

FABS Book Tour & Symposium 🍷 Minneapolis & St. Paul 🍷 May 13-16, 2009

THE FELLOWSHIP OF *American*
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JAMES SMITHSON

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The Henry W. Poor Auction 🍷 Why I Collect What I Collect 🍷 The Collector's Bin
Club News & Notes 🍷 The Library of James Smithson 🍷 The Codex Foundation

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www.washingtonrarebookgroup.org
- Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA
www.bookclubofwashington.org
- The Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, CA
www.zamoranoclubla.org

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- Berliner Bibliophilen Abend E. V., Berlin www.berliner-bibliophilen-abend.de
- The Society of Bibliophiles in Capetown
- Maximilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart
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From the Chair

A SHIFTING PARADIGM

AS I WRITE THIS COLUMN, the economic and financial worlds we used to know are experiencing cataclysmic changes we have not seen in our lifetime and are not likely to witness again, at least for many decades. Very few of us are immune from these profound disturbances. The book world is also experiencing a sea change although, apparently, on a smaller scale. The plunge in the stock market and credit freezes developed rapidly while the economic realities of the book market tend to react slowly.

The recent book auctions in New York and London seem to demonstrate that buyers still lust over better quality material while lower-end books remain unsold or bring modest prices. Dealers appear to have had mixed results at recent fairs. The California book fair this February and New York's in April will provide better information and indicators as to current book collecting subjects

and price trends for the next few years. Given the current significant reduction in overall retail buying, dealer viability also remains a concern.

Patterns of collecting are also changing. Once, collectors tried to obtain all the works of an author. This was thought the best approach to filling out one's library shelves and to know the author's intimate thoughts. Now, high spots and subject collecting are preferred. With the current environment, I suspect we shall see a short-term shift to acquiring fewer books but of better quality.

Although the future for book collectors remains bright, currently publishers and most dealers are experiencing a dramatic slowdown in sales. As our financial paradigm shifts, books in libraries, or at home offer an oasis of calm and comfort. Book art fairs such as the Codex in San Francisco thrive during these times.

Beyond that, the physical book itself is

undergoing change. For the past several decades, we've been threatened by the development of the electronic book.

This tablet, supposedly able to ultimately contain whole libraries, would be held on our laps and read – pressing a button to turn a page (not unlike an iPod holding thousands of songs.) Many prototypes have been introduced. But none has yet captured the favor of the reading public. Most of us seem to love the heft and feel of a real printed book. We like to read off of a light-reflecting, rather than light-emitting page. The traditional book is far from dead.

It is hazardous to predict what may happen, but the book will survive at least through the lifetimes of everyone alive on earth today and possibly much longer. The digital age may turn out to be the fleeting phenomena.

ROBERT H. JACKSON
Chair

FABS in Minneapolis & St. Paul, May 13-16, 2009

WITH THIS ISSUE of the *FABS Newsletter* THE AMPERSAND CLUB of Minneapolis and St. Paul officially invites all of you to come to the Twin Cities in May of next year. We will have no limits on registration, and we hope as many of you who can come, will. The more the merrier is our mantra. The registration form appears on the page 5.

Our schedule is now virtually fixed, and while there may still be some subtle changes, the program will look something like this:

For early arrivals on **Wednesday, May 13:** Beginning at 1:30 we will tour the Walker Art Center & Sculpture Garden (www.walkerart.org), and/or tour the Bakken Library & Museum of Electricity & Life (www.thebakken.org). For those here and registered by 1:30, both tours will be available. Those coming later on will tour the Bakken only, if desired. That evening there will be a welcoming cocktail reception at our hotel (The Grand

Hotel – see the registration form on page 5), together with a mini-bookfair mounted by local booksellers. Dinner on Wednesday will be on your own.

Thursday, May 14: We begin our first full day of activities at the University of Minnesota Libraries, with visits to:

Special Collections
(www.special.lib.umn.edu),
The James Ford Bell Library
(www.bell.lib.umn.edu),
and

The Wangenstein Historical Library
of Biology & Medicine
(www.biomed.lib.umn.edu).

At the end of the morning we will board busses for a ride to St. Paul where we will have lunch at the Minnesota Historical Society (www.mnhs.org), and afterwards tour their library and collections. After the Historical Society we will take a short ride to the home of Rob Rulon-Miller and Rulon-Miller Books (www.rulon.com) for an afternoon reception, after which we will visit, in

groups, two or three private collections in St. Paul. Dinner on Thursday will be at the Minneapolis Club, and our speaker will be the explorer, writer, film-maker, & book collector, Ken Storm, Jr. (Don't try to Google him. He's made a point of staying way under the radar.)

Friday, May 15: For two-thirds of the day our group will split in two, one traveling north to Saint John's University to visit the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (www.hmml.org) showing early manuscripts and printed books, and to see the Saint John's Bible, the first manuscript Bible to be produced in over 400 years, created under the artistic direction of Donald Jackson (www.saintjohnsbible.org). After lunch on the campus, this group will return to the Twin Cities. The second group will travel south to Northfield where we will visit the fine collection of books in original boards at the home of Barbara and Jonathan Hill, after which we will visit the Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf's College (www.st

olaf.edu/collections/kierkegaard). Lunch will be served at St. Olaf's.

The two groups will meet up again mid afternoon in downtown Minneapolis at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts (www.mnbookarts.org) for a tour and demonstrations of printing, papermaking, and other book arts. Dinner on Friday will be on your own.

Saturday, May 16: FABS Symposium on bookbinding: "Judging a Book by its Cover." The symposium will be held in the new Central Library in downtown Minneapolis designed by Cesar Pelli (www.mpls.lib.mn.us/central.asp).

The Symposium will consist of two sections:

1. Traditional Bookbinding will be moderated by Maria Fredericks, the Drue Heinz Book Conservator at The Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City.

2. Dust Jackets, which will be moderated by Tom Congalton, bookseller and owner of Between the Covers Rare Books (www.betweenthecovers.com) from New Jersey.

Lunch on Saturday will be at a local pub (an Ampersand favorite). The afternoon will be spent visiting several book

artists' studios in downtown Minneapolis, including the Campbell-Logan Bindery (www.campbell-logan.com), and the personal collection of Greg Campbell; and the studios of Wilbur Schilling (www.indulgencepress.com), and Harriet Bart (www.harrietbart.com).

Our speaker at the farewell dinner on Saturday will be the printer and wood engraver Gaylord Schanilec, the first ever back-to-back winner of the prestigious Carl Hertzog Award and the Gregynog Prize for his books *Mayflies* and *Sylvae* respectively, produced by Midnight Paper Sales (www.midnightpapersales.com).

Sunday, May 17: Mid-morning brunch will be available for those who are lingering. A special tour may be arranged to visit Gaylord Schanilec's print shop if there is enough interest. A late departure on Sunday will be necessary to do this.

The Grand Hotel. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Grand Hotel in Minneapolis at a rate of \$237 (all taxes included). The Grand Hotel will serve as our home base. For a sneak peek, the Grand Hotel website is www.grandhotelinminneapolis.com. A list of other nearby hotels will be made available.

FABS BOOK TOUR



SYMPOSIUM

May 13-16, 2009

Watch Rob Rulon-Miller
make a fool of himself in
the first FABS video
invitation.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=
EFtja_NrCK0

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at the lower right of
the screen.

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Answers to questions and spotty information may be had from:

Rob Rulon-Miller, Rulon-Miller Books,
rulon@rulon.com, 651 290-0700.

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FABS

STRATEGIC PLANNING

On February 12, 2009, the FABS Executive Committee will meet with the Strategic Planning Committee in San Francisco prior to the California Book Fair. Among the various topics to be considered, is what additional benefits FABS can provide its members.

We welcome other suggestions or topics.

Please submit ideas to:

Lucy R. Cohen, Executive Director
The Book Club of California
312 Sutter Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94108-4320

415 781-7532

or via e-mail at:

lucycohen@bccbooks.org.

The Ampersand Club of Minneapolis & St. Paul invite you to the
FABS BOOK TOUR & SYMPOSIUM

May 13-16, 2009



Wednesday, May 13

AFTERNOON: Bus to Walker Art Center for tour of Library & Sculpture Garden, thence to the Bakken Museum & Library of Electricity & Life. 🍷 Evening reception & mini-bookfair at The Grand Hotel.

Thursday, May 14

MORNING: Tour three University of Minnesota libraries: the James Ford Bell Library, the Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology & Medicine, & the Elmer L. Andersen Library special collections unit. Lunch at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Tour the MHC collections. Reception at the home of Rob Rulon-Miller & thence to view select private collections in St. Paul. 🍷 Dinner at the Minneapolis Club, with lecture by collector & explorer Ken Storm, Jr.

Friday, May 15

MORNING: Group will split up: one bus travels north to Collegeville to see the St. John's University Bible & tour the Special Collections Library; the other travels south to Northfield to tour the personal library & gardens of Jonathan & Barbara Hill & thence to St. Olaf & the Kierkegaard Library. Lunch at St. John's & St. Olaf's respectively. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Gather at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts for coffee & a tour with demonstrations. 🍷 Dinner on your own. Many fine restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel.

Saturday, May 16

MORNING: Gather at the new Pelli-designed Minneapolis Public Library for the FABS Annual Symposium, "Judging a Book by its Cover," featuring panel discussions on traditional bookbinding & dust-jackets led by Maria Fredericks and Tom Congalton. Lunch at a local pub. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Tours of Campbell-Logan Bindery & Greg Campbell's personal collection, & the studios of book artists Harriet Bart & Wilbur Schilling. 🍷 Closing banquet at the U of M's Campus Club, featuring dinner lecture by printer Gaylord Schanilec, winner of the Gregynog Prize & the Carl Hertzog Award for his two most recent books, *Mayflies* and *Sylvæ*.

Registration: The cost is \$625.00 per person & includes all the above activities, meals, transportation, & entry fees. Registration will close on March 1, 2009. Registrations cancelled after March 21, 2009 cannot be refunded in full. Communications by e-mail or telephone should be directed to Rob Rulon-Miller, rulon@rulon.com or 651 290-0700.

Please reserve _____ place(s) for Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

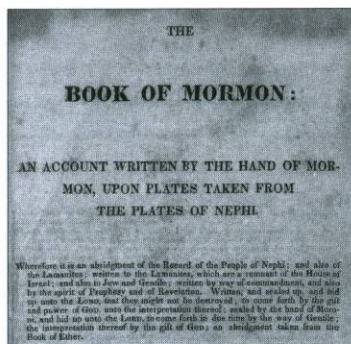
On May 16, I would like to visit (choose one) ____ Collegeville/St. John's University ____ Northfield/St. Olaf College

FABS Club affiliation: _____ Collecting interests: _____

I enclose a check for a total of \$ _____ payable to the Ampersand Club. Send registration & check to Rob Rulon-Miller, 400 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102.

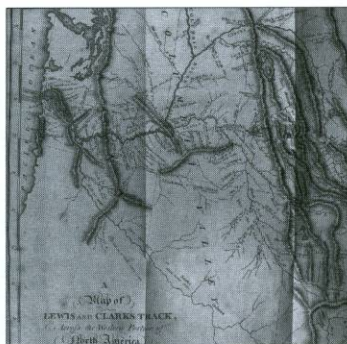
Tour headquarters: The Grand Hotel, 615 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55402. Twenty-four rooms for FABS attendees will be held until April 30, 2009, at a special discount rate of \$209 per night, plus taxes, for single or double occupancy. Please make your own reservations at the Grand Hotel by calling 866-THE GRAND or online at www.grandhotelminneapolis.com. Refer to the FABS rate when reserving.

OFFER YOUR BOOKS AT AUCTION THROUGH PBA GALLERIES



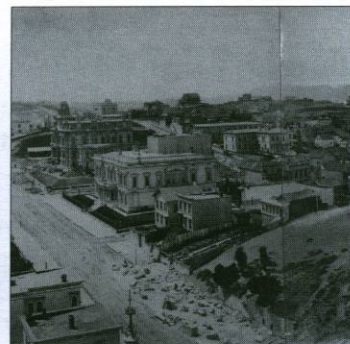
The Book of Mormon. First Edition, with bookplate and inscription by Paul M. Hanson, member of the Council of Twelve of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Sold for \$103,500



History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark to the Sources of the Missouri, 2 volumes, 1814, the first edition of the official account of the most famous and most important expedition of exploration in U.S. history. An exceptional copy, with the rare and highly important folding map.

Sold for \$212,000



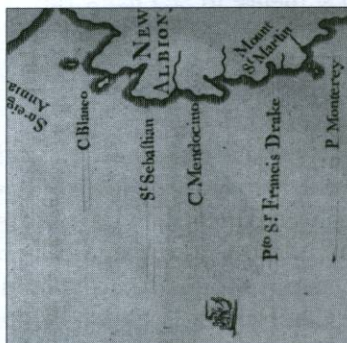
Eadweard Muybridge's stunning *Panorama of San Francisco, from California Street Hill*, 1877, the 11 albumen photograph panels framed consecutively to stretch over seven feet wide.

Sold for \$51,000



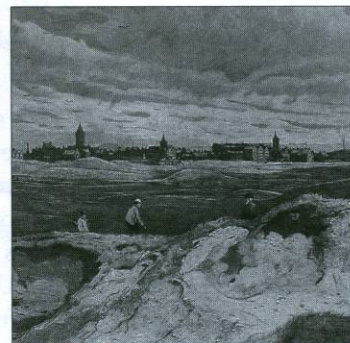
F. Scott Fitzgerald's *All the Sad Young Men*, an inscribed presentation copy with original sketch by Fitzgerald, in the first issue dust jacket.

Sold for \$37,375



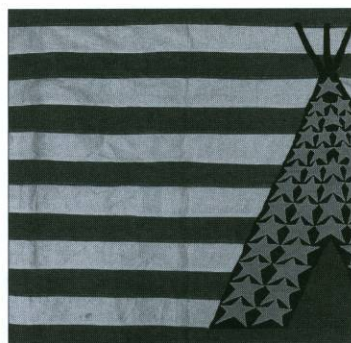
Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*
First Issue, large paper copy.

Sold for \$192,000



John Smart's *A Round of the Links*, with 20 etched plates of the best known Scottish golf links, one of the most sought after of all golf books, and one of the most difficult to obtain.

Sold for \$17,250



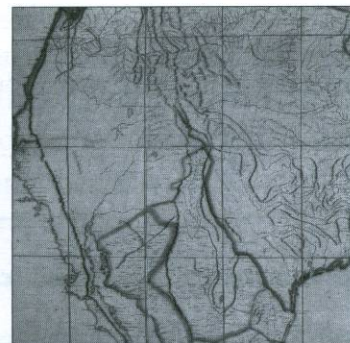
Original flag that flew over Alcatraz during the time it was occupied by Native Americans from 1969 to 1971, created by Penobscot Indian Lulie Nall, a key symbol of the signature moment of the American Indian Movement during the 20th century.

Sold for \$69,000



Johann Weinmann's *Duidelyke Vertoning*, 4 volumes, 1736-1748, the Dutch language edition of *Phytanthoza Iconographia*, with 1,025 color plates.

Sold for \$137,000



John Melish's landmark 1816 map of the United States, the first large scale detailed map made in the U.S. that showed the entire country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Sold for \$69,000

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GREAT AUCTIONS OF THE PAST

The Henry W. Poor Auction

~ PART ONE ~

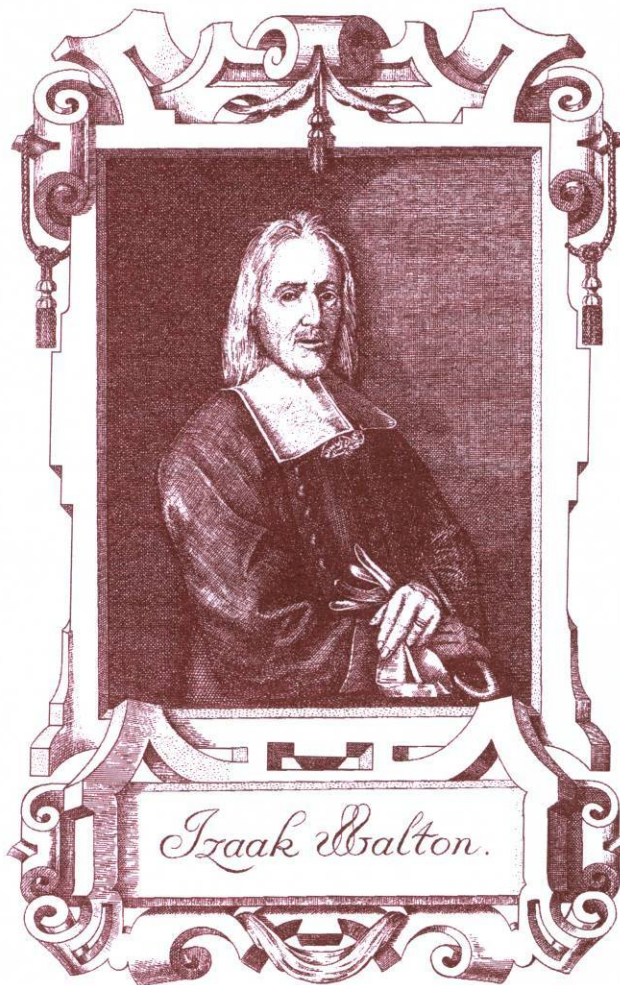
UNLIKE SOME of the more uplifting histories of great auctions, the sale of the library of Henry W. Poor is, if not a tragic tale, a cautionary one. In the *Catalogue of the Library of Henry W. Poor* it was asserted that “no library of equal importance has ever been offered at possible sale in America and none has presented so wide a range of selection or greater opportunities to collectors.” Noting that the library was assembled by “a busy financier and man of affairs during a period of over thirty years,” the catalog did not mention that, about a month after Part I of the auction, Henry W. Poor would be insolvent and thus more than just poor in name.¹

Henry W. Poor was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1844 and was educated at Harvard University. Almost immediately after graduation, he moved to New York City where he began in the banking and publishing business with the firm of H. V. & H. W. Poor, which would become Standard & Poor's. Henry V. Poor was the father of Henry W. Poor and their *Poor's Railway Manual* became the most comprehensive and leading publication of its kind. Over the years, Henry W. Poor would dissolve old firms and enter into new enterprises, but “it was not until he became a member of the firm of Poor & Greenough that Mr. Poor became famous on Wall Street.” He thrived during the 1890's when he was active in leather and ice securities, reportedly making more than \$5 million [\$130 million] from those stocks. The name of Henry W. Poor appeared frequently in the financial and social pages of *The New York Times*. For instance, on November 14, 1891, it was announced that property of the Knickerbocker Brewery was sold on foreclosure to Henry W. Poor, now “President of the brewing company” for \$717,238 [over \$17 million]; on October 27, 1896, Henry W.

Poor was quoted extensively on his defense of the reorganization of the Louisville, New-Albany, and Chicago railroads. Poor was one of the principal speakers when the Harvard Club of New York celebrated its twenty-fifth annual banquet at Delmonico's on February 20, 1891, and,

in the Field family for two generations. Poor extensively altered the two houses, making one large house for his city residence. The famous architect Stanford White, whose murder by a jealous husband in 1906 would be an inciting incident of E. L. Doctorow's *Ragtime* (1975), “was commissioned to decorate and furnish the house, and nearly \$1,000,000 [over \$24 million today] was spent in the interior furnishing, being one of the most artistic homes in the city.” Poor also maintained a stone chateau at Tuxedo Park, where he promoted championship tennis through the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club.

It was in 1908 that Poor failed with liabilities of over \$2 million [\$48.9 million] and assets of \$180,000 [\$4.4 million]. The fashionable Poores, social leaders and benefactors to the arts, faced the humiliation of turning their Gramercy Park “home over to the creditors complete, with all the statuary, decorations, and objects of art.” The great library would not be spared. Poor's “library was said to be worth nearly \$300,000 [\$7.33 million], and the first indication of his financial difficulties was given when it was offered for sale in 1908.” For, after all, barring ill health, why would a man of sixty-four dispense with his library: I ask rhetorically of a community of bibliophiles? Two years later, 1910, the *New York Times* would report, in



on March 4, 1898, Henry W. Poor was named as the Chairman of the Finance Committee of a group formed to establish a permanent orchestra for New York City. On September 29, 1900, Henry W. Poor's harness horse, Skylark, won the fifteen hands and over race at the Polo Grounds when “all Tuxedo society turned out to-day to attend the first annual horse show.” Flush with success, Poor purchased two homes that had previously belonged to Cyrus W. Field and had been

terms eerily familiar today, one hundred years later, that “Gramercy Park's famous old landmark, the Cyrus W. Field house, but better known in later years as the Henry W. Poor Residence, will be torn down about June 1 for the twelve-story co-operative apartment house to be erected on the site from plans by Herbert Lucas.”⁵ Poor would die five years later in 1915. It was a sad ending to a hitherto prosperous life and I find particularly poignant the obituary of his wife, who

died eleven years after her husband: "Mrs. Constance Brandon Poor, widow of Henry W. Poor . . . died yesterday, April 25, 1926, at the age of 60. For many years she had occupied a prominent position in the social life of this city and Tuxedo."⁶

Although the five parts of the Catalogue of the Library of Henry W. Poor did not address his dire financial situation (and, why would they?), neither did it exaggerate the greatness of the Poor library, which would be sold by the Anderson Auction Company in five parts over twenty-six sessions in November and December 1908 and January, February, and April, 1909. Unlike so many auctions that separate parts of auctions by author, chronology, genre, subject or other categories, all of the five parts of the Poor sale were strikingly similar and contained important books in a set group of categories that were consistent throughout: masterpieces of printing, illuminated and other manuscripts, English literature from the Elizabethan through the Victorian era, illustrated books and rare and artistic bindings, "association books of remarkable content," Americana, auto-

graphs, and private book club publications. This methodology proved successful as the Poor auction would realize record prices: "In selling this large and important library the effort has been made to offer the books to the public at such intervals and grouped in such a way as to interest both large and small buyers equally at every sale." Among the large buyers at Part I in November 1908 were "Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Beverly Chew, Robert Collier, Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, Lucius Wilmerding, Alvin Krech, United States Senator Henry C. Lodge" and more. William Randolph Hearst and George and Howard Gould were represented by agents.⁷

Also, at each part of the auction there were always landmark titles that made each portion of the sale especially significant. For example, Part I contained the five volume Aldine Press set of *Livius* (Venice, 1518-1533) (\$1,025 [\$25,044]) and "the first, second, and third volumes each contain at the end the genuine autograph signature of Jean Grolier." In fact, Poor possessed extensive Aldine Press imprints, with seventy-eight showing up in the first

three parts of the auction. At Part II "the extremely rare edition" of Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley* (Edinburgh, 1814) (\$49 [\$1,197]) appeared and Philip Melancthon's own copy of *Horatius Opera* (Basle, 1524) (\$13 [\$318]), with marginal notes in Melancthon's hand, sold in Part III. Part IV saw for sale not only a second edition of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* (London, 1655) (\$140 [\$3,421]), but also Walton's own copy with "notes in the handwriting of the author," and Part V offered Percy Bysshe Shelley's *Queen Mab* (London, 1813) (\$595 [\$14,538]), "the extremely rare first edition, containing Shelley's name as the printer on the title-page, and also his name in the imprint of the last page, and with the dedication, 'To Harriet.'"⁸

Great libraries either stay in the family, for a generation at least, become part of an institution, become an institution itself, such as the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Folger Shakespeare Library, or the Huntington Library, or go to auction. And, among the great auctions that I have described over the years, never has a family or estate been compelled to sell. Part I

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of the Poor auction brought in \$75,000 [\$1.83 million] with a principal bidder being the aforementioned J. Pierpont Morgan. Part II began vigorously with George D. Smith being the "the successful bidder for nearly all the important lots." William Makepeace Thackeray was the highlight of the session and Smith acquired "a collection of Thackeray memorabilia [sic], including a lock of Thackeray's hair, and eight sketches by the author, the rare original program of the private theatricals given February 24, 1862, on the occasion of the opening of Thackeray's new residence at Palace Green Kensington."⁹ Seventeen days later *The Washington Post* would report that "Henry W. Poor, one of the best-known bankers and brokers of Wall street [sic] and for years the publisher of *Poor's Manual of Railroads*, failed today. . . . Mr. Poor has been prominent in the street and has influential connections, it is believed that his liabilities will reach at least \$5,000,000. [\$122 million]" *The Washington Post* could not resist some mild chiding as it noted "that it had been no secret that Mr. Poor's firm had met

some difficulties in the panic of last year, and had scarcely been swimming on the top wave of prosperity since then, while those who watch with eagle eye that which goes on in Wall street [sic] had remarked on the lavish upkeep of Mr. Poor just the same as ever of his extensive townhouse in Lexington avenue [sic], where he has two houses thrown into one, an elaborate country place at Tuxedo, and a luxurious summer home at Bar Harbor, all of them containing more or less treasures of art, and with reference to Mr. Poor's large collection of books for which he has been noted these many years."¹⁰

The expected six part sale was reduced to five parts. And, in the final humiliation for Mrs. Poor, Anderson's sold her own library on May 12, 13, and 14, 1909. In Part II of the Henry W. Poor sale I will examine the actual auction in more detail.

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NOTES

¹New York: The Anderson Auction Company, 1908. Other unattributed quotations from the text will be from the *Catalogue of the Library of Henry W. Poor*.

²*New York Times*, April 14, 1915. Much of the biographical information on Henry W. Poor is drawn from this obituary.

³I derive my figures from "Historical Currency Conversions" program at futureboy.homeip.net/fsp/dollar.fsp? and cannot vouchsafe accuracy beyond this citation. Values from 1908 and 1909 are followed in brackets by 2008 values.

⁴*New York Times*, February 13, 1910.

⁵*New York Times*, April 17, 1910.

⁶*New York Times*, April 26, 1921.

⁷*New York Times*, November 18, 1908. Beverly Chew, a founding member (1884), Librarian (1887-1892) and President (1892-1896) of The Grolier Club, sold his remarkable library to Henry E. Huntington in 1911 for \$500,000 [\$10.95 million]. The Lucius Wilmerding, Sr. library went to auction in 1951. I would think that both libraries had books from the Poor library.

⁸The catalog explains further: "In perfect condition, the very few copies that are in existence having in nearly every instance the name of the author in these two places cut out by Shelley himself, and some copies are also without the dedication. It is said that the poet only printed 250 copies of this edition, and it is not well understood why he defaced the copies by cutting out his name, as even those he presented to his most intimate friends – his future wife, Mary Godwin, for instance – were thus mutilated."

⁹*New York Times*, December 10, 1908.

¹⁰December 27, 1908.



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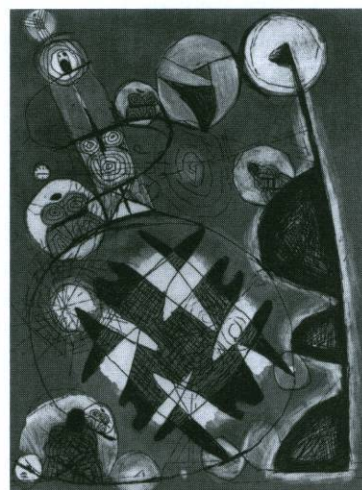
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Why I Collect What I Collect

A COLLECTOR'S COLUMN

BOOK COLLECTORS, LIKE HEROES, ARE BORN, NOT MADE. Technique can be acquired. Not so the urge to collect, which is buried in our ontogeny. For some lucky victims it strikes late. For me it came early.

At age seven or eight my hoard of Big Little Books (10 cents then, 30 dollars today) were carefully arrayed on a shelf next to my bed. In high school I collected records, the old 78s, the Bluebird and the Okeh labels along with Columbia and Victor, and stacked those on the shelf as well. The albums wouldn't fit upright so, without parental permission, I bought a record cabinet. My parents were not amused, but one's collection must be displayed.

At Dartmouth I learned the difference between accumulators and collectors from Herb West, a dedicated teacher, author, and collector. The founder of the Friends of the Dartmouth Library, Herb introduced me to Henry Miller and Robert Frost among other luminaries who visited the campus at his invitation. He is best known for *Modern Book Collecting for the Impecunious Amateur*, Boston, 1936. Reading it enabled me to self-diagnose a virulent case of bibliomania.

After graduation and marriage to Gloria, my long-suffering but generally understanding partner of 58 years, my next step was the MBA program at Wharton. After some cajoling, my faculty advisor approved a scheme for my dissertation topic, an investigation into the marketing of rare books. *Marketing Methods and Channels of Distribution in the Rare Book Trade* was an original piece of research utilizing both primary and secondary sources. It was published serially in *The Amateur Book Collector* in 1955.

One of my sources was Marston Drake of James F. Drake and Co., a distinguished rare book firm in New York. Drake introduced me to John Carter, who gave me a copy of *Taste and Technique in Book Collecting*, New York, 1948, with a delightful inscription. Another was Edwin Wolf, who gave me a nearly complete run of Rosenbach Company catalogues

IN ORDER to enliven the content of this modest publication and add a personal dimension, we are inaugurating a collector's column. Bibliophiles have always been avid fans of the titillating details of the chase employed by fellow aficionados in their efforts to line their shelves.

We believe collectors will welcome the opportunity to share their bibliomania with sympathetic readers. *Why I Collect What I Collect* will be open to all members of the FABS 31 North American Book Clubs and the nine International Affiliates.

One personal account will be selected for each of the two annual issues. The text should focus on the "why" and "what" of the column's title. We may not have another Sir Thomas Phillipps among us, but strange and true stories of collecting mania are certain to make fascinating reading.

Entries should be 800 to 1,200 words and may include up to three images. Submit your entry to George Singer at ashleybkco@aol.com. This is your chance to focus the light of publication on your collector's vision and bestow on your collection the immortality of publication.

dredged from the cellar archives at 1320 Walnut Street in Philadelphia.

In addition to a detailed questionnaire and personal interviews, I read everything available about book dealers, auctions and the business of selling rare books. One variant, wildly successful, had been used by an English collector who manufactured first editions and cleverly palmed them off to unsuspecting buyers. In many ways he was despicable, but no rascality could hide his one redeeming virtue—he loved books. Covered by his public persona as book collector and bibliographer, Thomas James Wise was actually a piratical publisher, a bookseller and a forger.

After meeting in successive years with Carter, the doyen of Wiseans, I was hooked and began buying the forgeries and related material, whatever my limited

budget could afford. Michael Papan-tonio, the English literature half of the John Van E Kohn/Papantonio partnership, dba The Seven Gables Bookshop, occasionally threw me a bone. One evening in 1953 Mike showed me a copy of *Sonnets from the Portuguese*, Reading, 1849. It was Wise's most successful forgery and the star piece of any Wise collection. He planned to offer it to Manchester Alderman Maurice Pariser, whose Wise library was rivaled only by the University of Texas.

Mike suggested I take it home on approval. It could be mine for \$600. That was roughly a month's salary, and I had a wife and infant daughter to support. The book went back the next morning. At least I had held it in my hands for a while! When Pariser auctioned his collection in 1967, the Reading *Sonnets* sold for \$1,680. John Carter's copy sold in 1976 for \$3,492.

There was never a second opportunity. Did my failure to beg, borrow, or steal the funds mark me a faux bibliomaniac? Would Sir Thomas Phillipps have hesitated?

While not as pricey as the *Sonnets*, my "star piece" is bibliographically more interesting. *The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point* was Elizabeth Barrett Browning's protest against American slavery. Although dated 1849, this modest pamphlet was actually printed in 1888 by Richard Clay & Son. The secret publisher was T. J. Wise.

When the stack of printed sheets of Browning's poem were piled unfolded in Clay's shop, an inked form containing a sheet of a legitimate publication, *Notebook of the Shelley Society*, London, 1888 was laid on top creating an imperfect set-off. The image is faintly visible across the sheet and incontrovertibly fixes the true publication date some forty years later. The story is detailed in *The Book Collector*, Spring, 1963. See also John Collins, *The Two Forgers*, Newark, Delaware, 1992.

A forty-five-year pursuit of Wiseana resulted in a 350-item collection of forgeries, piracies, letters, and manuscripts. It was given to Dartmouth in 2000.

My current collecting interest is the serendipitous result of Gloria and I starting the Ashley Book Company in 1982. Private press and book club bibliographies, the materials of our reference library, became irresistible. At first it seemed that two or three shelves would be sufficient. Fifteen years later forty feet of shelf space is chockablock.

Bibliographies compiled by the owner and printed at the press are the most sought after, because they embody the character of the press and the proprietor's style. Heading the list would have to be St. John Hornby's *A Descriptive Bibliography of the Books Printed at the Ashendene Press* MDCCCXCV-MCMXXXV. Done with all the care, attention to detail and typographical skills that were the hallmarks of his press, it is an exemplar of Hornby's life work as a dedicated amateur. With 390 copies printed, it has never been a scarce book.

A Note by William Morris on His Aims in Founding the Kelmscott Press Together with a Short Description of the Press by S. C. Cockerel . . . , London, 1898, was the last book printed at the Kelmscott Press and retains all the flavor of Morris's "typo-

graphical adventure." Another appealing owner-generated history comprises the four bibliographies of Henry Morris' press, *21 Years of Bird & Bull*, 1980; *Thirty years of Bird and Bull*, 1988; *Forty Years of Bird & Bull* (Henry's expensive spoof), 1998; *Forty-Four years of Bird & Bull*, 2003.

An outstanding new one is *Hoi Barbaroi: a Quarter Century at Barbarian Press*, Mission, British Columbia, 2004. Assembled and beautifully printed by Jan and Crispin Elsted, the deluxe edition is presented in a magenta slipcase containing a generous helping of press ephemera in a matching clamshell box. Just handling this book tells you much about Barbarian Press and its owners.

For a book hunter, the smaller, unsung presses, whose output has escaped critical attention, are especially rewarding. Some make it into that invaluable PLA publication, *Private Press Books*, many don't. Pre-1950 presses were listed in Harry Ransom's *Private Press Books*, New York, 1929 et seq., but only the important ones. An offbeat item I found not long ago is an *Exhibition of Modern American Printing*, a *Catalogue*, compiled by T. L. Yuan and

printed in Peiping, China in May, 1935, under the auspices of the National Library.

The ultimate challenge, though, are the early nineteenth-century presses like Sir Egerton Brydges' Lee Priory Press. There is a one-leaf bibliography, *Catalogue of all the Works Printed at Lee Priory*, London, 1823, compiled by Brydges' printer, John Warwick. Maybe someday it will come my way. David Chambers' checklist and engaging history of this notable press appeared in *The Private Library*, Autumn, 2002.

Hundreds of small presses are out there. Alice and Bud Westreich in the sixth edition of the *International Directory of Private Presses* (Letterpress), Sacramento, 1993, list some 1,100 private press printers from around the world. Many of them will leave a printed record of their activities. Perhaps it will be just a list of publications on a folded sheet, maybe something more elaborate. If it displays the output of a private press, it is fair game.

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The Library of JAMES SMITHSON

GENTLEMAN-SCIENTIST

THE MAN WHOSE FORTUNE founded the Smithsonian Institution, now the largest museum complex in the world, was born James Macie in the Spring of 1765. This date is an estimate, since the wealthy, well-born Mrs. Elizabeth Macie was a widow of several years' standing at the time and sought discretion in the matter by traveling to Paris for the birth. James's father, originally Hugh Smithson, had married into the aristocratic Percy family and adopted their name, ultimately becoming the Duke of Northumberland. Never acknowledged by his father, illegitimate and foreign-born, James was barred by law from a variety of professions and social positions, and he chafed under the traditional English social and political hierarchies, spending much of his adult life on the Continent.

He was educated in England and attended Oxford. There he found a subject that fired his imagination and set the course for his life. He became a dedicated and ambitious scientist who pursued studies in geology, mineralogy, and chemistry through the rest of his life, establishing a reputation as a meticulous experimenter and publishing over two dozen papers on the chemical analysis of minerals.

After his mother's death in 1800 when he was 35, James legally changed his name from Macie to that of his father, Smithson. He himself never married or had children, and he died in Genoa in 1829. In his will he bequeathed his estate to a nephew, who died just six years later, also without heir. Thus the contingent heir, the United States of America, in 1838 received all of Smithson's worldly goods along with £100,000 in gold bullion in order "to found in the city of Washington an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge."

Because Smithson had never visited the U. S. or had any particular connection

with it, this quite unexpected provision has baffled historians ever since. Heather Ewing's masterful new biography *The lost world of James Smithson: Science, revolution, and the birth of the Smithsonian*, New York & London: Bloomsbury, 2007 builds a persuasive argument that Smithson was moved not only by the egalitarian principles of the new country, but also by his belief in and support of the democratic role of science and education in improving human society and individual lives.

The worldly goods included in Smithson's bequest consisted of his correspondence, scientific manuscripts, and personal journals, as well as his mineral collection, and even his clothes and household goods. Tragically almost all of them were destroyed by a fire in the central portion of the Smithsonian building in 1865. One of the few things that survived, in the western wing of the building, was his personal library. The books are housed today in the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library of Natural History, in the Special Collections Department of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

According to a list published in 1880, confirmed by an inventory in 2003, the library consists of 115 titles, totalling about 250 individual volumes.

It includes:

- 2 general titles: *Chambers' Cyclopaedia* and a long run of the *Monthly Review*;
- 21 travel books, a broad category including narratives, guidebooks, and museum catalogs;
- 19 history titles, many related to French politics & memoirs;
- 5 works of literature or philosophy;
- 7 household books: two cookbooks, a book on wills, and four auction catalogs (for collections of books and minerals); and finally
- 61 science titles, mainly on chemistry and mineralogy.

The science titles include works by most of the leading scientists of the time: the Abbé Haüy, Romé de l'Isle, La Métherie, Klaproth, Davy, Cronstedt, Bergman, Berzelius, and many others. Smithson took an active part in the prevailing method of scientific communication, namely the exchange of publications; 11 of the offprints and 6 books in the library were inscribed to Smithson by their authors, and one of the 61 science titles is a stack of 13 copies of his own article "On the composition of zeolite," presumably left over from an original supply for his personal distribution.

At least 58 titles have Smithson's penciled marks or annotations, including 43 of the 61 science titles, indicating his engagement with the texts. A handful have comments and remarks, sometimes extensive, but more typically he made simple marks of an "x" or a dash in the margin.

Interestingly, of the 115 titles only 16 are bound in leather or vellum. These few are typical 18th-century English bindings: full or half calf, with no gilt decorations or family arms on the boards. Twelve of the 16 bound books date from before 1782, when Smithson entered Oxford at the age of 17, and it seems likely that they came to Smithson already bound, whether inherited from his mother (one of the cookbooks, for example), as a gift (from his relative George Keate, perhaps, judging from two books, inscribed to Keate, that are in the library), or as secondhand purchases like the 1630 edition of Jean Rey's *Essays*, which is bound in limp vellum and bears the "Duplicate Withdrawal" stamp of the British Museum.

Of the 99 titles dated after 1782 – books published in Smithson's adult lifetime, which he would have acquired for himself – only four are in a finished binding. Of the rest 19 are "in boards," a form halfway to a finished binding, and 76 are

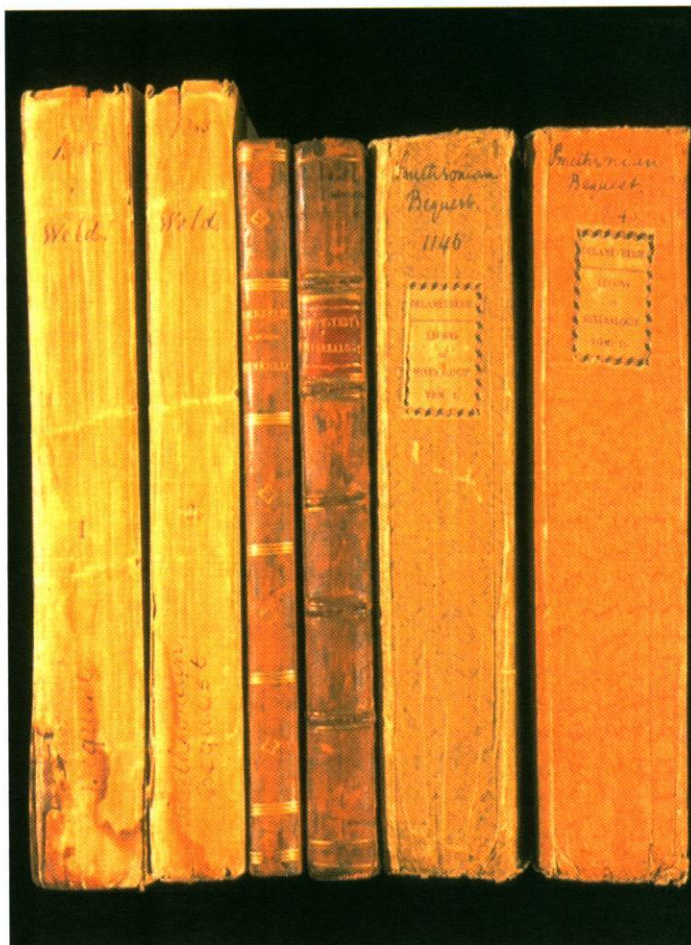
in flimsy paper wrappers or have no cover at all, including quite substantial volumes as well as general or literary works that in other hands made an impressive leather-bound display in a gentleman's library.

It was still customary in Smithson's time for the purchaser to select and pay for a book's binding at the point of sale; paper wrappers were generally a temporary protective cover provided by the printer or the bookseller while awaiting a buyer. In Smithson's library, it seems to have been his deliberate choice to leave his books as he bought them, unbound. It's unusual in general (and makes this collection a book historian's treasure) and extremely curious in Smithson's case, given his claims to social status. With regard to the scientific portion of the collection, at least, it would seem to indicate that he viewed the books as a practical working library, little concerned with appearance or display; it is far less explicable for the rest of the collection.

The books range in date from Rey's *Essays* of 1630 to a book about making one's will in 1826, the year Smithson wrote out his own. Looking at the numbers in terms of the stages of Smithson's life provides an interesting chronology for the development of his library; a fuller discussion will appear in the *Archives of Natural History* in the near future.

In this brief article, I'll note only that both in London and in his travels abroad he met and worked with most of the leading scientists of the day, collected in the field with colleagues, and participated in an extensive network of correspondence and exchange with fellow scientists . . . and yet the number of scientific publications in the collection is surprisingly low. Biographer Heather Ewing's study of the library brought to light the fact that many classic works in Smithson's research fields are not present. Indeed, there are significant scientists—close colleagues of his—whose works are wholly lacking in the collection. We had to

wonder: Is this Smithson's entire library? Sadly, there is no documentation from his lifetime. The only known records were generated after his death: An inventory of Smithson's belongings in Genoa was compiled in 1829 by the British Consul, noting "several parcels of papers and 5 books" (unspecified), and a slightly fuller, but still highly incomplete list was made by Richard Rush, the U.S. representative sent to England to claim the inheritance in 1835.



A sampling of James Smithson's books.

Courtesy of the
Smithsonian Institution Libraries.

Rush's list provides the first written evidence of a work that was part of the collection at Smithson's death but was not on a list of the library published by the Smithsonian in 1880 and confirmed as present during the inventory of the collection in 2003: the Reverend William Hamilton's *Letters* concerning the northern coast of the county of Antrim (London, 1786).

Smithson's belongings had been held initially by an organization called the National Institute before being trans-

ferred to the Smithsonian itself once it came into being. With the help of a Catholic University library-school volunteer, I dredged through the National Institute library ledger at the Smithsonian Archives and found not only the 115 titles in the 1880 list but also 18 additional titles that were neither in that list nor physically in the Smithsonian library.

Of those 18 titles, three (all offprints) have been located in the Smithsonian's libraries and archives. These items bear marks indicating why they weren't still in the Smithsonian collection proper, primarily property stamps of the Institution's divisional libraries. But another stamp on one of them led to further investigation, and we have succeeded in locating eight more of the missing books at the Library of Congress, including the Hamilton volume and a copy of Samuel Johnson's *Dictionary* (London, 1755). Presumably swept up by mistake as part of the Smithsonian Deposit transfers to LC in the late 1860s, these eight books—like the three found within the Institution—all show evidence of being part of Smithson's bequest: inscriptions to Smithson, "[Smithsonian] B[equest]" accession numbers that match the ledger entries, National Institute and Smithsonian property stamps, etc. In early 2008 the Library of Congress magnanimously returned the books to SI Libraries where they have

been reunited with the rest of the Smithsonian collection.

It leaves seven books still missing, so the hunt continues.

James Smithson's books are listed in the Smithsonian Libraries' online catalog at www.siris.si.edu and on our Smithsonian webpage at:

www.sil.si.edu/Digitalcollections/smithsonlibrary/index.cfm.

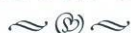
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Leslie was our gracious host for FABS 2007 Book Tour & Symposium in Washington, D.C.

Club News & Notes

PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY



PROGRAMS

THE HIGHLIGHT for Alcuin Society members this past year was the long awaited visit by Nicholas Basbanes in October. Nick delivered eight lectures, six in the Vancouver area and two in Victoria. There were four noon hour lectures to faculty, students, and librarians at Simon Fraser University (one lecture at each of SFU's two campuses), the University of British Columbia, and the University of Victoria. The four evening lectures were aimed at the general public (one each in Vancouver and Victoria), book artists, booksellers and collectors. Nick Basbanes is a master-story teller and his audiences thoroughly enjoyed his many stories about university presses, famous booksellers and book collectors, and various and sundry book rogues and thieves.

Other lectures involved a talk on heraldry by former Chief Herald of Canada, Rob Watt, a talk on book design by Canadian book designer Scott Richardson which included a hilarious anecdote about Pierre Berton's attempts to provide his own design for a book about his relationship with his cat, a talk by Vancouver artist Michael Kluckner on the creative legacy of local cartoonist Len Norris, and an enthralling lecture by Priscilla Coit Murphy from North Carolina on Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* which amounted to a virtual biography of the book and its author. An additional lecture was given by Tim Inkster, proprietor of The Porcupine's Quill publishing company in Ontario, chronicling both the successes and problems of running a small press in Canada. Tim and his wife Elke both received the honour of an Order of Canada in June for their significant contribution to Canadian literature and Canadian publishing.

Other events included two workshops on bookmaking and book design by local artists Celia King and Peter Cocking and Ontario designer Scott Richardson. In

addition to this, members enjoyed the annual auction of books submitted to the Canadian Book Design Competition (non-winners from the past year and winners from previous years) and two members-only evenings devoted to "odd" books and to interesting illustrated books.

ADMINISTRATION

Some of the accomplishments in the administrative area include seeking and obtaining the Governor General of Canada as an official patron for the Society, the design of a medal for the Robert R. Reid Award for a distinguished life in the book arts, the obtaining of a three-year sustaining grant from the government of British Columbia at \$10,000 per annum, and the establishment of an endowment fund within the Vancouver Foundation to ensure future financial stability for the Society. And once again in many of the accomplishments noted above (Nick Basbanes lecture series, the Reid medal, the endowment fund, etc.) the Society is sincerely indebted and grateful to Dr. Yosef Wosk for his ongoing support and encouragement.

CANADIAN BOOK DESIGN COMPETITION

The Society's annual Canadian Book Design Competition was once again a great success. The 2007 competition attracted a total of some 254 books from some 91 Canadian publishers. Every province in Canada was represented with the exception of the tiny island province of Prince Edward Island. The three judges for this year's competition were Sue Colberg of the University of Alberta, Tim Inkster of The Porcupine's Quill, and Jason Dewinetz, proprietor of Greenboathouse Press. There were 35 eventual winners representing the six Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. A complete list of the award winners for those interested may be found on the Society's web site at www.alcuinsociety.com. All of the winning Canadian books will once again be forwarded to the international design compe-

tition at Leipzig. The winning books will also be widely displayed across Canada (a real chance to reach every single province this year) as well as internationally at such locations as Frankfurt, Tokyo, and London. The judges for next year will include the legendary Canadian designer Frank Newfeld as well as E. A. "Zab" Hobart of Zab Typography & Design and Alan Stein of Church Street Press. Mr. Newfeld has agreed to deliver the 5th annual Design Judge's Lecture in April.

Two awards ceremonies were held this year, one in Vancouver and one in Toronto. The Vancouver ceremony held at Emily Carr University featured two stellar speakers, Toronto book designer C. S. (Scott) Richardson and B. C.'s own Robert Bringhurst. The audience of approximately 160 thoroughly enjoyed both the award ceremony and the two presentations. The Toronto award ceremony was held at the legendary Arts and Letters Club and was skillfully moderated by *Globe and Mail* editor Martin Levin. Scott Richardson reprised his very popular and humorous lecture on ten things to avoid in book design.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society's main publication *Amphora* continued to be issued three times per year under the capable editorial direction of Rollin Milroy of Heavenly Monkey Press and under the steady hand and eye of designer and printer David Clifford of Blackstone Press. The two working together have set a very high standard of publication and this will provide a challenge to new editor, local writer Peter Mitham, and new designer and printer, Jason Dewinetz of Greenboathouse Press.

The Society's Director Howard Greaves had long wanted to issue a newsletter to complement the contents of *Amphora*. He accomplished that goal this year as Newsletter #1 was launched in July 2008 with #2 appearing in November 2008. Howard has extended a warm welcome to any of the Society's members who wish to contribute to this new vehicle of communication.

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 by July 15 for the fall issue and November 15 for the winter issue, preferably in Microsoft Word as an e-mail attachment. 📖 Subscriptions to institutions and individuals are not available at this time. 📖 Back issues may be ordered through the *Newsletter* Publisher at \$4.50 each plus shipping and handling. 📖 Submission of articles for publication is encouraged. 📖 Send your correspondence to the *Newsletter* Publisher.

The Society's second publication on demand, a book on the history of the bookmarks of local bookseller Duthie Books and the artists who created them, completely sold out in its initial print-run of 50 copies. A second edition of another 50 copies is in the planning stage and should also do well if the number of web sites devoted to those many, many souls who collect bookmarks is any indication. A future possible publication, still in the dreaming stage, is a book devoted to the incredible book illustration of local artist George Kuthan. The publication on demand is a great idea for those societies who don't want to invest too much in the way of up-front capital for a book project nor to cope with the problem of warehousing a huge inventory of slow-selling books.

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 our members' varied in-

terests and include: (1) regular meetings with a formal program preceded by wine and cheese socializing; (2) informal First Saturday sessions; and (3) field trips and other activities.

RECENT REGULAR PROGRAMS

September – We began our program season with a return visit from a long-time Aldus Society member, Bob Tauber, who updated us on recent activities at the Ohio State University's Logan Elm Press.

October – The October meeting explored trade catalogs and their place in American decorative arts, the history of design as well as trends in various industries. The Ohio State University recently received the trade catalog collection of over 10,000 items from long-time Aldus Society member Ivan Gilbert, who explained how he assembled his collection, while Geoff Smith, Head of the OSU Rare Books and Manuscripts Library, commented on representative examples that show the breadth and depth of the collection.

November – In November, Nicholas B. Scheetz, Manuscript Librarian for the Lauinger Library at Georgetown University, presented a fascinating program entitled "Spy Time: Intelligence Holdings at Georgetown University."

December – December once again found members of the Aldus Society gathered together at La Scala for the annual Holiday Dinner and our annual Silent Book Auction to celebrate the wrap-up of another successful year.

RECENT FIRST SATURDAY PROGRAMS

The programs of autumn afforded attendees a look at highlights of the Captain Cook collection being donated to OSU's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library by Aldus Society member Ron Ravneberg, a review of key holdings of Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck, and a program on "Penny Dreadfuls" held by OSU's Cartoon Research Library.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The first half of the 2009 program year is coming together, and it looks like another exciting one.

January 8 (Regular Program) – Aldus Society member Jack Salling will be speaking on collecting early medical books.

February 12 (Regular Meeting) – February's program isn't yet finalized, but it looks like a return to the ever-popular "Aldus Collects" theme, where multiple members make mini-presentations on the books and printed materials they love and collect.

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- Tubman, Dett, Bibb, Ross, Brown

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March 12th (Regular Meeting) – We are still forming up our March schedule, and are hoping for a return visit by Harvard's Owen Gingerich to speak about a recently-sold copy of Galileo's 1610 *Sidereus Nuncius* and whatever else he chooses to share.

April 9 (Regular Meeting) – April's meeting will be held at OSU's Cartoon Research Library when noted presenter Richard West will speak on the history of the comic weekly, *Light*.

May 14 (Regular Meeting) – Our final regular program of the season is usually a special one, and this year will be no different when we welcome Scott Brown, California bookseller and former Editor of *Fine Books & Collections*.

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 10:00 a.m. at the Ohio State University Archives, 2700 Kenny Road, 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 about The Aldus Society, contact Ronald L. Ravneberg at AldusSociety@aol.com. or (614) 457-1153.

THE AMPERSAND CLUB



THE AMPERSAND CLUB of Minnesota started its seventy-eighth year of gathering bibliophiles on September 23 at the Minnesota Historical Society for a talk by Patrick Coleman, the Society's acquisitions librarian with assistance from Lori Williamson, acquisition coordinator on the Best 150 Minnesota Books, a statehood sesquicentennial project. The highlight of the evening was for Club members to view and hold some of the most significant books published on and in Minnesota. To see the complete list and to blog a bit go to: discussions.mnhs.org/collections/?page_id=228.

The October meeting brought members to the Campbell-Logan Bindery run by steadfast supporters of the Ampersand Club, Gregor, Luana, and Duncan Campbell for a talk by Will Powers on the Ludlow Typograph machine, associated fonts and his real life adventures with the

Ludlow. Powers, a design and production manager for a local press, speaks and teaches throughout the United States on typography and design. Campbell-Logan has an operating Ludlow machine on which the invitation for Will Powers' talk was set and the machine was fired-up for a demonstration following the talk.

The November meeting held at the Walker Art Center, hosted by librarian Rosemary Furtak, featured a talk by photographer and book artist Paula McCartney on a book she initially produced through a grant from the Women's Studio Workshop, *Bird Watching*, and what happens when a major publisher wants you to make a mass-market edition. Paula McCartney's work can be seen at www.paulamccartney.com.

Ampersand Club will gather on December 11 for a Holiday Party hosted by Rob Rulon-Miller – a not-to-be-missed soiree. In January 2009 we will hold one of the club's occasional, but always interesting, book auctions to help fatten the treasury for the upcoming FABS conference. The Ampersanders want to be ready to welcome FABS attendees this coming Spring. Donations to the auction are made by the Club's eclectic collectors. Many rare finds and seldom seen editions will be set out for bidders.

Rounding out the rest of the schedule: In February we will visit Terrace Books, a St. Paul bookseller specializing in plant and horticultural publications; March is still a little up in the air, we will either have a presentation on fore-edge painting or the books of Donna and Peter Thomas (can't go wrong with either choice); in April we will hold our bi-annual member's roundtable to show and share our latest book finds. In May it's all about the FABS Book Tour & Symposium to be held in Minneapolis and St. Paul from May 13 to May 16, 2009. The schedule is unchanged from the fall *FABS Newsletter*; the meeting offers an enriching and entertaining schedule of events including tours of seldom seen private collections and stunning public and academic collections, including the Minnesota Historical Society, Bakken Museum and Library, University of Minnesota, Carleton College, and St. John's University, home of the St. John's Bible Project created under the artistic direction of Donald Jackson. On Saturday, May 16 the FABS Symposium will be held: "Judging a Book by its Cover." The symposium will be held in the new Central Library in downtown Minneapolis designed by Cesar Pelli. The Symposium will consist of two sections: 1. Traditional Bookbinding, which will be

moderated by Maria Fredericks, the Drue Heinz Book Conservator at The Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City 2. Dust Jackets, which will be moderated by Tom Congalton, bookseller and owner of Between the Covers Rare Books. Our speaker at the farewell dinner on Saturday will be the printer and wood engraver Gaylord Schanilec, the first ever back-to-back winner of the prestigious Carl Hertzog Award and the Gregynog Prize for his books *Mayflies* and *Sylvae* respectively, produced by Midnight Paper Sales. Fieldtrips, tours of the Open Book Building and Minnesota Center for Book Arts, delicious evening events, and a book fair presenting a carefully selected group of vendors will make a trip to the Twin Cities on the Upper Mississippi well-worth the journey.

THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES



THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES schedule for 2009 is as follows. Please feel free to contact us for further information or to attend one of our meetings. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are at the Johns Hopkins Club with cocktails and dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. Guests welcome.

March 19. Sarah (Cassie) Brand will inform the Bibliophiles about her quest to become a rare book librarian.

June 10. Author Charles Mitchell will discuss the origins and the passion behind the creating of *Maryland Voices of the Civil War*, Johns Hopkins Press. "Using excerpts from personal correspondence, journals, and newspapers from that period, Mitchell frames the issues (states' rights, slavery, secession) and the state's role in the conflict in both political and personal terms. There's plenty of bravado from the warriors, but Mitchell also does an excellent job including the voices of people who are simply snagged by the war . . . giving it more diversity and range." – John Lewis, *Baltimore Magazine*.

September 16. Raymond (Stan) Nelson, President, RSN Recreations, Inc., a retired Smithsonian expert on type, type history, and type founding, will speak on printing history and demonstrate how to cut a punch and cast type in metal. Nelson has taught at the Rare Books School at UVA, and is internationally known for his seminars on punch cutting and his publications on punch cutting and type founding.

For more information contact Binnie Cyril Braunstein, Corresponding Secretary, at 410 486-6178 or bsbgc@aol.com.

THE JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY



THE JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY schedule for the Spring of 2009 is as follows.

February 14. Time TBA, Providence Public Library, "The Merrymount Press: Lecture and Exhibition." Martin Hutner will present a lecture on the Merrymount Press Exhibition of works by The Merrymount Press from the collection of University of Rhode Island and Providence Public Library Special Collections.

March. (date and time TBA), John Hay Library, Brown University, annual meeting and lecture. Dr. Owen Gingerich, author and professor of the History of Science at Harvard University, will discuss his research on an important Galileo manuscript.

April 16. Providence Athenaeum, Margaret Stillwell Prize presentation and lecture.

For additional information about The Bartlett Society and its programs, contact Pamela Rakowski at pam1348@cox.net or 401 751-5581.

THE BIXBY CLUB



OUR UPCOMING winter schedule will begin with a talk in January by artist-collector R. H. Dick about the books of Charles Russell. The annual Valentines Day gathering will be held at the home of John Hoover, the Mercantile Library's Librarian. Rounding out the year with talks on Gutenberg, English book collectors, and a tentative tour to Chicago.

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

THE BOLTON SOCIETY



THE SEVENTY MEMBER Bolton Society continues at a rapid gait, accomplishes a lot, and has fun in the process of doing so.

The Bolton Society/History of Chemistry Division (HIST) of the American Chemical Society symposium on "The Lighter Side of Chemistry" has been selected by the ACS Books Division for publication. This well attended symposium on April 8, 2008 was also featured in the May 5, 2008 issue of *Chemical and Engineering News*.

The fifth symposium on "Landmark Chemistry Books of the 20th Century" was held in August 2008. It also was sponsored by The Bolton Society and (HIST) on the topic "Chemical Engineering" to honor the hundredth anniversary of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Member James Bohning, who organized this symposium, is also planning one on "The Language of Chemistry" for the Washington ACS meeting in August 2009.

The Society recently approved minor revisions to its Bylaws, including setting two-year term limits of officers, responsibilities of the Executive Committee, selection of candidates for oral histories, and creating the office of Past Chief Bibliophile. The Bolton Society has been invited to participate in the ten-member planning group of the Heritage Council of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF).

Boltonia editor Jim Bohning has also facilitated three new oral histories of members Alan Debus, Herb Pratt, and David Sparkman. The first oral history, that of Roy Neville, was completed and delivered to him shortly before his death about two years ago.

At its November 7, 2008 meeting, attendees, as always, enjoyed the "Collector's

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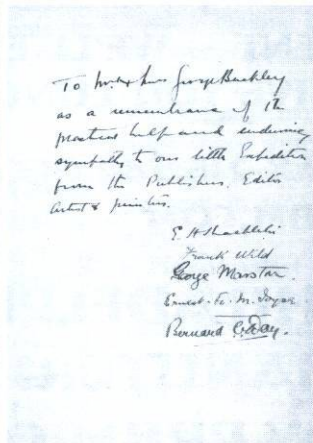
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Showcase" session at which a variety of items from members' collections were passed around and discussed at length. These cover such items as the following:

1. *Memoirs of Dr. Joseph Priestley to the year 1795 . . . With a Continuation, by his Son to the Time of His Decease* (in 1804). It was published in 1806, and was a presentation copy to (unknown) by his son Joseph on August 19, 1806.

2. An inscribed chemistry book, *A Manual of Nomenclature*, (1862) presented to student Arthur MacArthur (1845-1912) by the author, A. Boothby in July 1862. MacArthur became the father of General Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964.

3. A collection of American technical reports relating to American assessments of German preparedness for war compiled immediately following World War II.

4. A random selection of 13 reprints from the Williams-Miles collections at the CHF in Philadelphia relating to the history of chemistry, 1940-1970.

5. A 14-item, 60-year history of the bibliography of xerography, 1948-2008.

For information contact Elsa B. Atson at 215 873-8205 or elsaa@chemheritage.org

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA



WHAT'S DOING AT THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA? Expansion plans are on the drawing board and the club is looking forward to its next century of pursuing the finest in publishing and book related activities. Our Columbian Press, recently renovated by Fred Voltmer of the Havilah Press, will be reinstalled in the Club rooms. In February the Club will host the FABS Strategic Planning Committee and The Grolier Club.

EXHIBITIONS

January 12-March 9: The Heyeck Press: Letterpress Printing and Paper Marbling. The Heyeck Press, founded in 1976 in Woodside, California, prints and publishes both fine limited edition books and paperback editions of contemporary poetry and books on paper marbling. On display will be manuscripts, books, and samples of marbling.

March 16-April 6: The Oscar Lewis Award: A Glimpse Back. The Book Club of California established the Oscar Lewis Awards in 1994 in honor of the prolific and popular San Francisco writer-historian who served as the Club secretary from 1921-1946. Awards are for significant contribu-

tions to Western History and to Fine Printing and the Book Arts. On exhibition will be selections from the work of past recipients, among them Dr. Albert Shumate, Lawrence Clark Powell, Ward Ritchie, and Lewis and Dorothy Allen.

April 13-June 22: Forty Years of Printing Poetry & Art: Mary Risala Laird Quelquefois Press. Mary Risala Laird worked for 15 years with Walter Hamady, at the Perishable Press. She founded Quelquefois Press in 1969 in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin and in 1988 she moved the press to Berkeley. The exhibition will celebrate the history of her printing.

September 4 - November 9: The Vandercook Book. "The Vandercook Book," is a traveling exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Vandercook Press featuring examples of innovative and historical uses of the Vandercook Press. Organizers are Barbara Henry and Roni Gross.

PUBLICATIONS

James Weld Towne: Pioneer San Francisco Printer, Publisher, and Paper Purveyor by Bruce L. Johnson has just been published and is the first detailed study of this influential, pioneer San Francisco commercial printer. Edition: 275. Price: \$125.

The club is pleased to announce that this winter will see the appearance of its eagerly awaited volume, *James Mason Hutchings of Yo Semite* by Dennis Kruska, a lavishly illustrated work on the man who made Yosemite famous. Edition: 500. Price: \$275.

The club is also looking forward to the publication of its first children's book, *Let's Play* by the Gearhart Sisters, which consists of a group of woodcuts by Frances Gearhart with verses by Edna Gearhart. Originally intended for publication in 1929, the book is making its debut in 2009. Edition size and price to be announced.

Renowned printer Peter Koch is working with artist Richard Wagener on a stunning artist's book with original wood engravings by Wagener, *California in Relief*. It too will be ready in 2009. Edition size: 300. Price: \$375.

Please contact the club for membership and ordering information on any of our publications. Members receive special discounts, but membership is not required to order.

THE CAXTON CLUB



THE FOURTH ANNUAL CAXTON CLUB/NEWBERRY LIBRARY SYMPOSIUM ON THE BOOK: "Pillage, Punishment, and Provenance: Books as Victims of Crime" will be held on Saturday April 9, 2009.

Books embody religion, history, philosophy, science, art, and criticism. But their very value to readers and collectors also makes them vulnerable to forgery, fakery, and invading armies. Churches and governments destroy books in the name of stability. Those who want to overturn the social order assail books too. Greed and ego are among the motives of thieves and forgers. And it is hard to bring those who commit crimes against books to justice. The symposium will explore the various ways attacks on books have been framed, executed, uncovered, punished or not, and prevented.

The morning program will begin with an historical perspective on wartime plunder, will next analyze Victorian attitudes towards punishment for literary plagiarism and forgery, and will conclude with a contemporary view of how the rare book market has reacted to and dealt with crimes against books and book owners. A roundtable afternoon session, with audience participation, will continue the discussion and will include rare book librarians, a Chicago attorney and collector, and a representative of the FBI.

The program will follow the format of the successful 2008 symposium. Three informal lectures will take place at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago on Saturday morning:

Sem Sutter, University of Chicago Libraries. "Habent sua fata libelli: The Fate of Libraries in Wartime." In times of war and national upheaval, the enemy's books often become objects of hatred, fear, envy, reverence, or of uncomprehending disregard. The fates of libraries can hang in the balance. An examination of libraries in ancient and modern wars offers some insights into the confiscatory mentality of conquerors and the lengths to which librarians and others have gone to protect the written word.

Sara Malton, St. Mary's University, Halifax. "A Capital Past: Forgery, Wilkie Collins, and 19th-Century Cultural Memory" Focusing on the life and works of Wilkie Collins in particular, this talk will consider how nineteenth century authors frequently compared the severe punishment accorded financial forgery, namely execution, with the relatively limited penalties doled out for crimes against intellectual property, such as plagiarism. The former, with monetary consequences more immediate and direct, nevertheless influenced the latter, and it affected how various forms of forgery, including that of art and literature, were represented in the Victorian imagination.

Jennifer Larson, Jeffrey Marks Rare Books, Rochester. "Caveat Emptor/Caveat

Venditor." Ms. Larson will address the need for ethical standards from the viewpoint of someone active in the rare book trade for thirty years, and as someone who once served as the Ethics Committee Chair for the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, a major trade and professional organization. She will speak about best ethical practices for dealers, changes in the way the rare book market views emerging legal issues regarding title and authenticity, and whether provenance and other research is better left as duty of the dealer or as an obligation of the buyer.

The afternoon program will take place at the Auditorium of the Alliance Française. Panel Discussion: Book Crime History, Detection, Prevention. Moderator: Alice Schreyer, University of Chicago Library. Panelists: Susan Allen, Getty Institute Library; Michael Thompson, Chicago attorney and collector; Brian Brusakas, FBI Art Crimes Task Force; William L. Butts, Main Street Fine Books and Manuscripts, Galena.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Friday, January 9. John Lupton, editor of the "Papers of Abraham Lincoln," will deliver an illustrated and anecdote-filled talk about their mammoth project of finding everything Lincoln had written and

received in his lifetime, scanning it, assembling it, and then selectively publishing it with explanatory text and footnotes.

DINNER PROGRAMS

January 21. Our Caxtonian member Greg Prikman of the University of Iowa will talk about "Gutenberg Meets GIS: The Atlas of Early Printing" in Ruggles Hall at the Newberry Library. The spread of printing through Europe following Gutenberg's innovations with type and press has captivated bibliophiles for centuries. A new online resource, the Atlas of Early Printing, brings this era to life through an interactive, animated map, allowing us to question how economic and cultural factors may have influenced printing's development. The Atlas will be demonstrated, and the history of its development will be traced. The project will also be placed in the larger context of the study of the spread of printing, from the 19th century collecting of Rush Christopher Hawkins, through the development of the British Museum's catalogue of 15th century printing, to the recent online availability of the Incunabula Short Title Catalog.

Caxtonian Greg Prickman first began considering a project to depict the spread of printing ten years ago while a student at

Indiana University, after encountering a series of maps in a book entitled *Annals of Printing*. The Atlas of Early Printing combines his interests in traditional bibliography and new digital techniques, which he feels are less in conflict than some might think.

March 18. Caxtonian Paul Saenger is George A. Poole III Curator of Rare Books and Collection Development Librarian at the Newberry Library. His talk is titled "Chapter and Verse."

"Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." —Ecclesiastes 12:12. When the author of *Ecclesiastes* penned those words, they might have appeared five or six columns in on a scroll and fifteen lines from the top. As the book gained canonical stature and became incorporated into the Bible, however, scholars needed a way to reliably refer to such nuggets. The Bible was divided into books in antiquity but the Dead Sea Scrolls had no chapters or numbered verses, nor does a Torah scroll. Where and when did our numbered chapters and verses originate? Paul has become preoccupied with this question and will share with us the fruit of his extensive research on medieval manuscripts and early printed books.

April 15. Caxtonian Peter J. Stanlis' talk is



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titled "Robert Frost: The Poet as a Philosophical Dualist."

Robert Frost may be both the best-known and least understood American poet. Beginning with his first books of poetry, *A Boy's Will* and *North of Boston*, in 1913-14, he was recognized as a uniquely American voice. But he was also criticized for being distinctly un-modern, and his poetry was too often characterized, as one critic has put it, as "Suitable for middle-school readers and sentimental seniors." He was terribly ill-served by Lawrance Thompson's "authorized" biography in 1966, a book which has mis-characterized Frost and his work for 50 years. In 2007, Peter Stanlis fulfilled a promise he had made to Frost in 1944 – to write the best book on the poet's art and philosophy that he had it in him to write. The result, *Robert Frost: The Poet as Philosopher*, is, remarkably, the first full-length study to really understand and elaborate the underpinning of all Frost's work – his philosophical dualism.

Caxtonian Dr. Peter Stanlis, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Emeritus, at Rockford College, knew Robert Frost for the last quarter-century of his life. *His Poet as Philosopher* has been hailed as "A monumentally definitive study, simultaneously satisfying the demands of the most exigent scholarship, while encouraging the non-specialist to reflect upon what it means to be a thinking being in today's world."

May 20. Nancy H. Ramage's talk "Literary Circles in Baltimore and Paris: The Cone Sisters and Gertrude Stein." Dr. Ramage is Charles A. Dana Professor of the Humanities and Arts Emerita at Ithaca College.

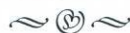
Claribel Cone and Gertrude Stein used to ride the tram together in the 1890s, when Claribel was teaching medicine at Johns Hopkins and Gertrude was a medical student there. The Cone and Stein families were in the same circle of immigrant German Jewish families in Baltimore. Claribel and her younger sister, Etta, traveled with Gertrude and her brother Leo Stein in Italy, and Etta crossed the ocean with Gertrude, becoming her intimate friend. In 1905 Etta typed Gertrude's first novel, *Three Lives*, from her manuscript.

When Alice B. Toklas moved in with Gertrude, a rivalry that was to last for decades erupted between Alice and Etta. Nonetheless, the Cone sisters regularly attended the Saturday evening salons at the Stein household, and bought pictures and furniture from Gertrude over many years. Indeed, many of the paintings in the Cone collection, bequeathed to the Baltimore Museum of Art, had originally belonged to

Gertrude or Leo Stein. This lecture, with many previously unknown stories, is based on a new book by Nancy Ramage and her mother, Ellen B. Hirschland. The book, *The Cone Sisters of Baltimore: Collecting at Full Tilt* is published by Northwestern University Press.

For additional information concerning events and publications, please contact Hayward Blake at hrblake@earthlink.net.

THE DELAWARE BIBLIOPHILES



THE FALL SEASON was kicked off with a late summer potluck picnic on the Chesapeake Bay at the summer home of members Bob and Mary Walsh. The day consisted of good food and book talk with the rain holding off until the end. The club furnished the bratwurst and chicken to be grilled with members bringing hors d'oeuvres, salads, desserts and beverages to share.

September found us at *Lead Graffiti*, the Newark, Delaware letterpress shop of DB members Jill Cypher and Ray Nichols. They had set out examples of their work as well as that of other letterpress printers and examples from their fine press collection. Each of us got to ink and print a couple of broadsides they had set up in the presses.

In October many members attended Oak Knoll Fest at their new location in New Castle which appeared to work out very well. Honorary DB member Henry Morris and his Bird & Bull Press were honored at the Fest. Later in the month we visited the Pencader Heritage Museum, viewing their exhibits as well as having show-and-tell by DB members of something new and/or old from their collections.

The annual fund raising dinner/auction was held again this year in November at the Union City Grille Restaurant in Wilmington. The food was excellent and we weren't as crowded as the previous year. Reduced attendance due to other commitments of some of our members resulted in fewer donated lots but we still added over \$600 to our treasury.

We note with sadness the passing of member Bernie Felch, an accomplished artist, teacher, and collector who was known for, among many other things, his life long passion for creating carved brick walls that can be seen at many different locations in our region. He will be missed.

For further information about our club please contact our president, Tom Doherty, at tsquare1787@aol.com if you are going to be in our area. We welcome visitors.

THE BOOK CLUB OF DETROIT



PRESIDENT HEDGER BREED continues to bring us an active book board as we met this fall in the newly opened Museum of Modern Art for Detroit. It is headquartered in a renovated car dealership so space is no problem. The exhibit was on Media presentations. A panel of four spoke to the term "avant-garde" and the newly published book *American Cultural Rebels* by Roy Kotynek and John Cohassey through McFarland & Co, Publishers. The museum has a small cafe and an excellent book store.

In November the Friends of the Detroit Public Library joined us in presenting Julia Miller, "Women in Bookbinding." We were hosted to a reception in the Rare Book Room, which is now their headquarters. Sam Gatteno (BCD member/book dealer) and Mark Patrick (head of the Burton collection at the DPL) presented an exhibit of rare bindings for our perusal. What a treat!

In December we held our annual meeting at our headquarters, the Scarab Club. Our theme was the 100th birthday of Ian Fleming, so 007 appeared briefly, as well as many of his characters, as several members dressed for the occasion. The theme music from the movies filled the room and we finished with a wonderful Book Auction and dinner meeting. New members of the board were elected and we look forward to next year and their program ideas.

We hope to see many of you in Minneapolis for the FABS annual Book Tour. If you're in this area, just call Joan Knoertzer, at the Library B&B 734 668-6815.

FINE PRESS BOOK ASSOCIATION



THE FINE PRESS BOOK ASSOCIATION held its annual board and membership meetings in New Castle, Delaware on the Sunday of Oak Knoll Fest, October 5, 2008.

Katherine McCanless Ruffin and Jeffrey Cooper were welcomed to the board. It was announced that Michael Russem is at work on a new FPBA web site. North American chair Bob McCamant declared his intention of doubling the membership of FPBA before the next annual meeting. "If every member simply recruits one new member, we'll double our membership," he said.

Oak Knoll Fest itself featured a celebration of the 50 years of work by Henry Morris and his Bird and Bull Press. Morris

was thoroughly roasted, toasted, sung to, and even allowed to tell his own story.

Parenthesis 15 was delivered to members just prior to Oak Knoll. Odd-numbered journals are edited by Paul Razell (infer no_press@mac.com) and published by the North American branch. Even-numbered journals are edited by Sebastian Carter (sebastianc@waitrose.com) and published by UK branch. FPBA will also have a table at the Codex Book Fair in Berkeley, California February 8-11, 2009.

Sean Donnelly (sdonnelly@ut.edu) is Membership Secretary of the Fine Press Book Association, North American division. Send changes of address to Sean; continue to send membership forms (available on our web site, www.fpba.com) and payments to Carol Blinn, Warwick Press, One Cottage Street #36, Easthampton, Massachusetts 01027 USA.

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY



THE FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY (FBS) fired up its 2008-2009 meeting schedule in September when we heard an interesting speaker on book conservation and binding.

October was a real treat with FBS member, Hal Youmans, speaking on "The History of the Histories of the War of 1812." Hal spoke on and displayed some of the best and worst of the books that have published on that war beginning not too long after its denouement and up to the present. He pointed out the best and the worst in terms of factual and lucid writing. He is eminently qualified for this task by virtue of his encyclopedic knowledge and his outstanding collection on the War which includes many rarities. He is in demand for speaking and consultation on the War throughout the country. He is also the recently appointed Editor of the *Journal of the Society of the War of 1812*.

November found us involved in an incestuous affair—trying to sell our books to our own members, an annual effort which is coupled with a show and tell.

December was our annual Christmas pot-luck meeting and auction of donated books, the proceeds to be used for charitable purposes. We will be meeting at a bookshop in Bradenton, Florida, on the second Sunday. Northern travelers seeking respite from the winter weather and who find themselves on Florida's west coast are encouraged to contact Lee Harrer for meeting details.

The FBS meeting schedule is normally the third Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Pinellas County's Heritage Village (in Largo) in odd numbered months and at the Macdonald-Kelce Library on the campus of the University of Tampa in even numbered months. Exceptions to the third Sunday rule are the Christmas meeting (usually the second Sunday) and our May banquet with location, date, and time to be announced.

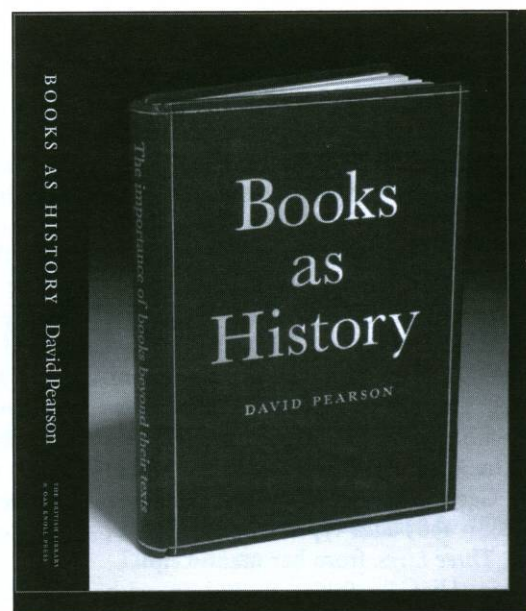
January will find the undersigned discussing the merits of bookseller and auction catalogs in the education of the book collector. In February, we hope to have former member and President Jerry Morris speak on his use of the Internet site "LibraryThing" and how it relates to his collections of Samuel Johnson and "dead people's books." The March meeting will be on the Sunday following the annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair (13-15 March) held in the Coliseum in St. Petersburg, Florida. This 25+ year old Book Fair presents 120+/- booksellers from across the country and has earned a reputation for its ambience throughout the bibliophilic world. FBS has manned the check room tables and provided free appraisals of attendees books for 20+ years at the Fair. Coupled with three days of book hunting, one can relax in the sun on the beach or golf course,

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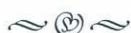


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attend a baseball spring training game, or visit the many recreational and cultural sites in the Tampa Bay area. If staying in the area through the following week(s), refugees from the frigid and frosty North will be welcomed at our meeting at Heritage Village and plied with hot coffee and edibles. Subject and speaker for both the March and April meeting are being determined.

The FBS contact for FABS is Lee Harrer. He may be contacted by mail at 1908 Seagull Drive, Clearwater, FL 33764, or by phone at 727 536-4029, or by e-mail at midbooks@tampabay.rr.com.

FONTANEDA SOCIETY



ALL PROGRAMS are held on every third Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book, 6th Floor, Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida unless otherwise noted.

January 18: A Sampler from AARLCC's Special Collections. Including Alex Haley's notebooks, Mizell materials, and vintage photographs from the African-American community. The African-American Research Library and Cultural Center.

February 15: New Acquisitions from the Jaffe Center for Book Arts including the new "Mutanabbi Street Starts Here" collection. FAU Wimberly Library. Boca Raton.

March 15: 12th Annual Florida Artists' Book Prize Opening Reception and Award Ceremony. All of the books entered in the competition will be available for viewing and the winning artist, will speak.

April 19: Identifying and Collecting Rare Books. A panel discussion on the fine points of book collecting and future trends.

May 17: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. "Show & Tell."

For more information please contact Jim Findlay at the Bienes Museum, 954 357-8692 or Peggy Bing, Secretary, 954 785-2834.

THE NO. 44 SOCIETY



THE NO. 44 SOCIETY of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign meets at The Rare Book & Manuscript Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, September through May (excluding January) unless otherwise stated.

This fall we hosted a screening of the movie *The Mysterious Stranger*, a 1982 adap-

tation of the Mark Twain story for which our society is named. We also hosted a talk by Jon Solomon, Robert D. Novak Chair of Western Civilization and Culture, about Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur* and the multitude of consumer products named after the book following its publication.

On December 3, the Society will host its third annual holiday party in which members share their favorite new acquisitions and their favorite holiday treat with the club. The new year begins on February 4 with a lecture on Abraham Lincoln by James Cornelius, Curator at the Lincoln Library in Springfield, Illinois. On March 4, University of Illinois Library conservator Laura Larkin will give a talk on conservation of library materials and suggestions for our members' own collections. The April meeting will be on April 1, and in honor of April Fools' Day the theme of the meeting will be "Fakes, Forgeries, and Fools of Book Collecting." Several members of the society will be presenting short talks on notable forgers and fools in the book collecting world. The May meeting includes the awarding of the Harris Fletcher Book Collecting Award and T. W. Baldwin Prize in Book-Collecting to the undergraduate and graduate students with the best book collections.

For additional information, please visit us at www.library.uiuc.edu/rbx/no44.htm.

THE GROLIER CLUB



THE Club's *Iter San Franciscanicum* is scheduled for Saturday, 7 February through Thursday, 12 February. The trip will coincide with the 42nd California International Antiquarian Book Fair. Our host will be the Book Club of California and the Roxburghe Club. Participants will enjoy visits to university library special collections and tours of Grolier members' homes among other bookish delights.

Bibliography Week in New York is scheduled for 20-24 January. As in prior years, the Grolier will host several events: On Wednesday, 21 January, there will be a luncheon buffet for members at the Club followed by a talk on the first American exhibitions of illuminated manuscripts at the Grolier. The speaker will be William P. Stoneman, Florence Fearing Librarian of the Houghton Library.

On Friday, 23 January, the Club will be the venue for the annual meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America. Rare

Book School founder and Club member Terry Belanger will speak on "A View from the Bridge: Further Meditations by the Captain of the Iceberg." Both events are open to the public without charge.

The Club's 125th Annual Meeting and Dinner on Thursday, 21 January, will once again be held at the Metropolitan Club, at 60th Street and Fifth Avenue. Members only, black tie.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

The first of the Club's quasiquicentennial publications will be a celebration of the Grolier's distinguished publishing history: *For Jean Grolier & His Friends: 125 Years of Grolier Club Exhibitions & Publications, 1884-2008*, is the collaborative work of members George Ong and Eric Holzenberg. The approximately 500 pages of text and nearly 200 illustrations will explore the history of the Grolier Club through its exhibitions and publications and bring up to date the lists of these programs originally featured in the 1984 centennial volume. Designed by Jerry Kelly, the text will be printed letterpress in an 8" x 11" format in an edition of 276 copies, including 26 lettered copies specially bound, in slipcase, and accompanied by a portfolio of printed Club ephemera.

Due before year-end 2008, *This Perpetual Fight: Love and Loss in Virginia Woolf's Intimate Circle*, by William Beekman and Sarah Funke. Planned to accompany the eponymous exhibition at the Grolier, the book will be hard cover, about 160 pp., with 60 color and b&w illustrations.

THIS OLD CLUB HOUSE

Renovation of the Clubhouse has been completed on time and on budget. The 6th floor kitchen and ground floor pantry, formerly dingy patchworks of prior "fixes" have been gutted and completely rebuilt. The bathrooms on floors 2, 3, and 5, all of 1917 vintage, have been similarly transformed with new stone floors and modern fixtures. The ground floor cloakroom has been reconfigured to provide more space for coats and temporary storage; the 6th floor council room has gained a dedicated air conditioning unit, new lighting and new furniture and rugs. This long overdue face lift will keep the Club's facilities on a par with the ever increasing requirements of its members.

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Campbell Denlinger, New York, NY; Sean D. Graystone, Santa Fe, NM; William M. Griswold, New York, NY; Scott E. Jordan, La Habra Heights, CA; Thomas G. Knoles, Worcester, MA; Caroline Linde-

mann, Richmond, VA; Deana B. Marcum, Kensington, MD; Max Marmor, Hamden, CT; Derek J. McDonnell, Potts Point, Australia; Philip J. Pirages, McMinnville, OR; Patricia Pistner, Naples, FL; Eric David Sherman, New York, NY; Peter Stallybrass, Leverett, MA; J. Alexander Branch, III, Atlanta, GA; Giovanni Favretti, New York, NY; Melissa S. Mead, Rochester, NY; Fortunat Mueller - Maerki, Sussex, NJ; Stephen K. Sher, New York, NY; Richard D. Stattler, Huntington, NY; Francis J. Sypher, Jr. New York, NY.

PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

December 9 – February 14, 2009. *For Jean Grolier & His Friends: 125 Years of Grolier Club Exhibitions & Publications, 1884-2009.* Curated by George Ong and Eric Holzenberg.

March 3 – May 2, 2009. *Vivat Rex: Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Accession of King Henry VIII.* Curated by Arthur L. Schwarz, Richard Kuhta, William Stoneman, and John Bidwell.

May 19 – August 1, 2009. *Cuban Artist's Books and Prints: 1985-2008.* Curated by Linda S. Howe.

MEMBERS' EXHIBITIONS

Edward Fitzgerald & The Rubaiyat from the collection of Nicholas B. Scheetz. Opening reception 5:30 p.m., 21 January, 2009.

The Work of the Stamperia Valdonega: 1948-2008. Curated by Jerry Kelly. Opening reception 5:30 p.m., 20 November, 2008.

James L. Weil: Master of Fine Printing and Poetry. Curated by Jerome H. Buff. March 26 – May 29, 2009.

LONG ISLAND BOOK COLLECTORS

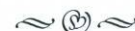


AT OUR FIRST MEETING after the summer break, we elected a new slate of officers. Marjorie Rosenthal is now president, succeeding Murray Robin, who has our kudos for his able leadership. Afterwards, Anthony Jaworski gave a talk on the Civil War and displayed some of the gems from his collection of Civil War books.

In October the club visited the CW Post campus of Long Island University where we viewed their Special Collections. Our thanks to Conrad Schoeffling, Special Collections Librarian and assistant, Jarron Jewel.

Our annual luncheon was held on November 9th, at the Maine Maid Inn. Tom Werth from Philip Weiss Auctions spoke on "Selling Books at Auction." In addition to learning of the mechanics of the auction process, he discussed the kinds of books auction houses were especially interested in.

THE MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY



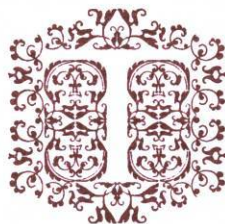
MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY MEMBERS experienced yet another exciting annual meeting in the desert cities of Tucson, Phoenix, and Tempe, Arizona, last May. The next annual event in Philadelphia promises to be as much fun, and equally stimulating and informative. Scheduled for May 20-24, 2009, members and their guests will be treated to a variety of autograph and manuscript venues including "behind-the-scenes" tours arranged for the Society.

The opening reception on May 20 at the conference hotel – the Radisson Plaza Warwick – is in the final planning stages. Local chair Barton Smith says the organizers have been working diligently to put on a "fun auction" as one of the highlights of the event. Other events include many of the familiar manuscript haunts well-known to Society members along with less well-known manuscript collections like those at the Union League and the Museum of Art.

Several events will feature nationally known experts who will discuss some of the practical issues related to collecting and caring for autographs and manuscripts. As an add-on to the regular meeting which

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ends with a gala banquet on Saturday evening (May 23), a tour of the outstanding manuscript collections at Princeton University has been arranged for Sunday, May 24. The Princeton tour is limited to 50 people so members of the Society have been encouraged to register early.

SOCIETY REPLEVIN FUND

The Society has a long history of assisting members whose ownership of manuscripts is challenged by government authorities – an action generally known as “replevin.” The Society’s role is educational – helping members understand their rights and on occasion entering “friend of the court” briefs to help judicial officials understand the legal traditions involved in such cases. The Society’s efforts in this area are supported by a “replevin fund” which is rapidly growing through member contributions. In the last year alone, the fund has doubled to more than \$80,000.

SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society launched an ambitious initiative at its annual meeting last May to build an endowed fund of at least \$100,000 to support its scholarship program. Its signature scholarship, The Manuscript Society Richard Maass Research Grant, has become well known among leading universities because it provides \$5,000 in unrestricted funds to graduate students whose research is largely based on manuscripts. Institutions that support the Society’s annual meetings frequently receive scholarship funds designed to attract student support for their institutional activities.

Further information is available from Edward C. Oetting, Executive Director, 1960 East Fairmont Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.

OTTAWA BOOK COLLECTORS



ALL OBC MEETINGS, unless otherwise indicated, begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the first floor Senate Room, Laframboise Hall, Saint Paul University, 249 Main Street, Ottawa. Meetings are held the first Monday of every month.

January 5. Biblio-wassail. Finishing off the last of the Yuletide seasonal cheer, OBC members will present the books they received during the holidays (or books they gave themselves!) They will tell us why it is an asset to their collection.

February 2. “Shamanism.” A talk by Edith Pahlke, Dr. Marie-Francoise Guedon, a Canadian anthropologist and a professor

of religious studies at the University of Ottawa, has done extensive fieldwork among the Inuit, Gitksan, Ahtna, and Tanana peoples of Canada and Alaska. Professor Guedon will provide a talk on shamanism and share the research leading to her study, *Le reve et la foret: histories de chamanes nabesna* (The Dream and the Forest) published by Laval University Press in 2005 and nominated for the 2006 Governor-General’s Award for French non-fiction.

March 2. Chain of Office: Biographical Sketches of Ottawa’s Mayors (1847-1948) Talk by Kyla Ubbink. Dave Mulligton, former reporter and copy editor on the *Ottawa Citizen*, now retired, will speak on his recently published study of Ottawa’s former mayors.

April 6. The Impact of the Internet on the Used Book Trade. Mordy Bubis (proprietor of Benjamin Books, Ottawa) will draw on his varied experience to show how the computer has changed the book trade.

May 4. The Year of Saint Paul. On the occasion of the 2000th anniversary of the Saint’s reputed birth, sometime between June 2008 and June 2009 a speaker (to be determined) from Saint Paul University will discuss the Saint’s writings.

June 1. Annual General Meeting. Our annual meeting, when suggestions for potential speakers will be provided, and a new executive elected. Additionally, members are asked to contribute to our June book exchange and swap, where we reduce our current collections by foisting them onto others, and in turn increase our collections by having others foisted on us!

THE PHILOBIBLON CLUB



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS:
January 13. Jack Sosiak. “On collecting city and urban views.”

February 10. Steve Rothman and Lynn Farrington. “Comic books in a University Library – University of Pennsylvania.”

March 10. Larry Alford. “Temple University Libraries reaching 3 million volumes.”

April 21. Brooke Palmieri “Pastorius Conference and Show, ’09-’10, and the Be-hive manuscript at the University of Pennsylvania.”

Special Events of the Philobiblon Club, 2008-2009:

Three tours for members were scheduled for the 2008-2009 season:

Masonic Temple Library and Museum (Philadelphia);

Philadelphia Free Library’s Rare Book Room; An in-depth view of their extraordinary Poe exhibition “Quoth the Raven”)

Oak Knoll Bookselling and Publishing Company, New Castle, DE.

The tour of Philadelphia’s Masonic Temple Library and Museum occurred on October 30th, 2008. The Library, founded in 1817, is considered to have one of the finest collections for the study of Freemasonry. It holds 75,000 volumes, 30,000 documents and manuscripts, and a vast number of print and photographic works.

One treasure of the Library is Benjamin Franklin’s 1734 printing of *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons*, the first Masonic book printed in America. The tour was led through the maze of 19th century stacks and processing areas of the Library as well as being given as the tour of the period Halls of the 1873 Temple.

THE ROWFANT CLUB



THE ROWFANT CLUB is looking ahead to another “bookish” season with speakers and events covering all aspects of the world of books – from all over the world. What does that term, “bookish,” really mean? Are the member clubs of FABS made up of book worms, people who hide in books?

We do not hide ourselves away from the difficulties and challenges of our times, indeed we confront them daily, but also find a perspective that soothes and calms. That perspective comes from collecting and reading fine works of literature, philosophy, history, and art. We are not retreating from the conflicts and troubles of our times by being ostriches in a library.

While the international scene seems to present an ever-larger vale of tears and the economy wrestles with debt and unemployment, an oasis of books, a library continues to please and assist enquiring minds. So it goes at The Rowfant Club and, I trust, in all the other clubs within FABS.

This is not escapism. For what is it that makes our lives, with all their difficulties and frustrations, bearable and sometimes joyful? It is our loved ones and our hopes for them and the billions of others living now and to come that they all might experience life in a civilized way. Such concern for our fellows is not nurtured more than it is with the assistance of reading and contemplating the fabulous and tragicomic history of creative humanity. Where else but in a library (or book club) can such

contemplation grow into hope and wisdom?

So it is our little island in the world, our Rowfant Club and others like it throughout the world, that brings us a welcome measure of learned debate and civilized conversation; a welcome respite from the seemingly relentless attacks on that civility throughout the nations.

But it is not without wit and humor that we confront our days at The Rowfant Club or in our daily vocational pursuits. A world without humor is no more civilized than a world without books. Humor deflates and clarifies. It gives vent to the irritations the mind sees and the heart feels when confronting hypocrisy. We welcome it and encourage it.

So it is with the many speakers we have on the way to The Rowfant Club in coming months. Our Wednesday Evenings are full till the end of the season at the end of May of 2009 with speakers who will address us on topics ranging from the neo-Platonic in today's philosophy profession to new views of the Peloponnesian War to libraries small and large that offer excellence in various ways to book lovers. We will host experts on book restoration as well as book illustration. And, as always, we will bring to our club professors of music as well as performers of the most popular of the arts.

All of this will be complemented by our Friday Lunch program that allows our own members to present on topics of their own choosing. These members' talks, I say with honest pride, are always full of wit and wisdom, erudition and surprise, and we look forward to attending them as much as we do the many visitors we bring to the club from all over the book world on Wednesday evenings.

We also continue our Saturday Lunch program, which encourages members to do battle (verbally) on issues of social change and international relations. These Saturday sessions are our contact sports events and members and their guests are encouraged to come prepared to attack or defend the ideas of our times. Firearms must be checked at the door.

All of the Rowfant Club's programs begin with a respect and love for the power and beauty of the book. For it is the book in the history of humanity that most successfully enlarged the intellectual franchise to all people who can read. It continues to do that today, albeit not only in its traditional, bound form.

So as the 21st Century continues to unfold and we marvel at both the wonders of modern science and engineering while

wondering anew at the frequent nastiness of history, we remain faithful to our dedication to books and their remarkable capacity to please, strengthen and entertain all who care to learn.

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

SACRAMENTO BOOK COLLECTORS CLUB



THE Sacramento Book Collectors Club plans to offer a varied program to its members while proceeding to achieve its goals for 2009. The club takes a vacation during the months of July and August and then restarts programming in September.

The Gutenberg Leaf Book has been published. It was the brain child of Vince Lozito in cooperation with Robert Dickover. The project was printed on a Vandercook proof press in a limited edition of 55 copies. The *Leaf Book* was handset in Cloister Black type and measures 14 3/4 by 19 inches, with the individual leaves measuring 11 inches by 17 inches. Finish work was done by noted bookbinders, and long-time club members, Gerrilee Hafvenstein and L. J. Dillon. The price is \$75 plus shipping and handling. For further information please contact Louisa R. Vessell at lvessell@sbcbglobal.net or 916 451-2113.

Since 1990, the Sacramento Book Collectors Club has published three leaf books, including the present one. Mr. Lozito and Mr. Dickover have been the printers and brain trust for each of the three leaf books.

The Sacramento Book Collectors Club participated in the Central Valley Antiquarian Book Fair on Saturday, September 20, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Sacramento. The book fair featured 50 dealers with rare books, ephemera, photographs, and other unique items. Several members volunteered to work the Club's table including Miguel Hernandez, Dr. Jay Zil, Brad Casoly, Bob Dickover, Louisa R. Vessell, Lana Paulhamus, and her friends, Donny and Evelyn Maio. The fair was an excellent opportunity to introduce visitors to our organization and its mission.

Larry Berman, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Davis and director of the UC-Davis Washington Program and author of *Perfect Spy: The Incredible Double Life of Pham Xuan An, Time Magazine Reporter and Vietnamese Community Agent*, spoke before the book club on September 12 at the Arden Demick Library in Sacramento.

An, who was a Vietnamese nationalist and member of Ho Chi Minh's army in the 1950s, traveled to the United States during this time and studied journalism as a cover while collecting information on the United States. In the early 1960s, An worked as a reporter for Reuters and *Time Magazine* in Vietnam during the war and would send intelligence reports to the Viet Cong on American tactics and battle plans. Berman met An in 2001 at a Saigon dinner party and over a five year period spent hundreds of hours interviewing him.

On October 10, Matthew Reade presented a program before the book club at the Arden Dimick Library to discuss his books and involvement in writing. Reade, a twelve-year old author, lives in Northern California with his family and is an avid reader and enjoys reading fantasy, science fiction, and historical fiction novels. His hobbies include reading, writing, playing video games, and golfing. He has already written three novels, including his latest historical fiction novel, "*Conner and Jackson: The Boyd Brothers*" and is currently working on two new novels, the first of which is planned for release in the Spring of 2009. He learned how to publish a book and create a website (www.readecompanies.com) all without his parents help.

Ray Sides, CPA, for Sides and Rathkamp, spoke before the Sacramento Book Collectors Club on November 14, again at the Arden Dimick Library. Sides discussed the value of books and reading in his life and the current hi-tech book reading options (home computer, laptops, cell phones, PDA, recorded, iTunes, LibriVox, and others) which seems to be the new direction for the literary arts.

On December 12, Dr. Jay Zil, book club member, discussed his collection of manuscripts, correspondence, and other writings by William F. Buckley, Jr. who passed away last February. The meeting was held at the Arden Dimick Library. The title for Dr. Zil's program was "William F. Buckley, Jr.: Ethicist and Essayist on Basic Principles of Power & Virtue in Western Society." Buckley was an American author, conservative commentator, and founder of the *National Review* in 1955 and hosted 1,429 episodes of the television program, "Firing Line" from 1966-1999. He was also a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and wrote several books. A few members of the book club will reminisce about their interactions with Mr. Buckley.

Gerrilee Hafvenstein, a book club member, continues to organize and catalogue book club archival items housed at the

California State Library under the direction of Gary Kurutz, Principal Librarian for the Special Collections Branch.

Most programs are free and all are welcome. For information about the SBCC, contact Louisa R. Vessell at lvessell@sbccglobal.net or 916 451-2113 or visit our website: www.sacramentobookcollectors.org

THE BOOK CLUB OF TEXAS



THE BOOK CLUB OF TEXAS announces a new publication, *When Will the Weary War Be Over: The Civil War Letters of the Maverick Family of San Antonio*, edited, with an introduction and epilogue by Paula Mitchell Marks (Dallas: Book Club of Texas, 2008). It is published in an edition of 450 copies. Design and typesetting by Jace Graf at Cloverleaf Studio in Austin. Printing by David Holman at Wind River Press, Austin. Binding by Don Hurst at Custom Bookbinders, Austin. With illustrations and scholarly annotations, this handsome 235 page volume, captures the hopes and fears of Samuel and Mary Maverick, who had three sons in the Confederate Army and a teenager, Willie, at Bastrop Military Academy, counting the days until he could enlist. What sets this collection apart is the chorus of voices: both parents were active letter writers, and their sons and daughter also corresponded at length. The result is one gets to hear all sides in the conversation, a vivid collective portrait of a prominent Texas family dealing with the stresses of war. Appended to the letters is the diary of Lewis Maverick, one of the sons in the army, covering a critical period in 1865.

In 2009, the BCT plans to publish a book on Texas collectors, edited by Gerald Saxon and Tom Kreneck, and a memorial tribute to Franklin Gilliam, bookseller. Those who may be interested in the Maverick book, or in joining the Book Club of Texas, please contact Russell Martin at the De-Golyer Library, SMU, Dallas, Texas 75275. Or check out our web page under "publications." <http://smu.edu/cul/degolyer>.

THE TICKNOR SOCIETY



THE TICKNOR SOCIETY kicked off its Fall season with readings by Benjamin Markovits and Matthew Pearl on September 23, organized by the Ticknor Society in

cooperation with the Byron Society of America and hosted on the Harvard campus. Mr. Markovits read from his new novel, *A Quiet Adjustment* (W.W. Norton, 2008), based on the life and times of Lord Byron while Mr. Pearl, best-selling author of *The Dante Club*, read from his yet unpublished novel on Charles Dickens.

On September 24, David Becker, Claire W. and Richard P. Morse, Curatorial Research Fellow at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, shared with Ticknor Society members his in-depth knowledge of the unique MFA collection of rare books, which he has been cataloging for the past five years. Mr. Becker had on display for the group a wonderful range of books including the first book illustrated with engravings. The copy on display is the only one known to have a complete set of engravings, each hand colored (Giovanni Boccaccio, *De la ruine des nobles hommes et femmes*, Bruges: Colard Mansion 1476). Other books on display included Edward Young's *Night Thoughts* with hand-colored engravings by William Blake (London: Noble for Edwards, 1797); drawings, proofs, and publications from the Harold Hartley Collection of British Book Illustration of the 1860s; and a unique artist's book by Anselm Kiefer (Teutoburger Wald, 1977). The collection can be searched from the Museum's website at www.mfa.org. Click on "Collections" then go to "Advanced Search."

On October 18, Ticknor members went to the Houghton Library for a tour of the current exhibition "To Promote, To Learn, To Teach, To Please: Scientific Images in Early Modern Books" given by the exhibit curator Caroline Duroselle-Melish.

At the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair on November 15, the Ticknor Society held its seventh annual Collectors' Roundtable. This year, the panel was made of speakers with diverse interests and included Vincent J. Buonanno who talked about his collection of early Italian architecture books, the antiquarian bookseller Robert Dalton Harris on the Atomic Age and photographer Karl Baden on dust jackets that re-use well-known photographs.

On December 10, three Ticknor members, Nicholas Basbane, Thomas Horrocks, and Kenneth Carpenter will be discussing their recently published books at the Boston Public Library.

The winter and spring calendars are filling up with a woodcut workshop in early February, a visit to the Harcourt and Acme Binderies in Boston, a tour of the Lincoln exhibit at the Houghton Library, and a visit to the special collections library of the

Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. Finally, the speaker for the annual meeting of the Society in June will be Robert Darnton.

THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON



THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON continues to provide opportunities for local bookpeople of all genres to come together, enjoy each other's company, learn from each other, and support the culture of reading and collecting.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair and Dinner held in October was well attended even in the face of a changing economy. We were delighted to see younger faces join us in the spirited hunt for book treasures. One lucky young woman won a drawing for a gift certificate—when her name was called, she let out an exclamation of sheer joy that was heard all through the Fair. She knew exactly what she was going to purchase with it, too.

The BCW visited bookstores and the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum in Tacoma. Members were graciously greeted by the bookstore owners and staff and enjoyed purchasing items for their collections and becoming acquainted with our neighbors to the south.

Upcoming activities for 2009 include the Annual Membership meeting at the University of Washington Special Collections with a lecture about the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

Please visit the BCW's website. www.bookclubofwashington.org

ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION CENTENNIAL (1909-2009)

The centennial celebration for this historic event held in Seattle from June 1909 thru October 1909 will be launched this spring with a wide variety of events, programs, publications, lectures, and other learning opportunities. The University of Washington Special Collections, the Museum of History and Industry, the Seattle Public Library and the Seattle Municipal Archives have all digitized resources from their collections to provide access to many primary source materials. Students, teachers, scholars, the interested reader, and historians now have access to an impressive library to study the Exposition.

The Exposition was held on the grounds of the University of Washington designed by the Olmsted Brothers; architect John

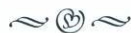
Galen Howard designed the major buildings. Frank Nowell served as the official photographer. Access to photographs, architectural drawings, & the official "A-Y-P March" can be had online at the University of Washington Libraries website: content.lib.washington.edu/aypweb/index.html.

The Seattle Public Library has digitized materials from their collection and from the Museum of History and Industry's collections to provide fully searchable access to over 50 publications that were produced at the time of the Exposition: cdm200301.cdmhost.com/cdm4/search.php.

Seattle Municipal Archives has made many archival documents from the City available on their website: cityofseattle.net/CityArchives/Exhibits/AYPE/default.htm.

The official website for the celebration where links can be found to all the events and resources: www.aype.org

WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP



WE BEGAN THE NEW EVENT-YEAR ON September 26 with a "Rare-Book Roadshow" featuring booksellers Allan Stypeck (Second Story Books) and Allen Ahearn (Quill & Brush), hosted by the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Members and guests brought "odd-lot" or mystery items from their collections (not ones they knew in their own specialties) for identification and appraisal; the books ranged from 18th-century conchology to obscure 20th-century literature, and the two experts had something interesting and informative to share about each one. The event was taped for Stypeck's "Book Guys" radio program, to be aired later in the Fall.

In October we traveled about 20 miles south into Virginia to Gunston Hall, the 550-acre plantation home of George Mason (1725-1792), who drafted Virginia's Declaration of Rights and its Constitution in 1776. On a rainy Saturday librarian Michele Lee welcomed us for a display and talk about George Mason's personal collection of books; just as interesting were the archival and print collections documenting the original architectural sources for the design of the buildings and guiding their restoration in recent years. Then Director David Reese led the group on a tour of the mansion itself, followed by a box lunch.

Our December event was an evening visit to the University of Maryland's Hornbake Library for the exhibition on "The well-dressed book: Cloth book binding in the

United States, 1830-1920," hosted by Douglas McElrath, the Library's Curator of Marylandia and Rare Books. Doug is currently researching the print culture of Baltimore in the 19th century, documenting the people and places of the book trades. His knowledgeable commentary deepened our appreciation of the exhibition.

Our schedule for the new year and through the Spring includes talks by scholars and rare-book curators on varied subjects, a tour of an exhibition on book-related graphic arts, and a visit to a private collection. For further information, please contact Leslie Overstreet, WRBG President, at overstreetL@si.edu.

THE ZAMORANO CLUB



AFTER A FOUR YEAR HIATUS, the Joint Meeting of the Zamorano-Roxburghe Clubs convened from October 24 through October 26, 2008.

Pasadena's Athenaeum was home base and the weekend began with a buffet reception at the craftsman's home of Ann and Andre Chaves where Ann, a native of East Aurora, NY, is the authority on textiles, needlecraft and embroidery and curator of a current exhibition on "The Art & Craft of Textile Design, 1860-1920," at the Pasadena Museum of History, and Andre, a hand surgeon by profession, is master of the Clinker Press, and a collector of fine press books and Elbert Hubbard memorabilia.

The Special Collections of Cal Poly Pomona started our Saturday morning sessions with Thomas Pinney, the Emeritus Professor of English Literature at Pomona College, speaking on Winemaking in California. Pinney is the author of "The History of Winemaking in America" and his collection is a major part of Cal Poly's Special Collections. Not many of us knew that winemaking in California started in the southern part of the state and not in the Napa Valley as might be supposed.

Lunch at Scripps College in Claremont was followed by tours of the Dennison Library of Scripps College under the tutelage of Director Judy Harvey-Sahak and a sparkling presentation of the Books Arts and Printing activities of the Scripps College Press directed by Kitty Maryatt, a recent addition to the Zamorano Club.

We then met on the Garden Terrace of the Huntington Library and thoughtfully the Book Shop delayed its closure and the banquet and exchange of keepsakes closed a full day of bibliophily.

Sunday morning we visited in the superb

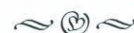
library of Michael and Marna Sharpe, rich in the highlights of English Literature, *Gray's Elegy Writ in a Country Churchyard*, in mint condition, and in Western Americana with Lewis & Clark in the original boards, and on and on and on! Michael has recently opened a bookshop of his own in Pasadena. Certainly the successor to Los Angeles' Heritage Book Shop.

Our day ended with brunch, books, and maps in the home of Bill Warren, where under a faultless sky of blue, a gourmet meal and a warm sun, we were treated to a spectacular view of the Rose Bowl.

Zamorans and Roxburghers alike were unanimous in their enjoyment of the weekend and the determination to continue it as a biennial event.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE

NEDERLANDS GENOOTSCHAP VAN BIBLIOFIELEN



THE Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofielen was founded in 1990, now has 145 members, meets twice each year, publishes newsletters and an annual Yearbook, organises trips for smaller groups twice each year, and makes a yearly trip to nearby European countries. Preparations for the celebration of our 20th anniversary in 2010 are being made.

In 2007 and 2008, club members again travelled extensively to visit various museums, libraries, universities, and other bibliophilic sites in different cities and towns in the Netherlands and other countries in Europe, to view manuscripts, incunables, old imprints, books, pamphlets, bindings, and other treasures.

Places visited in 2007 included Nijmegen (University Library), Cambridge (Corpus Christi College), Pepys Library, Trinity College, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cardozo-Kindersley Workshop, Peterhouse, Perne Library, Cambridge (University Library), Utrecht (University Library), Amsterdam (private architectural collection), and Haarlem (Museum Enschedé, graphical collection).

In 2008 visits were made to Wageningen (Agricultural University Library), Deurne/Antwerpen (booksilver exposition), Amsterdam (library of the Dutch Journal of Medicine), Venlo (private collection), Hannover (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek), Braunschweig (Stadtbibliothek and Herzog Anton Ulrich Museum), and Paderborn (Diözesanmuseum).

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

A TELLING SIGN of a culture, in which books will continue to play a healthy role, is the existence of a vital market that invests time, energy, and resources in ways that insure the continuing preservation and practice of the fine arts and crafts of the hand-made book, as distinct from the book seen merely as a disposable container of information. To that end The CODEX Foundation has dedicated its resources to the establishment of an international marketplace where the arts and crafts of contemporary book making can be seen and appreciated and, ultimately, purchased directly from the artists or their representatives.

The second biennial CODEX International Book Fair and Symposium, a benefit in support of The CODEX Foundation, will be held on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, from February 8th through the 11th, 2009.

CODEX gathers together the world's most distinguished printers, publishers, bookbinders, papermakers, book artists,

book arts educators, librarians, and book collectors in the Pauley Ballroom. Concurrent with the Book fair, curators, scholars, book artists, and collectors can participate in the CODEX Symposium, "Considering the Book as a Work of Art," with sessions held mornings in the theater of the Berkeley Art Museum. Key-note speakers at the symposium are Ron King, Circle Press in London; Antoine Coron, Bibliothèque National, Paris; and Lawrence Weschler, American writer and public intellectual.

On Thursday morning there will be open studio at Peter Koch, Printers in Berkeley, and later in the day (and over the entire week) related events in galleries, libraries, bibliophile organizations, and salons all over the San Francisco Bay Area including a Thursday tour of The San Francisco Center For the Book and the Grabhorn Institute / Arion Press and M & H Type Foundry — and, on Friday the 13th, the world's largest antiquarian book fair opens in San Francisco.

The non-profit CODEX Foundation was established in 2005 by Berkeley-based artist / printer / publisher Peter Rutledge Koch and his fellow printers,

curators, and collectors, with the express purpose to promote knowledge and appreciation of the arts of the book. It is fitting that such an international congress should gather in the Bay Area, which has a rich history of connoisseurship in the book arts, fine printing, and collecting.

The 2007 Book Fair earned over \$50,000 for The CODEX Foundation primarily due to the tremendous amount of support and organizing by board members, donors, and volunteers. The funds are earmarked for the publication of book/art/object, a substantial volume documenting the first CODEX Book Fair and Symposium titled, *The Fate of the Art*.

The 448 page, 9 x 12 inch, volume includes 128 pages (735 full color illustrations) of books exhibited by The CODEX Book Fair participants. The artists and presses represented a range from St. Petersburg, Russia across Europe to North, Central, and South America, across the Pacific to Australia, and Asia.

The Fate of the Art provides an in-depth snapshot of the state-of-the-art of the hand made book on a global scale never before presented. The book will be available at the 2009 CODEX Book Fair.

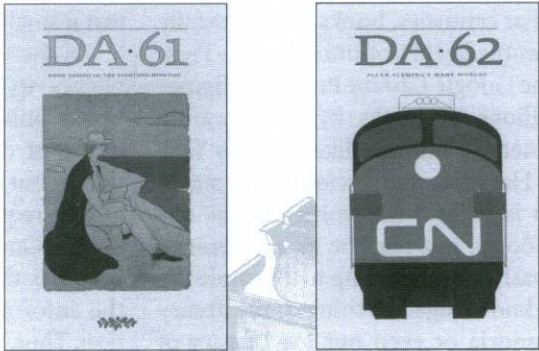
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The Devil's Artisan



A Journal of the Printing Arts

The latest issue (62) is guest-edited by Martha Fleming and features an appreciation of the design work of her father Allan Fleming (1929-1977). Contributors include librarian Devin Crawley, designer Robert Tombs and publisher Andrew Steeves.

The Rogue of the moment is typographer Carl Dair, author of *Design with Type*.

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The Collector's Bin



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

IN A TIME of global economic crisis and political change, in the United States, many feel anxiety. We invite you, the bibliophile, to find solace in the power of books to comfort us in these uncertain and stormy times. What remains certain is our unwavering love of books and the printed word.

Since our last column we have received a flood of inquiries asking our opinions about the future of the book. We suspect that Mr. Jackson's prescient editorial *From the Chair* has many of the FABS members asking the same question: "What is the Future of the Book?" This author certainly does not have a crystal ball, nor do I have insider information. However, we can learn from the past, access the present, and attempt to formulate a prediction of the future. As Robert Jackson mentions in his editorial, these prognostications have created a "minor industry."

What certainly is not a minor industry is the juggernaut called Google. This company is undertaking a monumental project that will change how society records, stores, and retrieves the knowledge of the world. For centuries, books have faithfully served as the keeper of information. Presently, the Google Library Project is digitizing millions of books by collaborating with venerable libraries like the New York Public, Harvard, and Oxford. The stated mission is "to put the world's books online." Google, just like the grand libraries of the past, is undertaking to assemble the world's knowledge. We think of the library at Alexandria or even our US Library of Congress. The collection, storage, and retrieval of information are the shared purposes. How the noble task is accomplished is undergoing a profound change.

In the 21st century, we are rapidly moving from the material realm of books into the immaterial realm of digital bytes. Now, a small library can be stored on a laptop and even more astonishing, if the computer has access to the Internet, it will have access to the world's books! The efficiencies in the storage and retrieval of information are undeniable. Unprecedented access to information will benefit civilization. We call our age the Information Age.

However, what is good for society overall will not benefit every individual or profession. The Internet and the Google library project mark the end for the out-of-print/used bookseller. We say this with a heavy heart; the noble profession has existed ever since words were first put to paper.

In the past, the bookseller acted as a guardian of knowledge by purchasing, storing, and selling books. Since people have a desire to know, to learn, to read, the bookseller capitalizes upon opportunity by acting as the intermediary between the reader and the book. Specialized booksellers purchase, store, and sell books in particular subject areas. Many of these booksellers ship books around the world to individuals, institutions, and libraries looking for a particular out-of-print, hard-to-find book. Some booksellers would provide a home for so many books in their shops that when a customer enters the shop, they might believe they are looking at all the world's books. We think of The Strand in New York, King's in Detroit, or Zuba's in Cleveland. Of course, the reality is that these colossal bookstores contain just a small fraction of the world's books.

As the Google Library Project accomplishes its goal of putting the world's books online, it becomes the new storehouse of digitized knowledge. Take note that in our postmodern world a library no longer requires a physical space or even books! Google's powerful search capacity becomes the new intermediary, matching the information seeker to the information. Thus, the end of the out-of-print and used bookseller. A decentralized market consisting of thousands of idiosyncratic, individualistic, professional booksellers selling books containing information now becomes a centralized market controlled by corporations running on the business model, selling access to information. Individuals seeking information no longer need to purchase a book. Indeed, I have received letters from scholars telling me that they no longer purchase as many books because they can do a great deal of their research online. One academic flat out told us he no longer buys any books because the information he needs is on-

line. Schools and colleges have begun offering text-less classes (i.e., all reading is done online). We will always have a need for information. Do we need books?

Does our Orwellian scenario also mark the end of the book? Actually, the unprecedented access to information (e.g., digitized books) available online will redefine the book, not lead to its demise. At least in the near term, individuals will not be reading entire texts on computer screens. They will print the information onto paper. I have found myself waiting on numerous occasions at our department's laser printer while a colleague prints out one or two hundred pages of information! Of course, this is not a traditional book, for there is no commercial publisher, printer, or binder. Nevertheless, it is a book, words printed on a page. Just as the computer did not reduce the use of paper as originally thought, the access to online books will not mark the end of the physical book. This may present an opportunity for the bookseller to reinvent the profession by looking to the past. Some will want their books printed on fine paper and professionally bound. Booksellers of the past often provided binding services as well as publishing and printing.

Individuals who view the book as much more than mere information or words will be the ones that preserve the book as a physical object. They will also keep the antiquarian and rare bookseller in business. Individuals who believe that words deserve letterpress printing, marbled and handmade papers, original artwork, and a fine binding define the book as a physical object with aesthetic appeal, not ephemeral electronic bytes. We the bibliophile and collector, determine the future of the book. If our interest ceases, so will the book. In these uncertain times, I suggest we all visit a "bricks and mortar" bookshop operated by an independent bookseller. If you can, bring a child or young adult with you and buy them and yourself a book. Bring the book home, hold it, admire it, and read it. Now, all is right with the world.

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