of Delavan W. Gee (1860-1944) on June 20, 1944, *The Fossil* for August 1944 noted that "Fossil Duhamel is now the only living delegate to that historic gathering." James F. Duhamel (also spelled DuHamel), of Washington, D.C., was the publisher of *Pastime* when he attended the historic Philadelphia meeting in 1876.

Mr. Duhamel's name first appeared in the membership list of The Fossils in *The Fossil* for April 1911, wherein it was noted that he had joined since the last annual meeting. He was then resident in Brooklyn, New York. In later years, he returned to Washington, D.C. and his address was listed as 522 Munsey Building or (after his retirement from business) as 4105 Eighteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Mr. Duhamel's name last appeared on the membership list of The Fossils in *The Fossil* for April 1949. Duhamel's name was probably removed after mail was returned from his address. The late Hyman Bradofsky made some efforts to trace the last survivor of the "Boys of '76," but without success, to the best of my knowledge.

Thanks to the assistance of my son Walter, I have been able to access an obituary for Mr. Duhamel which

appeared on pp. 343-345 of the *Record of the Columbia Historical Society* (vol. 48/49, 1946/47). Mr. Duhamel was born August 5, 1858, in Washington, D.C., the son of Dr. W. J. C. DuHamel, a member of the White House staff during the administrations of Presidents Buchanan and Johnson. During the Civil War, Mr. Duhamel's father served as a surgeon in the Army of the Potomac and established a hospital at Fort Stevens in 1864. As a young boy, Mr. Duhamel could recall seeing President Lincoln doffing his hat to a crowd shortly before his death in 1865. Duhamel attended St. Matthew's Institute in Washington, D.C. Shortly before the turn of the century, he moved to New York to pursue his career as a patent attorney; he served in the New York State Senate with young Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1910-14.

He eventually returned to Washington, D.C., where the family home was at 4105 Eighteenth Street, N.W. In fair weather, he would often walk the five miles between his home and his office in the Munsey Building. Among his other hobbies, he was a stamp collector and an authority on the history of the District of Columbia. He died, age 89, at the John Dickson Home at 5000 Fourteenth Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C., on October 27, 1947. His funeral services were held October 30, 1947, with burial in Mount Olivet Cemetery. He was survived by two daughters and a son, Col. Notley Young Duhamel, U.S.A., Retired, as well as three grandchildren and a great-grandson.

So belatedly—with the help of the Internet and JSTOR—we can record the passing of the last survivor of the famed “Boys of '76.” Long may the memory of these lads be preserved in the halls of amateur journalism. Perhaps some future hobbyist will assemble a biographical dictionary of these important early figures in the history of our hobby.

## BOOK AND PUZZLE DEPARTMENT

Fossil Robert Lichtman brings to the attention of fellow members the fact that NABU Press has reprinted John Travis Nixon's *History of the National Amateur Press Association* (Crowley, Louisiana: 1900)—a work which Robert wrote about in our April 2009 number. The original was job-printed for Nixon by his local newspaper on paper not much better than newsprint and virtually all surviving copies of the original edition are extremely fragile. The NABU Press print-on-demand reprint costs about \$20 and can be ordered through [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com) and other sources.

Fossil friend and AAPA stalwart Ivan Snyder sends a solution for Randolph Uncles' “Numerical Enigma” as printed in our April 2012 number:

My whole is a composed of seven letters.  
My 1,2,3,7 is a European city.  
My 3,4,6,7 is a sign of authority.  
My 5,2,1,4 is a girl's name.  
My whole is a fictitious tale.

The solution for “my whole” is ROMANCE.  
My 1,2,3,7 is ROME.  
My 3,4,6,7 is MACE.  
My 5,2,1,4 is NORA.

Thanks to Ivan for sending the solution to the “Numerical Enigma” posed over 135 years ago in *Munro's Girls and Boys of America* for October 14, 1876, by the young man who was to grow into Rev. Charles Randolph Uncles, S.S.J. (1859-1933). I think Ivan would have fitted right in with the young puzzlers of the 1870s—but in fact Ivan would be an adornment for the amateur journalism hobby in any age and we are especially lucky to have him with us in these challenging times.

## INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Academic interest in amateur journalism appears to be increasing. Fossil Robert Lichtman sent the following announcement from the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois:

### “DOCTORAL STUDENT RECEIVES PETERSON FELLOWSHIP

University of Illinois GSLIS doctoral student Mikki Smith has received a Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) for her project, “Even a boy’s press has a power: Amateur journalism and youth information culture 1867-1890,” which will form the basis of her dissertation.

...

Smith’s dissertation will explore how young people in the late nineteenth century actively used print both periodicals created for the them and papers created by them—to form peer networks across geographic space and to participate in a youth information culture. This summer, she will spend one month at the AAS in Worcester, Massachusetts, researching the society’s Amateur Newspaper Collection.”

The Fossils wish Mikki Smith a fruitful month of research in the magnificent amateur newspaper collection at the American Antiquarian Society. How proud donors like Frank Roe Batchelder and Truman Joseph Spencer would be of the growing academic use of the AAS collection! It is in my opinion academic interest which will be the primary motivating factor in the continuing growth and development of amateur journalism collections at institutional libraries.

Derrick Hussey of Hippocampus Press reports that the New York Public Library will be undertaking restoration work on its amateur journalism collection, the larger portion of which was donated by Charles W. “Tryout” Smith in 1939. Because of its location in New York City, this collection has been one of the most heavily used of the existing institutional collections of amateur journals. “Tryout” Smith would doubtless rejoice at the news of the forthcoming restoration work if he were still among us. The New York Public Library (NYPL) has had a long association with the collecting of amateur journals and was a strong contender for Edwin Hadley Smith’s Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) when it was first placed in an institution in 1908. NYPL would only accept LAJ as an absolute gift, so Smith decided to deposit it with the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn instead.

The fact that examples of Smith’s rare early work from 1872-73 are preserved at the American Antiquarian Society (among whose principal donors were Frank Roe Batchelder and Truman Joseph Spencer), the Bancroft Library (Hyman Bradofsky Collection), and Yale University shows us that every collection of the fruits of our hobby has its role to play. The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) will doubtless continue to be the premiere collection of nineteenth-century amateur journals and when its librarians find the twentieth-century institutional collecting partner which they have been seeking another glorious collection will be formed. These two institutions—AAS and its collecting partner—will share, among other riches, the hobby’s legendary Moitoret Collection, founded by Anthony Moitoret (1892-1979) and continued by his son Victor Moitoret (1919-2005). The Brodie Collection at the Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland, Ohio) and the Gueringer-Ruben-Horvat-Miller Collections at the University of Iowa (Iowa City, Iowa) are among other notable institutional collections of amateur journals today. Even smaller collections like the Wills Collection at the New York Historical Society and the Gilroy Collection at the Library of Congress have their role to play. (Like NYPL, the Library of Congress was another contender for LAJ, in the late twenties.)

Hopefully, the future of institutional collecting of amateur journals will be rich and diverse. My own prediction is that technology will have a large role to play. Perhaps by the year 2100 digital images of most amateur journals will be viewable using any home or library computer. I certainly hope that The Fossils’

own Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin at Madison since 2004—will have a strong role to play in the future of institutional collecting of amateur journals. With its Ralph Breed Collection of British amateur journals, its Szukov collection of small magazines, and its own Silver Buckle Press, UW-Madison will provide a congenial academic environment for LAJ to grow and to thrive. Perhaps a future bequest or grant will help to expedite the development and opening of the collection. In the meantime, I'm very proud that our LAJ collection was accepted by a major academic institution. I hope that other Fossils share my pride and optimism concerning the future of the LAJ Collection at UW-Madison.

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

I want to thank all the members of The Fossils for the privilege of serving you as Official Editor over the past eight years. Your faithfulness to our organization as evidenced by your dues payments has made possible whatever I may have achieved with *The Fossil* during my term as editor. Special thanks, of course, are due to our publishers Guy Miller and Gary Bossler, our webmaster David Tribby, and our contributors. I hope my thirty-two quarterly numbers of *The Fossil* have added something to the literature of our hobby. Tempting as it is to look back over those numbers to comment upon their strengths and weaknesses, I will leave that assessment to other hands. I regret that the continuing demands of fulltime employment make it necessary for me to surrender the editorship, but at the same time I believe that it is time for new guidance to bring a fresh perspective to the pages of *The Fossil*. I hope that all the Fossils who have remained so loyal over my term as editor will remain steadfast in our mission of preserving and recording the history of the amateur journalism hobby.

The nobility of the written word virtually assures that our hobby has a history worth preserving and recording. That will remain the case even as our amateur journals and the organizations which support them change. What will remain constant will be the rich hobby heritage which will continue to inform the development of the ever-changing future. In this issue, Fossil Robert Lichtman, the longtime Secretary-Treasurer of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (FAPA) who was also active in mainstream amateur journalism in the 1960s, offers some perspectives on how FAPA has integrated technology into its procedures. Robert's article is informed by his rich knowledge of our amateur past, but also has direct relevance for some of the challenges of our current situation of the amateur journalism hobby.

I hope that the account of Charles W. "Tryout" Smith in this issue of *The Fossil* helps to illumine some of the fundamentals of our hobby. It is surely the love of the written word—whether in traditional printed or in electronic format—which binds us all together. Our hobby set forward the thesis that young men and women—in fact men and women of all ages, not necessarily just professional writers and scholars—could participate in the world of the written word through their own publications. The shy, hard-of-hearing Charles W. Smith never attended a single amateur journalists' convention. He held only a single office—one six-month term as official editor of the Massachusetts Amateur Press Association—during his long amateur career. Yet, despite all the difficulties with which his life confronted him, he kept printing his own amateur journals, for over seventy years, from the first issue of the *Boys' Companion* in 1872 to the final issue of *Tryout* in 1944. Even the difficult years of "exile" in Plaistow, New Hampshire (1923-1926), away from his beloved home in Haverhill, Massachusetts, did not stop him. For a time during the "weary years" of the 1920s (as Burton Crane called them), *Tryout* was virtually the only amateur publication being regularly issued.

Little wonder the NAPA and The Fossils made Smith an honorary lifetime member toward the end of his long life. The amateurs who meet at AAPA's and NAPA's joint convention in Dayton, Ohio in July 2012 will be wrestling with the many challenges, economic and other, which confront our hobby today. Even so, publishing—in whatever format—remains the fundamental core of our hobby. Tryout Smith, who never



attended a single amateur journalists' convention but who nevertheless loved the hobby deeply and knew its personalities and politics as well as its publications, could testify to the centrality of publishing. Members of AAPA and NAPA continue to produce wonderful publications for their respective association bundles. Let's find a way to continue this grand tradition so that our hobby may continue to live and to attract new members. May God bless the amateurs of today and tomorrow, just as he blessed Tryout Smith and all the other amateurs of yesteryear.

Thanks again for having me as your Official Editor. Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain supported my work with many donations of stamps and currency. My other faithful helper Martha E. Shivers contributed the photograph of Kent which adorns our back cover in honor of his assistance, along with a humorous item produced by Fossil Frederick H. Gage.

### **FOSSIL BOARD: 2010-2012**

Guy Miller (President), 2951 Archer Lane, Springfield, OH 45503-1209

Barry Schrader, P.O. Box 851, DeKalb, IL 60115-0851 (completing the term of Stan Oliner)

Jack Swenson, 24353 Hines Road, N.E., Hines, MN 55647

### **FOSSIL APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Secretary-treasurer, Tom Parson, 157 South Logan, Denver, CO 80209

Librarian, Martin M. (Mike) Horvat, P.O. Box 741, Stayton, OR 97383-0741

Historian, Sean Donnelly, Univ. of Tampa Press, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606

Webmaster, David M. Tribby, 1529 Fantail Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Official Editor, Ken Faig, Jr., 2311 Swainwood Dr., Glenview, IL 60025-2741

Designer & Publisher: Gary T. Bossler, 145 Genoa Ave., S.W., Massillon OH 44646

Editorial E-Mail: carolfaig -at- comcast -dot- net

### **THE FOSSILS**

**<http://www.thefossils.org/>**

This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, a non-profit organization whose purposes are to stimulate interest in and preserve the history of independent publishing, either separate from or organized in the hobby known as "Amateur Journalism" and to foster the practices of amateur journalism. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the 1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. (The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection is not yet open for use at University of Wisconsin at Madison.) Individuals or institutions allied with our goals are invited to join The Fossils. Dues are \$15 annually \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to *The Fossil* without privileges of membership is \$10. Make remittances payable to The Fossils, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.

# Boys' Herald

FOUNDED 1871 BY ENGLISH & HALL—REISSUED 1904 BY EDWIN HADLEY SMITH

Vol. 72, No. 1

Point Pleasant, N. J.

January 1943

## C. W. SMITH WHEN 10 YEARS OLD

He wrote in 1942  
tintype in an old  
I fell in love  
I fought in early



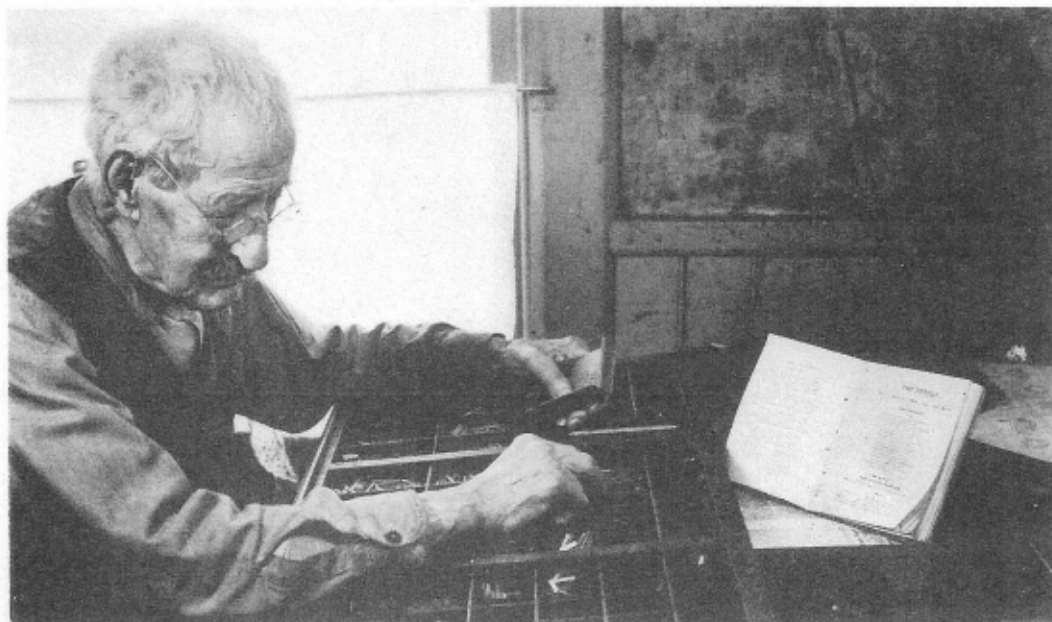
"I found this  
album of girls  
with and boys  
1860"



C. W. SMITH and his 11th  
great-grandchild. Photo  
of 1942. 88 years between  
the oldest and youngest of  
the family



C. W. SMITH IN HIS 80th YEAR



C. W. SMITH AT "THE TRYOUT" TYPE CASE IN HIS 90th YEAR



**Kent Clair Chamberlain**  
Photographed 2004  
Courtesy Martha E. Shivvers



**Let's Keep Smiling—A Hobby Should Be Fun!**  
Gag Ticket Printed by Fossil Frederick H. Gage  
Gage-Craft Press, Auburn, Maine