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*First known bookplate, ca. 1450*



### **Ex Libris: Bookplates as Symbols of History, Art and Personality**

with Betsy Butler, Special Collections Librarian,  
Ohio Historical Society

--Main Library, Sunday, August 7, 2:00 p.m.

*This book is (John Doe's),*

*My fist is another,*

*You touch one,*

*And you'll feel the other.*

---An example of the "borrower beware" juvenile school of bookplate copy from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, distinguished artists and their patrons have given serious attention to the art form of bookplates. It represents a miniature art developed to adorn books and a convenient, individualized way for the book's owner to be identified. The bookplate, or *ex libris*, is a label placed on the inside of the front cover of a book. The words "ex libris" on a bookplate translate roughly from the Latin as "from the books of" or "from the library of."

Join Betsy Butler, Special Collections Librarian at the Ohio Historical Society on Sunday, August 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Main Library (Huenefeld Tower Room, third floor), 800 Vine Street, as she presents **Ex Libris: Bookplates as Symbols of History, Art and Personality**.

Betsy Butler holds an undergraduate degree in history from Sweet Briar College, a master's degree in journalism from The Ohio State University, and a master's degree in library and information science from Kent State University. Before becoming a librarian, Ms. Butler directed public relations for the law firm of Bricker & Eckler LLP, and was a freelance contributor to *Business First* of Columbus. She was recognized as one of *Business First's* *Forty Under 40* and the Columbus Junior Chamber of Commerce's *Ten Outstanding Young Citizens*.

Besides providing information about a book's owner, bookplates offer a glimpse of the history of engraving and the art of illustration. Whether featuring heraldic designs, homes, library interiors, or other pictorial scenes, bookplates often reflect the interests and personalities of their owners. This presentation focuses on the custom bookplates belonging to Ohioans that are in the collections of the Ohio Historical Society.

The program is in conjunction with the exhibit, *Contemporary World Ex Libris*, a traveling display from the American Society of Bookplate Collectors and Designers on view through August 10 in the Rare Book Department of the Main Library. It highlights the works of many contemporary artists from numerous countries around the world. The Library has a collection that contains over 1,000 bookplates, most from the 20th century.

Information: (513) 369-6957.

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✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4400 (TTY 369-4409).**

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**