

F.A.B.S. *

*Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

VOL.1 NO.1

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1995

A Warm and Special Welcome to San Francisco

On behalf of The Book Club of California and The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, we are pleased to greet members of The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies on the occasion of your first "official" gathering in historic San Francisco! We know you will find the world of our city, from the Book Fair to our great libraries and bookshops extraordinary. Please call on us if we can assist you in making your visit more enjoyable.

Sandor Burstein, The Roxburghe Club
Paul E. Birkel, Book Club of California

Membership in FABS

The founding member societies of FABS are in the order of their "seniority"--

The Grolier Club of New York City (1884)
The Club of Odd Volumes, Boston (1886)
The Rowfant Club, Cleveland (1892)
The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia (1893)
The Caxton Club, Chicago (1895)
The Book Club of California (1912)
The Roxburghe Club, San Francisco (1927)
The Baxter Society, Portland, Maine (1984)

If you are a member of another bibliophilic club and would like more information on possible membership of your group in FABS, contact our membership director, Bruce McKittrick, 43 Sabine Avenue, Narberth, PA 19072, phone (610-660-0132) FAX: (610-660-0133). FABS is designed as a loose affiliation of independent clubs, with each member club free to maintain its quaint traditions and peculiar ceremonies.

WIT & WISDOM

*"When I get a little money, I buy books;
if any is left, I buy food and clothes"*

-Erasmus

*"How long most people would stare at the
best book before they would give the price
of a large turbot for it!"* --Ruskin

*"Where is human nature so weak as in
the book-store?"* --Henry Ward Beecher

Rules of the Sette of Odd Volumes,
London, 1878:

*"Rule #9: Any Odd Volume losing his
temper, and failing to recover it, shall be
fined 5 shillings;..."*

*"Rule # 11: Any O.V. giving to another
O.V. unasked advice will be fined 5
shillings;..."*

"Rule #16: There shall be no Rule 16."

A Few Words from Chairman Pro-tem Lawrence N. Siegler

As we celebrate the first social gathering of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (known acronymistically as FABS), I'd like to review with you the rationale for this organization.

Those of us who attended the first formational meeting of FABS at the Grolier Club, November 5 1993, shared a common desire to see the national bibliophilic clubs get better acquainted, to share ideas to improve our respective organizations, and to further the social and intellectual enjoyment derived from the larger world of books. This was the first try, so far as we know, to create a truly national affiliation of bibliophilic groups.

By April of 1994, we had drawn up Articles of Association which stated the Object of the Fellowship to be "the promotion and development of the common interests of the member societies, including the joint sponsorship of conferences and seminars; assistance in arranging speakers and other programs for meetings of the member societies; arranging for joint trips of individual members of member societies to member societies' cities and other domestic and foreign locations; establishment of relations with other domestic and foreign bibliophilic societies; publication of a periodic newsletter and other joint publications; and such other beneficial purposes as shall be determined from time to time by the member societies."

Representing the various founding clubs at these formational meetings were:

GROLIER:	Martin Antronetti	Carolyn L. Smith
CLUB OF ODD VOLUMES:	Charles Warner	Rodney Dennis John Lannon
ROWFANT:	Lawrence N. Siegler	John F. McClatchey Robert H. Jackson
CAXTON:	Robert Cotner	Hayward Blake Bruce McKittrick
PHILOBIBLON:	George Allen	Thomas Whitehead
ROXBURGHE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA:	Sandor Burstein	Joanne Sonnichsen
BAXTER SOCIETY:		Eliot H. Stanley

From this list of participants in the formational meetings, we informally selected a group of pro-tem officers, as follows. Phone/fax numbers are included for your convenience.

Chair:	Lawrence Siegler
	800-999-3983, 216-363-6533 (FAX)
Reporter:	John McClatchey
	(216) 566-5704; (216) 566-5583
Membership:	Bruce McKittrick
	610-660-0132; 610-660-0133
Newsletter/Publications:	Eliot H. Stanley
	800-642-1988; 207-761-2406
Conferences:	Robert Jackson
	216-696-8500; 216-621-8964

Upcoming Club Events

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed here, and are not a member of the host club, contact them for details and assistance in making arrangements. Some of the clubs have special rules for guest sponsorship, etc.

GROLIER CLUB:

- Tour: of the Huntington Library in CA, Mar 1-4.
 Public Exhibition: The Art of the Woodcut in the Italian Renaissance Book. Mar 7 - May 6.
 Seminar: Benedetto Bordone and Woodcut Illustration in the 16th century. Mar 30.
 Club Meeting: Bennett Gilbert on the Italian Renaissance Book. Apr. 3.
 Small Exhibition: Robert Graves and His Circle, a Centenary Exhibition. Apr 5 - May 26.

THE ROWFANT CLUB:

- Talks: "Book Auctions", Paul Needham Mar 8
 "Language and Social Control", Prnab Chatterjee Mar 15
 "Johnson's Dictionary", Robert de Maria Mar 22
 "Contemporary Book Arts", Priscilla Juvelis Mar 29
 "On-line Search of Early Modern Press On-Line", Henry Snyder Apr 12
 "World War II in Recent British Fiction", Donald Miller Apr 19

THE CAXTON CLUB:

Available from the Club office at 60 West Walton Street, Chicago 60610, is a marvelous broadside presenting events surrounding the club's 100th anniversary this year. Ask for: *Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago, 1895-1995*. Caxton President Robert Cotner has invited FABS members to come to Chicago to gather with Caxtonians in 1997.

- Talk: "Rhett Butler and Company," Glen Wiche Mar 10
 Talk "Rare Books of the 21st Century," Richard Wendorf Mar 15
 Talk: "Future of the Book in Chicago," Beverly Lynch Apr 26

PHILOBIBLON CLUB:

- Lecture: "Aristotle, the Renaissance, Early Printing, Biology (and Phyllis)," Allan Gotthelf Mar 14
 Lecture: "Is It Rare or Valuable -- or merely Old," William M. Lese. Apr 11
 Lecture: "Finding Documents in Berchtesgaden: Fifty Years Later," George Allen. May 9

Recent & Prospective Club Publications

Grolier Club: *One Hundred Books Famous in Medicine*, Haskell F. Norman, going to press in February, 1995. Subscription price: \$200

The Rowfant Club: *The North Coast Book Trade - A History of the Cleveland Book Trade*, Russ Duino, expected mid 1996.

The Caxton Club: *Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago*, Frank J. Piehl (Foreward by Bruce McKittick), 1995. Dist. by Oak Knoll Books, 302-328-7232. Retail \$75.00.

The Baxter Society: *Significant Maine Imprints* (working title), 1996-97.

THE ROXBURGHE CLUB:

- Talk: Raymond Wilson on early California artists Mar 21
 Talk: Michael Dawson of Dawson's Book Shop, LA, on a topic to be announced. Apr 18
 Talk: Deke Sonnichsen on his adventures in book collecting and ballooning. May 16

BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA:

- Exhibit: "An Elegance of Line," the art deco work of Mac Harshberger. Feb 13 to Mar 29
 Exhibition: Rounce & Coffin Western Books. Apr 3 to Apr 28
 Public program: "Uncle Bill: Remembering William Saroyan," Jacqueline Kazarian. Mar 27
 Award presentation: Annual Oscar Lewis Award to Michael Harrison, Stella Patri, and Albert Sperisen. Feb 27

THE BAXTER SOCIETY:

- Lecture: On hand bookbinding by Gray Parrot Mar 8
 Lecture: W.A. Dwiggins & Stephen Harvard - Two Giants in 20th Century Book Design, Bruce Kennett. Apr 12
 Lecture: "Book Collecting and The Graphic Arts," Eleanor M. Garvey (First Nancy L. Cowan Lecture). May 10
 Exhibit: Baxter Society publications at North Western U. Library (part of Caxton Centennial) Jan 15 to Mar 20

IN CLOSING, we pay tribute to the memory of Francis M. O'Brien (1908-1994), the late venerable Dean of Maine Booksellers, who provided generations of collectors and dealers great books and conversation. This is his first shop notice from 1938:

A Note to the Book-Lover.

BOOKS in Black and Red; Romances, Play-Books and Idle Tales; Lounging-Books—Books that one takes up in the Gout, Low Spirits, *ennui*, or when in waiting for Company; Gay Poetry, Odd Whimsical Authors, Books that can be held in the Hand; Mouldering Books and Moth-Scented Books; Choice and Massy Divinity; Widow-Volumes, that have lost their Mate; Books in Dishabille, or Half-Binding; Garish Annuals and Gift Books; Books for a Corner, for an Old Parlor Window; Jest-Books of Tales and Quick Answers, full of Witty Mirth and Pleasant Shifts; Books for the *Bibliophile*, the *Bibliographe*, the *Bibliomane*, the *Bibliognoste*, and even the *Bibliotaphe*; these and other categories of books are to be had by the impoverished book-lover by applying at the shop of the impecunious bookseller.

F. M. O'BRIEN · ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLER

2 Crafts Avenue · Northampton · Massachusetts

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