

SPEAKING OF BOOKS

Published by The Book Club of Detroit

Autumn 2011

The Book Club of Detroit is an association of Detroit-area bibliophiles who assemble periodically for the purpose of stimulating a mutual interest in books, specifically those aspects concerned with collecting, bibliography, design, and production.

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BCD



Shown above, fine bindings from the Cranbrook Press, 1900-1902. These treasures and many others are housed in the newly renovated Cranbrook Library located in the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. (Above photo and photos on page 7 by Maurice Barie.)

REMODELED CRANBROOK LIBRARY HOUSES TREASURES

Members of The Book Club of Detroit toured the newly refurbished and air conditioned library at the Cranbrook Academy of Art on Saturday, August 13, 2011. Library director Judy Dyki provided an excellent presentation about the library, and members were able to view tables filled with treasures from the library's collections. (See photos above and on page 7.) Following the tour, the group adjourned to Little Daddy's on Woodward for lunch.

In addition to housing reference books for Cranbrook's art students and faculty, the library is also home to Cranbrook's collection of books printed by the Cranbrook Press. According to Cranbrook historian Mark Coir, the history of Cranbrook Press includes three incarnations. "The first, a fine press by that name, was operated by [newspaper publisher] George Gough Booth in the attic of the old Evening News building from 1900 until 1902." The second had its origins in the print shop established at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in the late 1920s. A larger in-house operation, it provided printing services for the Cranbrook institutions. Beginning in 1946, the press conducted its activities in the basement of the Academy Administration Building. It was disbanded in 1975 but resurrected in 1993.

✦ NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Robert K. Jones*

While laboring with others in obtaining and cataloging items for our Christmas Dinner book auction, three “disquiets” rushed at me with the intensity of a mutiny from a C. S. Forester sea novel. I had been handling two sets of books when these disquiets came upon me. Perhaps it had something to do with the book sets’ seeming continuity, dripping with liberty, and the threat of that continuity being broken. The one set of books is *The History of Wayne County and The City of Detroit, Michigan [with] De Luxe Supplement* (5 volumes, 7.5” X 10.5”), Clarence M. & Agnes Burton (Editors), Chicago – Detroit, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930. The other is *Letters of Archibald Macleish 1907-1982* (2-volume boxed set, cloth-bound volumes with uncorrected proof by R. H. Winnick), Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1983.

The first disquiet rushed upon me was that of the proposed E-library that replaces librarians and books with tablets, smartphones, and iPods. Wound up in this disquiet was the perception that, along with this new potential for obsolescence of the printed book, stood the newer potential to easily “delete” whatever literature that was electronically stored and found offensive to the prevailing ruling class.

The second disquiet was that of hoping that if E-learning did attend us perhaps it would not be all bad in that it could offer a powerful alternative to America’s public school monopoly having the ability to reclaim the mission of

public education from the perversion of various interest groups.

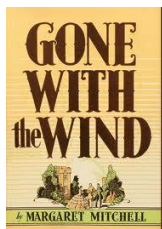
The third and greatest disquiet, in the face of the other two, concerned The Book Club of Detroit and how we are responding or will respond to this present and continuing E-culture. As we labor in our love for the printed book, what efforts will we take to preserve it not only in the wake of this E-culture, but in preparing generations to come to be able to live in a free society, which is the only guarantee for the safety and continuation of the printed book?

Our auction catalog is not yet completed, and very fine donations are still being accepted for what promises to be an outstanding affair. Please look to your collections and consider the Book Club as you contemplate what to do with that extra volume. And as you muse, think on those who will follow us. If we fail to assist them to hold on to our legacy of liberty, what can they do to hold on to the books we will leave them?

My disquiets, while not having left me entirely, are at least no longer rushing upon me, being retarded somewhat by the writing of these “notes.” To some degree I have been able to fight off Forester’s mutineers and am able to bring the ship home to port where, with the rest of you, I can defend the citadel of liberty and of the printed book and not, with popular applause, betray it into the hands of its enemies.

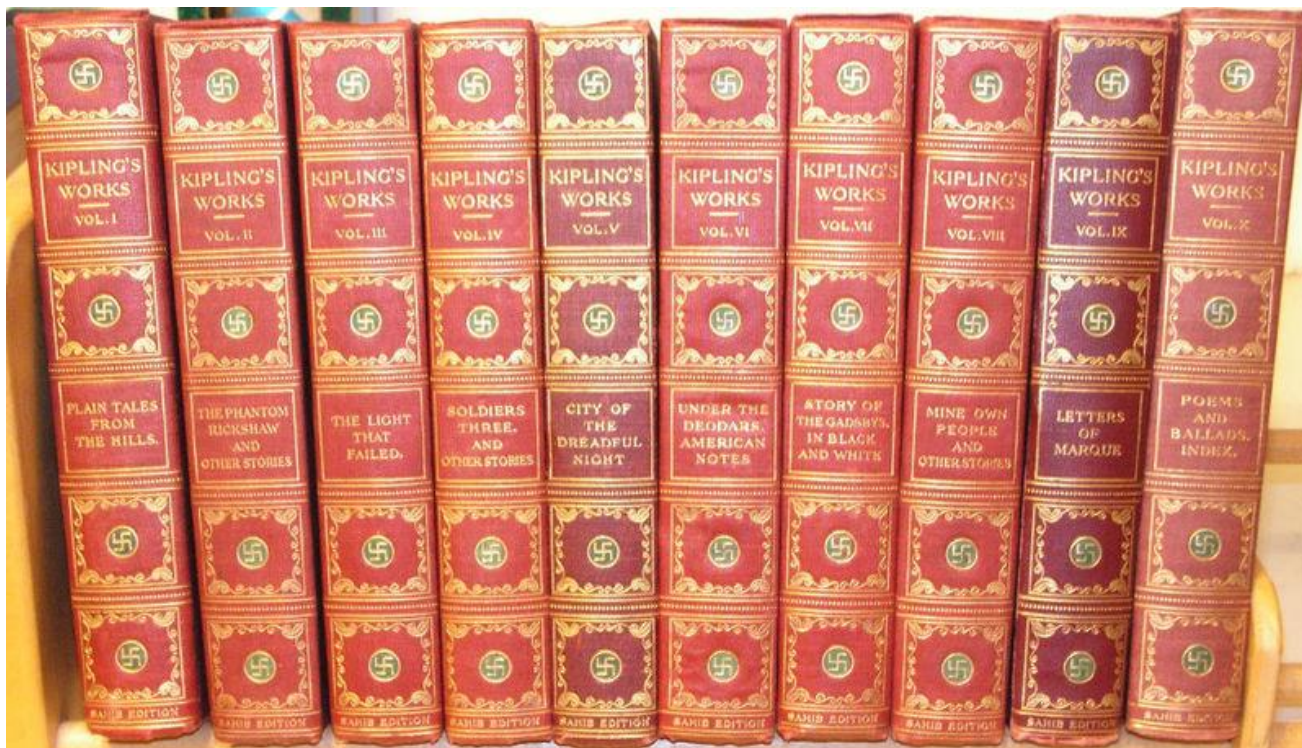
✦ CIVIL WAR CLASSIC IS 75 *by Kay MacKay*

One of the greatest fictional classics of the 20th century, Margaret Mitchell’s historical novel, *Gone with the Wind*, was published in 1936. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the book’s debut. There are numerous editions available for collectors today. Naturally, the true first edition-in good condition and with original dust jacket-is expensive-and is listed for over \$8,000. The few with Mitchell’s signature send prices into five figures. Perhaps even more popular than the book was the four-hour Technicolor



version, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, which was introduced in 1939. Audiences gasped at Gable’s immortal quip “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.” Although the novel has been criticized for its uneven writing style, overdone characterization, and “inherent racism” (it was not even implied that slavery was evil), *Gone with the Wind* will always be considered one of the most famous novels of the 20th century.

(At left, *Gone with the Wind* as published in May 1936 by Macmillan. The novel won the Pulitzer Prize in 1937.)



❖ KIPLING'S SCANDALOUS SAHIB EDITION *by Paula Jarvis*

A small design motif scandalizes many book collectors when they first come across the “Sahib Edition” of Rudyard Kipling’s books (published by P. F. Collier). Not knowing that the swastika had long been a sacred symbol in many eastern religions and a familiar good-luck symbol in both the eastern and western worlds, these collectors erroneously assume that Kipling held Nazi sympathies. However, the Sahib Edition of Kipling’s books appeared as early as 1900, well before Adolph Hitler adopted the symbol for his new National Socialist German Workers’ Party in 1920.

Kipling used the ancient Indian symbol, in both its right-facing and left-facing versions, because it was a familiar symbol of good luck and well-being in British India, the land of his birth. Yet, even before the Nazis officially came to power, Kipling saw that the swastika had been expropriated by the nationalistic and racist German party. He gave orders to have the symbol removed from the printing blocks for his books and, less than a year before his death in 1936, when many people still failed to recognize

the threat of Nazism, he gave a speech to The Royal Society of St. George in which he warned of the dangers of Hitler and Nazi Germany.

What is the symbol that had the power to blacken Kipling’s reputation so unfairly? The swastika is one of the oldest, most widespread designs in the world. It is an important symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism and was used by the American Navajos until, at the start of World War II, the Navajo Nation formally renounced the swastika and discontinued its use. The swastika can be seen in ancient India and China, in Bronze and Iron Age artifacts, and in pre-Christian Baltic, Slavic, and Sami folk culture. It even appeared in a synagogue frieze in Capernaum, an ancient town on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee that was excavated in the early 19th century. The swastika was widely used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as a good luck symbol and charm. Ladies’ hat pins, bracelets, and brooches featured swastikas, as did men’s watch fobs, embroidered tea towels, salt-glazed pottery, playing cards, poker chips, *(continued on page 4)*

KIPLING'S SAHIB EDITION (continued from page 3)

road maps, postcards (see photo below), tin banks distributed by savings banks, household and personal products (such as deodorant), high school and college yearbooks, advertising and commemorative coins and medals (including those distributed for the 1926 Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia and the 1933 Chicago "Century of Progress" World's Fair), souvenir spoons, and early Boy Scout badges. Girls, too, wore swastikas when *Ladies Home Journal* sponsored a nation-wide Girls' Club that offered its members a swastika membership pin, a swastika-decorated handkerchief, and a club magazine called *The Swastika*. (See photo of Girls' Club handbook below.)

During World War I, the swastika was adopted by American soldiers of the 45th Infantry Division and by the Escadrille Lafayette Americaine, who used the good-luck symbol in shoulder patches and on flags and airplanes. (The 45th Infantry Division later adopted the thunderbird in place of the swastika.) The swastika was also popular with aviators in other countries, including Finland, Iceland, and Poland. Mines in North America were often named Swastika, as were nearby towns. In New Mexico, the town of Swastika changed its name to Brilliant in 1940. In Canada, Swastika, Ontario, kept its name, which it still bears.

Bibliophiles who are interested in the "benign" swastika can collect books and other printed materials at very little cost. The complete ten-volume Sahib Edition of Kipling's

works can be found for as little as \$40. Yearbooks from various high schools (such as Nashua High School in Nashua, New Hampshire) and colleges (such as New Mexico State University and Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina) can be purchased on eBay. Other books to look for include *Indian Love Letters* by Marah Ellis Ryan, published by A. C. McClurg & Co., copyright 1907 (swastikas on front cover and inside), *Tristram of Blent: An Episode in the Story of an Ancient House* by Anthony Hope, published by Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., no date (swastika on cover), and *The Riverton Boys* by K.M. and R. Eady, published by Thomas Nelson and Sons, no date (swastika on cover). Early 20th century magazine and newspapers ads featuring swastika items for sale can also be purchased on eBay. (Be sure to search for both "swastika" and "swastica"—with a "c"—to get the full range of available items. Beware: You will have to search through many Nazi items to find non-Nazi items.)

The Internet has extensive information about swastikas and is a good starting point for research. However, the collector of non-Nazi books and ephemera will want to purchase two important reference books: *The Swastika: Symbol Beyond Redemption?* by Steve Heller (copyright 2000, published by Allworth Press) and *Swastika: The Earliest Known Symbol and Its Migrations* by Thomas Wilson (copyright 1894, reprinted by Kessinger Publishing).

NOTE: Known by many other names (wan, fylfot, Hakenkreuz, gammadion, etc.), the symbol most often called "swastika" derives its name from a Sanskrit word, "svastika," which, in turn, comes from "su" (meaning "good"), "asti" (meaning "to be"), and "ka" (a suffix).



Far left: Postcard (copyright 1907) with good-luck symbols. Near left: Girls' Club handbook from 1922.

SIZE MATTERS *or* HOW TO MEASURE A BOOK

Descriptions of book sizes in dealers' catalogues can be a confusing issue for novice book collectors—and for experienced book collectors as well. Trussel.com offers an in-depth explanation of the history of book-size terms, differences between American and English book sizes, and helpful reference tables. Excerpts from Trussel's information about book sizes are shown below. For more information, go to <http://www.trussel.com/books/booksize.htm>.



“The names of book sizes are based on the old system, still widely used, of considering the size of a page as a fraction of the large sheet of paper on which it was printed. In printing books, an even number of pages is printed on each side of a single large sheet, which is then folded so that the pages are in proper sequence and the outside edges are cut so that the book will open. Except for the largest size, the folio, the name of the size indicates the fractional part of the sheet one page occupies (as octavo "eighth"). In this system, since the fractional name alone cannot denote an exact size, the name of the sheet size precedes the fractional name. Thus

royal octavo is understood to designate a page one-eighth the size of a royal sheet, *medium octavo* a page one-eighth the size of a medium sheet, and *crown octavo* a page one-eighth the size of a crown sheet. But paper is cut into many sheet sizes and even the terms *crown*, *medium*, and *royal* do not always designate sheets of the same dimensions. Actual page sizes run a little smaller than calculations, since the sheets, when folded to page size, are trimmed at top, outside and bottom, the inside edge becoming part of the binding.” *Editor’s note: The size names listed below (table adapted from American Library Association scale of book sizes) are old (traditional) names. The names preferred by modern printers are folio, quarto, octavo, twelvemo, sixteenmo, eighteenmo, twenty-fourmo, thirty-twomo, forty-eightmo, and sixty-fourmo.*

Size Name	Symbols	Outside Height*	Approx. Size in Inches**
Folio	F, fo	over 30 cm	12 x 19
Quarto	Q, 4to, 4°	25-30 cm	9 1/2 x 12
Octavo	O, 8vo, 8°	20-25 cm	6 x 9
imperial octavo	O	-	8 1/4 x 11 1/2
super octavo	O	-	7 x 11
royal octavo	O	-	6 1/2 x 10
medium octavo	O	-	6 1/8 x 9 1/4
crown octavo	O	-	5 3/8 x 8
Duodecimo	D, 12mo, 12°	17.5-20 cm	5 x 7 3/8
Duodecimo (large)	D	17.5-20 cm	5 1/2 x 7 1/2
Sextodecimo	S, 16mo, 16°	15-17.5 cm	4 x 6 3/4
Octodecimo	T, 18mo, 18°	12.5-15 cm	4 x 6 1/2
Trigesimo-segundo	Tt, 32mo, 32°	10-12.5 cm	3 1/2 x 5 1/2
Quadragesimo-octavo	Fe, 48mo, 48°	7.5-10 cm	2 1/2 x 4
Sexagesimo-quarto	Sf, 64mo, 64°	less than 7.5 cm	2 x 3

*“Outside Height” refers to the head-to-foot dimension of the book’s cover.

**“Approximate Size” refers to the front cover’s rectangular dimensions.

NEWS & NOTES ABOUT THE WORLD OF BOOKS

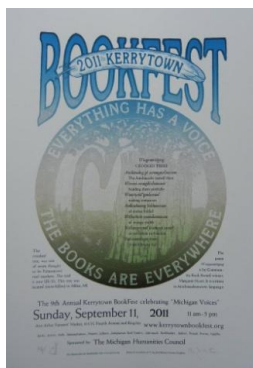
■ Congratulations to BCD Treasurer **Maurice Barie**, whose book collecting interest was featured in the Fall 2011 issue of the journal of The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. In “Why I Collect What I Collect: A Collector’s Column,” Maurice describes his pursuit of backgammon reference books. Originally Maurice wanted to improve his game (as he wrote, “If I learn even one new item from the book, then in the long run I have justified the cost”), but he soon found that the world of backgammon books, ephemera, and related items was fascinating on its own. With a collection that now includes books, magazines, photographs, postcards, and memorabilia of all types, Maurice is looking forward to having a custom-designed backgammon-themed bookplate for his collection.

■ BCD members attended a presentation on October 14 about women and book collecting hosted by the Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation. More information and photos of the event will appear in the Winter 2012 issue of *Speaking of Books*.


■ On February 28, type designer and teacher **Doyald Young** died at the age of 84. Young’s three books—*Logos & Letterforms* (1993), *Fonts & Logos* (1999), and *Dangerous Curves* (2008)—and the typefaces he created (Young Gallant, Young Baroque, Young Finesse, and ITC Eclat, to name but a few) exemplified the classical design principles he promoted. In addition to his work for major corporations, movies, and television, Young taught for 30 years at the Art Center College of Design (formerly the Art Center School) in Pasadena, California, and served as a mentor to countless typographers and graphic designers.

■ **SOLD:** James Joyce’s family passport sold for £61,250 (\$100,934) at Sotheby’s London on July 14. His *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916 New York first edition with dust jacket) went for \$40,000 at Christie’s New York on June 23.

■ Ann Arbor, Michigan, was the scene of the 9th annual **Kerrytown BookFest**, held on Sunday, September 11, from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m. As always, the event was attended by many BCD members.



Poet Laura Bodary, shown here in front of the Bessenberg Bindery booth at the Kerrytown BookFest on September 11, 2011. (Photography by Maurice Barie. See Book Club of Detroit Facebook page for more photos.)



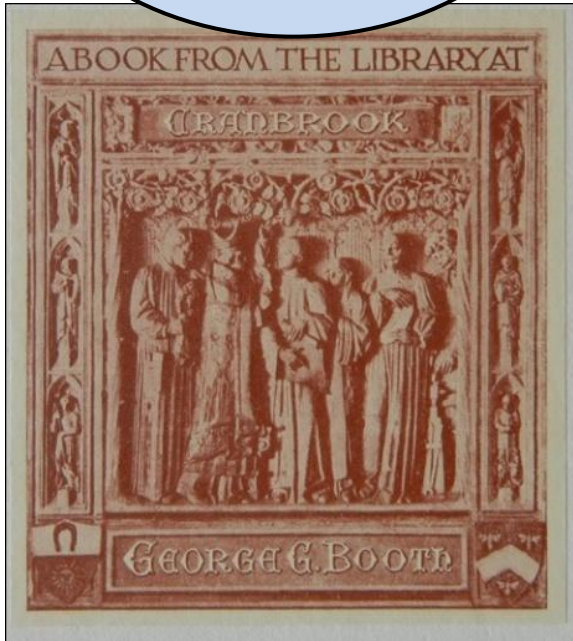
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Shown here: Photos taken during the August 2011 tour of the renovated library at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, located in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.



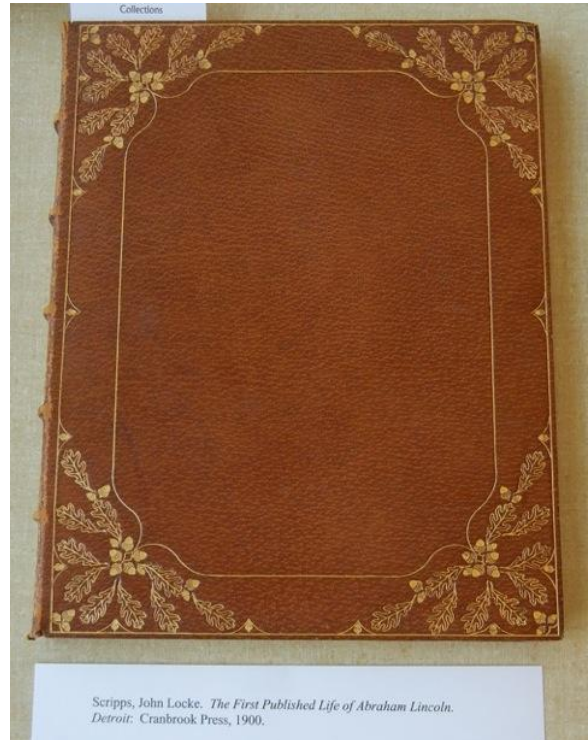
George Booth's bookplate.



James Doyle, Suzanne Bilek, and Maurice Barie at Little Daddy's.



Some BCD attendees during the Cranbrook Library tour.



John Locke Scripps' 1860 biography of Abraham Lincoln, reprinted in 1900 by Cranbrook Press, Detroit. Erroneously described as the first Lincoln biography, it is now believed to be the second biography.



Cranbrook Library in the 1940s.

From the web site of the Cranbrook Academy of Art:

In 1904, George Gough and Ellen Scripps Booth bought the property that would become Cranbrook, and spent their first years at Cranbrook landscaping the property and constructing their family home designed by Albert Kahn. With their estate established, they began the buildings for public use. The Greek Theatre was built in 1915, Christ Church Cranbrook was completed in 1928, plans for boys and girls schools were begun and foremost in their minds, plans were made for an art academy based on their visit to the American Academy in Rome.



BECOME A BCD MEMBER

Annual dues: \$35 individual, \$50 couple/family, \$100 sustaining. Lifetime: \$350 individual or \$500 couple/family. Send check payable to The Book Club of Detroit to:

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Shahida Nurullah, 2000
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Harriet Larson, 1998
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Roy Pilot, 1996
Alice Nigoghosian, 1995
James Beall, 1994
Annie Brewer, 1987- 1993
Frank Sladen, 1986
Joann Chalal, 1984 & 1985
James Babcock, 1983
Jean Colburn, 1982
Paula Jarvis, 1981
Robert Thomas, 1972-1980
John Neufeld, 1971
Evan Thompson, 1970
Richard Walker, 1969
Robert Orr, 1968
Gloria Francis, 1967
Seymour Kent, 1966
Alfred H. Whittaker, 1965
Roger Lindland, 1964
James Babcock, 1963
Donald Weeks, 1962
C. E. Frazer Clark, Jr., 1961
William A. Bostick, 1960
Benjamin R. Donaldson, 1959
Franklin G. Laucomer, 1958

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

AE Monthly: The Magazine for Book Collectors & Booksellers:
www.americanaexchange.com

American Booksellers Association of America (ABAA): www.abaa.org

American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers:
www.bookplate.org

Bookbinding: www.bookbinding.com

Books & Book Collecting:
www.trussel.com/f_books.htm

William L. Clements Library:
www.clements.umich.edu

Ephemera Society of America:
www.ephemerasociety.org/

Essentials of Book Collecting:
www.trussel.com/books/lucas01.htm

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS): <http://fabsbooks.org>

Fine Books & Collections:
www.finebooksmagazine.com

Fine Press Book Association (FPBA): <http://fpba.org>

Firsts: Magazine of Book Collecting: www.firsts.com

Friends of Detroit Public Library:
www.detroit.lib.mi.us/friends

The Huntington Library:
www.huntington.org

International Rare Book Collectors Association: www.irbca.com

Miniature Book Society:
www.mbs.org

The Morgan Library & Museum:
www.themorgan.org

Scarab Club: www.scarabclub.org

typoGRAPHIC:
www.rsub.com/typographic/

Typographica: <http://typographica.org>

EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Across the United States:
www.finebooksmagazine.com/calendar/

Clements Library (Ann Arbor):
Through February 17, 2012:
So Once Were We: Death and Bereavement in Early America (exhibit)

Grosse Pointe Public Library
January 26, 2012: Sir Thomas More, *Utopia* (lecture)

The Book Club of Detroit
(event details to be announced):
December 6, 2011: Christmas dinner and book auction

NOTICE: To ensure prompt receipt of emailed announcements and *Speaking of Books*, as well as other BCD communications, please send new email addresses to Maurice Barie at mojoconsult@sbcglobal.net.



Author Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949), shown above with her famous novel, *Gone with the Wind*, which was published by Macmillan in 1936. The novel was awarded the 1937 Pulitzer Prize and was made into a motion picture in 1939. The best-selling novel's 75th anniversary is being celebrated this year. (*Gone with the Wind* was such a success when it was published that Macmillan's president, George Platt Brett, gave all of Macmillan's employees an 18% bonus in 1936. It has since sold more than 30 million copies.)

