All Kinds Blintzes Press: “Gifts that nobody would expect” from Two Retired Academics Who Don’t Play Golf
by Hannah Charlton & Khanh Vo

See, the scheme for it was... it would be a line like a cafeteria, but at the first station of the line was where the pancake itself would be made. Somebody would make it for you—pour the batter and flip it and then hand it to you. Then as you go down, there are stations for different fillings. You put the filling in and at the end they roll it up. And we would call it All Kinds Blintzes...

Had Bruce Kellner and Joel Farber been serious, that would have been the story of All Kinds Blintzes. Instead, Bruce Kellner and J. Joel Farber's joking “scheme to drive [their] wives mad lent its name to a much more serious and fulfilling endeavor.

Since 1998, Kellner, a retired Millersville English professor, and Farber, a retired Franklin & Marshall classics professor, had been running a private, two-man printing project under the name All Kinds Blintzes Press. July 2008 marked the “retirement” of the press, which, over the past ten years produced 60 chapbooks. A charming characteristic of AKB publications was that it only made 26 copies of each and lettered them A through Z. Significantly, this small-scale, private press raised nearly $15,000 for charity.

The press began as an experimental project combining Kellner and Farber's interests in literature, graphic design, and bookmaking. Before their first publication, Farber had expressed interest in graphic design. "I'm not a professional but I loved it," explained Farber. At the same time, Kellner had an unpublished essay by Carl Van Vechten entitled The Rape of the Madonna Della Stella, which described the theft of Fra Angelico's painting. Taking the essay and a color plate of the painting, Farber...
experimented in page layout, illustration, and watermarks. Kellner stitched it together and covered it in beautiful wrappers. The result was the first publication under the name All Kinds Blintzes Press.

"After we did the first one, it was such fun. But we didn’t really think of doing another one until my wife’s father’s papers that had been kept in the KGB files were released. [...] So Bruce said we really have to make a book out of this.” Kellner and Farber’s second chapbook, called The Underwood in its Gulag, traces the arrest and expulsion from the Soviet Union of Bruno Sachs, an Austrian Jewish metallurgist who was working as an engineer within the Soviet automobile industry. In some ways more interesting than Sachs’ story, however, was that of his Underwood typewriter, which had been confiscated. After his release from Lubyanka Prison and before emigrating to America, Sachs began a series of inquiries in an effort to regain his confiscated property—including the Underwood typewriter. Although the typewriter was never returned, Sachs’ attempts produced a bureaucratic tangle of paper correspondence that was larger than the original file concerning Sachs’ investigation. The whole story attests to the ponderously slow but complicated inner workings of the Soviet bureaucracy.

The third publication was a collection of three essays by Charles Demuth, Lancaster’s famous artistic “native son.” Proceeds from the chapbook went to the Demuth Foundation. In addition to the 26 copies printed by Kellner and Farber, the Foundation printed an additional 100 copies. Over the next ten years, AKB did several projects that benefited the Demuth Foundation.

After the Charles Demuth publication, the libraries at both Franklin & Marshall College and Millersville University expressed interest in collecting future AKB books. Much of the proceeds collected for charity came from these two subscriptions. Many other copies were also given to friends as gifts. As Farber put it: “That was the pleasure of it. To give these gifts that nobody would expect. Strange things that nobody had ever heard of.” Indeed, many of the topics Kellner and Farber chose were unexpected and unknown. Some of their sources were taken from unpublished materials, including works by Gertrude Stein, records from a sixth-century C.E. Egyptian family, and an account of Oscar Wilde’s burial. Other AKB books were based on rare books found in the Millersville Archives and Special Collections. Kellner and Farber’s personal academic interests in 1920s culture and in classics, respectively, also informed a number of their publications: What they chose to print represented whatever piqued their interest at the time. Although they sometimes created order lists, as Kellner explained, “something would turn up that got us really excited, so we’d do that first.” AKB explored a wide range of topics, jumping from Classical Greek history to modern American writers and unusual cookbooks. Some titles include: The Two Zuzim Coloring Book; Five Mimes of Herondas; 23 Psalms 23; Ladies of the Folly Burlesk in Memoriam; Dynasty on the Nile; and Butch & Tenn & Stinky, Notes by Donald Windham.

Most of the time, the topic of the book helped determine which charity received the proceeds. Because Kellner and Farber never charged for their chapbooks, they encouraged recipients to donate $200 to a related and specified non-profit organization. For example, proceeds from The Eskimo From The Innards Organs Offal and Appendages Cookbook
Cook Book went to the Alaska Center for Children and Adults, Lyrics and Blues by Langston Hughes went to the Langston Hughes Memorial Library, and Leda, Variations on a Theme (the story of Leda and the swan) went to Planned Parenthood. “This was our substitution for doing good works,” explained Kellner.

Because they claimed no profit, Kellner and Farber absorbed all of the production costs. As self-described “retired academics who don’t play golf,” they spent their money on ink, paper, and thread rather than on “greens fees, clubs, plus fours and the nineteenth hole.” All of the books are characterized by beautiful covers made from specialty papers that came from a variety of sources, including The Art Store, Jill Snyder—a local marbleized paper artist*, a hardware store in San Francisco, and a consortium of women in Bangladesh (the proceeds of that particular book went back to the consortium). The paper inside the books was provided by Art Printing Co. in Lancaster, usually for only a small fee.

Farber was responsible for arranging the text and the illustrations on the computer using Adobe PageMaker, a layout program for small-scale publication. In order to fine-tune and manipulate the images, Farber used Adobe Photoshop and a Wacom Tablet—a sometimes tricky process. After the pages were printed, Kellner hand-sewed each book.

The ten-year evolution of All Kinds Blintzes Press was a learning experience for Kellner and Farber as they gained new technical production skills. But it was also a creative exploration—opening for their readers a small window into a number of historic, linguistic, literary and artistic worlds.

Kellner and Farber’s collection of correspondence, drafts, and preparatory materials for All Kinds Blintzes Press now resides in Archives and Special Collections at Millersville University’s Ganser Library. Remaining copies of AKB books can be purchased at DogStar Books at 529 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster.

Khanh Vo is a student assistant in Archives and Special Collections. She is majoring in history and secondary education-social studies.

Hannah Charlton will be starting her fourth year as a student assistant in Archives and Special Collections. She is majoring in history and anthropology/archaeology.

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News

Recent Events

Friends Fall Lecture: September 9, 2008
Dr. Robert J. Bresler spoke on the impact of 20th-century wars on American presidential politics (World War II through Iraq). The Friends Fall Lecture continues a more than 25-year tradition of lectures.

All Kinds Blintzes exhibit, created by Archives & Special Collections student assistants Hannah Charlton and Khanh Vo, features the local press All Kinds Blintzes, the collaborative venture of Bruce Kellner (retired faculty, Millersville) and Joel Farber (retired faculty, F & M). On the first floor of the library near the living room, the exhibit will run through October 31, 2008. A reception for the exhibit was held on September 16. See the lead article for more information about the press.

National Book Festival, September 27, 2008
The Friends of Ganser Library is sponsoring a bus trip to the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 27. The annual event draws continuing interest from university and community members. This year is no exception with two buses full of eager participants.

Mark Your Calendars

Book Sale, March 9-11, 2009, Ganser Library
The annual Friends of Ganser Library Book Sale will be held Monday, March 9 through Wednesday, March 11, with a preview sale on Sunday, March 8. The three-day sale offers a great selection of high-quality used books. We are always interested in receiving new volumes for the sale, particularly juvenile, art, music, and collectible books. Contact Marilyn Parrish (872-3633) if you would like to donate books for the sale, or to arrange for books to be picked up.

Friends Spring Banquet, April 7, 2009
The Friends Spring Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 6 p.m. in the Bolger Conference Center. Make plans now to attend the banquet and presentation on the Amish response to school violence by Dr. Diane Umble (Communication & Theatre) and Mr. Hermann Bontrager of Goodville Insurance. For more information call 872-3624.
Conservation Update

The spring 2007 issue of the Friends Folio highlighted the need for repair and restoration of volumes from the University Archives. Over the past two years, 10 volumes from the University Archives have been sent to the Center for Conservation of Art and Historical Artifacts in Philadelphia for cleaning and repair. Conservators at CCAHA clean and repair rare materials from libraries across the country. For example, CCAHA is currently treating 1,250 Pennsylvania Civil War Muster Rolls from the Pennsylvania State Archives, and has begun a project with SOLINET to preserve photographs documenting the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Rebecca Smyrl, conservator, describes the process used for cleaning the volumes we sent:

“The covers and endleaves were mechanically released from the textblocks and vacuumed to reduce mold. The spines were cleaned of old linings and adhesive residues using poultices of methylcellulose. The textblock edges and text leaves were surface cleaned with natural rubber sponges and solid white vinyl erasers. The inks were tested with magnesium oxide in perflouroalkane (Bookkeeper) and were found stable. The text was then deacidified non-aqueously with a spray of Bookkeeper. Tears in the text leaves were mended with mulberry paper and wheat starch paste. New endsheets of Doves grey paper were sewn to the textblock at the original sewing stations using linen thread. The spines were consolidated with wheat starch paste and lined with mulberry paper and wheat starch paste, then with Western paper and airplane cotton using PVAc (Jade 403).

The books were covered in new cloth case bindings. Spine labels were gold-stamped on Moriki paper and adhered with a wheat starch paste/PVAc mixture. Loose items found were surface cleaned, placed in mylar sleeves, and returned to their original locations in the text.

The cleaned and repaired volumes have been in almost constant use since they returned, as they have assisted us in identifying the original books purchased by the Page and Normal Literary Societies, many of which have remained in the library collection.

For more information on the fascinating work underway at CCAHA, go to: www.ccaha.org/

Treasures from the Archives  by Janet Dotterer

Herbert B. Groff was a student at the Millersville State Normal School from 1888 to 1891. He kept a copy book that included words to numerous popular songs. He seems to have especially liked Civil War themed songs, such as: Battle Cry of Freedom, Death of President Lincoln, Marching through Georgia, Dixie’s Sunny Land and Sherman’s march to the Sea. He included his favorite song, Just before the Battle, written in his copy book on February 14, 1888. This song is attributed to George F. Root and was written in 1862. The final verse of the song is:

Hark, I hear the bugles sounding,
’Tis the signal for the fight;
Now may God protect us Mother,
As he ever does the right;
Hear the “Battle cry of Freedom,”
How it swells upon the air;
Oh, yes, we’ll rally around our standard,
Or we’ll perish nobly there.

Also included are two original poems by Mr. Groff: To the Children of Chestnut Grove, dated Oct. 6, 1891 and Under the Banner of Chestnut Grove, dated Jan. 16, 1892, which was to be sung to the tune of Marching through Georgia.
Becoming a Friend

People become Friends of Ganser Library when they make a donation to Millersville University and request mailings from the Friends. Encourage your friends to become Friends of Ganser Library through their support of Millersville University. For more information, contact the Millersville University Development Office at (717) 872-3820.

Digital Collections

Abolition and Slavery in the US
deila.dickinson.edu/slaveryandabolition/

Jim Gerencser at Dickinson College and Marilyn Parrish from Millersville’s Archives & Special Collections received an LSTA collaborative digitization grant for $27,000 to digitize nineteenth century print materials related to abolition and slavery. Grant funds paid for the work of project coordinator Cara Holtry, history students Corey Korinda and Caroline Radesky from Dickinson College, and history student Terri Monserrat from Millersville. The project began in fall 2007 and will be launched this October during Archives Month. Both institutions contributed books and pamphlets to create a digital resource center about slavery and abolition. Faculty members Tracey Weis and Leroy Hopkins at Millersville and Matt Pinsker at Dickinson assisted in identifying and prioritizing texts to digitize. Over 14,000 pages were digitized in this project and additional funding is being sought to add to the collection. A digital launch for the collection will be held at Ganser Library on Oct. 30. Call 872-3633 for more information.

Students Use Archives & Special Collections for Research Projects

Archives & Special Collections continues to be a busy place for students and researchers. From May 2007 – May 2008, we received over 2540 visits to our area. During spring semester 2008, over 320 students from 20 classes used Archives & Special Collections for class work and research projects. Multiple oral history training sessions were offered for 3 classes (about 50 students) working on the Women’s Commission 20th anniversary oral history project with Dr. Rita Smith-Wade-El, Dr. Tracey Weis, and Dr. Barb Stengel.

Students in Dr. Carla Rineer’s English 110 class focused on evidence surrounding a moment in time as the basis for creative essays and research papers. Dr Rineer’s English 237 class examined examples of primary sources, particularly focusing on the relationship between the content and format of texts.

Dr. Lesley Colabuccio’s WSTU 220 class explored gender and societal values as demonstrated through schoolbooks, evidence related to teacher training, and books about the home.

Students in Dr. Tanya Kevorkian’s History 406 class investigated examples of Pennsylvania German publications from the rare book collection.

Students from Prof. Monica Spiese’s History 105 classes were introduced to primary source research using materials in our collection which could serve as the basis for their research papers.

Dr. Kasia Jakubiak’s English 110 classes investigated primary sources that demonstrated the impact of physical place on larger political or social issues.

Dr. Cheryl Desmond’s students examined primary sources related to the history of teacher education, examining issues particularly related to gender.

Dr. Carrie Smith’s Sociology 317 investigated conceptions of health in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in books about health, hygiene and the home from the Wickersham collection.
Recent Additions

Each issue of the Folio lists acquisitions made possible through funding from the Friends of Ganser Library. Here are highlights of some of the new materials added to the collection.

Home, Health & Food

In 1869 Catherine E. Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote *The American Woman’s Home: Or Principles of Domestic Science; Being a Guide to the Formation and Maintenance of Economical Healthful, Beautiful, and Christian Homes*. The well-known authors dedicated the book to “the women of America, in whose hands rest the real destinies of the Republic, as moulded by the early training and preserved amid the mature influences of home.” Chapters focus on scientific domestic ventilation, home decoration, domestic exercise, healthful food, early rising, care of servants, earth-closets, care of the homeless, the helpless and the vicious, and the Christian neighborhood.

Helen Robertson, Sarah MacLeod, and Frances Preston collaborated on the book *What Do We Eat Now? A Guide to War-time Housekeeping*, published in Philadelphia in 1942 by J.P. Lippincott. Addressing the challenges of managing family finances and food shortages during wartime, the authors cover subjects such as patriotic economy, stretching the food dollar, substantial dishes with little or no meat, and canning. The foreword states: “‘What can I contribute to the war effort?’ is the question on the mind of every loyal American homemaker. The answer for many of us can be found right on our doorsteps—in managing the home well.” (p. v).

*Woman’s Institute Library of Cookery* in five volumes was published by the Woman’s Institute of Domestic Arts and Sciences in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1925. The editors note their hope that the set “will help the housewife to acquire the knowledge needed to prepare daily meals that will contain the proper sustenance for each member of her family, teach her how to buy her food judiciously and prepare and serve it economically and appetizingly, and also instill in her such a liking for cookery that she will become enthusiastic about mastering and dignifying this womanly art.” (p. iv).

*Building of Vital Power* by Bernarr MacFadden was published by Physical Culture Publishing Company in 1904. MacFadden was a well-known proponent of physical culture, nutrition, exercise and body building. His preface states “My friends do you realize the meaning of VITAL POWER? Have you ever experienced that superabundance of health which breeds an intense satisfaction with life and all living things?...Are you filled with a sense of exhilaration, almost amounting to intoxication? If not, you do not possess the subtle force of life in all its pristine strength!” MacFadden covers subjects such as blood and vitality, the vast importance of water, the heart made powerful, perfect ventilation, erroneous methods of breathing, clothing, the dry friction bath, and strengthening the kidneys.

*Chapbook: a small book containing ballads, poems, tales or tracts*  (Merriam Webster Online)
For Children & Families

Johnny Gilpin’s *Diverting Journey to Ware* is a brightly illustrated chapbook published in Harrisburg by G. S. Peters in the 1836. Based on the 1782 poem by William Cowper, each page illustrates a different part of the ballad that tells the story of John Gilpin, a wealthy 18th-century draper who became separated from his wife and children on a trip.

*Little Pet’s Chatterbox* was published in Chicago and New York by Belford, Clarke & Co., in 1884 as part of the Chatterbox series for children. These volumes were intended to be read by early readers or by parents to their young children. This profusely illustrated annual includes stories and poems about seasons, animals, and family life.

Jacob Abbott wrote *Rollo at Play; Or Safe Amusements* in 1855 in Boston, number 4 of the 14-volume Rollo Series, considered one of the first fictional series for children. Abbott was the author of more than 130 books. In a Notice to Parents, the author states that the book is intended to help “in cultivating the thinking powers...promoting the progress of children in reading...[and] in cultivating the amiable and gentle qualities of the heart.”

*Babyland* was published by the editors of Wide Awake, D. Lathrop & Co on Franklin and Hawley Streets in Boston. The bound volume of 12 issues from 1884 contains stories, poems, and illustrations geared toward early readers. A seven-page illustrated catalog is included at the back of the volume.

The temperance chapbook *The Still and the Spring* was published by the American Sunday School Union in Philadelphia in 1850. A conversation between a father and son, the eight-page book serves as a warning about the dangers of drink.

*The Traveller’s Story; Or the Village Bar-Room*, published in New York by Kiggins and Kellogg in 1856, tells the story of a family’s demise as a result of the village bar-room. The 16-page chapbook ends: “Intemperance had finished its work. This ruined family were its first victims in our hitherto peaceful and happy valley. And it soon was generally admitted by the sober and reflecting, that the shortest road to destruction, both in this world and the next, lay through the village bar-room!”

Education

Thomas Kite & Co. of Philadelphia printed T.R. Friedlander's pamphlet *Observations on the Instruction of Blind Persons in a Letter to Roberts Vaux, John Vaughan, and Robert Walsh, Esquires*, in 1833. Friedlander establishes his argument for the necessity of a school for the blind by introducing prominent Philadelphians to the educational accomplishments of blind individuals through history, as well as initiatives underway in other cities to develop institutions for the blind. Two testimonials are included on the last of the eight pages, attesting to Friedlander's abilities as a teacher.

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Estelle Reel was appointed by President William McKinley as Superintendent of Indian Schools in 1898, a position she held until 1910. In this position, Reel developed a curriculum for a standard approach to education at the Indian Schools across the country. Her book, *Course of Study for the Indian Schools of the United States*, published in 1901, outlines the approach necessary to “give the Indian child a knowledge of the English language, and to equip him with the ability to become self-supporting as speedily as possible.” Focusing on manual training, the volume covers subjects such as agriculture, arithmetic, harness making, music, shoemaking, upholstering, and writing. Photographs demonstrate how students engage in each subject area.