

*THE*

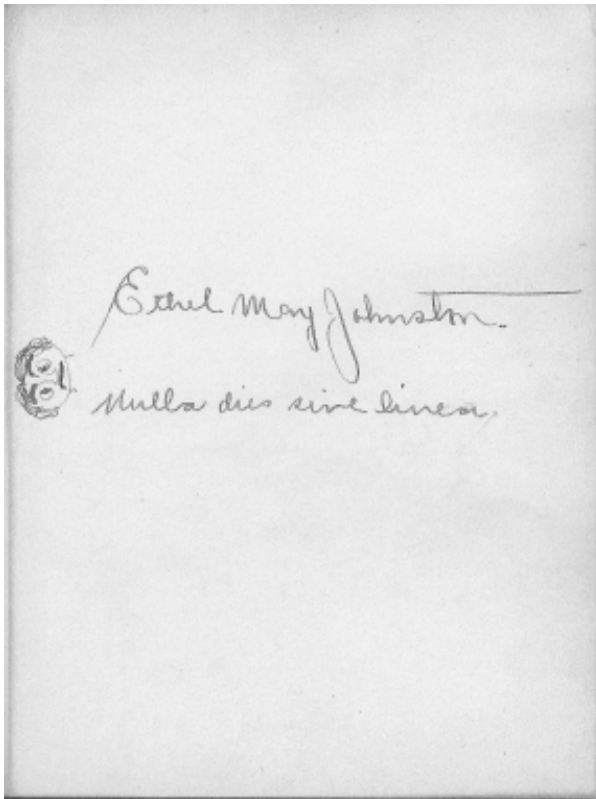


*FOSSIL*

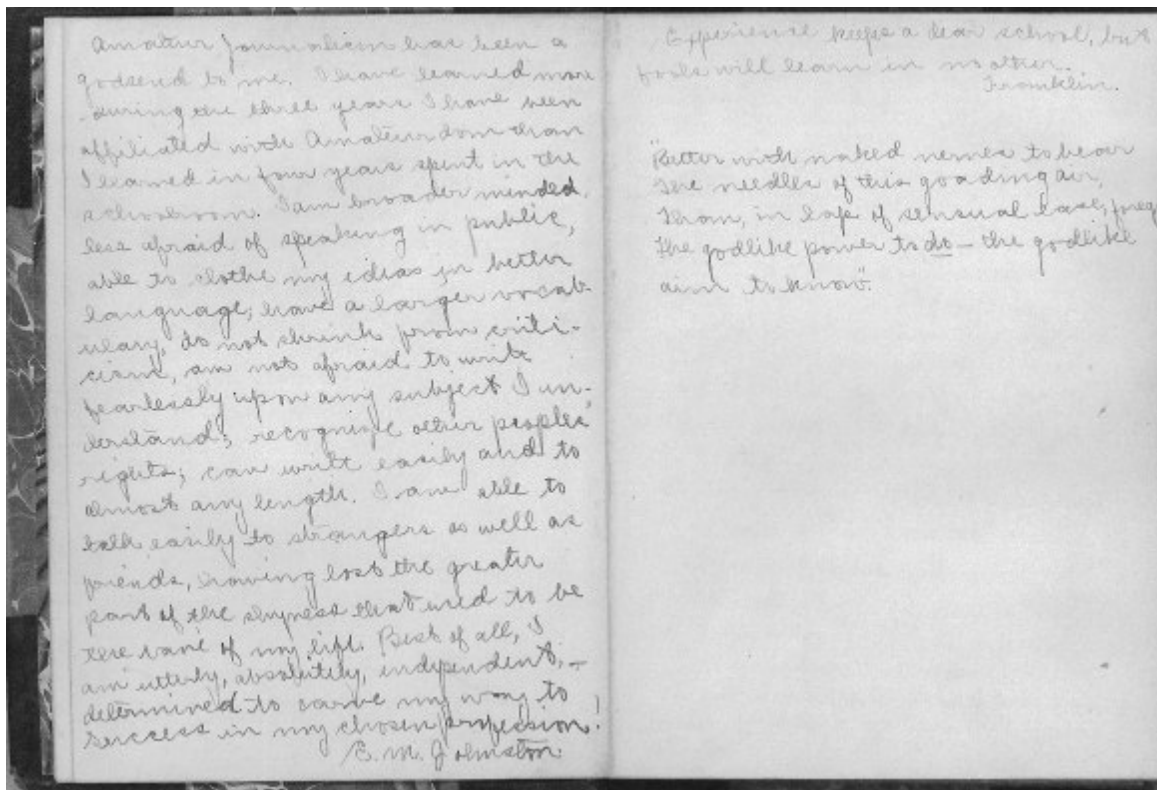
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**Ethel May Johnston (1899 or 1900)**  
**about the time she became active as an amateur journalist**  
Credit: Denys Peter Myers, Jr.



**Ethel May Johnston's Inscription**  
**Vol. 1, *The Literary Gem***  
Credit: Stan Oliner



**Ethel May Johnston's Ajay Credo**  
**Vol. 1, *The Literary Gem***  
Credit Stan Oliner

## THE COVERS OF THIS ISSUE

The outside and inside front covers of this issue reproduce a picture of Ethel May Johnston and the inscription which Miss Johnston (1882-1971), later the wife of Denys Peter Myers (1884-1972), made in her bound volume of the early numbers (1900-01) of Charles A. A. Parker's *The Literary Gem*. Miss Johnston, then of Everett, Massachusetts, was one the mainstays of Boston's famous Hub Amateur Journalists' Club during this era. She served as an early associate editor of *The Literary Gem*. Denys Peter Myers [Jr.] (1916-2003), the only child of her 1908 marriage to Denys Peter Myers, had a distinguished career as an architectural historian and museum administrator and as a boy met many of the famous figures in the Hub Club. Mr. and Mrs. Denys Peter Myers Sr. spent the later part of their lives in the Washington DC area, where Myers Sr. worked at the State Department. I am indebted to Stan Oliner for the loan of the volume of *The Literary Gem* which contains Miss Johnston's inspirational inscription and to Denys Peter Myers Jr. (known to all of the Hub Club ajays as "Peter") for the photograph of his mother, which I first used in Edith Minter's collection *The Coast of Bohemia* (2000). Miss Johnston must have studied Latin in high school: her first flyleaf inscription, roughly, translated, means "no day without writing"—good advice to any would-be writer. The first sentence of her longer inscription really capsulizes her sentiments: "Amateur Journalism has been a godsend to me." If space permits, I also hope to include some images from a sampling of Ethel May Johnston-Myers' own amateur journals in this issue of *The Fossil*.

Our outside back cover shows our own Trustee Stan Oliner hard at work helping to sort amateur journals, at his recent volunteer internship at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, Massachusetts. Thanks to Stan Oliner and Vincent Golden of AAS for this photograph.

## TRANSCRIPTION OF ETHEL MAY JOHNSTON'S COMMENTS ON AMATEUR JOURNALISM

Amateur Journalism has been a godsend to me. I have learned more during the three years I have been affiliated with Amateurdome than I learned in four years spent in the schoolroom. I am broader minded, less afraid of speaking in public, able to clothe my ideas in better language; have a larger vocabulary, do not shrink from criticism, am not afraid to write fearlessly upon any subject I understand; recognize other peoples' rights; can write easily and to almost any length. I am able to talk easily to strangers as well as friends, having lost the greater part of the shyness that used to be the bane of my life. Best of all, I am utterly, absolutely, independent, & determined to carve my way to success in my chosen profession. E. M. Johnston

Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other.

—Franklin.

"Better with naked nerves to bear the needles of this goading air, than, in hope of sensual ease, forego the godlike power to do—the godlike aim to know."

—Ethel May Johnston.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT: IN PRAISE OF DEVOTION**

**Guy Miller**

As I write this, the convention of the AAPA meeting near San Francisco is in full sway and reports will surely reveal once again a good experience and a healthy attendance. I, myself, am preparing to be in Nashville in time for the NAPA meet this July 7-9. Latest news there is that hosts Marc and Alice (Warner) Brosey are busy with final arrangements and are anticipating a favorable crowd. To be sure, the entire Ohio gang, Gary Bossler, Jack Visser, Harold Shive (whom the Ohio group had adopted long ago as a "misplaced" Ohio boy), and I have our plans all firmed up and are "raring" to go. No doubt our Fossils Official Editor Ken Faig, Jr., will have full reports on both conventions in the October issue of The Fossil, as he has done in the past.

As every volunteer knows, one does not agree to serve in an office for the perks. However, as president of The Fossils, I must say that I am honored to have been granted one, and that is the privilege of authorizing our hobby-wide awards. The Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award for Service to Amateur Journalism is one of them, and has been greeted by its recipients over the years as a prestigious recognition second only to the coveted Gold Composing Stick Award.

Note that I have pointed it out as a "hobby-wide" award, not restricted to any one ajay group, nor subject to any kind of competition. It is not a Fossils award as such; but the originators had asked The Fossils to choose the recipient.

A brief background is in order: On December 13, 1986, then Fossils president J. Ed Newman and Fossils member John Horn presented the first plaque to Russ Paxton in recognition of a life-time's devotion to the cause of amateur journalism which included the Lone Scouts, AAPA, NAPA, the United groups, and The Fossils. This award has been given since to honor (in the words of benefactor John Horn) "a person who has given freely of his or her time and effort solely for the benefit of their fellow amateur journalists."

Our Award Chairman, Lee Hawes, has recommended Ken Davis of Racine WI as our 2010 recipient; therefore, it was my pleasure to have mailed this beautiful plaque to Ken. It might be of interest to know that, aside from Russ, Ken is the 23<sup>rd</sup> ajay since 1987 to have been so recognized.

Our thanks go to Ken Davis and wife Carla for their long-time contributions to amateur journalism. Hopefully Ken will favor us with a photo and short bio so that we can properly feature him in our October issue of The Fossil.

Otherwise, this July issue marks the close of another fiscal year for The Fossils. Much has been accomplished, chief among which has been the successful transfer of the Graham-Wesson collection into the capable hands of our Fossils Trustee and Gold Composing Stick honoree Stan Oliner. No doubt we will have a progress report from him during the upcoming year 2011-12. The diligent work of our OE Ken Faig, Jr., and publications assistant Gary Bossler has been obvious. As president I am beholden to you all for your devotion to the cause of our beloved hobby of amateur journalism and, in particular, The Fossils.

### **AMATEUR DIRECTORIES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS**

I am indebted to Vincent Golden, Curator of Newspapers and Periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), for the following list of nineteenth-century amateur directories held in their famous amateur journalism collection. AAS staff have used these directories to identify missing items which they can target for acquisition. At the end of the list of amateur directories held by AAS is a listing directories not

owned by AAS which AAS would be interested in acquiring. If you own a nineteenth-century amateur directory (1) not in the listing of directories owned by AAS or (2) in the listing of directories wanted by AAS, and are willing to donate your directory to the AAS amateur journalism collection, please write Mr. Golden at the American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester MA 01609-1634 or call him at (508) 471-2148.

Directories of amateur newspapers in the collection of the American Antiquarian Society.

The Advertiser. Apr. 1877, vol. 1, no. 10. Edited and published by Gorman & Guinan. Pp. 5-6 contain "The Connecticut Amateur Directory." Paper wrappers.

Akron Amateur Directory for 1877. (Akron, OH: John S. Reese, 1877). "Price 10 cents." 10pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Amateur City Directory. (Chicago, IL: Warner Bros., 1876). 20pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Amateur Guide and Directory. (Buffalo, NY: Dunn & Parsons). 32pp. "Price fifteen cents." Glazed paper wrappers. Note to the reviewer tipped in.

Amateur Journalism 1870-1890 and Names of a Few of the boys of That Period with their Present Address as far as Located. (Meriden, CT: Will G. Snow, 1922). 48pp plus an extra leaf with a form for joining The Fossils. Paper wrapper.

The American Puzzlers' Directory. Compiled by "Gus." (Waterloo, IN: A.C. Gruhlky, 1881). 34pp. "Price 20c." Paper wrappers.

Bay State Amateur Directory, for 1876. A Reliable Reference Book for the Use of Massachusetts Amateurs. Compiled by "S.L.Y. Fox" and "K.K. Krow." (Northborough, MA: W.H. Bartlett, 1875).

Bay State Amateur Directory or Amateur Journals, Authors and Printers. (Easthampton, MA: Arthur H. Forbush, 1879).

Biehn, George W. The Ohio Amateur Directory, for 1875-'76. (Ripley, OH: G.W. Biehn, 1875). 36pp. "Price ten cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Billany, H.H. and C.A. Rudolph. The Amateurs' Guide for 1875. (Wilmington, DE: Amateur Pub. Co., 1875). 112pp. Paper wrappers.

[Boechat, Michael F.] The National Star Amateur Directory. (Buffalo, NY: Eagle Publishing House, 1884). 14pp. Paper wrappers.

Note: Includes a 1-page chapter on how to become an amateur and a 1-page history of the NAPA.

Bryson, George Eugene. The Florida State Amateur Directory. (Hawkinsville, FL: Geo. Eugene Bryson, 1878). First edition. "Price 5 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

The Buckeye State Amateur Directory, for 1877. (Cincinnati, OH: Ken Mulford, Jr., 1877). "Queens City Library 1." 48pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Note: 8 extra pages bound upside down in the back.

The California Amateurs' Directory for 1873. (San Francisco, CA: Dore & Thibault, n.d.). 38pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements. Title page printed in red and black.

California Amateur Directory for 1877. (East Oakland, CA: E. Wm. Gracey, n.d.). Gracey, E. William. Nevada Amateur Directory for 1877. (East Oakland, CA: E. Wm. Gracey, 1877). 48pp. Note: Each section has its own title page. Paper wrapper reading California and Nevada Amateur Directory for 1877 (printed in black and gold).

Canon, Dee A. 1882. Western Amateur Newspaper Directory. (Stanberry, MO: Dee A. Canon, [1882]). 4pp. Paper wrappers.

Carr, George M. The North Carolina Amateur Directory for 1878. (Norfolk, VA: A.B. Perry, 1878). 46pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Cherry, Walter B. and Virgil H. Clymer. An Amateur Directory of the Leading Amateur Editors & Publishers. (Syracuse, NY: Walter B. Cherry and Virgil H. Clymer, May 1, 1884). 14pp. Paper wrappers.

Clemens, Will. Ohio Amateur Directory, for 1877. "Sunny Side Series no. 7." (Akron, OH: Will Clemens, 1877). "Price 10 cents." 18pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Collamer's D.C. Record of Junior Journalism. (Washington, DC: Mail Pub. House, 1882). October, 1882. Vol. 1. 16pp. "5 cents." Paper wrapper, missing most of front wrapper.

Cramer, R.B. A Souvenir of Amateur Journalism. (Tarrytown, NY: R.B. Cramer, 1888). 54pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Cropper, Frank. The Amateur Journalists' Companion for 1873. (Louisville, KY: Frank Cropper, 1873). 110 pages. Cloth bound in green cloth with title in gilt on the front cover.

Note: While not a directory, it does contain a description of the amateur periodicals of the time and a separate name list.

Dubuque Amateur Directory, for 1875. By Pickwick. (Dubuque, IA: G.H. Graves, 1875). 12pp. "Price 3 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisement.

The Easter Amateur Directory. For 1882. Embracing All the States East of the Ohio River. (Frederick, MD: Frank A. Doll, 1882). 10pp. "Price 6 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisement.

Everett, Fred. Vermont Amateur Directory for 1878. (Brattleboro, VT: C.D. Barrett, 1878). 22pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrapper. Slip of paper attached to front cover reading, "This book is to pay for the balance of your subscription to the Advance."

Fiske, Will A. and Will A. Innes. The Amateur Directory, for 1875. (Grand Rapids, MI: Will A. Innes, 1875). 162pp. plus color frontispiece repeating the cover. Paper wrappers.

Fynes, J.A., Jr. The Massachusetts Amateur Directory for 1877. (Medford, MA: S.W. Lawrence, 1877). "Price 10 cents." 26pp. Paper wrappers with advertisement.

Graves, George H. The Iowa Amateurs' Guide for 1877-8. (Rockford, IA: J.A. Cook & Bro, 1878). "Price 10 cents." 24pp. "Price 10 cents." Note: They apparently reused sheets from the previous year as it reads The Iowa Amateurs' Guide for 1877 with place of publication, "Otterville, Iowa" and the date "1877" at the bottom penciled over.

Graves, George H. and Frank Kelley. The Iowa Amateurs' Guide for 1875. (Dubuque, IA: Geo. H. Graves, 1875). 48pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Hardy, E.M. Indiana Amateur Guide for 1876. (Whiteland, IN: E.M. Hardy, 1876). 32pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Harrison, George. The Indiana Amateur Guide for 1877. (Lafayette, IN: Geo. Harrison, 1877). 36pp. Paper wrappers with advertisement. Title page printed in red and black.

Hollenback, C.C. North-American Amateur Newspaper Directory. (Osage City, KS: Clinton C. Hollenback, 1882). 10pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers.

Hudson, Albert W. Ohio Amateur Directory, for 1878. (Dayton, OH: Albert W. Hudson, 1878). 48pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers.

Hutchinson, E. Howard and Alfred S. Porter. The Amateurs' Guide, for 1870. (Buffalo, NY: Haas & Kelley, 1870). 42 pp. "Price 25 cents." Paper wrappers.

Johns, Harry. The Minnesota Amateurs' Directory, for 1874. (Saint Paul, MN: W.F. Flint, 1874). 16pp. Paper wrappers.

Keystone State Amateur Directory, For 1876. (Philadelphia, PA: L.S. Kern, 1876). "Price 10 cents." 12pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

The Knights of the Mystic Arena: A Complete Directory of our American Puzzledom. Compiled by "Nutmeg." (Danbury, CT: E.E. Hamilton, 1880). 44 pp. Paper wrappers.

Knox, Will S. Marietta & Harmar Amateur Directory for 1878. "Price 3 cents." (Harmar, OH: Will S. Knox, 1878). 8pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Leathe, W.E. Massachusetts Amateur Directory for 1876. (Royalston, MA: W.E. Leathe, 1876). "Price 10 cents." 24pp. Paper wrappers with advertisement.  
2<sup>nd</sup> copy with "Royalston" crossed out and "Winchendon" written in.

Morrill, Fred. K. *The Amateurs' Guide for 1872*. (Chicago, IL: Amateur Publishing Company, 1872). 100pp. Cloth bound in blue cloth and title in gilt on the front cover.

Note: While a guide and not a directory it contains a list of amateur journals of America, names of amateurs, suspensions and consolidations of amateur journals, and noms de plume of amateur authors.

*The National Amateur Directory*. (East St. Louis, IL: The Future Great, 1879). 8pp. "Price five cents." Paper wrappers.

*The Ne Plus Ultra Amateur Directory*. (Bridgeport, CT: Hopkins Sterling, 1886). 20pp. "Price 15 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Onderdonk, Ralph W. and R.W. Wood. *The New York State Amateur Directory for 1875*. (Batavia, NY: Ralph W. Onderdonk, 1875). 32pp. "Price 10 cts." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

*The Pioneer Directory of Amateur Journalists*. Edited by Arthur R. Stanton and Jos. E. Cohen. (Philadelphia, PA: Arthur R. Stanton, 1901). 32pp. Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Reese, John S. *United States Amateur Book Directory for 1879*. (Akron, OH: John S. Reese & Bro., 1879). 48pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements.

Reid, Herbert L. and Albert Stanhope. *A Directory of Amateur, Philatelic, School and Other Papers. Also, a List of Amateur Authors and Printers*. (Jersey City, NJ: Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886). 16pp. "Price, 10 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisement.

Slade, E[dgar] P[embroke]. *The Bandits of the Blue Ridge or, The Adventurs of Three Runaways*. (Landisville, PA: D.B. Landis, 1877). 16pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisements. Note: "An Amateur Directory of Lancaster County is also given for the benefit of Advertisers and others."

Smith, Marshall. *A Directory of Amateur and Other Papers. With a Complete Index*. (Milner, GA: January, 1888). "Price 10 cents." 20pp. Paper wrappers. Note: At the bottom of the cover it reads, "Mocking Bird print, Belleville, O." which may be where this was printed.

Snyder, Zander. *The New Jersey State Amateur Directory*. (Vienna, NJ: Zander Snyder, 1877). 24pp. First edition. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers with advertisement.

*Southern States Amateur Newspaper Guide*. For 1880. Edited by G.E. Bryson (Hawkinsville, FL: *The Boys' Delight*, Dec. 1, 1879). "Juvenile Journalist's Library, no. 1." 12pp. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers.

*Toledo Amateur Directory*. (Toledo, OH: F. W. Kibbe & Bro., 1877). 24pp. plus errata slip. First edition. "Price 10 cents." Paper wrappers.

Winder, Tom W. *Warsaw Amateur Directory*. (Warsaw, IN: Aborn & Winder, 1877). "Price six cents." 12pp. Contains seven humorous crude woodcut 'portraits' of local amateurs. Paper wrappers with advertisements.



Winters, V. Jr. United States and Canada Amateur Paper Directory for 1882. (Dayton, OH: V. Winters, Jr., 1882). 20pp. Paper wrappers.

Wylie, Willard O. The Bay State Amateur Newspaper Directory and Mass. A.P.A. Constitution and By-Laws. (So. Manchester, CT: Spencer Bros., 1882). 20pp. Paper wrappers.

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Though technically not a directory:

Mailing labels [s.l., n.d.]

40 sheets of address labels to amateur newspapers.

No date or source given.

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Here is a list of amateur directories AAS found references to that we do not have in our collection (but desire to have a copy).

Newcomerstown, Coshocton, and Port Washington Amateur Directory. [This is taken from a page of advertisements detached from an unidentified amateur paper]

The following list is taken from The Amateur Directory for 1875 by Will A. Fiske and Will A. Innes (Grand Rapids, MI: Will A. Innes, 1875), pp. 111-130.

Amateur Hunter's Guide. By an experienced Trapper. (North Boscawen, NH: Towne, Bros, 1871).

Amateur Papers. By "Winslow." (Glens Falls, NY: Frank White, 1874)

Amateur Printer's Directory for 1870. (Cincinnati, OH: Gillmore & Hart, 1870)

Atwood, Frank and Edwin Ballard. Amateur's Annual for 1872. (Boston, Annual Publishing Co.)

Biehn, G.W. Ohio Amateur Directory for 1874. (Ripley, OH: Geo. W. Biehn, 1874).

Chandler, H.I. Delaware Amateur Directory for 1874. (Wilmington, DE: Billany & Chandler, 1874)

Chandler, H.I. and E.H. Chandler. Diamond State Amateur Directory for 1875. (Wilmington, DE: J.B. Merritt, 1875)

Graves G.H. Dubuque Amateur Directory. (Dubuque, IA: G.H. Graves, 1875)

Innes, Will A. Amateur Directory for 1874. (Grand Rapids, MI: Will A. Innes)

Morrill, Frank and Walter T. Dwight. Amateur's Guide for 1871. (Chicago, IL: Amateur Pub. Co.)

New Orleans Amateur Directory. (New Orleans, LA: New Orleans Amateur Publishing Co., 1874)

Stamp Dealer's Directory. By Baum, Morris & Co. (Syracuse, NY, 1873)

Tiffin Am. Directory for 1874. By "Argo." (Tiffin, OH: Art. J. Huss, 1874)

Stan Oliner did some searching on OCLC and came up with more titles of amateur directories not in the AAS collection.

DeFrance, C.Q. A Directory of Amateur Papers. (Independence, MO: F.K. Farr, 1883).

Dore, Harry Ellsworth, Frank Thibault, and Thomas H. Kent. The California Amateur's Directory for 1873. (San Francisco: Dore & Thibault, 1873).

Smith, Marshall. A Directory of Amateur and Other Papers. With a Complete Index. (Miner, GA: 1888)

## **THE DANCE OF FALL**

**Martha E. Shivers**

October is a golden time  
Colors abound with their hues  
Meadows and fields reaching prime  
Blazing earth picturesque, too.

Maples and oaks flash floral gowns  
Pine whispers, my green will stay  
Bronze leaves dance around like clowns  
Indian summer passes away.

Blackbirds serenade when they gather,  
Robins call their farewell song.  
Wild geese honks announce cold weather  
Frost threatens with her white sarong.

Capture memories now to remember  
As winds bring in brash November.

## CONVENTION COMMENT.

ONE of the most noteworthy accomplishments of the Boston convention was the turning of bitterness into friendship on the part of several of those present.

Howard Lovecraft was a revelation to many conventionites. Although Sonia Greene's attempts to "vamp" him were apparently without effect, it is believed her heart-to-heart talks did not go entirely unheeded. She was very earnest in her efforts to "humanize" him. He acted like a "regular feller" during the evening at Revere Beach, going on some of the scenic railway thrillers which few others attempted. Even when emerging from "The Plunger," said to be the speediest and most dangerous in the country, he did not appear a bit excited. His companions place no credence in the report that he has heart failure. If his heart was affected, it was during other sessions of the convention. It is hoped that some of the doings

made sufficient impression upon him to at least cause a dent in that part of his organism, and that by next July his wealth of intellectual attainments will be so submerged that we ordinary mortals need not fear to converse with him.

The gathering at the home of Dorothy and George Houtain in Brooklyn during September in honor of Mrs. Anna Cross Ellis (mother-in-law of Marjorie Outwater that was) is an evidence of a sincere desire on the part of both that the bitterness of the recent campaign be forgotten.

Someone asked after the convention if there was anything serious between Gladys Frazee and Rheinhart Kleiner. Not at all, if the writer knows the respective parties as well as she thinks she does. Rheinhart has always been attracted by pretty girls, and Gladys—well, there were at least a half a dozen waiting to welcome her back home, one coming all the way from South America.

HAZEL PRATT ADAMS.

## The Convention Mirror

Published By

Mrs. Ethel J. Myers

55 Frost Street,

Cambridge, Mass.

Mrs. Hazel P. Adams

50 Washington Street,

Plainfield, N. J.

Miss. Gladys Frazee

Apple Creek, O.

Mrs. Lucie Dowdell

3661 W. 139th Street

West Park, O.

*The Convention Mirror*

October 1921

Published by Mrs. Ethel J. Myers

with some gossip about Sonia Greene and H. P. Lovecraft

*The Band Wagon (get On!)*

July 1913

Edited by Ethel May Johnston-Myers

## The Old Ladies' Sewing Circle

PUBLISHED WHEN THE EDITOR FEELS LIKE GOSSIPING ABOUT PEOPLE

Edited by Ethel M. J. Myers

G.C.S.C.

G.C.S.C.

Assisted by Hortense P. W. Myers

FOR THE EDDIE-FICATION OF ONE E. H. C.

IF MR. COLE has mastered algebra, perhaps he can explain to us through that medium just how the existence of the Old Ladies' Sewing Circle (the society, not the paper) proves that Mrs. Myers can make good fudge, as he states in the latest number of the *Olympian*. We all know that Mrs. Myers excels as a cook and can make excellent fudge, but that dainty has yet to appear at our meetings and we fail to see the connection.

There was very scant mention of edibles in the first number of the *Old Ladies' Sewing Circle*, Mr. Cole to the contrary notwithstanding, and these were made by Mr. Myers, who admits he has never attended a meeting. To be sure, we are served with many delicacies at every meeting, but our object is to sew and that is what we do with alarming assiduity.

We have been old-fashioned enough to read "David Copperfield" aloud during the past year, and a thriving book club is also sustained. Perhaps these facts reached the ears of Mr. Cole and led him to think we are a "Women's Auxiliary of the Fossils." I am not acquainted-

*The Old Ladies Sewing Circle*

June 1914

Edited by Ethel May Johnston-Myers

## THE BAND WAGON

FIRST TRIP

(GET ON!)

DRIVER: E. M. J. MYERS

JULY, 1913

ON July 4th at Grand Rapids the N.A.P.A. will again elect officers. On that date will end an administration like many others that have passed, one that presented the desire of the newer and younger members of the organization to take control of things. They have run the good ship Amateurism aground, and everybody knows something has got to be done. The fact is generally admitted, and where it is not admitted it cannot be disproved. The pilots who have been running the ship assumed charge in the name of the "young blood," which meant that they were not fossils and were youthful to the last degree of active membership. The old timers, who have seen such manifestations before, were willing enough to give the young blood a chance. And they set up a light that flickered and failed. The old timer has no need to assume the helm, and none is anxious to do so. But there is a ticket in the field which offers the opportunity of getting the good ship off the shoals, of winning support alike from the old timers and the young blood, of in- portunity of getting the good ship off the shoals, of winning support alike from the old timers and the young blood, of in- stilling enthusiasm again into those who are neither old enough for the Fossils and too old for knee trousers or shoe-top skirts. That ticket is headed by Frank Austin Kendall, an old timer in point of devotion to A. J., a youth in point of years, enthusiasm and energy, a matured scion of A. J. in respect to ability, judgment and actual accomplishment.

With Mr. Kendall on the ticket which he heads of amateurs well known to all A. J. for his ability and continuous activity fall according as its

# THE OVEN

THIRD BAKE

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

SEPTEMBER 1911

## First Course

☉

This morning's mail disclosed a face cloth I left at Miss Hazel Pratt's during my recent visit. And so reminders of the convention continue to come. Perhaps the most delightful of all reminders are the letters from the Worms. Surely at no other convention did I make such charming friends. It would have been worth traveling twice as far just to be a Whelega Jehes.

There was Miss Edith Mae (note the spelling) Vincent and myself serenely sipping delicious punch and eating scrumptious ice cream in the cool parlor of Mrs. Morris on Wednesday evening, July 12th. And way up to Boston was John D. Christiansen and Mr. Daas, calling at the home of Mrs. Myers, because neither of them dreamed that I would start for Bridgeport before the next day. That is what they got for not sending a telegram.

Thursday morning we—I say we advisedly, for at this convention every one of us helped run things—had one session, unexciting and unremarkable. It was a pleasure to note the poise of Mr. Haggerty all through the sessions. I have been to many conventions, and never before was I so impressed by the unflinching courtesy of the chair. One might be pardoned for becoming a bit ruffled when one's pet schemes failed, it seems, but at this convention, at least, there was

# THE OVEN

"Double, double toil and trouble;  
Fire burn, and caldron bubble."

—Macbeth.

## MENU.

<i>Callaway Seed Cookies,</i>	<i>Animal Crackers</i>
<i>Whitaker Bean Soup,</i>	<i>Knox Tail Soup,</i>
<i>Lobster a la Birby,</i>	<i>Deviled Crab a la Barnard,</i>
<i>Roast Pork,</i>	<i>Small Fry O O Oysters,</i>
<i>Cold Shoulder,</i>	<i>Chilli Sauce,</i>
<i>Mutton Head,</i>	<i>Spinach,</i>
	<i>Entrées—Back and front,</i>
	<i>Tongue,</i>
	<i>Vegetarian Roast.</i>
<i>Barn (y)ard Fowl,</i>	<i>Small Potatoes,</i>
	<i>Harlem Icecream,</i>
<i>Sponge Pie,</i>	<i>Gilles-Pie,</i>
	<i>Wheel Cake,</i>
<i>Carter's Xtra Dry,</i>	<i>Rum Punch,</i>
<i>(N. B. Rugs under the table.)</i>	
<i>Linn-Burger Cheese,</i>	<i>Hogshead Cheese,</i>
<i>Toasted Crackers,</i>	<i>Barker Dog Biscuit.</i>

*Exit.*

"A FEAST for the Gods—that is, the Gods of The Olympian"—the push from the eastside of New York City.

The Chicago convention certainly was great. I'm sorry I missed the social part. I'd like to belong to that Onion Bunch—even if a certain amateur did write me that they should be *esset* to Jerico. And I am more than sorry I missed the business part. It was so exciting—and what amateur doesn't love excitement? Let us take a look at the official board of the present year.

Barnard—Mr. Barnard—Bertie, my vocabulary is mislaid—excuse me. Mr. Lupien—exactly. Some say he does not exist. The ex-president be 1st Vice and executive judge too? This is a puzzle—please offer a solution.

Starring—is alright.

The two secretaries are the right people in the right places.

Treasurer—could the association have a more suitable person than

(5)

## The Oven

September 1911

Edited by Ethel May Johnston-Myers

## THE OVEN

CHEF

ETHEL MAY JOHNSTON-MYERS

94 Oxford Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

HEAD WAITRESS

EDITH MAE VINCENT

21 Gray Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

## Fleur de lis

October 1903

Edited by Ethel May Johnston

# Fleur de lis.

VOLUME ONE.

OCTOBER, 1903.

NUMBER TWO.

## BRAMBLE SERIES

### BRAMBLING TO ABINGTON.

(NINTH SKETCH.)

FIRSTLY: it would rain and we would not go.

Secondly: It would not rain and we would go.

Thirdly: There were only two at the station and we would not go.

Fourthly: There were four at the station and we would go.

Fifthly: The train for Abington had left and we would not go.

Sixthly: There was a train—later, and we would go.

Seventhly: Starting so late would give but scant time and we would not go.

Eighthly: We didn't care what happened and we would go.

Ninthly: There being luck in odd numbers we—namely, Miss Johnston, Mr. Cary, Mrs. Minster and the writer—went.

It was one of the most wonderful walks ever taken by the Rambling Bramblers. There were some thirty miles of it and the greater part was accomplished by sitting down. There were steam cars, electric cars, a "grove picnic" in the hospitable parlor of Mrs. Cox in Abington, a making and serving of nectar-like coffee by Miss Mary R. Cox, and—I can't explain it, but there were birds on trees in this parlor, and a six-tailed wild animal under the table—yet as mind is superior to matter, I think the strange sights that were seen in this artistic parlor were mostly in the minds of the Rambling Bramblers.

After a delightful luncheon Miss Cox led the party along a picturesque country road to the home of Misses Elizabeth and Susan B. Robbins, where we met with a cordial reception, along with the famous Robbins ginger snaps, and the scarcely less famous Robbins cats. A daughter of Eve asked Miss Susan Robbins if "the farm paid?" and Elizabeth Robbins answered, "If we keep quite busy writing I

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## CHIQUITA'S CHIT CHAT.

"In her own home, the country, nature is sweet in all her moods."—*feroms*.

This number of *Fleur de lis* was to have been a "Bramble issue." I intended to publish accounts of the eight Brambles hitherto unprinted. That I have not done so is the fault of one Bramble—he didn't send his sketch to me on time (in fact I haven't received it yet!) so the issue has been delayed till too late to get the large number out in time for the convention of the Interstate Amateur Press Association. A second number—a special Bramble issue will appear later.

The Brambles certainly form one of the pleasantest recreations of the Boston Amateurs. Aside from the healthy exercise they afford, there is a certain air of jolly goodfellowship, a comradeship that makes each one feel "at home."

The quips, the jokes, repartee sharp and gay are enjoyed with a zest by the careless, happy-go-lucky band.

The Brambles have been the means of drawing closer together amateurs having tastes in common. They have given the lovers of nature an opportunity to enjoy the magnificent scenery of the woods and hills of Massachusetts and best of all, they have been the subject of numerous delightful sketches, three of which appear in this number of *Fleur de lis*.

I introduced the Brambles and have been present at every one as has Mrs. Minter. We two alone have this distinction. To other amateurs, outside of our state we would say,

"Let Nature be your teacher,  
Sweet is the lore which nature brings."

E. M. Johnston.

## Fleur de lis

ETHEL MAY JOHNSTON, Editor.

930 Broadway,                      Everett, Mass.  
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### CONVENTION COMMENT.

ONE of the most noteworthy accomplishments of the Boston convention was the turning of bitterness into friendship on the part of several of those present.

Howard Lovecraft was a revelation to many conventionites. Although Sonia Greene's attempts to "vamp" him were apparently without effect, it is believed her heart-to-heart talks did not go entirely unheeded. She was very earnest in her efforts to "humanize" him. He acted like a "regular feller" during the evening at Revere Beach, going on some of the scenic railway thrillers which few others attempted. Even when emerging from "The Plunger," said to be the speediest and most dangerous in the country, he did not appear a bit excited. His companions place no credence in the report that he has heart failure. If his heart was affected, it was during other sessions of the convention. It is hoped that some of the doings

made sufficient impression upon him to at least cause a dent in that part of his organism, and that by next July his wealth of intellectual attainments will be so submerged that we ordinary mortals need not fear to converse with him.

The gathering at the home of Dorothy and George Houtain in Brooklyn during September in honor of Mrs. Anna Cross Ellis (mother-in-law of Marjorie Outwater that was) is an evidence of a sincere desire on the part of both that the bitterness of the recent campaign be forgotten.

Someone asked after the convention if there was anything serious between Gladys Frazee and Rheinhart Kleiner. Not at all, if the writer knows the respective parties as well as she thinks she does. Rheinhart has always been attracted by pretty girls, and Gladys—well, there were at least a half a dozen waiting to welcome her back home, one coming all the way from South America.

HAZEL PRATT ADAMS.

### The Convention Mirror

Published By

Mrs. Ethel J. Myers	Cambridge, D.C.
55 Frost Street,	
Mrs. Hazel P. Adams	Plainfield, N. J.
50 Washington Street,	
Miss. Gladys Frazee	Apple Creek, O.
Mrs. Lucie Dowdell	West Park, O.
3661 W. 139th Street	

whether our choice be that of the fraternity at large we will, so long as the executive staff does its duty, do all in our power toward aiding the association and those who stand at its head in official capacity.

Ye chief scribe desires to thank those editors who so promptly made the change of address on their mailing list. Those who have not already done so will please see that their publications are addressed to Irwin, Virginia henceforth, if they wish me to exchange with them, and those having a few extra copies to spare would aid greatly in recruiting if they would favor GIRLDOM's editor-in-chief occasionally.

E. JEAN CONNELL.

## GIRLDOM. RIGHT, NOT MIGHT.

Application made for entry at Irwin, Va., Postoffice as second-class mail matter.

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Irwin, Goochland Co., Va.

Associate Editors:

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Miss Edith M. Ericson, Neillsville, Wis.	Miss Daisy K. Shenkel, 113 Cook St., East Liverpool, O.
Miss Tudes D. Rodgers, Union City, Pa.	

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Contributions solicited from all young ladies. Mss. should be addressed to the editor-in-chief.

Will exchange with all amateur publications, when two copies are mailed us. One should be addressed to Miss Gardner, marked "Review," and one to the publication office.

A cross opposite this paragraph denotes the expiration of your subscription.

*Fleur de lis*  
October 1903

Edited by Ethel May Johnston  
A Convention Menu, Chiquita's Chit Chat

**GIRLDOM**  
July 1902

Miss Ethel M. Johnston, Associate Editor

# Fleur de lis.

VOLUME ONE.

DECEMBER, 1902.

NUMBER ONE.

## RINKTY-DINKTY

THE minister came to our house,  
An' took me on his knee,  
An' said, "Now Harry, you love God,  
Like a good boy—you see?"  
"Oh, yes," me says, "me loves Him,  
An' sister loves Him too;"  
Then what did little sister,  
Right up an' naughty do?  
She sang, "Oh, rinky-dinky,  
Me don't love God, no neither,  
Me hasn't had Him call on me,  
Nor do' want to love Him either!"

Me jus' was mortified to death;  
Me face me up an' hid;  
An' then me heard a snicker—  
Me truly thought me did;  
But when me peeked up slyly,  
The minister looked black;  
An' sister, she went hippy-hop,  
Across the room an' back;  
A-singing, "Rinky-dinky,  
Me don't know God, no neither,  
Me ha'n't been introduced to Him,  
Nor do' want to know Him either!"

Jennie E. T. Dowe.

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## Fleur de lis

December 1902

Edited by Ethel May Johnston and Walter Howe Cary  
Some verse by Mrs. Dowe

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FLEUR DE LIS.

*Stars and Stripes* forever! Nixon's talks on "People and Things" are the very best that I have read for ages. Our ex-president deals with friend and foe in a thoroughly impartial manner and it is like getting a whiff of delicious prairie breezes when *Stripes* greets us. Nixon's tribute to John Lesey Peltret is of course appreciated by those who have the honor of being that gentleman's friends. The letter from Starring will doubtless cause a bit of thinking to be done by certain "know-it-alls." Perhaps by the time all the truth is out Berger's disciples will at last admit the proxies were thrown out *because they elected Peltret!*

Again the *Boss* bursts, but the powder must have been wet for the explosion was very mild. The only thing that "jarred" was Hymalalia Hymalalius' stuff. Stop it, Charlie! If Ben Moss' caput forms a receptacle for tin cans, nails and other rubbish he is "more to be pitied than censured," and it ill becomes a Bostonian and member of "de gang" to make light of Ben's cerebrum.

The very handsomest paper that has reached me since convention is *Varied Year*. Thoroughly artistic is this journal both as to size and typography. Mrs. Ella M. Frye contributes a pleasing short story entitled, "Billy's Problem." It is refreshing to read a story of this sort after perusing the silly love tales so many papers print to-day. Mrs. Dowe has a sixty-four line poem entitled, "Purty Molly Roe," but I am sorry to say I could not appreciate it, sentimentality not being in my line. The editor's remarks occupy six pages and are worth reading several times. After carefully studying the writings of amateurs throughout the 'dom, I have come to the conclusion that as an editorial writer Mrs. Minier is without a peer, and were a "popular vote" taken to decide who is the smartest, brightest and witziest amateur writer of to-day, it is "ten to one" that the editor of *Varied Year* would carry off the honors.

E. M. Johnston.

## Fleur de lis.

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## BILL GROVEMAN'S FANZINES AND HIS ACTIVITY IN THE FANTASY AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATION

Robert Lichtman

The April *Fossil* came a couple days ago, and I read with interest all the material about William H. Groveman. Absent from the reportage is the fact that he was also a member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association on two separate occasions. His first membership began with the December 1940 mailing (the 14<sup>th</sup>) and continued through the December 1943 mailing. He rejoined with the April 1946 mailing and left again with the October 1947 mailing. He was living at 18 Maryland Avenue, Hempstead, New York, at the time of first joining, and at 623 Central Avenue, Cedarhurst, New York, when he was dropped for inactivity. He was still at that address when he rejoined in April 1946 and gave *SNAFU* as his "credentials," and was still at that address when he was dropped, again for inactivity.

Because it wasn't customary back then to include a thorough (or sometimes any) listing of members' contributions to the mailings in the Fantasy Amateur, there was no information of what Groveman might have published while a FAPA member. However, a quick search at the Eaton SF Collection's fanzine catalogue, and then corroborated in the Pavlat/Evans/Swisher Fanzine Index, showed that he produced a total of eight issues of *Fantaseer* between August 1939 and July 1941. Of these, only #5 appeared in a FAPA mailing: the March 1941 (15<sup>th</sup>) mailing. He also published two slim issues of *Lovecraftian*; the first was in the December 1940 (14<sup>th</sup>) mailing, the other in the September 1941 (17<sup>th</sup>) mailing. Neither of these titles are in Stan Oliner's listing of Groveman's publications. However, the sole issue of *Devil's Advocate* was distributed in the October 1946 (37<sup>th</sup>) FAPA mailing.

### EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Ken Faig, Jr.

I have first of all to apologize to **John Flood**, manager of the Hudson Park Branch of the New York Public Library, for misidentifying him as John Long in the print edition of the April 2011 number of *The Fossil*. It just goes to show that the old maxim still holds: check, re-check, and then re-check again, and never (NEVER!) rely on a possibly faulty memory. My apologies to Mr. Flood for the error and my thanks again to him for his assistance regarding the place where AAPA held its first generally-recognized convention in July 1939.

I join our president **Guy Miller** in congratulating **Ken Davis**, 2010 winner of the Russell M. Paxton Award for Service to Amateur Journalism.

I am grateful to **Vincent Golden** of the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) for the listing of nineteenth-century amateur directories which he has allowed me to publish in this issue. Fossil **Stan Oliner** earlier this year spent a several-week volunteer internship at AAS to help staff there sort uncatalogued material.

I thank Fossil **Robert Lichtman** for his account of the late Bill Groveman's publications in the realm of SF/fantasy fanzines. Robert is a veteran member of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association (founded 1937) and has now been in our ranks for several years. In the early 1960s he participated for several years in "mainstream" amateur journalism and knew well veteran amateur journalist Wesley H. Porter.

Fossil **Sean McLachlan** of Madrid, Spain reports that he has had to non-renew his membership because of the press of his professional writing commitments. Mr. McLachlan, who made some exciting discoveries relating to H. P. Lovecraft's amateur publications in archives in England, is an accomplished military historian and busy with many projects. The Fossils wish him well in all his endeavors.

Fossil **Barry Schrader's** *Hybrid Corn and Purebred People*, a 2010 collection of 100 favorite columns from the DeKalb IL Daily Chronicle, has sold out. Barry and Bill Boys were co-hosts of AAPA's and NAPA's first-ever joint convention in Chicago in 2010.

As always, your contributions will help to keep our quarterly journal a living entity. A contribution need not be a finished article but can be as simple as a news note which will be of interest to your fellow Fossils. Contributions can arrive in whatever format best suits the creator's convenience—hand-written notes and articles (so long as legible) and e-mail communications are as welcome as more polished contributions. I have to note, however, that I am not yet on Twitter and am relatively inexperienced when it comes to Internet bulletin boards and discussion groups.

## **FINDING NEW HOMES FOR AMATEUR JOURNALISM COLLECTIONS**

**Ken Faig, Jr.**

Fossil **Kent Clair Chamberlain**, whose poems have appeared in our pages, wrote to ask the editor for advice concerning the disposition of collections of amateur journals. I am afraid there is no easy answer which will fit every situation. Unfortunately, there is not to my knowledge at the present time any “omnivore” institution collecting amateur journals which is willing to accept all donations of amateur journals. The American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Massachusetts (see address earlier in this issue) has a very strong interest in being a completist collector of **nineteenth-century** amateur journals (that is, those published before 1901) but not many amateur journalism collections today contain many of these. The Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin at Madison owns the Fossils' former Library of Amateur Journalism (LAJ) Collection but is still at work organizing it and is not (to the best of my knowledge) accepting donations of amateur journals apart from the continuing bundles from AAPA and NAPA. There are of course other institutional collections of amateur journals (e.g., those at the Western Reserve Historical Society [Brodie Collection] in Cleveland, Ohio, the Bancroft Library of the University of California [Bradofsky Collection] in Berkeley, California and the New York Public Library [Tryout Smith Collection]) but most of these collections are closed collections not accepting new donations.

Long, continuous runs of well-organized association bundles (let's say for example a complete collection of AAPA bundles 1969-1993) will usually have some interest for amateur collectors. Poorly-organized loose material is generally more difficult to dispose of. If the association involved is continuing, its official organ may be willing to carry notice of a collection available for donation. Both AAPA and NAPA issue periodic electronic bulletins (edited by Ivan Snyder and Bill Boys, respectively) and these have also published notices of material (both journals and printing equipment) available for sale or donation in the past. The Fossil is certainly willing to run notices of significant amateur journal collections available for donation although all arrangements are the responsibility of donor and donee. If you want more than the shipping cost for your materials, the best advice I can offer is to offer them for sale on E-Bay or another such venue.

As for institutional donations, the important point to realize is that the processing cost for small, loose material like amateur journals is very high. Few institutions can afford to acquire and to catalog such material. Long runs of well-organized association bundles are probably a more viable donation for most institutions than loose amateur journals. Sometimes a special focus can make a collection of loose amateur journals attractive to an institution—e.g., the collection of the late Fossil President Hyman Bradofsky was very strong both in nineteenth-century material and in California material (over 1,000 California titles). These strengths helped an antiquarian bookseller working with the Bradofsky Estate to place his



collection with UCAL-Berkeley. A collection centered on the work of a notable amateur writer (e.g., Edith Minner, Burton Crane, H. P. Lovecraft) could well be attractive to a number of institutions. A strong run of **locally-published** amateur journals could well be of interest to local historical societies—e.g., if you owned a long run of amateur journals published in Cincinnati, Ohio it is likely that the Cincinnati Historical Society would have an interest in your collection.

Individual amateur journalists themselves are of course usually more sophisticated than institutions in terms of the fruits of their hobby. Long runs of notable ajay titles, bound volumes of association official organs, and associational material (e.g., convention programs and badges) often find their way to the auctions held for the benefit of the associations at their annual conventions. Some of the associations will now accept “sharing” donations where the donor specifies the percentage of the proceeds to go to the association and the complimentary percentage to go to the donor. However, it is doubtful that poorly-organized “loose” material of recent vintage will even pay for the donor’s shipping costs. While ajay auction bidders are known to pay very competitive prices for desirable material, other less desirable material has been known to sell for “bargain basement” prices.

So what to do with a more general collection of amateur journals from the last twenty years or so? If neither donations to another amateur journalist nor sale through a venue like E-Bay have proven feasible, your choices are probably more limited. Of course, the best advice is to enjoy your amateur journals in your own home as long as you can. If you have to downsize or relocate, cherry-picking those that you like the best to take with you is always a possibility. One continuing disposition methodology—other than simple recycling—is to find a local institution which welcomes donations of reading material. This often works better for small, continuing donations than for large, one-time donations. Nursing homes are an example of institutions which will sometimes welcome reading material. Some local libraries now actively sell their discarded books and periodicals and many also have shelves of “free” material—such a library may allow you to add ajay material (preferably in bundle form) to such shelves of “free” material. Used bookstores may also have shelves or boxes of “free” or very inexpensive (e.g., 10-cent) material and the owner may be willing to allow you to donate ajay bundles for such offerings. Some of these disposition methodologies may even have recruiting potential for the hobby if the donated material falls into the right hands.

Always remember that **your** amateur journals are the fruits of **your** participation in the hobby and are therefore at **your** sole disposition. I hope I will not be convicted of ajay heresy if I say that loose ajay miscellaneous material with no other apparent destination is honorably disposed of in the paper recycling bin. If you still have room for your amateur journalism collection, it is **not** irresponsible to leave disposition decisions to the executor or the administrator of your estate. He or she may have no particular knowledge of amateur journalism, but usually a competent executor or administrator will have any large accumulation of books or other paper material reviewed by a bookseller. If a miscellaneous collection of recent-vintage material is destined for the recycling bin, it may be less wrenching to leave that decision for an executor or an administrator. Of course, if you are thinking of making a disposition of your collection by will, always remember that any individual or institution can always refuse bequeathed property. So, it is well to make arrangements in advance if you wish to dispose of a collection by bequest. A living donation is often a better choice unless you truly do wish to continue to enjoy your collection during the remainder of your lifetime.

I think that many amateur journalists regard the fruits of our hobby (that is, our journals) with a reverence only slightly less than they accord to their national emblems. Others may enjoy reading their ajay bundles but recycle them after reading and do not retain them as a collection. We need to recognize the legitimacy of different choices regarding retention and disposition of amateur journals. At the same time, we need to be realistic about the collecting habits of potential donee institutions. Today, many public

libraries keep only a “revolving” collection of printed books consisting mostly of popular titles and a fairly sparse collection of printed reference material. More and more of the “information” content of libraries is gravitating toward the electronic domain, as one can tell by the profusion of computer terminals now present in most public libraries. Libraries at institutions of higher learning tend to have a somewhat different focus but all librarians are painfully aware of limited budgets and the high cost of processing material for acquisition. Unless you are the lucky owner of a jay material of unique historical interest—what Lovecraft collector, individual or institutional, would not leap at the opportunity to obtain a complete collection of the UAPA faction (1912-26) to which Lovecraft himself belonged—the reality is that fellow a jays and individual collectors are likelier to be interested in your material than institutions.

However, the future probably holds developments which would surprise us today. When and if a first large collection of amateur journals is digitalized by an institutional owner and made available on the Internet the collecting dynamic for institutional collectors of a jay material may change. We could eventually witness the emergence of one or more “omnivore” institutional collectors of amateur journals, willing to accept any and all donations of amateur journals, with the promise of evaluation and addition to their digitalized material as appropriate. At least some of these institutions would probably keep an example of each original paper journal on an archival basis. Digitalization can capture many aspects of an original ink-on-paper product, but the binding, the paper, the very impress of the type on paper are aspects that only the paper originals can capture fully. Of course, we need also to realize that the medium which amateur journalists use for their creations may change in the future as well. Polished electronic magazines in PDF format are already very much with us. Internet discussion groups and bulletin boards are other ways that individuals can express their thoughts in tangible form. When The Fossils were negotiating the transfer of LAJ to UW-Madison Special Collections, Curator Robin E. Rider told me that professional librarians are already wrestling with the challenges posed by cultural contributions created in new media. An Internet posting of significant interest created in 2011 may be gone within a short space of months if the poster loses hosting computer privileges. Saving material of this kind is another aspect of the collecting problem posed by small, loose magazines such as amateur journals.

My final word to the owner of amateur journals, therefore, is not to despair over lack of interest in your materials when the time for disposition has come. Take advantage of the many communications opportunities embedded in our associations to try to find another amateur journalist willing to assume responsibility for your material. If you cannot find such an individual, do not be afraid to continue to enjoy your amateur journal collection and to leave disposition decisions to your executors. If you must reduce the size of your collection, do not be afraid to select what you like the best and to dispose honorably of the remainder. It is possible, although unlikely, that the recycling of an a jay collection may result in the “this-worldly” death of one or more publications—that is, the destruction of the last surviving copy of a particular amateur journal. The journals of a common man or woman may die just as their creators do. For me, this is all part of the fascination of our hobby of the printed word, which amateur journalists like Ethel May Johnston-Myers have so cherished.

If any of our readers have other ideas regarding the disposition of amateur journalism collections, I would be happy to publish your thoughts in a future number of The Fossil. A finished article is not necessary. A letter of comment that you are willing to see published in The Fossil is most welcome. I thank Fossil Kent Clair Chamberlain for raising the issue of the disposition of collections of amateur journals. I believe it is an important topic for discussion among amateur journalists. If we subject the topic to a hobby-wide discussion, I think we will all carry away more wisdom than we started with.

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## **THE FOSSILS**

**<http://www.thefossils.org/>**

This journal is the Official Organ of The Fossils, a non-profit organization whose 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. To this end, The Fossils preserved the Library of Amateur Journalism, a repository of amateur papers and memorabilia dating from the 1850s, acquired in 1916 and donated in 2004 to the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin Library, Room 976, Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. (The Library of Amateur Journalism Collection is not yet open for use at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.) Dues are \$15 annually—\$20 for joint membership of husband and wife. Annual subscription to The Fossil without privileges of membership is \$10. Please make remittances payable to The Fossils, and mail to the Secretary-treasurer.



**Stan Oliner sorting Amateur journals at the American Antiquarian Society**  
Credit: Vincent Golden, American Atiquarian Society