

# SPEAKING OF BOOKS

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Spring 2012

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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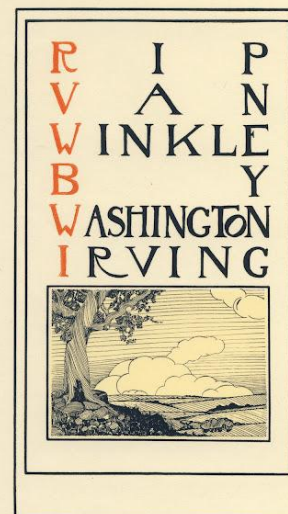
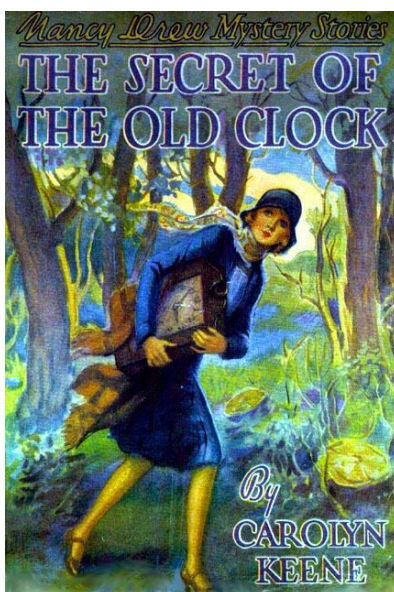
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## CONTACT US:

The Book Club of Detroit  
c/o Scarab Club  
217 Farnsworth  
Detroit, MI 48202

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## NEWS FOR BIBLIOPHILES FROM UNUSUAL SOURCES

Most book collectors get their collecting news and advice from traditional sources, such as *Fine Books & Collections*, journals of various specialist societies, and so forth. But bibliophiles can also find information in history, “shelter,” and general interest magazines, as well as other publications that are not solely devoted to books. For example, the October 2011 issue of *Country Living* included the following information about the first Nancy Drew book (shown above left): “The first Nancy Drew book, 1930’s *The Secret of the Old Clock*, was ghostwritten by Mildred Wirt, who penned 23 Nancy Drew titles as Carolyn Keene—the same pseudonym used today. An original edition can bring \$5,000 in mint condition; Wirt’s autograph doubles this copy’s value to \$10,000.” Elsewhere, book designer Dard Hunter (1883-1966) was featured in the Spring 2012 issue of *Style 1900*, a magazine devoted to antiques and interiors of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Although he was affiliated with Elbert Hubbard’s Roycroft Press only from 1904 to 1910, Hunter created designs (inspired by Josef Hoffman and the Wiener Werkstatte) that influenced the press long after he had left. (Shown above right is Hunter’s second book design, published in 1905.) NOTE: See the Winter 2011-2012 issue of *Style 1900* for an article on poster and typeface designer Will Bradley.

## ✻ NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Robert K. Jones*

This, my fourth set of “Notes,” can be considered as just airy musings agreeable, I hope, with your springtime yearnings. The first meditation, one that I am ever drawn to, concerns a “home-base,” a place of relative permanence for The Book Club of Detroit. In this meditation, I envision an architecturally significant building (perhaps a house on Ferry Street) in Detroit’s cultural center. In this reverie, I always give the building a name. Today, I call it “Bostick House” after founding member Bill Bostick (Book Design and Printing). In Bostick House are rooms and spaces named for other club members. For example, there could be a “Jim Karbowski (Book History) Room,” the “James Goss (Supreme Court Justices) Hallway of Justice,” the “Paul Scupholm (Fly Fishing & Polar Expedition) Sun Room.”

I imagine the Bostick House to be a “destination” for members who are “in” or “out” of sorts that awaits their arrival with cups of coffee or tea and walls of books to feast upon. There can be more to this vision, but I leave those further excursions to the reader.

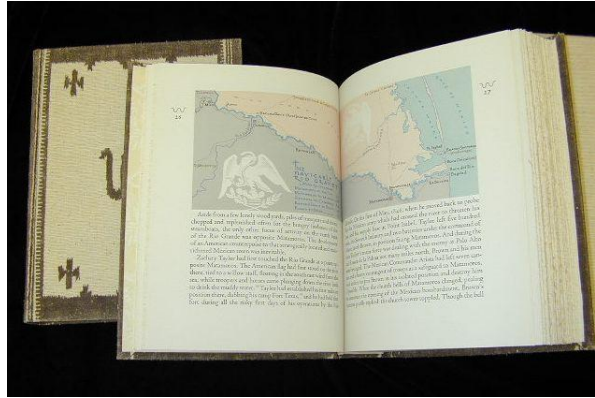
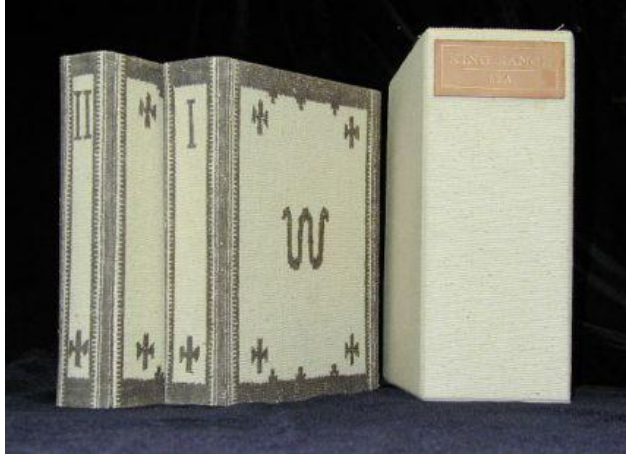
Now, the “doing” of this vision is ours to fully enjoy. Later, others will fully enjoy “living” the vision and will say, like Ruskin, “See, this our fathers did for us.” Your thoughts on this musing, as always, are welcomed.

Recently, my wife, Jo-Anne, and I enjoyed coffee and doughnuts with a Book Club past president and member and her friend. We discussed many things, among which were potential Book Club events and interests. During our discussions, it came to the fore that the Club member’s friend was a train buff with a special interest in Amtrak train travel, as well as an avid collector of book on trains and train-related ephemera. In a fascinating discourse on train history and travel, the train buff spoke of an Amtrak “day trip” from Detroit and suburbs to Chicago and back. He stated that the trip included lunch in Chicago and a visit to a museum there, the length of the Chicago stay being about three hours. I immediately considered this “day trip” a possibility for a Book Club event, substituting a book-related stop in place of the museum visit.

The train buff invited my wife and me and his friend to join him in one of these “day runs” on Amtrak, after which I will be better able to talk about a Book Club “Book and Rail Run.” It is possible that we can induce the rail buff to treat us to an “in-station” talk on the history of the route and tell us what to look for along the rails. I hope to have more on this shortly, but in the meanwhile I would appreciate any suggestions on book-related venues and book persons located not too far from the train station in Chicago.

Last June, club member Charles Adams Kelly gave me a copy of his book *A Reproduction in Facsimile of Hamlet from the First Folio of 1623, Introduction by Charles Adams Kelly* (The Triple Anvil Press, 2008). What a gift it turned out to be, for not only did it instruct me on several of the existing texts of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, but it also spurred me to a reading frenzy, poring through several soft-back copies of the play that I had on hand. I truly enjoyed this superlative work (he has more) and am more the wiser for its guiding me through the confluences of *Hamlet* as I now know my worn volumes represent. Now, guess what? Our club will also be able to share in this work as Charles has agreed to speak to the club come this September. The title of his lecture will be “Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*: The Enigma of Variant Texts.” Charles assures us that the presentation will not be dry. In addition, Professor Kelly will bring some of the very fine productions from his press to show and sell. Be on the lookout for time and location details.





Above, the special limited edition of Tom Lea's *The King Ranch*, in the "Saddle Blanket Edition" designed by Carl Hertzog. In 1957, Hertzog won his second Fifty Books of the Year award from AIGA for this book design.

## CARL HERTZOG, BOOK DESIGNER

By Paula Jarvis

On March 25, 2012, the winners of the Thirteenth Annual Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design were announced by the Friends of the University Library, a support group for the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The first-place award went to Robert Tauber, designer of *Solche Sensationen/Such Sensations*, written by Louisa Bertch Green and published in 2010 by Logan Elm Press (Ohio State University) in Columbus, Ohio.

For half a century, Carl Hertzog (1902-1984) dominated typography and book design in the American Southwest, and today the award in his name honors fine book designers across the country. Born in Lyons, France, while his parents were traveling abroad, Hertzog returned to the United States a year later. After his father was diagnosed with tuberculosis, the family moved from Tennessee to Albuquerque, New Mexico. When his health failed to improve in the dry southwestern climate, they returned to his native Ohio, where he died.

After his mother remarried, young Carl and his family moved to Pittsburgh, where, at the age of ten, Carl received a small printing press from his stepfather, thus inspiring a lifelong career that included both commercial and fine printing. A 1923 move to El Paso, Texas

(where he initially worked in commercial printing and advertising), and a 1937 meeting with writer Tom Lea, with whom he later collaborated on many books, set the course for the remainder of his career. By 1948, Hertzog was a part-time instructor at the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy (now the University of Texas at El Paso) where he established the college's print shop and continued doing freelance book designing. A year later, Hertzog's design for Cleve Hallenback's *The Journey of Fray Marcos de Niza* for Southern University Press received a Fifty Books of the Year award from the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA).

In 1952, Hertzog founded the Texas Western Press at UTEP, and in 1966 he finally became a full-time employee of the university. Although Hertzog retired in 1971, he continued designing books until his death in 1984.

Carl Hertzog brought harmony between form and content to Texas book publishing. He believed that all of the elements of book design—typography, paper, art work, inking, arrangement of the pages, and binding—should be combined in a simple and appropriate manner befitting each book. His books were understated but elegant—and truly timeless.

# BOOK FAIR IN LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

Book dealers from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, and Texas gathered on April 6 and 7, 2012, for the 21<sup>st</sup> Albuquerque Antiquarian Book Fair. Held at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Conference Center, the fair benefited the Maxwell Museum Archives & Library.

For collectors of Western and Native Americana, the Albuquerque Antiquarian Book Fair provided a treasure trove of must-have volumes. However, all areas of book collecting were represented at this event, which drew dealers specializing in children's literature, fine bindings, signed first editions, rare and out-of-print books in all fields, antique postcards, prints, posters, and more.



Above, dealer Rita Robbins at her booth.



A sampling of Rita Robbins' children's books at Albuquerque's 21<sup>st</sup> Antiquarian Book Fair.



Shown above, art works (especially works featuring southwestern themes) shared shelf space with books at the 21st Albuquerque Antiquarian Book Fair.

## COMING MAY 20, 2012:

The Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair will be held Sunday, May 20, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Michigan Union Ballroom on the University of Michigan campus. Admission is \$5 per person. Proceeds from the fair will benefit the William L. Clements Library. For more information, go to [www.annarborbookfair.com](http://www.annarborbookfair.com).



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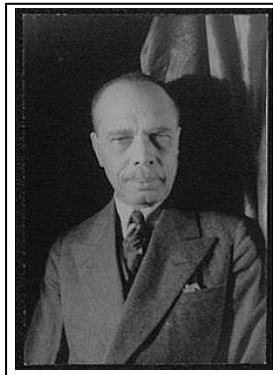
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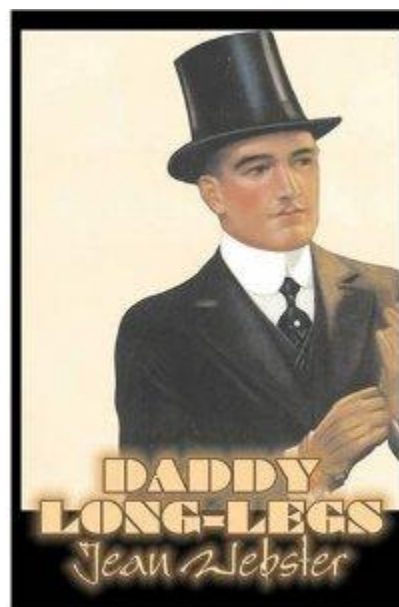
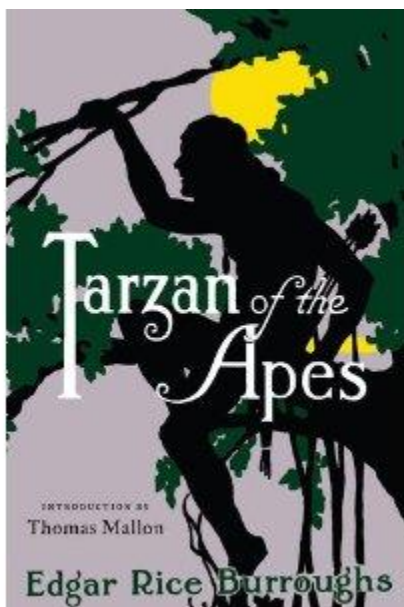
## IT HAPPENED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

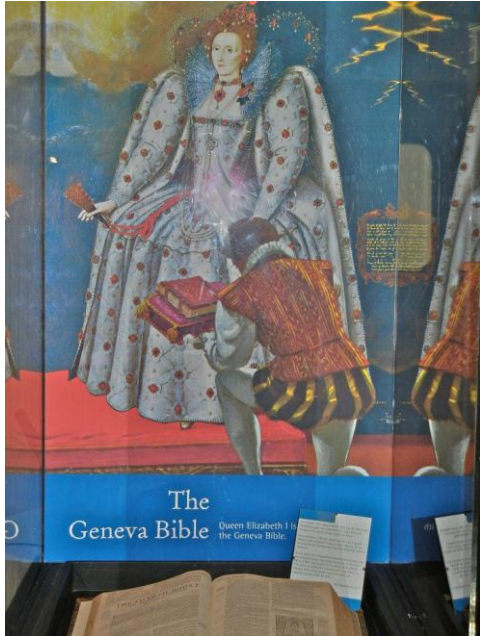
■ *Tarzan of the Apes* by Edgar Rice Burroughs made its first appearance in the October 1912 issue of a pulp magazine, *All-Story Magazine*. In 1914, the story appeared in its first book edition (published by A.C. McClurg) and was followed by two dozen sequels. In honor of the centenary of the first published appearance of Tarzan, the Library of America has reprinted a hardcover version based on the original book (with an introduction by Thomas Mallon). The first film adaptations of *Tarzan of the Apes* appeared in 1918 during the silent-film era with Elmo Lincoln as Tarzan. (The first two films, *Tarzan of the Apes* and *The Romance of Tarzan*, were based on the first and second halves of the novel.) The first “talkie” version appeared in 1932, with Olympic champion swimmer Johnny Weissmuller starring in *Tarzan the Ape Man*. Weissmuller went on to appear in eleven additional Tarzan films and became the best-known Tarzan on screen. Although other film adaptations have been made, the version most faithful to the original novel was *Greystoke—The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*, a 1984 film starring Christopher Lambert.



*The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by James Weldon Johnson (shown at left) was published in 1912 by a small New York publishing house, Sherman, French and Company. (In 1927, the book was republished by Alfred A. Knopf, a company that published the works of many Harlem Renaissance authors.) Despite its title, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* is a novel, not a true autobiography, although it is based on many people and experiences from the author's own life. The novel tells the story of a young biracial man in the post-Reconstruction era of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries who is forced to choose between living within his black culture as a jazz musician or giving up his music to pass as a white man.

■ In 1912, *Daddy-Long-Legs* by Jean Webster was published as an epistolary novel. It was first adapted for film in 1919, but the most famous screen version (which departed considerably from the novel's plot) appeared in 1955 with Fred Astaire and Leslie Caron. Written as a series of letters from a young orphan to her anonymous benefactor, *Daddy-Long-Legs* is now classified as young adult or children's literature.



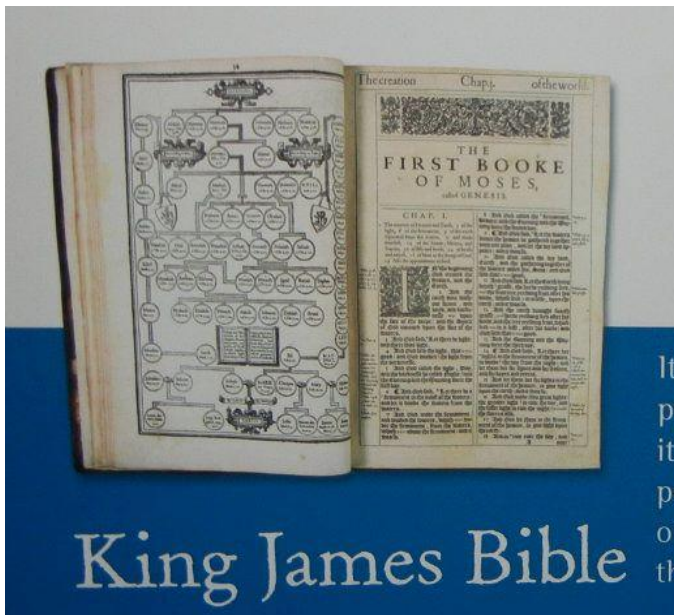


## 400<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF KING JAMES BIBLE

An original 1607 Geneva Bible. This was the Bible the Protestants came out with after they were driven to Europe by the persecutions of Bloody Mary.

First printed in 1560 this Bible was the first English Bible to add numbered verses to each chapter. It was favoured by the Puritans and was the Bible that went to America.

It was really this competition between the Puritans and the Anglican clergy, that rather favoured the Bishop's Bible (1568), that resulted in the King James Bible. This led to a conference at Hampton Court Palace in January 1603. King James wanted to unify the religious groups under his rule.



## KING JAMES BIBLE

For book lovers, one of the highlights of 2011 was the international celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. Shown here are photos of the exhibit created by the Detroit Public Library (main branch) to commemorate this event. For more photos, go to [www.facebook.com/BookClubofDetroit](http://www.facebook.com/BookClubofDetroit).

It took seven years for the translation and production of the King James Bible; then it was put into the hands of the English people. By the end of its second decade of printing, this Bible was established as the version of nearly every household.

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING BCD EVENTS

**Tuesday, May 8:** Dinner (\$22.50) at Kiernan's with speaker Stephen Haffner of Haffner Publishing.

**Sunday, June 10:** Potluck Garden Party and Book Lecture (2-5 p.m.).

**Saturday, August 11:** Manoogian Museum Tour (10:30 a.m.) and Lunch (noon, cost TBD).

**Friday, September 21:** Historical Cook Books (with Detroit Public Library).

**Saturday, December 1:** Lecture on first book published in Armenian language (500 years ago).

**Tuesday, December 4:** Holiday Dinner Meeting (Dickens theme) and Auction at The Detroit Club.

## ✦ COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING: CHILDREN AND BOOKS IN FINE PORCELAIN

Many bibliophiles eventually find themselves collecting not just books but also book-related items. From bookends and bookmarks to publishers' catalogues and author's autographs, the list of bookish collectibles is endless. Shown here and on page 8 are examples of figurines that can help decorate any home library.



Dahl-Jensen's "Boy Reading"



"Girl Reading" by Dahl-Jensen



Bing & Grondahl's "Children Reading"



"Alice" (girl reading *Alice in Wonderland*) by Royal Doulton



"Treasure Island" (boy reading *Treasure Island*) by Royal Doulton

## COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING (continued from page 7)



“First Book” by Bing & Grondahl



“Amager Girls Reading” by Royal Copenhagen



“Children Reading” by Lladro



“Read Me a Story” by Nao



### CONTRIBUTORS WELCOME

We welcome book reviews, articles about book collecting interests, and photos of book-related events. For information about contributing to *Speaking of Books*, contact Editor Paula Jarvis at [pjarvis@nandc.com](mailto:pjarvis@nandc.com).

Left, “Merete” by Bing & Grondahl