The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America, by David Hajdu, is the last book in an informal trilogy about American popular culture at mid-century, and radically revises common notions of popular culture, the generation gap, and the divide between “high” and “low” art.

A Twin Cities appearance by David Hajdu is on Tuesday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m. in 120 Elmer L. Andersen Library.

A dessert reception follows the talk, during which Hajdu will autograph books available for purchase courtesy of the Red Balloon Bookshop.

This special event is part of an evening celebration honoring John Borger and his 2008 gift of almost 40,000 comic books to the Children’s Literature Research Collections.

The talk and reception are free and open to the public. Reservations are recommended. Please contact Lanaya Stangret at (612) 624-9339 or stangret@umn.edu.
FROM THE KERLAN FRIENDS PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

With the forthcoming Kerlan Friends Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 3:30-4:00 p.m. at Andersen Library, it is time to review the activities of our busy board.

Last summer, as the new board president, I re-shaped the committees to clarify their tasks and enable them to act more independently. The board meets quarterly and it is important that the structure allows committee activity to continue between meetings. Our present committees are: Marketing & Publicity (chaired by Joyce Sidman); Education & Outreach (Becky Rapport); Membership (Marcia Reardon); and the Kerlan Award Committee (Jean Stevenson). The chairs touch base with me, and if board approval is needed for an idea I send out an e-mail to expedite action.

Marketing & Publicity’s early efforts focused on the 2008 Kerlan Calendar, which many of you are enjoying on your walls. I’ll be sad to say goodbye to Lauren Stringer’s curvaceous violet and green fish as May closes, but delighted to have Arnold Lobel’s organized mother bunny to keep me company in June. This project trumpeted the beauty and variety of the Kerlan’s holdings while demonstrating the full artistic process, from sketches and drafts to final publication. While it earned some money despite marketing challenges, the prospect of repeating the project for 2009 was too daunting. Our marketing attention has turned to the note cards, which also offer glimpses of the collection’s materials to those who send and receive them. The committee has overseen an upgrade of note card packaging, pricing, and improved display and signage at events. Hooray!

Education & Outreach efforts are focused on renewing our connection into classrooms. Changes in school funding and academic focus have made field trips and portfolio rentals more difficult. We will survey teachers in the months ahead and continue development of online portfolios, which are both accessible and inexpensive, though they take time and expertise to produce.

The Membership Committee is developing a regular schedule for renewal letters and a system for efficiently tracking membership status. They are also taking the lead in planning more members-only events, like the “KF Member Appreciation Day” coming this November (see page 8). Now is a great time to join—or re-join—the Kerlan Friends!

The Kerlan Award Committee deserves congratulations on a wonderful 2008 ceremony. Walter Dean Myers gave a powerful, thought-provoking talk, and attendees were treated to Jean Stevenson’s cogent overview of the life and work of Robert Kraus, as well as the reminiscences of Kraus’s widow, Pamela, who attended the ceremony with the couples’ two sons.

A big thank you to our creative and dedicated board, with special appreciation to Lee Galda, Becky Rapport, and Marcia Reardon, who will be stepping down this summer after two terms each of extraordinary service. Many thanks for all the good work.

In closing, I would like you to know that I am stepping down from my role as President, but will remain on the board as an active Kerlan supporter. The fall newsletter will announce your new leadership. Until then, have a wonderful summer. Make time to step out of the heat to spend an afternoon in the Kerlan.

—Martha Davis Beck

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CHILDREN’S LITERATURE EVENTS

24 June—Kerlan Friends Annual Meeting
3:30-4:00 p.m. 120 Andersen Library, see page 1 for details.

24 June—2008 Chase Lecture
4:30-6:30 p.m. 120 Andersen Library, see page 1 for details.

25 June—Jan Spivey Gilchrist Talk
2:00-3:00 p.m. 120 Andersen Library. This well-known African American author and illustrator, who will teach for the Split Rock Arts Program this summer, will speak about her own art and creative process. Art for Gilchrist's For the Love of the Game: Michael Jordan and Me (1997), and I Can Draw a Weeposaur and Other Dinosaurs (2001), among other titles is held in the Kerlan. Selections will be on display. Free and open to the public.

27-28 June—2008 Midwest Used Book Fair
Progress Center on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. For more information, call (651) 646-1932.

7 July—Author Natalie Bober Visit
Noted author of historical biographies for young adult readers, Bober, will visit to peruse her work. Bober manuscripts in the Kerlan include Let’s Pretend: Poems of Flight and Fancy (1968), Abigail Adams (1995), and Thomas Jefferson: Draftsman of a Nation (2007). If you would like to meet her, the time will be posted to the CLRC website <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/whatsnew.php> or call (612) 624-4576.

8 July—Borger Collection & David Hajdu Event
7:30 p.m. 120 Andersen Library, see page 1 for details.

6 September—9th Annual Celebration of Minnesota Children's Authors and Illustrators
12:30-5 p.m. Anderson Center in Red Wing, MN. For more information call 651-388-2009, email info@andersoncenter.org, or visit the center’s website: <http://www.andersoncenter.org/events.htm>.

14 October—Book Week Lecture by Joyce Sidman
6:30 p.m. 120 Andersen Library. Manuscripts for Sidman's Just Us Two: Poems About Dads (2000), and Eureka! Poems About Inventors (2002) are held in the Kerlan. Selections will be exhibited. This lecture is free and open to the public.

14-16 October—Book Week Displays
Daily in 120 Andersen Library. Free and open to the public. More details will be included in the Fall newsletter.

15 November—Member Appreciation Day
10:00-1:00 p.m. 120 Andersen Library, see page 8 for details on this Kerlan Friends only special event.

KERLAN COLLECTION ART EXHIBITION APPEARANCES

U of MN Andersen Gallery
http://www.cbi.umn.edu/News/exhibit.html
222 - 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Call (612) 624-5050 or email cbi@umn.edu
Includes original art by Aliki and manuscript material by Eve Merriam from the Kerlan Collection.

Tweed Museum of Art
Wanda Gág: Fall 2008
http://www.d.umn.edu/tma/exhibitions/
University of Minnesota Duluth
1201 Ordean Court, Duluth, MN 55812
Call (218) 726-7823 or e-mail tma@d.umn.edu

Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
Seeking A State of Grace: The Art of Arnold Lobel:
March 22-June 15, 2008
http://www.picturebookart.org/Lobel/#E382
125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA 01002
Spring and Summer 2009 exhibits feature Tomie de Paola and Virginia Lee Burton art from the collection.
Call (413) 658-1100 or email info@picturebookart.org

Watercolor illustration by Tomie de Paola for Big Anthony and the Magic Ring (Scholastic, 1982)
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

These materials have been donated by the creators, their families, or third parties. Titles of recent acquisitions are not listed if previously reported in a newsletter. Key: MS — manuscripts, IL — illustrations; published titles are indicated by italics.

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Libraries: 86 flyers, posters, bookmarks, and children’s books ephemera (duplicates from special collections).

J. Randolph Cox: 866 comic books; 149 series books

John Coy: MS Box Out

Christopher Paul Curtis: MS Bucking the Sarge

Laura French: MS The Dragon’s Ransom; Internet Pioneers: The Cyber-Elite; Trixie Belden and the Mystery at Maypenny’s; Trixie Belden and the Mystery of the Memorial Day Fire; Trixie Belden and the Mystery of the Velvet Gown

Jeanne K. Hanson: 7 books

Cynthia Kadohata: 4 international books

Lionel Johnson: 809 books

Barbara Joosse: MS Grandma Calls Me Beautiful; Please is a Good Word to Say

Christopher Lincoln: 1 copy of his Billy Bones: A Tale from the Secrets Closet

Melissa Lion: MS Upstream

Doris Orgel: MS Crazy Diamond

Linda Sue Park: MS A Single Shard; Archer’s Quest; Bee Bim Bop!; The Kite Fighters; Project Mulberry; Seesaw; When My Name Was Keoko; White Pants; and 5 international books

Ilse Plume: IL The Queen’s Necklace: a Swedish Folktale; The Velveteen Rabbit

Ellen Raskin: MS Unpublished: Mouse, Witch, Shades of Gray; “Ideas Notebook”; Records (financial papers, correspondence, biographical information, research materials, and other misc.)

Dana Reinhardt: MS Harmless

Graham Salisbury: MS Eyes of the Emperor; Night of the Howling Dogs

Marcus Sedgwick: MS The Foreshadowing; My Swordhand is Singing

Caroline Stevermer: MS River Rats

Kim Thorsen, Insignia Films: 1 DVD of PBS American Experience Kit Carson program

Mary Wagner: 22 international fairy tale books

Ellen Wittlinger: MS Blind Faith; Gracie’s Girl; Heart On My Sleeve; The Long Night of Leo and Bree; Lombardo’s Law; “Noodle Soup For Nincompoops,” published in 13: Thirteen Stories that Capture the Agony and Ecstasy of Being Thirteen; Noticing Paradise; Razzle; Sandpiper; “Stevie in the Mirror,” published in On the Edge: Stories at the Brink; What’s in a Name?; Zigzag

Publisher donations from: Afton Historical Society Press; Farrar Strauss & Giroux; Harcourt Houghton Mifflin; HarcourtCollins; Marshall Cavendish; Oxford University Press; Scholastic, Inc.

KERLAN FRIENDS RENEWALS, NEW MEMBERS AND GIFTS

Kerlan Friends Renewals, New Members, and Gifts since the Spring newsletter (April 22-May 15, 2008):
Patricia S. Belian, Patricia E. Celebcigil, Dr. Kathie K. Cerra, Gertie Geck, Phyllis A. Haensel, Margaret L. Hall, S. Aino M. Husen, Marjorie L. Jenkins, Dr. Jeffrey & Denise Kerlan, Joan O. Mason, Lynn Middleton-Koller, Bette Peltola (in memory of Edward B. Stanford), James D. Postier, Virginia G. Puzak, Leslie Greaves Radloff, Marcia M. Reardon, Helen Rudie, Erin Shea, Dr. Ruth M. Stein, Jean M. Stevenson (to support travel for Pamela Kraus to Kerlan Award ceremony), Lois M. Van-Dyck, Mary Lou Voigt

Donations to the Kerlan Collection, April 22-May 15, 2008:
Doris H. Arnold, Nan P. Lightner, Red Balloon Bookshop

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For the second consecutive year, the Kerlan Collection Professional Development Morning preceded the Annual Kerlan Award Lunch and Ceremony. This year’s pair of events were held on Saturday, May 10, 9-3 p.m.

Dr. Becky Rapport, faculty in the University of Minnesota’s Curriculum and Instruction Department, coordinated and led the morning session that offered those interested in children’s literature a closer look at the process an author and illustrator go through to produce a final product. Local author Lise Lunge-Larsen spoke exuberantly about her collaboration with Betsy Bowen on *The Troll with No Heart*. Original materials from the Kerlan Collection of Karen Hesse, William Steig, Katherine Paterson, Charles Mikolaycak, and Walter Dean Myers, were available for attendees to view and investigate.

Kafé 421 of Dinkytown catered a delicious lunch of hors d’oeuvres, salads, and deserts. The Red Balloon Bookshop and the Kerlan Friends sold books and notecards to guests. After the luncheon in 120 Andersen Library, the guests sojourned to 125 Willey Hall for the ceremony and speeches.

Curator Karen Nelson Hoyle opened the ceremony with a welcome to the audience and a short history of the award.

Kerlan Award Committee Chair, and U of MN-Duluth faculty member, Jean Stevenson began the ceremony with a thoroughly-researched overview of posthumous award-winner Robert Kraus’s life and literary career, complete with projected images of manuscript pages, illustration studies, and published books. Archives and Special Collections Director Kris Kiesling presented the award to the Kraus family, who expressed their gratitude and shared memories of the evening Kraus wrote *Leo the Late Bloomer*.

Prof. Lee Galda of the U of MN-Twin Cities Curriculum and Instruction Department gave a brief introduction of Walter Dean Myers as the 2008 Kerlan Award recipient. In his acceptance speech, Myers revealed that he writes five pages each morning to keep his creativity and productivity high. He discussed the changing future of children’s and young adult literature, the changes to his own sense of purpose as an author, as well as his broad scope of thematic matter, including most recently, the U.S. War in Iraq in *Sunrise Over Fallujah* (Scholastic, 2008).

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MINNESOTA!

May 17, 2008—ASC Director Kris Kiesling (right) and Exhibits Coordinator Darren Terpstra at the State Capitol preparing the third installation of “Becoming Minnesota.”

Entrance to the Minnesota History Center’s MN 150 exhibit in which public voting selected the top 150 people, places, things, and events of Minnesota to be honored.

Left—Number 79, Maud Hart Lovelace on display in MN 150. Below—Voted number 43, Wanda Gág.

Illustration facsimile from Barbara Knutson’s Love and Roast Chicken and Hazel Stockeler’s Paul Bunyan are displayed with the Minnesota Orchestra and other arts from the state under the “When We Imagine” banner in the “Becoming Minnesota” display.


The celebration began at the 2007 MN State Fair in the Fine Arts Building where “Becoming Minnesota” enlightened and engaged thousands of fair goers with replications of items from all Archives and Special Collections units of the University of Minnesota.
VOLUNTEER REFLECTIONS

Jim Eyer has been a volunteer with the Children's Literature Research Collections for over three years. Each Tuesday he arrives eager for whatever task awaits.

A few years ago, I signed up for an Elderhostel class held at the Children's Literature Research Collections. I went because it interested me, but I also had a hidden agenda: I was hoping to find a volunteer opportunity. The class consisted of eighteen retired school teachers and librarians, and me.

I did ask about volunteering, and began about three years ago. My first job was transcribing information about the original production materials in the library's Kerlan Collection from the hard copy into digital (EAD) finding aids. I spent months typing without viewing the manuscripts or art:

- 2 ink drawings for jacket
- 5 pencil drawings
- 1 pencil and ink drawing
- 3 pencil and ink drawings with 2 separations
- 5 pencil and ink drawings with 1 separation and so on and on and on, all to assist researchers locate holdings on the CLRC website.

Next, I was asked to do the same with the material in the Paul Bunyan Collection, except that now I got to deal with the material itself, which was much more interesting. One of the first things I learned is that in the early days Paul Bunyan was not so much a folk hero as he was a logo for a big logging company.

I was asked to record data on the series books. I had no idea so many had been written. They ranged in date from the post-Civil War period to the contemporary, and from titles like The Vassar Girls, The Motorcycle Chums, The Moving Picture Boys, and The Moving Picture Girls, to the more familiar Nancy Drew, and the interminable Sweet Valley High series.

Someone with more patience and talent could find a lot of academic thesis material in these books: dating customs, the changing roles of women, the development of technology, and life at boarding school. An interesting study for me would be the changing focus of humor from one minority group to another as each became more prominent in American life; all were subjected to ridicule at some point.

Another interesting thing I noted was the gift inscriptions on the title pages of these books. From handling hundreds of series books, I noted that this practice was common in the nineteenth century, but began to dwindle in the twentieth, and died out almost completely after World War II. Most of the inscriptions referred to birthdays or holidays, but many of them were “prizes” awarded by teachers to students for some accomplishment or other. A few of the inscriptions came close to bringing tears to my eyes—things like “to darling Susie, age 10, from her loving grandmother, October, 1895.” I hope Susie enjoyed the book, but, both Susie and grandmother are gone now, and I wondered, why was this book buried in a library, when it should have been a treasured family heirloom! I do tend to overreact sometimes.

A few other fascinating things, to me at least: did you know that Babe Ruth wrote a baseball story for boys? And Christy Matthewson (another old time baseball player) wrote a whole series of baseball stories? This whole project was so much fun I would almost have paid the library to be allowed to do it.

The current task, as of this writing, is recording the library’s collection of “pulp” novels donated by Don Osier. Most of the books in this project are Ace paperbacks from about the 1950s through the 1970s. The challenging part of this job is trying to describe the cover art accurately in three or four words. Some are easy: Gothic novels all have the same cover art—a woman running away from a gloomy mansion. The only variation is the color of the woman’s dress. At least she’s wearing one, which is not always the case with the covers on detective stories. Speaking of which, if one goes by the titles and the cover art, it seems the victims in the early detective stories were always women. I wonder why. Western covers are also easy to describe—usually one or more cowboys, with or without horses, sometimes shooting off guns, though sometimes the cowboy is replaced by a gambler. However, I defy anyone to come up with a brief and accurate description of the early science fiction covers, with their weird landscapes, monsters, and aliens.

These novels could provide ample fodder for research: the growth of science fiction from Martian monsters to more scientifically accurate stories about space; the same for westerns developing from “cowboys and Indians” to more mature themes. And there are always the more general cultural development themes, like when did characters start riding in cars instead of horse carriages, and when did they begin making long journeys in airplanes instead of trains, and how did these changes affect their lives?

Everyone should spend regular time in this library. It is absolutely fascinating.

—Jim Eyer, Spring 2008
KERLAN FRIENDS MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, November 15, 2008, 10:00-1:00 p.m., in 120 Andersen Library, 222 - 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota West Bank

The event, for Kerlan Friends only, will feature:
* a special presentation by illustrator Lauren Stringer, celebrating publication of her forthcoming picture book, Snow, with text by Cynthia Rylant (Harcourt Children’s Books, 2008)
* book signing and a special keepsake for attendees
* an opportunity to purchase Kerlan holiday cards
* lunch
* a tour of the Kerlan caverns

Mark this special occasion on your calendar now!
Further information will be available to Kerlan Friends this fall.

New Hours for the Andersen Library Reading Room

The second floor reading room has extended hours on Thursday evenings 4:30-8:00 p.m., except for official University holidays and breaks. All researchers must pre-register with the CLRC in order to use the space, as item retrieval is not available after 4:00 p.m. The CLRC’s public hours are Monday–Friday, from 8:30-4:30 p.m. Please call (612) 624-4576 or email clrc@umn.edu to make arrangements for a visit.

Park in the Municipal Ramp near the Holiday Inn Metrodome on Washington Avenue for $1.50/hour or in the University Lot C86 on 2nd Street for $2.50/first hour, $1.00/each additional hour. Many MetroTransit Bus lines stop within the area. Use Trip Planner on <http://metrotransit.org/>. Directions and other visitor information available on <http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/visitorinfo.php> or by calling (612) 624-4576.