



The Fossil

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Fossil Profile

From Social Outcast to Published Author

by David Goudsward

I'VE BEEN INVOLVED in amateur press since high school—I just didn't know it. In 1976, as a tender sophomore in Haverhill High School, a ragged band of social outcasts formed a club to gather and discuss the hot topics of the day: Loch Ness Monster, Ancient Aliens, and the Bermuda Triangle. (Still wondering about that 'social outcast' thing?) Naturally, we had a newsletter—*Unsolved Mysteries*, an 8½ x 11 double-sided program fold. And since we had ads from

unusually generous local businesses, we went whole hog and had it done offset. Let's just say it would have helped if we had set type, rather than use a typewriter of dubious ribbon quality. It was a short-lived experiment (much to the relief of the local copy/print shop). To the best of my knowledge, there is no extant complete set. This is not considered a great tragedy.

My next foray was *Pattee Family Research Newsletter* in 1988. Just out of college (the first time), the aftermath of a long story found me as the operations manager of the Mystery Hill in Salem, New Hampshire. Better known as America's Stonehenge, I had taken enough archaeology in college to know I had neither the patience nor the knees to do excavation work. So I went into the history, which was basically the Pattee family. Enough of the relatives were interested, so I did a newsletter to keep everyone up to date. this time I went

high-tech—a Commodore 64 computer with thermal paper printer. It was about as professional as you might expect, although I did learn back in high school

that scotch tape helped hide the cut marks. The newsletter would be almost as memorable as my previous attempt except that one of the recipients was the public library in Haverhill, Massachusetts, which at that time had an internationally known special collections room (the Pattees were originally from Haverhill). As a result, my little newsletter became a "reference source" in other research, most notably an article on the "History of Language Contact in the Ogasawara Islands" in a *Japanese Research Center* report. I assume it was useful, but the only English word on the

page is my last name, which proves my last name is just as unpronounceable in katakana as it is in English.

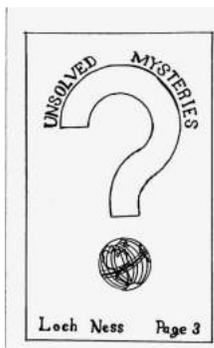
The real game changer for me was learning that H. P. Lovecraft may have visited the site. That question intrigued me and suddenly, there were all these new names associated with Lovecraft, correspondents he had met either through the pulps or through something called "amateur journalism." I've never looked back.

Did Lovecraft base his descriptions of the stone-strewn ruins and stone altar atop Sentinel Hill in "The Dunwich Horror" before or after a visit to the stone-strewn ruins and stone altar in North Salem?

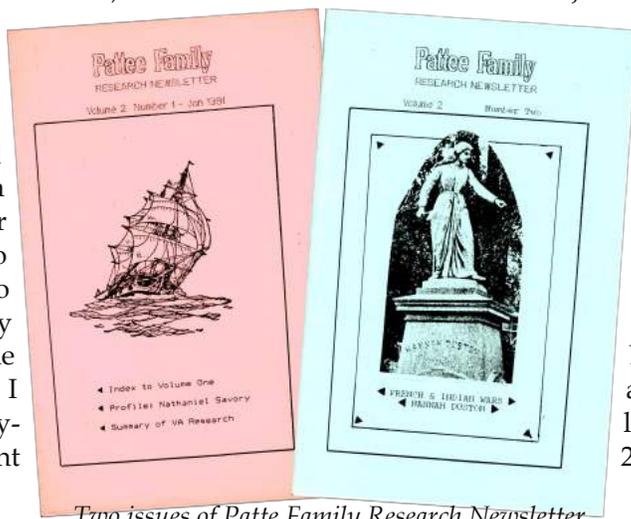
I found myself returning to the question. In all these cases, the path led to Haverhill Public Library and the late local historian Greg Laing in the Special Collections room. On one such trip in 2002, Greg mentioned that yet



Fossil David Goudsward

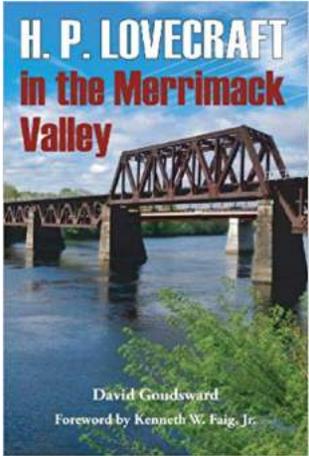


David's first publication



Two issues of Pattee Family Research Newsletter

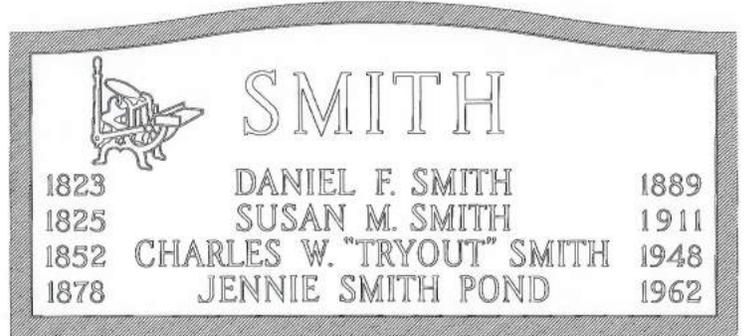
another reference librarian had directed a Lovecraft fan to Special Collections in search of a specific landmark associated with Lovecraft's various visits to Haverhill. He knew I had researched Lovecraft's visit to Mystery Hill and suggested I could pull together my notes and produce some sort of booklet of local landmarks to which he could then refer "those Lovecraft people" (aka "get them out of my library"). That booklet became *H. P. Lovecraft in the Merrimack Valley* (Hippocampus Press, 2013), my sixth book.



For a book about Lovecraft, he became almost secondary to the correspondents he was visiting, all names in Amateur Journalism—Myrta Little (who served a term as UAPA historian), Edgar J. Davis (recruited by Lovecraft into the UAPA and its final president), and Haverhill's own Charles W. "Tryout" Smith. Other AJ names crept in—W. Paul Cook went with Lovecraft to view the eclipse in Newburyport, meeting Tryout Smith as part of the trip; Edith Minitier, whose late husband John had run Haverhill's AJ group, second in size only to Boston's.

And my research into Amateur Journalism continues, with one last, brief side trip into AJ in the Esoteric Order of Dagon, the Lovecraft scholarship APA. It was not a good fit since my work is not predominantly Lovecraft-centric (and I'm sticking to that story).

My next book will be *H. P. Lovecraft in Florida* (Bold Venture Press, 2019), which has its own connections to Amateur Journalism—names less familiar, such as John Russell, whose war of words with Lovecraft in *Argosy* resulted in both being recruited into the UAPA by Edward Daas, and Dudley Newton, Lovecraft's guide in



Approved design for the Smith family headstone, including a drawing of the Pilot press C. W. Smith used for printing his publication *The Tryout* from 1914 until he died in 1948.

Saint Augustine who was probably an AJ fan rather than a contributor. He knew Sonia Greene through the fashion industry in NYC, which is how HPL met him. And of course, the most significant AJ presence in Lovecraftian Florida is extensively discussed—Robert Heyward Barlow.

Which brings us back to Tryout Smith. On September 22, Charles W. Smith is getting a long overdue headstone to mark the family plot in Haverhill's Hilldale Cemetery. Courtesy of a grant from The Aero-flex Foundation, Tryout, his parents and his daughter will finally have a marker on their final resting place. Taking place during Essex Heritage's Trails & Sails celebration, a display of Smith's work, release of a commemorative booklet, and self-guided tours with Lovecraft significance take place between 1 and 4 p.m., at Buttonwoods Museum, 240 Water St. Dedication of the headstone takes place at 6:30 p.m., at Hilldale Cemetery, followed by a ghost walk through the property, led by the Essex County Ghost Project.

I have two projects in the works in the AJ field—a biographic sketch of John T. Minitier and a cenotaph for Robert Barlow near his mother's grave in Cassia, Florida. The book after the next Lovecraft book? A history of Florida sea serpents. Once a social outcast, always a social outcast!



Two issues of David's Sanders Grove Picayune, published from 2014 to 2016 for the Esoteric Order of Dagon.

Once Again, No Fossil Election

by Dave Tribby

THE ONLY CANDIDATES to file for the two openings on the Fossils's board of trustees were the incumbents, Gary Bossler and John Horn. President Ken Faig declared the two elected to new two-year terms, without the expense and effort required to mail ballots. The incumbent president carries over to the next term, which begins on August 15, 2018.

Due to lack of contested offices, elections were also canceled in 2012, 2014, and 2016. In fact, there have been only two elections, in 2008 and 2010, since the current by-laws (printed in this issue on pages 10 and 11) were adopted.

65th Annual Meeting of The Fossils, Inc.

Hotel Tudor, New York City, Saturday, 27 April 1968

PRECEDING THE BUSINESS MEETING, Fossils Sheldon C. Wesson, Albert S. Keshen, Matilda S. and William F. Haywood met for lunch at Rocky's, near NYU Library.

From there this group went to the Special Collections where the Library of Amateur Journalism is housed, and were cordially welcomed by Dr. and Mrs. Grieder, who showed off the amateur papers, books, and clippings. Fossil Les Boyer joined the group and a discussion of the future of the collection was held.

At 3 p.m. members convened at the Hotel Tutor, where Fossil Alexia J. Ostergaard and her guest, Carlissa Galdi, were waiting. ...

The Custodian [Wesson] reported on his work on the Library of Amateur Journalism, its transfer from Stan Oliner in Wyoming to NYU, with the assistance of Les Boyer of AAPA and Joyce Inman of UAPA. ... The execution of a formal contract after the transfer was reported, as well as the current operation of the Edward H. Cole Memorial Awards under which copies of the *History* and *Encyclopedia* have been awarded to the Laureate winners in each association. ...

Fossil Wesson suggested a poll of members on the closing down of The Fossils be conducted, the Chair objecting to this as a defeatist attitude. Wesson pointed out that publishing THE FOSSIL, supporting the Library, and making the EHC awards constituted our only activity. ...

On motion by Wesson/Boyer the Official Editor was authorized to ask permission of AAPA, UAPA, and NAPA to distribute THE FOSSIL in their bundles without charge, and if these organizations consent, to mail in this way issues of interest to all amateurs.

Another motion by Wesson/Boyer authorized the Treasurer to pay up to \$250 for clerical help at the Library, provided it was matched by an equal money payment from NAPA, AAPA, and UAPA.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned on motion by Boyer/Wesson.

Upon adjournment, members and guests gathered in the dining room for a round of cocktails provided by Fossil Louis C. Wills, and a toast to departed Fossils was offered by Fossil L. Verle Heljeson. A fine roast beef dinner was enjoyed by those who attended:

Ralph W. Babcock, Frances H. Beran, Leslie W. Boyer, Carlissa T. Galdi, Mrs. Vincent B. Haggerty, Matilda S. Haywood, Paul W Haywood, William F. Haywood, L. Verle Heljeson, Albert S. Keshen, Albert Lee, Roy A. Lindberg, Alexia J. Ostergaard, Carla Pat-suris, Sheldon C. Wesson, Gail Wise, and Wesley W. Wise. ♦

2017 Report for Hawes Fund

by Dave Tribby

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION recently released its annual Endowment Report describing the performance of all endowed funds. One of these, the Leland M. Hawes Jr. Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ), was created by donations from The Fossils, the American Amateur Press Association, the National Amateur Press Association, and individual amateur journalists beginning in 2014. In 2016 the balance grew beyond the \$10,000 threshold to be recognized as an official Foundation fund. Income generated by the Fund supports the LAJ, which was donated by The Fossils to UW in 2004, and is located in the Special Collections department at Memorial Library on the UW-Madison campus.

Here is the financial statement for the Hawes Fund from the Foundation report:

Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism

JANUARY 1, 2017, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

Beginning Endowment Market Value (1/1/17)	\$11,580.82
<i>Additions to Endowment</i>	
Gift Additions	\$3,150.00
Reinvested Income	\$0.00
Other Additions (includes stock gifts)	\$1,046.62
<i>Allocated Investment Return</i>	\$2,285.05
<i>Deductions from Endowment</i>	
Spend Plan Allocation	-\$652.76
Institutional Advancement Fee	-\$146.43
Other Deductions	\$0.00
Ending Endowment Market Value (12/31/17)	\$17,263.30
End-of-Year Endowment Book Value (12/31/17)	\$15,864.37
Lifetime Spend Plan Allocation (12/31/17)	\$799.32

The value of the Fund's principal ("Market Value") grew during 2017 from \$11,580.82 on January 1 to \$17,263.30 on December 31. This growth included \$4,196.62 in donations and \$2,285.05 in investment returns. Each year the Foundation determines how much of the total endowment value should be spent quarterly for the ongoing purposes (4.5% in 2017), and for operating the Foundation (1%). For the Hawes Fund \$652.76 went to support the LAJ (mainly to pay students for ongoing cataloging) and \$146.43 to support the Foundation. Over the lifetime of the Fund (2016 and 2017), \$799.32 has gone toward LAJ support.

The total amount donated to the Fund since its inception ("Book Value") was \$15,864.37 as of December 31. More gifts are always welcome. ♦

News About Library Collections

by Dave Tribby

IN ADDITION TO the 2017 financial report for the Leland M. Hawes Jr. Fund for the Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (see previous article), there is recent news about amateur journalism collections from several different libraries. You can learn more about the libraries mentioned here, plus many more, by visiting the “Public Collections of Amateur Journals” page on The Fossils’s website

www.thefossils.org/collections.html

The **New York Public Library** received a grant from the Aeroflex Foundation and Hippocampus Press in 2013 to process its Amateur Periodical Collection, which contains about 8,000 items dating from 1872 to 1941. At the time of the grant, the Collection was removed from the Library to identify candidates for digitization and to physically stabilize items and place them in low acid folders. In January 2017 THE FOSSIL reported that one item was chosen for digitization, the 82-page *Index to the Amateur Periodicals Collection*. It is now available online. At the time of last year’s report, processing of the collection was ongoing and none of the items were available to the general public.



This June, Shannon Keller, Helen Bernstein Librarian for Periodicals and Journals at NYPL, replied to an inquiry about the current status of the Collection: “The project to process and catalog the collection is complete. Titles and issues within the collection are searchable via the library’s catalog and may be requested for review by patrons. I suggest interested users reference the digitized index to search the catalog by title.”

The **American Antiquarian Society’s** “Amateur Newspapers” collection holds about 55,000 amateur journals, nearly all from the nineteenth century. They are on the lookout for additional papers dated prior to January 1, 1901, and welcome donations; inquiries should be directed to Vincent L. Golden, Curator of Newspapers and Periodicals, at 508-471-2148.



Last fall, he reported on a project to share items with other libraries. “I sorted out a pile of duplicate nineteenth-century amateurs by state (by city in a couple of cases). I then contacted a number of institu-

tions and was able to place most of them.” He listed twenty institutions that agreed to accept the duplicates. “For some of the curators, they had no idea what amateur newspapers were so it was nice to educate them. It was also nice to spread them out among a number of collections where they had few or no issues.”

AAS recently started a project to enter all of their issues into a searchable database.

The **Museum of Printing**, located in Haverhill, Massachusetts, is starting a library of printed materials



so visitors can study printing styles, typography, ink colors, paper, and content. According to John Rogers, the Museum director who is leading the effort, “We are taking in any material and hope to have it organized in the next year or two.” Amateur journals will be an important part of this collection, although it will also hold other printed ephemera. Mimeograph and rubber type printing is accepted, in addition to letterpress printing: “We have a good number of both machines on display along with a full section of typewriters and the beginning of computers.”

If you have contemporary or historic amateur journals—or any other printed items—you would like to donate to this collection, contact John Rogers at rogers@TRGBuilders.com or 204 Middle Windchendon Rd., Rindge, NH 03461.

The **University of Iowa** received a major donation of amateur journals from Ivan D. Snyder. In May Ivan



wrote, “I sent 14 (!) cartons of journals to the U of Iowa a few months ago, but recently I received permission to send them a few more that I keep unearthing.”

Ivan’s *Amateur Observer* No. 14, in the June American Amateur Press Association bundle, gave further details about his donations: “My hope is that it can be used for research and just possibly to stimulate interest in the hobby among a wider scope of people than it ever could at my place. Major contributors to my AJ collection have been Dean Rea, Gordon Rouze, Dr. A. Kenneth Yost, and Charles J. Hoye.”

The University of Iowa Special Collections Department lists more than two dozen individual collections in its “Zine and Amateur Press” category. ♦

Too Much “Stuff”?

by Dave Tribby

WHAT DO YOU DO when you just don't have room to keep all the treasures you've collected over the years? Some people face this problem when they move to a smaller home. Others may not have an immediate change on the horizon, but want to spare their family the problem of dealing with a large collection when the ultimate change finally happens.

Fossil Gary Bossler touched on this problem in the latest issue of *Ohio Views* in the June National Amateur Press Association bundle: “Having reached the age of 81 years I have accumulated a large collection of ajay memorabilia. ... No one in my family seems to have any interest in amateur journalism.” He listed a number of items he wants to place with other ajays: bound volumes and individual issues of *National Amateur*, Truman Spencer's *History of Amateur Journalism* (plus index), books written and/or printed by amateur journalists, books about typography and letterpress printing, and lots of amateur papers (some bound).

He had hoped to put them in an auction at the NAPA convention, coming up on July 16 - 18 in Ohio. Back when conventions attracted dozens of members, people could donate hobby-related materials they no longer needed and others would bid on them. I have picked up a number of treasures from conventions, and also gotten rid of excess or duplicate items from my print shop when the convention was held locally. But these days there aren't enough bidders in attendance to make an auction work.

Gary will fill his trunk with the items, take them to the convention, and hold a private sale. If you would like to put in a remote bid of your own, contact him at gbossler@thefossils.org for further information.

Equipment and books related to letterpress printing are not too hard to place; there are active letterpress groups throughout the nation, plus virtual communities connected by e-mail lists or websites. You do need a buyer willing to come and pick them up because presses, type, cabinets, etc. are difficult to ship safely. In recent years, a number of amateur printers, such as Gordon Rouze and Dean Rea, have placed their entire shops with individuals who are willing to come and pick them up. (I purchased Charlie Hinde's shop in 2004, so I know moving a large shop requires a lot of effort.)

Unfortunately, the “market” for amateur papers is much slower. When some of us are bitten by the ajay bug, we want to save all of the bundles we receive, and also seek out examples from earlier years. But the majority of ajayers either discard journals shortly after they are read, or retain only a few special titles.

I believe it is best to place a collection with an interested individual. Shortly after I joined AAPA, I benefited greatly from the donations of amateur papers from Lee Hawes, Les Boyer, Ray Albert, Milt Grady, Russ Paxton, and particularly Sheldon and Helen Wesson. Without those papers, I probably couldn't be editor of *THE FOSSIL*. When writing about an amateur it's invaluable to pick out quotes, or entire articles, by or about them. I'm sure that's always been true for official editors — or anyone else who has delved into ajay history. Having the collection at home makes such research so much easier than planning a trip to a library.

But with so few interested members of the hobby, a stable institution may be the best alternative. News in this issue about public collections of amateur papers gives some hope for placing amateur papers. The Library of Amateur Journalism at UW- Madison is the largest repository of amateur papers, but they don't need duplicates of items they already have—and theirs is already the most comprehensive collection. The American Antiquarian Society is always interested in receiving nineteenth century amateur papers, and it's heartening to hear they found other libraries willing to accept their duplicate papers. The University of Iowa continues to accept collections of papers; Ivan Snyder's recent donation was preceded by ones from Ken Faig, Heath Row, and Mike Horvat. The creation of a new collection by the Museum of Printing is another opportunity to place amateur papers where they will be valued and used.

Another positive story: In 2015, NAPA member Harrison Church asked me for help finding a home for the last forty years of *National Amateurs*. Using The Fossils' website, I identified four different libraries that already held older issues. Harry contacted all of them, and three were interested. He eventually chose the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

I sometimes wonder what might become of my own collection. Perhaps the University of California at Berkeley would like to augment the extensive Hyman Bradofsky collection they purchased in 2003. Or maybe my own alma mater, Stanford, would want to grow the small number of amateur papers they currently have in Special Collections. But would either school want to take boxes of papers without a substantial donation to provide for cataloging and handling?

I would like to hear from readers who have dealt with collections of amateur papers, or those who are currently wondering what to do. Any ideas on what works, and what doesn't? What can The Fossils do to facilitate the placement of collections? ♦

Manuscript Magazines

by Ken Faig, Jr.

THERE IS ONE feature of the mill papers of the 1840s that I have held over from my April 2018 column. It concerns poet Lucy Larcom (b. March 5, 1824, Beverly, MA, d. April 17, 1893, Boston, MA), who went to work in the Lowell mills in 1835 following the death of her father, Benjamin Larcom (1776-1832), a sea captain. Benjamin



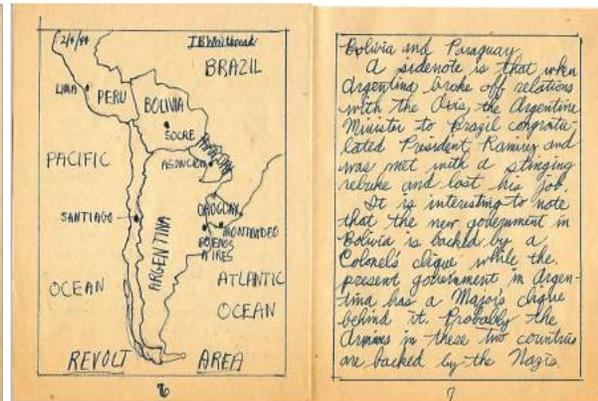
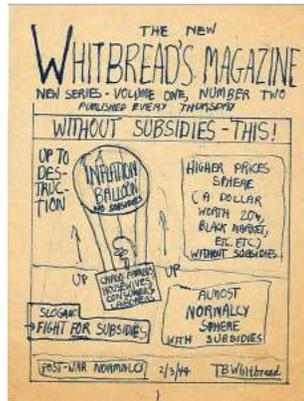
and his wife Lois (Barrett) Larcom (1786-1868) had a family of eight children, and their oldest son was only eighteen when his father died. Lucy contributed her poetry to the mill papers, and finally left the mills in 1846 to move to St. Louis with her sister Emeline (Larcom) Spaulding and her husband Rev. George Spaulding. Other siblings included Benjamin Larcom (1834-1903), Louisa Barrett (Larcom) Harrington (1815-1863), Jonathan Larcom (1818-1895), Abigail Obear (Larcom) Haskell (1820-1902), Lyda Smith (Larcom) Baker (1822-1895) and Octavia (Larcom) Parkhurst (1827-1913).

Lucy was an 1852 graduate of the Monticello Female Academy in Godfrey, IL. In the 1855 state census, she was recorded in Beverly, MA in the household of her sister Louisa (Larcom) Harrington; in 1865, she was recorded in Beverly in the household of cordwainer John E. Baker, age 77, and Sally Baker, age 62. Also in the household was Sylvia S. Baker, age 43, who may be Lucy's sister Lyda Smith (Larcom) Baker. Lucy taught at the Wheaton Seminary in Norton, MA in 1854-62. Then, in 1865-74, she served as editor of *Our Young Folks*, based in Boston.

Her first published book was *Similitudes from the Ocean and the Prairie*, published by Jewett in Boston in 1854. She followed with numerous other titles over the years, including *Ships in the Mist and Other Stories* (1860), *Poems* (1868), *An Idyll of Work, a Story in Verse* (1875), *Childhood Songs* (1877), *Wild Rose of Cape Ann and Other Poems* (1880), *Poetical Works* (1884), her autobiography *A New England Girlhood* (1889), and her collection of essays *The Unseen Friend* (1892). In addition, she was a founder of the *Rushlight Literary Magazine*. As much as possible, she continued to



Lucy Larcom



Manuscript magazines are publications created manually. This example was created by Tom Whitbread in 1944 (see *THE FOSSIL* for April 2017).

make her home in her birthplace, Beverly, MA. The 1877 Beverly Directory listed her on West Street, near the Beverly Farms depot. The 1888-89, 1890-91 and 1893-94 Salem Directories listed her at 59 Essex Street (corner of Jackson) in Beverly.

As far as I am aware, Lucy Larcom was never involved with organized amateur journalism. However, she does have a connection, albeit somewhat tenuous, with our hobby. Like so many literary figures, she indulged, with her sisters, in the “publication” of a manuscript magazine, entitled *The Diving Bell*, in her youth. Her elder sister Emilie (Emeline), who later married Rev. George Spaulding, served as editor for this publication, which appeared fortnightly and achieved twelve numbers. Lucy recalled its “yellow manuscript pages” in her autobiography *A New England Girlhood*. I don’t know whether any copy of *The Diving Bell* has been preserved in any of the archival collections of Lucy’s papers. If so, a reproduction would surely form an interesting illustration for any discussion of manuscript magazines undertaken in youth by literary figures.

Lucy was surely not alone in undertaking such an endeavor. The Brontës famously created their own juvenile publications, while Nathaniel Hawthorne is famed for his boyhood manuscript magazine *The Spectator*. Later literary figures like M. P. Shiel, Jack Kerouac, and Philip K. Dick created their own manuscript magazines. In fact, Australian scholar Roy Alden Atwood maintains a website devoted to manuscript magazines which makes for fascinating viewing: <https://handwrittennews.com>

Manuscript magazines have not been unknown in the organized amateur journalism hobby. In the early decades of the twentieth century, particularly in the

years immediately following World War I, they were not uncommon in the United Kingdom, where the costs of printing were prohibitive for many hobbyists. Of course, these magazines depended upon a circulation list, and were thus subject to loss if any member of the circulation list failed to pass them along to the next person on the list. An added refinement was the so-called "round robin," where each person on the circulation list added a "publication" of his or her own to the "bundle," which he or she removed in favor of a new contribution when the bundle next returned to him or her. H. P. Lovecraft circulated his famous "In Defense of Dagon" essays through such a round robin, the so-called Transatlantic Circulator, in 1920-21. Amazingly, his essays survived to return to him and are among his papers in the John Hay Library at Brown University today. He published a manuscript magazine of his own, *Hesperia*, in which he included at least one installment of the serial "The Mystery of Murdon Grange." Unhappily, this item advanced only a few steps on its circulation list before being lost.

Of course, most children do not have access to anything more than pen, pencil and paper. (Even paper was an expensive commodity in days of yore.) To create multiple copies, the young M. P. Shiel, on the Caribbean isle of Montserrat, resorted to laborious hand copying of his creations. By the 1890s, an inexpensive gelatin-based copying device, the hectograph, was available. Lovecraft was a prolific creator of handwritten magazines as a youth. His longest-running serials were *The Rhode Island Journal of Astronomy* and *The Scientific Gazette*. He started these as pen and ink publications, but graduated to the use of the hectograph to create perhaps a half-dozen copies for circulation among family members and neighbors. Today, the John Hay Library has his own repository of these juvenile publications, some of which it has made available in digital form. Over the years, he sent a few samples of his juvenile magazines to various correspondents, but I have never seen any offered for sale.

Later, of course, the spirit duplicator (remembered by many as the source for odorous high school quizzes) and the mimeograph (which used ink rather than fluid) made possible bigger print runs than were possible for the hectograph. Many amateur journalists with their own printing equipment were scornful of such productions (some calling mimeograph magazines "mimeoslop"), but these relatively cheap methods of reproduction nevertheless gained a foothold among amateur journalists. A publication as distinguished as Edna Hyde McDonald's *Bellette* was produced using a mimeograph. On the other hand, W. Paul Cook was furious when young Robert H. Barlow used Edith Miniter's story "Dead Houses," which Cook considered her masterpiece, in his mimeographed journal *Leaves* in

1938. Today, of course, amateur journalists can print as many copies as they need of their magazines on the home printers linked to the computers used to compose their work. Desktop publishing and word processing programs make possible a very handsome-looking product for amateurs willing to take care for the appearance of their work. Of course, a valued segment of traditionalists still adhere to the traditional printing press.

But pen and ink were the only recourse for many children wishing to create "magazines" of their own. That a few of these children grew up to be noted literary figures has helped to attract attention to these "publications." Children, of course, love to mimic adults from early on. Observing adult publications, they strive to create their own equivalent, with the tools available to them. Adult amateur journalists on limited budgets resorted to manuscript magazines with circulation lists or the more complex "round robin." Given that so much of early genius is reflected in some of these creations, there seems little reason for us to despise them. With the help of Roy Alden Atwood's magnificent website, we can still enjoy some of these creations. The handwritten magazine has much of the intimacy of another almost forgotten institution—the handwritten personal letter. Perhaps the plethora of email—not to be despised as a convenient, inexpensive method of communication—has allowed us to forget the pleasure of receiving a personal letter, demanding no immediate response, but only a reply at one's own leisure.



Some issues ago, I devoted a column to school newspapers. An excellent monograph of this subject by Bruce E. Konkle, entitled *A Preliminary Overview of the Early History of High School Journalism in the U.S.: ~1775-1925*, is now available for viewing on the internet. The file, in PDF format, can be accessed from:

<https://tinyurl.com/yb97sryw>

or you can search using the title and author.

I commend it to your attention. In the past, the Hoffman-Daas faction of the United Amateur Press Association (1912-26) was the association most noted for its presence in high schools and colleges. Lovecraft's friend Maurice Winter Moe (1882-1940) made his English classes at Appleton High School and West Division High School in Milwaukee a hotbed of high school amateur journalism. Both Alfred Galpin and Margaret Abraham were alumni of these classes. Later, Anne Vynne (Tillery) Renshaw (1890-bef. 1953) made her classes at Penn State in State College PA the center of a substantial local United club. Perhaps even today there remains the possibility of fruitful links between high school journalism and the organized amateur journalism hobby. ♦

More on Manuscript Magazines

by Dave Tribby

BEFORE READING PRESIDENT FAIG'S message in this issue, I was not familiar with the term "manuscript magazine." I knew about magazines produced manually and had even done some myself, mainly as elementary school projects.

Plugging the term into an internet search engine produced some enlightening results - after I filtered out all the references to a current Australian quarterly magazine titled *Manuscript*. I learned that manuscript magazines have a long history.

Wikipedia defines a manuscript as any document written by hand, or typewritten once typewriters became available.

The Sunday School Teachers' Magazine for 1863 suggests "that however successful Sunday schools may be, when conducted in an exclusively religious spirit, they flourish better when they have also the benefit of those secular agencies which are strictly compatible with the great principles of Christianity." Two "agencies that might be beneficially employed" are elocution classes and manuscript magazines. "In the class the members would learn pronunciation, and acquire a habit of studying and correctly interpreting the thoughts and language of others; but by contributing to the *magazine* they would learn to think for themselves, and to express their thoughts in a graceful manner. The *magazine* should also contain blank pages, in order that each contributor might criticize the sentiments, composition, spelling, &c., of the others.

The British Controversialist and Literary Magazine, published in 1871, offers the opinion, "Amongst modern means of intellectual improvement and development, ... a place of honour should be assigned to what are called 'manuscript magazines.'" The full effect has been difficult to measure because "a great proportion are very ephemeral." If financial difficulty keeps good literature from being published, "why should we not endeavour to influence private circles by its means, circulating from fireside to fireside wholesome reading, which may stimulate thought, and lead perhaps to a revolution in the taste of" the public. Some manuscript magazines are connected to mutual improvement societies, with the contents discussed at meetings. Other magazines might have a more limited circulation in a household or among friends. Since manuscript magazines are typically passed along from person to person, each one should "be complete to itself, as a reference to the preceding number cannot always be made." The writer suggests, "few, if any, articles should be admit-

ted which are more than ten minutes' reading, or about fifteen hundred words."

Young Gentleman's Magazine for March 1871 includes several ads for manuscript magazines; for example: "Wanted to establish, a Young Gentleman's High Class Manuscript Magazine, for the purpose of circulating Tales, Articles, &c, but Subscribers only. Gentlemen requiring particulars are requested to apply by letter to PERCY ROSS, care of Mr. A. E. Skeels, Downing Street, Cambridge."

In July 1912, the Scouting magazine *Boys' Life* suggested Scout troops have their own magazine. "Although printing is much cheaper now than it was years ago, there are many cases where troops would have hard work to get together the necessary money to run a magazine. This is just where the manuscript magazine can meet the desire to do so." The article provided a number of suggestions:

How To Start

Having decided to issue a manuscript magazine, one or two Scouts should be chosen to act as editors. Their duties will consist in receiving all "copy" from contributors, arranging it in suitable order, and fastening together in cover.

Though each separate troop must frame its own rules to meet local needs and according to requirements, the following have been tested and found suitable:

RULES

1. The magazine is issued monthly (bi-monthly or quarterly, as the case may be), and sent round to each member, who must retain it no longer than three (five or seven) days, and then pass it on to the next member on list as written on inside of cover.

2. Contributions must be written (or in case of photos and postcards, mounted) on paper of a good quality, measuring 7 inches by 9 inches. Contributors should leave an inch margin each side of paper to allow for binding, etc., and WRITE IN INK ON BOTH sides of the paper.

3. Contributions may be in prose, poetry, sketches, paintings, picture postcards, photos, etc., and should be sent to the Editor, Mr. —, at — Street, not later than —. All contributions should be signed by contributors. A description should accompany sketches, paintings, postcards, and photos.

4. The Editor reserves the right to reject any unsuitable contribution, or hold over till a later issue any manuscript arriving late.

It is best for the cover of the magazine to bind all of the pages, and an easy way of fastening all sheets together is to make a hole, say, 1½ or 2 inches from top and bottom, thread silk cord through it, and tie it.

The University of Virginia's Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library wrote a blog entry to describe *The Gleaner* (1910-1918), "a mix of handwritten and typed contributions alongside original works of art in pen, watercolor, charcoal, and pastels." You can see examples of its colorful pages and read about its colorful history at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6wgx5qu>

The Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University posted about *The Flapper's Magazette*, produced by a young girl in the early 1920s to comment on her contemporary culture. It is found at

<https://tinyurl.com/yanz9rxs>

One last story found on the internet: a December 2017 news item from *The Hindu* (India) describes a new manuscript magazine, *Kaiyvezhuthu Masika*, launched by employees of the Economics and Statistics Department in Kerala state to promote the Malayalam language – and to take "a creative break ... from the drab world of statistics, surveys and computations." The colorful displays of art and calligraphy caught on, and employees in three different cities have their own magazines, with issues running 90 pages. In a modern twist, after the content is created by hand it is circulated via PDF file. You can read more at

<https://tinyurl.com/y7zns3em>

Fossil Bill Boys recently created a series of sample journals, just to show National Amateur Press Association members how easy it is to publish. Beginning last fall, Bill created "Easy Journals" to describe how to use WordPerfect, PagePlus, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Publisher. In December's bundle he distributed two issues of *Easy Journal by Handwriting*, and in January *Easy Journal by Typewriter*. After creating a master, he scanned it and then produced enough copies for the NAPA bundle on his laser printer.

I received several responses to last issue's lead article, "Working With Russ on the AAJ."

From Jim Hedges: "I have Russ Paxton's 'Little Giant' [press] here, via the Robertson auction in Virginia several years ago. It runs, but it won't feed paper. I think it just needs cleaning, but I haven't had time to work on it."

From Mike O'Connor: "Especially got a few chuckles out of your article and your printing experiences with Russ Paxton. I didn't keep any of his correspondence but I was a young kid who thought I knew what looked good in print. I remember him sending his specimen sheet of display faces he had, etc. I enjoyed working with a number of faces. I am sure he had many words of advice to me but all I remember now is that he put up with me in a very kind manner. It was a pleasure working with him. With the growth of offset and my access to some equipment, I did some of my own printing. I do vaguely remember having a problem with telling Russ that I would not be using him for an upcoming volume. But I guess it all worked out as I have no negative remembrances of any problems with Russ (that's probably not true on his part)."

Dave Goudsward is the latest Fossil to respond to my request for a self-profile. Many thanks to him for quickly putting together an introduction for those who may not know him. I may be contacting you to write a brief article introducing yourself and describing how you are connected to amateur journalism, so be forewarned!

Dave joined The Fossils in the fall of 2012, after corresponding with Ken Faig for several years. Ken suggested that Dave might find membership in The Fossils interesting, since his research into H. P. Lovecraft had

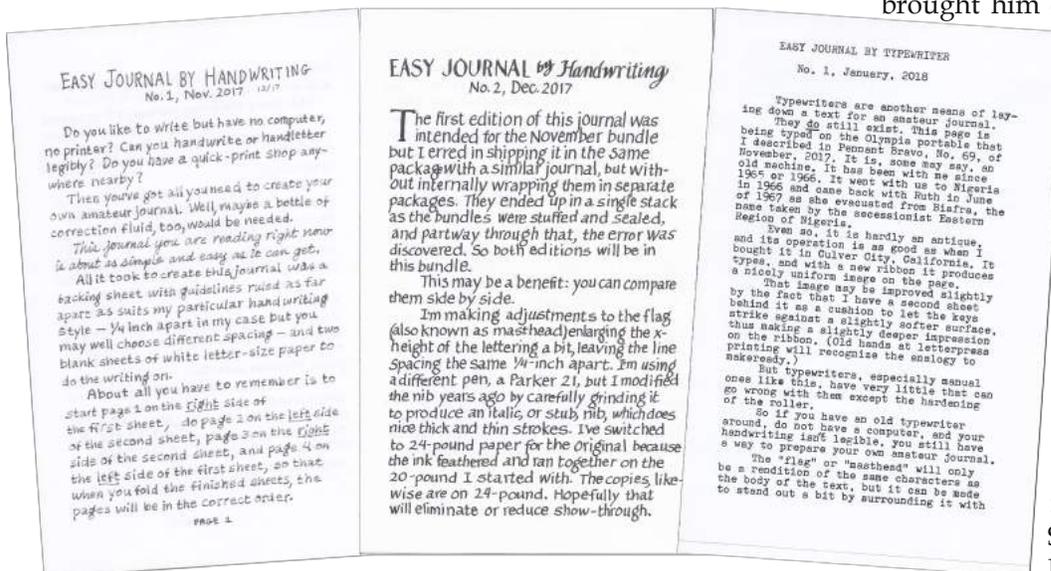
brought him close to the hobby of amateur journalism. Dave recalls, "I went online, read a few back issues of THE FOSSIL, and wrote a membership check the same day."

You can read more about Dave and his brother Scott on their website:

www.goudsward.com

Included in Dave's section are descriptions of most of the 13 books he has published.

As noted last month, the printer of THE FOSSIL for many years has retired. This issue will be printed in Sunnyvale, California, rather than Massillon, Ohio. Can you notice any differences?



Fossil Bill Boys recently created amateur journals by hand, and with a typewriter.

By-laws of The Fossils

Effective as of August 15, 2006

Article I

Section 1. The name of this organization is THE FOSSILS.

Section 2. The Organization and its members shall be titled, "The Historians of Amateur Journalism."

Article II – Purposes

Section 1. Its 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.

Section 2. The Fossils maintains an active interest in The Library of Amateur Journalism donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison.

Section 3. The Fossils shall publish a journal, THE FOSSIL, as near-quarterly as funds from the treasury or contributed for this purpose permit. The contents shall include items of official business and news of the organization, information regarding members and matters of interest to their associates to sustain fraternity within The Fossils, as well as communications in harmony with its purposes. Each issue shall contain historic articles dealing with amateur journalism and, at the discretion of the Official Editor, literary articles and reminiscences submitted by members.

Section 4. The organization shall foster independent publishing of significant historic material by amateur journalists.

Section 5. Otherwise, through liaison contact with newspapers and other media, The Fossils shall sustain efforts to publicize the significance of independent publishing, its history in America and advantages derived from participation in amateur journalism as a stimulant for recruiting new members into the community of amateur journalism associations.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Any person who has been an active member of an Amateur Press Group, or its equivalent, and is interested in fostering the purposes and goals of The Fossils, as stated in Article II of the By-laws, is eligible for membership upon acceptance of dues by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Article IV – Dues

Section 1. The annual dues shall be \$15 for single

membership and \$20 for joint membership of husband and wife, if both are eligible to join. Renewal date shall be one year from date of joining.

Article V – Officers

Section 1. Effective upon the adoption of this amendment, elections will be held in even numbered years, commencing with the election in 2006. Officers shall serve for a two year term.

Section 2. Beginning with the election in 2008, the elective officers of this organization shall consist of three members, operating within the structure of a Board of Trustees. All other officers shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.

a. The newly formed Board of Trustees shall select one of its members as President, at least two members concurring to the selection. Beginning with the election in 2010, elections shall be held for two of the three members of the Board of Trustees, the incumbent President being the carryover member. The newly formed Board shall select one of its number as President, at least two members concurring.

b. In case of confusion in selecting a President, the incumbent President shall appoint a committee of at least three members at large to determine which elected Trustee will be designated as president for the ensuing term of office.

c. In case of a vacation by a Trustee, the remaining Trustees shall select a replacement who will serve until the next election. If the Trustee member who was replaced was the President, the Board shall select a new President, following the procedure outlined in Sec. 2 a. and b. of this article.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

(a) Board of Trustees: Responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the organization shall rest with the Board of Trustees except in those areas in which the duties of other officers must necessarily take precedence in order that the mandate of their office can be properly executed.

(b) President: As chief executive, the President may appoint special committees, enter into agreements with outside parties, approve expenditures apart from the regularly established expenses of the organization, and propose policies deemed beneficial to the well-being of the organization. Effective with the election of 2008, the President with at least one other member of the Board of Trustees concurring, shall elect appointive officers consisting of a Secretary-Treasurer, Official Editor, Historian, Librarian, and Webmaster who will serve in

their respective offices until the position is declared vacated by reason of one of the conditions detailed in Article V, Section 4.

(c) Secretary-Treasurer: As Secretary, this officer, or a designate, shall (1) pass upon the qualifications of applicants for membership, (2) conduct official correspondence, (3) be responsible for the printing of ballots, and fulfill the customary duties of secretary. As Treasurer, this officer shall (1) have charge of the funds of the organization, (2) make disbursements as authorized by the President, and (3) furnish the Board of Trustees with a financial report when requested.

(d) Official Editor: The Official Editor shall have full responsibility for publishing THE FOSSIL.

(e) Historian: The Historian shall compile a record of events and people of historic significance in the founding and development of The Fossils for publication in THE FOSSIL.

(f) Librarian: The Librarian shall convey to the membership through THE FOSSIL any pertinent communications from the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Madison, pertaining to the Library of Amateur Journalism.

(g) Webmaster: The Webmaster shall strive to maintain and enhance the organization's web page.

Section 3. In the event no member can be found to perform in one or another of these appointive offices, members of the Board of Trustees may assume any of these duties in addition to their assignments as members of the Board of Trustees, and may continue with these additional duties until a replacement can be found. In like manner, appointive officers may be elected to the post of Trustee and still continue to serve in their appointive positions.

Section 4. Vacating of an Office: An office shall be considered vacant in the event of (a) the submission of a written resignation by the office holder to the President; (b) the death of the officeholder; (c) release of an appointive officer from his duties by the Board of Trustees; (d) the office holder's ceasing to be a member of the Fossils

Article VI – Nominating Procedures

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to notify the membership of the date and procedure for filing for election to the Board of Trustees. This notice should either be published in the April issue of THE FOSSIL or be mailed first class to all members in time for them to submit their names to the Secretary-Treasurer or designate.

Section 2. Names of those filing for office should be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer or designate no later than June 30.

Article VII – Elections

Section 1. Elections of officers and amendments to the By-laws shall be determined by ballots mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer or a designate to all qualified voting members by July 10.

Section 2. Ballots shall be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer or a designate no later than July 31. The Secretary-Treasurer or a designate shall tally the votes and convey the results to the incumbent President and the Official Editor for publication in THE FOSSIL.

Section 3. A majority of the votes cast shall be required for amending the By-laws. The two Board candidates receiving the first and second largest numbers of votes shall be elected. Any tie votes will be decided by giving preference to the candidate with the longest period of continuous membership in The Fossils according to the records maintained by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4. Elected officers shall assume office on August 15.

Section 5. Amendments to the By-laws shall become effective on August 15.

Article VIII – Method of Amending the By-laws.

Section 1. Majority vote of the members of The Fossils shall be required to amend the By-laws as part of the election process, and such amendments shall be described on the ballot with appropriate "Yes" and "No" boxes. In the event that at least two members of the Board of Trustees determine that the approved amendment is of an emergency nature, a special election may be ordered at a time to be determined by the Board.

Section 2. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Trustees, at least two members concurring; appointive officers, at least two officers concurring; or individual members, at least five members concurring. Proposed amendments should be submitted to the President no later than June 10 for review by the Board of Trustees. If the amendment is not determined to be of an emergency nature, the Board of Trustees shall submit them to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than June 30.

Article IX – Distribution of Assets

In the event of final dissolution of The Fossils, any residual funds in the treasury shall be conveyed to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library in Madison for use for the Library of Amateur Journalism Collection. ♦

The Fossils Membership List

July 1, 2018

Members:

William E. Boys, 184 Reinhard Avenue, Columbus, OH
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Williamsburg, OH 45176-9636

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50312-2309

Ivan D. Snyder, 1327 NE 73rd Avenue, Portland, OR
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Ontario L4Y 2N9 CANADA (member)

**Note: The Fossils Board of Trustees has granted life mem-
bership to Martin M. Horvat.* ♦

The Fossil

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of The Fossils, a non-profit organization for anyone 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, contact the secretary-treasurer or visit our website:

www.thefossils.org

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Webmaster: Dave Tribby (contact information above)