

BCD

SPEAKING OF BOOKS

Published by The Book Club of Detroit

Spring 2013

✻ A TRIBUTE TO GIAMBATTISTA BODONI

By Paula Jarvis

Two hundred years ago, Italian engraver, type designer, typographer, printer, and publisher Giambattista Bodoni died, leaving a legacy of typographic refinement that still inspires typographers, book designers, and bibliophiles around the world. During his lifetime, Bodoni, who has been called “the father of modern type,” designed and personally engraved 298 typefaces and was responsible for the publication of approximately 1,200 fine editions. When his body was examined after he died, a deep scar, produced by his years of work at the printing press, was found on his chest.

Born in Saluzzo in Savoy (now the Piedmont region of Italy), on February 16, 1740, Bodoni was destined to join his father and grandfather in the printing trade. He began his career in 1758 as an apprentice in the Vatican’s Propaganda Fide printing house, where his first books included a Coptic Missal and a version of the Tibetan alphabet. It is said that he was allowed to put his name on these books because his superiors were impressed by the young apprentice’s eagerness, energy, and mastery of ancient languages and types.

At the age of 28, following a long battle with malaria, Bodoni accepted an invitation from Duke Ferdinando of Bourbon-Parma to organize a printing house in Parma. Called La Stamperia Reale (Royal Printing House), the new establishment was destined to become one of Italy’s most renowned printing works. In 1770, Bodoni opened his own foundry, and a year later he published his first book of type specimens, *Fregi e Majuscole*.



Bodoni by Giuseppe Lucatelli

BOOKS BY BODONI

In 1782, Charles III of Spain named Bodoni as his court typographer. (Charles had been Duke of Parma and Piacenza from 1731 until 1734 and King of Naples and Sicily from 1734 until 1759, when he became King of Spain.) Six years later, in 1788, Bodoni published the first volume of his *Manuale Tipografico*, which contained 100 roman, 50 italic and 28 Greek minuscule fonts. In 1790, the Duke of Parma gave Bodoni permission to open his own printing works, Tipi Bodoni. The first books to be published were volumes of Greek, Roman, and

Italian classics. In 1806, *L'Oratio Dominica in CLV linguas versa* was produced, set in 215 typefaces.



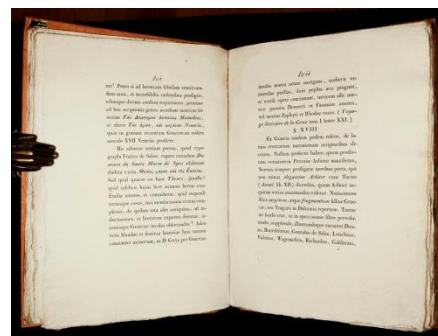
A sample of Bodoni's early work, published in 1771 before he developed the simple and elegant typefaces and text designs that made him famous.

Bodoni died in Parma on November 13, 1813, but his widow continued to work on his *magnum opus*. In 1818, she completed and published her late husband's *Manuale Tipografico* in two volumes, a tribute to Bodoni's vast contributions to typography. It contains roman, Greek, gothic, Asian, and Russian fonts, as well as lines, borders, symbols, numbers, and musical notation. In the preface to this masterpiece, Bodoni wrote: "It is proper here to offer the four different heads under which it seems to me are derived the beauties of type, and the first of these is regularity—conformity without ambiguity, variety without dissonance, and the quality and symmetry without confusion. A second and not minor value is to be gained from sharpness and definition, neatness and finish. From the perfection of the punches in the beginning comes

the polish of the well-cast letter which should shine like a mirror on its face."



The title page of the first volume of Bodoni's master work, *Manuale Tipografico*. The first volume was published in 1788. The complete two-volume set was published posthumously in 1818.



Daphnis and Chloe in Greek. Parma: Ex Regio Typographaeo [Giambattista Bodoni at Stamperia Reale], 1786. First Bodoni edition. Text in Greek; introductory matter in Latin. Edited by Bodoni, based on Villoison's recension of the Greek text, with a long introduction by Paciaudi.

Continued page 9

✿ BCD 2013 EVENTS: SAVE THE DATES AND ATTEND

- **May 7- Tuesday**, The BCD proudly presents local author and Detroit history lover Amy Elliot Bragg, who writes, talks, and drinks about the Motor City before the motor.



Bragg will discuss the lives and works of Detroit historians of yore. Dinner 6:30 p.m. with talk at 7:15 p.m. Traffic Jam & Snug, 511 Canfield, Detroit. RSVP, if attending; contact Frank Castronova at 248-545-4137 or tischronova@woyway.com.

- **May 16 - Thursday**, 6:30 p.m. BCD proudly participates in the launch of *A Legacy of Armenia Treasures*, the first book published about the Manoogian Museum collection. Published by the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation, the book features over 150 pieces and essays by 9 scholars. The museum contains the largest collection outside of Armenia including illuminated manuscripts, books, metalwork, and paintings. Book available at a special price. Reception following. RSVP, if attending; contact 248-569-3405. Manoogian Museum, 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48075.

- **June 1 - Saturday**, 10:30 a.m. John K. King Bookstore Crawl. Visit Michigan's largest used and rare bookstore and one of the largest in the country. Located in the historic Corktown neighborhood of Detroit. Reservations required for sponsored "Opus 1" catered \$10 lunch with wine. 901 W. Lafayette Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226.



Photo Credit: Chris H.

- **August 20 - Tuesday**, 6:30 p.m. "Miniature Books" presentation and talk by Joan Knoertzer. Kiernan's Steak House, Dearborn.
- **September TBD** - Detroit Public Library Friends and BCD present Adelaide Hester Memorial Lecture and Display of "Pop-Up Books."
- **October TBD** - Member's private collection home talk and display.
- **December 3** - Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., Christmas Dinner Meeting & Auction. Detroit.

OUR VERY OWN LIBRARY? NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT *by R.K. Jones*

A wonderful idea came to the attention of the Board of Directors and was well received by all. This idea concerns the possibility of establishing a club library. The idea was put forth by longtime member Stephen Cybulski and requires consideration and input from all in our family. Here, in Steve's own words, is the core of the idea.

Dear Mr. Jones,

It was good to talk with you at yesterday's tour of St. John's Armenian Church and Museum BCD event. During our conversation, I mentioned to you (and also to Hedger and Joan) that the BCD should think about establishing our own library of books that would be of interest to our members. The reason for the library would be to put together a collection of books that our members could use for reference, and also to provide information and encouragement to new book collectors who may want to join our club.

I have a few suggestions of what types of books could be part of such a library. Books about book collecting and books about the history of the book could be considered. Books written by BCD members may also be considered. Books that have a direct connection to the Book Club of Detroit, other than what might already be in our archives, could also be considered. Books that are special or uniquely bound, printed, or inscribed that have a connection to the history of book collecting in the Detroit area might also be considered as part of the

library. There may be many more suggestions that other members may have concerning the type of books that could be included in this collection. I have one book in particular that I would like to donate. It is the dedication copy of *The Delightful Diversion* by Reginald Brewer.

The books could be donated by members of the BCD, so there would be no need for an initial outlay of cash for this project. Of course, there are many questions that need to be answered if such a project is to proceed. Do our bylaws allow for such a collection to be established? Where this collection should be housed? How can this collection be both accessible to members but at the same time be protected? I am sure that there are many more issues to be considered, but the reason for this email is to at least offer this as a proposal to be considered by the board and the members of the Book Club of Detroit.

Let me know if you think this has any merit, and if you think it is something our members might want to pursue.

With kind regards,
Stephen J. Cybulski

The board would delight in appointing a committee of willing hearts and hands to look into this ardent suggestion. Please contact any board member if you would be interested in working on a committee exploring this idea or in sharing some thoughts on the idea.

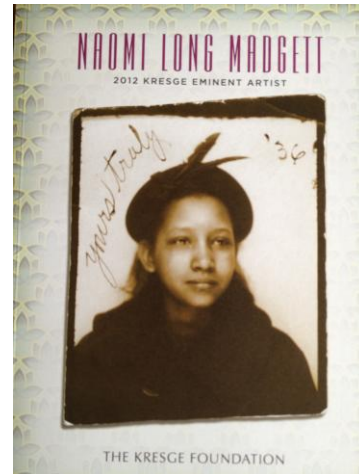
✿ BCD NEWS & NOTES

By Beverly Ostrowiecki and input from Board Members

To catch up on winter activities, our December 2012 BCD annual meeting gave a lively close to 2012. Members socialized with new and old friends while enjoying appetizers and dinner. The BCD board welcomed two new members, Frank Castronova and Mary Clare Duran, and reelected by acclaim Janet Whitson, Alice Nigoghosian, and Maurice Barie. Thanks to C. Hedger Breed and Blondell Doughty for their many contributions. After ceaseless efforts, both stepped down from the BCD board starting 2013. Regarding our silent auction, BCD members contributed several books and many members went home with new additions to their collections!

A high point of the evening was the public honoring of our BCD life members Joann and Ned Chalot. Their ongoing efforts on behalf of the Club truly make a difference for BCD! The award expresses our appreciation and features an illustration.

With thanks to Ms. Naomi Long Madgett and The Kresge Foundation, members who attended the holiday dinner were gifted with a monograph of Madgett's life and work published by The Kresge Foundation. The foundation recognized Ms. Madgett with the 2012 Kresge Eminent Artist Award.



Cover of Kresge monograph about Naomi Long Madgett, poet, educator, publisher.

Member Volunteer Roles

The BCD Board and members want to thank Paula Jarvis for her dedication and creativity in editing our newsletter, *Speaking of Books*. Paula's exceptional editorial skills upheld the high newsletter standards. Paula authored numerous lively articles that entertained members and added context and depth to book collecting. THANK YOU PAULA! We welcome your ongoing support in writing feature articles.

Our new *Speaking of Books* editor is Beverly Ostrowiecki. I recently joined the club and casually offered to President Robert Jones willingness to write and edit for BCD. Little did I know that an active search was underway for a newsletter editor! Voila, here I am editing the prestigious BCD publication. If you have interest in writing an article, email me at glacialpool@gmail.com for submission guidelines.

We Miss You Kay!

The BCD members and Board send warm wishes to Kay MacKay! Our BCD honorary life member and newsletter editor for about 20 years, Kay gives generously to BCD. We send our energies for well-being, health, and happiness. Your innumerable efforts for the club spurred many members' interests, whetted appetites for curiosity, and gave us smiles! THANK YOU KAY!

Call for Volunteer! The [BCD website](http://www.bookclubofdetroit.org) (www.bookclubofdetroit.org) seeks a volunteer to manage site. Interested members contact C. Hedger Breed at whiteravenbooks@provide.net.

WHAT EVERYBODY OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT GARDENING BOOKS

By Beverly Ostrowiecki

Books about gardening and horticulture offer enjoyment to many people in any season. Springtime, especially, enlivens interest in gardening books as garden enthusiasts and academic horticulturists head out for another growing season.

CIRCA PASSATO

One of the earliest documents about plants was concerned with medical use of plants. The LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Garden has in its collection *Circa instans*, a twelfth century Italian manuscript by Matthaeus Platearius of Salerno that presents materia medica in alphabetical order. Its 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " vellum pages left little room for illustrations, but capture pre-printing press uniqueness including the handwriting of four or five scribes and text corrections. The Mertz Digital Collection has made this historic document available to a wider audience. The manuscript got its title from the first two words of the manuscript, which means, "about the present."

Circa instans spawned a number of editions. Notable is *Tractatus de herbis* held and digitized by the British Library, which added illustrations that immensely clarified classification and enabled the realization that flora differed across geographies.

A KITCHEN GARDEN FIT FOR A KING

Traite des Jardins, Ou Le Nouveau de la Quintinye by Rene Le Barrayais is a three-volume set published between 1775-1785. It describes the famed kitchen garden that Jean De La Quintinye began at Versailles for King Louis XIV. Current edition reprints of *Traite de Jardins* are available. A first edition is listed at Biblio.com for \$700.

Quintinye authored a two-volume set published in 1693 in London. *The Complete Gard'ner* features a frontispiece portrait of La Quintinye, woodcut illustrations, and title page printed in black and red. La Quintinye was hired by Louis XIV to improve Louis XIII's soup garden, or potager. Quintinye's garden efforts fostered innumerable vegetable fads in 17th century France including fresh peas, a novelty at the time. AbeBooks.com has an edition available for \$4,800.



Tractatus de herbis, Circa instans.
Maidenhair Fern and Agrimony
Source: British Library Catalog of Illuminated Manuscripts



Jean de la Quintinye, 1626-1688
Source: Wikipedia.org

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PICTURE PERFECT BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATIONS

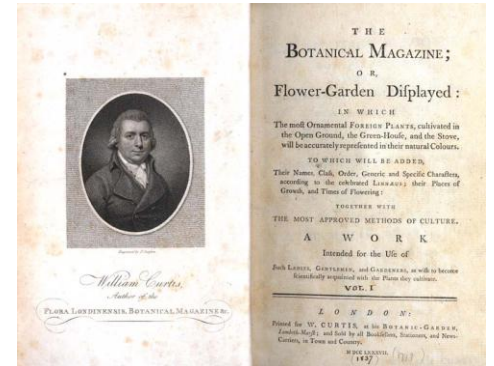
Curtis's Botanical Magazine started in 1787 by William Curtis at Kew Gardens in London. The magazine gave a wide audience access to plant information and became known for its botanical illustrations. According to a Glasgow University Library special exhibit, early issues had circulation of 3,000 copies and about three illustration plates. Colorists used watercolor to paint each print. Artists who drew the plates include James Sowerby, Sydenham Edwards, Matilda Smith, and Lillian Snelling. Smith became the first formal botanical artist at Kew and drew over 2,300 plates for Curtis's Botanical Magazine and other publications. Hand coloring was done in each issue up until 1948 when a shortage of colorists forced the periodical to adopt photography.



Matilda Smith, Source: The Natural History Museum, London
<http://piclib.nhm.ac.uk/results.asp?image=044712>



Holcoglossum kimballianum by Matilda Smith in Curtis's Botanical Magazine Vol. 116, 1890
Source: Curtis's Botanical Magazine via Wikimedia Commons.
http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holcoglossum_kimballianum.jpg



Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Vol. 1
Source: Glasgow University Library
<http://special.lib.gla.ac.uk/exhibits/month/oct2004.html>

The Rare Book Room at the Corning Library in Kirkland, Ohio contains the complete run of Curtis's Botanical Magazine. According to [Abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), collectable editions are available with prices starting \$1,000 for an 1810 issue up to \$15,000 for First Edition of Vol. 1-28. A current annual subscription is \$118.

Continued page 8

GARDEN BOOKS CROSS THE ATLANTIC

Gardening books influenced American colonial gardeners, most notably Thomas Jefferson at Monticello. Jefferson's library contained hundreds of gardening books including Batty Langley's *Pomona or, The Fruit-Garden Illustrated* (London 1729), A. J. Downing's *New Principles of Gardening* (New York 1849), Philip Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary* (8th printing London 1768), and William Forsyth's *Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees* 2nd Edition Philadelphia 1802, New York 1803).

These seem to be practical books that aided American gardeners in establishing gardens and fruitiers, but posed challenges because the readers had to adapt techniques for the American climate and soil. The early American gardeners established one distinction from European gardens: the farm orchard filled with apples and peaches trees to produce "excellent drinks" usually cider and brandy.

A 20th century avid gardener, Rachel Lambert Mellon built Oak Spring Garden Library in Upperville, Virginia, as an expression of her love of books and gardening. Mellon is heir to Warner Lambert and Paul Mellon and designed the Rose Garden and Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at The White House. The library has a digital project, which makes La Quintinye's *The Complete Gard'ner* available for viewing.

Mellon's passion for collecting botanical books, aptly captured in this quotation, likely matches the BCD member enthusiasm for any focused book collection.

"...This collection of books and drawings grew as a way of life, not just a gathering of rare and interesting books bought at the enticement of an enthusiastic bookseller, but chosen one by one for their special and unusual contents and design, as well as their relationship to books already part of the collection. It is a working library where mystery, fascination, and romance contribute to centuries of the art of gardening as a source of discovery, and so the process remains to this day." Rachel Lambert Mellon, 1980



Persian Iris, Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Vol. 1, Plate 1
Artist: James Sowerby
Source: Glasgow University Library

SUGGESTED READING:
Glasgow University Library
<http://special.lib.gla.ac.uk/exhibns/month/oct2004.html>

Lenhardt Library Rare Book Collection, Chicago Botanical Gardens
<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/library/rarebooks.php>

Oak Spring Garden Library
<http://oakspring.org/index.htm>

The LuEster T. Mertz Library, New York Botanical Garden
<http://sciweb.nybg.org/science2/OnlineExhibits/exhbtcata.html>
Mertz Digital Collection
<http://mertzdigital.nybg.org>

British Library, Catalog of Illuminated Manuscripts
<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/record.asp?MSID=8319&CollID=28>

Tribute to Bodoni continued from page 2

In 1963 (150 years after Bodoni's death), the Bodoni Museum was opened in Parma, Italy. Located on the top floor of the Pilotta Palace, it is dedicated to Giambattista Bodoni's typographical work. The museum keeps a large collection (80,000 items) of type blocks, punches, master copies, original dies, manuscripts and tools. The most valuable work, considering the scarcity of its editions and the date of its publication, is the Greek version of Homer's *Iliad*, dating to 1808.

THE BODONI TYPEFACE

The typeface that is now called simply Bodoni was designed by Giambattista Bodoni in 1798. Inspired by the English typeface Baskerville and the French typeface Didot, Bodoni is both modern and traditional. Its hairline serifs and the extreme contrast between thick and thin strokes result in a bold and easily recognizable design. Bodoni has been used for books, periodicals, and posters, and early versions of the Bodoni typeface are still used in fine book printing.



Sample of a Bodoni typeface, ITC Bodoni Seventy Two.

Giambattista Bodoni designed many typefaces, each in a large range of type sizes.

This allowed him to compose pages that featured subtle spacing. Following the example of Baskerville, Bodoni used wide margins and few (if any) decorations on his pages, thus creating an elegance of design that led to his outstanding reputation as a compositor.

Starting in 1909, the original Bodoni typeface has undergone numerous foundry type revivals and variants, as well as cold type and digital variations. In addition, "Poster Bodoni," a variant designed specifically for posters, was created by Chauncey H. Griffith (1879-1956). Today, Bodoni in all of its forms is one of the most widely used typefaces.

SUGGESTED READING:

Giambattista Bodoni of Parma, Thomas Maitland Cleland, Society of Printers (Boston, Mass.)

Bodoni: Manual of Typography, Dr. Stephan Fussel, Taschen

<http://www.lawsonarchive.com/bodoni%E2%80%93the-anatomy-of-a-type-part-1/>

<http://www.lawsonarchive.com/bodoni%E2%80%93the-anatomy-of-a-type-part-2/>

<http://www.gravitateonline.com/marketing-101/design-learning-center/typography-design/classic-typefaces>

http://www.compulsivebodoni.com/?page_id=37

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:

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

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Shahida Nurullah, 2000
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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

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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CONTACT US:

The Book Club of Detroit
c/o Scarab Club
217 Farnsworth
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EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Across the United States:

www.finebooksmagazine.com/calendar/

Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair

Sunday May 19, 2013 Michigan Union Ballroom
<http://annarborbookfair.com>

Detroit Public Library Friends Foundation

2013 Hackley Lectures

<http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org/friends-foundation-events-1>

Printers Row Lit Fest

June 8-9, 2013

Chicago

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/printersrowlitfest/>

William Clements Library Ann Arbor

March 4-July 12, 2013 Recent

Acquisitions: Building on The Clements Collection

<http://www.clements.umich.edu/exhibit-current.php>



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