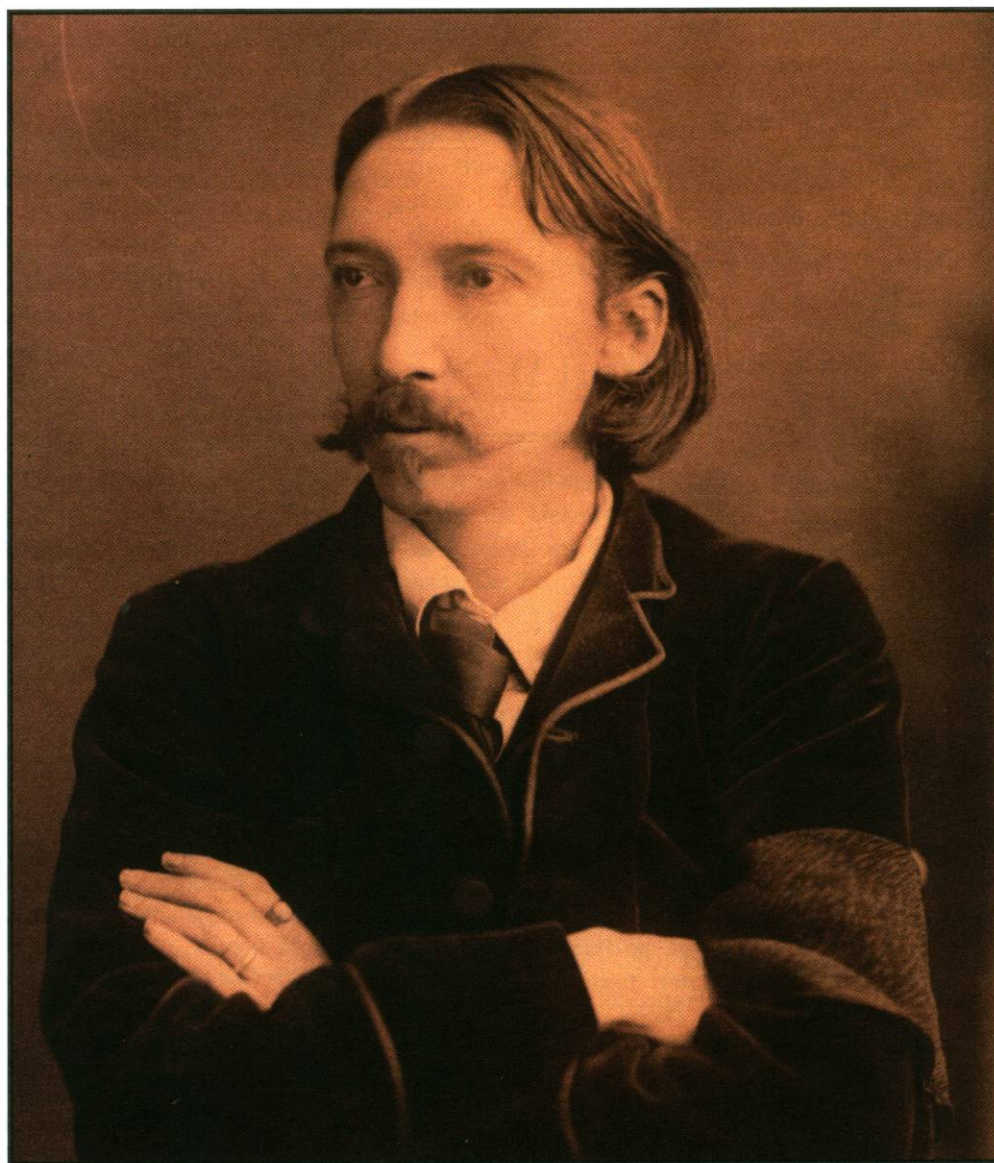


FABS Book Tour & Symposium ♣ Ann Arbor & Detroit ♣ May 12-16, 2010

THE FELLOWSHIP OF *American*
Bibliophilic Societies

FALL 2009

VOLUME XIII • NUMBER 2



ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Courtesy National Library of Scotland

The Henry W. Poor Auction ♣ The Collector's Bin ♣ Why I Collect What I Collect
Club News & Notes ♣ Collecting in the Sciences ♣ "A Wreck of Books"

Member Clubs

- The Alcuin Society, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
www.alcuinsociety.com
- The Aldus Society, Columbus, OH
www.aldusociety.com
- The Ampersand Club, Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN
www.theampersandclub.org
- The Baltimore Bibliophiles, Baltimore, MD
www.goucher.edu/library/baltimore_bibliophiles
- The John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI
www.bookclubofwashington.org
- The Baxter Society, Portland, ME
www.baxtersociety.org
- The Bixby Club, St. Louis, MO
- The Bolton Society, Philadelphia, PA
www.chemheritage.org/about/about-nav6-bolton.html
- The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA
www.bccbooks.org
- The Caxton Club, Chicago, IL
www.caxtonclub.org
- The Colophon Club, San Francisco, CA
- The Delaware Bibliophiles, Wilmington, DE
- The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI
- Fine Press Book Association
www.fpba.com
- Florida Bibliophile Society, St. Petersburg, FL
www.floridabibliophilesociety.org
- Fontaneda Society, Fort Lauderdale, FL
www.co.broward.fl.us/liio7400.htm
- The No. 44 Society, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- The Grolier Club, New York, NY
www.grolierclub.org
- Long Island Book Collectors, Garden City, NY
- The Manuscript Society
www.manuscript.org
- Miniature Book Society
www.mbs.org
- Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society, Northern Ohio
www.nobsweb.org
- Ottawa Book Collectors, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia, PA
www.english.upenn.edu/~traister/philo.html
- The Bibliophile Society of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, OH
- The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- Sacramento Book Collectors Club, Sacramento, CA
www.sacramentobookcollectors.org
- The Book Club of Texas, Dallas, TX
www.smu.edu/cul/deglyer.org
- The Ticknor Society, Boston, MA
www.ticknor.org
- Washington Rare Book Group, Washington, DC
www.washingtonrarebookgroup.org
- Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA
www.bookclubofwashington.org
- The Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, CA
www.zamoranoclubla.org

Contents

- From the Chair Robert H. Jackson 3
- Ann Arbor & Detroit: Book Tour & Symposium 3
- The Henry W. Poor Auction PART TWO Geoffrey D. Smith 7
Great Auctions of the Past
- Why I Collect What I Collect David Chambers 10
- "A Wreck of Books" Neil Macara Brown 13
Robert Lewis Stevenson & Richard Dury
- Collecting in the Sciences Ronald K. Smeltzer 15
- Club News & Notes 17
- The Collector's Bin Kenneth J. Palko 32
- Too Many Rare Books? Gerald O'Gorman 34

International Affiliates

- Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group, Aberystwyth, Wales
- Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofoelen, Amsterdam
- Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona
- Berliner Bibliophilen Abend E. V., Berlin www.berliner-bibliophilen-abend.de
- Société Royale des Bibliophiles et Iconophiles de Belgique, Brussels
- Moscow Club of Bibliophiles, Moscow, Russia
- Organization of Russian Bibliophiles, Moscow, Russia
- The Society of Bibliophiles in Capetown
- Les Amis Du Livre Contemporain, Paris
- Private Libraries Association, Pinner, Middlesex plabooks.org
- Maximilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart
- Book and Graphics Section attached to the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia

FABS Officers

CHAIR		VICE CHAIR
ROBERT H. JACKSON <i>The Rowfant Club</i>		PAUL T. RUXIN <i>The Caxton Club</i>
SECRETARY		TREASURER AND CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES COMMITTEE
DAVID CULBERT <i>The Grolier Club</i>		JOHN F. MCCLATCHEY <i>The Rowfant Club</i>
CONFERENCE CHAIR		MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
LAWRENCE N. SIEGLER <i>The Rowfant Club</i>		ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK <i>The Baltimore Bibliophiles</i>
CHAIRS EMERITUS		
LAWRENCE N. SIEGLER <i>The Rowfant Club</i>	ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK <i>The Baltimore Bibliophiles</i>	JOHN C. CARSON, M.D. <i>The Zamorano Club</i>
PUBLISHER		
KAY MICHAEL KRAMER <i>The Caxton Club</i>		
editor@fabsbooks.org 314 821-1465 FAX 314 835-9249 1717 Winesap Lane Kirkwood, Missouri 63122		

Copyright © 2009 by The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.
Over 8,500 copies of the *FABS Newsletter* publish twice annually. It is distributed during the first week of January and September to our 33 North American Member Clubs and our 12 International Affiliates.

From the Chair

A SHIFTING PARADIGM: PART TWO

IT IS TEMPTING TO COMPARE, the coming changes in the form of the book to the transition from tablet to scroll, or from scroll to codex. But we're witnessing something far more profound. The idyllic relations between readers and authors, browsers and book sellers, collectors and dealers, and dealers and special collections, are melting into air.

The phrase "hard times" may someday refer to the era of "hard copy" – a phrase that the OED traces back to 1964 and the dawn of the computer. Before 1964, there was no need to talk of hard copies. Oral transmission was the only alternative to stone, parchment, or paper. Today, more and more authors are skipping the hard copy stage and publishing directly from

their computers to other people's computers or digital reading devices.

Blogs have opened up the note-taking and thought-making processes of authors and nonentities alike. Lists, diaries, datebooks, and scraps of thought disappear into the blackberry patch.

Digital writing has no need for title pages, tables of contents, dedication pages, or indexes. Will any of our rhetorical conventions survive the digital transition? The ability to arrange thoughts into coherent arguments may disappear, along with chapters, paragraphs, and complete sentences. We'll find out how much reflective thought depended on the reflective surface.

Nothing can physically constrain the length of a digital book. "War and Peace"

can be published as cheaply as the digital equivalent of a pamphlet. Yet there is one overriding command in writing for the Internet: Keep it short.

The end of paper hasn't brought us a new *À la Recherche du Temps Perdu*. It gave us Twitter.

No one foresees the total disappearance of the book as object. New books will continue to be published. There will always be a demand for specialty publications, children's books, professional reference materials, art books, and paper ephemera.

But "hard times" – the era of the hard copy – are over. Welcome to soft times.

ROBERT H. JACKSON
Chair

FABS in Ann Arbor & Detroit, May 12-16, 2010

THE BOOK CLUB OF DETROIT is pleased to host the 2010 FABS Book Tour & Symposium, sponsored by The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies, May 12-16. The Book Club of Detroit has members in the 45 communities which include and surround Detroit. We will be visiting several of these towns, but will headquarter in Ann Arbor, Michigan at the Four Points Sheraton. Our very favorable rate there is \$89 per night, and the motel is just 20 minutes from the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Shuttle service is available separately but only transportation for the tours is included in the registration fee of \$435 per person. We have no limits on registration, and we hope as many of you who can come, will. Your registration form appears on page 5.

On Wednesday and Friday we will be in the Detroit area, while Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday will find us in Ann Arbor. We hope you will join us as we have extensive plans for everyone who loves books, manuscripts, maps, culinary arts, private collections/libraries, museums, Einstein . . . but I digress.

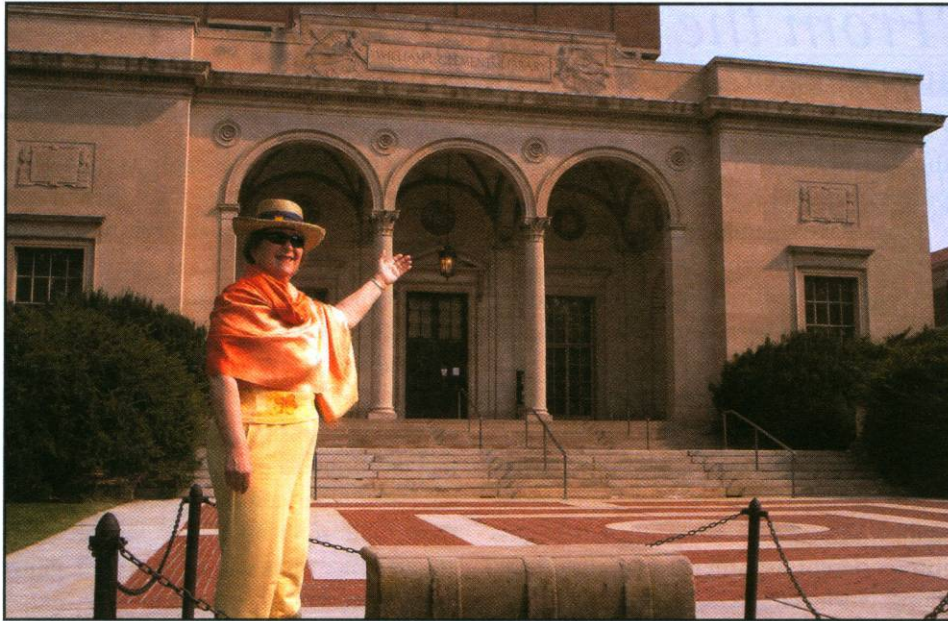
On Wednesday we will visit the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Public Library Burton Collection, Wayne State University Press, the Scarab Club (BCD headquarters), and the rare book room of John L. King Books. Dinner follows at the Indian Village home of Professor Barry Neavill (Book History Professor at Wayne State University) and his wife Mary Ann Sheble (Master Gardener). Both are long-standing members of the BCD and will display their collections (the Modern Library and books on books).

Thursday we will visit Ann Arbor's impressive book world starting at the University of Michigan Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library Exhibition Gallery and Special Collections. Faulkner, Frost, Orson Wells, pop-up books, old Bibles, and the famed papyrus collection as well as maps, fine printing, Asian studies, and a delightful children's collection await us. Next door is the Museum of Art, newly reopened and expanded. The Tappan Art History Library, which is across the street from the University of Michigan Law Library, will present several gems from their archives. Lunch will be served

next door at the William L. Clements Library of American History, followed by a talk by BCD member Janice Longone. Janice is curator and founder of the Janice Bluestein Longone Culinary Archive, housed at the Clements Library and will provide a tour.

Our late afternoon will be spent at the Bentley Historical Library of the State of Michigan, viewing their treasures and visiting their conservation laboratory. We will make a short cocktail stop at Hollanders School of Book and Paper Arts where Don Etherington will be teaching a class on fine bookbinding and we can ogle the hundreds of fine papers on display. Dinner follows at the Gandy Dancer (in the old railroad station), another fine culinary experience.

Friday we are headed just north of Detroit to Bloomfield Hills where we'll see the gorgeous Cranbrook Academy of Art and the Booth Mansion. We will visit John Booth's library and see some of the products of his fine press. Then we'll visit the Josena and Edyth Jackier Rare Book Room and the William Wilson Cook Library. Lunch will be served at the Uni-



Joan Knoertzer beckons all FABS members to join her and the Book Club of Detroit at the William L. Clements Library in Ann Arbor.

versity Club and then back to Ann Arbor where dinner will be on your own.

Saturday we will have our annual seminar titled: "Expansion of Knowledge in the 21st Century." This will be held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor. Robert Jackson will be our

Master of Ceremonies. We will cover presidential, archival, district, and research libraries and their diverse methods of expanding knowledge through their various collections. Of course we will discuss Google's digitization of all eight million books at the University of Michigan's

Library. Attend this FABS Tour and learn what the future will bring.

After lunch Saturday we will tour the Bessenberg Bindery to see many one-of-a-kind bindings produced there. Then you are free to join others on the streets of Ann Arbor for the Ann Arbor Book Festival where there will be many authors giving seminars and book talks. There is something for everyone.

Saturday evening we will have our book banquet. Many BCD members will be present to give a show and tell of their fine collections. This is very exciting for us. We love to share our prime editions and our guest speaker will be sharing a truly unique one with you.

Sunday we have a fine event, the Annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair. Between 50 and 60 dealers will set up shop in the University of Michigan Union Ballroom.

Please come and join us in Ann Arbor. Many people have been involved in planning a fruitful tour.

Call Joan Knoertzer, Book Tour Chair, at 734 668-6815 with any questions you may have.

See you in May!

THE VEATCHS

*Antiquarian Booksellers specializing
in the Arts of the Book*

Finely Printed & Illustrated Books ✕
Woodengraving ✕ Printing History &
Technique ✕ Type Specimens & Typog-
raphy ✕ Beautiful & Interesting Bind-
ings ✕ 19th c. Color Printing ✕ Rare
Books ✕ Calligraphy & Papermaking ✕

The Veatchs Arts of the Book

PO Box 328, Northampton, Massachusetts 01061
Phone 1-413-584-1867 ✕ ✕ veatchs@veatchs.com



ETHERINGTON CONSERVATION SERVICES

Etherington Conservation Services offers high quality and economical preservation, conservation, and digitization services for institutions such as libraries, archives and museums, as well as for private clients. Our goal is to provide professional treatment of books, documents, art on paper, and photographs from single items to large collections.

Services Include:

- ✕ Conservation, restoration, and period rebinding of books.
- ✕ Custom fine and edition binding.
- ✕ Conservation of works of art on paper, vellum, parchment documents, and photographs.
- ✕ Custom designed enclosures.
- ✕ Scanning and digital reformatting including digital restoration of photographs and preservation photocopying.
- ✕ Disaster recovery including fire, water, mold and insect damaged materials.
- ✕ Consultations, assessments, surveys, and training.

3 Locations to Serve You:

ECS – East
6204 Corporate Park Dr.
Browns Summit, NC 27214
800.444.7534

ECS – Midwest
1010 N. Sycamore St.
North Manchester, IN 46962
800.334.3628

ECS – West
121 Avery St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
800.253.5456

WWW.THEHFGROUP.COM

The Book Club of Detroit
invites you to the
FABS BOOK TOUR & SYMPOSIUM
May 12-16, 2010



Wednesday, May 12

Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Public Library Burton Collection, Wayne State University Press, the Scarab Club, Rare Book Room of John L. King Books. 🍷 Dinner at the home of Professor Barry Neavill.

Thursday, May 13

MORNING: University of Michigan Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library Exhibition Gallery and Special Collections. Museum of Art. Tappan Art History Library. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Talk by founder of the Janice Bluestein Longone Culinary Archive. Bentley Historical Library. Fine bookbinding at Hollanders School of Book and Paper Arts. Dinner at The Gandy Dancer.

Friday, May 14

MORNING: Cranbrook Academy of Art and the Booth Mansion in Bloomfield Hills, including the Booth library and fine press printings. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Private collections in two homes. 🍷 Dinner on your own.

Saturday, May 15

MORNING: FABS Annual Symposium, "Expansion of Knowledge in the 21st Century," at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. Lunch on your own. 🍷 **AFTERNOON:** Bessenberg Bindery and the Ann Arbor Book Festival 🍷 Closing banquet will feature BCD members presenting their fine collections.

Sunday, May 16

Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair at the University of Michigan Union Ballroom.

Registration: The cost is \$435.00 per person & includes all the above activities, meals, transportation, & entry fees. Communications should be directed to Joan Knoertzer at 734 668-6815.

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

Address: _____ Zip code: _____

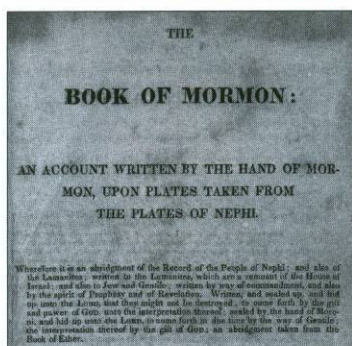
Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

FABS Club affiliation: _____ Collecting interests: _____

I enclose a check for a total of \$ _____ payable to the Book Club of Detroit. Send registration and check to Joan Knoertzer, 808 Mary Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734 668-6815.

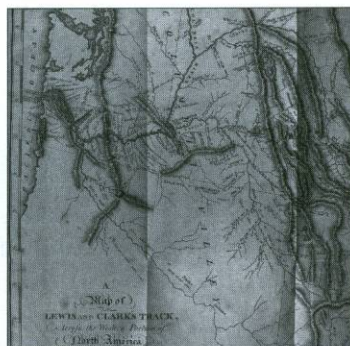
Tour headquarters: Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 3200 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 offers a special discount rate of \$89 per night, plus taxes, for single or double occupancy for FABS attendees. Please make your own reservations at the hotel by calling 1 800 368-7764. The local number is 734 996-0600.

OFFER YOUR BOOKS AT AUCTION THROUGH PBA GALLERIES



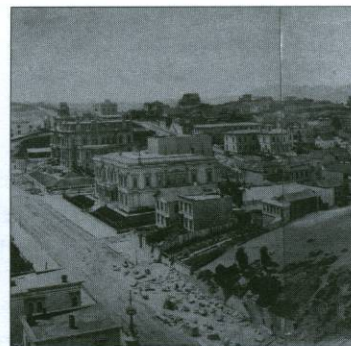
The Book of Mormon. First Edition, with bookplate and inscription by Paul M. Hanson, member of the Council of Twelve of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

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



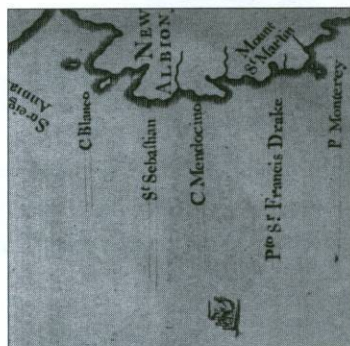
Eadweard Muybridge's stunning *Panorama of San Francisco*, from California Street Hill, 1877, the 11 albumen photograph panels framed consecutively to stretch over seven feet wide.

Sold for \$51,000



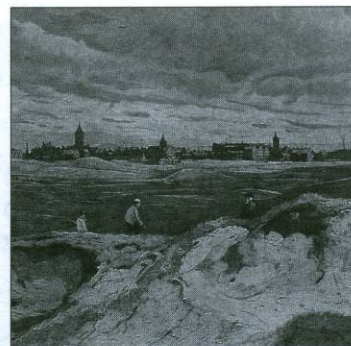
F. Scott Fitzgerald's *All the Sad Young Men*, an inscribed presentation copy with original sketch by Fitzgerald, in the first issue dust jacket.

Sold for \$37,375



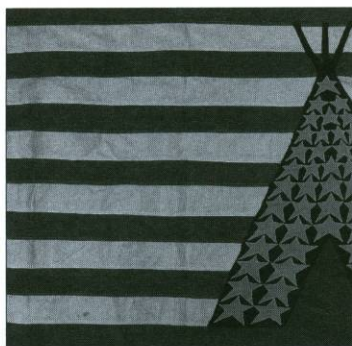
Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*
First issue, large paper copy.

Sold for \$192,000



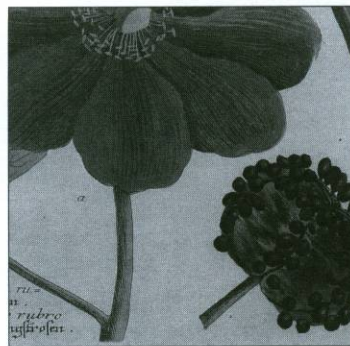
John Smart's *A Round of the Links*, with 20 etched plates of the best known Scottish golf links, one of the most sought after of all golf books, and one of the most difficult to obtain.

Sold for \$17,250



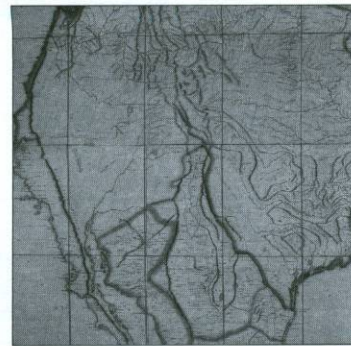
Original flag that flew over Alcatraz during the time it was occupied by Native Americans from 1969 to 1971, created by Penobscot Indian Lulie Nall, a key symbol of the signature moment of the American Indian Movement during the 20th century.

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

PBA GALLERIES

SPECIALISTS IN EXCEPTIONAL BOOKS & PRIVATE LIBRARIES AT AUCTION
133 Kearny Street : San Francisco, CA 94108 : www.pbagalleries.com : 415.989.2665

GREAT AUCTIONS OF THE PAST

The Henry W. Poor Auction

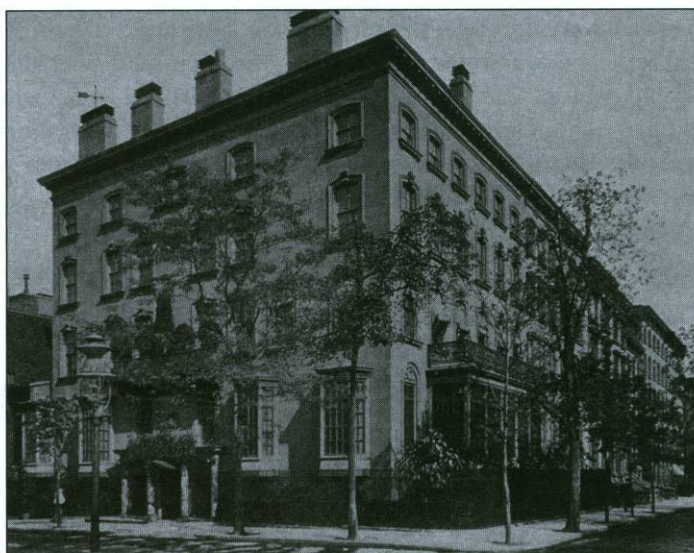
≈ PART TWO ≈

IF, as Shakespeare posits, “some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them,” then, surely, there must be some for whom greatness is squandered. Such was the case of Henry W. Poor, who, if greatness was not exactly thrust upon him, was born to modest bourgeois grandness of wealth and family and, through education and business acumen, achieved great wealth that was summarily lost due to bad timing, misfortune, and unbridled extravagance.

As recounted in PART ONE of “*The Henry W. Poor Auction*” in the Winter 2009 issue of *The FABS Newsletter*, Poor’s prominence, as chronicled in the financial, society, and art pages of the New York press, was equally chronicled by the same press as his financial empire collapsed. When the sale of his library by the Anderson Auction Company was announced, the first part to begin November 17, 1908, it was an early indicator to some that Poor was in financial trouble. Indeed, “this library, valued at upward of \$250,000 (\$5.97 million),¹ is one of the most notable in America, and the present auction sale is without parallel in the history of such affairs in this country,”² and the library was stored “in magnificent book stacks in Circassian walnut,” just part of the estimated \$1,000,000 (\$23.9 million) that Poor paid for the decorations and interior furnishings of his town house in Gramercy Park.³

Common thinking was that Poor’s library would be the last thing he would part with unless the situation was extraordinarily dire and so it was, for in late December, Poor’s bankruptcy would become public: “Henry W. Poor Fails; Loss Over a Million: Little Left of the Broker and Publisher’s Once Large Fortune,” headlined *The New York Times*.⁴

The Poor auction, held in five parts from November 1908 to April 1909, was, then, fraught with irony and, for bibliophiles, vindication and enthusiasm. First, of course, Poor was poor: failed mergers and significant losses in the 1907 stock market panic were the principal causes of his financial plight. Shortly after the beginning of the auction, Poor was also sued for fraud. His extravagances, obviously, exacerbated his fiscal condition



The adjoining houses of Cyrus West Field, of Atlantic Cable fame, and his brother were combined by Stanford White into a grand mansion for Henry Poor at the head of Lexington Avenue.

and his vaunted Gramercy Park mansion (a gift to his wife), valued at \$1 million, sold for \$300,000 (\$7.2 million). Yet, in the midst of much economic chaos, the book market was exceedingly strong. Book collectors must have reveled in the fact that the reckless businessman would have been wiser, at this point in history, to have invested less in luxury and more in books. As reported, “judging from the prices obtained for the books in the first part of Mr. Poor’s library that were disposed of last week . . . this magnificent collection, which has been famous for years as one of the finest in the world, is likely to break all records for large sales in America.” Yet another irony, because of the success of the auction, the modest

collector was generally on the sidelines as recorded by *The New York Times*: “‘Talk about hard times,’ remarked the humble book collector who has to count his pennies instead of his dollars whenever he essays to purchase a rarity . . . ‘Think of an auction sale in which one-hundred-dollar bids were so common as to pass unnoticed! Nothing less than a five-hundred-dollar bid could give a man celebrity as a collector . . . It was a sale that tested the nerve of the bibliographical maniacs far more than their pockets, for there was plenty of money in sight when a particularly choice first edition was put up for sale.’”⁵ By the end of the Poor auction, it was reported that “despite hard times this is one of New York City’s most successful and prosperous rare book auction seasons. . . . The average price is higher than ever, and the grand total greater than in any other season. It has been a record breaking year.”⁶

The Henry W. Poor auction was the greatest contributor to the bountiful rare book trade. With over 5,000 items, it is impossible in this limited space to represent adequately the variety and depth of Poor’s magnificent library, but selective examples from significant sales in each of the five parts of the auction can suggest the breadth of Poor’s collecting.⁷ In Part One, “a folio volume containing 34 letters of the Presidents, with a portrait of each (some rare)” sold for \$930 (\$22,211). Although sold for less, the \$400 (\$9,553) for Samuel Penhallow’s *The History of the Wars of New-England, With the Eastern Indians* (Boston: Printed by T. Fleet, for S. Gerrish at the lower end of Cornhill, and D. Henchman over-against the Brick Meeting-House in Cornhill, 1726) was a record price for that title, which was the first copy to appear in an originally bound volume since 1879 and that copy had been water-stained. The

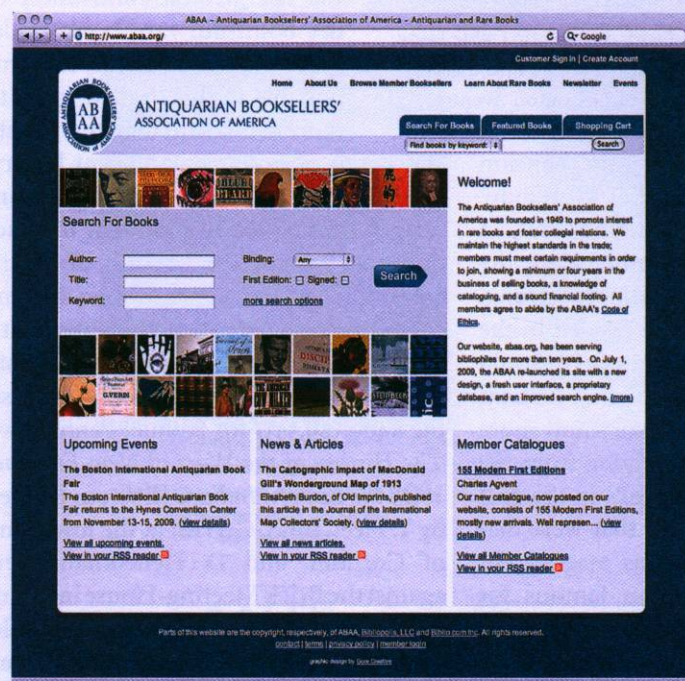
Anderson Auction Company noted that this title was “so rare indeed that neither Field, Menzies, Brinley, nor Barlow had a good copy.”⁸ Perhaps the most intriguing of the Part Two sale were seven Thackeray items sold as a single lot including: “the exceedingly rare original programme of the Private Theatricals given on Feb. 24, 1862, on the occasion of the opening of Thackeray’s new residence at Palace Green, Kensington”; a lock of Thackeray’s hair; three original portraits (one of Thackeray and two of Mrs. Brookfield, his reputed paramour); and two sets of pencil studies by Thackeray. The assemblage fetched \$655 (\$15,643).⁹ Part III of the Poor auction saw the sale of Higden’s *Polycricon*, printed by William Caxton in 1482, for, at the time, an astounding \$1,450 (\$34,630). Part IV of the Poor sale belied exaggerated claims from earlier portions that only the very wealthy could compete in the bidding. In lieu of illuminated manuscripts, books of hours, and incunabula, there was an assortment of modern authors (e.g., Kipling, Wilde, and Stevenson) and fine press books (e.g.,

Daniel Press, Kelmscott Press, and the Bibliophile Society). Certainly, there were some prized items, such as a first edition of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) by Wordsworth and Coleridge, still, at a modest \$40 (\$95). At the same time, one could acquire a first edition of Hawthorne’s *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851) for \$5 (\$119) or a second edition of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* (1674) for \$11 (\$263). In Part V, the final portion of the Poor auction, there was a return to spectacular books with special emphasis on French items, “the collection of 72 titles which Mr. Poor bought of Valentine Blacque, and which fetched \$14,589 (\$348,426).”¹⁰ Among the French books were the mid-fifteenth-century manuscript *Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis* (“The writing of the volume is very accurate, the margins are large and the condition is perfect throughout. From the library of Ambroise Firmin Didot with his morocco book-label”) that went for \$1,000 (\$23,883); Jean Benjamin de la Borde’s *Choix de Chansons Mises en Musique* bound by Chambolle Duru in four volumes (“An exquisite

copy of one of the prettiest, if not the prettiest, books of the eighteenth century.”) for \$1,100 (\$26,271); and, the single highest item of Part V, the manuscript *Office de la Vierge Marie*, “one of the masterpieces of Nicholas Jarry, the Calligrapher of Louis XIII and of Louis XIV” (“This manuscript was executed for Anne of Austria, Queen of Louis XIII. From the library of Eugène Paillet, with his bookplate and his signature.”) for \$3,350 (\$80,007).

Although the Poor library was the one appreciative asset of virtually all his investments, if Henry W. Poor had not been forced to sell when he did, it would have brought even greater return as evidenced by the Hoe auction just three years later. On a morbid note, Algernon Charles Swinburne, the great decadent poet, died a week after Part V of the Poor sale when the greater part of Poor’s Swinburnes went up for bid. Had Swinburne died sooner or had the latter two parts of the auction occurred later, the Poor estate would likely have realized a much greater return. As it was, the forty-

Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America Launches New Website



Our website, abaa.org, has been serving bibliophiles for more than ten years. On July 1, 2009, the ABAA re-launched its site with a new design, a fresh user interface, a proprietary database, and an improved search engine.

Users can browse and purchase books, maps, autograph letters, and printed matter with the confidence that they are buying from knowledgeable booksellers at a venue that is easy and safe to navigate. All material offered for sale is guaranteed to be authentic and accurately described.

Visit us today at abaa.org.



eight Swinburnes did well.¹¹ *The Queen-Mother. Rosamund. Two Plays* (London, Basil Montague Pickering, 1860) was advertised as "extremely rare . . . it is stated, upon good authority that fewer than twenty copies of the book had passed into circulation before it was drawn and the . . . title-page cancelled." In addition to its rarity, the book was sumptuous ("full olive crushed levant morocco extra, the sides ornamented with interlaced inlaid ribbons of red morocco, within gold lines, and the spaces filled with gilt-tooled leaves, gilt tooled mosaic back, double with brown crushed levant morocco extra, gilt borders of leaves, silk linings, gilt edges, original cloth covers and back with label bound in, by the CLUB BINDERY) and sold for \$125 (\$2,985). Swinburne's *Tristram of Lyonesse* (Portland, Me: Mosher, 1904), one of four copies printed on vellum, sold for \$115 (\$2,747).¹²

Despite record book sales for 1908 and the particular success of the Poor sale, it was not sufficient to offset Henry W. Poor's debts that were finally assessed

at \$2,110,869 (\$50.4 million) in liabilities and \$130,000 (\$3.1 million) in assets.¹³ In a final irony, the Jarry manuscript that sold at the Poor sale for \$3,350 (\$80,007) in 1909, sold at the Ives¹⁴ book sale for \$4,950 (\$104,811) in 1915, just six years later almost to the day, April 7, 1915. Henry W. Poor would die suddenly six days later at the age of seventy-one: perhaps his heart could not take the shock of the significant appreciation of his erstwhile, single major asset—his library.¹⁵

GEOFFREY D. SMITH

Professor and Head, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Room 327, The Ohio State University Libraries
1858 Neil Avenue Mall, Columbus, Ohio 43210
614 688-4980 fax 614 292-7859
smith.1@osu.edu

NOTES

¹I derive my figures from the "Historical Currency Conversions" program at <http://futureboy.homeip.net/fsp/dollar.fsp?quantity=595¤cy=dollars&fromYear=1909> and cannot vouchsafe accuracy beyond this citation. Values from 1909 are followed in brackets by 2009 values.

²*The New York Times*, November 12, 1908.

³*The New York Times*, February 13, 1910.

⁴December 27, 1908.

⁵November 22, 1908.

⁶*The New York Times*, April 10, 1909.

⁷The Anderson Auction Company of New York published detailed descriptions of the books and manuscripts to accompany each of the five parts of the auction: *Catalogue of the Library of Henry W. Poor*, 1908-1909. Unattributed quotations regarding the Poor Auction are from the *Catalogue*.

⁸Cyrus W. Field, whose library went to auction in 1906; William Menzies, 1876; George Brinley, a series of auctions, 1878-1895; and Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow, 1890.

⁹The agent for the Thackeray materials was the inimical George D. Smith, who dominated much of the Poor auction as he would other major auctions such as the Hoe sale.

¹⁰*The New York Times*, April 6, 1909.

¹¹*The New York Times* (April 11, 1909) reported that "the estimation in which [Swinburne] is held by book collectors may be taken as a fair indication of the regard for him by the general literary public in this country."

¹²*Catalogue of the Library of Henry W. Poor, Part V*.

¹³*The New York Times*, February 24, 1909.

¹⁴Brayton Ives, 1840-1914, Civil War general and president of the New York Stock Exchange.

¹⁵*The New York Times*, April 8, 1915; *The New York Times*, April 14, 1915. It should also be noted that inflation was not a greatly significant factor in this appreciation. \$100 in 1909 had the same purchasing power as \$110 in 1915 according to "Measuring Worth" at www.measuringworth.com/ppowerus/result.php.



Kelmscott Bookshop Rare Books

FINE BOOKS BOUGHT & SOLD
BINDING & RESTORATION
ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS & PRINTS

Our specialties include:

William Morris • The Kelmscott Press
The Pre-Raphaelites • Private Press
Artists' Books • Books about Books
Nineteenth Century Literature

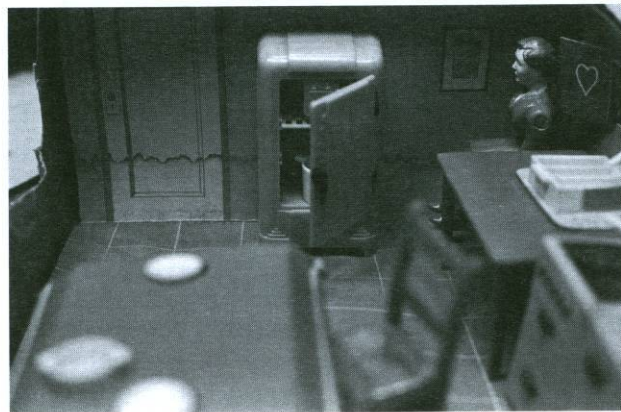
www.kelmscottbookshop.com

34 W 25th St., Baltimore MD 21218
(410) 235-6810 Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

Mrs. BRIDGE

by Evan S. Connell



The novel with 68 photographs in color and black and white by Laurie Simmons. Introduction by Mark Oppenheimer. The edition is limited to 300 copies for sale. For prospectuses or to inquire about our subscriber discount program, contact:

The Arion Press

1802 Hays Street, The Presidio, San Francisco, CA 94129
TEL: 415-668-2542 WEBSITE: www.arionpress.com

Why I Collect What I Collect

A COLLECTOR'S COLUMN

AN ESSAY ABOUT COLLECTORS of bookplates once declared that the regular urge to add to one's collection was linked to the waxing and waning of the moon. In the early 1940s my own monthly schoolboy journeys into London to spend half-a-crown, or even three shillings [50¢-60¢], might bear this out – though lack of ready money may have been a more particular reason. Run of the mill classics at sixpence [10¢] each from the untidy rows at Foyles Book Shop, in Charing Cross Road, would leave me walking home with five or six books to add to a homemade bookcase on the chest of drawers in my bedroom.

A more formal reasoning when I left school was spurred by Seymour Smith's *An English Library*, that I had borrowed from the local library, listing some 1,500 titles which I copied out into a large quarto notebook: sixty pages for Britain, three for America, four for translations of the classics. These were followed by seven pages for the poets, taken from a National Book League list, and then thirty pages of bookshops to be visited all over the country. There were columns for date of purchase, price, and date read. I left school in 1946 a few months after my sixteenth birthday, and was almost at once drawn into visiting, every lunch time in sequence, the five second-hand bookshops in the city, and haunting one of them, Jon Ash, at tea time every evening. I was drawn into minor twentieth century private printing, and particularly to the work of Robert Gibbings, Eric Gill, Buckland Wright, and finally to Lucien Pissarro and, for two or three pounds [\$10-\$15] a go, his Eragny Press. The collection grew easily enough, though after I married it was for some time limited by the needs of a growing family; there are a number of books that I still regret being unable to buy – but our youngest daughter, Susan, has inherited my need to collect, so there can be no real regrets.

After completing National Service in 1950 I made a printing press from plans that I had made on the back of large RAF

DAVID CHAMBERS is a name that most collectors will recognize. After a successful career as a non-marine underwriter, he retired from Lloyd's in 1988 to spend full time writing & collecting.

A collector for seventy of his eighty years, and a member of the Private Libraries Association for the past fifty – since 1979 he has been the editor or co-editor of its quarterly journal and currently its Chairman. A regular contributor to bookish publications, David is writing a history of 18th and 19th century private printing in Britain with a checklist of books and ephemera. He has in draft a complete checklist of Sir Thomas Phillipps' Middle Hill Press. A small book about the Daniel Press in Frome is also in progress.

He lives with his wife, Hermione, in Pinner, Middlesex, outside of London. She is responsible for the garden, he for filling the house with books.

forms, and part of my collection was then devoted to the practical and historical aspects of typography – with a further twenty hand-written pages to be added to my quarto wants list. In 1971, with James Moseley, librarian at the St. Bride Library, I edited the handbook to Holtzapffel's Parlour Printing Press, in its third edition of 1839. Searching for books that had been printed on such presses quickly turned into a passion for amateur printing in the centuries before William Morris. The Daniel Press, relatively easy to collect, at least from its years at

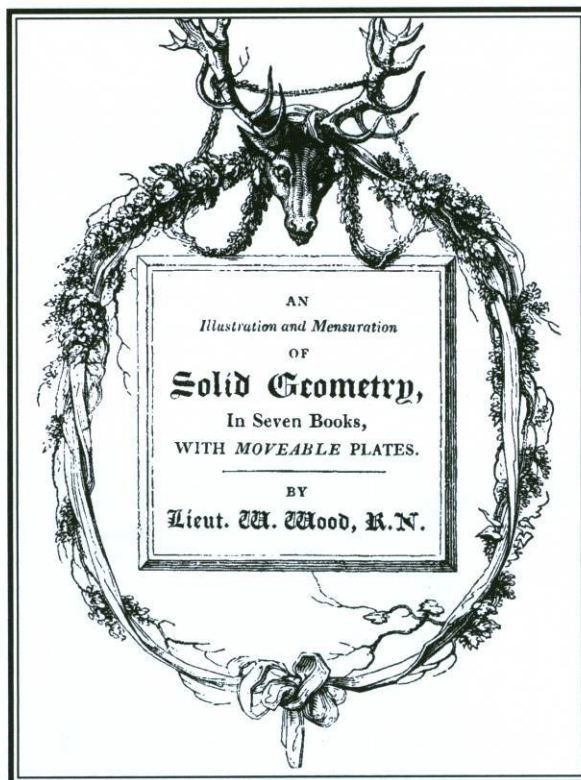
Oxford, Lee Priory, and the Hafod Press, not much sought after, though well printed, and Strawberry Hill which was much better known and much more expensive. In the seventies Thomas Phillipps' Middle Hill Press came through friendship with the Robinson Brothers, who had bought the remainder of Phillipps' collection after the war, and then with the Krauses, in New York, so that the collection is now the largest outside the British Library, the Bodleian, and the Grolier Club. The Hafod collection is similarly rich in content, the editions of Froissart and Monstrelet with colour plates, in folio and quarto, are particularly handsome, and very rare, limited to six in folio, and fewer in quarto.

In some ways more fun than these were the smaller presses, worked by their owners, sometimes on presses they had made themselves, often very poorly printed: clergymen arguing the nature of God, others denying his/her existence, religious books of all kinds, much literary work, in prose and verse, family magazines, even twenty-three volumes detailing English law, a commercial undertaking, but printed at the author's home in Aldershot. Some of the most appealing were printed by schoolboys in very limited editions – now very difficult to locate even in institutional libraries.

Rarity, one knows, is not necessarily any guide to value, unless there are at least two of you after the same book, but it does add enormously to the excitement of the chase. A few months ago I was able to buy a collection of work from the Daniel Press, printed in Frome, Somerset, before and after Henry Daniel took the Ruthven Press to Oxford, dull pieces, but things I had never thought to study outside the Bodleian. Included was a copy of the first little book, *Psalm XXIII*, with a note in the front, 'G. A. Daniel Christmas 1850 From the Printer', who was then fourteen. The album remains on the dining room table, still regarded with surprised veneration – a small book on the Daniels at Frome is now in progress.

An earlier purchase, ten years ago, and drawn from a dealer who needed funds when moving to a new house, was one of the two albums of Lee Priory ephemera from the Eyton Sale of 1848. Lowndes took his list of minor pieces from these; mine has the smaller pieces in it, but trifles that are, so far as I know, quite unique: title-pages for an unpublished book on 'Solid Geometry' (with draft chapter headings), and another 'A new picture of the Isle of Wight', a prospectus for an edition of Johnson's *English Poets*, a couple of bookplates, and even two cheque book stubs, with much else besides.

The reason for such a collection is at first simply the desire for possession, to be able to read and consider the books at any hour of the day or night, without recourse to the British Library, which, thank goodness, holds so many of them. Studying the books, though, researching the lives of their printers,



Title engraving for the Lee Priory *Solid Geometry*. This text was never published, of course, but the vignette at least is in the book of ephemera from the press.

preparing checklists and biographical notes, such work has given a proper purpose to the collection, excusing it from the easy criticism as being of little serious consequence. Those never ending questions as to whether one has read them all, what one's wife thinks about the ever extending ranges of book cases (Hermione has well earned, I have to say, a gilt-edged halo), whether one can find a particular book on the shelves – these can all be answered more easily if one can declare that there is a book to come – then one becomes an *author* to the world at large, rather than a mere *collector*.

The one great virtue of this particular collection, of course, is that it can never possibly be complete, always some new printer to be discovered, a fresh book to be bought, so that the hunt is never ending, however long one hopes it might continue.

DAVID CHAMBERS
PRIVATE LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

JOE RUBINFINE



AMERICAN HISTORICAL AUTOGRAPHS

Illustrated catalogue \$5.00

Post Office Box 1000 • Cocoa, Florida 32923

Telephone (321) 455-1666 joerubinfine@mindspring.com

DOYLE



NEW YORK

RARE BOOKS AUTOGRAPHS MAPS

Auction Wednesday, October 28 at 10am

Exhibition October 24 - 27

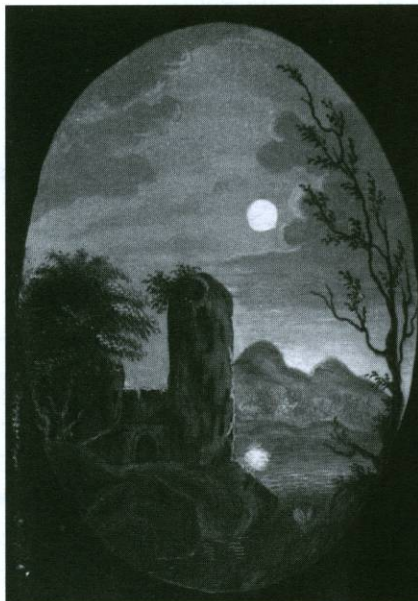
Contact Edward Ripley-Duggan
212-427-4141, ext 234
Books@DoyleNewYork.com

Catalogue 212-427-4141, ext 203
or view the catalogue and bid
online at DoyleNewYork.com

[MANUSCRIPT] *Une choix de 102 emblemes sur parchemin...* [title written in gold ink on first blank]. Full 19th century red morocco, simply gilt. 6 1/2 inches; with 102 emblematic miniatures, first quarter of the 18th century. Very finely painted on vellum, apparently extracted from a grand manuscript and laid down to paper at an early date. Some cockling of the leaves due to the interaction of the vellum and paper, occasional minor foxing to the paper mounts, the miniatures themselves in lovely condition. The miniatures (which measure approximately 3 x 2 inches), are exceptionally beautiful and are superbly rendered, with the accompanying text written in a fine bookhand within shell gold borders at the foot of each.

Provenance:

The Percheron-Robert Hoe copy, with Percheron's small library plate and Hoe's leather book label.



DOYLE NEW YORK

AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS

175 EAST 87TH ST

NY, NY 10128

212-427-2730

DOYLENEWYORK.COM

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

“A Wreck of Books”

WRITE AMIDST A WRECK OF BOOKS,” lamented RLS in 1891, trying to “get straight” his library in his new house at Vailima. His books and furniture were arriving piecemeal from England and Scotland. “If I were at all a bibliomaniac, I should make an illness of it,” he said, finding fine old books had been used by shippers to steady chests of drawers – and his large, paper-bound, 15th-century French history collection treated as waste.

There are only a few contemporary accounts of RLS’s library on Samoa: “a delightful room full of curios, pictures, arms, and books,” according to actress Marie Fraser in the *English Literary Magazine* in 1894. In *The Life of Robert Louis Stevenson* (1901), Graham Balfour, RLS’s cousin (who lodged in the library on his three long visits, 1892-4), lists the chief divisions as Scottish history, French works either modern or about the 15th century, military history, and books on the Pacific.

Arthur Mahaffy gives the most detailed account in *The Spectator* for November 1895. Travel covered almost every country, but mostly the Pacific, including *Captain Cook’s Voyages*, he says. In the classics, Bohn’s editions were shelved above their originals, which lay “uncut” beneath. Editions of Horace were both “many and good,” and “seemed read and used,” but the Greek tragedians had only Campbell’s translation of *Sophocles* – and no edition of his plays save a small *Oedipus the King*. The fine French collection began with a complete edition of Balzac, “evidently read with care.” Daudet’s works vied with Maupassant, Mérimée, and the complete Victor Hugo – beside “a swarm of more ephemeral novels.” A “fine and complete” edition of Wellington’s *Dispatches* marched alongside other military treatises. Historical works included Gibbon, “of course,” with Milman, Von Ranke “and many of the old French chroniclers—Philippe de Comines especially.” English literature was represented by a very complete collection of modern poets.

Over the last year a group of researchers (Professor Richard Dury of Bergamo, Italy, Dr. Roger G. Swearingen of Santa Rosa, California, and Neil Brown of Peebles, Scotland) have been compiling a database of books that belonged to Robert Louis Stevenson, principally those from Vailima, his home on Samoa. Now numbering some 1,300 entries, the database has drawn on the catalogs of libraries, museums, and auction sales, as well as references in RLS’s letters and writings. The project forms part of a collection of resources set up to assist editors working on a new edition of The Collected Works of Robert Louis Stevenson to be published by Edinburgh University Press. The resources will be published on a new RLS website (www.robert-louis-stevenson.org) to be launched by Edinburgh Napier University on 13 November 2009.

What else would Balfour have seen on RLS’s shelves? Referring to the database, we can say certainly the essayists Hazlitt, Lamb, Wordsworth, Sir Thomas Browne, and Montaigne; Defoe and Hawthorne among narrative fiction; and the poetry of Wordsworth and Baudelaire – to all of whom RLS “played the sedulous ape,” while learning his trade; Dumas also, and especially RLS’s “favorite book,” *Le Vicomte de Bragelonne* (1884), a six-volume work that at the age of 36 RLS admitted to having already read “five or six times.” Balfour’s categories (Scottish history, French books, military history, and the Pacific) are broadly borne out by the titles of RLS’s books that have now been gathered in the database. To these categories must be added the many philosophical and religious works (bibles and

concordances) collected by RLS’s father, Thomas Stevenson, engineer and bibliophile.

Fascinating juvenilia, notably given by his nurse “Cummy,” recall RLS’s childhood, his birthday, and Christmas gifts. Other volumes date from his youth and college days. Works on Scottish history include many on the 17th-century *Covenanters* – read throughout RLS’s life – for example Robert Wodrow’s *Analecta*, a Maitland Club, Glasgow, publication of 1842-3, now at Yale; one of RLS’s marginal notes, commenting on a reference, reads “Why don’t you give the printed page, fool!” A wealth of presentation copies come from RLS’s wide circle of literary friends. One example is a dedication copy, *Coeur Double* (1891), from the French symbolist Marcel Schwob, “in admiration of *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped*, *The Master of Ballantrae*, in the name of the new shape he has given to the romance.”

RLS died on 3 December 1894 and was buried at the top of Mount Vaea, rising above Vailima. After this, book losses began. Fanny Stevenson and her family habitually gave away volumes (and even pages of manuscripts) to friends and occasional visitors. When lawyer Edwin Gurr supervised Vailima (1898-1900), many books were sold to tourists, possibly to raise funds for the house upkeep; his signature authenticates fifty-five items bought by Lieutenant W. E. Safford of the U.S. Navy, in May 1899. Books were also sold by Gurr in July 1898 as mementoes to passengers on the USS *Waikare*: of these, Lady Wortley Montagu’s *Letters and Works* (1887) is now at Silverado Museum, and Scott’s *Journal* (1890), originally sent to Samoa by RLS’s London bookseller James Bain, returned to Scotland about 1900, and has “descended” to one of the present writers.

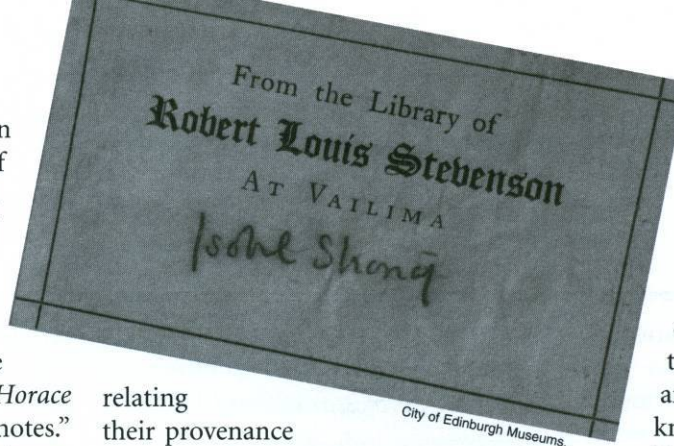
After the death of Fanny Stevenson in 1914, her daughter Isobel Strong auctioned off much of RLS’s Vailima library (588 titles, about 1000 volumes) at the Anderson Galleries, New York, 1914-15.

Some of these soon came back on the market: the sale of the library of John Roy Crawford in 1919 yielded both the *Speech* and the *Trial of James Stewart* (important sources for *Kidnapped*, both now at Princeton), and the Harry Glemby sale in 1926 included the Stevenson's English translation of *Horace* (1857) with "numerous marginal notes." In 1926, Anderson sold the volumes bought by W. E. Safford. The Stevenson collections of Henry Colgate and Francis Stuyvesant Peabody were sold in 1928 and 1949, with respectively, 5 and 9 titles from the first Anderson sales. Individual works have appeared since at auction, notably Sotheby's on several occasions, in booksellers' catalogues – even on e-bay, from where, at the time of writing, a battered copy of *Painting in Neutral Tint* (1875), signed "Robert Louis Stevenson," has recently been sold.

Of the 1,300 titles in our database, only 550 (42%) have been located in institutional catalogs, mostly in the USA. By far the largest number, 435, are in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. Two-thirds of these come from collector and benefactor Edwin J. Beinecke himself and are described in *A Stevenson Library* (1957-64, six volumes), by George Mackay; the rest have been acquired since publication of its *Addenda and Corrigenda*. The next largest group, 40, is the Thomas B. Lockwood Collection at the University of New York State at Buffalo, described in *Robert Louis Stevenson: A Catalogue of his Works* (1970). A smaller number, 28, are in the Henry E. Gerstley Collection, within that of Morris L. Parrish, at Princeton, New Jersey; 18 of these are in *Robert Louis Stevenson: A Catalogue* (1971). Other US libraries have single items.

Collections totaling 45 titles also exist in the RLS museum houses at Saranac Lake, New York (7), and at Monterey (4) and Silverado (34) in California. The founder of the latter, bibliophile Norman H. Strouse, acquired many RLS-related books over several decades. There are surprisingly small, but interesting collections in RLS's home city, Edinburgh, at both the Writer's Museum (8) and National Library of Scotland (5).

Many volumes bear ownership details



relating

their provenance

directly to RLS. His "Skerryvore" bookplate dates from 1885-87, when he lived in Bournemouth, England (and where he wrote both *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Kidnapped* in less than a year). Otherwise RLS utilized his London Savile and Athenaeum Club visiting cards as makeshift plates. Other volumes are signed "Robert Louis Stevenson," though rare early books will have "Lewis" (until 1868) and a third forename "Balfour" (dropped from mid-1873). Many books carry a label bearing the words "From the Library of Robert Louis Stevenson [name in Gothic] at Vailima" authenticated by the signature of Isobel Strong and probably prepared for the Anderson sales.

An unusual feature of the Vailima library is that many cloth bindings were varnished with a coat of shellac to resist tropical humidity and boring insects (clearly in the hope that the page-edges would escape such attacks). In addition there are some valuable bindings, many associated with the bibles and other tomes owned by RLS's father and grandfather before him. One of these is the oldest item: an illuminated, octavo manuscript on vellum of the *New Testament* produced in the Low Countries in the late fourteenth century and bearing the signature of Thomas Stevenson. Illustrated works range from Thomas Stevenson's *Fabulae Aesopicae*, edited by Joseph Camerarius and printed, with woodcuts, by the French Royal Typographer, Jean de Tournes, at Lyon in 1571 – through John Kitto's *Pictorial Bible* (1855-6), presented to RLS by his parents on his 11th birthday in 1861 – to Keats' *Lamia* (1885), published in large quarto with wonderful designs executed by RLS's American artist friend, Will H. Low, who dedicated the edition to him "In testimony of loyal friendship and of a common faith in doubtful tales from faery land."

Much interest attaches to those 250 or

so works bearing RLS's marks and annotations, some of which, like in his 1864 French translation of *Martial* now at Yale, are not only extensive throughout, but also full of charming and pithy marginal translations – "Thou art both sad and lucky, O beware! If fortune knew it you might well despair" (Book VI, lxxix). Elsewhere, marginalia give important clues to RLS's views on literary style: "very good" (Baudelaire's sensual "Un hémisphère dans une chevelure"); "Just the worst simple unadorned nonsense!" (in an edition of Poe); "Arnould is a common ass; he misses every merit of his author; I speak as a writer by trade" (in a French translation of *St Augustine's Confessions*).

Over half of the volumes in the Stevenson Library database have not yet been identified in Library catalogs. They include some important works: the copy of his favorite author Montaigne with "numerous notations and critical remarks throughout" (as the auction catalogue had it), his copy of *Sensations d'Italie* by Paul Bourget (the only person unknown to him to whom he dedicated a book) with "scorings and underlinings (approving)," and his childhood copy of *Little Arthur's History of England* (1855) with (again according to the auction catalogue) "hand-colored illustrations and text forcefully obliterated where (re surrender of Charles I by the Scots) reads: 'You will hardly believe, however, that those mean Scots actually sold the king to the English parliament: but they did so!'"

Most of these precious books are probably still in private hands. If you are reading this article and own books from Stevenson's Library – or know of their whereabouts – please get in touch with Neil Macara Brown (neilbrown136@btinternet.com) so that information on the continued existence of the volume and (if permitted) on RLS's annotations and proof of ownership can be put on our database.

The owners' wishes on privacy will be fully respected. If you would like to view the database, get in touch with Richard Dury (richard.dury@t-r.it).

NEIL MACARA BROWN
RICHARD DURY

Collecting in the Sciences

ESCAPING THE CONFINES

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS THAT the few of us who collect in the sciences are lost among the many collectors active in much more popular subjects. Collecting in the sciences, however, is not fundamentally different in perspective and concept than collecting in most other subject areas. Some general insights into the development of a collection in the physical sciences are shared in this essay. The general scope of the discussion encompasses the physical sciences, namely physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and related topics such as astronomy, geology, technology, and the tools of science and engineering. My general perspective is to consider the scientific publication as "a cultural and bibliographical object sited at the intersection of printing and publishing history with the history of science."¹

Collecting in the sciences and technology, unless one's interests are the well-known high spots, is greatly aided by an education in a scientific field, because one has gained not only technical competence in a subject but an understanding of scientific method and how scientific knowledge develops. Furthermore a scientific education may provide a ready knowledge of relevant scientific literature including important review papers that can be helpful in putting together a research bibliography. With an education in science the collector may be able to identify easily key works for collection development and to develop a collection around a theme not previously identified by others, thus bringing "fresh ideas into the book world."²

Many collectors in the sciences begin with a subject of professional interest. All too easily, just as in other collecting fields, escaping the confines where one started seems to be almost effortless. Beyond collecting in a well-defined subject area, collections can develop in many directions, often with overlapping themes, and as collections materialize patterns often emerge to provide more structure and intellectual substance.

Initiating a collection with a specific topic in mind may be only the beginning of a much more complex and intriguing collection. One way to create a focus for a collection is to identify an important historical event, discovery, or invention as a beginning or as a terminus. For example, in the case of chemistry one might collect books about alchemy and thus the advent of modern chemistry is a terminus point; or one might collect modern chemistry beginning with Lavoisier's elucidation of the true chemical elements and his explanation of combustion. In physics Isaac Newton's publications are milestones in the history of science, and one of my collections focuses on what is often called the rise of the experimental philosophy that followed the work of Newton. One might take an opposite tact and chart the resistance to Newton's work in France until well into the eighteenth century; or one could track, as I do, the gradual acceptance of Newtonian physics in France with the works of Maupertuis, Voltaire, and Émilie du Châtelet, whose translation of the *Principia* into French appeared in 1759.

A starting point more modern than those mentioned above is the period 1895-1896 with the discoveries of x-rays and radioactivity. Fifty years later another milestone event occurred: the atomic bomb, which heralded the beginning of what is sometimes called the atomic age. The period immediately after 1945 can be the focus of various topics, such as explaining nuclear energy to the public and understanding the political consequences of nuclear energy. In biology, one hardly need mention the elucidation of the structure of DNA in 1953 as a milestone event surely worthy of the development of collections that could focus on modern genetics, which one might consider to have begun in 1871 with the first published report of the discovery and isolation of DNA, and on numerous other topics that arise from the consequences of the modern understanding of genetics. In lieu of remarks on collecting

mathematics, the interested reader is referred to a recent paper.³

A comprehensive collection focused on modern physics provides probably the best example of the need for the collector in the sciences to consider, in addition to books, many other types of publications⁴: original serial issues, dissertations and theses, conference proceedings, authors' separates (preprints, reprints, and off-prints), published lectures, institutional reports, and formerly-classified documents are examples of the types of publications that contain first announcements of key discoveries in modern physics. Probably not surprising, the availability of such publications is very limited. Many of these types of publications do not exist, or if they do are not considered significant, in most traditional subjects of book collecting. Of course, collectors in science may choose to consider only certain categories among the publication types mentioned, and in fact the opportunities to build significant collections based upon non-monographic materials are limited.

Just as in other subjects, a collection in the sciences can exhibit many overlapping themes, and in my experience a science collection is a very rich area for such byways. Seldom considered by collectors in the sciences, for example, are graphic design and typography. A recent exhibition with a published checklist⁵ highlighted scientific publications associated with topics such as mid-nineteenth-century scientific photography; the use of printed, mounted, and hand-done color illustrations; printing text by intaglio instead of letterpress and by letterpress with typefaces designed to imitate handwriting; unusual graphics for illustrations in three dimensions and for things that move; and especially attractive book design. In part the inspiration for this exhibition was the observation that historians of the graphic arts have generally ignored scientific publications.

A very current collecting concept is books by women, and a collection in sci-



An engraved illustration and a woodcut illustration from Philippe Danfrie's
Declaration de l'Usage du Graphometre, . . . with Traicte de l'Usage du Trigometre, . . . (Paris, 1597)

ence can be a fruitful area in which to exploit this topic. With a focused effort over many years, for example, I assembled a collection of the scientific publications of Émilie du Châtelet, the author of numerous scientific works, the translator into French, including the mathematics, of Newton's *Principia*, and the source of most of the text for Voltaire's 1738 book *Elémens de la Philosophie de Newton*. From my collection of her works I was pleased to provide many illustrations for the publications of a historian, and with this connection I was invited to, and attended, an exhibition opening in 2006 at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France for the tercentenary of du Châtelet's birth. A number of women are very significant for a collection of modern physics and well-known is of course Marie Curie; less well-known is the co-discoverer of fission Lise Meitner, who for many years was written out of the history of fission. In addition to physics, key publications by women can be found in topics in chemistry, biology, and mathematics.

Concepts for collecting in the sciences are only limited by the imagination of the collector. Some topics lend themselves to publications being an adjunct to other types of collections. A good example is collecting the history of scientific instrumentation. I suspect that just about everyone collecting early instruments is also collecting books and other types of

publications such as trade literature, the latter being in general much more scarce than books. As instruments take up substantial space, early books on the topic now represent my interests in early scientific hardware. A local focus for collecting in the sciences is perhaps less likely to be common than in many other areas of collecting, because of the wide geographical distribution of scientific discoveries. Worthy of consideration, however, is pre-nineteenth-century science in America. Just as in other collecting fields, association copies are sought after by collectors in the sciences, but unfortunately "the Industrial Revolution presentation copy is much rarer than its literary counterpart."⁶ Collecting in the sciences by illustrator may not occur to many, but there are opportunities to focus a collection on certain illustrators; in my case I discovered an outstanding nineteenth-century French illustrator of mostly, but not exclusively, technical books and I assembled a representative collection of his technical and non-technical illustration work in black and white and color.

Another perhaps surprising topic is collecting variants among copies of the same edition of a book; even well into the nineteenth-century I have discovered curious variants associated with the illustrations in some books.

As is evident by now, collecting in the sciences seems to me to have almost

unlimited possibilities not only for collection development but also for interesting bibliographical research. In addition to doing my own research, an added pleasure for me has been the use of my collection by scholars, whom I have hosted in my library to use books not readily available in one place elsewhere. Perhaps my ideas about collecting in the sciences are summed-up by bookseller Roger Gaskell's comment in a recent lecture: "The study of old books is too important to be left to bibliographers and librarians (let alone booksellers.)"⁷

RONALD K. SMELTZER
 THE GROLIER CLUB

NOTES

¹H. E. Lockwood and R. E. Rider, "The Scientific Book as a Cultural and Bibliographical Object," p. 1, in Andrew Hunter, ed., *Thornton and Tully's Scientific Books, Libraries, and Collectors*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000.

²Jake Zeitlin, "Bookselling among the Sciences," *College and Research Libraries* v. 21, no. 6, p. 453, November 1960.

³G. L. Alexanderson and L. F. Klosinski, "Mathematics and Old Books," *The Mathematical Intelligencer* v. 27, no. 2, pp. 70-79, Spring 2005.

⁴Ronald K. Smeltzer, "Collecting Modern Physics," *Gazette of the Grolier Club*, n.s., no. 54, pp. 59-80, 2003.

⁵Ronald K. Smeltzer, *Four Centuries of Graphic Design for Science*, New York: The Grolier Club, 2004.

⁶"News & Comment," *The Book Collector*, vol. 36, no. 1, p. 107, Spring 1987.

⁷Roger Gaskell, "From Collector to Reader: Bern Dibner and History of Science Collections," p. 27, in *The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology at 25 Years: Celebrating a Collector's Vision and Its Legacy*, Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Libraries, 2001.

Club News & Notes

PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND PUBLICATIONS

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY



AT THE 2008 AGM Robert Watt, the former Chief Herald of Canada, who had assisted the board in the design and production of its official coat of arms, explained this process and showed the beautiful result to those at the meeting. This project was funded by Dr. Yosef Wosk.

PUBLICATIONS

Amphora #150, Nov '08, was the last to be edited by Rollin Milroy of Heavenly Monkey Press and designed by David Clifford of Blackstone Press. Those roles will be taken over by Peter Mitham, a Vancouver writer, and Jason Dewinetz of Green Boathouse Press in Vernon. Sadly, the transition process caused delays but it is expected that the *Amphora* mailing will be back on track with #153 at the beginning of November. Thereafter the mailings will occur at the beginning of March, July and November.

Newsletter #1 appeared July 2008, a reintroduction of a publication that appeared intermittently between the years 1965-1993. This informally provides more specific information about the Society's activities and is mailed out along with *Amphora*. It welcomes short contributions from members. It is designed and folded by Bob Reid.

All 50 signed copies of "Duthie's Bookmarks" have sold out – there may be a reprint of unnumbered copies depending on demand.

PUBLICATIONS

The recently introduced Members' Evenings continued at which one of the members, Mark Dwor, spoke on the famous Larrovitch literary hoax. Members have brought some particularly interesting titles to light and allowed one another to meet in a particularly relaxed setting.

A highlight of the Fall was the series of talks given around Vancouver and Victoria by Nicholas Basbanes, prolific author of, among many other titles, *Patience and Fortitude*. His very entertaining presentation

of tales from the library field reflected his early career as a journalist. He subsequently wrote up his week's experience, which included meeting several local luminaries such as David Clifford, Jim Rimmer and Bob Reid, in *Fine Books and Collections*.

The Annual Yosef Wosk – Friends of SFU Special Collections – Alcuin Society Lecture invited as speaker Priscilla Coit Murphy, an independent scholar from North Carolina specializing in the relationship of books and the media. She spoke about *Silent Spring*, and the importance to opponents, publishers, media, and the public that it appeared in book form.

Michael Kluckner, a celebrated BC artist, spoke on the well-known BC cartoonist Len Norris whose images of BC 'types' have become iconic.

Crispin Elsted spoke on the printing of classics in the cyberspace.

In April Frank Newfeld, art director at McClelland & Stewart in the sixties, winner of many design awards internationally and one of the judges for the 2009 Alcuin Awards, gave the Fifth Annual Book Design Judges' Lecture. The lecture was co-sponsored by Graphic Designers of Canada - BC Division), The Communications Designers of Toronto, The Canada Council Book Publishers Promotion Fund, and by the Writing and Publishing Department of Simon Fraser University.

ALCUIN BOOK DESIGN AWARDS

The Awards for the *Alcuin Society 2007 Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada* were given out at Emily Carr University in Vancouver and at the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto. Prior to the Vancouver event Celia King gave a talk on bookmaking and in the afternoon Scott Richardson and Peter Cocking gave a workshop on book design. In the evening Bonne Zabolotney of ECU acted as 'host' and introduced Scott Richardson (from Toronto) who has designed the books of Margaret Atwood, Ian McEwan and Julian Barnes, and Robert Bringhurst who gave a short talk about his new book, *The Surface of*

Meaning: 25 Years of Book Design in Canada (CCSP Press). His book, *The Elements of Typographic Style* (now in its third edition) has been translated into ten languages. There were 21 winning books and approximately 160 people attended.

Scott Richardson also spoke at the Toronto event where Martin Levin of the *Globe and Mail* gave out eight awards.

ALCUIN MEDAL FOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BOOK ARTS

Member Robert Chaplin was commissioned to design, sculpt and produce medals for The Robert R. Reid Award for Contributions to Book Design in Canada. Robert Reid was, in the 60s, designer of the renowned Canadian book, *The Lande Bibliography of Canadiana*. This project was funded by Dr. Yosef Wosk.

FUNDRAISING

The BC provincial government awarded grants of \$10,000 for each of three years to assist with Programs and Publications.

The Society set up the Alcuin Fund to help finance its activities. Much of the seed money was provided by Dr. Yosef Wosk and \$11,000 was handed over to the Foundation in October. This will eventually lead to an income flow though the returns in the current economic climate are not as hoped for.

The **Book Auction** in the Fall (of titles submitted for the previous year's Book Design Competition) continues to be an important source of income for the Society. Purchases can now be paid for by VISA, Mastercard or American Express.

Word on the Street continues to be an opportunity to promote the Society.

PUBLICITY

The Society joined the Arts Alliance of BC.

BOARD

Jorge Rocha of Friesens Printers joined the board.

MEMBERSHIP

April 2009 - 352
2003 - 301

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 "Club News & Notes" entries to the Publisher 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 \$5.00 each plus shipping and handling. ♣ Submission of articles for publication is encouraged. ♣ Send your correspondence to the *Newsletter* Publisher.

US and International members include: Columbia University, Library of Congress, Princeton University, The Grolier Club, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

PayPal was adopted as a means of paying for memberships. It is hoped that its early frustrating problems (for both members and the Society) have been solved by much work by Jim Rainer and Glenn Woods-worth.

SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

These are held at Special Collections at UBC. An initial grant of \$2,500 from Dr. Yosef Wosk attracted other contributions allowing the employment of a student over the summer to organize the Society's archival records, recently augmented by the large contribution of Jim Rainer's records while Chair of the Society. Materials related to the Society (particularly in its early days) would be gratefully received for the Archives.

WEBSITE

The 2008-2009 year saw minor improvements to the web site, such as a new page promoting the national book-collecting contest, and a new page calling for donations. Regular maintenance on the web site included posting *Amphora* online, updat-

ing *Events* and *Exhibits* as needed, and posting the *Design Competition Awards*. The major improvements included the use of the free Google Analytics, which allows for more detailed statistics on how the web site is used. Alcuin member Jason Vanderhill has added significantly to the web site's visual appeal by regularly photographing many Society events.

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 interests 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 PROGRAMMING & ACTIVITIES

April: Aldus members heard Richard West speak about *Light* magazine, a little-known but delightfully illustrated publication which was published over a period of

two and one-half years. Originating in Columbus, it soon after moved to Chicago. *Light* was by far the most important of the lithographic comic weeklies to be published outside of New York or San Francisco during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It provided the first or early employment to a host of talented cartoonists, illustrators, and at least one writer who would later go on to successful careers. West, who is an expert in the history of nineteenth century American editorial cartoons, and Lucy Shelton Caswell, Professor and Curator of the Cartoon Library & Museum, co-curated the exhibition of this magazine at OSU's Cartoon Library & Museum, which ran until May 31.

May: Are we near the end of the printed book as we know it? Scott Brown (former editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine, and co-owner of Eureka Books in Eureka, California), visited us to share his interesting insights into the history of the book, as well as his predictions about its future, which he believes is in the hands of those who have committed the book to the realms of the internet, Kindle, Sony e-Book and other electronic conveyances. Books are one of the most mature technologies around. Yet during the twentieth century we hurtled into a dynamic information

TAVISTOCK BOOKS

Member - ABAA / ILAB / IOBA

FIRST EDITIONS, RARE & COLLECTABLE BOOKS

IN

MOST SUBJECT AREAS.



1503 Webster St. Alameda CA 94501
(510) 814-0480 vjz@tavbooks.com
www.tavbooks.com

Lord Durham
RARE BOOKS INC
Books, Prints, Maps & Ephemera

Uncommon, Rare & Unique.

*Our success in finding elusive wants
and delivering value is exceptional.*

But first you have to find us....

www.LDRB.ca

Helping collectors collect.

society which surpassed in technological innovations the total of those that came about during any preceding millennium. Brown emphasized that we should take solace in the fact that electronic books are far inferior to printed books. Brick-and-mortar book shops will always have an edge when customers want to browse, feel, smell, and turn the pages.

June: Aldus members gathered at the home of Aldus members Bill and Bea Rich to enjoy the continuing friendships that have been built over these past nine years that we've been meeting. The weather was perfect for our picnic, which extended from the Riches' garden and patio into the many book-filled rooms of their rambling house.

July, Aldus members met "up the road" at Malabar Farm in Mansfield, the home of Pulitzer Prize winning author Louis Bromfield, who was also a pioneer in sustainable farming. He created one of the country's first truly organic farms at Malabar. The house was also the site of Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart's wedding. Members enjoyed guided tours of the farm and the house, and dined at the lovely restaurant on the premises.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September: We'll tour the newly renovated Thompson Library on the Ohio State University campus, led by Aldus member Wes Boomgaarden, who was the project manager for this project. Wes will share the many new areas of the library, the beautifully updated spaces, and take us to areas which are closed to the general public.

October: Professor Lewis Ullman, Director of Digital Media Studies at The Ohio State University will talk to us as part of our series on the "History of Text."

November: Dr. Robert Karrow, curator of Maps and Special Collections at the Newberry Library in Chicago will share the library's many maps and collections and their fascinating stories.

December: Our Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction will be held at Scala restaurant. We've usually had around 75 members and their guests attend this dinner...and the silent auction (with many donated books and literary stuff) helps underwrite our programming, including the Ravneberg Memorial Lecture.

January, 2010: Patrick Losinski, Director of Columbus Metropolitan Library, will share the interesting history of the library in Columbus and talk about running a library which has received a #1 ranking in metropolitan libraries in America.

February, 2010: In recognition of Black

History Month, Dr. Rudine Bishop will give a program on African-American Children's Literature. Bishop has contributed significantly to the scholarship dealing with African-American children's literature. Her seminal work is *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Literature*.

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.

THE JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY



THE JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and the schedule of events for the 2009-2010 season will showcase the history of the organization and its ongoing role in promoting the books arts and book collecting in Rhode Island.

Thursday September 24, 6 p.m. – Tour of the AS220 Community Print Shop; on site letterpress printing of a JRBS 25th Anniversary keepsake. AS220 is a non-profit arts organization that owns several buildings in downtown Providence and maintains galleries, performance spaces, and cottage industries such as the darkroom and the print shop.

Thursday October 15, 6 p.m. – The Redwood Library and Athenaeum, Newport, R.I. – John Kristensen, owner/operator of Firefly Press of Boston, will reprise his J. Lieberman Memorial Lecture, "The Book [Broadside, Bookplate, Business Card & Birth Announcement] Beautiful." This is a pre-APHA (American Printing History Association) meeting event.

October 16-18 (Friday to Sunday) – The Redwood Library, Newport Public Library and the Newport Art Museum are hosting the American Printing History Association's meeting in Newport, R.I. See the APHA website for more information about the meeting.

Thursday November 12, 6 p.m. John Carter Brown Library, Brown University – Ira Unschuld, collector and first Stillwell Prize winner will discuss the development of his collection of early American finance and economics since winning the Stillwell Prize in 1985.

For the winter the JRBS is planning additional programs including a panel discussion on *Replevin*, a movie night featuring films about the book arts and collecting,

and finally a reunion of Margaret Stillwell Prize winners.

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

THE BIXBY CLUB



THIS SPRING THE BIXBY CLUB actively supported the St. Louis Fine Print, Rare Book, and Paper Arts Fair, a national antiquarian fair planned each year to benefit the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association, through a special dinner and lecture on "Collecting the Books and Letters of Charles M. Russell." The special event presented an opportunity for members of the Club to welcome print and rare book dealers from across America to St. Louis, and it was held in the splendid and historic quarters of the Glen Echo Country Club, one of the very first 18-hole golf courses in America and a national historic site where golf was hosted, in 1904, for the Olympic Games in St. Louis.

The paintings and watercolors of Charlie Russell have long overshadowed the St. Louis artist's own writings, his celebratory memoirs and books on the American West, his drawings on paper – most notably his own illuminated letters – and trade, special and fine printings of books and bibliographies about the artist. Speaker R. H. Dick, noted St. Louis artist and author in his own right, who has documented the modern landscapes of the American West in his own work, presented an appreciation of this quintessential American original as only one artist could have done for another, in the process drawing significant comparisons to collecting the literature by and about not only Russell, but of Frederic Remington and other artists of the golden age of western art, when fine books and prints were produced to help publicize and popularize a taste in such a genre.

Bixby Club President, John N. Hoover, in concluding remarks noted that the scores of authors and books presented by the speaker had a very special place on many collectors' shelves throughout Missouri. Many Bixby members lingered after the talk to share tales and memories of Russell, Thomas Hart Benton, and other artists in the region who have long been associated with literary history and very special illustrated books.

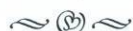
The Bixby Club will be hosted in the fall by Gregory Pass, Head of Special Collections and the Vatican Film Library at the

Pius XII Library at St. Louis University, for a special reception marking that venerable institution's recent acquisition of a Gutenberg Bible leaf. Hopefully this celebration can be a springboard for a future city-wide event sponsored by the Bixby Club examining through exhibition and bibliographical discussion the complete holdings of incunabula throughout the various libraries, seminaries, religious archives, and museums of the environs of historic St. Louis.

The Bixby Club will conclude the fall with its annual membership dinner and lecture in early December, with a small and select book auction to benefit the club and a talk, appropriately enough to any bibliophile, on Sir. Thomas Phillipps.

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

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA



CHANGE IS IN THE AIR at the Book Club of California as we begin to pack boxes and do our final library inventory before relocating into our new, improved club space at the south end of the fifth floor in our current Sutter Street building. We

plan on completing the move by early 2010.

In other exciting news, an old "member" of the Book Club – the Columbian iron handpress made by D. & J. Greig of Edinburgh in 1860 – underwent restoration earlier this year by club members Fred Voltmer and Mark Knudsen. On display at the BCC since 1954, this elegant hand press is now functional.

EXHIBITIONS

July 13 – August 31: "On View: What's New? In Honor of Barbara Land: Gifts and Acquisitions, 2006-2009"

In each issue of the *Quarterly News-Letter*, Book Club members read Barbara Land's delightful descriptions of new additions to the Albert Sperisen Library of The Book Club of California. This exhibition provides an opportunity to view a selection of these acquisitions and inspect the bindings, read the texts, marvel at the illustrations, and comment on the typography. Among the acquisitions are private press publications, type and paper specimen books, and catalogues. The exhibition pays tribute to donors and also serves as an inspiring reminder of the Club's continual growth through the gifts of members and friends.

September 14–October 12: "The Vandercook Book"

The Book Club of California will be hosting a traveling exhibition assembled by Barbara Henry and Roni Gross from the New York Center for the Book, which celebrates the centennial anniversary of the Vandercook printing press. Though it was originally intended for commercial purposes, the Vandercook press is now widely considered the ideal press for limited edition letterpress production. The exhibition features examples of innovative and historical uses of the Vandercook press from master printers, each with explanatory notes on the techniques employed. The samples are representative of the wide variety of surfaces, papers, and commercial or artistic uses of the Vandercook. Also included are essays by Barbara Henry; Henry Morris of Bird & Bull Press; Michael Peich of Aralia Press; Fritze Klinke of NA Graphics; Paul Moxon; and Perry Tymeson.

PUBLICATIONS

Let's Play by the Gearhart Sisters. Frances Gearhart (1869-1958) became the leading woodcut artist in California during her lifetime, renowned for her dramatic landscape views of mountains, desert, and shore; May Gearhart (1872-1951) was a leading practitioner of color etching and served as the Supervisor of Art in the Los Angeles City School System; and Edna Gearhart (1879-

SWANN



FREQUENT AUCTIONS OF FINE AND RARE BOOKS



David Roberts, *The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt & Nubia*, 6 volumes, London, 1842-49, first edition in book form, in the original bindings and in the issue with hand-colored proofs before letters. Sold on April 2, 2009 for \$180,000.

Consign Now to Upcoming Auctions

Specialists:

15th to 18th Century Books • Travel & Exploration • Medicine & Science

Tobias Abeloff • tabeloff@swanngalleries.com

19th & 20th Century Literature • Art, Press & Illustrated Books

Christine von der Linn • cvonderlinn@swanngalleries.com

Printed & Manuscript Americana

Rick Stattler • rstattler@swanngalleries.com

Autographs

Marco Tomaschett • mtomaschett@swanngalleries.com

Maps & Atlases • Magic Collections

Gary Garland • ggarland@swanngalleries.com

Catalogue Orders and General Inquiries: 212 254 4710, ext 0.

104 East 25th Street • New York, NY 10010 • Tel: 212 254 4710 • Fax: 212 979 1017

View catalogues and bid online at www.swanngalleries.com



WE WILL RECEIVE YOU AGAIN,



AT HOME IN #4!

**WE ARE TEMPORARILY RESIDENT IN
THE ARSENAL'S #8 & #9,
STILL ON THE PARADE GROUND**

**OTHER PRB&M CONTACT INFO REMAINS THE SAME:
TEL 215.744.6734 ~ FAX 215.744.6137
RAREBKJ@PRBM.COM**

**FOR THE MANY KIND THOUGHTS &
MESSAGES YOU SENT US,
AFTER LAST SPRING'S FIRE,
OUR PROFOUND THANKS.**

**THE PHILADELPHIA RARE BOOKS &
MANUSCRIPTS COMPANY, LLC
PRB&M ~ WWW.PRBM.COM**

**PRB&M SINCE 1984 ~ JESSABKS SINCE 2001
SZEWCZYK & BUFFINGTON, PROPRIETORS**

1974), skilled in drawing, taught art for Los Angeles City Schools. In 1929, this extraordinarily talented trio of sisters created a children's book illustrated with their original linoleum cuts and descriptive verses. Yet the book remained unpublished, and the original set was acquired by the Cotsen Children's Library at Princeton University. Now, eighty years later, it is with great pleasure that The Book Club of California announces the publication of the first edition of this charming work based on the Princeton portfolio. Edition: 1,000. Price: \$75.

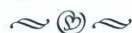
James Mason Hutchings of Yo Semite by Dennis Kruska. In 1855, Englishman James Mason Hutchings (1820-1902) – a carpenter, gold-miner, and journalist – made his first visit to what would become Yosemite National Park. In the following years he became known as an authority on the area, and his publication, *Hutchings' California Magazine*, issued from 1856 to 1861, was full of illustrations and promises of “sublime and wild grandeur” and it transformed Yosemite into a national sensation. The Book Club of California is pleased to announce the publication of this lavishly illustrated work on the man who made Yosemite famous. Printed by the Castle Press, Pasadena. Available in September. Edition: 500. Price: \$275.

KEEPSAKES

The Book Club of California's Keepsake Series, which was initiated in 1933, continues in 2009 with the publication of *Early California Children's Books 1853-1913* by Victoria Dailey. This illustrated keepsake covers fourteen books written especially for children with California themes; most are by California authors, twelve of whom were women. This intriguing topic has rarely been covered and the keepsake will be a welcome addition to the club's innovative annual Keepsake Series. It will be available in November to Book Club members.

For more information on the Book Club of California, please contact Lucy Rodgers Cohen, Executive Director, at (415) 781-7532 or lucyrcohen@bccbooks.org, or visit our website at www.bccbooks.org.

THE CAXTON CLUB



SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

On September 11, 2009 our General Manager, Dan Crawford will deliver Part II of his future book about Caxtonians of the past, this one is entitled: “Caxtonians You Didn't Expect.”

OCTOBER LUNCHEON

On October 2nd Caxtonian Ann C. Wel-ler, Professor and Head of Special Collections at UIC's University Library, will host the Caxton Luncheon in the Hull House Dining Room, followed by a short walk to the Library where Caxtonian Valerie Hochkiss, Professor and Director of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at UIUC, will lead a tour of a newly opened exhibit that she curated: “English In Print: from Caxton to Shakespeare to Milton.”

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

On November 13th Kathleen McCreary, wife of the great great grandnephew of the Founder of the Newberry Library, presents a well-illustrated talk about Walter Loomis Newberry and some of his fascinating relatives, including (specifically) his daughter, Julia Newberry.

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, September 16th, Bill Hesterberg will present *Observations on Thomas Bewick (1753-1828)*.

For those interested in art, birds, quadrupeds, fables, and wry humor in the hands of a master engraver in Georgian England, here's your chance to enjoy Bewick at his best. His insightful and inventive work appealed to all levels of society from children to notables, such as Wordsworth, Charlotte Bronte, Ruskin, and Audubon.

A thirteen minute film on Bewick will be shown and original blocks, books, and prints will be available for hands-on examination. An overview of his life and work in Northern England will include interesting anecdotes along with photos of the Northumberland countryside and his home, Cherryburn, which is now a museum.

William Hesterberg is a retired Art Director and a member of the Caxton Club. He is also a private press printer and a Bewick collector, who has produced three books and a film on Bewick.

OCTOBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2009, Nicolas Barker will present: *Some Book Collectors I Have Known* at Petterino's.

Nicolas Barker was born in Cambridge, England, where his father was a professor. Professors in those days had their own libraries, so he grew up surrounded by several thousand books. In the town was David's famous book-stall, where collectors gathered weekly. One of the first that he met was Paul Hirsch, the great music collector, followed by Maynard Keynes, and later his brother Geoffrey, surgeon and bib-

liographer. Over the years, first as printer, then publisher, and finally head of conservation at the then new British Library, he has met many more. In 1965 he succeeded John Hayward and Ian Fleming, both collectors, as editor and proprietor of *The Book Collector*, which he remains to this day.

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, Marvin Bolt will present *Through the Looking Glass* at the Adler Planetarium.

After Hans Lipperhey unveiled a telescope on September 25, 1608, the device spread around Europe and into Asia. People used telescopes to spy on neighbors and on military and economic competitors. People also viewed the heavens, radically changing our understanding of the universe and our place in it. We will learn about a few pioneers of these telescopes and several important artifacts and books relating to the early years and evolution of the instrument. There will be an opportunity to view the artifacts and volumes on display in the Adler's new exhibition, *Through the Looking Glass: 400 years of Telescopes*, that is the nation's (and quite possibly the world's) most complete exhibition on the topic.

Caxtonian Marvin Bolt is curator of the exhibition, Director of the Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy, and Vice President for Collections at the Adler. Copies of the exhibition catalog will be available for sale and signing.

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

THE DELAWARE BIBLIOPHILES



IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR The Delaware Bibliophiles traveled to the University of Maryland in College Park, MD to see their exhibit “The Well-Dressed Book: Cloth Book Binding in the United States, 1830-1920” at the Hornbake Library. The trip was arranged by DB member Bryan Draper who is a conservator at that university. The library cases were full of colorful and gilt-decorated cloth bound books. We heard an illustrated lecture entitled “Bound in Baltimore: Binderies and Publishing on the Banks of the Patapsco” by Doug McElrath, who was also the curator of the exhibit.

In the first six months of this year the DBs had two meetings in different local public libraries where members had the opportunity to show off recent acquisitions

or discuss discoveries. Such meetings are best described as Collectors' Showcases and are always popular. Selected items shown ranged from carrier addresses from Delaware papers in the 1850s; an embossed American binding of 1836 along with a broadside for this book; a trade catalog of medals and medallions by Victor D. Brenner; early 19th century books of religious singing; railroad broadsides of the early 1900s for the United Confederate Veteran's Reunions; fascinating story on the many discoveries concerning Samuel Dodd binding designs; and a small archive of material involving Arden, DE resident Ella Reeve Bloor Ware including the program for her 85th Anniversary Banquet with Rockwell Kent as chair of the committee and Paul Robeson as a member.

Our 32nd annual dinner was held on March 25th at The University & Whist Club in Wilmington. This year's dinner was served buffet style with lots of choices to please everyone's taste. Our speaker was David Rickman, the interpretive media specialist for the State of Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation, as well as an illustrator himself who gave an excellent Power Point presentation on Howard Pyle's development of his pirate characters. The romanticized version of pirates we see in

movies originated with Howard Pyle with his portrayal of a pirate with a headscarf, earring, and colorful sashes. Our love for pirate folklore and Pyle's stories and pictures of pirates in elaborate dress are still the images that stir the imagination of people around the world. And to think that this love originated right here at Cape Henlopen, DE by Howard Pyle, native Delawarean who is often called the father of American illustration.

In May we traveled to the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, PA for a personal tour of their Edward Gorey exhibition by its curator Lee Wierenga. We learned about her interest in Gorey, the behind the scenes planning and her experiences putting the exhibit together. Organized by the Brandywine River Museum, this was the first major traveling exhibition of Gorey's work. It had the support of the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust. We saw finely detailed ink drawings and watercolors for his own books as well as for those of other writers, theatrical sets and costume designs along with Gorey's own fur coat. One way to describe his work is "nothing seems certain or quite as it should be." Lee autographed copies of their catalog *Elegant Enigmas: the art of Edward Gorey* by Karen Wilkin. We ended the meeting with brunch

in the restaurant of the museum that overlooks the Brandywine River.

We note with sadness the passing of long time member Robert D. Fleck, Sr. We acknowledge with kudos the publication of three books by three members: *Delaware Cameo Advertising 1850-1875* compiled by Paul Preston Davis; *Read It, Don't Eat It* written and illustrated by Ian Schoenherr; and *The Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty, 1954-2004* which contains among many other things a catalogue of children's books published in Baltimore, selected from the collection of Linda F. and Julian L. Lapidus with Linda contributing an introduction to this section. We plan a full schedule of events this fall including a picnic and an auction/dinner.

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



ONE is always surprised by the conversation held at breakfasts in a bed &



Susanne Schulz-Falster RARE BOOKS

Rare Books
of the European Enlightenment
Social Science • Arts & Manufacturing
History of Ideas • Book & Printing
History

Catalogues & Lists Issued

22 Compton Terrace • London N1 2UN •
England
Tel +44 20-7704 9845 • Fax +44 20-7354 4202
E-mail: sfalster@btinternet.com
www.schulz-falster.com



DAVID MASON BOOKS

Fine and Rare Books in many fields:

- Literature
- Science
- Childrens
- History & Travel
- Curiosities
- Canadiana & Can. Lit.

We now issue monthly e-Catalogues of interesting books in many subjects.

Please visit our website at:
www.davidmasonbooks.com

Tel: 416 598-1015 email: dmbooks@allstream.net

366 Adelaide Street West, LL04
Toronto, Ontario Canada M4K 2S6
Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm.
416 598-1015 fax 416-598-3994

breakfast. Little did I know but one of my guests was here for a backgammon "sports" event! This involved a series of matches in various places around the Detroit area. When I mentioned that one of the BCD members had just given a talk on his fabulous backgammon book collection and was an excellent player, he jumped up and said, "You actually know Maurice Barrie?" I explained that he had just given a talk for the BCD on his outstanding collection. My guest was in awe. It seems Maurice is a world champion. So, BCD members are doubly blessed as we made him treasurer (no good deed goes unpunished!). Thank you, Maurice.

Our second event this year was at the home of Dr. Stanley & Mrs. Rita Levy in a suburb of Detroit. Copernicus, Newton, Einstein . . . his collection is remarkable. His speech surrounded truth. The first statements of the truth in print – Darwin, Dickens, Johnson . . . our senses were filled with such a fine selection of firsts. And our hostess provided lovely refreshments in a spectacular garden setting.

The next talk this year was by the new director of the William L. Clements Library, Dr. Kevin Graffagnino, titled "Confessions of an Unrepentant Bibliophile." Well over 100 people attended to hear his musings and insights at the Clements Library. This was followed by questions and answers and light refreshments served by the Clements staff. Kevin is a very adept public speaker on a subject he knows well. We all look forward to many more of his talks.

We had a very successful Ann Arbor Book Festival with C-Span covering the event and a very well attended antiquarian book fair. The doom and gloom of Michigan's economy escaped us for a few moments. Ah, the wonder of books! We are hosting the FABS Book Tour & Symposium next year from, May 12-16. Please plan on joining us! If you are in this area, call Joan Knoertzer, at the Library B&B 734 668-6815.

FINE PRESS BOOK ASSOCIATION



DUE TO THE FACT that Oak Knoll Books switched its Fest to an every-other-year schedule, the Fine Press Book Association has moved to piggy-back its annual membership meeting onto the American Printing History Association Conference, to be held in Newport, Rhode Island on

October 16-18. The FPBA annual meeting will take place at 5:00 pm at the Newport Public Library on Friday October 16. The FPBA meeting is free of charge, and does not require attendance at APHA events, but because the topic of the APHA conference is "The Book Beautiful," it is thought that many members will be interested in the subject matter. See the APHA site: www.printinghistory.org/index.html for information.

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.

On March 23, FPBA launched an updated web site (still at <http://fpba.com/>), designed by Michael Russem and maintained by a variety of members. It includes a blog with frequent posts.

Parenthesis 17 should be delivered to members before the annual meeting. Odd-numbered journals are edited by Paul Razell (NAEditor@fpba.com) and published by the North American branch. Even-numbered journals are edited by Sebastian Carter (UKEditor@fpba.com) and published by UK branch.

Many FPBA members will be attending or exhibiting at the Oxford Fine Press Book fair to be held in Oxford, England November 7 and 8. It also provides an opportunity for North American and United Kingdom members of FPBA to get together. Details should be available on the FPBA web site by the time you read this.

Sean Donnelly (NAMembership@fpba.com) is Membership Secretary of the FPBA, North American division. Send any changes of address to Sean; see the web site for membership information.

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY



OUR ANNUAL BANQUET was held in May 2009 at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel in downtown St. Petersburg. The well attended affair was enhanced by the surprise appearance of one of our out-of-state members, Joan Knoertzer of the Book Club of Detroit, who has a second home in Pinellas county. Joan is always a welcome, if not often enough, presence at our meetings. This time she brought greetings from Detroit and regaled us with the plans for the upcoming 2010 FABS Book Tour & Symposium. Joan is a bright energetic person who will bring her organizational skills

to bear on making the 2010 Book Tour one of the best yet.

Our 2008/09 President, Michael Bryan, agreed to continue with the gavel for the upcoming 2009/10 membership year. Mike is the Librarian for the joint City of Seminole/St. Petersburg College library. Irene Pavese and Jack Walsh continue in their roles as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. We have been unable to coerce/corral anyone to fill the Secretary position. Sue Tihansky continues as our Newsletter Editor/Publisher with the able assistance of Jack Walsh in the mail room. Lee Harrer continues as our FABS representative.

Our meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of the month. We resume our monthly meetings in September in Pinellas county and meet in Pinellas each odd month. Even numbered months find us at the University of Tampa in Hillsborough County. The exceptions are December and May when our Christmas and Annual meetings are held at a date and place to be determined. All FABS members are invited to attend our meetings. Please contact Lee Harrer at 727-536-4029 or on the net at midbooks@tampabay.rr.com for exact details of meetings and speakers who have yet to be determined for the upcoming meetings.

THE GROLIER CLUB



CLUB ACTIVITIES – LOOKING AHEAD

September 9 - November 21. Public Exhibition: In Pursuit of Knowledge: Six hundred Years of Leipzig University, 1409-2009. Curated by Dr. Ulrich Schneider. Opening 6 p.m.

September 10-November 6. Member's Exhibition: Early Printed Books on Symbolism from the European Renaissance. From the collection of Robin Raybould. Opening 5:30 p.m.

September 14. Lecture. Douglas Tallack, Professor of American Studies at the University of Leicester and a 2008 Grolier Club Library Fellow, speaking on "The Line of History: The Society of Iconophiles, 1895-1939." Based on his researches in the Society of Iconophiles archives held at the Grolier Club. 6 p.m.

September 22, Grolier Club Conference: Books in Hard Times. Notables in collecting, librarianship, and the book trade will discuss the current economic downturn and its effect on the world of books. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$30 registration fee. Attendance limited to 100. Visit www.grolierclub.org for more information.

October 1-5. Grolier Club Iter to Chicago.
October 14. Curator's Chat: Robin Raybould will give a tour of the exhibition *Early Printed Books on Symbolism from the European Renaissance*. 5:30 p.m. Reception follows.

November 18 – January 15. Members' Exhibition: *The Grolier Club Creates*. Opening 5:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Committee on Prints, Drawings, and Photographs.

November 19. The 2009 Robert L. Nikirk Lecture: Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian on a topic TBA.

December 8, 2008–February 6, 2009. Public Exhibition: *Dr. Johnson at 300: A Tercentenary Celebration, from the Collections of the Houghton Library, Harvard University*. Curated by Thomas Horrocks. Opening 6 p.m.

CLUB PUBLICATIONS

This Perpetual Fight. Love and Loss in Virginia Wolf's Intimate Circle, by Sarah Funke and William Beekman. 2009. 8 1/2 x 11, 160 pp., 48 illus. (32 color). Catalogue of an exhibition at the Grolier Club, September 16 - November 22, 2008. Designed by Jerry Kelly and printed in an edition of 1,500 copies.

Goivanni and Martino Mardersteig: Book Designers, Typographers, and Printers in Verona. An Exhibition Celebrating Sixty Years Since the Founding of the Press Stamperia

Valdonega, 1948-2008. 11 3/4 x 7 3/4, 99, [1] pp. 28 color and 3 black and white illustrations. introductory essays by exhibition curator Jerry Kelly, Hermann Zapf, Martino Mardersteig, and Kevin Perryman. Designed by Jerry Kelly, printed by Stamperia Valdonega.

Vivat Rex! An Exhibition Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Accession of Henry VIII, by Arthur L. Schwarz, with essays by John Guy, Dale Hoak, and Susan Wabuda. 8 1/2 x 11, 236 pp., 250 illus. (100 color), wrpps. Designed by Jerry Kelly.

THE QUASQUICENTENNIAL ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly 250 members gathered at the Metropolitan Club on the evening of January 22, 2009 for the Grolier's 125th Annual Meeting. Admissions chair John Blaney affirmed that our membership is up, and it continues to grow modestly. Following the meeting and after a lively reception, about 200 members enjoyed dinner in one of the Metropolitan Club's upstairs ballrooms. During dinner Terry Belanger was presented with a specially bound copy of the Grolier Club's 2004 *Printed Catalogue of French Book Auctions*, in honor of his lifelong commitment to the art and history of the book and in recognition of his 32 years of outstanding contributions to the

intellectual, cultural, and social life of the Club.

COUNCIL OF THE GROLIER CLUB

Officers: William H. Helfand, President; Szilvia Szmuk-Tenenbaum, Vice President; Arthur L. Schwarz, Treasurer; Bruce J. Crawford, Secretary. **Committee Chairs:** John R. Blaney, Admissions; Mark D. Tomasko, Audit; G. Scott Clemons, Finance; Lea Iselin, House; Eugene S. Flamm, Library; Szilvia Szmuk-Tenenbaum, Members's Exhibitions; John Bidwell, Modern Fine Printing; Anne H. Hoy, Prints, Drawings & Photographs; Robert J. Ruben, Public Exhibitions; George Ong, Publications; William Higgins, Special Functions. **Councilors:** William B. Beekman, Andrew L. Berger, Richard M. Estes, Brian J. Heidtke, David N. Redden, Caroline F. Schimmel

NEW MEMBERS

New members since October, 2008: Eleanor Edwards Ramsey, San Francisco, CA; Kathryn J. Rogers, New York, NY; William R. Berkley, Greenwich, CT; Edward C. Hirschland, Chicago, IL; John F. McClatchey, Shaker Heights, OH; Jean Hart Kislak, Miami, FL; Norman B. Medow, New York, NY; May Castleberry, reinstated as a non-resident member; Susan F. Weiss, Lutherville, MD;

A publication announcement from Oak Knoll Press

Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty, 1954–2004

With "Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore" An essay and a catalogue by Linda F. Lapidés

Edited by Donnald Farren and August A. Imholtz, Jr.

With this volume, the Baltimore Bibliophiles celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their founding, demonstrating the flourishing of bibliophily in Baltimore and the vigor of the organization. Included in the book are an account and a catalogue of early children's books in Baltimore by Linda F. Lapidés. The book contains historical accounts of the club, interviews, lists of members, meetings, and publications, the constitution of the club, and a list of the subscribers to the publication of the book. The section "Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore" explores the collecting of children's books in Baltimore. It is accompanied by a fully annotated narrative catalogue of 135 items in the distinguished collection of Baltimore children's books that Linda F. Lapidés and her husband, Julian L. Lapidés, have assembled. This book is a contribution both to the history of bibliophile organizations in the United States and to scholarship on early children's books in America.



Order No. 101279, \$55.00

PHONE: 800-996-2556 • FAX: 302-328-7274 • OAKKNOLL@OAKKNOLL.COM • WWW.OAKKNOLL.COM

Marilyn Braiterman, New York, NY; Jane Bayard Curley, New York, NY; Jennifer Dossin, New York, NY; Karen S. Beck, Arlington, MA; Stephane Clavreuil, Paris, France; Barbara Heritage, Charlottesville, VA; Andrew McGeachin, Piccadilly, London; Glenn Mitchell, Brighton, England; Timur Yueksel, Basel, Switzerland; John J. Bolebruch, New York, NY; Antonio Bonchchristiano, Sao Paulo, SP; Johan Kugelberg, New York, NY; Linn Cary Mehta, New York, NY; Margery Thomas, New York, NY; Eric Clay Caren, Lincolnale, NY

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Space limitation precludes even a summary of the many and multifaceted bookish activities of members since last October. The next issue of the *FABS Newsletter* will remedy that.

LONG ISLAND BOOK COLLECTORS



THE LONG ISLAND BOOK COLLECTORS is pleased to report the addition of several new members with diverse collecting interests and we are now entrenched in our new meeting room on the Campus of C W Post College. Our meeting this past April was devoted to the display of ephemera as an adjunct to our collections. In May, Myron Sywak showed a part of his collection of vintage paperbacks and lectured on the history of the paperback book. In June, we held a joint dinner meeting with the Long Island Antiquarian Book Dealers Association. Our guest speaker was George J. Billy, co-author of *Merchant Mariners at War: An Oral History of World War II*. After his presentation, he signed his book and answered our numerous questions. Our next meeting is scheduled for September, 2009.

THE MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY



The *Manuscript Society News* and our journal *Manuscripts*, each published quarterly, have been informing and amusing members for over 60 years. In a few months we will be welcoming a new editor of the *News*, Patricia K. Vaccaro, who is Director of Communications for the Dickinson Group in Chicago, but *Manuscripts* has been edited for over 30 years by Dr.

David Chesnutt. In his honor, the Board of Trustees held a dinner during the recent annual meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Chesnutt's erudite efforts in providing a high quality publication were recognized by many speakers in encomia and anecdotes, a tribute and testimony to the high regard in which he is held.

Sixty enthusiastic members enjoyed the intellectual and culinary treasures of Philadelphia, in the city May 20-23, and in a trip to Princeton University May 24. During the meeting the Society was pleased to welcome 25 Philadelphia area archivists and librarians to a workshop presented by Dr. Elizabeth H. Dow, Associate Professor of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University. (Dr. Dow was recently elected a Trustee of the Society.) Dr. Dow's program raised our consciousness about the value of having an accurate description of material in our collections; information which enhances the value of a collection in intellectual and monetary ways.

Meeting registrants were able to visit and go behind the scenes of an incredible array of Philadelphia institutions, including the working library of the Philadelphia Orchestra (with the rare opportunity to attend an orchestra rehearsal as well), the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and, of course, the richly endowed libraries of center city Philadelphia. Venues such as the American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Rosenbach Library and Museum had been on the schedule in 1992, when the last Philadelphia visit occurred. This time the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Union League of Philadelphia, and the Constitution Center were added to the program and put out some of their rarities to amaze us. The Chemical Heritage Foundation was another outstanding addition. In a beautifully renovated former bank building, the CHF brought out an alchemical manuscript of Isaac Newton, an ALS of John Dalton, and also a humorous postcard of George Bernard Shaw, among many highlights. The beautiful collection of art dating back 500 years, masterpieces all having a theme related to chemical science, was memorable as well.

A banquet at the elegant Estia Restaurant, featuring a visit and presentation by Ben Franklin impersonator Ralph Archbold topped off the regular meeting. The post meeting tour to Princeton was "icing on the cake." On a beautiful spring Sunday, the group was treated to a tour of the campus with historical comment by John T.

Miller, then visits to two of the University libraries, where the fascinating displays included George Washington land surveys, Thomas Jefferson, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Albert Einstein letters. Place and personality came together in the John F. Kennedy college application (with his ideas about why he wanted to attend Princeton) and a thesis by actress Brooke Shields when she was a Princeton junior.

At most annual meetings there is a benefit auction of donated material, supporting Society activities. Some of the highlights this year were: a copy of "The Lady and the Tramp" signed by Walt Disney (which sold for \$650), LS of Patricia Nixon (\$95 sale price), and DS of Thomas Mifflin (1744-1800) (which brought \$80).

Next year's annual meeting will be in Los Angeles, with details soon available on the website www.ManuscriptSociety.org. Local chapters of the Manuscript Society are active in Philadelphia as well as Los Angeles. There will be a program at the Beverly Hills Public Library on July 25, where an exhibit of Abraham Lincoln material which will be set up by Society member Sara Willen and will be on display.

For details of that visit and future events in the Los Angeles area contact Beverly Hill, Beverly@goldbergcoins.com. For Philadelphia area activities contact Barton Smith at ksmith3685@aol.com.

THE MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY



IN 1983, MIRIAM OWEN IRWIN of the Mosaic Press in Cincinnati, Ohio, learned that a fellow miniature book enthusiast, Ian Macdonald of the Gleniffer Press in Paisley, Scotland, would be visiting the United States that summer. She invited him and several other publishers of miniature books to her family farm in Tipp City, Ohio, for the Labor Day weekend in early September. There they could meet each other, many for the first time, and talk about their mutual interests.

Soon other publishers and collectors asked to be included in the gathering. Mrs. Irwin contacted Dr. Kalman L. Levitan who suggested having two meetings, with the second one for collectors to be held in nearby Englewood, Ohio. The idea was to hold the world's first miniature book fair at the farm and the response was enthusiastic.

On September 3, 1983, twenty-six collectors met in Englewood and organized a miniature book society. The following

afternoon at the Tipp City farm, the two groups held a joint meeting, presided over by Glen Dawson of Dawson's Book Shop in Los Angeles, CA. This meeting was named the Grand Conclave by Mr. Dawson's wife, Mary Helen. During the proceedings, a proposal to allow membership to anyone with an interest in miniature books was unanimously approved, and the name Miniature Book Society was formally adopted. Dr. Kalman L. Levitan was elected the first Chairman, the title later changed to President in 1986. The Society was incorporated in 1989 and became a non-profit in 1990.

In the years since 1983, membership has grown to 300, including people from 18 countries beyond the U.S. as well as a number of U.S. libraries. Conclaves and miniature book fairs are held every year in different cities. During the Conclave, the annual board of governors and membership meetings are held, as well as auctions of miniature books and related materials donated by members. Workshops and discussions on relevant subjects are provided, as are tours of the area and of libraries, book shops, publishers, or binders. A major highlight is the presentation of the Distinguished Book Awards to three publishers as selected by a jury.

In 1987 a miniature book, *Small Is Beautiful* by the late Louis W. Bondy, the distin-

guished London bookseller and Society member, was published as a bonus gift to Society members. The next year, Frank J. Anderson and James Yarnell conceived and implemented the first Society sponsored miniature book traveling exhibition.

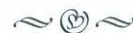
The beautiful exhibitions of miniature books travel throughout the United States and include the Distinguished Book Award winners and the other entrants for the competition. The Society's first International Miniature Book Exhibition was mounted by Ian and Helen Macdonald in 1990 for Conclave VIII in Glasgow, Scotland. Catalogues of each exhibition are provided free of charge to the membership.

Annual awards include the *Anderson-Yarnell Award*, established in 1989 to honor a significant contribution to the Society during the previous year or years; the *Norman W. Forgue Award* given to a publisher for his or her outstanding contribution to the world of miniature books; and the Glasgow Cup, given in 1990 by Ian and Helen Macdonald and presented by the President for dedication to the Society and friendship to the membership.

The Miniature Book Society *Newsletter* is published three times a year and incorporates Miniature Book News. Information on the Society can be found on its website at <http://www.mbs.org>.

The 2008 Conclave was held in San Diego, CA, while this year's Conclave XXVII was August 28-31 in Princeton, New Jersey.

THE BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER



THE BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY of Rochester concluded the 2008-2009 season in June with its annual banquet. Honored at the banquet was Bibliophile Society President Emeritus Peter Dzwonkoski, a long-time society member and retired Director of Rare Books and Special Collections of the University of Rochester Library.

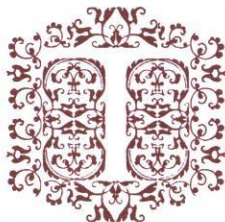
The Society begins its new season on September 9 with a presentation by WXXI radio personality Bob Smith, whose 1370 *Connection* talk show is enjoyed by Rochesterians for its book-related programs as well as discussions with award-winning authors.

At the October 14 meeting, we have the pleasure of meeting another local radio personality—Derrick Lucas, who has been a DJ with listener-supported WGMC Jazz 90.1 for nineteen years. "Books Related to Jazz" is the title of Mr. Lucas's talk.

On November 11, we will hear from Mark Holdren, author of Adirondack mysteries

MICHAEL R. THOMPSON Booksellers

Michael Thompson, Kathleen Thompson, Carol Sandberg



Fine Antiquarian & Scholarly Books

8242 West Third Street, Suite 230
Los Angeles, California 90048

Tel [323] 658-1901 Fax [323] 658-5380

e-mail: MRTBooksLA@aol.com

Website: <http://mrtbooksla.com>

MEMBER ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Rulon-Miller Books

RARE, INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL BOOKS

CATALOGUES ISSUED REGULARLY

AUCTIONS MONITORED

www.rulon.com

ruilon@ruilon.com

CALL TOLL FREE 800-441-0076

FAX 651-290-0646

400 SUMMIT AVENUE :: ST PAUL MN 55102-2662

Lost Pond and *Spirit Wolf*, and the historical science fiction novel, *The Raven*.

Plans for a highly interesting meeting for December are well underway, but have yet to be formally announced.

In 2010, we look forward to a talk by Michael McCarthy, author of *From Cork to the New World*, a work of historical fiction about a journey of survival. Mr. McCarthy, a retired police investigator, is currently Director of Safety and Security at St. John Fisher College and editor of the Northeast Colleges and Universities Security Association journal *The Clipboard*.

All meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the second Wednesdays from September through May in the Community Room at the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Pittsford Plaza, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Occasional field trips are had throughout the bibliophilic season, as announced in the monthly mailing and through local news media. For additional information, please contact Ray Edinger by phone at 585 663-1339 or by email at redinger@rochester.rr.com.

THE ROWFANT CLUB



BOOKS ARE OUR PASSION and, as we have for well over a century, we have scheduled several dozen bookish speakers for our Wednesday Evenings and our Friday Lunches starting in the Fall of 2009 and ending in June of 2010.

Our Wednesday speakers, with one honorary exception, are from outside the club and come to us with their fascinating talks on their libraries, their collections, their works of poetry and literature, and their erudition in many other areas of the world of books and ideas.

The Friday speakers are all members of The Rowfant Club and are as erudite as our guests. However, our areas of appropriateness for Fridays are significantly more liberal than on our Wednesdays and so our member talks may range from trips to China to the Pony Express, from members' book collections to a fascination with a certain language or research in medicine and physics.

But, as always, all our speakers, guest and members are bound to adhere to two basic principles. These are to tell us something about the world of ideas and, perhaps most importantly, do not be boring, because there is nothing boring about our passion for books.

For what can be boring about the world of books, from scrolls and wax tablets to illuminated manuscripts, from early printed volumes to modern paperbacks and art books, from miniature books (a collection of which we are very proud at Rowfant) to hand-written manuscripts to Kindles?

The world of books, in many ways, is as large as the universe itself, for how else do we know the world? There's more to the world than just a walk in your neighborhood. The book brings the world, from the cosmos to the "quietly desperate," to any and all who will read.

Books, of all kinds, contain the best and the worst of mankind. They chronicle the history of our species through the millennia. They deliver the world, past, present, and a suggested set of futures to the reader and the collector. They offer a largely inexpensive treasure to all that care to examine and read.

Many, perhaps most people, see clubs like ours as anachronistic and dull, something for the idle elderly, something of no interest to us in the modern world. But they're wrong, sadly wrong. What after all, is media, from printed papers to the Internet, from radio and television to the emerging technologies like the Kindle? These are all versions of the book, albeit in very different forms. Yes, there is some question about the future of the traditional book. Will paper be largely replaced in the future? Will the great novels of tomorrow be electronic rather than "hard bound or paperback?" Who knows?

Suffice it to say that today at least, and I think for quite a long time to come, people will continue to walk through the Morgan Library or through the Windsor Library or the Vatican Library or numerous libraries all over the world and in our own clubs as well, and say to others or just to themselves: "Wow!"

The Rowfant Club, and all the other FABS clubs, I'm sure, share that "Wow!" and we hope that our special, bookish addiction spreads to others. Books, in all their capacity to please the mind of man, is a Rowfant slogan. We welcome the rest of our fellow citizens to share it.

This is a difficult time for the world economically. People are suffering and, what so very recently was a world of optimism, now seems to be filled with pessimism. Even here though, in the depths of what some are calling the Great Recession, there's always hope "to seek a brighter day." For a bookish person there is also the refuge of knowing that "this too shall pass."

For those who know the joys of a great

library, and we have several in the Cleveland area, there is always the "consolation of a kind of philosophy" that says: Read this and then that and look at this beautiful binding and its stunning illuminations or its hand-tooled leatherwork. And, here, read this history of the West and the East and the rise of this or that.

No. I am not suggesting that a library is some kind of refugee city where you can go to escape all the pain of job losses and market declines. On the contrary, what Rowfant and FABS members know is that, even in the most difficult of times, it is a great help to know that the world has been here before. Only reading and reflection can bring one to such a "promontory against the waves." And then, even when the times seem so grim and profitless, one can pick up an old copy, beautifully bound, of *Paradise Lost* and say: "Wow!"

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

SACRAMENTO BOOK COLLECTORS CLUB



THE Sacramento Book Collectors Club, founded in 1939, is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. At the Annual Banquet in February at the Shepherders Inn, Vicky and Bill Stewart of Vamp & Tramp Booksellers presented a program, "The Artists Book: More than a Pretty Container." This program on artist books was followed in March with a panel of Sacramento Area Altered Book Artists led by Janene Ford. An altered book is a form of mixed media artwork that takes a book from its original form into a different form, altering its meaning. The artist may take an old or new book and cut, tear, glue, burn, fold, paint, add collage, create pop-ups, rubber-stamp, drill, bolt, or be-ribbon the book to create a new work that is the expression of the artist. Club members had to promise "not to be outraged" by the destruction of original books to create a new work of art. The range and scope of both the artist books presented by Vamp & Tramp and the creative work of the alternative book artists brought a new appreciation of the book as a work of art that cannot be experienced on the Internet.

April's program was a mouth watering discussion of "Chocolate! The World's Most Interesting and Delicious Food!" presented by Professor Emeritus Louis Grivetti, Department of Nutrition, University of Cali-

foria, Davis on his book *Chocolate: History, Culture, and Heritage* (Wiley, 2009), a definitive work on the history and research on chocolate.

In May Professor Louis S. Warren, Department of History, UC Davis spoke on his research on his book *Buffalo Bill's America: William Cody and the Wild West Show* (2005) while his wife Spring Warren discussed her western novel, *Turpentine* (2007). The Warrens described the writing differences and similarities of writing historical and fictional western history in their two-author household.

June's program was our annual potluck dinner and we imagined a "picnic journey on the road" as we listened to Gloria Scott, a cultural resource specialist from the California Department of Transportation present "Colossus of Roads: The Development of California's State Highway System." Miriam Hull, a staff member from the Shields Library at the University of California, Davis, presented a table exhibit of books, pamphlets, and photographs on California roads from the UC Davis library collection. The club takes a break in July and August and will reconvene in the fall.

Other club business news involved the installation of the new board in December 2008. Board members include: Daryl Morrison, President; Louisa Vessell, Immediate Past President; Jay Zil, Vice-President and Publications Manager; Phyllis Ehlert, Secretary; Felicia Oropeza, Treasurer, Burt Thompson, Member-at-large, and Jeffrey Rhynes, Student Member. Service positions include Lois Shumaker, Webmaster and Gerrilee Hafvenstein, Refreshments Chairperson. At the February banquet Louisa R. Vessell, the outgoing president, was honored for her service to the club as President (2007-2008) and Vice-President (2006). She was presented with a special printed certificate and a gift of scroll-shaped book ends. Club members applauded Louisa's dedication and hard work for the club.

The club instituted a new style of doing raffles to fundraise, to purchase archival supplies, to preserve the SBCC collection at the California State Library, and for other projects. Raffle tickets were sold and prizes included book donations from club members. Then any extra tickets for the raffle were won by responding to trivia questions regarding books and printing. The raffles have added a bit of fun and excitement to meetings.

For more information about SBCC contact Daryl Morrison, President, at 530 752-2112 or dmorrison@ucdavis.edu or visit www.sacramentobookcollectors.org

THE TICKNOR SOCIETY



THE TICKNOR SOCIETY had a busy winter and spring season. On February 11, woodcut artist Annie Silverman offered an intimate lecture and demonstration of the techniques for contemporary woodblock printmaking at her print shop in Somerville, Abrazos Press. Using many examples of her own work, Annie showed carving and printing techniques as well as the actual prints and the woodblocks used to create them. Printing demonstrations showed the creation of a wood block print using her beautiful press and another by employing a hand method. Participants were able to ink and print a small carved woodblock or carve in another medium to make a sample keepsake print.

On March 24, 2009, Ticknor Society members took a behind the scenes tour of The Harcourt Bindery in its new location in Charlestown, MA, guided by Sam Ellenport who runs the shop. The Harcourt Bindery was founded in Copley Square in 1900, to produce fine leather bindings. Early on the company won prizes for its quality work and more recently the work of the shop has been exhibited in Sweden, Finland, and at various venues in the U.S. In 2007 Harcourt joined Acme Bindery, a leader in library and edition binding, combining expertise to better serve their respective clients.

On Saturday, April 4, Ticknorites went to Salem, MA, for a tour of the Phillips Library at the Peabody-Essex Museum, one of New England's most important and historic research libraries. Sidney Berger, Ann C. Pingree Director of the Phillips Library, shared stunning examples of the collections, demonstrating clearly why the library is a major resource for residents and scholars with interests in genealogy, maritime history, and New England history, as well as documents relating to the museum's vast and diverse collections. The Library also holds the nation's largest collection of ship logs and journals as well as original court documents from the 1692 Salem witchcraft trials.

On May 12, Rob Vellella gave a talk entitled "Edgar Allan Poe and the Publishing Industry" at the Boston Public Library. Rob Vellella, independent Poe scholar and author of the Edgar Allan Poe Calendar, discussed Poe's knowledge of the publishing industry, his role in it, and how it changed around him – though, ultimately, he was never able to profit significantly from it.

Finally on June 2, Ticknorites celebrated

yet another exciting year of programs with our traditional festive Annual Meeting. For this year's fun, we returned to Boston's distinguished St. Botolph's Club. The evening began with refreshments and a brief business meeting, followed by Robert Darnton, Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library with a talk entitled "Old Books and E-Books." Members gathered afterward for a lovely dinner.

THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON



THE BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON has launched a new website, www.bookclubofwashington.org, that contains sections on the activities planned for members, the most recent newsletter with access to previous issues, as well as calendar information of local and national events of interest to book collectors and librarians.

PUBLICATIONS

The most recent issue of the *Journal: Book Club of Washington* (Winter 2009) has been published (copies are available for \$5 from our website) and includes articles by Dennis Andersen "Spectacular, Ridiculous, and Lovable: Architecture of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition;" Darrell F. Allen: "The Saga of the Temple of Flora: One of the World's Great Illustrated Botanical Books;" Taylor Bowie "Memories of Forty Years in the Seattle Book Trade: Part 3;" Jodee Fenton "A Treasure at Seattle Public Library: Leonora's Library from *The Spectator*;" and Pamela Harer and John Michael Lang "Let's Put On a Show: A Children's Book Exhibition."

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Members visited Jeffrey Coopersmith to take a tour of his collection of early Americana consisting of art, ephemera, books, and many one-of-a-kind items. A trip to the University of Puget Sound Library, Jane Carlin, Director, was organized for members to hear a presentation by Jessica Spring of Springtide Press, "Tacoma Parts Unknown" and view an exhibition of the book arts of Chandler O'Leary. Gary White gave a presentation about his new book *Hall Brothers, Shipbuilders*.

The Annual Meeting was held in April and featured Carla Rickerson, Head of Special Collections at the University of Washington, as our guest speaker (and long time BCW Board Member). Her topic, "When the World Came to Campus" — A

Pictorial Tour of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYPE) used images taken by the official Exposition photographer, Frank Nowell, and photographs of ephemera in the UW Libraries Special Collections.

This lecture presented a well-researched overview of how a wild and undeveloped campus was transformed into beautiful exposition grounds under the direction of John Charles Olmsted. In addition to the program, members toured a new book arts exhibit by Lois Morrison, "She Pondered these things in her Heart," which included a beautiful collection of Fabric Books and Silkscreened Editions.

In May the first Seattle Book and Paper Show opened with dealers, book artists, and related booths devoted to all things paper. The Club hosted a booth and met many new people who are interested in book collecting.

During the summer members and their guests are invited to attend the 2nd Annual ABAA-PNW Chapter Summer Gathering on Whidbey Island, a summer picnic with bookstore browsing, badminton, bocce, croquet, and bbq included. Then in late August the Book Club will be going to Mighty Tieton's *Sunny Side Up!*, part of Community Days in Eastern Washington's glorious Upper Yakima Valley. This event

will feature artists, performers, and book arts exhibitions and presentations.

UPCOMING

The Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair will be held October 10-11, 2009 at the Seattle Center Exhibition Hall. The annual dinner will be on October 9, 2009 with Derek Hayes, antiquarian map authority, as our keynote speaker. New this year, BCW will be hosting a series of workshops on book collecting including how to get started and "virtual" tours of members' collections and our local bookstores. You can register for dinner at: <http://www.seattlebookfair.com/>

The Annual Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction on December 7, 2009 is the Club's only fundraising event during the year. Members will enjoy an elegant dinner at the Washington Club on the University of Washington Campus.

It's a great opportunity to find a new home for that white elephant item and to purchase gifts for the holidays. Proceeds from this event support our scholarship fund and publications.

For additional information please contact info@bookclubofwashington.org or 206 323-3999.

FABS book club members are most welcome at any of our events.

THE ZAMORANO CLUB



LAURA STALKER was installed as President in February and has appointed Michael F. Hecht as program Chairman. Secretarial duties continue under the aegis of Gordon J. Van De Water, and William J. Warren remains our treasurer.

Zamorano programs resume in October and Catherine Quinlan will introduce Melinda Hayes, speaking on her Vampire Collection.

In November Avery Clayton will speak on "The Evolution of the Mayme A. Clayton Museum: From a Backyard Avocation to a Major American Cultural Institution," and will be introduced by our member, Robert Allen.

Our Gaudeamus program on December 2, 2009, will present Steven S. Koblik, President of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.

And finally it should be mentioned how happy Zamorano is to meet monthly in the beautifully appointed quarters of The Woman's City Club of Pasadena, and how much we look forward to the return to club activities of our esteemed longtime Secretary and now Honorary Member, Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.



A FULL SERVICE HAND BINDERY
using quality materials & traditional
techniques at competitive prices.

LEATHER BINDINGS: period styles,
design bindings, & leather repairs,
featuring the largest collection of
hand tools in the United States.

CLOTH: binding & repair.

ARCHIVAL BOXES & CASES:
cloth & leather.

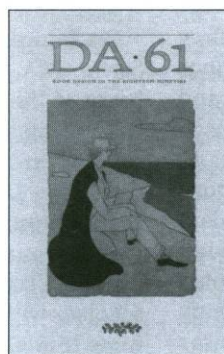
Check our website for examples, or call:
www.harcourtbindery.com

(617) 242-5959

80 Cambridge St., Charlestown, MA 02129



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*.

A year's subscription (two numbers) costs just \$28 us.

VISA orders may be faxed to 519 833 9845 / Digital orders should be directed to abebooks.com. For institutional rates, a list of back issues, and a wealth of free dingbats and fanciful initials please visit us at

www.sentex.net/~pq/DA.html

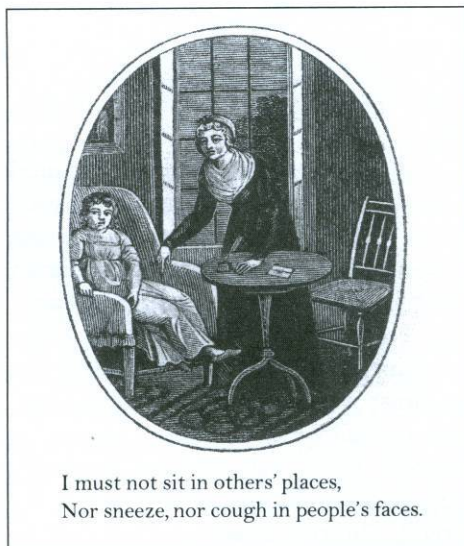
The Baltimore Bibliophiles Celebrate Half-century Mark

THE BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2004 and now again in 2009 with the publication of *The Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty: 1954-2004*. However, the book has proved to be well worth the waiting for.

Published by The Baltimore Bibliophiles and distributed through Oak Knoll Press, it is indeed a handsome production and a credit to the organization and its members.

The book was designed by well known bibliophile and member of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, Mark Samuels Lasner and printed in an edition limited to just 300 copies. Tom Beck, president of The Baltimore Bibliophiles, 2003-2005 provided the Foreword and the Preface was ably co-authored by Donald Farren and August A. Imholtz, Jr., also members of the Baltimore Bibliophiles. This is truly an "inside job" and one that they can be proud of.

The two-chapter section titled "Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore" is, at least for this reviewer, the heart of the publication. The first chapter is Linda F. Lapidès'



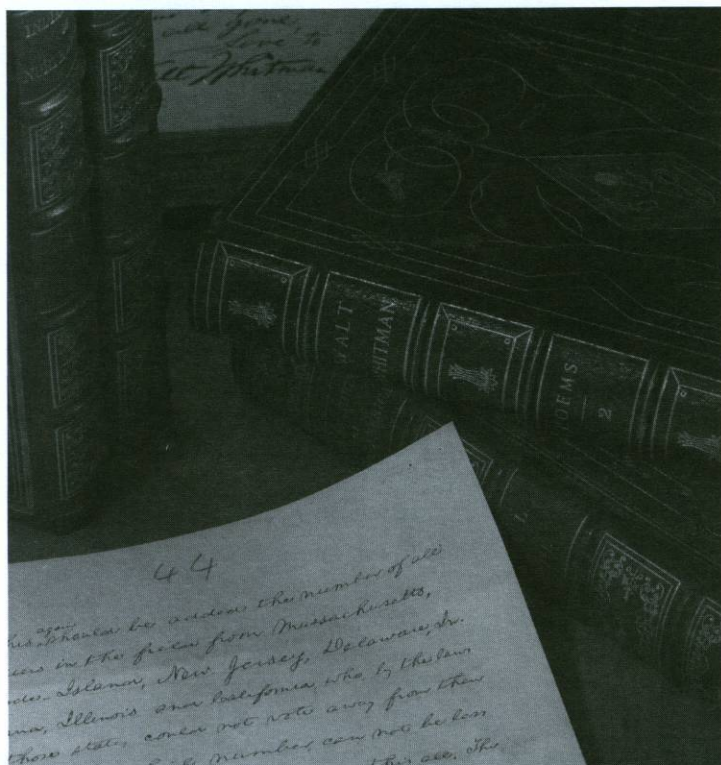
essay titled "For Amusement and Instruction: Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore." The second chapter is a catalogue of 135 selections from the Linda F. and Julian L. Lapidès collection, as exhibited at the George Peabody Library of Johns Hopkins University. Each entry contains a brief description and information about the

publisher, and the author, if known. The entries, provides, light, informative, and entertaining reading.

The content continues with "A Brief Note on the Second Quarter-Century of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, 1980-2004" written by August A. Imholtz, Jr. and wraps up with "An Evergreen Toast" by Richard A. Macksey that includes: Members, Meetings, Publications, Constitution, Notes on Contributors, and Subscribers. that includes information about the first fifty years of The Baltimore Bibliophiles.

The book's modest (6 1/4" x 9 1/4") format is open and inviting, the pages are nicely margined, and the bibliography contributed by the Lapidès listing the gems in their collection is generously sprinkled with wonderful reproductions of images from the pages of their extensive collection of period publications from "Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore."

In short, you don't have to be from Baltimore to appreciate this little beauty. Please see Oak Knoll's publication announcement on page 25 of this *Newsletter*. KMK



HERITAGE RARE BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

Whatever your stage of collecting, our experts will work with you to ensure you have the best information about today's book market. Contact us today for a free auction catalog or an information packet detailing our professional services.

Please contact us to discuss consigning your treasures.

Sandra Palomino
Director, Historical
Manuscripts
& Texana
214-409-1107
SandraP@HA.com

James Gannon
Director, Rare
Books
214-409-1609
JamesG@HA.com

Joe Fay
Manager, Rare
Books
214-409-1544
JoeF@HA.com

Receive a free copy of either catalog, or one from another Heritage category. Register online at HA.com/FABS17284 or call 866-835-3243 and mention reference FABS17284. Visit HA.com/books to view our current auction.

Annual Sales Exceed \$700 Million • 450,000+ Online Registered Bidder-Members

3500 Maple Avenue, 17th Floor • Dallas, Texas 75219 • 214-528 3500 • 800-872-6467

TX Auctioneer licenses: Samuel Foose 11727; Robert Korver 13754; Andrea Voss 16406. This auction is subject to a 19.5% buyer's premium.

HERITAGE HA.com
Auction Galleries
The World's Largest Collectibles Auctioneer

The Collector's Bin



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

THE COLLECTOR'S BIN is a regular column dedicated to fostering communication and understanding among the FABS community of over 8,000 bibliophiles around the globe. ■ Our column serves as a forum addressing questions submitted by readers, similar to online blogs and Internet forums, only that many FABS readers prefer things the old-fashioned way . . . ink on paper.

■ While the world changes at a dizzying pace, the antiquarian by his/her nature values and celebrates the old. Our "old books" offer stability in this changing and uncertain world.

THIS PAST SPRING, we received several questions about book auctions. No doubt, Geoffrey Smith's informative articles on "Great Auctions of the Past" sparked an interest in our readers. In addition, the current deflation operating in the book world has created a buyer's market at the auction houses. As collectable book prices continue to fall in the auction rooms, astute bidders gather, eager to purchase items at attractive prices.

A Chicago FABS reader writes us, "I recently read Rosenbach's book, *Books & Bidders*, in which he relates his many triumphs in the auction rooms. I would like to attend a book auction but fear that I would inadvertently scratch my nose and suddenly find myself the owner of an expensive book I had no intention of buying. Do you have any suggestions for the auction novice?"

Our reader's trepidation is understandable. Although auctions have been an important part of the book world for centuries, attending a book auction, any auction, for the first time can feel like stepping, uninvited, into a secret fraternity meeting. Do not despair; one quickly familiarizes himself with the auction process. This includes the auction cata-

logue, the preview, and the actual bidding.

A vast range of books can be acquired at auction, ranging from common used books sold by the box lot at rural estate auctions to the most prized antiquarian tomes found at a Sotheby's rare book auction. For the tried and true book lover, attending an auction is a thrill that gets the heart racing and the blood flowing. This physiological condition, known as "auction fever" can develop into full-blown cases of bibliomania, if one is not careful. The risk is well worth the many rewards because attending book auctions is one of the best ways to participate in the book world.

A good place to begin one's auction experience is by viewing the auction catalog. Look for notices of auctions in local and national newspapers, as well as Internet book sites such as AmericanaExchange. If you find an auction that captures your attention, we suggest that you request the auction catalog. Auction catalogues vary in the quality of production and depth of descriptions; but all should list the basics of location, date, and time of the auction, as well as general terms of sale. Looking over the "lot" descriptions should inform us if it is an auction worth pursuing. Some auctions will even group the lots or even an entire auction by themes (e.g., Art & Architecture, Children's, Exploration & Travel, etc.) to entice the focused collector's attention. Studying book auction catalogs of the major auction houses is required reading for the serious bibliophile, offering an education in bibliography as well as offering an opportunity to dream about that special volume you have long desired or even identify books in your own collection that are now deemed valuable in the book market.

Any respectable auction house should offer an opportunity to preview the books. Carefully examining the books is an essential step in the auction experience that too many (collectors and dealers) do

not take the time to conduct. Indeed, it will determine, for the most part, your success or failure in the auction. It is the reason that I advise attending the auction in person or if this is not possible hiring a dealer/representative to view the material and bid as your proxy. Recall, well-healed collectors often retained Rosenbach to preview and bid at auctions. The importance and the benefits of physically handling a book cannot be overstated. Needless to say this author is not a big fan of the proliferation of Internet book auctions, where the bidders often do not have the opportunity to examine the books. When an experienced collector or dealer physically holds a book, he or she quickly gathers information and makes evaluations that would take pages of text and countless pictures to describe. We recently attended an auction where we witnessed just how important it is to preview the material. A collector's gleeful triumph at successfully bidding on an atlas and several color-plate botanicals quickly turned to regret and disappointment when he learned from another bidder that the books he just bought were incomplete (i.e., missing plates). Since the books were sold with all faults, the collector can only learn from his mistake. Next time he will undertake the task of collating any books he plans to bid on, we hope.

At the same auction, we learned that a collector's wide grin was the result of finding a "gem" hidden in a box lot. The successful bidder told us that he spent over two hours previewing the boxed lots and found an important book on the book arts that was not listed individually in the catalog. Making it even more exciting was the fact that the author inscribed the book. Hence, by conducting due diligence, this collector was rewarded at auction by obtaining for \$20 a book that would cost him \$350 to purchase in the retail book market. Lessons learned.

In the end, it all comes down to bidding on the book. Obtain your "bidder

number" and prepare for battle because there will be others vying for the books you want. By making important decisions before the auction, you have a better chance of avoiding the ill effects of auction fever. You must work before the auction even begins to maintain your wits and keep your emotions in check on auction day.

It is imperative that you decide before the start of the auction exactly what books you wish to bid on and exactly how much you are willing to pay. In other words, know what you are bidding on and know your top bid. In determining your bid limit, keep in mind that most auction houses charge a "buyer's premium." The premium can be significant, to avoid sticker shock, be informed. At the auction we attended, there was a young man who insisted that they made a mistake on his final bill. He failed to factor in the buyer's premium and the sales tax. His successful \$100 bid suddenly became \$130.

Right before bidding starts on your lot, do what it takes to stay calm, level-headed and focused. Deep breathing as

well as avoiding the caffeine and alcohol, often offered gratis by the auction house, helps. You are in a bidding war until you reach your predetermined price limit. We hope that you have won the lot; if you have not, then you should drop out of the bidding, post-haste. Remember, you made these important decisions in a calm, rational state. During the bidding, emotions tend to dominate our actions. If you are not careful, you may find yourself paying much more than you ever expected. Finally, never, never bid to spite a fellow bidder or to impress others or you will undoubtedly find yourself with an unsettling case of buyer's remorse.

In today's book market, opportunities abound for collectors who step into the auction arena. Some auction houses have already or are considering eliminating "seller reserves." This is advantageous news for the bidder. We are confident that you soon will be regaling your fellow bibliophiles with stories of your own auction triumphs. Happy bidding!

KENNETH J. PALKO

PO Box 21323, Cleveland, Ohio 44121
kpalko@aol.com or kpalko@ndc.edu

A RATIONALIZATION

Producing books follows naturally from collecting them, particularly if one has a frustrated literary or scholarly bent. As the collector gets deeper into his subject, he becomes aware that in his own collection is a book or manuscript, print or map, whose significance has not been revealed. He sees himself bringing this tiny morsel to the feast of learning and receiving glances of approval from the diners. In publishing it he may be stirred by something nobler than pride of possession; he may feel that he is putting his collection to work and justifying the time and thought and money he spent upon it.

WILMARTH LEWIS

Collector's Progress
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1951

Thomas A. Goldwasser
Rare Books

LITERARY FIRST EDITIONS
MANUSCRIPTS & LETTERS
ARTIST BOOKS
FINE PRINTING &
ILLUSTRATION
TRAVEL

5 Third Street, Suite 530
San Francisco, CA 94103

Tel. 415-292-4698

www.goldwasserbooks.com

mail@goldwasserbooks.com

Member:

Antiquarian Booksellers Association
of America

International League of Antiquarian
Booksellers

Professional Autograph Dealers
Association

The 34th Annual APHA Conference

The Book Beautiful

Newport, Rhode Island

October 16-18, 2009

"If the Book Beautiful may be beautiful by virtue of its writing, or printing, or illustration, or binding, or by virtue of the thing to be communicated to the mind, it may also be beautiful by the union of all to the production of one composite whole, the consummate book Beautiful."

T. J. COBDEN-SANDERSON
1892

WILLIAM S. PETERSON

emeritis professor of English at the University of Maryland
and editor of APHA's journal, *Printing History* will
deliver the keynote address

For details, including registration and accommodations, go to:
www.printinghistory.org

TOO MANY RARE BOOKS?

Yeah, Right

A LINGUISTICS PROFESSOR was lecturing his class. "In English," he explained, "a double negative forms a positive. In some languages, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However," the professor continued, "there is no language wherein a double positive can form a negative." A voice from the back of the room piped up. "Yeah, right."

NOT THAT I WAS was trying to duck responsibility or work, but it will probably appear that way. On the road to a Ph.D. I was unhappily detained in the town of Dissertation. Concentrating my studies in sixteenth-century literature, I naively thought I would just find some old book from the Tudor era to investigate and critically edit. No problem.

Well, there was a problem. Several years later, as the dissertation became history, I managed to verbalize my difficulty. It is this: there are too many, too many, too many rare books. But trying to explain the problem may prove difficult.

Please do not suppose that I am recommending a cut-and-slash burning of rare book stacks. No, no. Just that I came to rare books, I saw rare books, I was smacked upside the head by rare books. It's no one's problem but mine.

Two score years ago I began the dissertation, a critical edition of a mid-sixteenth-century English translation, by Nicholas Grimald, of Cicero's *De officiis*. Initially I presumed—speculated, trusted, hoped?—that no more than two, perhaps three copies of the Grimald work existed. Hey, it's summer so I should be finished by Christmas. Yeah, right.

So I started visiting rare book rooms and dedicated libraries in Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, District of Columbia, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Mary-

land, and California. The spectre of the problem—brazen, mischievous, unpromising—appeared.

Then I corresponded with staffs at the British Museum, Bodleian Library at Oxford, Eton College, and Peterborough Cathedral. I even wrote to Katharine Pantzer, the Harvard editor of the *Short-Title Catalogue* (STC). The picture was complete; it was clear. Extant Grimald

Although the STC reported a 1553 edition at Folger Shakespeare Library, I proved the 1553 to be a ghost, a nonexistent critter, a bibliographer's error. I thought "Wow, I'm almost done. Just one or two books to study." Yeah, right.

During ensuing months I collated in person ten copies—hear me, TEN—of the 1556 edition, the actual first edition. And I located three other copies. So that's thirteen right there—of just the first edition. The best of times for Grimald, the worst of times for me.

With later editions—which for technical reasons I had to examine—I was swamped. Thirteen copies of the 1558 second edition are housed in English and American libraries. And I was going to be done by Christmas. Yeah, right.

The six subsequent editions cruelly played themselves out, each with at least a dozen copies strewn around the world, copies appearing in such Godawful places as Tokyo, Japan, and Austin, Texas. I looked at representative copies of all these editions. Want to see my notes?

In a nutshell, at least 100 copies of Grimald editions are sprinkled through England, over here in the Colonies (including the University of Nebraska Library!), and even Japan. And I thought Christmas would end the hunt. Yeah, right.

Later while reporting to Katharine Pantzer, the STC honcho at Harvard University, I grumbled about the whopping number of Grimald copies in existence. In reply, she offered gracious sympathy.

But then she pretty much ignored my plight—as will, I suspect, Bob Jackson, Larry Siegler, Paul Ruxin, Art Cheslock, Jack McClatchey, and John Carson. They will agree with me that there are too many rare books? Yeah, right.

GERALD O'GORMAN
THE BIXBY CLUB



The Book Fool by Albrecht Dürer.

texts rival in number empty Bud Lite cans littering a Strassenfest. You think I'm kidding.

The STC, which lists rare books and their locations in world libraries, reported Grimald copies printed in 1553, 1556, 1558, 1563(?), 1568, 1574 (1575?), 1583, 1596, 1600 (?).

I timidly approached my dissertation advisor. OK to change my topic? With his renowned kindness and grace he snarled, "Hell No."

Soooooooo—I began with the 1553 edition, the first edition. Oh happy day.

GREAT BOOKS

In recent years we have sold
three fine copies of Shakespeare's Second Folio,
first editions of Euclid's *Elementa Geometriae* (1482),
More's *Utopia* (1516),
Machiavelli's *Il Principe* (1532),
Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus* (1543),
Harvey's *De Motu Cordis* (1628),
Newton's *Principia* (1687),
Paine's *Common Sense* (1776),
the first separate printing of the Bill of Rights (1789),
and books inscribed by
Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln, Poe,
Melville, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Faulkner, Joyce, Salinger, and many others.

Please call or write for our catalogues



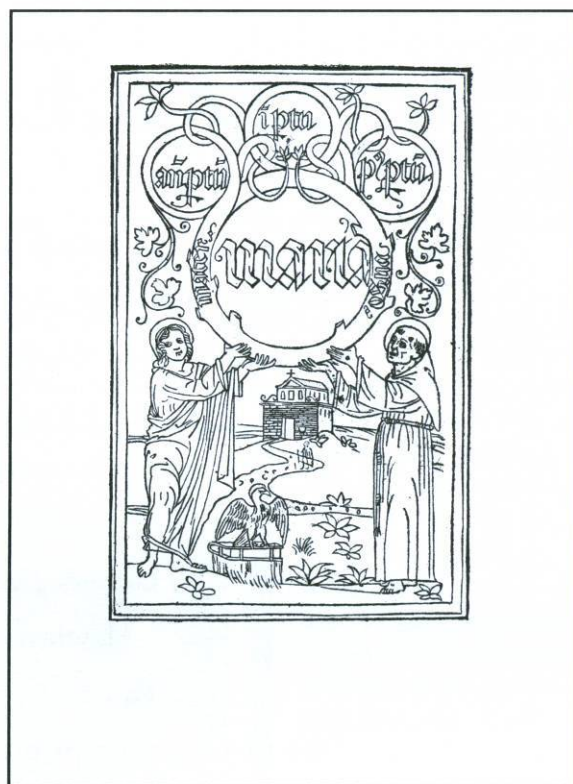
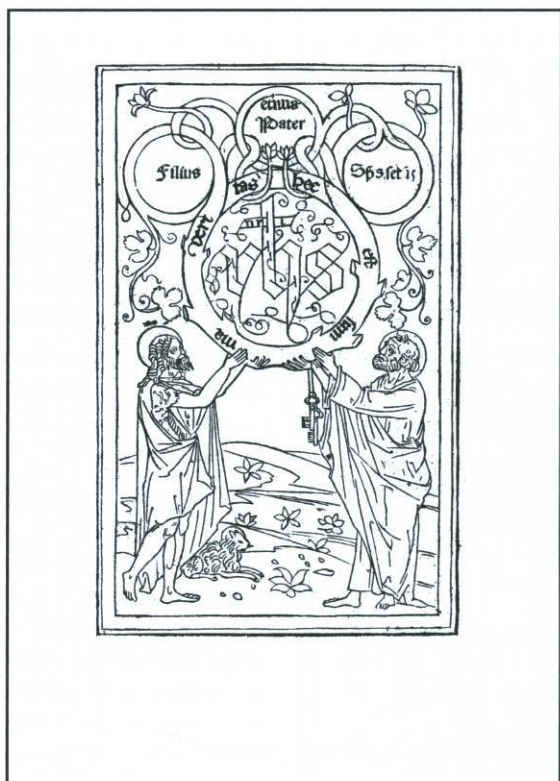
The 19th Century Shop

10400 Stevenson Road • Stevenson, MD 21153

(410) 602-3002 • Fax (410) 602-3006

We invite you to visit our website: www.19thcenturyshop.com

You Can Judge *This* Book By Its Covers



The front and rear outside covers (much reduced) of the 1493 *Monte dell' Orazione*.

THESE 15TH CENTURY DECORATIVE PRINTED WRAPPERS "FUNCTION . . . AS EYE-CATCHING ADVERTISEMENTS . . . PRECISELY AS BOOK JACKETS DO TODAY" (PAUL NEEDHAM).

FIRST EDITION, FIRST USE OF THE WOODBLOCKS.

BRUCE MCKITTRICK

Continental Books & Manuscripts 1400 - 1800

43 Sabine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

Tel 610-660-0132 • mckrare@voicenet.com • Fax 610-660-0133

MEMBER ABAA • SLAM • ILAB

Please write for a copy of our most recent catalog.