

NEWS AND NOTES

Richard Hopkins

Last issue I featured a brief article on collecting "bizarre books." In the meantime I located my own copy of *Bizarre Books* by Russell Ash and Brian Lake (London, Eng.: Pavilion Books, 1998, Rev. ed.). Below are an even dozen titles lifted randomly from this amusing publication:

Erland Fenn Clark.

Truncheons: Their Romance and Reality.

Herbert Jenkins: 1935. With over 100 plates and more than 500 truncheons.

Shad Helmstetter.

What to Say When You Talk to Yourself.

Scottsdale, Ariz.: Grindle Press, 1982.

Gerard Metral.

A Do-It-Yourself Submachine Gun.

Boulder, Colo.: Paladin Press, 1995.

Ground Zero War Foundation.

Nuclear War: What's In It For You?

New York: Pocket Books, 1982.

John G. Peters Jr.

Defensive Tactics With Flashlights.

Northbrook, Ill.: Calibre Press, 1983.

Reginald R. Gates and P.N. Bhaduri.

The Inheritance of Hairy Ear Rims.

Edinburgh: Mankind Quarterly, 1961.

Meyerowitz, B.C.

How to Test Your Urine at Home.

Girard, Ka.: Haldeman-Julius, 1935.

Kathy A. Price.

The Zen of Bowel Movements:

A Spiritual Approach to Constipation.

Santa Barbara, Ca.: Rock House, 1995.

Joel Simmonds Coffey.

Swine Judging for Beginners.

Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State Univ, 1915.

Reverend Edward J. Hardy.

How to Be Happy Though Married.

T. Fisher Unwin, 1885.

Meier Glatt.

Teach Yourself Alcoholism.

EUP: 1975.

Rose Hoffer.

Everybody's Favorite Orthomolecular Muffin Book.

New Canaan, Conn: Keats Publ., 1980.

Congratulations go out to all of the writers and editors of Volume One of the *History of the Book in Canada*. The first volume is entitled *History of the Book in Canada: Beginnings to 1840*. Two other volumes are planned which will bring the history of various aspects of the world of books in Canada up into the 20th century. Volume one is a well designed and produced work of some 540 pages. Anyone interested in the history of books and reading will want all three of these handsome volumes in their collection. Volume one can be ordered from the University of Toronto Press for Can\$75.

Welcome to all of the following new members of The Alcuin Society:

David Stewart, Ottawa, Ontario

Cordelia La Suta Lespinay,

White Rock, B.C.

Wai Ming Louie, Vancouver, B.C.

Susan Goldie, Vancouver, B.C.

Joan Sandilands, Victoria, B.C.

Anne Marie Jublio, Vancouver, B.C.

Michael Preston, Toronto, Ontario

Katherine Kalsbeek, Vancouver, B.C.

Bruce Saunders,

Campbell River, B.C.

Craig Carson, Courtenay, B.C.

William Clare,

North Vancouver, B.C.

Ridgeway Elementary School/
Chuck Heath, North Vancouver, B.C.

Jennifer Glougie, Suurey, B.C.

Aleteia Greenwood, Vancouver, B.C.

Mark Gervin, Vancouver, B.C.
Ann Randen, Coquitlam, B.C.
Janet Randen, Port Coquitlam, B.C.
David Randen, Coquitlam, B.C.
Daisy Valentino, Surrey, B.C.
Heather De Forest, Coquitlam, B.C.
Charlotte Gray, Ottawa, Ont.
Iva Cheung, Vancouver, B.C.
Lee Perry, Vancouver, B.C.
Len Rhind, Surrey, B.C.
Sarah Sutherland, Vancouver, B.C.
Strachan Birnie, West Vancouver, B.C.
Marlene Chan, Ottawa, Ontario
And a special welcome back to
James Bertoia, Sparwood, B.C.

Congratulations to all of those lucky winners of copies of *In Praise of Scribes* in the draw that took place immediately after the Society's **Wayzgoose Festival** on October 30th:

Peter Braune, Vancouver, B.C.
Peter Hasse, Salt Spring Island
David Lester, Vancouver, B.C.
Beatriz Rempel, Vancouver, B.C.
Meg Stiver, Vancouver, B.C.

Congratulations also are extended to longtime Alcuin friend **Linda Gustafson** who won first prize in the Pictorial Category for this year's Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Canadian Book Design. Linda sends along these words of encouragement: "I have always thought the Alcuin Society was doing a fabulous thing with the awards. I think this business is hard enough as it is, and if we don't share our small victories with our friends in the business, who will understand the significance, we lose an opportunity to encourage each other. Must confess, I've dreamed about earning this

particular award almost ever since I started at M&S in the eighties. The Alcuins are one of the few awards that is based on the real craft details of regular trade books, as opposed to high-budget groovy stuff that doesn't quite work for the reader. Anything that can encourage a pride in quality, and a love for the craft of the book itself within the publishing industry I think is a fabulous thing."

Further kudos to the **Special Collections Division of Simon Fraser University** for launching a new speakers series. I attended the first of these, a wonderful poetry reading by Burnaby poet Kate Braid, and on the strength of that talk plan to attend others. For further information about the series please call Kim Minkus at (604) 291-4304 or e-mail her at kminkus@sfu.ca.

SFU Special Collections has also added the following papers to its wealth of collections: the papers of Norman Sibum, poet and cofounder of *Vancouver Review*; the archive of the journal *Room of One's Own*; material from Jim Rimmer's Pie Tree Press; and several years of material from the archives and imprints of Douglas & McIntyre the B.C. publisher. Well done!

Congratulations to our very own artist and writer **Gary Sim** who received kudos for his work for the Alcuin Society in the Fall 2004 issue of *Architecture B.C.* I don't know of anyone who does more to promote the Society and its works than Gary! Many thanks.

And finally. congratulations to **California bookseller Rueben Martinez** for being elected a 2004

McArthur Fellow. Rueben Martinez has elevated bookselling from a business to a campaign in support of underserved populations in California and throughout America. His Santa Ana bookstore, Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery, was originally a barbershop and is now among the largest commercial sellers of Spanish-language books in the country, serving as the cornerstone of cultural events and community activities that promote the benefits of reading to Hispanic-Americans and Spanish-speaking immigrants. A co-founder of the Latino Book Festival (which now tours nationally), Martinez motivates Spanish-speaking people to value literature, to read for themselves, and to read to their children. The record number of enthusiastic adults and children drawn to Libreria Martinez makes the store a destination for Latino authors. Acclaimed by educators and librarians throughout the country, Martinez' unique brand of entrepreneurship and advocacy is an important complement to institutional and program efforts to enrich and anchor the lives of a large and growing population in American.

Rueben Martinez has been a professional barber and entrepreneur for more than forty years. In 1993, he founded Libreria Martinez Books and Art Gallery, a small business operating out of his barbershop. By 1999, the bookstore had expanded and moved into its own location, and, in 2001, he launched a second venue dedicated to children's literature. Martinez is a founding member of Santa Ana's Reading City Committee. In 1997, he helped develop the multi-city Latino Book Festival.

This from the Internet by **John Dillon**, an article entitled "**Study Retracted Over Phony Author Signatures.**"

In an unusual case of ghostwriting turned on its head, one of the world's top medical journals announced today (Feb. 10, 2004) that it was retracting an article it published last year because several listed authors said they had little or nothing to do with the research.

The *New England Journal of Medicine* said that the documents backing up the research, contained "false signatures" from the doctors who insisted they hadn't signed any such papers. Although no one could fault the science behind the study, the journal's editors said they felt compelled to retract the article anyway because falsifying signatures is a "serious infraction."

"This unfortunate incident serves as a reminder to the medical community that with the privilege of authorship comes a mandate for personal and professional responsibility that must be taken very seriously," the editors wrote.

The National Heart Institute and the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London, where much of the research was done, are conducting their own investigations into the breach, according to Dr. Gregory Curfman, executive editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The study concerned the treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a disease in which the heart's left ventricle enlarges, cutting off blood flow. Some patients don't respond to drugs and require surgery, but this research concluded that injecting alcohol may forestall the need for an operation in

some patients.

The article was published in the October 24, 2003 issue, and Curfman said he started fielding unusual calls that very day. One came from Dr. Hubert Seggewiss, a German cardiologist who was listed as one of the eight authors.

Seggewiss said he “literally never had seen any version of the paper,” Curfman related. But “there’s a signature next to your name,” Curfman said he told him. “He said ‘It isn’t possible. I never signed anything.’”

Seggewiss then faxed the journal his own signature, which bore no resemblance to the one that appeared on the backup documents. “We realized at that point that there was a problem,” Curfman said.

The journal then contacted the remaining authors, several of whom said their signatures were falsified as well. Most claimed that they hadn’t even seen revised versions of the data, but one said he hadn’t seen anything at all.

Curfman declined to name the offending author, who he said quickly confessed to falsifying the signatures. His explanation “wasn’t clear to me – whether it was convenient, or whether he was trying to draw in prestigious investigators,” Curfman said.

The journal is, for many doctors, a must-read publication with worldwide circulation.

“Why did he think he’d get away with it?” Curfman said. “I don’t really have a clue.”

Attempts to reach Seggewiss and two other listed authors who, according to Curfman, were not responsible — Dr. Andrew J.S. Coats and Dr. Mohammed Yousufuddin — were unsuccessful.

The article went through unusual scrutiny at the journal and was revised three times before it made its way into print, Curfman recalled. “We didn’t see any fundamental flaw, as hard as we looked,” he said.

The journal subscribes to rules set by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, which are the “gold standard” for medical periodicals. The rules state that authors must say what they contributed. “You can’t sign for other people,” Curfman said.

In some unusual cases – if a doctor were unavailable because he was game hunting in Africa, for instance – a doctor may allow someone else to sign off temporarily and he would sign for himself later. But this case went beyond that because the signatures were done without the knowledge and permission of those named.

The episode is rare and “not pleasant,” Curfman said. “The only way that we could try to protect against this is to have handwriting experts,” he added. In future, the journal plans to e-mail the named authors and ask them to verify that they signed any documents.

But what if a doctor leaves an institution? Most leave forwarding e-mail addresses, Curfman said. But, he allowed, “it’s an imperfect world.”

The Alcuin Society is planning a **special issue of Amphora** to commemorate its 40th Anniversary. The Publications Committee welcomes all members to submit articles or anecdotes related to the history of the Society. They may be mailed to Richard Hopkins at 4446 Ontario Street, Vancouver, B.C., V5V 3H1 or e-mailed to:

rhopkins@interchange.ubc.ca. The issue is slated to be published either in June or September of 2005.

WEBSITES WELL WORTH VISITING

Talwin Morris

http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/archives/Talwin_Morris

For those of you who enjoyed Lyle Ford's article on Talwin Morris in the last issue of *Amphora* and would like to see Morris' work illustrated in glorious colour please visit Lyle's website at the URL listed above.

Project Gutenberg

<http://promo.net/pg/>

Project Gutenberg is the branchchild of Michael Hart, who in 1971 decided that it would be a really good idea if lots of famous and important texts were freely available to everyone in the world. Since then, he has been joined by hundreds of volunteers who share his vision. Now more than thirty years later the project has digitized several thousand books that are in the public domain and that may be accessed free of charge on the World Wide Web.

The Typophiles

<http://www.typophiles.org/>

For more than seventy years the Typophiles have shared their abiding pleasure in fine printing through convivial meetings and handsomely produced publications. The Typophiles are a nonprofit education association that encourages the appreciation and production of fine typography and bookmaking.

Pierre Ouvrard Virtual Exhibit and Collection

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/online/exhibit.htm>

This website is based on the Pierre Ouvrard Collection held at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, at the University of Alberta. The website showcases the work of the master bookbinder, Pierre Ouvrard. Pierre Ouvrard has designed bindings for the artistic works of many Canadian artists and writers. The collection itself contains over two hundred items. This site, through the inclusion of the bindings M. Ouvrard designed for the Governor General's Awards, contains examples of his work.

Letterpress Discussion List

<http://hermes.csd.unb.ca/archives/letpress.html>

Univ. of New Brunswick archive of information for letterpress printers.



Mountain Pine I © 1984 Arnold Shives