

The Alice



The Alice

The Alice was established in 2013 by Joan K. Davidson, president of Furthermore, to honor her mother, Alice Manheim Kaplan. Alice loved and collected the illustrated book as a work of art in itself and an essential document of a civilized society.

This award is intended to buttress the kind of slow reading movement that recognizes and cherishes the lasting values of the well-made illustrated book, and the special meaning and sense of intimacy it affords. In the fast-changing publishing universe, with its ever rising costs, the continuing life of high-quality printed books will depend upon the determined commitment of writers, editors, designers and publishers, and their friends. It is to that heroic commitment—and the accomplished books that result from it—that the Alice is dedicated.

The presentation of the award in 2013 also marked Furthermore's record of financial assistance to some one thousand publications, for a total of \$5 million. The Alice carries an award of \$25,000.

Each year a jury of distinguished leaders in publishing and the arts selects the winning Alice book from the hundreds of eligible titles that have been honored with an award from Furthermore.

Furthermore grants in publishing is a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, it supports the publication of significant non-fiction books, and helps to keep them coming in the years ahead.

Alice M. Kaplan

Alice Kaplan was something!

Patron, scholar, and activist in the arts, she was elegant and talented. She fulfilled with grace the conventional roles of women of her time and position—and much more besides.

Alice had a keen, well-trained eye and an innate sense of beauty in all places. A competent and happy pianist and painter of portraits, she also enjoyed designing country landscapes and the domestic interiors of family and friends.

As trustee and vice-president of the J. M. Kaplan Fund since its founding by her husband, Jacob, in 1945, she urged the foundation to support music, dance, libraries, and the visual arts.

She was a member of the boards of museums and other cultural institutions, and the long-serving president of the American Federation of the Arts, where she developed many traveling exhibitions and produced an educational film, *The Art of Seeing*. She led the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the historic 1913 Armory Show.

Years earlier, on the beach at East Hampton with Eugene Thaw and a few other longstanding friends, she learned of the imminent demise of the Hewitt sisters' famous collection of decorative arts material. She went into high gear to help rescue this collection and with it establish what has become the Cooper Hewitt, National Design Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

At home, purely for the joy in the doing, she assembled a superb and very personal collection of works of art from many periods and cultures. (See Bantel: *The Alice M. Kaplan Collection*, Columbia University Press, 1981). Eventually she donated the majority of this collection to museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Yale University Art Galleries, and museums in Boston, Cambridge, Philadelphia, Newark, Chicago, and elsewhere.

In her sixties, Alice enrolled in Columbia University to earn a graduate degree in art history. One day, as she strolled the New York streets, galleries, antique shops, and second-hand stores she loved, she spotted an unsigned drawing leaning against a wall. She bought it and then mulled it over at length. She did research on it and discovered it to be the central portion of Jacques-Louis David's *Oath of Horatii*. The drawing now hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Alice was a familiar and welcome figure on New York's cultural scene (not above, once, making her own Rothko painting that fooled a prominent art critic), the grandmother of the seven Kaplan Fund trustees, and a distinguished contributor to the city she loved.

Alice M. Kaplan, born in 1904, died at her home in New York in 1995.

J. M. Kaplan Fund

Joan Davidson is pleased and proud that the Kaplan Fund, established in 1945 by her father, Jacob M. Kaplan, has successfully weathered three generations of family leadership. The fund is recognized for its imaginative, early, and critical support for needed new programs and organizations, and has largely focused on undertakings for the well-being of New York City and State. Among them: greenmarkets and neighborhood parks; Westbeth Artists Housing; Natural Resources Defense Council; Preservation League of New York; Municipal Art Society, Public Theater, New York Cares Coat Drive, Central, Prospect, and Riverside Park Conservancies, the saving of Carnegie Hall (in large part thanks to Jack Kaplan's personal labors), Grand Central Terminal, New York's water supply, and Human Rights Watch. In recent years, Fund emphasis has been on efforts to recapture New York's waterfront, bring biking to the City, and assure immigrants' rights. The Fund has always assisted museum exhibitions and catalogues, and branch libraries.

Joan is proud that the Fund's work—in both its traditional and experimental aspects—is being vigorously carried forward by its current trustees, who are her children, her nieces and nephew, and Alice's grandchildren.

She was the Fund's president from the 1970's until 1993, when she was appointed Parks Commissioner for New York State. Earlier (1974), she had been the Democratic candidate for New York State Senate; Chairman of the New York State Council on the Arts; and then the founding Chairman of the Grace Mansion Conservancy

in the 1980's, and most recently was Chairman of the Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration, in 2009.

As its president emeritus, in 1995 Joan founded the Fund's Futhermore grants in publishing program.

Furthermore

Furthermore, a sought-after source of publishing support, is concerned with non-fiction book publishing related to art, architecture, and design; cultural history; conservation and preservation; the city; and public issues of the day.

Furthermore awards grants to 501(c)3 organizations including museums, civic and academic institutions, regional organizations, and professional societies to help meet such specific needs as writing, research, editing, design, indexing, photography, illustration, and printing and binding.

The reviewers who select the books look for (in the words of Furthermore's founding prospectus): "work that appeals to an informed general audience; gives evidence of high standards in production; promises a reasonable shelf life; might not otherwise achieve top quality or even come into being; and represents a contribution without which we would be the poorer."

Ann Birckmayer is the administrator of Furthermore. Applications are accepted on March 1 and September 1. Information about Furthermore and the J. M. Kaplan Fund can be found at: www.furthermore.org and www.jmkfund.org.

