

THE FELLOWSHIP OF *American*
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THE FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICAN BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETIES is an organization whose goal is to inform member book clubs of news, events, publications, and activities that take place in the book world during the year. ♣ The *FABS Newsletter* publishes on September 1 and January 1 to facilitate that goal. ♣ Member Clubs are requested to have information for "Club News & Notes" to the Editor thirty days in advance of the publication date, preferably in Microsoft Word as an e-mail attachment. ♣ Single subscriptions to institutions and individuals are not available at this time. ♣ Back issues may be ordered through the Editor based on availability for the cost of shipping and handling. ♣ Submissions for articles are welcome. ♣ All correspondence should be sent to the Editor.

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From the Chair

THIS YEAR marks the ninth annual FABS Book Tour and Symposium sponsored by the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. The exciting venue, hosted by The Book Club of Washington in Seattle and running from May 10-13, promises to be one of the finest yet. Highlights include: The Seattle Asian Art Museum and Library, The University of Washington Press, The Special Collections Division at the University of Washington's Libraries and special collections, the Koolhaus-designed Seattle Central Public Library, the Washington State Historical Society's Research Library, and numerous private libraries. See page 5 for an "at a glance" listing of the highlights and enjoy the following in-depth description by our gracious hosts Deborah and Meade Emory.

The Grolier Club's Tour of Toronto from October 6-9, 2005, was unforget-

table. Any venue that includes The Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books, Garrett Herman's home, and the Darwin Collection would be sufficient—but the highlight was Richard Landon's



"A Son of the Desert-Navaho."
Edward S. Curtis

personal tour of The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library—itsself a stunning architectural triumph—and even this was topped by Bibliophilia Scholastica Floreat; Fifty Years of Rare Books and Special Collections at The University of Toronto—which gives a personal biographical history of many of the Fisher's treasures, done with such scholarly and modest erudition—that you want Landon, who has been at the Fisher since 1967, to continue on and on. The \$35.00 check was a spectacular investment.

Please remember that the Thirteenth Annual FABS Trustees Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at The Grolier Club followed by a reception and a brisk walk over to opening night at the New York Book Fair. FABS is your organization and you are encouraged to attend.

JOHN C. CARSON, M.D., *Chair*

FABS in Seattle, May 10-13, 2006

THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON is the host club and "The Emerald City" is the site of the ninth annual FABS Book Tour and Symposium sponsored by the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.

For those attendees arriving in Seattle by mid-day on **Wednesday, May 10**, the 2006 Tour will start at 1:30 p.m. with a visit to the Seattle Asian Art Museum and its Art Library, located in the heart of the magnificent 48-acre Olmsted-designed Volunteer Park. The Museum is a handsome 1933 art moderne structure containing an outstanding collection of Asian materials, and its library includes resources in English, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean languages for research on the museum's holdings. On the Museum grounds is a major installation by Alexander Calder—his 39-foot-high red metal "Eagle" stabile—as well as "Black Sun," a 9-foot high sculptured disk of Brazilian black granite by Isamu Noguchi. While in the Park there will be time also for a stop at the early 20th-century Volunteer Park Conservatory—where even a non-plant

lover will be amazed at the spacious "Five Houses" (Bromeliad, Palm, Fern, Seasonal Display, and Cactus). Later that afternoon, FABS attendees have been invited to visit the University of Washington Press (located within steps of our Tour headquarters, the Washington Athletic Club) where we will be welcomed by Press Director Pat Soden. That evening we will gather at the WAC for registration, a hosted cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception, and a mini-book fair presented by Seattle book dealers. This should be a pleasant time in which to renew old FABS acquaintances and meet new friends.

Thursday, May 11, begins with a trip to the University of Washington, whose grand campus occupies the expansive site of the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The two connected University libraries we will walk through are the collegiate Gothic Suzzallo Library and its newer companion, the Allen Library. Carla Rickerson, Head of Special Collections at the University of Washington Libraries, will lead us through an exhibit of

specially selected titles from the library's premier Pacific Northwest book collection (including examples of works relating to maritime and overland exploration) and nationally known Book Arts collection.

For those who wish to have a look at the UW's new Law Library in William H. Gates Hall (built in 2004) or the Health Sciences Library (both on the campus), there will time for break-out visits to these facilities before we go to the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture and its Miller botanical Library. The Miller Library contains a very select number of historically significant rare and old books relating to horticultural trends and histories of gardening and horticulture—many of which are art objects in themselves. We will enjoy lunch at the Center before boarding buses for the trip downtown.

Breath-taking is not too strong a word to describe the innovative new Seattle Central Public Library—an entirely progressive and functionally successful library design in a monumental structure

sheathed in glass. Many of you will have read about and seen photos of this urban gem designed by the internationally recognized architect, Rem Koolhaas, but when you view its expanses (outside and inside) you will understand why Seattle is so proud of this spectacular public space.

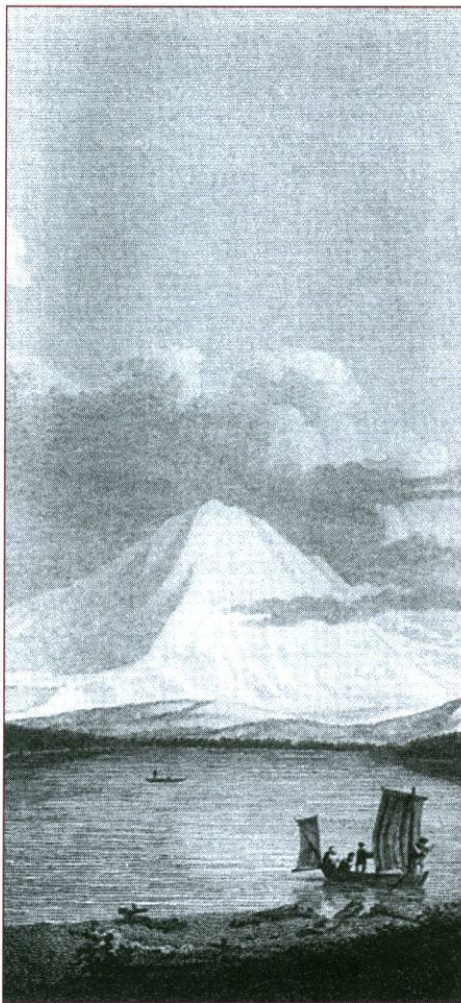
The rest of the afternoon will be devoted to Seattle's historic Pioneer Square district, our "old town," not far from the Library. Area highlight maps will be provided, and you will have time to explore the Square's unique shops in architecturally-significant buildings on your own before congregating at the Wessel & Lieberman Book Shop for a reception and a chance to peruse Mark Wessel's and Michael Lieberman's broad selection of fine used and rare books.

After this refreshment, we will convene at the venerable Rainier Club just a few blocks away, for our first dinner together (following a hosted cocktail period). The Club has played a part in Seattle's history and fortunes since its founding as a men's club in 1888. One of the most famous early lodgers was the photographer Edward S. Curtis who operated a photography studio in Seattle with his equally famous brother, Asahel Curtis; many of Edward Curtis' photo-ethnological records of North American Indians grace the walls of the public areas of the Club.

Friday, May 12, is our "travel day." We will depart from the WAC at 8:30 a.m. for a short ferry ride across Puget Sound to Bainbridge Island. Our first stop on the Island will be at the Sears/Buxton home in Eagle Harbor for a showcase of their stunning collection of fine bindings by the pre-eminent English bookbinder Bernard Middleton (and other notable 20th-century English bookbinders) as well as one of the finest private collections of contemporary artists' books assembled on the West Coast.

Our second stop on the island will be at the Bloedel Reserve, formerly the estate of the Bloedel family, a name long associated with the Northwest timber industry. There, director Richard Brown will welcome us to the stately 1931 French country house that sits atop a bluff near the north end of the island and presides over acres of gardens and natural plantings, forested landscapes, a Japanese guest-house and Zen garden, and bird sanctu-

ary. We will have time to view fine examples from the Reserve's library of botanical books and to wander the grounds and enjoy the beauty of the setting before lunch and the continuation of our trip across Agate Pass and down the west side of Puget Sound and south to the city of Tacoma.



"Mount Rainier is a beautiful, awe inspiring sight." In this view from Vancouver's: *Voyage of Discovery*, 1798, the Mountain is clearly 'out.'

In Tacoma, we will first stop at the Washington State Historical Society's Research Center located in the city's residential Stadium District. Ed Nolan, head of Special Collections at the Center, will guide us through extensive collections of Pacific Northwest ephemera, Western maps, regional books, and an almost complete collection of historic photographs by Edward and Asahel Curtis. A short distance away in the historic downtown waterfront area is the Museum of Glass. We will enter the Glass Museum via the 500-foot-long Bridge of Glass—a truly memorable walkway that pulsates

with a rich ceiling and wall display of unique glass sculptures by the internationally acclaimed glass artist (and native of Tacoma) Dale Chihuly.

Later that afternoon we will return to our Seattle headquarters with a stop on our way at the Museum of Flight and its aviation library at Boeing Field. No FABS activities are planned for that evening, but you can relax at dinner at one of the fine downtown/waterfront restaurants—many of which are within walking distance of the WAC or other downtown hotels.

Saturday, May 13, begins with the FABS Annual Book Symposium, titled, "What Are We All Doing In the Same Room Together?" that will explore important issues of how collectors communicate, or don't, with each other. The Moderator is **Robert H. Jackson**. Participants and their topics are: **Terry Belanger**, Head, Rare Book School, University of Virginia and 2005 MacArthur Fellowship recipient: "The Ties That Bind—What Do Collectors Have to Say to Each Other?" **P. Scott Brown**, Editor, *Fine Books & Collections* magazine: "Current Fashions in Collecting." **Dr. Donald W. Miller, Jr.**: "On the Collecting Road with Writers of the Beat Generation." **Professor Meade Emory**: "Northwest Coast Maritime Exploration: A Bibliographic Tour."

Dr. Martin Greene, Chair of the Seattle FABS event, has invited the FABS attendees to luncheon at his home with a viewing of his collection of Polar Exploration materials. Several other significant Seattle collectors also will open their homes that afternoon for displays of their collections.

Capping off the day, we will gather for a hosted cocktail period and our final dinner together at the elegant, traditional clubhouse of the Seattle Tennis Club on the shore of Lake Washington. If the skies are clear, the 70-mile distant Mount Rainier is a beautiful, awe inspiring sight. Even if the Mountain isn't 'out,' we will enjoy our gala closing night banquet and speaker as well as stimulating conversation and recollections on a fabulous FABS gathering.

If questions arise concerning the FABS agenda and its meeting in general, please don't hesitate to e-mail Deborah Emory at dcemory@u.washington.edu.

FABS BOOK TOUR & SYMPOSIUM

Seattle May 10-13, 2006



Wednesday, May 10

AFTERNOON: Tour of Seattle Asian Art Museum and Library in the Olmsted-designed Volunteer Park.
☛ Drop-by tour of the University of Washington Press and meeting with the Director. ☛ Registration, hosted reception, and mini-book fair at the Washington Athletic Club (WAC).

Thursday, May 11

MORNING: Tour of the Special Collections Division at the University of Washington Libraries.
☛ Luncheon at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and tour of its library.
AFTERNOON: Tour of the new Seattle Central Public Library (designed by architect Rem Koolhaas).
☛ Tour of Seattle's historic Pioneer Square. ☛ Catered reception at Wessel & Lieberman Book Shop in Pioneer Square. ☛ Hosted cocktails and dinner at Seattle's elegant 100-year-old Rainier Club.

Friday, May 12

MORNING: Ferry ride to Bainbridge Island. ☛ Tour of Sears/Buxton home and exhibit of their collection of contemporary bookbinding and artists' books. ☛ Luncheon and tour of Bloedel Nature Reserve and its library.
AFTERNOON: Bus trip to Tacoma via western shore of Puget Sound. ☛ Tour of Washington State Historical Society's Research Library & the Tacoma Museum of Glass with its magnificent Dale Chihuly Glass Bridge. ☛ Return to Seattle with visit to Museum of Flight and its aviation library at Boeing Field.
☛ Dinner on your own (suggestions provided).

Saturday, May 13

MORNING: FABS Annual Book Symposium. "What are we all doing in the same room together?"

Robert H. Jackson, Moderator.

Terry Belanger, Head, Rare Book School, University of Virginia and 2005 MacArthur Fellowship recipient: "The Ties that Bind—What Do Collectors Have to Say to Each Other?"

P. Scott Brown, Editor, *Fine Books & Collections* magazine: "Current Fashions in Collecting."

Dr. Donald W. Miller, Jr.: "On the Collecting Road with Writers of the Beat Generation."

Prof. Meade Emory: "Northwest Coast Maritime Exploration: A Bibliographic Tour."

AFTERNOON: Luncheon and tour of the library at the Saks/Greene home. ☛ Visits to private libraries in Seattle. ☛ Cocktails and closing banquet at the Seattle Tennis Club on the shore of Lake Washington.

Registration: The cost is \$490.00 per person and includes all the above activities, food, and transportation. Reservations will close on **March 1, 2006**. Registrations cancelled after **March 31, 2006** can not be refunded in full. Communications by e-mail or telephone regarding the 2006 FABS Seattle Book Tour & Symposium should be directed to Deborah C. Emory at dcemory@u.washington.edu or 206 329-5411. Mail communications should include a self-addressed/stamped envelope.

Please reserve ____ places for: Name(s): _____

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Send registration to: **Deborah C. Emory; 716 15th Avenue East; Seattle, WA 98112.**

Headquarters: The Washington Athletic Club; 1325 Sixth Avenue; Seattle, WA 98101. Forty rooms for FABS attendees will be held until **March 26, 2006** at \$132 (plus 15.6% hotel tax) per night for single or double occupancy. Please make your own reservations at the WAC or a downtown hotel of your choice. Please refer to the FABS rate when reserving at the WAC. The WAC telephone number is: 206 464-3055 or toll free at 800 275-3775.

GREAT AUCTIONS OF THE PAST

The Ashburnham Library Auction

~ PART ONE ~

WHEN Messrs Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge announced the auction of the library of Bertram, Fourth Earl of Ashburnham in 1897, the notice marked two significant events in English book auction history. First, the Ashburnham sale was the last great auction of a private British library in the nineteenth century. (The Huth Library auction would be in the twentieth century.) *The Times* of London (*LT*) noted that the Ashburnham Library "was one of the last of the really great private libraries. There yet remain the splendid collection of Mr. Huth at Kensington and of the late Mr. Christie-Miller at Britwell Court; but apart from these the private libraries of this country are now small in size and special in character." (May 16, 1898) Secondly, the Ashburnham sale signaled the serious incursion of American bibliophiles that would dominate the book

auction world in the early twentieth century, the golden age of book collecting.

Born in 1797, Bertram, the Fourth Earl of Ashburnham, was an inveterate collector of art, armor, coins, and medals, but as *The Times* reported, "an examination of the catalogue of the first portion of his library will show that he was, if possible, more distinguished as a book collector than in any other respect." The Earl purchased his first book in 1814 when he was still a schoolboy at Westminster School, "a copy of the 'Secrets' of Albertus Magnus for eighteen pence at Ginger's well-known bookshop in Great College Street." (*LT*, April 17, 1897) By the time of his death in 1878, he had amassed one of the greatest book collections in England, a collection that would go to auction twenty years later when his son, the Fifth Earl of Ashburnham, chose to sell the collection. Observing the decreased wealth

of the British aristocracy in the 1870s and 1880s, Peter H. Reid notes that "the fifth earl had no interest in his father's library and was, by the time of his succession, in dire need of extra funds."¹ The Ashburnham collection of Greek coins had gone to auction in 1895 (*LT*, May 9, 1895) and the disposition of Ashburnham's extensive manuscript collection was a topic of international concern from 1880 to 1885, and worthy of an article of its own.²

As a collector, Ashburnham's "guiding principle was to obtain the rarest editions and most perfect copies of the works of those authors to which his taste or fancy inclined him." (*LT*, April 17, 1897) Although, by sheer longevity, Ashburnham did amass a personal library of great number, extent was not primary with him and his goal was not to build the largest private library but the finest private library. For, as the *New York Times*

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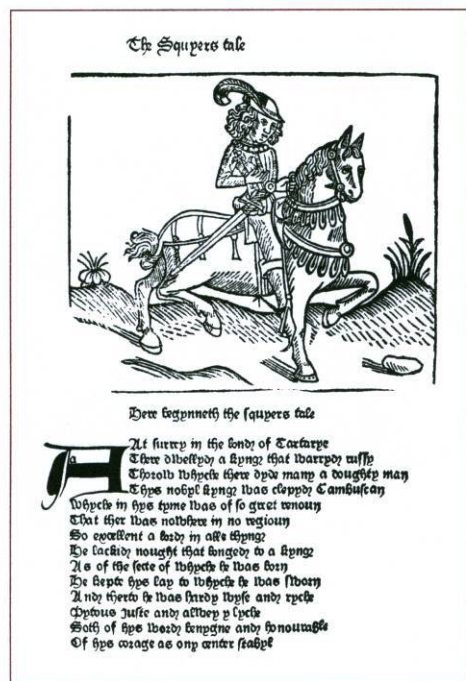
(*NYT*) reported, “instead of endeavoring to obtain, as so many do, all the editions of an author who has become a classic, we find him purchasing several copies of a rare book in order to obtain one specimen in as perfect as possible condition.” (June 26, 1897) Ashburnham was partial to decorative books generally and vellum books particularly.

With regard to content, Ashburnham’s especial interest was early Bibles, Testaments, and other religious works in all languages, but particularly English. As the exemplar of a great religious library Ashburnham had, of course, the requisite Gutenberg, but not just any “ordinary” Gutenberg. Rather, a vellum copy and “probably the most splendidly decorated example known, and . . . in every sense a perfect book.” (*LT*, April 17, 1897) Contemporary accounts of the Ashburnham Library consistently express exasperation at being unable to describe adequately the extent and depth of the collection: a regret that I experience today. Still, selective citations of religious works other than the Gutenberg can intimate the richness of Ashburnham’s Library: a perfect copy of the second edition of Tynedale’s Pentateuch, 1534; the first edition of the Bible in English translated by Myles Coverdale and published in Antwerp in 1535; and one perfect and two imperfect copies of Matthew’s Bible, 1537. (*NYT*, May 1, 1897) Ashburnham’s Books of Hours were exceptional. As *The Times* reported: “This series is unquestionably one of the finest ever offered for sale; most of these are printed upon vellum, and are of the uses of Paris, Poitiers, Rome, Rouen, and Sarum.” Among selected Books of Hours were Geoffroy Tory’s edition of 1527; Kerver’s edition of 1522; and the “exceedingly rare Verard issue of 1502.” (October 22, 1897)

Among non-religious books, Ashburnham collected works from early English writers and the earliest English presses. The Ashburnham Library included Gower’s *Confessio Amantis* (Caxton Press, 1493, i.e., 1483) that was sold prior to auction; twenty-seven editions of Chaucer, including first and second Caxton editions (1478 and 1484) and the 1498 Wynkyn de Worde Chaucer; and, certainly, for any great collection of English literature, the obligatory four Shakespeare folios. Orig-

inal editions of Edmund Spenser, Ben Jonson (an “autographed inscription by ‘rare Ben’ on reverse of title” of Jonson’s 1616 *Workes* (*LT*, October 22, 1897) and John Milton suffuse the collection. The holdings of classical and European authors were also strong with an exceptional collection of Dante, thirty-five editions, including ten incunabula.

The Ashburnham Library would be sold in three parts over twenty days: June 25th to July 3rd, 1897; December 6th to the 11th, 1897; and May 9th to the 14th,



Opening page of “The Squires Tale” from William Caxton’s 1484 edition of Geoffrey Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*.

1898. And, as Messrs Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge were preparing to sell off one of the last great private libraries in Great Britain, an aggressive generation of American collectors was preparing to bring some wonderful old books to the new world. The principal agents at the Ashburnham sale would remain British with Quaritch being typically the most visible, but other prominent firms, such as Pickering & Chatto, H. Sothorn & Co., and J. & M. L. Tregaskis, being quite active. But many of their acquisitions would, in the long run, be heading stateside.

The vellum Gutenberg was, not surprisingly, the highest bid item of the entire auction, purchased by Quaritch at £4,000 (close to \$430,000 as calculated to the current Consumer Price Index), and “the highest price ever paid for any copy

of the Bible, and the second highest amount paid for a printed book.” (*LT*, July 1, 1897) Speculation began immediately as to whether the Gutenberg would be coming to America. The *New York Times* took account of the provenance of the four known Gutenbergs in the United States: the copy in the Lenox Library purchased by Mr. Lenox in 1845; J. P. Morgan’s copy; Mr. Theodore Irwin’s first volume; and a Chicago copy, the George Brinley Gutenberg that was sold to New York attorney Hamilton Cole in 1881 for \$8,000, subsequently purchased by Brayton Ives and secured by the anonymous current owner for \$14,800 in 1891. (July 3, 1897) “Those New York dealers who had representatives present at the sale which was so emphatically the bibliographical event of the year were in a taciturn mood” (*NYT*, July 31, 1897) and, at the beginning of the new year, it was “known that the Ashburnham copy of the Gutenberg Bible on vellum did not come to this country, but remains in England.” (*NYT*, January 1, 1898) Quaritch had already revalued the Bible at £5,000 (approximately \$536,000). The January 1 *New York Times*’ article continues: “At the time of the sale it was thought the book had been secured by Quaritch for an American customer; indeed, those who take an interest in the final disposition of book rarities were confident that this was the case. Rumor, however, was wrong.”

Whether Quaritch was acting as agent at the time of the sale, for those who took “an interest in the final disposition of book rarities,” rumor was, rather, right. The vellum Gutenberg was purchased by American Robert Hoe, whose copy was sold at the April 24, 1911 New York auction to Henry E. Huntington. The Ashburnham/Hoe Gutenberg set a new record for individual book sale at that time, \$50,000. Thus, the Ashburnham sale added a fifth known Gutenberg Bible to the United States census and, of course, that same Bible now resides at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.³

The Caxtons were one of the great strengths of the Ashburnham Library and the auction catalog highlighted those items in the introductions to each of the three portions of the sale. In total, eighteen Caxtons went under the hammer in the three portions of the sale: nine in the



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June/July 1897 portion; six in the December 1897 portion; and three in the May 1898 portion. The Caxtons were acquired by only three English dealers with Pickering & Chatto dominating the sale with fourteen copies, but Quaritch acquired three and a single Caxton, Boethius' *De Consolatione Philosophiae*, was acquired by J. & M. L. Tregaskis. More telling, however, was the final destination for the majority of the Caxtons: though harbored for a time in the library of English collector Richard Bennett, fully twelve of the Ashburnham Caxtons ultimately became part of the library of John Pierpont Morgan in 1902, and, of course, currently reside in his eponymous library in New York City.⁴ (*NYT*, July 5, 1902) Among the high points of the Caxtons, granted that every Caxton is a high point, were Le Fevre's *Le Recueil des Histoires de Troyes* (c. 1475), the first book printed in the English language though printed on the Continent (Pickering & Chatto, £950, i.e., \$102,000 today); the 1477 edition of LeFevre's *The History of Jason* (Pickering & Chatto, £2,100, i.e., \$225,000); the 1478 first printing of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* (Pickering & Chatto,

£720, i.e., \$77,000); and the 1484 second printing of the *Canterbury Tales* (Pickering & Chatto, £300, i.e., \$32,000).

Although American collectors of all sorts had long raided Europe for its treasures, the Ashburnham sale does seem to be a demarcation date for that new generation of American collectors who would form the corps of the early twentieth century's golden age of book collecting. In a special cablegram to the *New York Times* in 1902, at the time of the announcement of Morgan's acquisition of the Ashburnham/Bennett Caxtons, *The Times* lamented "the continuous wholesale exportation of rare early-printed books and illuminated manuscripts to the United States . . . [T]he drain has been going on for more than half a century and has recently reached huge proportions." (*NYT*, July 4, 1902)

In the Fall *FABS Newsletter*, I will review in more detail the Ashburnham Library auction as a whole.

GEOFFREY D. SMITH

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NOTES

¹"The Decline and Fall of the British Country House Library." *Libraries & Culture: A Journal of Library History* 36 (2001): 349.

²In brief, the collection contained stolen French manuscripts, undelivered manuscripts to the Italian government, rapacious German attempts to secure rare documents, and even Parliamentary intervention. *The Times* reported that "a Parliamentary paper has been published containing the correspondence which has passed this year between the British Museum and the Treasury with reference to the purchase of the Ashburnham MSS." (August 15, 1883) Though the British Museum did not receive the governmental support to purchase all the Ashburnham manuscripts, the *New York Times* reported that it did purchase a "large number of valuable manuscripts, including the original writing of 'Magna Charta [sic].'" (June 26, 1897) (I have been unable to confirm that one copy of the British Library's Magna Carta came from the Ashburnham Library. Please see the British Library's Magna Carta web site at www.bl.uk/treasures/magnacarta/magna.html which also links to Claire Breay's Magna Carta: Manuscripts and Myths, The British Library, 2002.) The total disposition of the complete collection would not be fully resolved for close to twenty years.

³The auction of the Robert Hoe Collection was discussed in *FABS Newletters*: vi.1 (Winter 2002), 12-13 and vi.2 (Fall 2002), 12-14. An image of the sumptuous Ashburnham, Hoe, Huntington, et al. Gutenberg Bible can be viewed at www.huntington.org/LibraryDiv/GutenbergPict.html.

⁴For full attribution and description see: *Catalogue of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books from the Libraries of William Morris, Richard Bennett, Bertram Fourth Earl of Ashburnham, and Other Sources: Now Forming a Portion of the J. Pierpont Morgan Library*. Vol. III. London: Chiswick Press, 1906-1907. The Caxtons from the Ashburnham Library are entries 634, 637, 672, 673, 675, 676, 677, 684, 687, 690, 693, and 701.



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Following the Tracks of Pilgrims

PILGRIMAGE SOUVENIRS IN MEDIEVAL PRAYER BOOKS

BOOKS make great depositories. What better place to keep an exhibition review than the catalogue of that show? Likewise, brochures, articles, and post cards find their way into the pages of many books. Missals often contain obituary cards and devotional pictures. It was also a widespread custom to use books for storage in the Middle Ages. Books of prayer were especially likely to contain additions. Single-leaf prints and drawings illuminate the pages. Pilgrim badges were added to manuscript prayer books as well. With needle and colored thread the metal badges were sewn to the parchment pages. This way, the owner of the book created a unique and personal prayer book. The interesting and singular custom of adding pilgrimage souvenirs to prayer books has not received much attention in the literature.

Pilgrimage and devotion are closely intertwined. Like prayer, pilgrimage was a substantial part of medieval life. The prospect of salvation and the remission of sin motivated people from all layers of society to go on pilgrimages. Rich and poor, laity and clergy, men and women. Parents even brought their children. There were many cult sites. Numerous small pilgrimage sites of local importance complemented the better known destinations like Rome, Jerusalem, and Santiago de Compostela. When a person was not able to travel far, he could always turn to a location nearby. The great density of holy places, miraculous statues, and relics met the needs of the time. Subsequently, the trade in pilgrim's souvenirs thrived. From the twelfth century onwards, the pilgrim could purchase metal badges with a depiction of the venerated saint or the miraculous event that had generated the cult. The pewter badges were cast with the help of a stone or brass mould. During the fifteenth century, a new method of manufacture was developed. The image was punched into a thin sheet of metal, usually pewter, silver, or a copper alloy. The stamp left a negative

impression on the back. These fragile medals are also called bracteates (after the Latin word *bractea*, meaning thin sheet of metal). Because of their lightness, they could be sewn into books without tearing the parchment.

The presence of pilgrim's badges in medieval manuscripts is not limited to a few cases. Some manuscripts still preserve the pilgrim's souvenirs. A spectacular



Page with twenty-three pilgrim's badges in the D'Oiselet Hours. The Hague, Royal Library, Ms 77 L 60, fol. 98r.

example of a book of hours with a large number of these small metal objects is the so-called D'Oiselet Hours in The Hague.¹ Twenty-three pilgrim's medals from places all over Western Europe, from 's-Gravesande (Holland) to Tarascon (Southern France), decorate a fly leaf in the back of the codex. The first owner of the book was Symon de La Chambre de Montjustin, a nobleman from the province of Franche-Comté. He made a note of the birth of his son: "In the year 1467 on the twenty-fourth day of the month of November, the eve of the feast of Saint Catherine, around midnight in

the place of Accolans, Claude was born, son of Symon de La Chambre de Montjustin escuyer..."² Claude would inherit the manuscript hours from his father. Like him, Claude made extensive notes of the births of his children and so on. Finally, the hours came into the possession of Claude d'Oiselet (1602-1634), who gave the book its current name.

It was probably Claude de La Chambre who collected the badges. All the souvenirs are one-only, except for the badges from the pilgrimage site of Saint-Claude, represented by no less than three specimens. At Saint-Claude, situated near Besançon (Franche-Comté), the relics of Claude, the former archbishop of Besançon, had a special veneration. At fixed times, the shrine of the saint was carried around the region to give the local population a chance to profit from the healing powers of the saint and to propagate the cult.³ The pilgrimage site was not far from the residence of the La Chambre family. Claude would naturally have had a special devotion for his name saint.

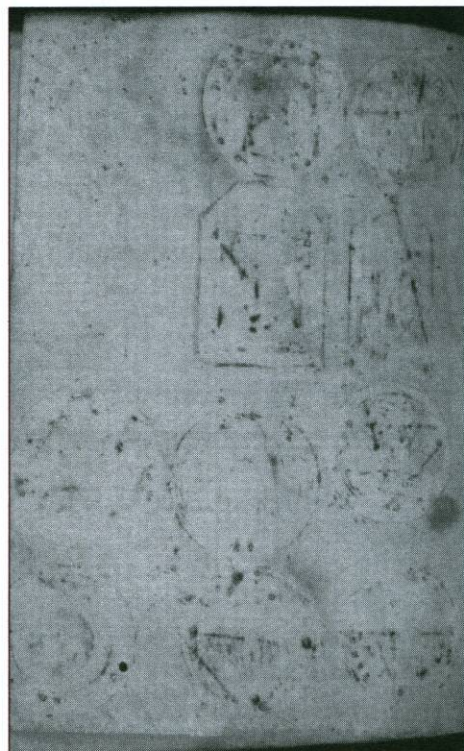
The D'Oiselet Hours is a beautiful example of a collection of silver and gilt badges that is still in place.⁴ Unfortunately, it is also an exception to the rule. Most of the time, the badges themselves have disappeared from the pages. The first fly leaf in a prayer book of the Walters Art Museum shows a variety of offsets; the badges have disappeared.⁵ The collection comprised several badges that still can be identified even though the objects themselves are gone. The badge on the extreme right of the first row depicts the Engelweihe (Einsiedeln)—the letters (einsid) ELN can still be discerned—and the badge beneath it comes from Geraards-bergen. Both are also present in the D'Oiselet Hours.⁶ The imprint on the extreme right of the third row is another example of a relatively clear image. It shows a bust. Without much effort, one can discern a few of the letters on the scroll below the head. The badge originates from the same pilgrimage site as one of the medals in the D'Oiselet Hours, that is the middle

badge in the second row. The rather large medal shows a similar head. Here, the text is quite legible. It says "s quintinus." Obviously, the badges with the head depict Quentin, who was venerated in Saint-Quentin (Northern France). This city, situated 150 kilometres north of Paris, was part of the duchy of Burgundy for a short time (1435-77). Here, pilgrims gathered to venerate the missionary Quentin, who came from Rome to preach the Gospels in the region of Amiens. During the Roman persecutions, Quentin suffered terrible indignities. One of the torments involved a set of nails that were driven into his shoulders. Quentin's body was buried at the place where he was tortured. In 1228, the relics were elevated to a place behind the main altar. The body was removed from its tomb and placed in a shrine. Especially the head reliquary of Quentin was believed to instigate many miracles. For example, a priest attributed his miraculous cure for a swell to this relic.⁷ Hoping for a recovery, the man commissioned two novenas (a series of nine days of prayer) to be recited in his name at the church of Saint-Quentin. On the feast day of Quentin that was celebrated on 31 October, the clergyman started a third novena himself wearing a shirt that had touched the reliquary head. On the sixth day of his prayers, the swell disappeared and the man was cured.

The practice of attaching badges to the pages of a manuscript prayer book seems to have flourished in large parts of the duchy of Burgundy and regions under its direct sphere of influence. The most famous examples of prayer books that contained badges once belonged to the dukes of Burgundy and their relatives.⁸ Claude de La Chambre, who collected the badges in the D'Oiselet manuscript, lived in the Franche-Comté, the most southern province of the duchy where Dijon, one of its capital cities, was situated. The hours themselves were produced in Bruges, a thriving city in the northern part of the realm. The provenance of the manuscript prayer book in the Walters Art Museum is complex. The Latin prayer book was probably produced in Hainaut around 1440.⁹ It was completed for a woman in a Cistercian community. The badges were probably added at a

later date, around the turn of the century. Around that time, the owner(s) added some prayers in Latin and French. The first owner known by name is Pieter de Greppere, son of Christiaen de Greppere, who wrote his name on the last page of the book with the date 1583.¹⁰ Apparently, the prayer book must have circulated in a Dutch-speaking region at the end of the sixteenth century. Who added the badges remains a mystery.

The reasons for adding badges to the pages of a prayer book could vary. The pilgrim badges kept the memory of the pilgrimage alive. In this sense, they can be regarded as souvenirs. But they were



Impressions of twelve pilgrim's badges in a prayer book. Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, Ms W 218, fol. 6v.

more than just keepsakes. To understand the meaning of the badges, one has to explore the practice of medieval pilgrimage. At the cult sites, pilgrims could seek protection or a cure for their illness. They could invoke mercy for themselves or others, or they could give thanks for a granted favour. To obtain divine assistance, the pilgrim wanted to touch the relics. When pilgrimage became more and more popular and the number of pilgrims multiplied, it was no longer possible for every pilgrim to physically touch the precious objects. Instead, clergymen showed the relics and reliquaries from a

distance, usually from a platform or a balcony. Because of the growing distance, visual contact gained significance. Eye contact with the sacred became as important as physical contact. A woman from Saint-Robert who suffered from fatigue symptoms was cured after touching the holy relics of Claude "with her hands and her eyes."¹¹

Objects that had come into contact with the relics were highly valued. In the medieval view, they took over some of their miracle-working powers. In 1439-40, the duke of Burgundy went to Cologne to visit the shrine of the three kings. There, Philip the Good bought images "to touch the relics."¹² In a play by the sixteenth-century rhetorician Cornelis Everaert, one of the characters mentions the pilgrims' practice of brushing souvenirs like *gordelkins van sinte Roozynaene* (rosaries), and *brieuekens van Virgenycken* (images of the venicle), against the sanctuaries to gain protection from Evil.¹³ A similar result could also be achieved through indirect contact. Pilgrims held up mirrors and badges (or a combination of both) to catch some of the radiating powers of the saint whose relics were shown to them from a distance. This way, the powers of the saint were stored in the badge, as it were. The souvenirs then became miracle-working objects themselves.

The book protected the fragile objects against loss and damage. By keeping the badges at hand, the memory of the pilgrimage was not just preserved, but kept alive. Every time the devotee opened his prayer book, he could contemplate the devotional journey that had brought him into close contact with the sacred. He could contemplate the saint in question, the cult and the pilgrimage. It gave focus to his devotion. The presence of the saints probably offered the devotee comfort and support when he addressed his prayers to Christ and Mary. But badges were not just devotional images. They were powerful objects that the owner wanted to keep close so that they could work their powers on his behalf. The prayers could even intensify the powerful effect of the badges.

Badges could be added for different reasons, and they could be taken out for various reasons as well. Sometimes, the

additions were removed because they did not fit in with the intentions of the next possessor. Also, objects were often lost with the rebinding of the book. New parchment replaced the old fly leaves that contained the pilgrim's badges. Infamous is also the former love of compartmentalization that stimulated libraries, museums, and, possibly, also private collectors, to "unravel" manuscripts and separate books and objects. Books belonged to the library, woodcuts and engravings to the department of prints. The provenance of the prints is rarely documented. Possibly, badges suffered this fate as well. The fact that the objects are gone does not mean all information is lost, however. The manuscripts themselves still contain a great deal of indications about the collector, the badges, and their purpose within the book.

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NOTES

¹The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Ms 77 L 60, fol. 98r. A.M. Koldewij, "Pelgrimsinsignes in het getijdenboek 'D'Oiselet,'" in H.J.E. van Beuningen and A.M. Koldewij (1993). *Heilig en Profaan. 1000 Laatmiddeleeuwse insignes uit de collectie H.J.E. van Beuningen*. Cothen, Stichting Middeleeuwse Religieuze en Profane Insignes: 46-48 and Hanneke van Asperen (2004). "Gebet, geboorte en bedevaart. Pelgrimstekens en genealogische notities in het D'Oiselet getijdenboek (Den Haag, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, 77 L 60)." *Desipientia zin en waan* 11 (2): 39-46.

²The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Ms 77 L 60, fol. 11r: "L'an mil Quatrecent soixante et sept Le / xxiiiij^e Jour d'umoies de Nouembre veille de feste / sainte katherine enuiron la mynuyt Au / lieu dacolans Claude filz Symon de La / chambre de montjustin escuier..."

³For an extensive treatise on the cult at Saint-Claude, see D.P. Benoit (1890-92): *Histoire de l'Abbaye et de la Terre de Saint-Claude*. 2 Vols. Montreuil-sur-Mer: Imprimerie de la Chartreuse de Notre-Dame des Prés, 1890-92.

⁴At one point, the badges were detached from their original locations in the book and added to a new fly leaf in the back of the manuscript. This probably happened during the rebinding of the book.

⁵Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, Ms W 218, fol. 6v. Lilian M.C. Randall (1997). *Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts in the Walters Art Gallery, III: Belgium 1250-1530*. Baltimore, London, Johns Hopkins University Press: 139-147, no. 233 with a depiction of the page upside down.

⁶The Einsiedeln badge is the one in the middle of the bottommost row of the D'Oiselet Hours. The Geraardsbergen souvenir depicting Saint Adrian is the elongated badge in the center of the page.

⁷Adolphe Mathieu (1878). *Saint Quentin. Sa vie, son culte, restauration de son pèlerinage*. Saint-Quentin, Moureau.

⁸Brussels, Royal Library, Ms 11 035-37 and Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Museum, Ms III-1954. See Kurt Köster (1979).

"Kollektionen metallener Wallfahrtsdevotionalien und kleiner Andachtsbilder eingenäht in spätmittelalterliche Gebetbuch-Handschriften." in Bertram Haller. *Erlesene aus der Welt des Buches. Gedanken, Betrachtungen, Forschungen*. Wiesbaden, Dr. Ludwig Reichert Verlag: 87-103. Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Hs 1800. See Otto Mazall and Dagmar Thoss (1991). *Das Buchaltärchen Herzog Philipps des Guten von Burgund*. Luzern, Faksimile Verlag: 25-29.

⁹Randall (1997): 139-147 and *Das Buchaltärchen Herzog Philipps des Guten von Burgund*. Luzern 1991: 25-29.

¹⁰Baltimore, Walters Art Museum, Ms W 218, achterblad: "Behoort Pieter de Grheppere / Christiaens zone 1583." The text does not say "Suster de Grheuppixie," as indicated by Lilian Randall. Randall (1997): 147.

¹¹Benoit (1890-92): Vol. I, 529.

¹²Comte de LaBorde (1852). *Les Ducs de Bourgogne. Etudes sur les Lettres, les Arts et l'Industrie pendant le XV^e Siècle et plus particulièrement dans les Pays-Bas et le Duché de Bourgogne*. Paris, Plon Frères: vol. II, 1, 377, no. 22.

¹³"Pilgrims die achter lande wandelen Die pleghen te brynghe / alzo jc waene Gordelkins van sinte Roozyaene Ofte brieuekens van Virgenycken Dien zy alomme gheerne bstrycken An dhelichdommen tjegehens bescut van erghe." J. W. Muller and L. Scarpé (1920). *Spelen van Cornelis Everaert*. Leiden: Boekhandel en Drukkerij voorheen E.J. Brill: 491.



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Books on Ice

BRITISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE OF POLAR EXPLORATION

THIS WINTER The Grolier Club is presenting a major exhibition on the literature and history of polar exploration. "Books on Ice: British & American Literature of Polar Exploration" is on display from December 7, 2005 through February 4, 2006.

The exhibit includes many of the classics of Anglo-American expedition literature as well as more unusual materials related to the Western perception of the Arctic and Antarctica, ranging from historical materials to the printed ephemera of polar explorations. The show is curated by Professors Deirdre C. Stam, Long Island University and Director of the New York Center for the Book, and David H. Stam, University Librarian Emeritus at Syracuse University.

Books seem to have been as essential as pemmican, primus stoves, fuel, and furs for travel in the polar regions. Exploration ships had large libraries, and sledg-

ing journeys often included a few books for idle times. They were routinely hauled to the far reaches of cold regions, and were even found with the frozen bodies of those unfortunate enough not to have returned.

The exhibition includes the four volume set of Alfred Lord Tennyson's *In Memoriam Maud and other Poems* (1906) that was found with the bodies of Robert Falcon Scott and Edward Wilson in Antarctica in 1912, a prayer book found with the skeletal remains of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated party seeking a Northwest Passage, and a book of Arctic voyages from the library of *HMS Resolute*, one of the Franklin Search vessels.

Books, magazines, and posters were also printed in the cold, both ashore and on shipboard presses; a copy of *Aurora Australis*, the first book printed in Antarctica in 1908 under the supervision of Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, is included.

Also on view are many first editions and association copies of explorers' accounts, as well as ephemera such as commemorative cigarette cards depicting arctic explorers, a can of pemmican from Admiral Peary's 1909 North Pole expedition, Roald Amundson's inscribed binoculars from the South Pole, and a commemorative wall plaque with a mounted penguin head from the Lincoln Ellsworth Collection at the American Museum of Natural History.

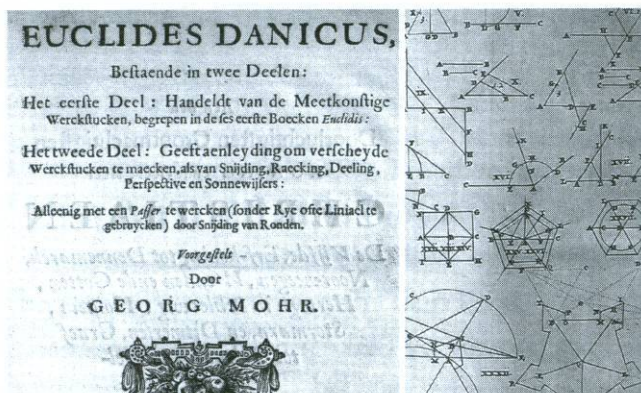
A handsome 160 page illustrated catalogue has been published in association with this exhibition.

Additional information about the exhibition is available on The Grolier Club website, www.grolierclub.org, or please feel free to contact me directly.

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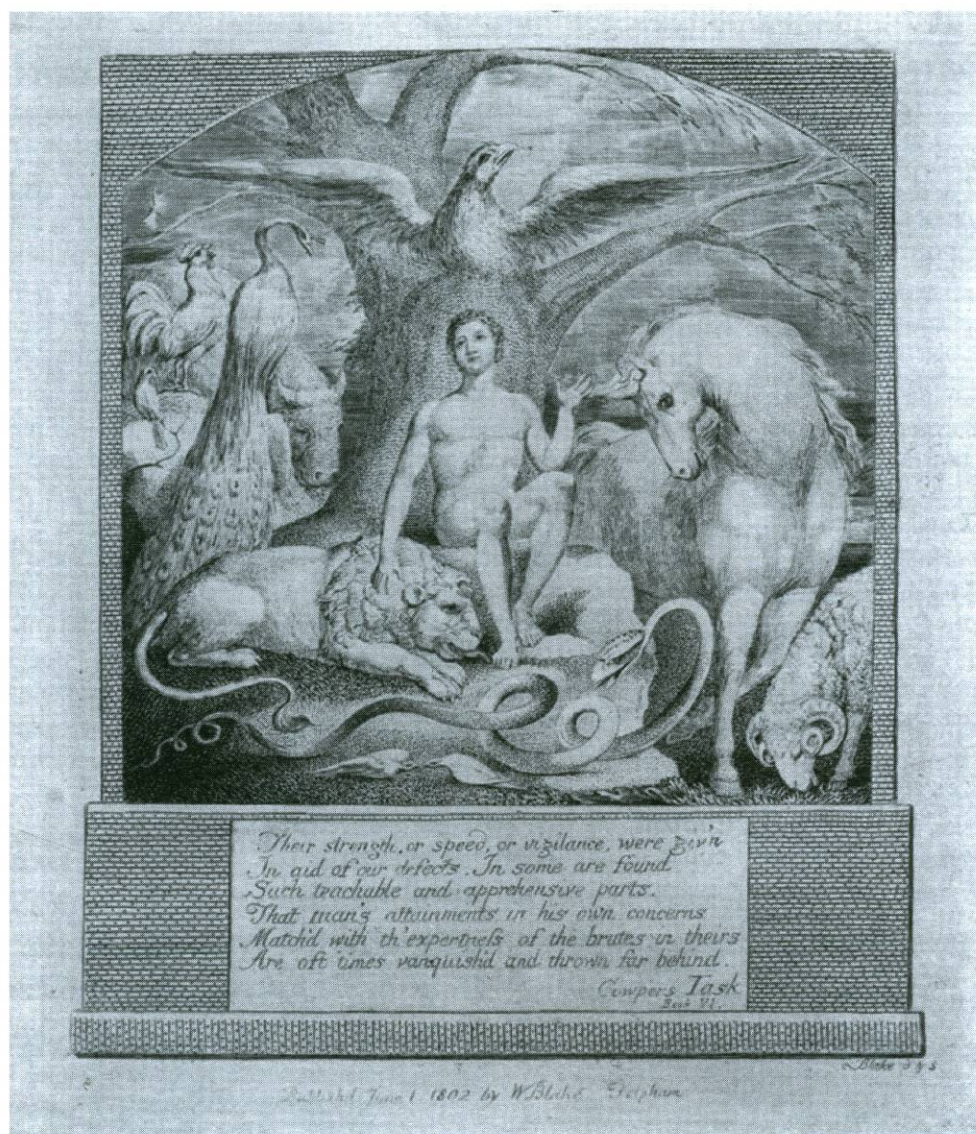
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Club News & Notes

PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY



WE STARTED the fall season with a talk that we co-sponsored with the BC Book Arts Guild and the Special Collections of Vancouver Public Library, entitled "From Apprentice to Fellow: A Life in Bookbinding" by Paul Delrue, an internationally renowned bookbinder from the UK, it was extremely well attended and his examples of "Tudor" style bindings were discussed and on view.

A few days later the Special Collections of Simon Fraser University Library hosted another of their Book Collector Talks in the series 'Share the Enthusiasm' with Dr. Wally Chung, collector extraordinaire. His collecting interests are exploration of the Pacific Northwest, the Chinese experience in North America, especially in BC, and the history of BC and CPR.

In late October we held our second Annual Alcuin Wayzgoose. We had approximately 600 visitors come to view and discuss the book arts with 17 private letterpress printers, 4 book artists, and 4 demonstrations during the day. This was by far the most successful of our annual events and much credit must be extended to Director Eric Swanick. This event was co-sponsored with Special Collections at Vancouver Public Library.

We finished off the month with another well attended event co-sponsored with Simon Fraser University Special Collections. Sue Allen gave a talk on "The Brilliance of Cloth Book Covers: Decorated Publishers' Bindings in America, 1830 to 1910. Sue is an internationally recognized expert on nineteenth century bookbindings and has written and lectured extensively on this subject.

In early November we held our annual "Alcuin Society Auction," with celebratory auctioneers Dr. Richard Hopkins, Ralph Stanton, and John King. After a buffet luncheon at the University Golf Club and a final viewing of the books to be auctioned the fun began. At the end of the day we managed to bring in \$4,000 in sales for our coffers, which will help to run some more bookish programs this coming year.

Plans are underway for the Book Design Contest for those Canadian books published in 2005 by Canadian publishers. This

design contest is the biggest in Canada and we have been internationally recognized as the official Canadian entry for the world wide book design contest, held in Leipzig, Germany in 2006. Requests for submissions by Canadian publishers are being sent out and we expect a record number of entries for the Alcuin Book Design Contest to be held in March 2006. A special thanks goes out to Director Leah Gordon for her sterling work in chairing this contest and also to Dr. Josef Wosk for his extremely generous donations and encouragement.

After a period of a few years the Alcuin Society has started up a new chapbook program on Canadian Artists and our first book in this series, entitled *Thoreau MacDonald, 1901-1989: Canada's Foremost Book Illustrator* by Terry Stillman, has just been published. If you would like a copy, please contact John King, the Alcuin Society at 604 538-7092 or at antbook@aol.com

Our 40th anniversary issue of *Amphora* will soon be off the presses, this issue will be a celebration of our continued existence in Canada.

We will be finishing off this banner year with a Christmas get together for the Directors at the Vancouver home of Leah Gordon, where I'm sure there will be much bookish talk, good food, and wine.

The majority of our events are free and fully open to the general public.

The Alcuin Society's web page can be found at www.alcuinsociety.com and we sincerely hope that you will check it out for up-to-date information about our events, programs, and activities. For further information about the Alcuin Society, please contact John King at 604-538-7092 or at antbook@aol.com.

THE ALDUS SOCIETY



THE ALDUS SOCIETY is a group for lovers of books and the printed arts. Members include book collectors, archivists and preservationists, book lovers and booksellers, writers, small press printers, calligraphers, artists, and librarians. Our programs reflect members' varied personal and professional interests and fall into three categories: (1) regular meetings with a formal program preceded by wine and cheese socializing; (2) informal First Satur-

day sessions wherein members are invited to the Ohio State University Rare Books and Manuscripts Library to view and discuss selected books from the OSU collection; and (3) field trips and other activities.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

September (Regular Meeting) At our first meeting of the 2005-2006 program year Columbus physician Dr. Paul Christenson shared his fascination with Art Nouveau. His thoroughly researched and well prepared presentation was enhanced with a number of illustrated volumes and prints typical of the period.

October (Regular Meeting) – Dr. John King of the Ohio State University presented the seventh chapter of the Aldus Society History of Text & Image series when he spoke on John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments of the English Martyrs* (popularly known as the *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*).

October (First Saturday) – The program featured works of Walt Whitman, particularly the 1855 *Leaves of Grass*, in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the publication of that great work.

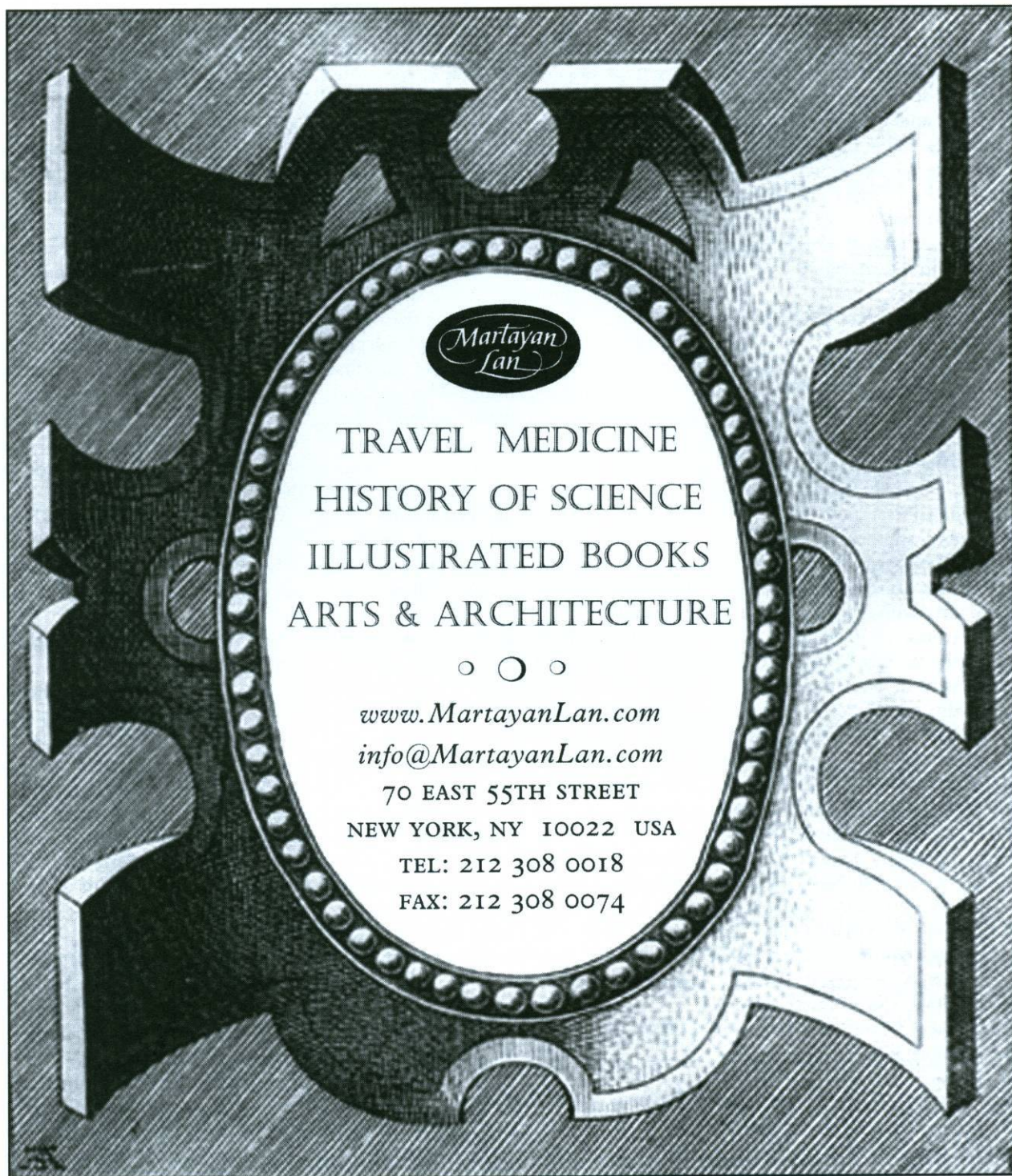
November (Regular Meeting) – Joel Silver, Curator of Rare Books at Indiana University's Lilly Library and columnist for *Fine Books & Collections* magazine joined us for a presentation about J.K. Lilly. Mr. Lilly was a remarkable collector indeed, not only of books and manuscripts, but of stamps, coins, military miniatures, nautical artifacts, and other items.

November (First Saturday) – Diana Britt Franklin shared highlights of the extensive collection of cook books she donated to the OSU Special Collections.

November (Field Trip) – A beautiful autumn day provided the backdrop for a field trip to nearby Chillicothe, Ohio, where Aldus members visited the McKell Library, enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant, and then toured Dard Hunter's Mountain House home and studio.

December (First Saturday) – What is Columbus without James Thurber? The December program featured a number of unpublished drawings that are part of OSU's extensive Thurber collection.

December (Special Meeting) – December once again found members of the Aldus Society gathered together at the annual Holiday Dinner to celebrate the wrap-up of another successful year.



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The 2006 program is coming together, and it looks like an exciting one.

January 7 (First Saturday) – Just 10 days before his 300th birthday the Saturday session will feature an item Benjamin Franklin worked on as a printer in London, work from the Franklin press in Philadelphia, the first Autobiography, and associated items.

January 12 (Regular Program) – Harry Campbell, Book Conservator for the Ohio State University Libraries, will be talking about “This Old Book,” a review of the history and development of the mechanical and material aspects of the book. Harry’s presentation will be enhanced by the presence of a variety of material, tool, and book samples.

February 4 (First Saturday) – February’s program will feature African-American holdings in commemoration of Black History month.

February 9 (Regular Program) – Bob Tauber and Sidney Chafetz will discuss their experiences reviving the Logan Elm Press at the Ohio State University. The Logan Elm Press imprint flourished at OSU for almost fifteen years, but was closed in 1995 as a result of program reductions at the University. Its revival is now on track and several fine press offerings have been issued or are in the planning stage.

March 4th (First Saturday) – The March installment will focus on OSU’s Irish materials in appreciation of St. Patrick’s Day later in the month.

March 9th (Regular Program) – Michael Zwettler, Associate Professor, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the Ohio State University will present the eighth chapter of the Aldus Society History of Text & Image series when he speaks on early Arabic manuscripts.

April 13th (Regular Program) – Owen Gingerich, senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and research professor of astronomy and of the history of science at Harvard University, will tell his saga of *The Book Nobody Read*, his 30-year search to record all of the first and second editions of Nicholas Copernicus’ *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*.

May 11th (Regular Program) – The final Aldus Society meeting of the 2005-2006 program year is still in the planning stages. Additional programs will be announced on the Aldus Society web site as the details are finalized. Stay tuned.

Please join us! Members of other FABS affiliates are always welcome at Aldus Society gatherings. Regular meetings of the

Aldus Society are held at 7:30 p.m. at The Thurber Center, 91 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, Ohio. Socializing begins at 7:00 p.m. First Saturday programs are held at 3:00 p.m. in Room 327 (the Rare Book Reading Room) of the Ohio State University Main Library, 1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, Ohio.

Check the Aldus Society website at www.AldusSociety.com, to find up-to-date information about our programs and activities and in-depth articles about many of our speakers.

For additional information please contact Ronald L. Ravneberg at 614 457-1153 or AldusSociety@aol.com.

THE AMPERSAND CLUB



THE AMPERSAND CLUB met, for the first time after the summer recess, in October when it toured the library of the College of Visual Arts in St. Paul. The library had been the recipient of a donation of 209 art and artists’ books and exhibition catalogues from the personal collection of Mr. Werner Kramasky, a renowned New York collector.

In November the Club celebrated the publication of Betty Bright’s new book, *No Longer Innocent: Book Art in America 1960-1980* (New York: Granary Books, 2005). Ms. Bright gave an illustrated lecture on the subject to a large and enthusiastic crowd, and was available for signing copies of the book which is the first history to trace the emergence of the artist’s book in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. The history takes an inclusive view of the varied fields of the book arts and redresses the sporadic or confused acknowledgement from the art world that has long marginalized artists’ books.

Designed by the enigmatic and multi-talented Ampersand member Phil Gallo, copies of the book are available for \$39.95 from its publisher, Granary Books in New York City at www.granarybooks.com.

THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES



THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES schedule for 2006 is as follows.

March 25 – 9:30 a.m. at the Garrett Library at Evergreen House. Cynthia Reardon, William Kurrelmeyer Curator of Special Collections of the Sheridan Li-

braries, will highlight book collection rarities for the group, followed by a docent’s tour of the house. Lunch follows at The Johns Hopkins Club.

May – TBA. Event begins at 6:00 p.m. at The Walters Art Museum. Site visit to an exhibit at The Walters Art Museum entitled “Interpretation by Design: Contemporary Book-bindings by Stanley Sherman.” Stanley Sherman is a bookbinder living and working in Washington D.C. Trained as an architect, many of the bindings that he designs are for books on the history of town planning and architecture, but he also designs bindings for books on museums, painters, and manuscript illumination. Using a wide range of materials, Sherman creates bindings that provide a portal to the subject matter inside, seducing the reader with beautiful interpretations of their contents. Approximately 28 of his bindings will be on display. The exhibition will be curated by Claire Sherman, Stanley Sherman’s wife, and a distinguished scholar of medieval art in her own right. The Baltimore Bibliophiles will be treated to a private viewing of this exhibition, together with an introduction to the exhibition by Claire Sherman, and will have the opportunity to meet Stanley Sherman. A light repast at The Walters precedes the event.

June 22 – 6:00 p.m. at The Johns Hopkins Club. Sybille Jagusch, Chief, Children’s Literature Section, Library of Congress. “Japan in American Children’s Books: From Commodore Perry to Today.” Illustrated with examples from the author’s personal collection. Cocktails and dinner precede the talk.

September 20 – 6:00 p.m. Jack Fruchtman, Jr., author of *Atlantic Cousins: Benjamin Franklin and His Visionary Friends*, will lecture in celebration of the Franklin Tercentenary. Cocktails and dinner precede the talk at The Johns Hopkins Club.

For information on future programs contact Binnie Syril Braunstein, Corresponding Secretary and Program Chair, at 410 486-6178 or bsbgc@aol.com.

THE JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY



ON OCTOBER 20th a number of members presented books from their own collections in the Barnard Room of the Providence Public Library – ranging from medieval manuscripts to nineteenth-century decorative bindings. It was a good chance for the members to chat with each

other about books free from the restrictions of a formal talk.

On November 17, the Society sponsored a lecture (with slides and books) at the Providence Athenaeum delivered by John Kristensen, of the Firefly Press in Somerville, Massachusetts. The title of the talk was "Copperface, Brimmer, Mountjoye, Bell: The New England Adventures of a Typeface," which explored the history of the use and re-discovery of a typeface that, "perhaps more than any other, characterized the New England manner of fine book making."

On December 7, the Bartlett Society and the John Carter Brown Library co-sponsored a dinner at the Brown Faculty Club for the students of Jeremy Popkin's History of the Book course. Professor Popkin is the fourth Watts Visiting Professor of Book History at Brown University. His home institution is the University of Kentucky, where he is a professor of history. The students gave a short presentation on their collaborative final project, the subject of which is the Metcalf collection in the John Hay Library, described as follows:

"An extraordinarily diverse collection of pamphlets donated by the Hon. Theron Metcalf, Class of 1805. It is the library's

principal collection of American and English pamphlet literature of the 17th through the 19th centuries. A distinguished jurist and author on legal subjects, Metcalf was an avid collector of pamphlet literature. He added periodically to the collection after giving it to Brown and, at his death in 1875, it included well over 10,000 items. The collection includes ordination, election-day, and dedicatory sermons, Fourth of July orations, plus pamphlets on the Civil War and slavery, the Irish question, Mormonism, agriculture, medicine, and women's suffrage to name but a few categories."

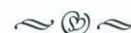
The Bartlett Society anticipates with understandable enthusiasm the publication of *The Autobiography of John Russell Bartlett (1805-1886)*, edited by Jerry E. Mueller. This volume, based upon Bartlett's manuscript in the John Carter Brown Library, will be published in 2006 under the JCLB's imprint. Designed by Mark Argetsinger and printed by the world-renowned Stamperia Valdonega printing house in Verona, Italy, the volume promises to be a fine monument to our "patron saint." We are planning a book launch in the spring, as soon as the books become available.

Two other spring events show equal

promise, both in April. On April 8, the Society (in collaboration with the Rhode Island Center for the Book, the Letterpress Guild of New England, the American Printing History Association, and New Leaves Press), will sponsor "Whitman the Printer," a talk given by Professor Ed Folsom, Department of English, University of Iowa. This event will take place in the Special Collections department of the University of Rhode Island.

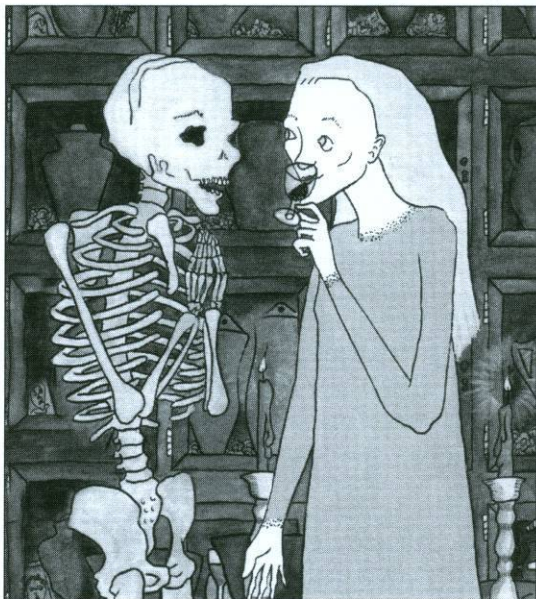
Finally, we always look forward to our annual book collecting prize for undergraduates, named after the great bibliographer Margaret Bingham Stillwell, which is scheduled for April 25 at the John Carter Brown Library. The speaker at that event will be Nick Aretakis, collector, and Americana specialist for the William Reese Company.

THE BIXBY CLUB



THE AGENDA for our annual holiday dinner at the University Club took a turn when bookdealer and ABAA member Annette Kolling-Weaver took a tumble and was unable to deliver her prepared talk. Gregory P. Ames, Curator of the John W.

Considering Poisonous Plants at Table?



A black-and-white detail from one of Audrey Niffenegger's full color illustrations

If you've been stumped how to plan a seasonal menu featuring poisonous plants, help is soon at hand. *Poisonous Plants at Table*—incorporating selections from *Poisonous Plants In Field and Garden* by the Reverend Professor G. Henslow, with "Poisonous Plants at Table" (selected menus and recommendations) by Dr. E. Coffin, and featuring "Prudence: The Cautionary Tale of a Picky Eater," written and illustrated by Audrey Niffenegger—should provide the information and inspiration you need.

Professor Henslow's field guide will help you identify the plants, and tell you which parts are poisonous. The four seasonal party menus accompanied by the illustrated story of Prudence should then put you in the mood. For your convenience, field guide and menus are cross-referenced with convenient icons.

Now accepting reservations at a pre-publication price of \$975 with a \$200 deposit. After March 1, 2006, the price will become \$1200. Delivery dates are not guaranteed, but we hope to start shipping the first of the copies around April Fools Day, 2006.

See the Sherwin Beach web site at www.sherwinbeach.com

"...wonderful examples of the bookmaker's art... meticulous, straightforward and beautiful."

—Russell Maylone, Northwestern University, as quoted in *Fine Books and Collections*.

For more information, or to arrange to view our books, contact: Priscilla Juvelis [Kennebunkport, ME] 207-967-0909; Joshua Heller [Washington, DC] 202-966-9411; Vamp and Tramp + Califa Books [Birmingham, AL] 205-824-2300; or PABA Gallery [New Haven, CT] 203-773-3665.

Barriger III National Railroad Library at the St. Louis Mercantile Library stepped aboard and delivered a charming talk titled: "Circus Trains & Shut Eye Trains: The Special Magic of Children's Railroad Books," replete with wonderful full color images of the art in these books that are a part of his personal collection.

John Hoover will host his now renowned annual Valentine's Day soirée at his home on Friday, February 10. He will display and discuss some selected and sometimes little known books from one or more of his personal collecting interests.

A day trip to The Lilly Library at the University of Indiana at Bloomington is planned for either May 5 or 19. The visit will afford Bixby Club members the opportunity for a guided tour of The Lilly Library and time to peruse The Caxton Club's traveling leaf book exhibition, *Disbound and Dispersed: The Leaf Book Considered*. Joel Silver, Curator of Books at The Lilly and Curator of the Leaf Book Exhibition, will be our host.

For information about The Bixby Club please contact John Hoover at 314 516-7245 or jhoover@umsl.edu.

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA



THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA presented its annual Oscar Lewis Awards at a festive evening reception on February 6, 2006. The citation for contributions to Western History was made to Robert V. Hine, and Peter Koch was honored for his contributions to the Book Arts. Chairman of the Oscar Lewis Award Committee Jeremy C. Cole presented the awards, and the assembled members and guests heard appreciations of both awardees' notable careers.

Books appearing in 2006 from the Club include the long-awaited *WPA Federal Art Project: Printmaking in California 1935-43* by Elizabeth Seaton; Gary Kurutz's *Knights of the Lash: The Stagecoach Stories of Major Ben C. Truman*; and John Ignatius Bleasdale: *A Friend of Wine in New Worlds* by Dr. Thomas C. Pinney.

Dr. Seaton's beautifully illustrated study of the widespread government-supported printmaking projects of the Depression was designed by Patrick Reagh of Sebastopol and printed in an edition of 450 copies by Yon Art Printing of South Korea. The forty-eight illustrations, reproduced in vibrant color, make the book immediately appealing to the general book-lover, and Dr.

Seaton's text provides a wide and scholarly but still lively view of the art and the times that gave rise to it. The large-format book includes useful biographical information for the artists, many of them well known to aficionados of Western printmaking.

Gary Kurutz, Chairman of the Club's Publications Committee and Special Collections Librarian, California State Library, and prolific author specializing in Californiana, has long been a champion of the writings of Major Ben C. Truman. With *Knights of the Lash*, he offers a selection of this California booster's stage-travel sketches unmatched for wit and adventure. The Castle Press of Pasadena produced a delightful illustrated edition of 350 copies, bound by Mariana Blau.

Dr. Thomas Pinney, known for his scholarship in oenology and the author of the Club's acclaimed *Vineyards and Wine Cellars of California* (Yolla Bolly Press, 1994), offers here a study of a fascinating personality in the world of nineteenth-century wine: English-born Jesuit John Ignatius Bleasdale, who went from student-days in war-torn Portugal to the wine-making regions of Australia, and then to San Francisco to promote and improve California wine. *A Friend of Wine in New Worlds* was designed by Bruce Washbish of Petaluma's Anchor & Acorn Press and printed by Eric Holub of the Hillside Press in San Francisco. The illustrated edition is 350 copies.

Other exciting books will appear in due course. Incidentally, for those who missed the Club's elegant and lavishly illustrated *Exploring Japanese Books and Scrolls* by Colin Franklin (The Artichoke Press, 1999), Oak Knoll Press of New Castle, Delaware, has now produced a trade edition of this important work.

Toward the end of 2005, the Club was honored to present an engaging exhibit of the works of the late Vance Gerry, from the collection of his sometime partner in the Weather Bird Press, Patrick Reagh. Gerry worked for many years at the Walt Disney Studios; his fine-press art and illustrations exhibit the whimsey such a career requires—and much, much more. The Whittington Press of John and Rosalind Randle, publishers of the splendid British journal of fine printing and the book arts, *Matrix*, plan a selection of Gerry's wood engravings, linocuts, and pochoir illustrations for 2007.

Many other exhibits and public programs entertained Club members and guests throughout 2005. Others equally varied will be on the calendar for 2006. The

Club's research grants to individuals and to bookish institutions continue to support work in the book arts and Western history. The Club offers convivial Monday evenings from five to seven p.m., and visitors are welcome to visit during the week as well.

When in San Francisco, visit The Book Club of California at 312 Sutter Street, Suite 510 or contact Ann Whipple at 800 869-7656 or ann@bccbooks.org.

THE CAXTON CLUB



THE CAXTON CLUB's *Disbound and Dispersed: The Leaf Book Considered* exhibition and book continues its successful journey. After a gala opening at the Newberry Library it moved to the San Francisco Public Library. The exhibition was supplemented by related materials in the Library's Book Arts & Special Collections Center. The exhibition then moves to the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. The final venue will be at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

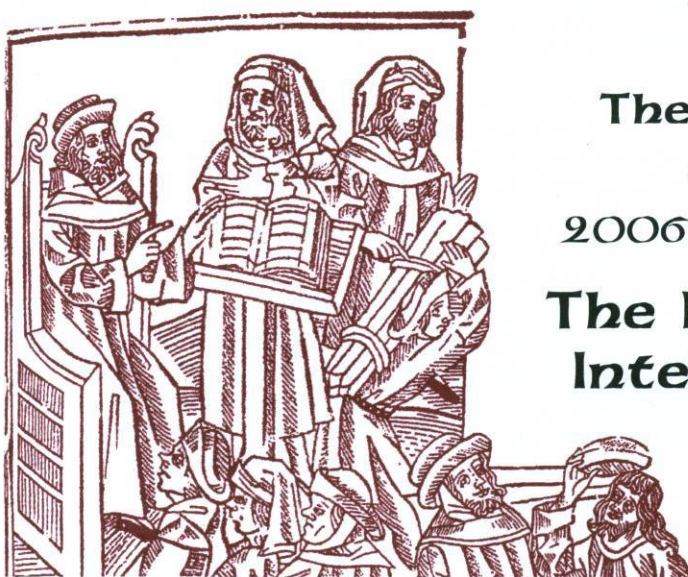
Special Program in 2006. The Caxton Club will sponsor a day-long symposium on The Past and Future of Intellectual Property at the Newberry Library on Saturday, April 1, 2006. The program will bring four distinguished scholars of history, literature, communications, and law to Chicago for an intensive day of informal talks and discussions with a broad public audience.

The principal object of the symposium will be to explore historical and philosophical alternatives to the present system of copyright as we move into the twenty-first century. Intellectual property includes not only printed and manuscript texts but also music and other artistic works, electronic publications, and cultural properties.

The Newberry Library will co-sponsor the event and assist in providing publicity. An audience of 150-200 may be expected, including interested non-specialists as well as professionals in such fields as publishing and printing, fine and performing arts, journalism, law, library and archival services, new media, and international business.

The program will be open free of charge or with a nominal registration fee.

The Caxton Club will further disseminate the themes of the symposium in a variety of newsletters, newspapers, magazines, and scholarly publications. The club may also publish a volume of essays under its own prestigious imprint.



**The Caxton Club
and
The Newberry Library**
cordially invite you to their
2006 SYMPOSIUM ON THE BOOK
**The Past and Future of
Intellectual Property**

Saturday, April 1, 2006

Morning sessions: The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago

Afternoon session: The Fortnightly Club, 120 E. Bellevue Place, Chicago

This day-long program will explore historical and philosophical alternatives to the present system of copyright as we move into the twenty-first century. Intellectual property includes not only printed and manuscript texts but also music and other artistic works, electronic publications, and cultural properties of all sorts.

Speakers will include:

Joseph Loewenstein (*Professor of English, Washington University*)

James Caudle (*Associate Editor, James Boswell Papers, Yale University*)

Martha Woodmansee (*Professor of English and Law, Case Western Reserve University*)

Siva Vaidhyanathan (*Associate Professor of Culture and Communication, New York University*)

The program is free and open to the public but seating is limited and advance registration is required.

For further information and registration form,
please visit The Caxton Club website: www.caxtonclub.org



This symposium is supported with a generous gift from Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC.

DINNER PROGRAMS

Wednesday, January 18, 2006. Speaker Anthony J. Batko, Topic: Crucial Decision. January is no time to bring out-of-towners to Chicago, and we will stay with the tried and true, in this case our own Caxtonian Tony Batko, noted educational publisher and, more to the point, former Co-Chair of the Chicago Public Library Group, a coalition that, in the late 1980s stopped the City from putting the main library in an abandoned department store, and profoundly influenced the building of the Harold Washington Library as we know it.

He will tell us the inside story of the remarkable political/cultural/newspaper wars over what to do about the library system, then in a tailspin headed for collapse. This is a story for book-lovers of every sort, helping us understand the role libraries, and therefore books, play in the life of a city, and the measures people who care must take to ensure they receive their proper and necessary place in the urban community.

Wednesday, February 15, 2006. Speakers, Daria D'Arienzo and John Lancaster. Topic: Cries of New York: Printing and Revelry at the Harbor Press.

The Harbor Press was synonymous with fine printing in New York from 1925-1942.

The creation of John Fass, later of Hammer Creek Press, and Roland Wood, later a distinguished actor, the Harbor Press did love-ly work, and had wonderful fun.

All of this will be explained in an illustrated talk about the press and its founders by two remarkable people and exciting speakers, Daria D'Arienzo, Head of Archives and Special Collections at The Robert Frost Library at Amherst College, and John Lancaster, Curator of Special Collections at The Frost. The two members of this distinguished team are leaders in the world of book affairs, including archival, bibliographic and library professional societies, and will bring alive a period of private press history and its inhabitants in a memorable way.

For additional information please contact Hayward R. Blake at 847 864-9800 or hrblake@earthlink.net.

THE DELAWARE BIBLIOPHILES



"YOU ARE WELCOME HITHER." That was the motto that greeted The DB's who attended the first meeting of our fall season on October 9th. We visited Arden, Dela-

ware, an important utopian community founded in 1900 on the economic principles of Henry George and his Single Tax system and allied with the Arts & Crafts movement. Member Mark Taylor presented an illustrated talk on the history of the Arden villages; a tour of the recently opened Arden Craft Shop Museum with items from the Arden Archives on display; and a walking tour of the community. Mark was also guest curator of an exhibit at The Delaware Museum on this landmark community a few years ago.

Many DB members as well as members from other FABS clubs were seen at Oak Knoll Fest XII that was held in New Castle, DE on October 1 and 2. The morning lecture on Saturday was given by Joel Silver who then moderated the panel discussion on Sunday on leaf books in conjunction with The Caxton Club's new publication *Disbound and Dispersed: The Leaf Book Considered*.

The annual fall auction/dinner was again held at The Terrace at Greenhill on Wednesday, November 16th with 39 attending. Members were generous with their contribution of 56 lots that raised over \$800 for the Club's treasury. Highlights included Suzanne Pfeiffer's home made lemon

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Library of Congress, Claremont College, McIlhenny Natural History Collection Louisiana State University, University of Southern California

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production values, and painstaking attention to every detail – and watch their jaws drop
even farther. It's an absolutely stunning addition to our growing Artists' Books Collection.*

– Diane Shaw – Special Collections Librarian, Lafayette College

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– James Fox – Director, Special Collections, University of Oregon

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Toronto Public Library, University of British Columbia, Japanese National Institute of Polar Research

squares; a number of blue prints pertaining to Richardson Park, a Wilmington suburban community; a large group of the *Gazette of The Grolier Club*; an original hand colored print created by member Robert Walsh of Rockford Tower in Wilmington; and the book *Birds of Delaware*, signed by all participants.

We met in December at the University of Delaware Library to see "Franklin & Friends," their Benjamin Franklin exhibit in connection with the 300th anniversary of his birth. Franklin is being celebrated in this country as well as in France.

Copies of our two most recent publications are still available: *The Delaware Bibliophiles, 1977-2002—a History & Anthology* consisting of 344 pages with an original leaf published by Benjamin Franklin tipped in as well as a John DePol wood engraving; and a separate printing by Neil Shaver of DePol's wood engraving of Franklin's Press. The anthology includes a history of the city of New Castle, DE; and an expansion by Nathaniel Puffer of Rink's bibliography of Delaware imprints before 1801; among others. Contact Andrew McKay at mckay514@aol.com for further information on these publications.

As the sign said in Arden, FABS members are welcome at our events. If you plan to be in our area, contact our president, Tom Doherty at tsquare1787@aol.com.

FINE PRESS BOOK ASSOCIATION



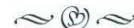
THE FINE PRESS BOOK ASSOCIATION had its Annual Meeting during the Oak Knoll Book Fest in early October. The dues structure remains the same; dues notices will be sent out in January of each year starting in 2006; the new Treasurer is Carl Darrow up in Massachusetts.

The OK Fest was great, as usual, with two good morning presentations and then fine press hall open in the afternoons. Many members travelled to Oxford the next month to participate in the huge fair there. Several went on to Cambridge to experience the fabulous illuminated manuscript exhibition that took place though 11 December at the Fitzwilliam Museum and the University Library. The next issue of our journal, 'Parenthesis,' was prepared for press in early November and should be in the mail shortly thereafter. Keep the infor-

mation flowing to the editor, Crispin Elsted, at Barbarian_Press@telus.net

For more information please contact the Membership Secretary Morva Gowans at FPBA_morva@shaw.ca in Vancouver, or Chairman Stephen Heaver in Baltimore at sgheaver@aol.com.

FONTANEDA SOCIETY



ALL PROGRAMS are from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, sixth floor, Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida unless otherwise noted.

Fontaneda welcomes FABS members to all our meetings. Please call 954 497-3661 extension 239 for information.

January, TBA – Literary/Musical Evening with Fred Ruffner. Mr. Ruffner will host a literary/musical evening at his residence, 7 to 9 p.m.

February 11 – Rubell Family Art Collection Library. Saturday afternoon visit to the Rubell Family Art Collection Library in the Miami Design District.

March 16 – "2005 Florida Artists" Book Prize Exhibition and Award Ceremony.

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April 20—Inside look at the Bienes Center's Rare book archive. Bienes Center. Broward County Main Library.

May 18—Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. Show and tell.

THE GROLIER CLUB



UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, all exhibitions are held at The Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022. Starred events are open to non-Grolier FABS members; those interested should contact Eric Holzenberg directly.

*December 6-February 4: Public exhibition: Books on Ice: British and American Literature of Polar Exploration, curated by David and Deirdre Stam. Opening reception.

January 10: Rare Book School Lecture: David H. Stam speaking on the "Books on Ice" exhibition. 6:00 p.m. at the Club. Reception follows. Co-sponsored by Rare Book School.

*January 17: Eleventh Annual Grolier Club Poetry Reading: Elizabeth Bishop. Members and their guests read from the work of this great American poet. Hosted by Bradley Whitehurst and E. Ward Smith.

January 23-28: Bibliography Week 2006.

January 25: Grolier lunchtime buffet: Speaker: Steven Escar Smith, Director and Wendler Professor, Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, and 2004 Grolier Fellow, on "Edwin Forrest and William Evans Burton: The Comedy, History, and Tragedy of Two 19th-Century Shakespeare Collectors." At the Club, luncheon noon to 2:00 pm, speaker 2:00-3:00 p.m. N.B.: The lecture is open to all, but the luncheon is open to Grolier Club members and their guests only.

*January 25 - March 10: Members' exhibition: The Extraordinary Life of Charles Dickens from the collection of Bruce J. Crawford. Opening reception.

*January 26: 122nd Grolier Club Annual Meeting.

January 28: A Memorial Gathering for Mary Ann O'Brian Malkin (1913-2005), collector, scholar, patroness, and valued friend of Rare Book School, the Grolier Club, and other bookish organizations, who died on

August 1, 2005 at the age of 92. The event commences at 5 p.m., following the APHA annual meeting and reception.

*February 18: A Grolier Gathering in Los Angeles. In town for the LA Book Fair? Join President Carolyn Smith, Director and Librarian Eric Holzenberg, and other fellow Grolier Club members for an evening of drinks, hearty hors d'oeuvres, and book-chat. Details TBA.

*February 21-April 29: Public exhibition: Claire Van Vliet & The Janus Press: Fifty Years. Curated by Ruth Fine and Neal Turtell. Opening reception.

*March 22 - May 26: Members' exhibition: Anthony Powell and His Circle from the collection of William B. Warren. Opening reception.

April 17-23: Book Week

*April 19: Grolier lunchtime buffet: Details TBA.

*May 4-7: Grolier Club Trip to Atlanta. Details TBA.

*May 16 - July 29: Public exhibition: Teaching America to Draw: Instructional Manuals and Ephemera, 1794 to 1925. Curated by William Joyce. Opening reception.

*June 7: Grolier Gathering in London.

Folger Shakespeare Library—*Limited Edition Facsimile*

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Folger Shakespeare Library, we are happy to announce the following publication:

Trevelyon Miscellany, 1608.

(MS V.b. 232) Full-Text, Color Facsimile. Size: 11.5" x 18". Weight: ca. 17.6 lbs., 648 pages, including introduction by Dr. Heather Wolfe, Curator of Manuscripts, Folger Shakespeare Library.

The Trevelyon Miscellany of 1608 is one of the Folger's greatest treasures. Its oversized pages depict life in Shakespeare's England in all of its brilliant complexities—from the mythical to the mundane, poetical to practical, religious to secular. Familiar scenes of domesticity and husbandry are intertwined with epic Protestant and political epitomes: accounts of the rulers of England and the Gunpowder Plot, descriptions of local fairs, the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge and astronomy according to Ptolemy, illustrations of the nine muses and the seven deadly sins, of Old Testament history and household proverbs, and whimsical flowers, alphabets, and embroidery patterns.

Collector's Edition. 50 copies, hand-bound by Peter Geraty at the Praxis Bindery, Easthampton, Massachusetts and housed in an elegant linen-covered clamshell box. Price: \$3,500. List of subscribers and 10% discount for orders placed before July 1, 2006.

Library Edition. 950 copies. Distribution in negotiation. Pricing to be announced.

Delivery: April 2007.

Prospectus available from Richard Kuhta, rkuhta@folger.edu, (202) 675-0327.



fol. 119r: "Queene Elizabeth," one of a series of twenty-nine pages of English rulers from the time of William the Conqueror to James I. An earlier seventy-page series illustrates the early rulers of Britain, from the ancient Trojan, Brutus, to Harold, the last of the Saxon kings.

*June 14 - July 29: Members' exhibition: New Members Collect. Opening 5:30 p.m. Opening reception.

All of our public exhibitions are open free of charge Mondays to Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. All other events are open to Grolier Club members only. We invite you to visit our exhibitions and our website at www.grolierclub.org.

NORTHERN OHIO BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETY



NOBS sponsored a Cleveland area book fair in October (The Chagrin Valley Antiquarian Book Fair). The Akron Antiquarian Book Fair is slated for April 7 & 8, 2006 at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron.

Three NOBS Forums were held at Logberry Books in Cleveland. Speakers were Eric Coble (playwright) and Karen Long (Plain Dealer Books Editor). Another Forum featured an attendee show and tell about books of interest. Akron NOBS Nights featured member presentations by Jim and Lynn Best (favorite illustrated books) and Roy Preece (Arkham House

publications). The NOBS Annual Meeting was held on November 13 featuring speaker Mike Snyder of the Cleveland Area Metropolitan Library System.

Additional information regarding NOBS activities can be found on the NOBS website at www.nobsweb.org. or by contacting President Larry Rakow at 216 932-3084 or Lrakow@earthlink.net.

THE OTTAWA BOOK COLLECTORS



THE OTTAWA BOOK COLLECTORS meet regularly on the first Monday of the month.

January 9: The Biblio-Wassail. Members present books received during the holidays (or books they gave themselves!). As part of the OBC's twenty-fifth anniversary celebrations, John Millons, one of our founding members, will provide an overview of the OBC's activities and achievements over the years.

February 6: David Brunton, local naturalist extraordinaire and Ottawa River Keeper, will present a natural sciences study of the Ottawa Valley from the eighteenth century.

He will present his collection of literature pertaining to the natural sciences investigation of the Valley.

March 6: Member Paul Shuttle will review the economic, social, and physical factors affecting the popularity of books over time. Paul will provide examples from his collection to illustrate how these various factors impact upon book sales.

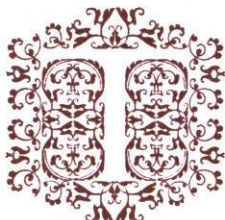
April 3: An entertaining evening with our members reviewing the works of three great humorists: George Beelen will speak on Mark Twain, Peter Greig will speak on Stephen Leacock, and Ken Elder will speak on Eric Nichol.

May 1: Professor Elaine Keillor, distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at Carleton University, Ottawa, will present the history of music publishing in Canada. Professor Keillor has engaged in biographical and bibliographical research relating to Canadian musical life in the late 19th and 20th centuries, including a bibliography of Canadian items. She has conducted extensive musical research among the native peoples of the Northwest Territories and northern Quebec.

June 5: Annual General Meeting and election of new executive.

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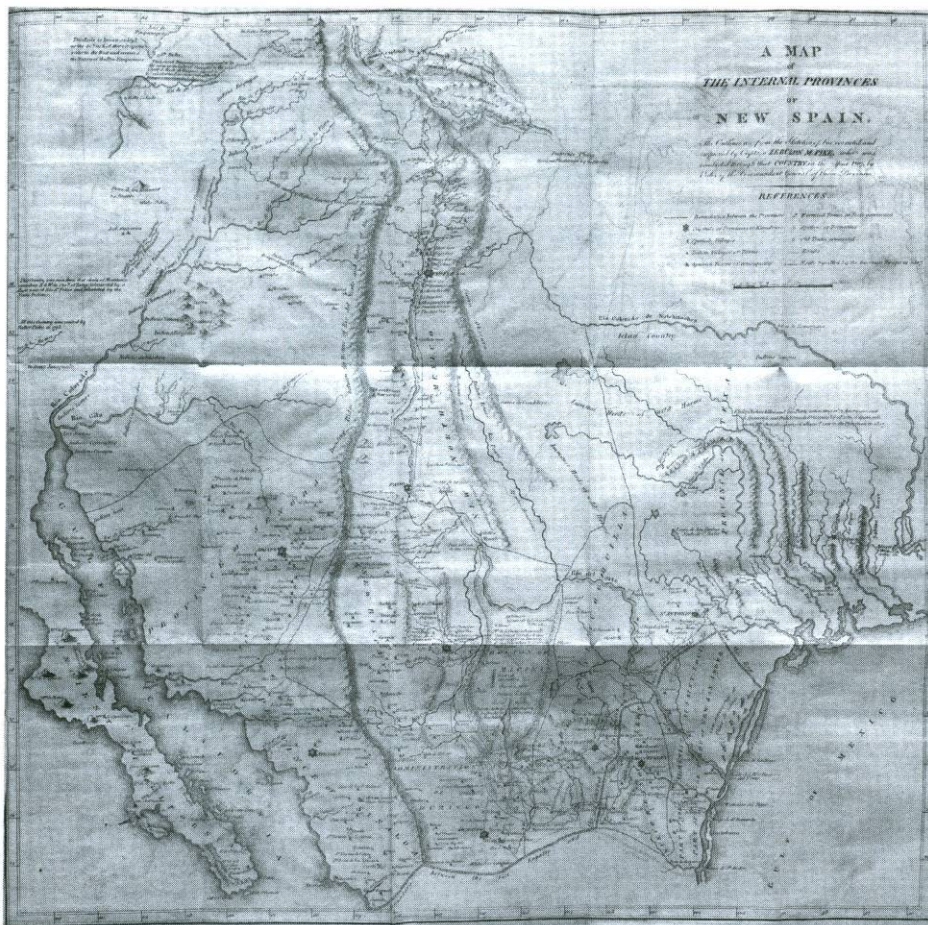
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THE BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER



THE December meeting was held in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Rochester Library. The speaker was Pablo Alvarez, Rare Book Librarian and curator of the exhibition *Science by the Book: from Hippocrates to Darwin*. Mr. Alvarez's presentation was based on the exhibition. The December meeting was also our traditional Holiday meeting and following the talk we enjoyed fellowship and refreshments.

Nancy Martin, University of Rochester Local History Librarian, will speak at the January meeting about the library of Martin Brewer Anderson, the first president of the University of Rochester.

Other programs planned for 2006 include a talk from local dealer and collector Ken Kelbaugh and a presentation by Nancy Kuhl of Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Members' Night, which features readings from works of prose and poetry by society members, will be the evening's fare for the May meeting. We close our Bibliophilic Season in June with the society's annual banquet.

All meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the second Wednesdays of September through May in the Community Room at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Pittsford Plaza, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Occasional field trips are scheduled throughout the bibliophilic season, as announced in the monthly newsletter and through local news media.

For additional information, contact Ray Edinger by phone at 585 663-1339 or e-mail at redinger@rochester.rr.com.

THE ROWFANT CLUB



IN JANUARY OF 2006 and through May, The Rowfant Club will host various speakers on "books and their capacity to please the mind of man." In January, we will hear from an expert on Cleveland's great business and industry beginnings back in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries when one street, Euclid Avenue, was rightly called Millionaires' Row. Imagine, several miles of mansions, all fit for royalty—and unfortunately all but two or three are long gone.

In February we will listen to Cleveland's wonderful baroque orchestra, Apollo's Fire, and enjoy a talk about the ever-interesting

and ever-top-of-the-canon, William Shakespeare. A year without Shakespeare is not a Rowfant year.

In March we will listen to talks by librarians from Hebrew Union and other experts on various collections and libraries. Later, in March we will host the curator of decorative arts from the Cleveland Museum of Art and other speakers on collections at the Smithsonian. Greater Cleveland's world-leading art museum is undergoing a huge and dramatic expansion and will be closed for a couple years. Around Spring 2010, the architect Vinoly's project will be completed and Greater Clevelanders will again be able to wander the halls on one of the world's greatest collections of art.

Meanwhile, in April and May, Rowfanters will be hearing from speakers from the Bodleian and a Harvard classical art expert as well as a former art critic with various publications. Perhaps these talks on art will help us through the withdrawal period we are now entering with the partial and sometimes complete closing of our beloved Cleveland Art Museum. We at Rowfant wish all of you a Happy New Year! and a wonderful Spring 2006.

For more information contact George A. Weimer, IV at weimer4@yahoo.com.

SACRAMENTO BOOK COLLECTORS CLUB



OUR CLUB meets the second Friday of each month except July and August. As always FABS members are encouraged to join us for our free programs.

Our September meeting featured the restoration of Sacramento's Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Father James Murphy was introduced by Fr. William Breault, historian and author of many books and articles on California History. Father Murphy did a splendid job of taking us back to the construction of the Cathedral in 1886. Not to be confused with "reconstructionism," the reconstruction of the Cathedral will be completed by the time this article goes to print.

A book, *The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament*, is available for \$20 and can be ordered by phone 916 444-3071 or by e-mail blessed@cathedralsacrament.org. The book contains a chapter by our very own past-President KD Kurutz entitled "Heavenly Light the Crowning Feature: The Stained Glass of the Cathedral."

Our October meeting was a panel discussion on the "Future of the Book." The fea-

tured panelist were all book dealers from the Sacramento area: Keith Burns of Books on Main, Bill Ewald of Argus Books, Bob Goosmann of Magus Books, and Richard Press of Richard Press Fine and Scholarly Books on the Arts. The membership really enjoyed the program of where has each dealer been with the book, where are they today, and where do they see themselves five years hence. A very lengthy question and answer period ensued and the meeting was adjourned to a local coffee shop where the discussion continued.

Also in October past-President Gary F. Kurutz was honored for 26 years of service by the Club and the California State Library Foundation. Why at 26 year? Why not? The suggestion sounded good to whomever ears it fell upon and a luncheon was quietly organized. A slightly embarrassed Gary Kurutz had to sit while colleagues said many nice things about him. A personal keepsake was assembled by members Bob Dickover and Gerrilee Hafvenstein. It is interesting to note that all three of the above mentioned SBCC members are past-Presidents and "Honorary" members for past contributions to the club.

Our November 11th meeting in room 200 of the new State Library and Courts Building was excellent in content as well as character. John Windle ABAA, ILAB of John Windle Antiquarian Books in San Francisco presented a talk on "The Glories of Chromolithography." Visit his website at www.johnwindle.com.

Our December 9th guest was Scott Burns who spoke on "Cartooning and Caricature: the History of Political Cartoons." The manuscript for his new book is almost complete and will publish in early 2006.

January will be our "Keepsake and Show and Share" meeting to be held in Room 500 of the old Library and Courts Building.

We are proud to announce that our 67th Annual Meeting speaker is Susan Hildreth, State Librarian of California. She will speak February 10th of 2006.

The purpose of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club is to promote the printed word and to publish from time to time such books, pamphlets, and other forms of printing that reflect Club interests, as determined and selected by a consensus of the membership.

The Sacramento Book Collectors Club meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Friday of each month except for July and August. We welcome and encourage fellow members of FABS to attend our free programs.

For additional information please contact Carl Burke at sbccclub@gmail.com, or

visit our website www.sacramentobookcollectors.org or call 916 747-8781

THE TICKNOR SOCIETY



THE TICKNOR SOCIETY is an organization of book collectors, booksellers, librarians, historians, archivists, conservators, printers, publishers, writers, and all lovers and readers of books. We are dedicated to the enjoyment, promotion, and support of books and book culture.

We gather approximately six times a year to socialize with friends and colleagues, listen to and present papers, share information and research, take workshops, and spread good cheer. Programs include lectures, collectors' roundtables, visits to exhibitions and private collections, behind-the-scenes tours of area libraries, and workshops. There is an annual meeting with a featured speaker.

EVENTS

February, TBA, "Inside Baker Library," Baker Library, Harvard Business School: Join us for a tour of the recently-renovated Baker Library, including highlights of the historic

preservation and a look at some of the extraordinary special collections that are part of Baker.

March 2, 6:00 p.m. "Medieval Manuscripts and Rare Books Adventures at Boston College: A Tale of Two Curators," McMullen Museum of Art and the Burns Library, Boston College: Earle Havens, Curator of Manuscripts at the Boston Public Library, will lead a behind-the-scenes tour of a major exhibition of the BPL's Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts collections at Boston College. This will be followed by a reception and informal tour and talk on the Burns Library and its collections by Boston College curator, Robert O'Neill.

May 6, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., "Literary Tour of Mount Auburn Cemetery," Mount Auburn Cemetery: This tour will include a special visit to the final resting place of George Ticknor's cousin, the publisher William Davis Ticknor, and several of our namesake's friends and colleagues, including William Hickling Prescott, Lowell, Longfellow, and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

June TBA "The Annual Meeting." Wrap up another exciting year of Ticknor events with the opportunity to hear one more

great speaker and chat with friends and colleagues before the summer break.

Membership is open to anyone who loves and appreciates books; annual dues are \$20 per individual. For more information, visit us online at www.ticknor.org or contact us at kbailey@hbs.edu or 617 495-2509.

BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON



THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON has a busy schedule planned for the first half of 2006. Following a wonderful Holiday dinner and auction, the club plans to renew its emphasis on membership interaction and publication planning, while concentrating on the planning for the Seattle FABS Book Tour & Symposium in May 2006, to which all FABS members are cordially invited. FABS members are also invited to join our local Puget Sound based activities on a space available basis. Please contact Anne Repass, at annerepass@aol.com.

PROGRAMS

January 14, 2-4 p.m. General member get-together to discuss personal collecting in-



Sangorski and Sutcliffe's edition of the Rubaiyat, circa 1911
Estimate: \$4000-6000. At auction February 23, 2006

WINTER AUCTION CALENDAR

Modern Literature

Science Fiction - Detective Fiction - Beat Literature

January 26, 2006

Children's & Illustrated Books;

Fine Printing & the Book Arts; Books in All Fields

February 9, 2006

Rare Books & Manuscripts

February 23, 2006

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The Collector's Bin



An opportunity for our readers to ask questions, share experiences, express concerns, or simply comment.

OUR FIRST COLUMN invited readers to submit bibliophilic questions in an effort to generate a discussion from which all might benefit. Many questions and comments received since our last newsletter focus on the sometime contentious question of price and value.

One *FABS Newsletter* reader writes: "I have been collecting modern first editions for over ten years. Every time I contemplate the purchase of a relatively expensive book, I inevitably find myself questioning the price. How can one know if he is paying a fair price for a collectable book?"

Another reader raises the "flip-side" of the pricing coin in writing: "Years ago I inherited a library of books from a relative. My wife and I are now downsizing into a condo and in her words, *the books must go!* Before I dispose of the books, I believe it prudent to have some idea of what the books are worth. Do you have any suggestions?"

It is no mystery that the price of a book is derived from the market for that book. Recalling basic economics, both supply and demand determine price. When demand exceeds supply, prices rise, and conversely when supply exceeds demand, prices fall. The difficulty lies in having knowledge of these market forces.

In the past, market information was not readily available to most amateur collectors. These collectors routinely depended on the professional bookseller to set a price based on the bookseller's understanding of the market. The professional would spend both time and money gathering the data. They may subscribe to *American Book Prices Current* (a record of book prices achieved at auction) and other reference/research sources such as the now obsolete *AB Weekly* to "get a feel" for what books are in demand (i.e., customer wants). In addition, dealer catalogs offered a wealth of bibliophilic information.

Today, while many continue to debate the impact of the Internet on the book world, one fact is undeniable: the Internet has made information that was once known by a few, available to a wide audi-

ence and at a relatively low cost. One can easily obtain a "snapshot" of the supply side of the market for a book by doing a search for the title at one of the book search engines such as addall or bookfinder. You will quickly learn the number of books being offered (supply) and a range of prices.

Some extremely important words of caution are in order when processing this information. First, many dealers will list on multiple sites, so what appears to be say five copies of a book, may actually be the same book listed by one dealer on five different book sites (e.g., abebooks, alibris, biblio, Tomfolio, amazon). Secondly, one has to be certain that we are obtaining information about the same book; in other words, comparing apples to apples. Remember, the mass market paperback edition and the first trade edition and the limited first edition of the same title are not the same book. This fact will be reflected in the wide range of prices that one often encounters when searching for a book on the Internet. Another important variable accounting for price discrepancies, even with the same edition of a title, is the condition of the book being offered for sale. One must possess some understanding of the terminology used by booksellers to describe condition and faults. In the world of books, describing something as in "good condition" means that it is in actuality quite bad. Most collectors avoid books in good condition. This misunderstanding of terminology alone accounts for many disappointed Internet book buyers. Condition is such an important variable in price that fine copies will typically command double the price of a very good copy of the same book. To sum up, when researching and comparing books on the Internet, one must take into account the variables of edition and condition.

Just as many professional booksellers use Internet resources to price a book, a collector can use the same information to determine if a book is being offered at a fair price. Again, the Internet can provide the collector with the resources to be-

come an educated consumer and purchase books with intelligence and confidence. It is said that the great early twentieth century bookman A.S.W. Rosenbach would routinely sell his copy of a book for three times the price that his peers obtained for a like title. Would he be as successful today?

Our second reader's question actually combines the topics of value and disposition of a collection which was discussed in our last Collector's Bin column. Undoubtedly, it is prudent to know the value of a book collection before one disposes of it. A problem arises when one is faced with the time constraints and associated stressors of moving a household. Our reader mentions "a library of books." We can debate how many books constitute a library, but for the sake of discussion I will assume several hundred. Now, some readers may suggest that the owner start looking those books up on the Internet to see what they are worth; a daunting task, indeed. I suggest that the owner call a professional bookseller and enlist his/her expertise. A competent professional bookseller can "size up" a room full of books determining, faster than any computer, a general sense of value. At this point the bookseller can offer his expertise and experience concerning the question of disposal. Without specific knowledge of the reader's books it is unwise to suggest a course of action. Obviously, the advice for the disposition of an inherited library of Uncle Bob's college textbooks from his days at State U. forty years ago would be different from inheriting say a collection of limited/signed, Rackham illustrated books. The former may find its way into a local library sale (if they will have them) and the latter should find its way into the stock of a first-rate antiquarian bookseller or the floor of a top-notch auction house. Incidentally, the bookseller should be compensated for sharing his/her time and knowledge.

KENNETH PALKO

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kenpalko@aol.com

terests. It will be held at the new Ballard Branch of the Seattle Public Library and will include a tour of the branch with its many environmental features.

February 12. Member Pamela Harer will show members her collection of Children's literature. Attendance will be limited to space available. Reservations will be made on a first come/first admitted basis.

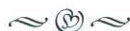
March 4. Member H.D. "Cork" Hardinge will show members his collection of revolutionary war material, as well as his extensive autograph collection.

April, TBA. Annual member meeting at the University of Washington Library auditorium. Along with BCW business, members will be able to hear Dr. Marty Greene discuss collecting works of polar explorations.

May, 10-13. The FABS Book Tour & Symposium. See pp. 3-5 in this *Newsletter*. Everyone is welcome. We expect to offer our guests a wonderful time seeing Seattle and some of its many book collections. NB: Seattle was named the most "literate" city in the country, based on studies by Prof. John Miller of Central Connecticut State University. Book lovers of all sorts will find plenty of things to enjoy while attending the conference.

FABS members who are planning to visit the area during any of our events are welcome to join us. Contact Anne Repass at 206 213-0660 or annerepass@aol.com, for reservations and directions.

THE ZAMORANO CLUB



THE ZAMORANO CLUB meets on the first Wednesday of October through June at the University Club of Pasadena.

PROGRAMS

February 1. "The Artists of the Allen Press." Gary Strong, UCLA Librarian. Introduced by Susan Allen.

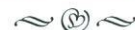
March 1. "The Rocky Mountain Rendezvous and the Opening of the Road to California." William Donohoo. Introduced by Don Sterrenburg.

April 5. "Joseph Ames' Best Friends: Subscribers to *Typographical Antiquities*." Susan Allen, Getty Librarian. Introduced by Judy Harvey Sahak.

May 3. "John H. Kemble's Long Voyage: Collecting All Things Maritime." Mario Einaudi. Introduced by William J. Warren.

June 7. "Conservation of the Nuremberg Chronicle for USC Special Collections." Holly Moore. Introduced by Stephen Tabor.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE



THE Maximilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart, has just distributed to its members its exclusive book publication for 2004 and 2005:

Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*. Das Gasthaus zum blasenden Wal (The Spouter-Inn) and Das Weiße des Wales (The Whiteness of the Whale). Two chapters of the novel in the American original and in the German translation by Richard Mummendey. With ten linoleum cuts by Michael Huth. Printed in the Lehrdruckerei der Technischen Universität Darmstadt. Bound by Gert Hoffrath, Roßdorf. 2004. quarto. 800 copies, signed in the colophon by Michael Huth. 98 pages. 10 double spread illustrations printed on 19 g/qm Japanese silk paper. Blind tooled half vellum binding. EUR 120,00. ISBN 3-921743-52-4. There are only a few copies left for sale.

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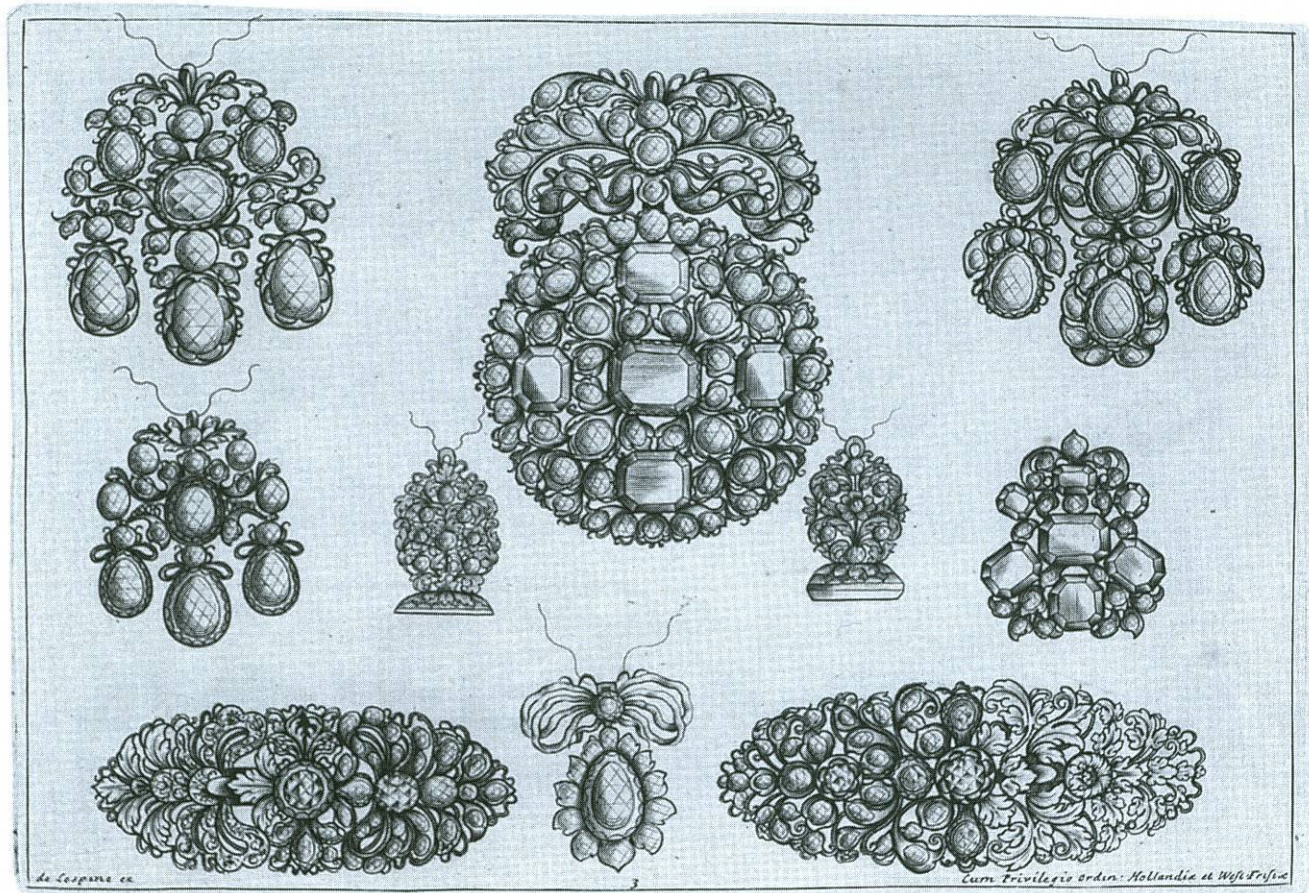
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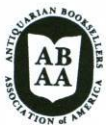
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