

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

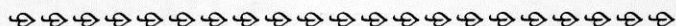
Volume 3, No. 1, Winter 1999

A MODEST— BUT NOT INDECENT— PROPOSAL FROM YOUR CHAIR

THIS newsletter is a wonderful forum for FABS members to share information. We welcome your articles, book reviews, and short essays. Don't be reluctant or shy—you're among friends here. And, you must admit, composing documents at the computer keyboard is becoming second-nature to many. Some even ascribe to the computer the reintroduction of the art of letter-writing. For others, however, applying pen to paper is still the mode of choice. However you and your muse collaborate best, we'd love to see the result. Your book reviews need not concern new books. Remember, many in your audience have a passion for reading *old* books.

With Best Wishes for the New Year,

ARTHUR CHESLOCK



THE SECOND FABS EXPEDITION IS ON ITS WAY TO MICHIGAN!

Headed by Sam Gatteño, the Expedition Committee has put together an itinerary not to be missed by FABS members looking for a stimulating weekend with book lovers from all over the U.S. The dates at present are for the long weekend beginning Thursday, May 20, 1999 and continuing until Sunday, May 23.

After a night at the St. Regis Hotel, the tour will begin on Friday with a visit to the Hatcher and Clements Libraries of the University of Michigan. Lunch will be served at the Gandy Dancer Restaurant. The afternoon will be spent at the Toledo Museum of Art, where the curator will give an overview of the Museum's book arts and rare book collections. Dinner will then be at Lelli's Italian Restaurant.

Saturday's schedule includes a tour of Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills, with a visit to the Art Museum and House and Gardens. Lunch will be held at the premises. The afternoon will be spent at the De-

troit Public Library, where an extensive collection will be on view for expedition members.

The late afternoon of Saturday will be hosted by the Book Club of Detroit, when a reception will be held at the Scarab Club. A Saturday night dinner gathering will be at the Whitney Restaurant.

Sunday's event is a symposium on a topic to be announced, but sure to be the liveliest moment of the weekend. Those FABS members who attended last year's tour not only saw great sights and books, but also developed lasting relationships with other members from other parts of our country; don't miss out on the chance to be on this one, and watch the mail for an update with further details

Thursday, May 20, 1999

- Arrive in Detroit, proceed to the St. Regis Hotel.
6:00–7:00 pm, cash bar.
- Informal Dutch Dinner for getting acquainted.

Friday, May 21

- Hatcher and Clements Libraries of the University of Michigan—The Rare Book Collections.
- Lunch at the *Gandy Dancer*, one of Ann Arbor's finest restaurants.
- The Toledo Museum of Art—A tour of the Book Arts Collections.
- Dinner at *Lelli's Italian Restaurant*.

Saturday, May 22

- Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills—Home of the Cranbrook Press.
- Lunch at *Booth House*, Cranbrook Academy.
- Detroit Public Library—The Burton Historical Collection, The National Automotive History Collection, and the Rare Books Collection.
- Scarab Club Reception, hosted by the Book Club of Detroit.
- Dinner at the *Whitney Restaurant*.

Sunday, May 23

- Symposium, Questions and Answers, Farewell.

FRONTISPIECE

An illustration facing the title-page of a book (or, occasionally, of a division or section of a book). In collating an illustrated book which has no list of illustrations but in which as often, the plates themselves are numbered in sequence, it should be remembered that the frontispiece is seldom included in such numeration.

THE BOOK CLUB OF TEXAS

A reception featuring Book Club of Texas founder Stanley Marcus at the DeGolyer Library on the campus of Southern Methodist University was one of two signing events held in the fall to celebrate the club's upcoming publication of Jack Jackson's *Shooting the Sun: Cartographic Results of Military Activities in Texas, 1689-1829*.

The second reception was hosted in Austin at the home of Helen Lea, where Jackson autographed signatures from his new book, scheduled for publication in February. In advance notices, the book has been described as "loaded with information either presented here for the first time or never before in this form."

At the Dallas event, Marcus regaled the thirty attendees with stories of the Book Club of Texas in the early years and of his love of books and book collecting. When Marcus founded the Book Club of Texas, there was no quality printer in the state, but the club provided the impetus for the rise of fine Texas printers.

The Dallas event also gave Book Club of Texas members and guests an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the exhibit "The Fur Trade in the American West" at the DeGolyer Library.

The Austin reception attracted about fifteen guests who enjoyed the hospitality of Helen Lea and a spectacular view of the city. Guests had a chance to visit with Jackson, who is the author and illustrator of several books, many related to the early history of Texas during the exploration period and the Spanish colonial era. He also explained the correlation between *Shooting the Sun* and his previous book *Flags Along the Coast*.

Shooting the Sun provides an in-depth study of Texas mapping from the time Europeans first set foot on the land until the issuance of Stephen F. Austin's first published map in 1830. Jackson ties the maps to the explorations and administrative activities that produced them and shows the progression of geographical knowledge over time.

Volume one of the book covers maps to the 1780s and Volume two carries the cartographic record of Texas up to 1830.

Designed and printed by David Holman at the Wind River Press in Austin, *Shooting the Sun* is limited to 325 copies printed offset on Superfine Paper. The two-volume set includes a slipcase with a color frontispiece and bound in decorated paper over boards with cloth spine. Cost will be \$375 to members and \$425 to non-members.

The Book Club of Texas and the Book Club of California are exploring a joint publishing venture for the year 2000 to celebrate the new millenium. "The diary of Cornelius C. Cox, as published shortly after turn of the twentieth century, is being examined for publication because of its significance to both Texas and California history," said Book Club of Texas President Robert Moore, M.D.

At the age of 12 Cox came to Texas shortly after the Battle of San Jacinto and lived with his oldest sister, who was

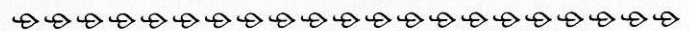
married to a veteran of the battle. Cox clerked in a Houston store and served in the Texas Navy. When he heard of the California Gold Rush in 1849 he left Texas for the West Coast with the intention of striking it rich in the gold fields.

Cox returned to Texas in 1855 little richer than when he left for California. His diary is a rich source of first-hand experiences in both Texas and California, Moore said.

Editor for the project will be Richard Dillon. The book will be illustrated by Charles Shaw.

Programs and Events

March 5—Book Club of Texas Board Meeting, 5 pm, Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, Texas, during the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association.



THE FONTANEDA SOCIETY

Programs and Events

All programs 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Main Branch of the Broward County Library, 100 South Andrews Avenue, 6th Floor, Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 18—The Internet and the Collector. Demonstrations by librarians James Findlay, Margaret Bing and local book-sellers.

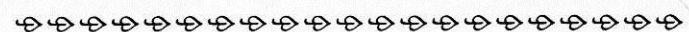
March 18—A visit to the shop of Joseph Rubinfine in West Palm Beach. Mr. Rubinfine specializes in American historical documents and autographs.

April 15—An Evening of "Show and Tell." Bring your latest acquisition or an old favorite.

May 20—Annual Meeting. Fort Lauderdale architect Donald Singer will speak about his Frank Lloyd Wright collection. On exhibit in the Bienes Center at the same time will be "Donald Singer, Architect: A Retrospective Exhibit."

On Sale: *The WPA: An Exhibition of Works Progress Administration (WPA) Literature and Art from the Collections of the Bienes Center for the Literary Arts: October 6-December 31, 1998*. The 88-page perfect-bound catalog with 99 b&w illustrations features over 1400 WPA items belonging to the Bienes Center, plus three unpublished Federal Writers' Project texts. \$15.00.

Rivers of America color poster. Issued in conjunction with the exhibit: "The Rivers of America: A Selected Exhibition of Books from the Collection of Carol Fitzgerald. The 26 x 20 inch poster features Robert Fink's art from the dustjacket to *The Everglades: River of Grass*. \$15.00.



LIFE, DEATH AND THE BIBLIOPHILIC URGE

Portentous titles, such as the above, frequently are signs of vast ruminations, somewhat vague and tenuous in theory and substantively of dubious consequence. One might say with Ko-Ko at his moment of decisive *dénouement* in *The Mikado*, "Is this a time for airy persiflage?" and yet. . . and yet . . . with the number of fall book sales and fairs in immediate perspective it behooves the avid bibliophile to take a moment to reflect on his/her passion, and no less the existing hoard, to determine where one's truest interests lie and if they should be maintained—airy persiflage indeed!

On a slightly different tack, a few years ago one of the polestars of the Ottawa antiquarian booktrade was expatiating on the difficulties of buying new stock. This was not so much as to the usual *cri de coeur* of how little was available, but on the misrepresentations of the would-be sellers. What prompted this statement had been a recent caller who used all the right words and phrases, along the lines of "a library acquired over many years" and "a collection of leather bound volumes," to entice the bookseller's visit. Our tale is not long; the bookseller went with expectations, only to have them dashed when all he found was an extensive collection of eminently unsaleable condensed Readers' Digests.

"Misrepresentations" may be too hard a term. It comes down to a sense of what one has and the distance between the perceptions and expectations of the seller and the buyer. Likely as not, in the above instance, the seller really did see the books as a library, forming a cohesive whole accumulated to satisfy certain needs. The bookseller had come with a different sense of what constitutes a library or a collection and a different value perspective. These two senses, these two perceptions, sadly enough, didn't coincide.

One could belabour this point (as "one" doubtless shall!) but, as in modern diplomacy, it comes down to a question of semantic niceties and usage. Had the prospective seller said "I have a lot of books which I want to dispose of" and not used the leading terms "library" and "collection" it is likely that any misunderstandings could have been avoided even though such descriptive tags were, in common parlance, correct.

The crux of the matter is one of definition and usage, and more specifically the definition and understanding of "accumulation" and "collection." In this instance *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* is only partially helpful since it suggests, *inter alia*, that the terms are synonymous. This may be so in the broader sense but a closer examination of the definitions suggest some subtly critical differences when applied to specific objects, such as books. "To accumulate" is quite simply to "heap up, gradually get increasing number or quantity of," whereas "to collect" refers to a more directed process: to "assemble, [and, yes] accumulate, bring or come together . . . obtain (*specimens, books, stamps, etc.*) for addition to others, esp. as a hobby" [editorial emphasis added].

It may well be that, as collectors, we all begin as accumulators and most certainly the spirit of acquisition motivates both. The difference, essentially, is one of evolution—not in any strict Darwinian interpretation, although we may allow some of that as well—in terms of the sense of purpose, the end view, which we ultimately apply to our activity.

Some people accumulate books much as squirrels accumulate nuts, as a kind of insulation for that prophetic rainy day. Clearly there is nothing wrong with this: the squirrels will need the nuts throughout the winter and rainy days abound. At the same time it is rather like reaching your desert island before you have had a chance to make up the 100 best books wish list! A little more time, cogitation and energy might just make that rainy day pass a tad more pleasantly, or for the biblio-Swiss Family Robinsons of this world, a little more purposefully.

The budding collector, unless much more calculating than we might opine, tends to gather books much as the accumulator. Condition, edition, state are all one, and cheapness and availability may mean more than these considerations. Enthusiasm and the thrill of the hunt outrun maturing consideration. It is this maturing process, presented herein as the bibliophilic urge, which gradually begins to mark off the collector from his more primordial accumulator ancestor.

The evolutionary process may have any number of causes rooted in crass reality—space may be a consideration, there may be a disinclination to clutter, the sheer cost of amassing—although the true dividing line really lives between the reckless and unregulated accumulating *per se* and the gradual dawn of a more purposeful collecting. The two states can co-exist of course, and frequently do to some degree. However, if any of the above considerations begin to intrude, sooner or later something has to give.

The evolutionary shift from accumulating to collecting builds both imperceptibly and perceptibly. Imperceptibly in the sense that suggestions are made by dealers, biblio-acquaintances, through reading on or about the subject, if not also more general reading on books and book collecting in general. Perceptibly as one begins to become more familiar with books as physical objects and the subject of the accumulation.

Greater definition of collecting purpose and higher standards as to what is acceptable carry their own burdens and pleasures. It is then that some of the accumulated dross of youth may be despatched with impunity, but only after careful scrutiny. It helps to put some of this down in writing, not so much because one tends to forget but simply as a statement of purpose to come back to from time to time. The fact is that collecting—of anything—is a slippery road and sometimes still the desire to simply acquire outstrips the available and pertinent material available.

Some collectors, with more iron in their souls than most, go beyond this and from the outset keep a running memorandum of their collectibles—what bought and where, the condition (when they become sensible of this as a necessary

RECTO

The front, or obverse, side of the leaf, i.e. the right-hand page of an open book or manuscript. (Oriental books open the other way, with the recto on the left.) Its complement is the *verso*.

attribute), the price and so forth. A useful tool and possibly an altruistic one too since it can help other aspiring collectors. More to the point it is clearly the first step to the formation of a true library. The degree of detail should always be governed by the purpose of the collection and, in most instances, it is not something first and foremost in the collector's mind as he assembles the collection.

Even if one doesn't have this mass of supportive documentation, some thought along these lines is helpful as one approaches a season of book sales and book fairs. Not that such precepts should be (even mentally) "writ in stone." No collector should be so hidebound or blinkered as to miss the item(s) related to his or her collection interest. One of the great pleasures of collecting is to be in a position to suddenly make that quantum leap between the known and the unknown, to create a connection where none was perceived before and to bring together seemingly unrelated materials into a cogent whole. That said, when surrounded and distracted by a biblio-overabundance, such as frequently happens at a book fair, it helps to have some guidelines.

Over time one's interests change, and we might well bear in mind young Edwin's defence from *Trial by Jury*. "And it's not in the range of belief,/To look upon him as a glutton,/Who, when he is tired of beef,/Determines to tackle the mutton." More classically, perhaps, one might quote Shakespeare in this instance, or rather Benedict's soliloquy from *Much Ado About Nothing*: "But doth not an appetite alter? A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age." Again it is a question of evolution, though this time as much of interest as of taste.

The collector should remain in touch with these changing/evolving interests and tastes, continuing constantly to define and refine these whether in written or mental fashion. The gluttony comes when the fields of interest become too unwieldy, too amorphous, to safely contain and one slips back into accumulation *pur et simple*. The danger is not so much one of mental overload, nor even of shelf overload, but of losing that fine edge which made the bibliophilic urge what it once was and the collection the "treasure beyond measure" it formerly represented.

The passing of a collecting interest takes many forms. In not a few instances it simply gathers dust on the collector's shelves because he/she is unable to admit that "mutton" has replaced "beef" and thinks a new set of china choppers will continue to allow the digestive juices to flow as in days of yore. This, in itself, may not be a bad thing, but it is a pity, and a wasteful one at that!

Some collectors cap their whilom collecting interest through some form of publication—whether strictly subject based, a final listing, or something more of an anecdotal nature—adding a personal contribution to what is now a flickering passion. Such publications often become eminently collectible in themselves, offering stray words of wisdom to other bretheren of the book as collectible.

Other complementary modes of happy biblio-despatch

may involve the disposal of the collection, whether to an institution or to a dealer. The first option suggests a degree of immortality, a worthy prize for the collector's efforts, though this could well be misplaced if the collection is dispersed within a larger collection and not listed or specifically identified. The latter option has the distinct advantage of benefiting the new generations of collectors rising phoenix-like from the ashes of the old. It can even cause the sole remembrance of an erstwhile collector through the provenance of a given item. "From the library of . . ." is, itself, the highest accolade to which the bibliophilic-urged may aspire!

In his essay "Charles Dickens" (*Decline of the English Murder and Other Essays*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1983), George Orwell discusses the Victorian *beau idéal* which suffuses the endings of the majority of Dickens' novels. As the camera pans off into the sunset the characters live an endlessly happy life, requiring little effort with no potential for development. Perhaps the above ruminations on book accumulating or book collecting seem equally simplistic and divorced from the realities of life. Yet, like any fictional representations of life in general, they only suggest a few of the possible patterns which may follow from mere accumulating of books to the development of a full-blown collection.

It does not follow that the ending, whether to collecting or to Dickens' novels, should necessarily be unhappy to be realistic. However, it *is* realistic to accept the element of change, of mutation, of evolution as a factor. Facile as it

may sound, that elevating element is clearly the bibliophilic urge and without that as a motivation we are little removed from Dickens' happy, effortless endings. Change abounds (as the stockbrokers are only too happy to remind us) and this

tiresome characteristic of modern life must also be somehow worked into our book acquisition habits. Modern life demands a constant learning experience and this carries obvious implications for our book collecting as well.

A collection of books is not simply a portfolio of stock to be changed with the shifting markets. Not that this hasn't been suggested and even tried with varying results. To be truly meaningful, however, the bibliophilic urge has to be allied not only with a continual biblio-learning experience but also with the courage of conviction of the true value of what is being collected. This triumvirate of bibliophilic urge, continual biblio-learning and conviction, whether from a purely bibliophilic or a staunchly subject motivation, changes the mere accumulation of books to a collection proper. Equally of value, it is this self same sense of conviction which makes the whole activity worthwhile! But again, none of this is final. Convictions may evolve and alter as much as the bibliophilic urge. (Perhaps, in this day and age of "chicken soup" self-help bestsellers there is a need for something as the care and nurturing of the inner gatherings [a.k.a., soul] of the bibliophilic-inclined!)

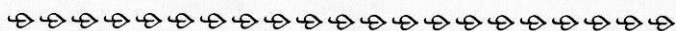
There can be no one answer, no simple solution to this

CRISP

Of the leaves of a book—brisk in texture, unpressed; of paper boards—unthumbed, not dulled with handling, having something of the original nap still upon them; of publishers cloth—fresh of fabric (even if faded in color), with the gilding bright, the blocking unsubdued, the edges and corners of the covers sharp.

question of the biblio-life. Just as there is no single set of "100 best books" for your desert island, there are no ten golden rules available to make your accumulation a collection. In the end your accumulation or collection is what you make of it . . . you and, of course, your personal bibliophilic-urge!

PETER GREIG



OTTAWA BOOK COLLECTORS

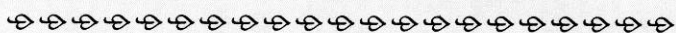
Programs and Events

March 1—"Collecting C.S. Lewis—A Brief Over-view." In addition to her first love (Louis Hemon), Audrey Campbell, OBC alumna, also collects C.S. Lewis; she will discuss his life and works using numerous examples from her collection.

April 12—"Canada's Capital Caught by the Camera." John Taylor, author of *Ottawa: An Illustrated History* (Lorimer, 1986), will discuss the various problems—technical and representational in nature—in sifting through nearly 10,000 photographs in various local archives and attics to select and incorporate the approximately 200 images used in the preparation of his work.

May 3—To Be Announced.

June 7—"Travel in the Canadian Rockies: Books, Pamphlets and Propaganda (Entrain now and pay later!). Was it really like that when you got there?" Liana Vander Bellen, OBC alumna, will delve into her collection of materials on the Canadian Rockies to expatiate on varying interpretations of the passing scenery. If this is not sufficient bibliorepast, there will also be the OBC annual meeting to contend with!

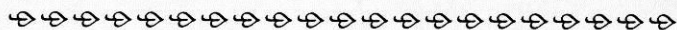


CAXTON CLUB OF CHICAGO

Programs and Events

Jan. 20—Dempsey Travis; "Chicago Jazz."

Feb. 17—Rose Marie Burwell "Hemingway's Last Novel: Things We Never Dreamed He Dreamed."



IMPORTANT NEWS

The Book Club of California will have a reception for FABS members attending the 1999 San Francisco Book Fair, February 12th 13th and 14: Refreshments and no speeches; Thursday, 5:00-7:00 pm, February 11, 1999, 312 Sutter Street, Room 510.

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY

Programs and Events

Feb. 21, at 1:30 pm—2nd Floor, Merl Kelce Library, University of Tampa (downtown Tampa) Speakers: FBS members Angelo Resciniti and Rick Ferriss; "How To Use the Internet To Search and Locate Books."

March 21, at 1:30 pm—Heritage Village, Largo, FL (as above) Speakers: FBS Past President Art Walker and Kirk Munroe; "Boy's Book Author With Florida ties."

April 18, at 1:30 pm—2nd Floor, Merl Kelce Library, University of Tampa. Speaker to be announced.

May—date, time and place to be announced—Annual Banquet and Auction.

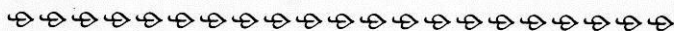
No meetings are scheduled during the months of June, July and August. We resume in September.

DROPPED HEAD

A printer's term, restricted for our purposes almost exclusively to the phrase 'drop title' or 'dropped-head title', which means that there is no title-page, the title being placed at the head of the first page of text, chiefly applicable to pamphlets, leaflets, etc. In America this is sometimes called a *caption title*.

Thirty-five members gathered at the beautiful home of Doug and Shirley Godinho for our annual Christmas buffet and auction on Saturday, December 12th. Everyone brought something to share and Charles Carroll's homemade ice cream topped off a gourmet repast. The auction of donated books and ephemera realized nearly \$100 with the proceeds earmarked for a local charity. The Christmas grab bag saw everyone receiving a book-related gift as they departed. Another memorable Christmas meeting was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Past President Jay Dobkin's bibliography of the Peter Pauper Press has not yet been published. It is expected during the early months of 1999. We anticipate that our meeting in April will be related to the publication in some form. Following the Christmas meeting at the Godinho's many of us adjourned to Jays' home a few blocks away and enjoyed a look at his PPP collection as well as his Christopher Morley assemblage. We were particularly pleased to view his recent purchase, for fifty cents, of an 1850s foldout railroad map of the eastern United States.



BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES

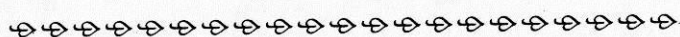
Programs and Events

Feb. 18—Arnie Sanders, Ph.D. Goucher College; "Caxton's Treatment of Thomas Mallory."

March 18—John Gach, Antiquarian Bookseller; "Books: What They Are and Why We Want Them."

April 22—Will Noel, Curator of Manuscripts, Walters Art Gallery; "Exploring the Manuscripts Collection."

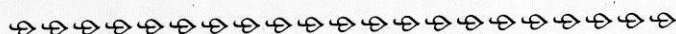
June 27—Allen Ahearn; "Modern First Editions."



DELAWARE BIBLIOPHILES

Programs and Events

Feb. 14—James Goode of James Goode & Co., Architectural Books; "On Bookplates and Collecting."



PHILOBIBLON CLUB

Programs and Events

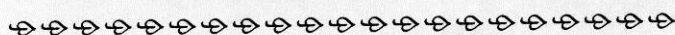
March 9—James Tanis, Director of Libraries, emeritus, Bryn Mawr College; "Leaves of Gold: A Glimpse of Manuscript Illuminations in the PACSCL Libraries."

April 13,—Mirjam Foot, The British Library; "Form and Content, Form and Use."

May 11—Warren MacDougall; title to be announced, but on his current research on the history of the Scottish book trade.

DECKLE-FETISHISM

The over-zealous, indiscriminating (and often very expensive) passion for uncut edges in books which were intended to have their edges cut.



THE GROLIER CLUB

Programs and Events

Entries preceeded by an asterisk are open to Grolier Club members only.

*Feb. 16—Special Functions Dinner: Wendy Reaves, Curator of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., on Celebrity Caricature in America.

*Feb. 17—Grolier lunchtime buffet: No program, just an opportunity to sit and schmooze books with fellow members.

Feb. 24—April 17—Public exhibition: Treasures from the Libraries of the National Trust. Curated by Nicolas Barker.

*Feb. 27—Tour: All-day trip to Yale University. Sites will

include the Beinecke Library and the Yale Center for British Art.

*March 2—An evening with Emily Dickinson: a professional reading of the work of the Belle of Amherst, jointly sponsored by the Grolier Club and the Academy of American Poets, under the auspices of Club Secretary Donald Oresman.

*March 9—Curator's chat and special functions dinner: David Lowenherz will speak about his exhibition of Robert Frost, followed by a small dinner.

*March 17—Grolier lunchtime buffet: No program, just an opportunity to sit and schmooze books with fellow members.

*April 6—Special Functions Dinner: Member Donald C. Gallup on his recently published memoir of book collecting, *What Mad Pursuits*.

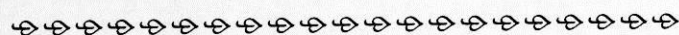
*April 7—May 28—Small Exhibition: Anthony Trollope, 1815–1882. From the collection of Jacques Schlenger. Curated by Carolyn Smith, Peabody Librarian.

April 15—FABS Reception: In town for the opening of the New York Book Fair? Come by the Club before the preview and raise a glass with members of book clubs from all over the country at a gathering of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. 4:00–6:00 pm.

May 5–July 31—Public exhibition: Nineteenth-Century American Color Plate Books. Curated by William Reese.

*June 8—Club Meeting: Curator Bill Reese: "American Color Plate Books."

*June–July 31—Small Exhibition: New Members Collect.



IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE R. ALLEN

On Friday, November 20, 1998, at the age of 79, George R. Allen died of cardiac arrest. He was the dean of Philadelphia booksellers, President for twenty-four years of the Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia, and a founding member of FABS.

George had been the President of William H. Allen, Bookseller, at 2031 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. The firm, founded by his father in 1918, continues under its name after being sold on George's retirement in December 1997. George worked in the store following graduation from Haverford College in 1940 until his retirement, with exception of his W.W. II service in military intelligence. The store was best known for its Greek, Latin and Classical stock and textually valuable scholarly used and antiquarian books.

George was responsible for several publications: the his-

On December 8th, 1998, the new President of the Philobiblon Club was announced at a club meeting honoring Mr. Allen: Mr. Steven Rothman, Philadelphia collector and bookman.

Bring your questions about that esoteric little pamphlet signed by Judge Swan (that's James G.) and you might finally get an answer on price and provenance (or not). Think of it; a talk, a question period, a mixer, and a chuckle or two. All that at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, March 3rd at The Mountaineers Club, 300 Third Ave West (turn right off Denny Way, about three blocks west of Queen Anne Ave, the building is between Thomas and Harrison) in Seattle. Don't miss the good company of our world renowned book collecting community.

Feb. 22—Presentation of the annual Oscar Lewis Award to

The Roxburghe Club calendar for the Spring is a dinner meeting with a guest speaker the third Tuesday of every month. More information about the Roxburghe Club meetings can be obtained by calling the Master of the Press, Mr. G. Fox, at 415-989-2665, or e-mailing him at pba@slip.net.

A tablet, for inscription (e.g. the titling of maps) or ornament; originally in the form of a scroll, but sometimes used loosely (especially in descriptions of bindings) for round, oval, or decorated boards.

Feb. 17—Steve Litt; “Architecture and the Civic Psyche of Cleveland.”

Feb. 24—Thomas Nevin; “To Hell with Dante.”

March 10—Curt Cacioppo; “German, Italian, and Native American Influences in My Music.”

March 17—Jonathan E. Hill; “From Temporary to Permanent: The Binding of Books in Boards, 1790–1840.”

March 24—Jay Breckenridge; “Chaucer.”

April 14—Denis T. Cochrane; “The TITANIC of the Book Collector.”

April 21—David Kirby; “Contemporary Poetry: A Family Tree.”

April 28—Christopher R. Coover; “Abraham Lincoln: Following the Paper Trail.”

May 12—Phil Sherman; “Art’s Supremacy Over Life: The Ongoing Saga of Mr. Sherlock Holmes.”

May 19—M. J. Albacete; “Gustave Eiffel: The Other Man Behind the Great Lady.”

May 26—Closing; John Agresto “The Politics of Reading.”

Feb. 10—The Club will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a banquet dinner on the legendary riverboat *The Delta King* on the Sacramento River in Old Sacramento. Club hosted

wine bar, 6:00 pm. Dinner, 7:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be the celebrated historian and author, Dr. Kevin Starr, State Librarian of California. Printed keepsakes and door prizes will also be presented.

March 12, 7:45 pm—A regular club meeting will be held at the Clunie Club House in Sacramento. The guest speaker will be the well-known California author and historian, Richard Dillon. The title of his talk will be "Exploring the Napa Valley." Mr. Dillon's latest book, *Napa Valley Heyday*, will soon be published by The Book Club of California.

April 9, 7:45 pm—A regular club meeting will be held at the Clunie Club House. The guest speaker will be Kathleen Burch, a director of the San Francisco Center for the Book Arts. She will talk about the Center's programs, including their workshops and publications related to the book and book arts.

May 14, 7:45 pm—A regular club meeting will be held at the Belle Cooledge Library Community Center in Sacramento. The guest speaker will be Sandy Lynne Holman, author of a recent children's book, *Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?* She hopes the book will help youngsters from ethnic backgrounds learn to celebrate their history—where they came from and who they are.

June 11, 6:00 pm—The June meeting will be the Club's traditional "pot luck" supper meeting held at the Clunie Club House. The guest speaker will be Honorary Club member and editor of the Club's quarterly newsletter, Robert Young Jr. He will talk about his and his late wife's collection of miniature books. Mr. Young wrote an article about miniature book collecting in a recent issue of *Biblio Magazine*.

New Club Officers elected at the Club's Annual Meeting January 10, 1999: Jack Barrett, *President*; Robert Young Jr., *Vice President*; Robert Dickover, *Treasurer*; Barbara Caine, *Secretary*; Geary Tracy, *Director*.

Publications Available

The Adventures of a Young Swiss in California: The Gold Rush Account of Theophile de Rutte. 1992, 400 copies. Translated and edited by the late club member, Mary Grace Paquette. \$40.00.

THE BAXTER SOCIETY

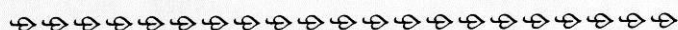
Programs and Events

This fall the Baxter Society awarded its 1998 Stephen Harvard Prize for Excellence in the Book Arts to two Maine book artists. This was the fourth competition since the inception of the award in 1989. The judges for this year were: Martin Antonetti, curator of Rare Books at Smith College, Philip Isaacson, art critic and writer, and Katie MacGregor, from MacGregor and Vinzani hand papermakers.

The judges awarded four runner-up prizes to Nancy Ruth Levitt, Marie Locke and Nancy Montgomery, and Michael Alpert (who received two awards).

First prize was shared by The Ascensius Press's *The Maine Woods* by Thoreau and Wolfe Edition's *Le Voyage* by Baudelaire. The winners of the competition are displayed at the Portland Public Library in the Portland Room.

The Society met twice in the first part of 1999. At the first meeting David Lazarus gave a slide presentation/lecture about his work as a wood engraver. At the second meeting artist Lauri Twitchell talked about her books and prints. Speakers for spring are to be announced.



FABS TRUSTEES-PLEASE NOTE

Trustees of the Fellowship of American Bibliophiles are requested to attend the 1999 Trustee Meeting at 2:30 pm on the afternoon of April 15. The meeting is to be held at the Grolier Club, *prior* to the FABS reception at the Club. This is the afternoon of the opening of the New York Antiquarian Book Fair.

FABS OFFICERS

Chair: Arthur S. Cheslock
Vice President: Jerry C. Cole
Secretary/Treasurer: John F. McClatchey
Membership: Earl Emerson, Chair
Conferences Chair: Sam Gatteño
Chair Emeritus: Lawrence Siegler
Newsletter Editor: Scott J. Vile

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