

# The Fossil

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## Progress Toward July Conference

by David M. Tribby

AMATEUR JOURNALISM CONFERENCE 2016 will be held in July at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the home of the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ). (The campus also hosts the British Amateur Journalism Collection and the papers of Fossil August Derleth.) The Conference will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the LAJ by The Fossils, and highlight the efforts of UW in preserving and organizing it since it was gifted to them in 2004. Additional sessions will present other topics of interest to amateur journalists.

### Other Ajay Groups

The Fossils are working on the program together with the National Amateur Press Association (NAPA) and the American Amateur Press Association (AAPA), as well as UW–Madison staff. The program includes time for NAPA and AAPA to hold their own sessions.

NAPA will hold its 141st annual convention in conjunction with the Conference. Since NAPA’s constitution calls for three days of business sessions, they will convene on Thursday, July 21, a day before the main part of the Conference. Their business sessions, which continue on Friday and Saturday mornings, are open to all, although you must be a member in order to vote.

Arie Koelewyn is chair of the NAPA Reception Committee.

AAPA, which conducts all official business by mail, has designated the Conference as an AAPA regional gathering. On Friday and Saturday mornings, AAPA will hear officers’ reports, reminisce about some of the great ajay personalities, and hear how members enjoy the hobby. Everyone is welcome to attend. Barry Schrader is in charge of arrangements for AAPA.

### Conference Schedule

The main Conference kicks off at 11 AM on Friday with a panel discussion about the history, current status, and future of the LAJ. The three panelists are: **Ken Faig**, current president of The Fossils and author of a 2003 history, “Passion, Controversy and Vision: A History of the Library of Amateur Journalism” (available on The Fossils’ website); **Robin Rider**, Curator of Special Collections at UW–Madison Libraries, who authored “The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection: Processing Update” in THE FOSSIL No. 363; and **Jessica Isaac**, who used the LAJ for research while working toward her Ph.D. and shared some of her findings in “Amateur Journalism: Rooted in Adolescence” in the last issue of THE FOSSIL.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, The Fossils will host lunch. Afterwards, Library staff will exhibit selected items from the LAJ and associated collections.

The final on-campus activity for Friday is an auction of donated items. After the auction, everyone is invited to reconvene for dinner at a nearby Chinese restaurant – an AAPA tradition started by the late Charlie Bush.

	Thursday, July 21, 2016	Friday, July 22, 2016	Saturday, July 23, 2016
Morning:	NAPA Meeting	NAPA & AAPA Meetings	NAPA & AAPA Meetings
		11:00: LAJ Panel Discussion	
Noon:	Lunch	Fossil Lunch	Lunch on your own
Afternoon:	NAPA Activities	LAJ Exhibit	AJ Discussion Panels
		Auction	
Evening:	NAPA Activities	Charlie Bush Chinese Dinner	Group Photo & Social Hour
			Buffet Banquet
			Banquet Speaker
			AAPA, NAPA, Fossil
			Announcements & Remarks

The preliminary schedule for Amateur Journalism Conference 2016. NAPA shows up on Thursday to begin their 141st annual convention. AAPA joins the fun on Friday and Saturday. Association-specific meetings are held in the mornings. Shaded items are combined activities.

After the Saturday morning AAPA and NAPA sessions, the Conference continues in the afternoon with a variety of panel discussions related to amateur journalism. Ken Faig has persuaded two leading experts on author Howard Phillips Lovecraft, S. T. Joshi and David E. Schultz, to join him on a panel discussing "Lovecraft & Amateur Journalism." Another planned panel is letterpress printing. These panels are scheduled to wrap-up shortly after 4 PM.

At 5:30, attendees will gather for a Conference photo, and then a social hour with cash bar. The banquet follows, a buffet selection of tenderloin, chicken breast, cod, vegetables (potatoes, rice, carrots and beans), salad bar, fresh fruit salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert, at a cost of \$35 per person. The after-dinner speaker will be Jessica Isaac. The evening will close with announcements and remarks from NAPA, AAPA, and The Fossils.

### *Other Attractions*

You may want to arrive in Madison early or stay late to have time for visiting local sights. The University campus, on the shore of Lake Mendota, includes several museums. You might want to sip a beverage in the student union beer garden overlooking the lake. The state capitol is only minutes away from campus, and the city has a variety of book stores, pubs, and restaurants. Don't forget to try cheese curds—either deep fried or squeaky! Fossil George Chapman pointed out an added incentive to visiting Madison: buildings designed by noted architect Frank Lloyd Wright, several of which are located close to campus.

The Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, houses 1.5 million pieces of wood type and all of the equipment needed to manufacture it in a 45,000 square foot building. The museum is about 140 miles northeast of campus (a 2½ hour drive).

### *Registration*

UW has set up Web links for both registering for the Conference and reserving a hotel room. (All of these links can be accessed from The Fossils' website.)

To meet preparation deadlines, attendees should register for the Conference and then mail their fees (registration \$10 and banquet \$35 per person) so they are delivered to Madison before June 15. There are two hotel options for the Conference:

- **Lowell Inn and Conference Center** is located a short walk from Memorial Library. Nightly rates range from \$94 (one person, standard room) to \$131 (two people, deluxe room). To get the special rates, use the AJ Conference link or call 866-301-1753 and refer to group code UWLIB.

- **Hilton Double Tree**, also located nearby, has a special rate of \$159/night. Guests may use the AJ Conference Double Tree Booking link or call 608-251-5511 and reference code LB7.

Only a limited number of rooms are available, and that block will not be held beyond June 20th. Do not delay in making your reservations.

### *Auction*

You can bring items related to amateur journalism that you would like to donate for auction at the Conference. If you aren't attending (or are flying) you can send them to Barry Schrader and he will transport them. Please contact him before sending so he will know what to expect. Ship early, to ensure the items reach him before he leaves for Wisconsin!

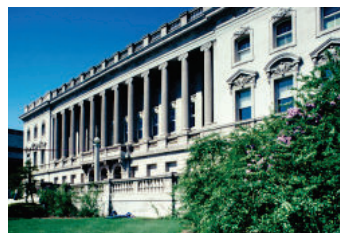
### *Travel*

Madison's Dane County Regional Airport is served by American Eagle, United, Frontier, and Delta, with direct flights to many of these airlines' hubs. Those who plan to rent a car may want to check out flights to larger airports that are reasonably close. Chicago's O'Hare International Airport is a bit more than two hours (130 miles) away, while the 85-mile drive from Milwaukee's General Mitchell International Airport should take less than 90 minutes.

### *Let's Go!*

Fossils who have indicated a likelihood of attending the Conference include Ken Faig, George Hamilton, Tom Parson, Peter Schaub, Barry Schrader, and Dave Tribby. In addition, a number of AAPA and NAPA members have indicated they will be there.

Attending a gathering of amateur journalists is an experience not to be missed. For some, it's a chance to catch up with friends, some of which you may have never met in person. Newcomers will make friends quickly with fellow hobbyists. And Madison has the unique attraction of the LAJ. ♦



Scenes from around the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus: (a) Aerial view of Memorial Library; (b) Wisconsin Historical Society; (c) Bascom Hall, on top of Bascom Hill; (d) View of state capital from Bascom Hill.

# August Derleth in Amateur Journalism

by David Goudsward

*With thanks to Ken Faig, Bill Boys, Gary Bossler, and John Haefele for assistance in research.*

AUGUST DERLETH (1909-1971) of Sauk City, Wisconsin remains a lightning rod in Lovecraftian studies. Depending on your position in the great debate, Derleth is all but beatified as the founder of Arkham House Publisher, created to keep the works of H. P. Lovecraft in print, and introduce British supernatural fiction to the U.S. audience through new hardcover editions. Alternately, Derleth is vilified for his dreadful “posthumous collaborations” that introduced hierarchy and motivational aspects to the myths that would have horrified Lovecraft. Both stances tend to overshadow the fact that, his Lovecraft knockoffs aside, Derleth was a prolific contributor to the pulp magazines and an outstanding regionalist.

Derleth first wrote Lovecraft in 1926, a time that Lovecraft’s biographer S.T. Joshi refers to as Lovecraft’s most fruitful periods of writing fiction (although his most famous stories would not see print for several more years). Derleth had written to *Weird Tales* about a letter by Lovecraft discussing two stories. Derleth couldn’t locate them, so *Weird Tales* passed along Lovecraft’s contact address. This letter arrived August 30, 1926, the start of a prolific correspondence that would continue to Lovecraft’s death in 1937. Lovecraft was still active in the Hoffman-Daas UAPA at the time and wasted no time in recruiting the Midwesterner into the fold. Unfortunately, the association was beginning a downward spiral and Derleth’s membership (and the group) wouldn’t last a year.

In an April 1927 letter, Lovecraft refers to Derleth joining NAPA, but it apparently never happened. This is not surprising: Derleth had a pragmatic streak and may have been disinclined to send free stories when he was already getting into paid markets with some frequency — he had 5 stories in *Weird Tales* alone in 1926. Lovecraft wasn’t active in NAPA at this time, so it is unlikely he was actively recruiting Derleth. Both men were receiving and contributing to the NAPA journal out of Haverhill, Massachusetts — *The Tryout*.

“Tryout” Smith was more than a correspondent of Lovecraft’s, he was a friend, with Lovecraft stopping in Haverhill regularly to visit the elderly typesetter. Whether it was as a favor to Lovecraft or simply pieces Derleth was looking for feedback on, he did send a few pieces to Smith that appeared in 1927:

“The Figure with the Scythe” (short story, with

Mark R. Schorer) January 1927

“The Splinter” (short story) March 1927

“Sixteen Years on Death” (poem) April 1927

“Dawn” (vignette) May 1927

This appears to be the majority of his contribution to amateur journalism, although soon after Lovecraft’s death in 1937, he published work in fanzines — notably Wollheim’s *The Phantagraph* and Barlow’s *Leaves*. My suspicion is that Derleth was cementing connections to Lovecraft’s correspondence in preparation of creating Arkham House and assuming control of Lovecraft’s literary estate (a situation too complicated to even discuss).

Derleth joined *The Fossils* in 1945, where his introductory bio mentions his brief United involvement via Lovecraft. He remained a Fossil until his health started to fail in the mid-1960s.

“The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place,” the last Sherlock Holmes story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, had wrapped up in the pages of *Strand Magazine* April 1927, and this time Doyle did indeed walk away from the character.

In response, in the autumn of 1928, August Derleth, 19-years old, a successful (i.e. paid) author and a devotee of Sherlock Holmes, wrote to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, asking if any new Holmes stories were forthcoming, and suggesting with the naïve hubris of youth that he was more than open to assuming the mantle of writing new stories. The reply to both queries was a gracious but nonnegotiable “no.”

Derleth, I suspect, was not surprised by either negative answer. Nor was he dissuaded.

*The Dragnet Magazine* issue of February 1929 included a mystery solved by Derleth’s new creation: a British detective, Solar Pons, of 7B Praed Street, London. Along with his trusty assistant Dr. Lyndon Parker, Solar Pons was an unapologetic pastiche of Sherlock Holmes. The detective quickly evolved into a distinct character who casually references Holmes as a peer.

Derleth would ultimately write more stories about Solar Pons (70) than Conan Doyle did about Sherlock Holmes (56), and the mystery-solving Brit became a significant part of Derleth’s body of work.

Derleth later claimed he received the refusal and then randomly picked a date on his calendar and jotted down “In re: Sherlock Holmes” to write the first story



*August Derleth in the 1930s*

(the memo would become the title of the first Pons collection in 1945). Based on the timetable for a February *Dragnet* publication, it is likely that first story, "The Adventure of the Black Narcissus," was minimally a concept for his first attempt at a Sherlock Holmes story, roughed out prior to Conan Doyle's refusal.

Further strengthening this theory that Derleth was dabbling in mysteries much earlier is a forgotten piece from the National Amateur Press Association journal *The Tryout* on March 1927. "The Splinter" is a murder mystery set aboard a private yacht. Barely 900 words, it is more a pastiche of another popular detective of the time — Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot.

"The Splinter" is difficult to read and more of a study in dialogue than a story; Derleth curiously decided to eliminate any description of the setting, or action. The story is essentially a conversation between four people, without identifying which character is the speaker. Just to further complicate matters, there are no quotation marks. It is a murder mystery done as an art piece by a 17-year old, and it shows.

Less than two years later, Derleth had fully realized the Sherlockian Solars Pons, a detective whose popularity was enhanced by use of quotation marks and descriptive passages. Getting paid by the word probably also helped.

The following is the text, taken directly from the March 1927 *Tryout*. The only corrections made are for obvious tryoutisms and to add spacing between paragraphs for clarity. ♦

## The Splinter

by August Derleth, Jr.

**H**e is as dead as the proverbial door-nail, Raoul.

That is plain enough, monsieur.

The coroner has just completed his examination, Raoul, suppose you ask him what killed him?

I shall, monsieur. — Oh! monsieur, can you inform us how M. le Remy died?

I have no doubt that he was poisoned. The color of his skin seems to indicate it. But I cannot see how the poison was administered. I am certain it was not by mouth.

You have made a thorough examination?

But of course, monsieur.

I notice that M. Remy wears an extreme pompadour. May I ask if you have carefully examined the scalp?

No, monsieur. I did not consider it necessary.

Then may I suggest that you do so at once?

But certainly, if you wish it. Are you a relative of the deceased, monsieur?

No monsieur. I was his attorney. While he examines, Raoul, I wish you would be so kind as to call the captain of this vessel. He is standing just over there surveying a sail in the distance through his binoculars.

Anything to aid you monsieur.

Have you located anything, monsieur le coroner?

Nothing as yet, monsieur. But this mass of hair is an ideal place of concealment for that for which I am seeking.

You are certain he was poisoned?

But decidedly, monsieur. Anyone glancing at his skin could guess that.

Here, monsieur, is the captain.

So good of you, Raoul — can monsieur sketch briefly the events leading up to this incident?

There is little, monsieur. M. le Remy had been yachting in the South Seas, monsieur. Just as we were entering port he complained of not feeling well. He came up on deck and seated himself, where he now is, monsieur. Later, feeling better, he ordered a slight lunch. About half an hour later, when the steward came to him with the lunch, he was dead! And now that I come to think of it, monsieur, M. de Remy was continually scratching his head.

Scratching his head, eh, monsieur? Do you hear that, monsieur le coroner?

Yes, monsieur. The reason is obvious.

Obvious! What have you found?

A tiny puncture, monsieur, around which the scalp is highly inflamed.

Excellent, monsieur. And now, monsieur le capitaine, question. Did nothing of import occur during the voyage?

Nothing, monsieur.

Then would you kindly inform me whose property that monkey perched upon the deck rail is, and how it was obtained?

But that is nothing of importance, I assure you, monsieur. While M. le Remy was on a South Sea island, he took a fancy to the animal and took it from a native boy, whose pet it was.

Come, monsieur, details! You say he took it. Did not the native protest?

But of course, monsieur, yet it did him no good. M. le Remy would have the creature. The last seen of the boy was when he jumped from a high cliff into the ocean.

Killed?

I do not know, but, no doubt, he suicided. He was much attached to the monkey and grieved heavily over its loss.

That will do, monsieur. Have you progressed, monsieur le coroner?

Indeed, monsieur. A tiny splinter of wood, poisoned at the tip.

What kind of wood?

I cannot say. It does not grow here, I am positive.

Give me the splinter.

There, monsieur, be careful of it.

Monsieur le capitaine did you ever encounter something like this before? Take it and examine it thoroughly. Has monsieur le coroner any idea as to the method of injection?

Possibly through a pistol. None other.

Do you think it could have been blown through a blow gun?

Very plausible, monsieur. Certainly one could not use his hands to inject it, for it would immediately attract attention. But a blow gun would cause it to feel more like the bite of a gnat or mosquito. That also would account for the scratching. M. de Remy would loosen the splinter by so doing, and the small piece of wood would become tangled in his hair.

And, monsieur le capitaine, what have you discovered?

These splinters are used by South Sea natives in blow guns!

You are positive?

Positive! M. de Remy brought some of these along for curios.

Ah! Ah! the case begins to take definite shape. Monsieur, will you show us to M. de Remy's cabin?

Assuredly, messieurs. Follow me.

Come, Raoul.

Now what is in the wind, monsieur?

We are going to search for the blow gun, Raoul.

Here is the cabin, messieurs.

Enter, Raoul.

After you, monsieur.

Do you see that short length of bamboo, Raoul?

On the table?

Yes.

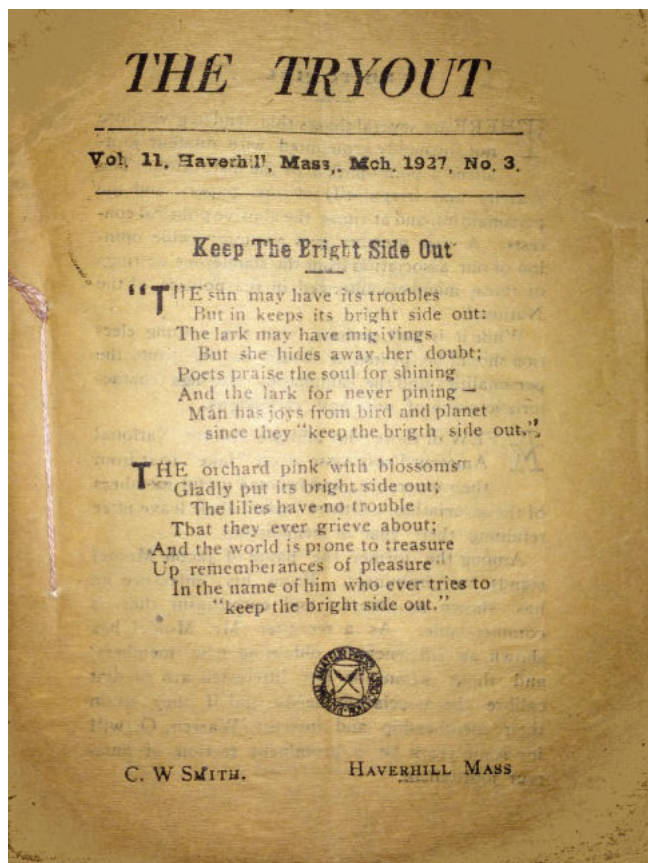
Of course.

That is the kind of blow gun used in this instance.

Apparently it is a miniature.

So it is, Raoul. Come, let us leave.

I suppose, monsieur, that you are going to say that M. de Remy was killed in revenge by the native from



### THE SPLINTER.

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*"The Splinter," a short story by August Derleth, appeared in the March 1927 issue of C. W. Smith's NAPA publication The Tryout.*

whom he stole the monkey?

On the contrary, Raoul. I am not. The native was in no way concerned.

Oh! very well. Perhaps you can explain satisfactorily?

Which I can. M. de Remy was killed by the monkey! If you had observed when I pointed the creature out to M. le capitaine, you would have seen the animal blowing through the exact replica of what we saw in the cabin on the table. It evidently located M. de Remy's curios. Whether the death was caused intentionally or not, only the monkey knows. ♦

# An Introduction

by George Chapman

MY INTRODUCTION TO PRINTING happened the second week of June 1952. I graduated from high school that week and started a summer job with *Valley News*, a brand new six day daily in my New Hampshire home town. The first summer I was assigned to circulation but ended up doing quite a few other jobs. For the three summers following, I worked full-time in the back shop. Everything about the paper was new, except the press: new building, new desks, new typewriters, new Linotypes, new Ludlow, etc. It was a complete letterpress operation. (The paper continues today, but of course is not letterpress.)

One first year job was “fly boy” on the press, an ancient Goss Duplex. The pressman was a young fellow with a job shop at his house and through him I developed an interest in job printing. He tried to sell me one of his small presses but the \$50 or \$75 was more than I wanted to spend. The following year I acquired a press through a swap listed in *Yankee* magazine: my bicycle for a 6 by 9 Kelsey. For a few dollars I also acquired several two-thirds type cases with type.

A couple of years later I traded the Kelsey and a camera for my co-worker’s press. He had sold it to the mechanical super at the paper who later decided he wanted something smaller. I started doing small jobs for money and called my operation The Bruin Press. (I was an undergraduate at Brown University and the school’s mascot is a bear.) Along the way I taught my father to print and he also did some job work over the years. I might add that my education as a printer was pretty much from a Kelsey *Printer’s Guide Book*.

After college I started in retailing at a large Boston department store. Uncle Sam soon decided I had been deferred from service long enough and sent me a draft notice. Most of the next two years was spent as a personnel clerk at Fort Eustis, Virginia. (My friend, the printer Fritz Klinke, also served there a few years later.)

After the Army, Massachusetts Mutual hired me in their Group Claims Department. Marriage, three children, and life in the big city suburbs kept me away from printing for the next 17 years. Most of that time was spent in New York, with the final three years in Chicago.

Having moved from Mass Mutual to Union Mutual at the 14 year mark (they moved me to Chicago), I soon found that a change of company was not what I really wanted. My wife and I started thinking about going into business for ourselves. What would it be? A hardware store, a quick print shop—the choices were endless. My old newspaper days kicked in, and at the end of 1975 we purchased the *Silverton Standard & the Miner*, a small Colorado mountain weekly. It combined my interest in printing with photography (a long time

hobby), it was affordable, and it looked like we could survive on the income.

Moving from an affluent Chicago suburb to a remote town with less than 1000 residents was a culture shock, especially for the three Chapman children, all in their early teens.

The Silverton paper had been letterpress until three years prior to our purchase, and the shop included a variety of letterpress equipment: 10 by 15 C & P, 12 by 18 Kluge, Linotype, 1830 Hoe press, early 1900s Miehle, and 15 or so filled type stands. Also included: a Multi 1250, darkroom, Friden Justewriter, a scary coal furnace, and 1930s electrical service.

We survived and grew the shop substantially, acquiring additional small offset equipment, more letterpress equipment (Heidelberg Windmill, Ludlow, Elrod, a couple more Linotypes, etc.) plus upgrades to 1980s Compugraphic Phototypesetters.

We also had a retail store, and in the summer a constant flow of train riders visited the shop. Sometime in the early 1980s one of the many visitors, Dick “Famous” Fleming, told me about the National Amateur Press Association; the second time he came he convinced me to join. Although I joined sometime in the mid-1980s, my first bundle contribution was not until the early 1990s; it was a joint effort with Fritz Klinke that was distributed to both NAPA and AAPA.

We sold the paper in 1990 and moved to Kentucky where we operated a bed and breakfast for 13 years while I was employed as a production manager for a small printing company. During that period we moved some of my old equipment from New Hampshire, plus I obtained an 8 by 12 C & P.

After a four year effort at selling the B&B, we moved back to Silverton as retirees in 2004. That year we also attended our first AJ convention, the AAPA Montrose convention hosted by the late Glen Simpson and his wife Shirley. I joined AAPA that year at Glen’s urging. I met a number of important members who are no longer with us: Fred Liddle, Leland Hawes, J. Hill Hamon, and Len Carrick come to mind. Others in attendance that I already knew from the Amalgamated Printers’ Association were Sky and Johanna Shipley and Mike O’Connor.

In 2010 we decided isolated mountain towns were not a good idea for old folks. To be closer to family we moved to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The presence of Printers’ Hall influenced the specific location. My garage is now one-third print shop, one-third current vehicle and one-third antique car shop. (I have been involved with antique vehicles since 1962 and own a 1931 Chevrolet.)

The latch-string to our 1868 home is always out to interested visitors! ♦

# Conferences, Elections, Oliver Optic, and Mottos

by Ken Faig, Jr.

## *The Amateur Journalism Conference at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 21-22-23, 2016*

I AM HAPPY to report that The Fossils, AAPA, and NAPA, working in cooperation with UW Foundation Libraries Development Director Ben Strand, have continued to make progress on this conference. UW-Madison's Memorial Library will be the host for most of the conference events. Lodging will be at UW-Madison's Lowell Inn and overflow hotels if needed.



AAPA will hold a regional meeting in conjunction with the conference on July 22-23. NAPA will hold its annual convention in conjunction with the conference July 21-22-23. We also expect UW's Friends of the Libraries organization to participate in some of the conference events.

NAPA will hold its business meetings on the mornings of all three conference days. On the morning of Friday, July 22, AAPA will host its own opening event.

A presentation covering the past, present, and future of the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) Collection is planned for 11 a.m. on July 22. The Fossils will sponsor a luncheon for all conference registrants at mid-day on the same day. Following that event, there will be an exhibit of sample LAJ Collection items in the Special Collections Department in Memorial Library. Following the LAJ exhibit, the traditional auction of donated *ajay* items will transpire. Hopefully, there will be some fine bargains to be had, with the proceeds to be donated to AAPA, NAPA, or the Hawes LAJ Endowment Fund. After the auction, AAPA invites all conference registrants to participate in its Charlie Bush Memorial Chinese dinner.

On the morning of Saturday, July 23, AAPA will present events including a panel on AAPA greets and a presentation by the Farmer Miller publishing duo. The afternoon program will include panels on letterpress printing, H. P. Lovecraft and amateur journalism, and other topics. I am pleased to state that S. T. Joshi and David E. Schultz, co-editors of the Lovecraft letters for Hippocampus Press, have both agreed to participate in our Lovecraft and amateur journalism panel.

Saturday evening, a cash bar and social hour will be followed by dinner at Lowell Inn. A traditional photograph session will precede the social hour. Our after-dinner speaker will be Jessica A. Isaac, Ph.D., of Cleveland's Books@Work Foundation, whose article "Amateur Journalism: Rooted in Adolescence" was featured in *THE FOSSIL* for January 2016. Two chapters of Jessica's 2015 Ph.D. thesis at University of Pittsburgh were based on research in amateur journalism archives, including the LAJ Collection at UW-Madison.

The conference won't be all panels and events. UW-Madison has reserved the downstairs lounge at Lowell Inn for socializing by conference registrants during the entire run of the conference. In addition, AAPA and Barry Schrader will be hosting a hospitality suite open to all conference registrants upstairs at Lowell Inn (room number to be announced) on Thursday and Friday nights. So, everyone should have ample time to socialize as well as to learn.

After the conference, some NAPA members plan to hold their traditional "farewell" picnic/luncheon on Sunday, July 24. Other amateurs are planning a Sunday car caravan to visit the Hamilton Printing Museum in Twin Rivers, Wisconsin.

Limited blocks of hotel rooms for the conference are available at UW-Madison's Lowell Inn and Hilton Doubletree. Please see [www.thefossils.org](http://www.thefossils.org) for booking links and conference registration information. The conference registration fee will be a modest \$10 per person, which provides admission to all conference events except the Saturday evening dinner. The optional Saturday evening dinner at Lowell Inn will be an additional \$35 per person. A buffet service including beef, chicken, fish and vegetarian choices, with two choices of dessert and beverages, is planned. Following the food service, the doors will be opened to all conference registrants, so that everyone can listen to our keynote speaker Jessica Isaac and other concluding events.

Madison has excellent travel links from all points and many exceptional tourist attractions. If your circumstances permit, I hope you will consider joining us for the 2016 amateur journalism conference, which marks the one hundredth anniversary of Charles C. Heuman's acquisition of the LAJ Collection for The Fossils. The LAJ has been housed in UW-Madison Library's Special Collections Department at Memorial Library since 2004. Please come and see the progress which UW-Madison has made with the collection and learn about what the future holds in store.

I hope the Madison conference will be an informative and enjoyable experience for all amateur journalists who are able to attend. Although the convention will occur during summer recess, we are also hoping to attract some attendance from the UW-Madison community.

## ***2016 Is an Election Year But Not Just for Democrats & Republicans***

According to our Bylaws, The Fossils elect two members of our Board of Directors in even-numbered years. The President is the carry-over member of the board. So, 2016 is an election year for The Fossils as well as for the Democrats and the Republicans.

I am pleased to inform our membership that Directors Gary Bossler and John Horn have agreed to stand for election to new terms in 2016–2018.

However, if any other member in good standing wishes to run for a seat on the Board, please let me or Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parson know of your intention to stand for office by June 30, 2016. If another candidate files, we will hold an election, with ballots mailed by July 10, 2016, and due back to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 31, 2016. The elected members of the Board will take office on August 15, 2016, and elect the President for the 2016–2018 term.

If no other candidates file, we will declare Gary Bossler and John Horn re-elected to the Board for 2016–2018.

By the way, your choice for President of the United States in November will not be limited to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. NAPA's own Jim Hedges is running for President on the Prohibition Party ticket, with Bill Bayes as his running mate. Born in Iowa City in 1938, Jim is also the editor of his party's newsletter, *The National Prohibitionist*. Jim served as Thompson Township assessor for Fulton County, Pennsylvania in 2002–7, making him the first Prohibition Party candidate elected to U.S. political office since two party members were elected to the Winona Lake, Indiana, city council in 1959.

The Prohibition Party's 2016 election plank can be found on-line. The party attained its maximum historical vote in presidential elections as long ago as 1892. Over the years, it elected one governor [Sidney Johnston Catts (1863–1936) of Florida in 1917–21] and two U.S. congressmen [Charles Hiram Randall (1865–1951) of California in 1915–21 and Earl Hanley Beshlin (1870–1971) of Pennsylvania in 1917–19].

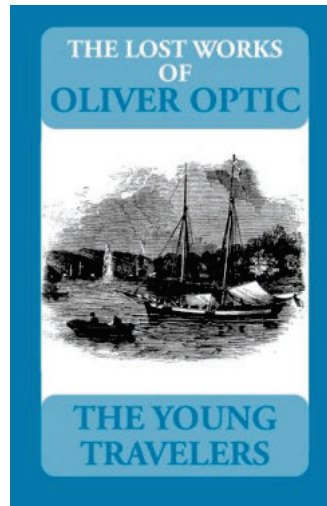
Jim Hedges is not the first amateur journalist to run for political office on the Prohibition Party ticket. In Massachusetts, Willard Otis Wylie (1862–1944) was the unsuccessful Prohibition Party candidate for secretary of state in 1894 and 1895 and for treasurer in 1904. Outside of amateur journalism, Wylie was best known as an editor of philatelic publications.

Jim's party expects to be on the ballot in at least six states and is working for write-in status in other states. Jim is a former Marine, and likes to say that a country in trouble should send in the Marines. The Fossils wish Jim and his running mate good luck in the forthcoming election.

### ***The Lost Works of Oliver Optic Adds a Fourth Volume***

Oliver Optic scholar Peter C. Walther has published a new volume in his series of "The Lost Works of Oliver Optic" – *The Young Travelers*. Retired Library of Congress staff member Clark Evans has written an appreciative foreword for the volume. William T. Adams (1822–1897) – pseudonym "Oliver Optic" – was a great supporter of the nineteenth-century amateur journalism hobby in his columns in *Oliver Optic's*

*Magazine*. This latest collection presents four fictionalized travel narratives originally published during the



1859–63 period as well as Optic's narrative of his own travels, originally published privately in 1896–97. Following the precedent set in earlier volumes of "The Lost Works of Oliver Optic," editor Walther has preserved period illustrations from the original 1859–63 publications. Adams, a world-traveler in his own right, had a wonderful facility to educate and to entertain his young readers at the same time. The present volume marks no departure from his usual high standard.

Editor Walther has adopted Puddle Creek Books as his new imprint, and the good news for his readers is that *The Young Travelers*, a handsomely-designed 189-page trade paperback, is available from Amazon.com for only \$9.99 plus postage and applicable sales tax. I recommend giving the work of Oliver Optic a try. I think you will be as pleased as the nineteenth-century amateur journalists who originally delighted in Optic's works. The other good news is that at least two more volumes in the series "The Lost Works of Oliver Optic" are in preparation by editor Walther and Puddle Creek Books.

### ***A Correction (With Thanks to Fossil George Chapman) and Some Thoughts on Tweets, Latin Mottos, and Verbal Concision***

In my last column, I complained about today's sound-bite-style communications. In particular, I complained that Twitter allows the writer only 140 words per tweet. Fossil George Chapman pointed out that the situation is actually more dire—the limit per tweet is 140 characters, not 140 words. I am grateful to George for the correction.

I am not sure that I could communicate in tweets. Even my doctor allows me 700 characters for an email message. I admit that there are times when expressing a thought in a few words is important—mottos are an example. I was an actuary before I retired, and the Society of Actuaries (SOA) has adopted as its informal motto, "Risk Is Opportunity." As an old high school Latin aficionado, I attempted to render this as "In Periculis Opportunitas," but perhaps someone else can do better. I think I was prouder of my third place finish in Latin in the Ohio State Achievement Tests when I was a junior than I was of my first place finish in English as a freshman. My fiftieth high school reunion will be this year, so you can calculate how long ago I achieved those scores.



The official SOA motto comes from John Ruskin's *The Stones of Venice*: "The work of science is to substitute facts for appearances, and demonstrations for impressions." Actually, the quotation from Ruskin reflects a rather dated view of science: today, a scientist might say that his/her work is to develop workable models that replicate experience and facilitate prediction. Anyhow, I haven't tried to Latinize the official motto from Ruskin.

Usually, the Latin translation of an English text is shorter than the English original, the reason being that Latin's rich inflections eliminate the need for many

English words. There is even a dictionary of modern Latin words *Lexicon Recentis Latinitatis* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2003) whose only downside is that it is Latin-Italian, rather than Latin-English. If we were to try to formulate a Latin motto for The Fossils or for the amateur journalism hobby, we might need to use that reference, since inventions like the printing press were unknown to the ancient Romans. Even journalism itself is of fairly recent vintage—the first printed newspapers did not emerge until the early seventeenth century in Europe. Hand-written handbills or *avvisi* had emerged a century earlier. ♦

## Official Editor's Message

# Interactions

by David M. Tribby

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, I've enjoyed several interesting interactions related to our hobby, both in person and via e-mail.

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In January, I heard from an online reader, Linda Cline: "I've just read your 2014 newsletter article entitled 'United APA: Gone But Not Forgotten.' The article came to my attention because I'm seeking information on one of your Association's past members, Mr. Harry Shepherd of Bellingham, WA." That FOSSIL article noted Shepherd was elected UAPAA president in a controversial 1912 election that caused a split in the organization. She was searching for a particular connection: "I believe Mr. Shepherd was the Editor/Publisher of the *Bertillon Eye*, originally published in Seattle, WA in 1909." The e-mail asked, "Can you please help with any background info as well as links to his publications, photograph, application for membership, obituary notice, etc.?"

I don't have access to many United papers from a century ago, but I was able to find information online.

A couple of resources were available from The Fossils' own website. *The History of Amateur Journalism* by Truman J. Spencer (published by The Fossils in 1957) notes Shepherd's activity during 1908 in the local Bellingham club, and his publication of the *Seagull* beginning in 1910. THE FOSSIL number 332 for April 2007 reprinted a history from 1913 that referenced a publication, *Marathon*, published by H. Shepherd.

I have used Ancestry.com for my own family history research, so I set up a family tree entry for Shepherd using what facts I knew about him. Ancestry then found 29 listings for him in the Bellingham city directory between 1906 and 1935. Some entries included his middle initial, H. In early years his wife was listed as Fanny, but in 1912 and later it was Marie. These city directories led me to his entries in the 1910 and 1920 U. S. federal census. I learned that Harry was born about 1879 in Illinois and Marie was born about 1883 in

Switzerland. They were married around 1904. Next I found a record showing he died May 16, 1937, in Olympia, Washington, at age 57. This led me to a Find-A-Grave memorial which included a picture of the headstone for him and his wife.

A search of GenealogyBank.com's newspaper records turned up his obituary in the *Bellingham Herald*. An excerpt: "After a three days' illness, Harry Shepherd, a pioneer newspaperman of Bellingham, died Sunday at Olympia, where he had lived during the past three years, as an employee of the state department of labor and industries. ... Coming here as a young man in 1897, he attended and graduated from the Normal school, whereupon he entered the newspaper business. ... During his long service in the newspaper business he took a keen interest in the welfare of newsboys. He also served for a number of years as head of an amateur press organization."

There were also a couple of dozen articles in Bellingham and Seattle newspapers dating back to 1904 that referenced Shepherd's amateur journalism activities, particularly in conjunction with the state and local groups. He was active in the Bellingham Amateur Press club from 1907 and into the late 1920s.

Even with all of this information, I couldn't find a connection to the *Bertillon Eye*. After Linda received my report she determined she was interested in a different man. "Apparently 'Harry Shepherd' was quite a popular name in the state of WA. The

### HARRY SHEPHERD, EX-NEWSPAPERMAN OF CITY, CALLED

After a three days' illness, Harry Shepherd, a pioneer newspaperman of Bellingham, died Sunday at Olympia, where he had lived during the past three years, as an employee of the state department of labor and industries.

Mr. Shepherd, a native of Collinsville, Illinois, where he was born in 1879, had lived in this city for thirty-seven years. Coming here as a young man in 1897, he attended and graduated from the Normal school, whereupon he entered the newspaper business. He was circulation manager for the *Fairhaven Herald* (now the *Bellingham Herald*) and later was in the circulation department of the *Reveille* and the *American* newspapers. For several years he was Bellingham agent for Seattle dailies.

During his long service in the newspaper business he took a keen interest in the welfare of newsboys. He also served for a number of years as head of an amateur press organization.

Mr. Shepherd was a member of the First Christian church, of the Ninety-and-Nine Men's Bible class of the First Christian church, of Bay City Council No. 1, Order of United American Mechanics, and of the Woodmen of the World. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Marie Shepherd.

Funeral services will be held at the Homer Mark mortuary at 10:30 a. m. Thursday, with the Rev. Earl Hanson Fife officiating. Members of the Junior Order of American Mechanics will act as casketbearers. Burial will follow in Bay View cemetery.

*Obituary for Harry Shepherd from The Bellingham Herald, Wednesday, May 19, 1937, page 11.*

Harry Shepherd I'm seeking was born in 1856. His given name was Robert."

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Sometimes a search through genealogy records turns up an unexpected detail. While researching Roy Erford, leader of UAPAA for forty years, I found an unusual entry on his 1942 draft card. For "Name and address of person who will always know your address," most men listed their wife or other close relative. Instead, Erford used "Dr. C. F. Noel"—his long-time co-leader in the United.

Roy Erford listed his friend "Doc" Noel (rather than Mrs. Erford) as personal contact on his 1942 draft card.

When Clyde Noel was mentioned in amateur circles, it was often with the "Doctor" title—supposedly due to his training as an ophthalmologist. Yet city directories, census records, and other documents of the 1920s through 1940s list his occupation as farmer, lumber mill laborer, or Post Office clerk.

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In early March, Ben Strand, Director of Development for University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, made a brief trip to the San Francisco Bay Area. While



Dave Tribby and Ben Strand printing in Sunnyvale.

inbetween some alumni visits, he drove down to Sunnyvale for a chat. He bought me lunch at a local deli, and we had a chance to talk about the similarities and differences between Madison and Silicon Valley, the amateur journalism scene, and plans for the July Conference.

I've worked on several ajay

conventions, but this is the first time the staff of the facility (typically at a hotel) has worked so hard to anticipate our needs and accommodate our idiosyncrasies. We have a true partner working with us—particularly important for this Conference since no member is local to Madison.

After lunch, Ben stopped by Handset Press to set some type and do a bit of printing on the Vandercook cylinder press. In the picture he's wearing a printer's apron from NAPA's 1976 Centennial Convention (a gift to me from Jack Bond).

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Fossils President Ken Faig recently raised a question: when did amateur journalism groups start holding auctions at their conventions? I don't remember any auction at my first AAPA convention, Tampa in 1971, but went back to my files of *American Amateur Journalist* to verify. Sure enough, there was no mention of an auction at either the 1971 or 1972 gatherings, but the writeup of 1973's in Lexington, Kentucky, noted, "An auction of used—and sometimes useless—printing equipment and supplies followed. About \$60 for the coffers of the Official Organ Fund was raised as a result of the auction which was conducted by Fred Liddle."



Fred Liddle, auctioneer at the 1973 NAPA convention.

I do remember donating a small press for auction at NAPA's 1973 convention in St. Petersburg. Checking the *National Amateur*, I didn't see any references to an auction in 1971 or 1972, but the 1973 account noted, "Elizabeth Butt reported the auction netted \$310.00. Auctioneer Fred Liddle was applauded for his successful services." It seems that Fred introduced the auction to both NAPA and AAPA in 1973.

Before Fred joined either ajay organization, he belonged to the Amalgamated Printers' Association, a group focused on letterpress printing rather than amateur journals. Long-time ajayer, and APA founder, Mike O'Connor believes the Amalgamated started auctioning items at their wayzgooses in the mid to late 1960s.

Do any readers have different information or recollections about auctions at ajay conventions?

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I'm always appreciative of those who contribute articles to THE FOSSIL. If I had to write the entire issue myself, it would be much smaller.

Ken Faig's presidential messages are always erudite, often covering unusual topics that he ties back to amateur journalism. A long-time editor of *The Fossil* himself, he always sends his articles to me well before the deadline. You can read this quarter's message beginning on page 7.

I often write new member profiles myself, based upon basic information provided by the subject. The writeup provided by George Chapman was so complete (and entertaining) that I decided to run it with only light editing. It begins on page 6.

I knew little about August Derleth, other than his papers were on the Madison campus, he had been a member of The Fossils, and he was in H. P. Lovecraft's circle. In anticipation of the A. J. Conference in Madison, I asked Dave Goudsward if he would be willing to fill in the blanks. He knew much more about Derleth's career, but was unsure about how extensively he participated in amateur journalism. Some research help from Ken Faig, Bill Boys, Gary Bossler, and John Haefele gave him the information he needed, and he was excited to find an early Derleth short story in a copy of *The Tryout* that he owned. I hope you like the results (beginning on page 3) as much as I do.

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One type of interaction I'd like to have more often: mail from readers of THE FOSSIL. Even if you are not a member, I would like to hear what sort of articles you like and your views on amateur journalism topics. ◆

## 2016 Fossil Election Procedure

by David M. Tribby

THE FOSSILS' BY-LAWS call for election of the Board of Trustees in July of even numbered years, so nominations, if any, are now in order for the two slots. The Fossils membership elects the Board, who in turn appoint the other officers: secretary-treasurer, official editor, librarian, and webmaster. The three trustees select one of their own as president. Because the president carries over to the next term, only two trustees are elected.

Any proposed amendments to the by-laws would also be voted on in the election.

Any member who wants to run for office should file with Secretary-Treasurer Tom Parsons by June 30.

Amendments, proposed by at least five members, must be submitted to President Faig no later than June 10.

Ballots must be mailed to members by July 10 and then returned no later than July 31. The new term of office begins on August 15.

In both 2012 and 2014, only two candidates filed for the two elected positions, and there were no amendments. In both of those years, the president proposed the election be canceled and the two candidates appointed as trustees, in order to save postage and effort.

In mid-February Ken Faig reported the other trustees, John Horn and Gary Bossler, agreed to stand for re-election, and he would continue as president. ◆

## With Our Members

- AFTER EIGHT YEARS, **Barry Schrader** left his position writing the weekly "County Life" column for the *Daily Chronicle* in DeKalb, Illinois, last November—partly because of a conflict of interest. His role as chair of the DeKalb County Citizens for Better Mental Health Care led him to publicly criticize the local health care conglomerate, a major advertiser. His instincts as an investigative reporter could not be denied, so he has established a website and blog (<http://barrysblog.org>) where he continues to expose gaps and irregularities in the health system. He has attracted several other writers, and the site covers a variety of community news and personalities.
- **Jack Scott** had hoped to attend Amateur Journalism Conference 2016, but he cannot be in two places at the same time. "I am teaching a wood carving course at the Lakeside Chautauqua on Lake Erie. It starts on the Sunday the conference ends. The trip just wouldn't be cost effective. The University also has an old sheet music collection I wanted to visit."
- **Mike Horvat** recently had his 70th birthday. He now lives in the Portland, Oregon, area to be near grandkids and the Veterans Administration Hospital. He is dealing with several serious diseases, and is looking to reduce the number of possessions filling his home. He recently sold me eight bound volumes of THE FOSSIL, covering 1909-14 and 1934-76. (I made use of them for the article on page 12.) Perhaps someday Mike will come across the two missing volumes: 1904-1909 and 1924-34. ◆

*Make Your Plans For*

### **Amateur Journalism Conference 2016**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**July 21 - 23**

- Register on-line as soon as possible
- Mail fees to arrive before June 15
- Reserve your room before June 20

*For latest information, visit*

**[www.thefossils.org/ajconference.html](http://www.thefossils.org/ajconference.html)**

# A Century Ago in THE FOSSIL

From issue number 35 for December 1915

EDWIN HADLEY SMITH

## I.

EDITOR OF THE FOSSIL:

A letter, with explanatory matter, was recently mailed to more than 900 old-time amateurs of the United States (addresses known to be correct), asking their co-operation in a project to display and perpetuate the records of Amateur Journalism.

Only twelve of the 900 have co-operated, as follows:

### CASH SUBSCRIPTIONS.

George Julian Houtain . . . . .	\$10
Frederick E. Ives . . . . .	2
James J. Moore . . . . .	1

### PROMISSORY SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Leonard E. Tilden . . . . .	\$25
James F. Morton, Jr. . . . .	10
Homer M. Green . . . . .	10
Edward A. Oldham . . . . .	10
Louis H. Mansbach . . . . .	10
Dr. D. Grant Davis . . . . .	10
Willis Edward Hud . . . . .	10
Robert W. Burnett . . . . .	10
James D. Lee . . . . .	10

TOTAL . . . . . \$118

No answer to the letter was received from 888 of more than 900 old-timers.

Accordingly, the effort to establish a Library of Amateur Journalism has necessarily been abandoned.

EDWIN HADLEY SMITH,  
*Acting Treasurer.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22, 1915.

## II.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

During the past 27 years I have stored up a collection of Amateur Journalism so large that I, alone, have been unable to provide the space and equipment for its display and preservation to the fraternity. Furthermore, the co-operation recently asked of more than 900 old-time amateurs has not been obtained.

No matter how public-spirited one may be, it is folly to spare further thought, time and money—to continue making sacrifices—for a purpose never to be achieved.

Accordingly, I suspend *The Boys' Herald*, and I retire from Amateur Journalism.

As this discontinues the Collection, please stop sending amateur papers, newspaper clippings, amateur books, photographs of amateurs and relics of every description

EDWIN HADLEY SMITH

[Excerpts from remarks made by Charles C. Heuman at the Fossil Philadelphia Reunion, November 13, 1915.]

And you do not know that Edwin Hadley Smith's resignation from the Fossils a couple of years ago was couched in such offensive language that our sainted ex-president, to whom it was addressed, suppressed it. And now we are invited to build Smith a residence, with an annex for the display of the papers, etc., with which we presented him. I don't propose to throw cold water on the scheme, but I wouldn't be a man if I didn't resent the insult to Gus Weinberg. ...

We might as well face it, and labor under no delusions. We *know* that genuine amateur journalism is dead, and we might as well go further, and admit that it will not flourish again in our time. I will not charge those who have grown into old age and senility in the pursuit of amateur journalism with having choked the life out of it, nor will I blame the incubi who have during the past fifteen years imposed their bulk—and nothing but bulk—upon it. I will take the charitable view that the boys and girls of the present generation have other outlets for their activities. We had more leisure, and our lives were far less strenuous. ♦

# The Fossil

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

[www.thefossils.org](http://www.thefossils.org)

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