

JOURNAL OF THE
FELLOWSHIP OF
AMERICAN
BIBLIOPHILIC
SOCIETIES

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The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This is the last Letter from the Chair to be written by me, and it is therefore a good opportunity to thank all the trustees and officers of FABS who have served with me for the past three years. FABS has always been a collaborative effort and it will continue to be one in the future.

I'd first like to make special mention of two officers who have provided critical support to our organization. Ronald Smeltzer, our long-serving Secretary, continued in that crucial role for the past three years and has served all of us by organizing the annual meetings of trustees and by providing, when needed, a comprehensive perspective on the history of the organization. Being the Secretary of any organization is not a glamorous job, but it's an important one and Ronald has fulfilled his responsibilities admirably.

Second is Philip Anderson, our able treasurer. This job is of obvious importance, and Philip brought our accounts and billing practices up to date. As a result largely of his efforts alone, we are now on stable financial footing.

The office of the Vice Chair has been occupied by two individuals, first by Joan Knoertzer and now by William Butler. Joan had to resign midstream due to conflicting commitments, but not before she helped Mark Samuels-Lasner organize a splendid FABS Tour to the Brandywine River Valley in Delaware. Bill Butler stepped into Joan's place and quickly became a sage and seasoned voice on the Executive Committee. Under the bylaws Bill will be replacing me as chair at the next meeting of the trustees, and I look forward to his assuming the leadership.

The *FABS Journal* has undergone a change in editorship, and I am happy to report that it was done seamlessly. Our new editor in chief is Anne Rowlenon, and her assistant editor is Scott Elwood. They have produced two terrific issues, including this one, and the smooth transition was facilitated by our prior editor, Rick Ring. The *Journal* continues to be a place where bibliophiles can write about their own collections and where others can read about them.

Bruce McKittrick agreed to step in to handle the coordination of our FABS tours, and Arthur Cheslock has continued to serve as our membership committee chair. Both of these individuals have provided tireless support for FABS for many years, and both are willing to undertake extra duties when the need arises. We all owe them a hearty thanks.

Finally, our webmaster (and incidentally a college book collecting contest award winner) Samuel V. Lemley deserves special mention. The revamped website is well organized and functional for all of us, and we all owe a debt

of gratitude to Sam for this. Sam does a remarkable job in keeping the website up to date.

It has been a pleasure to occupy this office for the past three years. Under the bylaws, I will remain a member of the Executive Committee as the Past Chair and I am happy to continue my participation in FABS and to help Bill Butler, if I can, to take over as our new leader. I'm confident FABS will remain an important part of the book collecting community under his leadership.

Michael Thompson
FABS Chair

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We are particularly excited to share with you this issue of the FABS Journal, which includes a kaleidoscopic range of exciting news from all corners of the American book community. As you are all aware, we also have sixteen international affiliates who join us in our love of books, and it is with this affiliation in mind that we decided to include a feature written by someone from across the pond this time around. Simon Beattie, whom many of you might know personally, is a bookseller based in Chesham, UK who began the 'protest' against AbeBooks' decision to no longer support booksellers from certain countries. He kindly agreed to share his take on events here, and I hope you, our readers, will walk away from this issue feeling more confident than ever in the international book community's strength, which is so important to us all.

Annie Rowlenson and Scott Ellwood

2019 FABS STUDY TOUR RETURNS TO ST. LOUIS

October 23rd-27th, 2019

It is hard to believe that it has been well over a decade since members of FABS were "meeting in St. Louis". At that time participants unanimously said the tour could have been much longer to see even more of the bibliographic treasures at the heart of the country, some of the first and oldest west of the Mississippi. The 2019 Study Tour, timed to coincide with a beau-

tiful Midwestern autumn, will be that chance to visit varied and extraordinary rare book collections not often seen, from a day trip to the University of Missouri's Ellis Library in Columbia to a festive Halloween trip along the fabled river bluffs to Principia College, with its striking Bernard Maybeck architecture. Here are some of the details at this writing:

Wednesday, October 23. Please plan to arrive by the afternoon to be in time for an opening reception hosted by John Hoover, Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, and President of the Bixby Book Club, at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel, our weekend tour base where you will be staying. John will be giving some overview remarks on St. Louis book history and collectors, with a bow to William K. Bixby, one of the city's greatest book and art collectors of the past.

Thursday, October 24. In the morning we will visit The Richardson Library at the Saint Louis Art Museum in the newly restored and refurbished grand Cass Gilbert museum building, home of great Western American art of George Caleb Bingham, Charles Wimar, Oscar Berninghaus, and modern painters like Prendergast and Beckman. We will have a chance to see rare books, archives, paintings and great drawings associated with St. Louis' legendary history and development on the frontier in this magnificent surviving edifice from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904. Our tour will then cross Forest Park, one of the largest Frederick Law Olmsted parks in America, from the museum to neighbouring Washington University, to see Washington University Special Collections, newly remodeled with magnificent exhibition spaces, and to meet fellow collector James Schiele, who will show to the group the Schiele Collection of Freedom (prints, art and rare books). Jim Schiele will host our group for lunch at Washington University's Whittemore House, a distinguished St. Louis landmark. In the afternoon, FABS tour guests will visit The St. Louis Mercantile Library Association for a tour of the sprawling exhibition "Headlines of History: Historic Newspapers through the Centuries at the Mercantile Library," a curator-led tour of the art archives, and dinner at this historic and venerable Library hosted by the Bixby Book Club. The Mercantile Library is truly a national treasure; it has collected dramatically in all subjects for nearly 175 years but is especially known for Americana, including deep river history and folklore, railroadiana, and art collections. It was the first Library west of the Mississippi, but also one of the first historical societies, museums, theaters and lecture halls for a burgeoning frontier metropolis.

Friday, October 25. This will be a packed day. We will board a luxury tour bus early in the morning for a pleasant drive across the beautiful Missouri countryside following the Missouri River valley to Columbia, where we will visit the Museum of Art and Archaeology's international print and illustration

collections followed by a tour of the Special Collections Department in Ellis Library at the University of Missouri. These visits are paired to call attention to the early interest by University leaders and scholars in classical studies, around which the rare book collections were built vigorously in the early twentieth century. The University of Missouri land grant campus, with its iconic freestanding Ionic columns and other distinguished buildings, is an impressive sight, but also a very civilized, relaxed and welcoming campus. After lunch we will move on to the State Historical Society of Missouri where we will view two comprehensive collections of the artists most associated with Missouri, Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham. From there we go on to a buffet dinner at Columbia Books, hosted by long-time bookseller in the Missouri heartland, Annette Kolling-Buckley, who maintains a speciality in children's books and regional Americana, printing history and art.

Saturday, October 26. The day starts with our FABS traditional Symposium at the St. Louis Mercantile Library, related to its ongoing historic newspaper exhibition, "Headlines of History," which has been acclaimed internationally. The Mercantile holds one of the largest newspaper collections in the central United States, developed comprehensively since its beginnings. The subject for our symposium is "From Cartoons to Campaigns in Print: Collecting Politics on Paper." After lunch at the Mercantile we will board our tour bus for a splendid drive along the scenic Mississippi river palisades to Principia College, above the charming little Chautauqua town of Elsa, Illinois. We will have a walking tour of the college's fabulous Bernard Maybeck architecture and view rare books and archives of art in the Principia College Library, all high above the Mississippi River Valley with breathtaking views stretching endlessly to the West. A festive autumn dinner at historic Pere Marquette Lodge nestled between the Mississippi, the Missouri and the Illinois rivers will conclude the evening.

Sunday, October 27. Anthony Garnett is the dean of rare booksellers in St. Louis and indeed for Missouri and most of Illinois and he will host our FABS Tour Group at his house (and book shop) for a Farewell Brunch before our travelers catch their flights homeward. Anthony is one of the leading booksellers of modern British fine printing, and his stock is very strong in British literature, poetry and art history as well.

St. Louis is one of the oldest and truly historic cities in the central states; it is an historical crossroads to everywhere, and there is much to see and do, with many surprises planned along the way for our bibliophiles.

Registration is \$550.00. Please download the form on the FABS website and send with a check made out to the St. Louis Mercantile Library to John N. Hoover, Director, St. Louis Mercantile Library, University of Missouri-

St. Louis, One University Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63121; 314-516-7245; jhoover@umsl.edu.

Hotel Information: We have secured a block of rooms at the St. Louis Frontenac Hilton at 1335 S. Lindbergh Blvd.; Frontenac, MO 63131 at a rate of \$144 per night. The location is in the heart of the metropolitan area and within walking distance to numerous restaurants and high-end retail shopping. It is close to Clayton and Ladue dining districts; and a cab ride puts visitors in reach of the famed Italian cuisine of St. Louis' Hill district as well as downtown St. Louis' famous Mobil (Forbes) Four Star Tony's Restaurant. For individual reservations, call 314-993-1100 or 1-800-325-7800 and reference Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. Reservation hours are Monday-Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-4pm. For your convenience, you may also book online at www.stlouisfrontenac.hilton.com, and use the Group Code "FELLOW" for the special rate. All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than Wed. October 2, 2019.

The window for hotel reservations will be October 23, 2018 through October 2, 2019. For more information please contact John Hoover at the Mercantile Library, 314-516-7245; jhoover@umsl.edu.

The 2019 FABS Study Tour is limited to 50 persons so please make your tour reservations early.



MEMBER CLUBS

The Aldus Society, Columbus, OH
The Ampersand Club, Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN
The Baltimore Bibliophiles, Baltimore, MD
The John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI
The Baxter Society, Portland, ME
The Bixby Club, St. Louis, MO
The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA
Book Hunters Club of Houston, Houston, TX
The Caxton Club, Chicago, IL
The Colophon Club, San Francisco, CA
The Delaware Bibliophiles, Wilmington, DE
The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI
The Ephemera Society of America, NY
Florida Bibliophile Society, St. Petersburg, FL
The No. 44 Society, Urbana-Champaign, IL
The Grolier Club, New York, NY
The Himes & Duniway Society, Portland, OR
The Manuscript Society
Miniature Book Society
The Movable Book Society
Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society, Northern Ohio
The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia, PA
The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, OH
The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Sacramento Book Collectors Club, Sacramento, CA
The Book Club of Texas, Dallas, TX
The Ticknor Society, Boston, MA
Washington Rare Book Group, Washington, DC
Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA
The Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, CA

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Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona
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Société Royale des Bibliophiles et Iconophiles de Belgique, Brussels
International Federation of Ex-libris Societies, Newville, Pennsylvania
Moscow Club of Bibliophiles, Moscow
National Union of Bibliophiles, Moscow
(formerly *Organization of Russian Bibliophiles*)
The Society of Bibliophiles in Capetown
The St. Petersburg Society of Bibliophiles
Les Amis Du Livre Contemporain, Paris
Private Libraries Association, Pinner, Middlesex
Maxmilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart
Book and Graphics Section attached to the Russian
Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg
The Dublin Odde Volume Sette, Dublin, Ireland
Pirckheimer-Gesellschaft e.V.

For member club websites, please visit <http://www.fabsocieties.org/members.html>

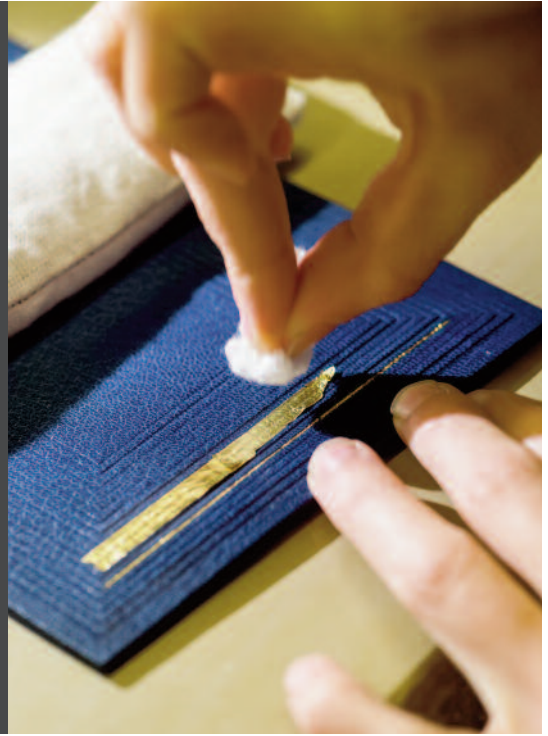
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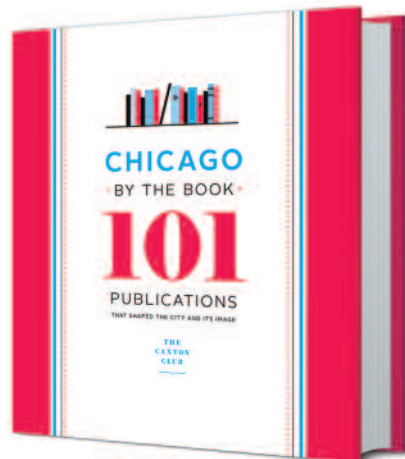
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THE CAXTON CLUB

NEWLY RELEASED



**“Don’t hit the streets of Chicago . . .
without this book.”**

(From Illinois: A Descriptive and Historical Guide, 1939)

THE LOVE OF BOOKS UNITES US

By Simon Beattie

THE ILAB listserv is usually a pretty quiet place. Every day my fellow affiliates of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers might post catalogue announcements, advertise forthcoming book fairs, or send out details of books they are looking for. Rarely is there any response to the whole list, and it's a largely uncontroversial space. But it is a convenient means of immediately contacting booksellers around the world and has frequently proved its worth when endeavouring to track down a stolen book, for example, or perhaps when a bookseller needs sight of an obscure bibliography or an old auction catalogue.

On Monday October 22nd, 2018, a message arrived in my inbox from Jan and Ondrej Schick of Antikvariát Valentinská in Prague. The Thursday before, they had received an e-mail from AbeBooks, the leading online marketplace for old and second-hand books (acquired by Amazon in 2008): "Effective November 30, 2018, AbeBooks will no longer support sellers located in certain countries. Your business is located in one of the affected countries and your AbeBooks seller account will be closed on November 30, 2018. We apologize for this inconvenience." The high-handed, impersonal tone of the message called to mind the Vogons' announcement to the people of Earth at the beginning of Douglas Adams's *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*: "... regrettably your planet is one of those scheduled for demolition. The process will take slightly less than two of your Earth minutes. Thank you." The Schicks have 20,000 books listed on AbeBooks and, as they explained, rely on the website to pay for around five employees. The announcement was to have serious consequences for the Schicks' business, and their staff. And not just them: AbeBooks was to close down the accounts of all booksellers in the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Russia, and South Korea.

The following day, Tuesday, October 23rd, another e-mail arrived, this time from Sally Burdon, of Asia Bookroom in Canberra, Australia, and current ILAB President. She had already contacted AbeBooks about their intended closure of accounts in those five countries, only to be told that "in very general terms, the context of this are the rising compliance costs to do business globally" but that AbeBooks would work with affected booksellers to try and find a solution. The ILAB listserv once again fell silent.

Just over a week later, on Wednesday 31 October, another e-mail was sent out, this time from Camilla Szymanowska, Secretary of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association in London. She wrote: "The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association is proud to be part of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, which represents the booksellers of 36 countries. Following a successful partnership with AbeBooks for our 2018 summer fair, we were saddened to learn that from November 30th 2018, AbeBooks will no longer support ILAB booksellers in certain countries, with a significant negative impact on the businesses of our friends and colleagues. Our mission is to champion the highest standards of rare bookselling across the world, irrespective of location. Sadly we feel that AbeBooks is not a suitable fair sponsor for us at this time and so have decided not to renew our sponsorship agreement for the 2019 *Firsts* book fair. We hope very much that AbeBooks will find a solution to accommodate all ILAB booksellers. *Amor librorum nos unit*" (or "the love of books unites us," the ILAB motto). I wrote to Camilla later that afternoon: "It's good to see we're taking a stand. I wonder, should we all put our books on vacation, in protest? I'm tempted to . . . but then would that make any difference?"

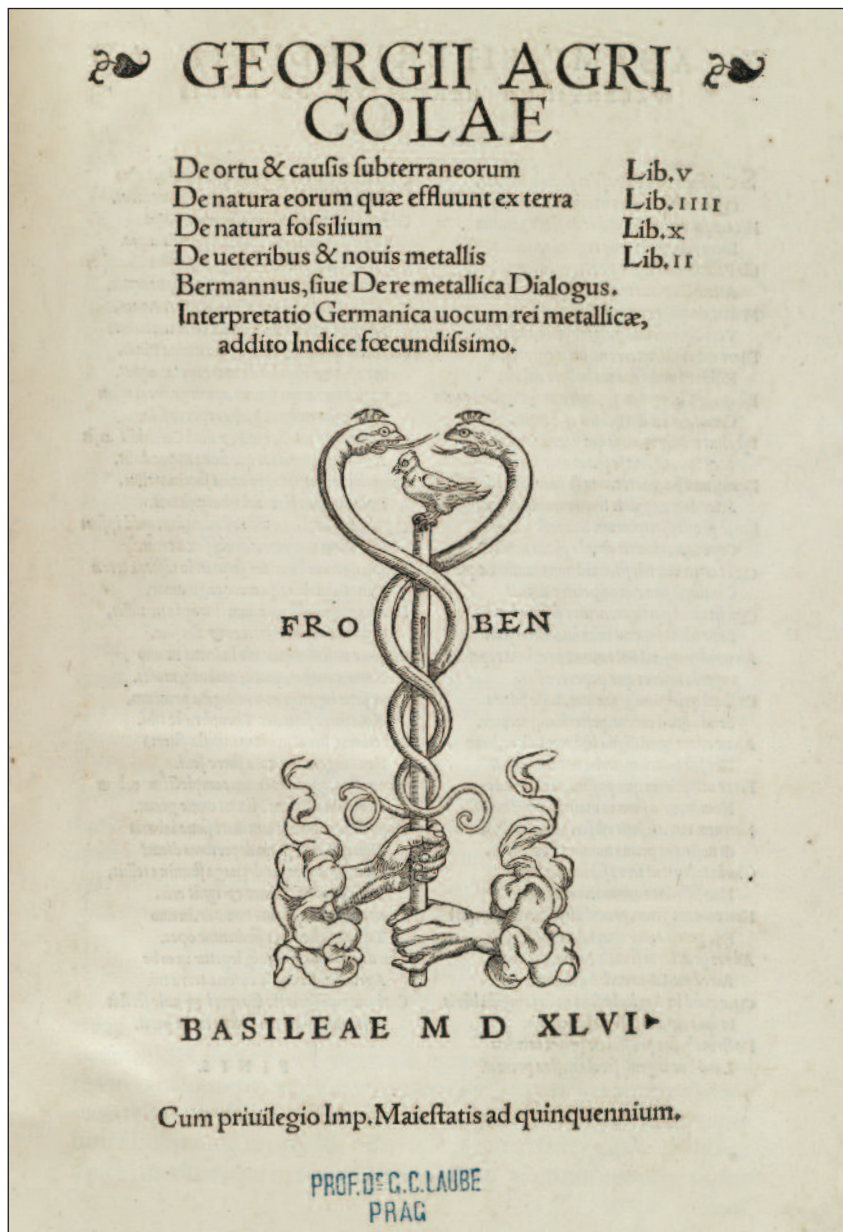
To explain: AbeBooks offers booksellers the option of putting their books "on vacation," so that if you are away, and can't respond to an order promptly, a customer isn't left waiting for her book. I made the suggestion to my good friend and colleague, Justin Croft, who liked the idea. We asked Camilla if anyone had suggested taken any action, but apparently no one had, and so I sent the following message to the ILAB listserv, on November 1st:

Dear colleagues,

I have decided to put my books on (permanent) vacation on ABE, in solidarity with fellow booksellers in the Czech Republic, Hungary, South Korea, and Russia. If you list your books on ABE . . . I hope you might like to follow suit. We are all affiliates of ILAB; the love of books should unite us. If nothing else, perhaps we, and ILAB, can get some publicity out of such a boycott to draw wider public attention to ABE's actions.

*Kind regards,
Simon Beattie*

The first response was from Rub Rulon-Miller, in St Paul, MN ("I am happy to stand with you"), shortly followed by Keith Fletcher in the UK ("Good on you, Simon! Were I still with ABE I'd be doing the same"), and



Georg Agricola, *De ortu & causis subterraneorum* Lib. V, Basel, 1546, bound with his *De mensuris & ponderibus Romanorum atque Graecorum* Lib. V, Basel, 1550. Estimate \$6,000 to \$9,000.

Early Printed, Medical, Scientific & Travel Books
March 7

Tobias Abeloff • tabeloff@swanngalleries.com

Laurent Coulet in France (“C’est une excellente idée. Je fais la même chose immédiatement”). And so it went on. More and more booksellers began to follow suit and take their books off AbeBooks by putting them “on vacation.” John Windle in San Francisco summed up his thoughts later that day: “Although the ABAA has no affiliation with or sponsorship from AbeBooks I have decided to support Simon Beattie, Laurent Coulet and like-minded booksellers in ILAB in the action stated above. If the American trade were to pull out in significant numbers it might add to the impact of the actions of English and European dealers. In putting my books on vacation, I added a very brief note that I was protesting their discriminatory practices against colleagues in certain countries and that discrimination against one is discrimination (soon or later) against all.”

Over the next 24 hours more and more booksellers, from all round the world, joined the movement and put their books on vacation. The Friday was the ABA Chelsea book fair, and lots of booksellers there spoke to me about it, even if it was to complain that their phones were constantly buzzing as further e-mails came through via the ILAB listserv from booksellers announcing their participation in the action. When I got home from the fair in the evening there were additional messages from the music dealer Ádám Bószé in Budapest (‘As the president of the Association of Hungary’s Antiquarian Booksellers I would like to express my greatest respect for your step putting your books on vacation at Abebooks’) and another from Sally Burdon, reporting that she had a meeting scheduled with AbeBooks to discuss the issue on the coming Wednesday.

So far the action, whilst international, and unprecedented, had been entirely “in house”: the only people who knew about it were fellow booksellers. This was soon to change. On the evening of Sunday November 4th, *The New York Times* ran a story entitled “Booksellers Protest Amazon Site’s Move to Drop Stores From Certain Countries” in which it reported that “more than 450 antiquarian book dealers in at least 26 countries” had “pulled their books off an Amazon subsidiary . . . an impromptu protest after the site abruptly said it would drop all sellers from several nations.” The news, as they say, had broke, and other pieces followed in *The Boston Globe*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Deseret News*. All of them focused on the fact that AbeBooks is owned by Amazon. *The Guardian* on November 6th wrote that “a spokesperson for AbeBooks said that it had notified ‘some sellers’ that it would be unable to support them after 30 November ‘because our third-party payment service provider is closing at the end of the year’” but, as ABA

president Angus O'Neill commented, "their parent company, Amazon, still seems to manage somehow."

By Wednesday November 7th, the day of the meeting between AbeBooks and ILAB, more than 550 booksellers had taken part, removing over 3.5 million books from the site. That afternoon I received a call from Sky News. Would I be available to come on their live lunchtime news programme, to talk about the protest? They'd like to do the interview tomorrow. While I was on the phone to them discussing the details of my five minutes of fame, an e-mail came through from Sally: "It is with great pleasure I report to you that the booksellers in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia and South Korea will be able to continue to trade on AbeBooks into the future if they wish to. They will not be cut off this month nor in the future." AbeBooks had been full of contrition; it had been a "bad decision," and they were keen to make amends. I could go on television the following day with the wonderful news that our campaign had succeeded.

More e-mails flooded my inbox, this time cheering at the wonderful results of our historic international action. The movement was unprecedented, not only in its result—the *New York Times* reporter e-mailed me offering "congratulations on instigating the biggest strike ever again Amazon, and having it be successful so quickly"—but in showing how energised my fellow ILAB booksellers could be when something they really cared about was at stake. The love of books really had united us.

I'd like to leave you with the e-mail from Prague sent round the listserv on Wednesday 7 November, as I think it sums up what, for me, the boycott highlighted so effectively:

Dear Colleagues

You have achieved something we have only dreamed of: you have demonstrated that virtues like selfless solidarity and support have a value beyond the interests and decisions of a company however large it may be.

*With utmost gratitude
Jan and Ondrej Schick*

CLUB NEWS

The Aldus Society

This winter and spring of 2019, we have a wonderful line-up of speakers. Unlike in other years, the speakers and bibliophiles are all local Columbusites.

In the depths of winter and snow, on January 10, we kick off the season with our annual “Aldus Collects” program. This year we have five presenters from our society. Tony Clark will speak about purging or “un-collecting”. Tony Sanfillipo, Editor of the OSU Press, will discuss his collection of books produced by the Whitman Company of Racine Wisconsin. Miriam Kahn will bring her “Collecting 101” column to life by talking about books that describe books. Craig Speece will talk about collecting, while Margo Thacker speaks about her books about death, pandemics, and the body farm. It’s bound to be an exciting program, moderated, as always, by our own George Cowmeadow Bauman.

February 14th brings local historian and interpreter Phil Stitcher, a native of Toledo, military officer, and lawyer, will speak about his Abraham Lincoln collection. He promises to talk about his collections and the life and times of Lincoln, whose last appearance in Columbus was April 29, 1865. Phil is a new member of the Aldus Society so we are looking forward to learning more about his collecting addiction.

March 14th is our annual Ravneberg Lecture. OSU Professor Eric Johnson will speak about the Albrecht Library of Historical Architecture Collection. These collections are new to the university and document the field from the beginning of printing through Frank Lloyd Wright: an amazing opportunity to see manuscript leaves and images of buildings. Eric promises us some up-close views of “significant treasures.”

In April, on the 11th of the month, we will celebrate Thurber. Aldus Member Jay Hoster will speak about his extensive collection of Thurberiana, Thurber’s two biographers Burton Bernstein and Harrison Kinney and, of course, Thurber’s own writings in the Columbus Dispatch and the New Yorker. It promises to spark interest in reading more of the humorist’s writings.

May 2nd, our last formal program for the spring season, will be given by Linda Mizejewski, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. Her topic, “Hardboiled and High-Heeled: The Woman Detective in Popular Culture,” delves deeply into women investiga-

tors in contemporary genre fiction. Linda reads serious as well as not-so-serious fiction and loves a good mystery on a cold and rainy day.

Our spring season ends in June with a Sunday potluck picnic at the Thurber House. Attendees bring their favorite dishes to share with fellow members as we toast the coming summer and a chance to delve into more books and acquire a few more tomes for our collections and reading pleasure.

If you are traveling through Ohio, stop in at an Aldus Society Meeting as we schmooze about books, collections, printed treasures, book hunting adventures, and much more. A glass of wine, a nibble of cheese, and some cookies are a great way to inaugurate each meeting. Join us for laughter, learning, and books, of course.

For recaps of previous programs and fascinating stories about members' collections and collecting interests, check out the Aldus Society Newsletter, published in January, May, and September. Back issues are available on our website.

The Aldus Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month from September through May at the Thurber House in Columbus Ohio. Come early and enjoy refreshments and delicious cookies baked by our members. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Miriam Kahn
Aldus Society Newsletter Editor

The Baltimore Bibliophiles

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Young collectors: we all had to start somewhere.

Art Cheslock, an established collector, traces his collecting roots.

Jackson Gilman-Forlini presents "My Baltimore Collection."

Moderated by Nancy Magnuson.

Fazzini's Taverna, Timonium, Maryland, 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 23, 2019

Marion Elizabeth Rodgers on "H. L. Mencken: The American Iconoclast."

Johns Hopkins Club, Eisenhower Room, 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 22, 2019

So many books, so little time.

Wine & Cheese. Talk showcasing rarities at Kelmscott Books.

Kelmscott Books, 34 W. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218, 2:00-4:00 pm

Saturday, July 27, 2019

Rebecca Romney, bookseller and rare book expert, on her book *Printer's Error*.

Johns Hopkins Club, North Lounge (Nobel Room), 2:00-4:00 pm

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Cheryl Thurber, "Sunday School literature as related to history of the book."

Johns Hopkins Club, Eisenhower Room, 6:00 pm

October, 2019

"Field Trip", details forthcoming.

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

Kristopher Zgorski, "WhodunIt? What is the blogosphere and what does it mean for the mystery enthusiast?"

Johns Hopkins Club, Eisenhower Room, 6:00 pm

For further information, please check the Baltimore Bibliophiles website and Facebook page.

Binnie Syril Braunstein
Program Chair
bsbgc@aol.com

The Book Club of California

Mallette Dean, Johnny Jenkins, and the California Gold Rush figured prominently in the Fall programs of the Book Club of California in both Northern and Southern California. The BCC released its 237th book, *Mallette Dean, a Printmaker and His Art*, with publication parties in San Francisco and Los Angeles. John Hawk, the author and head librarian of Special Collections & University Archives at the University of San Francisco, gave illuminating talks on the prolific artist and letterpress printer.

The 2nd annual Kenneth Karmiole Endowed Lecture on the History of the Book Trade in California and the West was given by Michael Vinson. In *A Rare Book Rogue in Texas: The Crimes and Misdemeanors of Johnny Jenkins*, Vinson discusses Jenkins' career as one of the premier antiquarian book-sellers in America. He was known for many things: for his bibliographies; for catching mafia thieves; for his passion for high-stakes poker games in Las Vegas; and for his darker side, including the arsons of his business and the many forgeries that passed through his hands.

Gary Kurutz, Executive Director of the California State Library Founda-

tion, gave the inaugural Paul Robertson Endowed Lecture on the History, Art, and Literature of California. His interesting talk on prints of the California Gold Rush was wonderfully illustrated with a wide variety of images that provided a glimpse in to how the country and the world viewed the period. The images presented were informative, sometimes humorous, and were enlivened by Gary's encyclopedic knowledge of his subject.

A full calendar of programs and exhibitions are planned for 2019. BCC will co-host two programs with the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco: Michael Suarez's "Printing Abolition: How the Fight to Abolish the Slave Trade in Britain was Won," and "Dooby Lane," with iconic poet Gary Snyder and photographer Peter Goin. Other Northern California programs include topics such as the histories of murals in San Francisco's Mission District, the menu as a literary document, the cocktails of San Francisco, the M&H Foundry, and slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Programs in Southern California are held once a month on the second Wednesday at the Women's City Club of Pasadena and will include "Knott's Preserved: From Boysenberry to Theme Park," "Yosemite People," and early neon illumination in Los Angeles.

The Club also eagerly anticipates the launch of their 238th book, *A Shimmer of Joy*, by award winning author Chris Loker. It will be celebrated with publication parties in Northern and Southern California and a special exhibition.

The public is welcome at all programs. Membership in the century old club is open to all and benefits include discounts on publications, members-only events, and a subscription to the club's letterpress printed *Quarterly* and occasional ephemera and keepsakes.

Sharon Gee
Programs Committee Chair

The Caxton Club

On October 17th the Caxton Club celebrated the publication of *Chicago by the Book: 101 Publications That Shaped the City and Its Image*. More than 50 of the 87 contributing authors were present for a gala that included an address by cultural historian Neil Harris, whose introduction to the book focuses on the process by which the club's eight-member Publications Committee narrowed the vast list of possible selections to a workable number over the course of three years.

Chicago by the Book profiles 101 landmark publications about Chicago

from the past 171 years that have helped define the city and its image. Each title is the focus of an illustrated essay by a leading scholar, writer, or bibliophile, including Ira Berkow, Thomas Dyja, Ann Durkin Keating, Alex Kotlowitz, Don Krummel, Toni Preckwinkle, Frank Rich, Don Share, Carl Smith, Regina Taylor, Garry Wills, and William Julius Wilson, among others. Covering a wide range of disciplines, the featured titles include works by Gwendolyn Brooks, Sandra Cisneros, Clarence Darrow, Erik Larson, David Mamet, Carl Sandburg, Louis Sullivan, Studs Terkel, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and more.

Published by the University of Chicago Press, *Chicago by the Book* is hardcover, profusely illustrated in full-color, and sells for \$35. The book has prompted an exhibition at the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries at the Art Institute of Chicago (opening January 16), as well as programs at the Chicago History Museum (January 15), American Writers Museum (January 30), Arts Club of Chicago (February 5), University Club (March 6), and Cliff Dwellers Club (April 11), among others.

For the lunch meetings on Friday afternoon, much is in store. After winter luncheons about bare-knuckled urban planning in Chicago and a celebration of Frankenstein's 200th anniversary, thoughts will turn to spring. The Caxton Club's luncheon schedule this spring includes two speakers who will be stepping out from behind the television cameras to deliver live presentations. In March WTTW producer, writer, and reporter Paris Schutz, regularly seen on *Chicago Tonight*, will be talking about books that inform Chicago politics and that helped to shape his own view of the city's unique brand of politics. In June, Dave Revsine, who is featured on The Big Ten Network, will be talking about *The Opening Kickoff*, his book about the early days of college football, when the most powerful elevens included Princeton, Harvard, Yale, and the University of Chicago, and when a kicker from down under was on top. In May, Matthew Short, of Northern Illinois University, will be talking about dime novels (an early guilty pleasure, corrupting influence, and affordable reading entertainment), plus NIU's joint project with Villanova University to digitize them. The Caxton luncheons continue to strive to offer solid scholarship with a healthy leavening of humor and fun!

The Caxton Club Dinner program, following the gala launch of our new book in October, featured in November Michele Cloonan on her book *The Monumental Challenge of Preservation*. The dinner also awarded \$10,000 in grants to Midwest book-arts scholars, bringing the total Caxton Club award to \$90,000 since 2002. Our December "Revels" was all lightness and frolic with jazz, magic and a small fundraiser auction, but the turn of a new calendar year circles our dinner programs back to scholarly themes. The January program features Monique Lallier and her artistic book bindings. Feb-

ruary finds the Club off to the Newberry to explore their new Melville exhibit with a lecture by Will Hansen. The March dinner will feature John Crichton on Anton Roman, bookseller and publisher of the American West. April brings Eric White and a history of the Gutenberg Bible followed in May by Lynne Thomas of the University of Illinois Rare Books and Manuscripts Library. The Caxton Club year will conclude on June 19 with the installation of new officers and a program by Bruce Kennett on book designer W. A. Dwiggins. The dinner, falling on the anniversary of Dwiggins's birth, June 19, 1880, will include a recognition of our outgoing officers and the installation of our new leadership. This will conclude a vibrant Caxton Club year to be followed by a summer rest.

Jackie Vossler and Douglas Fitzgerald

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The Book Club of Detroit

July 15th marked Book Club of Detroit's 2nd annual Detroit Festival of the Book held in Shed 5 and Shed 6 in Eastern Market. Over 10,000 attendees and book lovers participated. There were over 100 book dealers and over 150 tables. Self-published authors had a separate section. This has become Michigan's largest book event since its inception last year. Special thanks go to organizers Ryan Place and Lauren Rautiola, who recently wed on November 15, 2018.

On August 25, 2018, BCD had a show-and-tell event generously hosted by Jerald and Marilyn Mitchell. Jerald presented original wood block engravings by Andreas Vesalius. Several members brought antique pop-up books. Janis Grant brought a photo from the 3rd American Poetry Congress held at Hotel Astor in 1936. Janis is seeking more information in identifying the poets. Maurice Barie brought in a bridge and backgammon guest book from 1926 through 1930 with seating arrangements for Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and royalty. Ryan Place bought in items related to Pfeiffer Brewing Company.

On September 8, 2018, Vice President Brian French of the French Paper Company located in Niles, Michigan spoke about the company's 150th celebration. The French Paper Company is best known for the popular product, Speckletone, used on many famous posters. This event was sponsored by American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA).

On September 29, 2018, BCD presented Inside the World of Authors and Editors, Famous and Not So Famous. editor Wendy Warren Keebler related working with authors signed with major academic and trade publishing houses, including Simon & Schuster / Pocket Books, Oxford University Press, Prentice-Hall, Little, Brown & Company and others. She has also written for Crain's Detroit Business and Automotive News. Publishing consultant Alice Nigoghosian related experiences working with Sculptor Marshall Fredericks, Robert Traver, Kurt Vonnegut, Otis Smith, Robert Morgenthau III, and others.

Book Club of Detroit's 61st annual meeting was held December 8, 2018 at St. John Armenian church in Southfield, Michigan. We conducted our annual business meeting, including the selection of three people to our Board of Directors. After the meeting thirty-one of us enjoyed dinner, followed by a presentation by the club's President, Frank Castronova. Frank spoke about his collection of American Reform Jewish Prayer books. His presentation began with the origin of Reform Judaism in Germany, and introduced us to the mid-19th-century prayer books of Rabbis Leon Merzbacher, Samuel Adler, David Einhorn, Benjamin Szold, Marcus Jastrow,

and Isaac Mayer Wise. Frank also covered the evolution of the American Reform movement's liturgical publications beginning with the Union Prayer Book from 1892 and concluding with the 21st century Mishkan T'filah and Mishkan HaNefesh.

Maurice Barie

The Ephemera Society

The late September 2018 mid-year meeting of the Ephemera Society of America was a wonderful opportunity to delve deeply into the special collections of Austin, Texas. We started off Thursday, September 27, at the LBJ Library and Museum, where Nikki Diller, the curator of the exhibition *Get in the Game: The Fight for Equality in American Sports* took us on a personal tour with back stories of how all the materials were gathered. The Black Fives Foundation, led by incoming ESA, board member Claude Johnson, is a lender. We then visited the Archives to see some unique holdings, such as the White House Diaries, and to listen to recordings of President Johnson's telephone conversations, such as when he consulted with Roy Wilkins about the best timing for signing the 1964 Civil Rights Bill. Thursday afternoon we visited the Stark Center for Physical Culture at the University of Texas. There director Dr. Jan Todd shared a selection of her favorite items, including ephemera from the 1936 Berlin Olympics and promotional materials for the legendary strongman Eugene Sandow. Our first day concluded at SouthPop, which supports and documents the exceptional Austin music scene. With director Lea Michling as our guide, we immersed ourselves in their fantastic collection of promotional graphics and, perhaps, live music.

Friday, September 28, we visited two renowned University of Texas institutions: the Dolph Briscoe Center of American History and the Harry Ransom Center. During the morning at the Briscoe, we focused on Texan, Southern, and American History and looked forward to Margaret Schlankey, head of reference services, showing us Stephan Austin's Diary, Plantation Records, Natchez Trace BroadSides, Confederate music, the work of 19th Century Texan lithographers, Texas poster art, and other fascinating holdings. In the afternoon, at the Ransom Center, Rick Watson, head of reference and research services, coordinated our visit. Among the unique objects the institution holds includes material from the Sunrise Turn bookstore collection, Helmut Gernsheim's photographic collection, annotated scripts and director's notes from the film and theatre collections, Norman Bel Geddes design archives, and Thomas Nast's original art. We closed our

day with Kevin MacDonnell sharing his amazing assembled books and ephemera by and about Mark Twain. He has the largest private collection of such treasures.

This spring please consider attending the Ephemera Society of America's annual conference and show at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich, Connecticut from March 15-17, 2019. The title of the conference is: *Coming to America: The Immigrant Experience*.

Eight distinguished speakers will give talks profusely illustrated by ephemera on such diverse subjects as immigration to Ybor City, Florida, a prominent cigar manufacturing center, advertising posters promoting immigration, the photographs of Lewis Hine depicting Ellis Island refugees, and Mormon immigration from Europe.

Dr. Margaret Salazar-Porzio, a curator at The Smithsonian's Natural Museum of American History, will give her talk, "Ephemera Across Borders: How Latin Immigration Has Evolved in the Late 20th Century." Two speakers will show ephemera relating to the Chinese immigration experience. One will focus on the Chinese Exclusion Act and the other on the historical, stereotypical depiction of the Chinese laundryman. In addition, over eighty prominent dealers from across the nation and from foreign countries will offer a mind-boggling assortment of ephemera from several centuries at what is generally acknowledged to be the finest ephemera fair in North America.

The Florida Bibliophile Society

The Florida Bibliophile Society began this season in September 2018 by honoring one of its founding members, Lee J. Harrer, for thirty-five years of service to the society. Together, Lee Harrer and Michael Slicker, another founding member, helped set up the first Florida Antiquarian Book Fair in the Tampa Bay area in 1981. The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair has since become the third largest book fair in the nation, and the Florida Bibliophile Society has run the hospitality table at the book fair for who knows how long. Now, as of the cut-off date for this writing (December 2018), the Florida Bibliophile Society wants to put the Tampa Bay area on the map in the book world. It is looking into hosting a FABS Tour to the Tampa Bay area in April 2020!

Although the warm April weather (high in the low 80s) will be a teaser, the big draw for the FABS Tour will be the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair taking place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, April 24-26, 2020. FABS mem-

bers who take the tour will have free entry into the book fair to browse and buy the books of over 100 booksellers!

The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair and the warm weather—not to mention “Spring Break”—aren’t the only attractions Tampa Bay will have to offer. Florida Bibliophile Society members will be visiting these other attractions in January and February of 2019 and selecting the attractions they believe FABS members will enjoy visiting during their FABS Tour to the Tampa Bay area in April 2020.

The Tampa Bay History Center, with the Touchton Map Library containing 500 years of maps, will be a must see, as well as the Tampa Book Arts Studio with its letterpress printing, and the Lee J. Harrer Collection of Books About Books. FBS members recently enjoyed viewing an exhibit of artifacts, manuscripts and books at Special Collections, University of South Florida, and taking a guided tour through the USF Special Collections stacks. I would have to resign as President of the Florida Bibliophile Society if I omitted USF Special Collections from the tour.

FBS members will also be looking at the art books at the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, and the art and circus books at the Ringling Brothers Museum in Sarasota. While in Sarasota they will also check out the Chinese and Japanese scrolls at the Elling Eide Center. I would not be surprised if they found the time to visit A. Parker’s Books and Brant’s Used Books in Sarasota, too. Meanwhile, in Tampa, FBS members will be visiting the studio of Master Printmaker John Costin and poring over his prints of Florida birds.

Besides choosing attractions for FABS members to visit in April 2020, the Florida Bibliophile Society will be choosing a hotel for FABS members, arranging for transportation, and selecting banquet sites if the chosen hotel does not have banquet/meeting rooms. Last but not least, we will either have tours to several private libraries, or have one or two FBS members display and discuss their collections at a short seminar. We will then arrange the tour on paper from start to finish and tally up how much it will cost each FABS member to enjoy the warm weather, the book fair and everything else the tour will have to offer. Finally, in March 2019, we will submit our suggestion to the FABS Board: that the Florida Bibliophile Society host a FABS Tour to the Tampa Bay area in April 2020.

Jerry Morris

The Grolier Club

During 2018, the public spaces—essentially the entire ground floor—of the Grolier Club were completely renovated to create a welcoming venue for all. On December 14th the exhibition hall gained state-of-the-art standards for lighting, sound, and ambient control within the beautiful new space, where the inaugural exhibition *French Book Arts: Manuscripts, Books, Bindings, Prints, and Documents, 12th–21st Century* opened to the public. Not coincidentally, 2018 marked the Grolier Club's second century at its present location. On view through February 2nd 2019, the exhibition contained approximately 90 works encompassing almost a thousand years drawn entirely from the Grolier Club's collections. The objects on display ranged from a magnificent 12th-century manuscript of Gregory the Great's commentary on Job to recent artists' books and designer bookbindings. Other highlights included manuscript and printed illuminated Books of Hours, early printed books, bindings from seven centuries, a letter from Jefferson to his Parisian bookseller, portrait prints, commemorative medals, and documents. The Grolier Club's patron saint, Jean Grolier, the "Prince of Bibliophiles," was honored with five of his books and three documents. The reopening of the exhibition hall and its exhibition continued the Grolier Club's dedication to offering free access to exhibitions and programs that celebrate the art and history of the book and related materials.

The second exhibition, from February 19th to April 27th of 2019 in the new hall, is a major retrospective titled *Alphabet Magic: Gudrun & Hermann Zapf and the World They Designed*. The exhibition draws mainly on two collections: The Melbert B. Cary Jr. Graphic Arts Collection at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the private collection of Jerry Kelly, a friend and colleague of the Zapfs for 35 years. Jerry Kelly, Grolier Club member and book designer, is preparing a book that will be the definitive reference to the work of the Zapfs.

Following the exhibition about the Zapfs, from May 14th until July 27th the exhibition *Poet of the Body: New York's Walt Whitman* will be in the new hall to commemorate Whitman's 200th birthday on May 31, 2019. The exhibition will be drawn from institutional and private collections and includes rare books, manuscripts, and artifacts, many never before exhibited.

The members' gallery on the Grolier Club's second floor hosted from November 8 to January 5, 2019 the exhibition *A.J.A. Symons: a Bibliomane, his Books and his Clubs*. From January 16 to February 23, the gallery hosted *Two American Poets: Wallace Stevens and William Carlos Williams*. The accompanying catalogue is photographically illustrated and with essays by biographer Paul Mariani, poets Paul Muldoon and Daniel Halpern, and

collector Alan Klein. Later, from March 5th to May 18th, the exhibition *History of the Book as an Object in Small Format* will be on display. Spanning 4,500 years, on view will be 275 miniature examples of cuneiform tablets and other antiquities, medieval manuscripts, early printed books, and contemporary artists' books and design bindings representing a variety of artistic styles. Generally, visitors to the Grolier Club may view exhibitions in the members' gallery.

The Grolier Club, along with other institutions and organizations in New York, hosted visitors for events during Bibliography Week 2019, January 22nd through 26th.

This opportunity is taken to mention that the *Transactions* and the *Gazette of The Grolier Club* can be found on line at the following web address: <https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/Grolier01>

Ronald K. Smeltzer

Himes & Duniway Society

There is no lack of events for the members of the Himes & Duniway Society, and 2019 proved to be no exception.

The second half of the year brought three wonderful events. We started with our annual garden party at the home of Brian and Gwyneth Booth. Members were treated with the traditional fare of chipped beef on toast. The presentation for the evening was given by the new director of the Special Collections Department at the University of Oregon. David De Lorenzo has spent his professional career with the book most recently at the Bancroft Library at the Cal Berkeley. David took our members on a tour of the life and education of a special collection librarian.

October featured a Night of Deception at the library of Loren and Ethel Lynn Pankratz. Sharing books on mysticism, hypnosis, cons and con men, fake books and magic, Loren mesmerized our members with the breadth of the library. As with any library, each book had a story. Loren picked a handful of books and shared their stories. It is difficult to illustrate this library as there were so many choices. The books by David P. Abbott disclosing the mysteries of magic caught your reporter's attention. The classic *Spirit Portrait Mystery* is representative of Abbot's work and is a fun read that can be found on the internet.

Shawna Gandy, the head librarian of the Oregon Historical Society, hosted our White Elephant Book Exchange Luncheon in December. Shawna took our members on a survey of the work of the library at the Historical

Society. The membership was left wanting to spend the rest of the day in the collections.

Our members plan for The White Elephant. Members are on a lookout for that special book to share. Some of the special books this year included *How to Increase Your IQ by Eating Gifted Children*, the Japanese translation of *The Art of the Deal*, *On Nebraska*, *The Idiot's Guide to Dating*, and the *Cynic's Guide to Revised Wisdom*.

Let us know if you are going to be in Oregon (info@himesduniway.org). Information about our Society and its events can be found on our website.

Scott Howard

The Book Hunters Club of Houston

The Book Hunters met in December at Sylvia's Mexican restaurant to celebrate the Holidays and to honor two members who had passed away in 2018: ABAA bookseller Oscar Graham and librarian Sims McCutchan. Member Bill Allison surprised us all with a keepsake pamphlet, "A Visit to Paisano," reprinting with additions bookseller Bertram Rota's account of a visit with J. Frank Dobie, "The Night of the Armadillos."

Oscar Graham had been a fixture in the Houston rare book trade for four decades. He ran the rare book department at Detering Book Gallery for over thirty years. He then opened his own store, Graham Book Gallery, after Detering closed in 2007. Oscar's son, Dale, attended the luncheon. Dale worked for his Dad since he was a teenager. ABAA bookseller Kevin Mac Donnell of Austin was also present. He'd known Oscar since they both began their rare book careers in the early 1970s. Kevin recounted several humorous and moving stories about Oscar for the group.

Sims McCutchan was a prominent Houston area librarian. He served as head librarian of a Houston Public Library branch location and later was a Regional Manager before retiring in 2003. Sims was involved in all things bookish. He was a passionate collector of local history and served for many years on the Book Fair board of the Houston Printing Museum. Sims was also a very active member of the Book Hunters attending events regularly. I ran into him an extraordinary number of times at book fairs locally and nationally. The last communication I had from Sims was an enthusiastic email shortly before his sudden passing asking me when the next Book Hunters gathering was to take place.

2019 Book Hunters Club events include a tour of Kurt and Nicole Zimmerman's new home and library in February. Kurt moved all 7,000 volumes

himself and is in the best shape of his life. He would never do it again, however. Also on the schedule is a visit to the Powell Library at Bayou Bend, notable for its strong collection of decorative arts, design, material culture and art.

Kurt Zimmerman
President

The Manuscript Society

Around the world in 80 days would be an exaggeration, but The Manuscript Society does get around. Fun, travel, adventure would be an applicable motto, but the best description is a society of post-graduate students of history as documented in manuscripts and books in interesting buildings, under the care of welcoming archivists.

When you read this there should be time to register for the 2019 Annual Meeting in Boston April 24th through April 27th. On the MS website is a schedule and registration. Day one starts at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, with its four million books, manuscripts, and ephemera; our half day will be a teaser. Filling the day will be a visit to the International Museum of World War II, Ken Rendell's unique collection of artifacts large, small, civilian, and military, forming an evocative panorama of those seven years. It will be followed by dinner at The Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

Days two and three will find us at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Harvard's Houghton Library, The Boston Athenæum, and the Boston Public Library. As usual, we will see outstanding manuscripts by giants such as the John and John Q. Adams, Paul Revere, and Thomas Jefferson. We hope many readers of FABS will be interested in attending.

Speaking of John Adams, in November, eighteen Manuscript Society members met him in the Amsterdam City Archives during a tour of the Netherlands set up by Dr. Alfred Lemmon. Letters of Adams soliciting loans from the Dutch to support the United States were on display, as well as many manuscripts related to the Dutch enterprises around the world. Our seven-day tour visited ten venues in five cities. Art and manuscripts of all ages abounded, but those of the Dutch "Golden Age" (i.e. the seventeenth century) stole the show. Vermeer and Hals were on display and, in a "friendship book" dated 1614, was an amazing autograph of Galileo accompanied by a sketch of Jupiter and its moons. In Utrecht the Museum of the Catharijne Convent is a beautiful setting for art (Rembrandt et al) and incredible church artifacts (sculpture, reliquaries, chalices, etc.). The week, filled with culture,

had interludes of beautiful scenery, interesting people, and delicious meals at Michelin-starred restaurants.

The new David R. Chesnutt Editor of our journal *Manuscripts* will be Bradley D. Cook, Curator of Photographs at the Library of Indiana University. Michael Dabrishus took over the editorship four years ago after David Chesnutt's death, and continued the legacy of a top-notch quarterly journal presenting rare, unique, and historically significant documents and letters. The current issue of *Manuscripts* contains an article by James Leonardo on David Bradford and the Whiskey Rebellion and one on collecting autographs of "First Ladies" by Francis J. Murray, as well as the regular column of book reviews by William Butts. The journal and our quarterly *News* are cogent reasons to join the Manuscript Society even if you stay at home and don't join us in our travels!

Miniature Book Society

The miniature book world is all abuzz with the publication in the United Kingdom of Simon Garfield's newest book, *In Miniature: How Small Things Illuminate the World*. The book does not just deal with miniature books but about all things miniature. Garfield takes to task how the world is forever changed by seeing itself in miniature. He starts with one of the most iconic tall structures in the world, the Eiffel Tower: "Visitors were shocked to find that the tallest structure on earth had suddenly shrunk the world around it." This new sense of awareness and seeing began to popularize the idea of making miniature replicas of the world. That, of course, included books. Garfield admits that books in the diminutive size have been around for more than 4,500 years. The first being the small pocket-sized clay cuneiforms of the Sumerians of Mesopotamia that recorded everything from lists of chickens to notes of a personal nature, sent from person to person or king to king.

However, with the industrial revolution and cheap printing presses, anyone could own a miniature book, and the publishing companies exploded in the old and new world. Most, but not all, of this publishing was of a religious nature. As the nineteenth century moved into the twentieth century there would be a slow change from the religious to the secular.

But back to Garfield's new book on miniatures: Garfield describes the popularization of doll's house after Queen Mary's Doll's House was so deftly constructed. Then entire villages and hamlets were cast from the full size to the Lilliputian, much to the delight of the inhabitants and to the giants viewing the narrow replica streets and minuscule shops that were oh so familiar.

Near the end of the book, Garfield finally hits Miniature Book Society gold with an entire chapter of the book entitled, “The Miniature Book Society’s Exciting Annual Convention.” He begins by describing his encounter with ultra-collector, Dr. Arno Gschwendtner of Switzerland. Gschwendtner was attending the annual convention of the MBS in 2017 in Oakland, California. He always brings some of the most rare and impossible to find miniature book treasures from around the world. Garfield was particularly enthralled with one particular book which Gschwendtner claimed was the smallest book in the world. And at .07 x .07 mm, Garfield compared the twenty-two-page book as indistinguishable from a “speck of dirt.”

He continues to describe the battle over the past several decades to create the smallest objects in the world: in our case, that would be the smallest book. Garfield, like many non-microbibliophiles, is fascinated by the concept of defining the smallest of something. He goes on to record the race to the bottom as the world of miniature books shrank dramatically with the digital age, electron microscopes and smarter one-up-manship computer geniuses.

Garfield finally leaves the world of the infinitesimal and returns to the most artistic designs as such world-renowned artists as Dorothy and Susan Yule. Of some of Dorothy Yule’s miniature masterpieces, Garfield wrote the following: “Yule’s work in particular made me re-evaluate the worth of the miniature book: rather than just a reduced version of a standard text, the best of them had a quality that honoured the skill of the typesetter, printer, and binder, and transported the reader to precious realms.” It was exciting to see a non-miniature book enthusiast or collector “get it.” Those of us who do collect and treasure our finds are always thrilled to see the kind of book that Garfield saw in Dorothy Yule’s creations. And we are likewise surprised to find a non-collector who understands the search for not just diminutive books from works of art.

Garfield concludes his tour of the MBS’s Oakland Conclave with a delightful interview with Caroline Brandt. Brandt is a 90-year-old member who has attended every one of the 36 conclaves. She is also a founding member of the society. Brandt describes to Garfield her early interest in miniature books and the path that led to her ultimately donating over 15,000 tiny tomes to The University of Virginia Library.

Garfield’s book is currently available in Europe and the UK through Canongate Books, Ltd. It will be available in the United States in March, 2019.

Rick Hill

Movable Book Society

The Movable Book Society's 25th anniversary and biennial conference in Kansas City, MO (September 27th-29th) brought a host of new members from around the world, including attendees from Indonesia, The Philippines, Germany and The Netherlands. It had the most attendees ever—108—and the record-breaking silent auction brought in substantial funds earmarked for scholarships to attend future conferences.

It was announced that Ann Montanaro Staples, founder and president, would be stepping down from her position and the Board. Ann stressed she would remain an active member. In appreciation of Ann's tireless efforts, she was presented with a binder filled with handwritten notes, emails, and unique pop-ups made especially for Ann. Stepping into her shoes is Shawn Sheehy, book artist, MBS Board member, and the conference's program director. Shawn will remain program director for the next conference in 2020, whose location is yet to be selected.

To celebrate the MBS' 25th anniversary, a pop-up book was published: *A to Z: Marvels of Paper Engineering*. This limited edition is made up of a pop-up card for each letter of the alphabet designed by 26 paper artists from around the world. The individual cards are housed in a linen covered box designed by MBS Board member and paper engineer Isabel Uria, with a pop-up by the renowned paper engineer, Bruce Foster. Also included is a brochure giving the history of the Society and remarks by the originator of the *A to Z* concept, Larry Seidman. *A to Z* is available on the Society's website: <http://movablebooksociety.org/product/atoz/>.

At the beginning of the conference, word spread of the sudden death of legendary paper engineer, Roger Culbertson. Roger's cutting-edge pop-ups laid the groundwork for many others to enter the field. As is traditional, the conference banquet ended with the presentation of awards: the 2018 Meggendorfer Prize for a trade pop-up book of the last two years, awarded to Simon Arizpe of New York for *Zahnak: Legend of the Serpent King*; the Meggendorfer Prize for an artist book, awarded to Colette Fu of Philadelphia for *Tao Hua Yuan Ji*; and the Meggendorfer Prize for an emerging artist, awarded to Vanessa Yusuf of Indonesia for *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, Diversity in Unity.

A roundup of the entire conference written by Ellen G. K. Rubin may be found on her website: <http://www.popuplady.com/mbs15-kansas.shtml>

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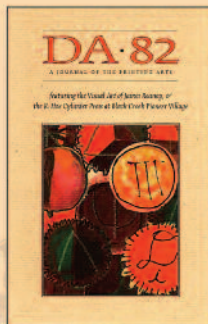
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The Philobiblon Club

The Philobiblon Club continues to meet monthly at the Franklin Inn Club in Philadelphia and has a steady membership of about 140 members. During Fall 2018, we had three meetings and we continued our theme of examining new collectors and new institutional collecting areas. In October, Mark Dimunation, the Chief of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress, gave a talk titled “To Each Generation its Own: Building and Reimagining the Nation’s Rare Book Collection.” He examined the evolution of the Library of Congress’ collecting approaches over the last two decades of his oversight. In November, Sibylla Benatova, Preservation Assistant at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, spoke on her personal collection of 5,000 children’s books published in Bulgaria from the 1940s to the present, describing her collecting strategies, favorite booksellers, and the changes in the publications from the Cold War to the post-communist era. She also updated the club on the “A Book a Day” program co-funded by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries and Bindlestiff Books. This initiative donates newly published children’s books to the community of West Philadelphia. In December, the club had its annual presentation meeting, where members bring and speak on items from their personal collections. In the spring our speakers will be: Heather O’Donnell (Honey & Wax), Zoe Abrams (Zoe Abrams Rare Books), David McKnight (University of Pennsylvania), Jessica Kuronen (Left Bank Books), and Brian Cassidy (bookseller).

The Rowfant Club

As you read this article, the Rowfant Club is well into its active season. We meet three times per week: Wednesdays with non-member speakers, Fridays with member speakers, and Saturday, for a general discussion, all in pursuit of our Club’s mission: the study of books in their various capacities to please the mind of man.

Friday talks by members have ranged from “Reading Montaigne’s Ceiling: His Commonplace,” “Savarin’s Book on Food,” “Cherry-Garrard and Antarctic,” “All You Need to Know About The Revolutionary War In Twenty-Five Minutes,” and “Gerald and Sarah Murphy.”

Our Wednesday series have brought us presentations concerning the noted Cleveland architect, Charles Schweinfurth, a talk on crisis communication, a presentation by the Curator of Asian art at the Cleveland Museum on Art on collecting Chinese art, and a presentation on Buckminster “Bucky” Fuller by one of his former partners. In upcoming weeks we have sessions scheduled with Mark Samuels Lasner, host of the very fine 2018 FABS book

tour and a noted collector of Victorian era literature, as well as Jennifer Larson, Professor of Classics, Modern and Classical Studies at Kent State University, a regular attendee of the FABS book tours.

Our First Saturday Program, directed by Rowfant President, Thomas Slavin, has arranged for a visit by Tom Lamb, Business Development Director of the Books and Manuscripts Department at Bonhams in New York. Mr. Lamb has arranged over 300 auctions which generated over \$400 million in gross revenues for consignors. He is one of the best-known bookmen in the US. His experience of where value lies in books and gracious manner make him an ideal Rowfant speaker.

On December 2nd our librarian, David Novak, will host our Fall Library Tour. The subjects of this event are colophons and book plates, which are affixed to texts to display pride of ownership or, in the case of colophons, to educate the reader into the manufacture of the volume at hand. Both give the reader deeper insight into a particular volume.

Rowfant has established a new program, Student Grants for Book Related Projects. Projects must relate to bibliophilic endeavors, such as library or other bibliographic studies, cultural studies related to printed materials, book arts (traditional or innovative), book preservation, digital book scholarship, and the history of the book. Each year there will be up to two recipients, each of whom will receive a \$3000 award. Award winners for the 2018 grants will be announced on December 3rd, 2018. Applicants must be students enrolled in an accredited institution in northeast Ohio. For more information please email us at lrs@ameritech.net.

We are always interested in arranging for speakers from our sister clubs, so, if you have an burning topic and wish to enlighten us with dynamic rhetoric, please contact Terry Shockey at shockey.terry@gmail.com or Eric Kisch, Chair of Rowfant's Arrangements Committee, kischmir917@wowway.com. We would love to hear from you.

Terry Shockey

The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco

September 18, 2018: Stephen Zovickian on "Chaucer's *The Clerk's Tale*: Has the Illustrated Book Done It Justice?"

October 19-21, 2018: The Roxburghe/Zamorano Joint Meeting in San Francisco.

November 13, 2018: Claudia Funke on "First Books: The Huntington's Incunabula."

December 18, 2018: Traditional Printers' Gala.

January 15, 2019: Christine Lowenstein on "The Collection from Hell: How Challenges in Acquiring the Works of Dante Alighieri Created a Collection, a Catalogue, and a Market."

February 19, 2019: Michael Peich on "If I Liked the Poems, I Printed Them: Thirty-Five Years at Aralia Press (1983-2017)."

March 19, 2019: David Levy on "A Century and a Quarter of Hoyle."

April 16, 2019: Meghan Constantinou on "The Private Library of Madame la duchesse de La Vallière (1713-1797)."

May 21, 2019: Robert Bothamley on "Vance Gerry, A Glimpse into a Private Life."

Stephen Zovickian
Master of the Press

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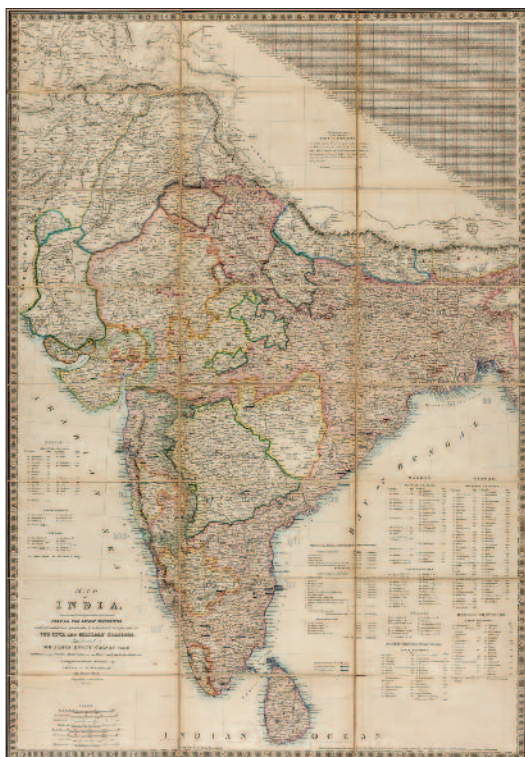


Orville Wright - *Wilbur Wright*

[WRIGHT BROTHERS], Photograph signed "Orville Wright" / "Wilbur Wright", taken for Collier's Weekly, showing Orville Wright making the first one-hour flight at Fort Myer, Virginia, 9 September 1908.
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Washington Rare Book Group

The Washington Rare Book Group (WRBG) holds monthly events for members around the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. Every year the Executive Board works hard to be creative, finding new collections willing to open their doors to our growing enthusiastic and learned community. In addition to holding our own events, we act as a conduit of information in the rare book world, connecting our members to rare book events in the region.

With the approval of our membership we are pleased to announce the WRBG Rare Book School (RBS) scholarship will make its debut in 2019! Administered by RBS, applicants from the Washington DC Metro area are welcome to apply. The scholarship will offer tuition to one RBS class per year and the recipient will be asked to discuss their experience with the WRBG community. More information is available on the RBS website.

Our monthly meetings have continued at full speed! September began with a tour of the exhibition, *Form & Function: The Genius of The Book*, at the Folger Shakespeare Library. On September 28th and 29th the WRBG sponsored a table at the Washington Antiquarian Book Fair. On October 17th we held our annual gathering at the Dibner Library at the National Museum of American History for Collectors' Night, where several of our members displayed books from their personal collections. And before our holiday break we'll go to the National Library of Medicine for a tour of their rare collections.

Details of events, membership, and information about the group are available on our website at www.washingtonrarebookgroup.org. We welcome bibliophiles from Washington, DC and surrounding areas to become members of the Washington Rare Book Group—students, collectors, dealers, and librarians are all welcome, as is anyone with an interest in the world of rare books.

Book Club of Washington

The Book Club of Washington (BCW) is in our 37th year since founding. We continue to provide great events and community interactions for our members who reside in the Pacific Northwest. We host many events and publish two *Journal* issues each year.

We entered 2019 with good results from our yearly fundraising event, the Holiday Dinner and Silent Auction. The 2018 event had a large atten-

dance and many interesting auction items that were bid on by the attendees. We had a pianist playing excellent music, wonderful food, and an enjoyable evening with our bibliophile friends and their families. The events of 2019 will be a blend of many activities that interest our bibliophile members. There will be visits to Seattle Public Library and to University of Washington Libraries to review special items in their collections. We will have regular gatherings we call “Biblio Stone Soup” where attendees bring a favorite item of a specific subject to share with the others. We will visit Port Townsend, on the northeast corner of the Olympic Peninsula to spend time with various book dealers, a printer, and have a tour of the notable Copper Canyon Press, a publisher of poetry books. We have our Annual Meeting with a keynote speaker and we regularly visit a member’s home to review their book collection. Much more will occur throughout the year including participation at the Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair in the fall. Details of all events can be found at the Book Club of Washington website, www.bookclubofwashington.org.

This year we will continue with our award programs. In the spring we present the Robert D. Monroe Award to a student of Publishing and Printing Arts at Pacific Lutheran University. We fund and support collegiate book collecting awards, working with the Collins Memorial Library at University of Puget Sound. And our yearly Emory Award will be presented this fall. This award goes to a Washingtonian who has made an extraordinary contribution to the culture of the book. Previous award winners can be reviewed on our website.

The Book Club of Washington Journal is published twice a year, in Spring and Fall. Each issue, published by our Editor, David Wertheimer, contains articles by members and others in the Northwest, with a broad variety of subjects. For example, the Spring issue will contain contributions by several librarian members who attended different Rare Book School courses in 2018 and report on what was gained. There will be other articles published as well.

Details of events, activities, and publications of the BCW can be found on our website, www.bookclubofwashington.org. We welcome bibliophiles from any geography to become members of the Book Club of Washington: collectors, dealers, librarians, and all who enjoy books. FABS members are very welcome to participate in our events when you are in the Seattle area. Contact us at our email address, info@bookclubofwashington.org.

Claudia Skelton

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



2019 BOOK FAIR CALENDAR

California International Antiquarian Book Fair

February 8-10, 2019

Oakland Marriott City Center

cabookfair.com

New York International Antiquarian Book Fair

March 7-10, 2019

Park Avenue Armory

nybookfair.com

Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair

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The Zamorano Club

Several notable events have occurred in the active 2018 life of the Zamorano Club. First, on May 27th, 2018, members were treated to a visit to the Mt. Wilson Observatory, courtesy of Jeff Weber and docent Shelley Bonus. Despite the proximity of the Mt. Wilson site to Los Angeles (easily visible to everyone in the city), it is not an easy trip. Access is only by a narrow two-lane cliff-hugging highway which rises some 4,000 feet above the valley floor. It's an exciting trip under any circumstances.

Then, from October 19th through October 21st, some two dozen Zamorano members trekked to San Francisco for the biannual Roxburgh-Zamorano gathering. Roxburghers always provide an exciting itinerary for these meetings. This year, those who gathered viewed several remarkable book collections, including the MFK Fisher collection of Randy Tarpey-Schwed, the culinary library of Ben Kinmont, and the Lewis Carroll collection of Sandor and Mark Burstein. The group also toured the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts. As always, there was abundant conversation and fellowship at both group dinners and privately-hosted dinners. At the Saturday night banquet, traditional keepsakes prepared by both clubs were distributed.

This particular joint meeting was also notable in that it marked the 90th anniversary of both the Roxburgh and Zamorano Clubs. Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales provided a detailed retrospective of the Zamorano Club in the August issue of the club's publication, *Hoja Volante*. To mark the occasion, the club will publish this fall a new volume of essays, *Zamorano Celebrates 90: Honoring the Contributions of Women to Books and Book Collecting in Southern California*. Important California women highlighted include Agnes Dawson, Carrie Estelle Doheny, Alice Millard, Lillian Marks, Mayme Clayton, and Peggy Christian. A publication party will take place at the traditional Gaudeamus meeting of the club, December 5th. This volume, as well as the volume of essays by Monsignor Francis J. Weber, *Essays of an Old Country Priest*, published last year, can be obtained by contacting the club or its publications manager, Jean Gillingwaters at jgwaters@aol.com. Also marking the anniversary, the club made available to its members, scarves, bow ties, and silver pins, all featuring the distinctive "Z" logo of the club.

The fall season of meetings began in October with "Indiana Roots of the Grabhorn Press," a discussion by David A. Grabhorn of the famous Grabhorn legacy. The November meeting featured James R. Phillips speaking on "Robinson Jeffers & Five California Master Printers"; and the December "Gaudeamus" meeting was an unveiling by the club's Publications Committee of the new club volume honoring Women in Southern California Book Collecting.

Publications, honors, etc.: Lynda Claassen, director of UCSD Special Col-

lections, was featured in an *LA Times* article for her work on the digitization of 170 hours of conversations with Jonas Salk, whose papers are in the UCSD library. Dr. Bill Lomax donated over 5,000 volumes of his collection of pulp science fiction magazines to Azusa Pacific University Special Collections. Jim Tranquada was elected to the board of the Historical Society of Southern California; Jim is noted for his book, *The Ukulele: A History*. Victoria Dailey contributed a chapter on LA booksellers for *Paperback LA: A Casual Anthology*. Gary Kurutz received the Hubert Howe Bancroft Award in June for his distinguished service to research and preservation of source materials in California history. Kitty Maryatt spoke at the 2018 Reva and David Logan Symposium on artists' books.

Finally, this last summer, two more of the club's noted members died: Michael Thompson, a key Los Angeles bookseller and a contributor of many important volumes to the William Andrews Clark Library, and Stephen A. Kanter, a neurosurgeon and erudite bibliophile as well as a very active participant in Southern California history, music, arts, theater, and museum activities. Stephen subsidized lecture series and styled himself, with typical self-deprecatory humor, as a "non-profit meddler" in the arts. We will deeply miss both these gentleman-bibliophiles and friends.

Dr. William Lomax

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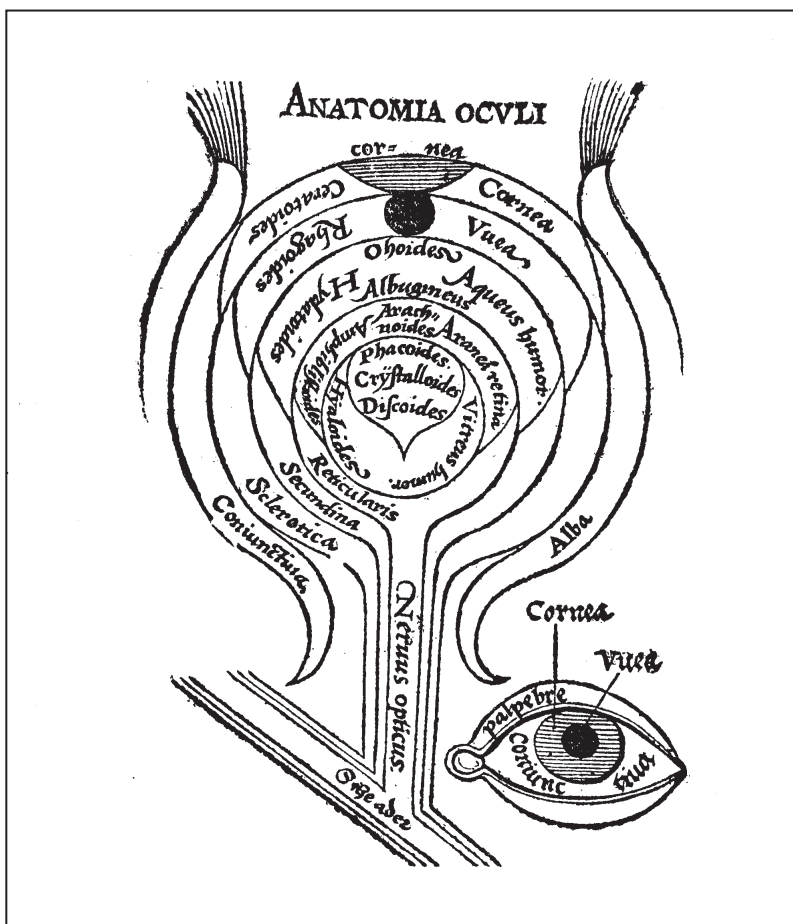
SOME MANUSCRIPTS WE HAVE HANDLED OVER THE YEARS

• **George Washington**: 47 war-dated letters to General Alexander McDougall including the only known report by him at the time of the Battle of Trenton in private care. • **Washington**: A letter moving troops 36 hours before the Battle of Princeton. • **Washington**: Two manuscript surveys done before the age of 20. • A complete set of autographs of **The Signers** of The Declaration of Independence. • **Button Gwinnett**: The best document example of this rare autograph; and another Gwinnett document individually. • **William Henry Harrison**: Four different documents signed during his brief administration including the best available. • New President **John Tyler**'s letter of condolence to Harrison's widow. • **Robert E. Lee**: Three signed copies of his famous General Order Number Nine including the best available. • **T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson**'s bank book. • The **Lexington Alarm** message carried by the original rider through eastern Connecticut on 20 April 1775. • A **Battle of Concord** muster roll. • **Thomas Jefferson**: A letter predicting the Civil War. • The famous angry letter by **Harry S Truman** to the newspaper music critic. • **Lincoln**'s last letter, 14 April 1865. • A **Lincoln** order to "shoe Tad's horse." • A 1743 document in which **Lincoln** ancestors in Massachusetts acquire a slave. **Lincoln**'s copy of **Charles Sumner**'s speech on the origin of the Republican Party. • The early Confederate appointment of **John B. Jones**, the "Rebel War Clerk." • **Ponce de Leon**: 1511 letter, probably the earliest writing from the new world in private care. • An 18th century **slave ship log**. • A **Haym Solomon** check supporting his reputation for helping needy patriots. • **Henry Knox** to his wife on the day before crossing the Delaware to fight at Trenton, re-affirming his devotion to the cause. • **John Hancock**'s commission as Major General of Massachusetts militia. • A bill of lading covering cash sent by France in 1781 to aid the Revolution, receipted by **Hancock**. • **Anthony Wayne**'s last will and testament; likewise **Winfield Scott**'s. **James Madison**'s diary of his 1791 trip to New York State with Jefferson. • The earliest available Stephen F. Austin document, 1811. • **David Crockett** letter franked by him as a Member of Congress. • A letter by teenaged **John Wilkes Booth** closing with an exultant "Three Cheers for America!" • Fifty two letters by Confederate **General Stephen D. Ramsuer** who was killed in action. • Rare Commission of a Captain in the San Francisco vigilantes. • **Washington Irving**'s letter-book while U. S. Minister to Spain. • **George A. Custer**'s horse care manual. • War letters by **Robert E. Lee** and **J.E.B. Stuart**, intercepted by **Custer**'s men and kept by him. • Governor **George Clinton**'s appointment of the New York delegation to Congress, 1784. • **Benedict Arnold**'s orders from the Massachusetts Committee of Safety to take Ticonderoga. • Rare document signed by early rebel **Daniel Shays** – inventory of his property when bankrupt in 1803. • Well known **Alexander Hamilton** letter attempting to influence the 1800 election. • Washington aide Col. **Tench Tilghman**'s oath of allegiance to the United States. • **Josiah Bartlett**'s copy of fellow Signer **Benjamin Franklin**'s *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*. • Colonial diary by Boston Town Clerk **William Cooper**. • Two complete sets of autographs of **Signers of the Constitution**. • A number of important **Revolutionary orderly books**. • Eyewitness accounts of **Little Big Horn**, **Pickett's Charge**, the **Lincoln Assassination**, and other major events.

Most of these manuscripts are now in important private and institutional collections, but we have others.

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