

San Francisco Study Tour • "Garcia" Essay at 100 • The High-Tech Bibliophile

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

Volume III • Number 2 • Fall 1999

Rules of Book Collecting • FABS in Detroit • Club News • Book Review

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

Volume 3, No. 2, Fall 1999

The FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICAN BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETIES is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose goal is to keep member book clubs informed of news, events, publications, and activities that take place during the year. The *FABS Newsletter* is published twice a year in September and January to facilitate that goal.

Member clubs are requested to have all information to the editor thirty days in advance of the publication date, September 1 and January 15. All materials should be submitted via e-mail attachment or 3½ inch floppy disks to the Editor, preferably in Microsoft Word or Wordperfect. Single subscriptions to institutions and individuals are not available at this time. Back issues may be ordered through the Editor based on availability for the cost of shipping and handling.

Advertising rate information may be obtained from the Advertising Department of the *FABS Newsletter*, c/o the Editor.

Submissions for articles are welcome. All correspondence should be sent to the Editor.

Member Clubs

The Baltimore Bibliophiles, Baltimore, MD
 The Baxter Society, Portland, Maine
 The Bixby Book Society, St. Louis, MO
 The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA
 The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI
 The Book Club of Texas, Lubbock, TX
 The Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA
 The Caxton Club, Chicago, IL
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 The Delaware Bibliophiles, Wilmington, DE
 Fine Press Book Association, Boulder, CO
 Florida Bibliophile Society, St. Petersburg, FL
 Fontaneda Society, Fort Lauderdale, FL
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 The John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI
 The Ottawa Book Collectors, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 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
 Tulsa Book Collectors Club, Tulsa, OK

Contents

• From the Chair	3
• The FABS Study Tour to San Francisco	3
• The High-Tech Bibliophile <i>by Joel Silver</i>	8
• The Rules of Book Collecting <i>by Joel Silver</i>	9
• A Fabulous FABS Trip to Detroit <i>by George A. Weimer IV</i>	12
• The Book Club of Texas Learns of Davy Crockett's Afterlife	14
• Elbert Hubbard's Classic "Garcia" Essay: Now 100 Years Old and Still Alive, Going Strong!	15
• Club News & Notes	17
• Book Review <i>by Arthur Cheslock</i>	25

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From the Chair

THE FABS Newsletter has changed. It has advertisements and more articles. We welcome your contributions and comments.

The Chair would like to thank Sam Gatteño and The Book Club of Detroit for their planning of last years expedition to the Midwest. Sam's and his co-workers' efforts resulted in increased interest and enthusiasm on the part of FABS' members for our forthcoming expedition to the San Francisco area book world. Jerry Cole, Jack McClatchey, Larry Siegler, Bruce McKittrick, and our hosts, The Book Club of California and The Roxburghe Club, are bringing our San Francisco trip to fruition. A word of caution to the procrastinators: space on the San Francisco trip is limited, and the stock market is high.

On an entirely different note, I have been pondering the illusory "forthcoming volume" phenomenon. I find that I have regularly been purchasing volumes on the announced

promise of companion volumes which have never seen the light of day. In earlier days, Gibbon, Boswell and Churchill earned the respect of their contemporaries when they completed their multi-volume endeavors.

In contrast, William Manchester published volume two of the three projected volumes of the *Life of Churchill* in 1988. Volume one of William Griffin's projected two volume compilation, *The Selected Letters of Bertrand Russell* was published in 1992. These are just two of numerous examples. With other readers, I look forward to the concluding volumes. In the meantime, I'll read Gibbon, Boswell, Churchill and the *FABS Newsletter*. The timely publication of the last is due to the efforts of Scott Vile, to whom Bruce McKittrick and myself, pay homage.

ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK
Chair

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

Study Tour to San Francisco, March 16 – 19, 2000

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Arrive in San Francisco on your own, check in at centrally located Marines Memorial Club & Hotel (MMCH) or Sheehan Hotel (or other lodging on your own). You may take an optional afternoon visit by van or bus leaving at 2:00 p.m. from MMCH to the California Palace of the Legion of Honor to visit the Achenbach Collection of Prints, Drawings and other Works of Art on Paper. The California Palace of the Legion of Honor is a copy of the Palace in Paris and, sitting high above the Golden Gate, occupies one of the most spectacular locations of any museum in the world. In addition to housing the Achenbach, the Legion is the home of San Francisco's European Fine Art Collection. Return at 5:00 p.m. when the Museum closes.

In the early evening there will be a cocktail reception at the Club House of our hosts, The Book Club of California and The Roxburghe Club (located just five minutes walk from MMCH) with an exhibition of fine books. The evening will be free for you to enjoy dinner at one of San Francisco's excellent restaurants. We will provide you with a list of restaurants within one to four blocks of your hotel.

Friday, March 17, 2000

Board the bus at 8:30 a.m. at the MMCH for a one hour trip to Stanford University Library, where you will visit the University's exceptional Rare Book Collection at the newly rebuilt Green Library, which was severely damaged in the 1989 Earthquake, and reopened in October 1999. Tour members may wish to walk to the newly reopened Art Museum, which was also damaged in the 1989 Earthquake and has an excellent collection of Rodin statues. Be sure to walk through the inner quad on your way to the library. It is the heart of the University and probably one of this country's most coherent architectural designs of the late 1880's. Clinton Day's work resulted in one of the Bay Area's earliest and best Mission-Style structures. After our Library visit, we will walk to the Faculty Club for lunch.

After lunch, the bus will take us to the University of San Francisco where we will visit the Special Collections Department in the Donahue Rare Book Room. We will enter through the newly opened addition to the Gleeson Library. There is usually an exhibition in the Thatcher Art Gallery on the main floor. At the Donahue we will see a part of their collections of Fine Printing, Eric Gill, English Literature of the 1890's, and Children's Books.

We will then return to the MMCH, leaving free time to visit the many antiquarian book stores located close to your hotel, to shop in San Francisco's Union Square, or simply to rest.

At 7:00 p.m., a one block walk from the MMCH will take you to the Crowne Plaza Hotel for cash bar and dinner on the 30th floor overlooking the lights of San Francisco and the Bay.

(Continued on page 5)

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Saturday, March 18, 2000

Board the bus at 8:30 a.m. at the MMCH for a short trip across the Bay Bridge to the University of California in Berkeley, where we will visit the new underground addition to the Main Library, the exhibition on the main floor, and the Bancroft Library, which is contiguous to the Main Library. The Bancroft is famous for its collections of Western Americana, Hispanic Americas, Fine Printing and Binding, and Historic California Art.

After our tours we will walk through Faculty Glade for lunch at the California Arts and Crafts Style Faculty Club, which was designed by one of California's most famous architects, Bernard Maybeck.

After lunch, our bus will deliver us to the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we will convene our Symposium on "Rare Book Connoisseurship in the 21st Century." The conclusion of the Symposium at 4:30 p.m. will give participants time for shopping, visiting bookstores or rest.

At 6:45 p.m. we will walk, taxi or cable car a few blocks from the MMCH to "The Family Club" for a cocktail reception sponsored by the San Francisco Antiquarian Book Dealers. The elegant building housing The Family Club was designed by C. A. Meussdorffer in 1909, and is built on a steep site which had contained a much less impressive pre-1906 Earthquake building. Following the reception we will move upstairs for dinner.

After dinner, return to your lodging on your own or have an after-dinner libation with a view at the Top of the St. Francis Hotel (two blocks down), the Top of the Fairmont (two blocks up) or the Top of the Mark (three blocks up).

Sunday, March 19, 2000

You may take an optional eight-hour trip to the Napa Valley including lunch on your own at a Napa Valley restaurant. Depending on demand, transportation will be by limo or bus. Stops at several wineries will be scheduled for wine tastings. Napa Valley is a two hour drive from San Francisco.

THE MAIN TOUR costs \$250.00 per person and includes:

- Visits to the Green Library at Stanford, the Donahue Rare Book Room at the University of San Francisco, and the Bancroft Library at the University of California at Berkeley
- All transfers and tours in a deluxe motorcoach on Friday and Saturday (your arrival and departure to and from the hotel are not covered)
- Cocktail Receptions on Thursday and Saturday evening
- Lunch and Dinner with wine on Friday and Saturday
- Symposium—"Rare Book Connoisseurship in the 21st Century"—with nationally-known speakers on Saturday

LODGING is available at either the Sheehan Hotel or the Marine Memorial Club & Hotel in downtown San Francisco for three nights (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) at a cost of \$392 per person (single occupancy) or \$196/person (double occupancy).

TWO OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS are also available:

- Thursday, March 16—A Visit to the Achenbach Collection (\$14 per person), includes transportation.
- Sunday, March 19—A Tour of the Napa Valley wineries (\$30 per person), includes transportation and tastings at several wineries. (Lunch is extra.)

THE SYMPOSIUM is also open to local bibliophiles who may wish to attend.

The cost for the Symposium, Reception, and Dinner at "The Family Club" is \$80 per person.

The Symposium alone is \$15 per person.

Transportation to and from San Francisco and breakfast each morning are at the attendee's own expense.

The Main Tour Package is limited to 78 participants, and the optional Thursday and Sunday Trips are limited to 20 participants each. Places will be reserved in the order in which applications are received.

Continued on next page

FABS STUDY TOUR TO SAN FRANCISCO



March 16-19, 2000

Thursday, March 16, 2000

OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO ACHENBACH COLLECTION

COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH
THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AND THE ROXBURGHE CLUB

Friday, March 17, 2000

GREEN LIBRARY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

LUNCH AT THE FACULTY CLUB

DONAHUE RARE BOOK ROOM AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT THE CROWN PLAZA HOTEL

Saturday, March 18, 2000

BANCROFT LIBRARY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

LUNCH AT THE FACULTY CLUB

SYMPOSIUM: "RARE BOOK CONNOISSEURSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT "THE FAMILY CLUB"

Sunday, March 19, 2000

OPTIONAL EXCURSION TO THE NAPA VALLEY

FABS STUDY TOUR CANCELLATIONS AND EARLY DEPARTURES

- Hotel Cancellations and Early Departures

If you must cancel your hotel reservations, or leave early, please advise the hotel directly and identify yourself as one of the FABS group. Numbers: Sheehan (Tel: 415-775-6500; Fax: 415-775-3271); MMCH (Tel: 415-673-6672; Fax: 415-441-3649)

- Cancellation policies are as follows:

Sheehan: No charge if *24 hours* notice provided;

MMCH: No charge if cancelling by 4:00 p.m. *two days* prior to day reservation commences

- Early Departure policies are as follows:

Sheehan: One additional day charged if you must leave after one or two days of a three-day reservation.

MMCH: None, i.e., no charge if you must leave before end of a three-day reservation.

- Ground Package and Optional Trip Cancellations and Early Departures

Cancellation: Money will be refunded in full *if* a substitute from the waiting list replaces a cancelling registrant; otherwise, no refund will be paid. Early departure: no refund.

The order form for the Study Tour is inserted in this issue of the *FABS Newsletter*. If for some reason it is missing or has been passed on to a friend and you would like a copy, please call, email, or write

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The High-Tech Bibliophile

by JOEL SILVER

THERE'S no question about it—technology has changed the way that many of us buy or sell books. Thirty years ago, neither collectors nor booksellers had computers, and a bookshop was considered to be on the technological edge if it had a photocopier or a two-line telephone. There were no fax machines, and collectors who bought books at a distance did so largely through printed catalogues, which were typeset or reproduced photographically from typewritten copy, before they were sent out by mail. People still sent telegrams, and a car phone was a symbol of lofty status, since you weren't then able to pick one up at the local supermarket.

Today, more booksellers have photocopiers and multiple telephone lines, and they need them to operate their businesses. Both booksellers and collectors have fax machines and cellular phones, and an ever-increasing number of them also have computers. Booksellers use them to keep track of their inventories, write their catalogues, do their accounting, and sell their books on the Internet, which was just getting started thirty years ago and which was not supposed to be used for commercial transactions until relatively recently. Collectors use their computers to buy books online, and also to keep track of their collections. Everyone uses their computers for communication, and also to access the tremendous amount of online information that is available without charge.

In 1999, you can still collect or sell books without using any electronic equipment, but if you choose to take advantage of what's available in cyberspace, you'll find that there is a great deal of value out there. There are millions of books listed online for retail and auction sale that are not appearing in printed catalogues, and there are more being put online every day. Although a great many of them are misdescribed or wildly overpriced in comparison to other available copies, many of them are not. Libraries have also been working to automate their card catalogues, and though online library catalogues still have a long way to go, they can provide answers to searches for bibliographical information that would have been difficult or impossible to carry out only a few years ago. Libraries and other organizations and individuals have also made available online a rapidly growing body of electronic information, detailed collection descriptions, biographical information, and a wide variety of reference tools. There are exhibition catalogues, electronic texts, language translators, currency conversion calculators, perpetual calendars, and pictures and sounds of all kinds.

With the speed at which the Internet is growing, it's impossible to keep up with all aspects of it. The online indexes and "search engines" are able to cover only a small fraction of what is available, and there are some extremely valuable resources of interest to bibliophiles that are not nearly as well known as they should be. In these columns, I'll try to

cover some of the recent developments in technology and the Internet as they relate to books (both printed and electronic), and I'll also try to point out some of what I consider to be the most useful places to get book information online or to find books available for sale. If there are particular topics that you'd like to see me cover, please let me know. My e-mail address is silverj@indiana.edu.

Computers have been getting cheaper for years, and although it still seems amazing to me, you can now buy a system powerful enough to keep track of your collection and your taxes, send and receive e-mail, play computer games, write letters, and surf the Internet for less than \$500.00. If you spend more money, you can get a faster computer with more storage capacity, and a larger or better monitor. If you want to spend less money, it's possible to get a "free" computer in exchange for signing up for long-term online access with some service providers. It's getting cheaper and easier all the time to get automated or to get online, and in future columns, I'll tell you more about some of the good things that you can find there. In the meantime, "may your Y2K transition be an easy one."

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The Rules of Book Collecting

by JOEL SILVER

WHAT is book collecting? If you were to ask members of the general public, they would likely say that anyone who has amassed a large number of books is a book collector. There are many others, however, who take exception to that opinion, and maintain that unless the books were gathered according to established book collecting principles, the result is likely to be an accumulation rather than a collection. Under this view, it is adherence to these principles that separates true collectors from those who might otherwise be considered to be collectors, and it is generally the collections that are assembled according to these principles that gain the respect or envy of other book collectors.

One of the most frequently quoted definitions of book collecting is that written by A. W. Pollard for the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, published in 1910-1911:

“... The bringing together of books which in their contents, their form or the history of the individual copy possess some element of permanent interest, and either actually or prospectively are rare, in the sense of being difficult to procure. This qualification of rarity, which figures much too largely in the popular view of book-collecting, is entirely subordinate to that of interest, for the rarity of a book devoid of interest is a matter of no concern. . . . But in its essence the pastime of a book-collector is identical with the official work of the curator of a museum, and thus also with one branch of the duties of the librarian of any library of respectable age. . . . For in the modern private collection, as in the modern museum, the need for a central idea must be fully recognized. Neither the collector nor the curator can be content to keep a mere curiosity-shop. It is the collector's business to illustrate his central idea by his choice of examples, by the care with which he describes them, and by the skill with which they are arranged.”

Pollard's thoughts on the necessity of a governing or central idea in the formation of a collection have been echoed by most subsequent book collecting manuals. As book collecting has come to be practiced in the Anglo-American world, the collection formed under the umbrella of this central idea should include the finest examples that the collector can obtain or afford of first or early editions of books, as well as any other reference or tangential publications related to the guiding idea of the collection. Condition is also viewed as one of the most important factors in selecting appropriate examples, though allowances are often made for lapses in condition in cases of presentation or association copies.

There have been and continue to be significant and satisfying collections formed according to these rules, but as we follow rules designed to build fences around our collecting activities, we need to realize that these rules can also

limit not only the enjoyment of our collections but our intellectual growth as well. If these rules are worth following, they're also worth examining from time to time to see how they're really affecting the way we collect and what we're getting out of our collecting.

The practice of collecting according to a governing central idea or subject has long been considered basic by most book collectors. Since it's not possible to achieve the lofty goal set by Sir Thomas Phillipps in the nineteenth century (“I wish to have one copy of every book in the world”), common sense would seem to dictate that we limit our collections to our chief interests and our means. In doing so, we can not only build an enjoyable collection in an area in which we're interested, but we can also add to the store of bibliographical or historical knowledge in an area that may not have been explored in quite the way we're approaching it. Collections formed to illustrate this central idea are also likelier candidates for ready sale in the market or donation to an institution than more generalized and scattered collections, and are also far more likely to be preserved intact for study through the ages.

Or so the theory goes. In practice, the vast majority of collections, formed to illustrate a central idea or not, are broken up without any kind of permanent record ever being made of them, and the chief good that their assemblage has done, other than to preserve some books for a time and contribute to the general health of the used and antiquarian book trades, is to increase the joy and knowledge of their owners. The satisfactions—emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual—that come from collecting books are chiefly realized by their gatherers and owners, and if forming a collection under established rules, including the necessity of a central idea, can further these satisfactions, this is all well and good.

Too often, however, prospective collectors select their collecting idea on the basis of what everyone else seems to be collecting, or on what others deem to be the best or most important books to collect. It is not difficult to see that this practice soon leads to a relatively small number of books being considered by collectors as desirable, and it also leads to the neglect by collectors of the majority of what has been written and printed. Although collecting in any field is based on the exercise of judgment and taste, the books that are considered interesting and valuable by most are not necessarily the only books that might be rewarding to collect.

In addition to too many collectors competing for the same titles, collectors are also competing for the same editions of these titles. Collectors have long been interested primarily in first editions, though numerous exceptions have been made, in accordance with the idea of the collection and the circumstances under which it has been formed. A. W. Pollard discussed this aspect of collecting in his article noted above:

"In most cases there is a marked falling off in the interest with which early editions other than the first are regarded, and consequently in the prices paid for them, though important changes in the text give to the edition in which they first occur some shadow of the prestige attaching to an original issue. One of the recognized byways of book-collecting, however, used to be the collection of as many editions as possible of the same work. When this results in the acquisition of numerous late editions of no value for the text, its only usefulness would appear to be the index it may offer to the author's popularity. But in translations of the Bible, in liturgical works, and in editions published during the author's life, the aid offered to the study of the development of the final text by a long row of intermediate editions may be very great."

It should also be noted that it is quite interesting to observe the changes made in many texts produced well after the author's lifetime, as works whose form we believe has long been fixed are altered to suit the time, the place, or the audience.

Why do we seem to have this fixation on first editions? The answer usually given is that it is in these first editions that the author first saw the publication of a particular work, or that this is indeed how the author's contemporaries read the work. In many cases, however, the work was first read by the author or by the author's contemporaries as an article in a magazine or newspaper, and though these are more avidly sought after today than they once were, these periodical appearances have usually not received the market recognition that first editions have. Periodicals are indeed more difficult to take care of than first editions, and they don't display as easily or as well, but they deserve more recognition by collectors than they generally receive.

Later editions (in the comparatively small number of cases where they have been produced) also deserve more recognition. If you want a challenge, they're generally much more difficult to collect than first editions, since they almost always have much lower market values and therefore much less interest to booksellers and other collectors. In addition to changes in the text or design of the book, they may also include newly-created advertising materials as an author or work becomes more famous, or new illustrations that take advantage of a tie-in with a television or movie production. A study of the quality of the physical materials used in reprint editions can also be made, and these later editions can contribute to studies of the publishing industry and its response to or attempted creation of reader demand.

Another rule that exists in many collecting fields, including books, is an emphasis on condition. Although the interpretation of this rule varies according to the books collected and cultural collecting preferences, the Anglo-American book collecting community today seems to prefer their books to be as close as possible to their original condition and appearance. There are arguments about the terms used to describe condition, and small variations in condition, especially in the case of modern books, can have major effects on their prices. This rule seems to find its most intensive application in the area of dust jackets, and many modern literary works without dust jackets are virtually unsalable.

This also applies to books with missing or damaged leaves, especially if what is missing or damaged is a title-page or important illustration.

Of course, there are good logical and scholarly reasons for this emphasis on condition, in addition to wanting to read a book that has a complete text. Copies that include all of their original leaves and are in their original bindings can contain far more bibliographical evidence than copies that have had more difficult lives, and these books are therefore likely to be much more important for study and examination than incomplete or damaged copies. A book in what is considered to be fine condition is also more likely to be considered attractive and pleasing to its owner, as well as other collectors to whom it is shown, though this is often a taste that comes only with book collecting experience.

Is there anything wrong with following these rules of book collecting in the formation of a private collection? Of course not, if collecting under these rules brings personal satisfaction. It's worth examining, however, whether collecting first editions in prime condition of a widely-collected author or subject stems from personal interest, from a desire for recognition in the collecting field, or some assurance of profit (or at least a return on investment) somewhere down the line. Sometimes, the impetus for beginning or maintaining a private collection is a combination of more than one of these reasons, but it's worth remembering that the rules of book collecting are rules that people have made up, not immutable universal truths.

One of the great things about book collecting is that anyone is free to follow any collecting principles that he or she chooses. There is complete freedom in choosing a collecting subject or approach, and I don't believe that there is anything wrong with a broad collecting idea that encompasses all books in which one happens to be interested. This inclusiveness at the outset frees the collector from having to play a book collecting version of "Six Degrees of Separation" to justify adding a book to the collection, and it also eliminates the need to say "Oh no, those are just other books that I own—this is my real collection." There is a great deal that can be learned about any subject from books that appear to be way off the subject, and it can be surprising how the relationships between seemingly unrelated subjects can become much more apparent (and can lead to searches in even more subjects) after you've lived with a diverse group of books for a while. The emphasis of many collectors on first editions and fine condition has also made available a wealth of important and interesting later editions and incomplete copies at extremely low prices. These can provide great reading as well as the raw materials for research and discovery, and I hope that more collectors take these books seriously before they are regarded so little that they are discarded.

Book collecting is an individual pursuit, and there is ample room for both structured and unstructured approaches to it. Knowing what the rules are doesn't mean that one must always follow them, and great satisfaction can come from not always doing so. One of my longstanding inspirations in the world of books and collecting is Nicolas Barker, editor of *The Book Collector* and prolific author of

DOYLE



NEW YORK

BOOKS, AUTOGRAPHS *and* PHOTOGRAPHS at AUCTION

Wednesday, November 3 at 10am

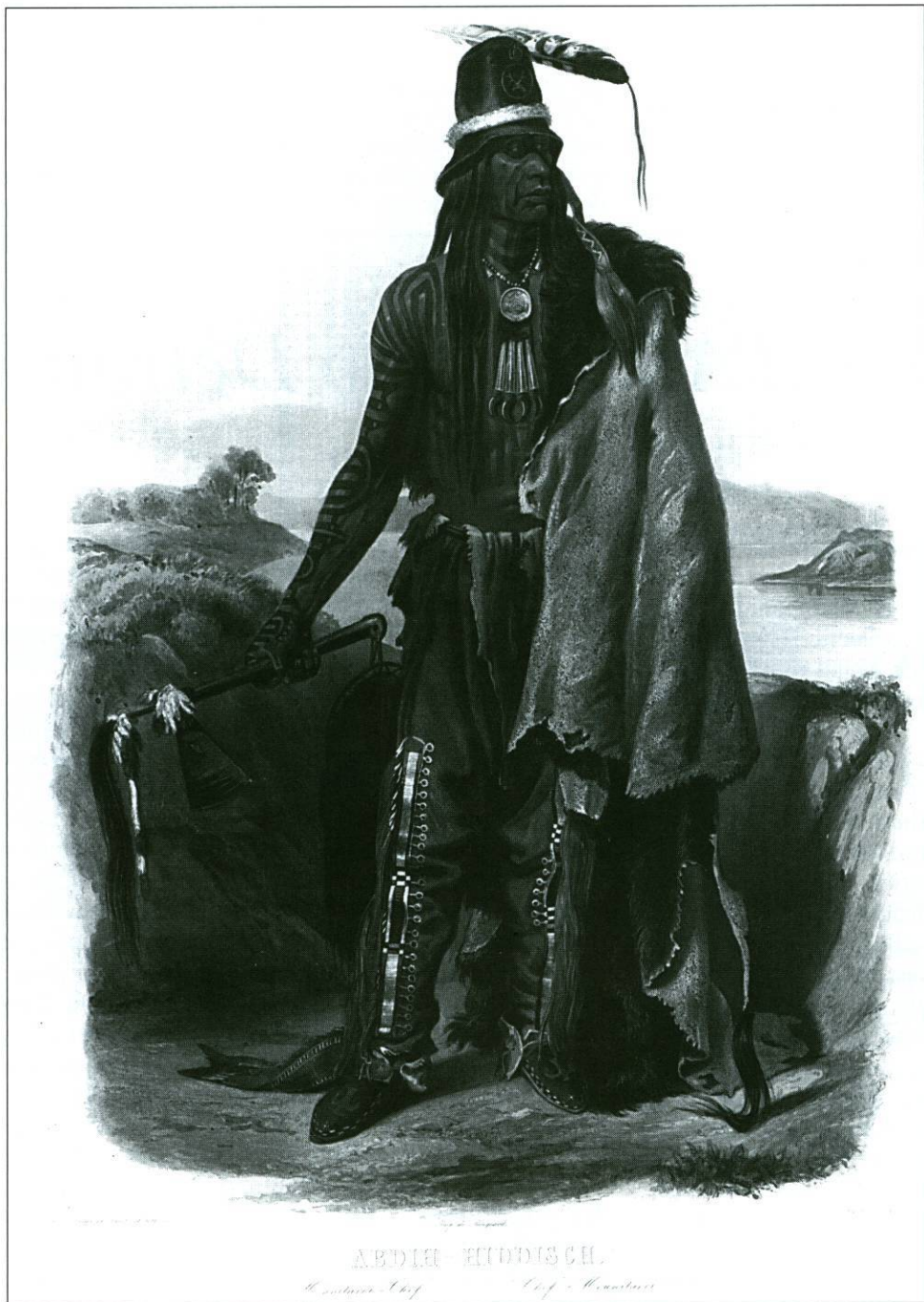


Illustration: Prince Maximilian Alexander, Philipp zu Weid-Nuweid, Plate from *Reise in das Innere Nord-America in den Jahren 1832 bis 1834*. Atlas volume containing 81 hand-colored aquatint plates after Karl Bodmer. Estimate: \$60,000-90,000.

Highlighting this sale is the atlas volume of 81 fine hand-colored aquatints after Karl Bodmer illustrating Prince Maximilian's travels in America among the Plains Indians from 1832 to 1834. Also included are a range of autographs and manuscripts by Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stevenson, Langston Hughes, Andrew Jackson, George Bernard Shaw, Alexandre Dumas and Emile Zola, among others. A collection of materials on Mount Everest will also be offered.

The public exhibition for this auction will take place on Saturday, October 30 through Tuesday, November 2.

For information on consigning property to this auction, please contact
Thomas F. Lecky
at 212-427-4141, ext. 234.

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articles and books about a wide range of subjects related to antiquarian books and manuscripts. His personal collection was one of those profiled in *At Home with Books: How Booklovers Live with and Care for Their Libraries*, by Estelle Ellis, Caroline Seeborn, and Christopher Simon Sykes (New York: Carol Southern Books, 1995). Barker, who certainly knows the rules of book collecting, had this to say about his own diverse collection, which occupies a significant portion of his home:

"Gordon Ray, the great American book collector and head of the Guggenheim Foundation for many years, came to visit me here once, I remember. I had to leave him for a while to attend to my five small children and when I came back, he straightened up from looking at the books and said, 'You'll have to do a lot of talking before you can convince me that there is any order in this collection.'"

"... I tend to regard my collection as a kind of foundling hospital for books, books that need a home. Booksellers give

me books when they simply cannot sell them, because the books are hopelessly imperfect or damaged. I'm not in the least bit interested in perfect books. I'm interested in the fact that it has lost one-tenth of its leaves. How did it lose them and why? It's all part of their history. . . . I open my arms very wide for books to take refuge here."

May more collectors open their arms as wide.

JOEL SILVER
The Lilly Library
1200 E. 7th Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405

Joel Silver is the Curator of Books at The Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. He is also an associate faculty member of the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science, where he teaches courses on the history of the book and descriptive bibliography.

A Fabulous FABS Trip to Detroit

by George A. Weimer IV
(The Rowfant Club)

ON Thursday, May 20, 1999 members of the Fellowship of American Bibliophiles gathered at the historic St. Regis Hotel in Detroit, Michigan, to begin a tour of some of the great libraries, collections, and museums of Southern Michigan. After a cocktail reception and dinner, attendees retired early and rose early to board a bus to lovely Ann Arbor.

We began our walk around Ann Arbor on Friday morning, May 21, with a tour of some of the amazing volumes in the Special Collections Library at the University of Michigan. Among the marvels observed and discussed were selections from the famous papyri collection, some of the earliest Epistles of St. Paul, and a letter from Galileo to the doge of Venice. Then we took a short walk over the marvelous Clementa to view some of the greatest Americana in America: an extraordinary "elephant leaf" volume of Audubon and numerous volumes, letters, and memorabilia from Faulkner, Whitman, and Frost.

Lunch followed these two hours, and then it was back on our coach to the Toledo Museum of Art for a special visit to their beautiful collections and their fine collection of book art, such as Matisse's Jazz paintings, Grolier bindings, and various manuscripts. We returned to Detroit for dinner and a discussion of the day's pleasures.

On Saturday, July 22, we motor coached to the Cranbrook in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Designed by Saarinen, the campus is like a separate world with gardens flowing elegantly down gentle hills and delighting the eye with art works of numerous styles. This all around the stately mansion which was originally the home of George Gough Booth and his wife Ellen Scripps Booth, both of newspaper fame. He was the founder of the Detroit News and she of

the Scripps, as in Howard. They had their house, grounds, and gardens designed to deliver a message in large and tiny ways. That message: That art is to be a ubiquitous part of every day life. At Cranbrook, we noted, in so many details, it is indeed! It is also the home of the Cranbrook Press, and the design college that bears the ancient name of the town for which it was named in Kent, England: Cranbrook Academy. After this wonderful morning, lunch was served at Carl's Booth House, and we were off again to the Detroit Public Library for the afternoon.

The Detroit Public Library is one of those institutions in the nation that houses the truly special, yet is relatively unknown. For example, did you know that the Library has what is now called the Burton Historical Collection, in which can be found the diary of George Washington, manuscripts of Mark Twain, Kate Greenaway, and Randolph Caldecott? The Library also houses several other collections of American literary specialties, such as its genealogical records of Americans, Canadians, and the early French. All of this and more we saw under the very professional guidance and hospitality of the Detroit Library staff.

A few blocks away, we visited the Detroit Institute of Art, where, among other great works, we marvelled at the Diego Rivera murals and the large collections of art in the museum from all periods and from all over the world. Of special interest was a traveling exhibit from the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York entitled "Treasures of Jewish Cultural Heritage" which contained ancient manuscripts, documents, and other works of art.

In the evening we dined at the famous Whitney Restaurant and reviewed the priceless things that had filled up our treasure tour. We looked forward to an exciting Sunday

morning for a seminar in the St. Regis, moderated by Robert H. Jackson of the Rowfant Club in Cleveland.

A most lively discussion, led most gracefully by Mr. Jackson, on the fate of collections and various theories of collecting between the panelists and FABS attendees in the audience ensued. Spirited comments flew back and forth as dealers, collectors, and private press folks traded strong opinions.

The event culminated with some gracious comments by our host for the tours, Sam Gatteño of Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Mr. Gatteño most generously opened his home and his collections to attendees after dinner on Friday.

Members came from California, New York, Chicago, and Cleveland, as well as a number from the Detroit area. All members are urged to come to our next FABS outing in dramatic and delightful San Francisco, Thursday, March 16, 2000 through the 19th of March. We will be seeing some of the great libraries and collections in the Bay area as well as enjoying the wonderful dining and sight seeing in the region. And, as most of us know, some of the greatest bookstores in America are near San Francisco. For further information on this exciting trip, see the trip description on page three of the newsletter.

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Book Club of Texas Learns of Davy Crockett's Afterlife

University of New Mexico historian Paul A. Hutton told a Book Club of Texas dinner that a single book, much of it fabricated, is responsible for what has come to be the legend—and in some cases the history—of Davy Crockett and his brief life in Texas.

An audience of seventy-five, including Book Club president Len Ainsworth, heard Hutton tell how *Col. Crockett's Exploits and Adventures in Texas* was rushed into print after the frontiersman's death at the Alamo in 1836. This has influenced, often incorrectly, how history has remembered Crockett and his final days and hours. Rather than fighting to his death against Mexican soldiers, Hutton believes that Crockett was captured and later executed, as recorded in the eyewitness journal of Mexican Lt. Col. José Enrique de la Peña.

"Crockett's manner of death in no way diminishes his sacrifice, though it does contradict the image of Crockett as popularized by Hollywood stars such as John Wayne and Fess Parker," Hutton said. "Davy Crockett's exploits and adventures have become a story of how an American legend has paraded as history. But however he died, it is the duty of historians to bring clarity and focus to controversial issues. This evening, I want to talk about what happened to Crockett after he died because that's when he became the property of others."

The question of what really happened at the Alamo began two years earlier when publishers E.L. Carey and A. Hart released Crockett's 1834 autobiography as an undisputed and factual work. The real blurring between historical fact and fiction, however, started when Carey and Hart commissioned Crockett to write a second book about his adventures regarding the Texas rebellion.

Hutton's lecture, "Col. Crockett's Exploits and Adventures in Texas: The Story of a Book" related that Crockett's brief and fatal 1836 visit to Texas left Carey and Hart without a best-selling author. In an attempt to "strike while the news of the Alamo was still fresh," they hired playwright Richard Penn Smith to write the 1836 book, *Col. Crockett's Exploits and Adventures in Texas*.

The book, purported to be Crockett's diary, was later said to have been saved from the ashes of the Alamo by Gen. Castrillon and recovered from the San Jacinto battlefield by Charles T. Beale. Beale allegedly added a final chapter before forwarding the diary to his New Orleans friend Alex J. Dumas. Although Dumas' existence cannot be confirmed, he "happened" to share the same name as the author of *The Three Musketeers*. Dumas supposedly edited the volume for publication, then forwarded it to Philadelphia.

"The accounts of the fall of the Alamo, the massacre at Goliad, and the victory at San Jacinto that appear at the book's end, supposedly written by Beale, were taken from a news report filed at Galveston Bay on June 9, 1836, by a correspondent for the *New York Courier and Enquirer*. Smith copied the journalist's detailed account of Crockett's death, based on eyewitness testimony, almost verbatim. Smith did, however, add a bit of last minute heroics for the doomed frontiersman."

Smith's version was eventually added to Crockett's original 1834 autobiography and later published. Although several literary reviewers were puzzled by the inconsistencies of style between the first and second books, Hutton said almost everyone at the time accepted the book as truly based on Crockett's diary. While writing for *Graham's Magazine* in 1842, Edgar Allen Poe identified Smith as the author of Crockett's "pseudo autobiography." Other authors either ignored or overlooked Poe's statement, and held their tongues until Smith's version was accepted as an autobiographical narrative.

Within a span of a generation, Smith's hasty inventions began appearing in American history texts and non-fiction books without any notation that it had been authored by anyone other than Crockett himself. Despite modest disclaimers, contemporary historians continue to publish the story of Crockett by basically saying "Well, it may not be true, but it might as well be," Hutton said.

"Davy Crockett is a modern day Will Rogers," Hutton said. "Before the Alamo, people thought of him as an American humorist—and later, after the siege, as a martyr. His image evolved into that of a heroic fighter for freedom who gives his life for the nation's continental destiny—that's a new Crockett," he said. "Crockett's image becomes the nation's great sacrifice on the alter of manifest destiny and the magic of his name helps to build a continental republic."

Ultimately, Hutton said, Crockett's martyrdom helped to unite all regions of the nation, including conflicting opinions over the slavery issue. His death helped people to believe that taking territory from Mexico was part of America's manifest destiny, eventually growing into a national philosophy.

Hutton's speech was jointly sponsored by the Book Club of Texas and the Friends of the University Library/Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, where the Book Club is housed. The speech and banquet were underwritten by Dr. Clint E. and Siva Chambers, *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, American State Bank, and Lubbock Power and Light.

Elbert Hubbard's Classic "Garcia" Essay: Now 100 Years Old and Still Alive, Going Strong!

by CHARLES F. HAMILTON

As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, Elbert Hubbard, a successful soap business executive with a flair for writing and blessed with a magnetic personality, switched careers in 1895 and founded a private press, The Roycroft Print Shop. In that same year he began publication of a pocket-sized magazine called *The Philistine: A Periodical of Protest*. It was an overnight success in a large field of little magazines then flooding the nation.

From that success emerged an Arts and Crafts complex in East Aurora, New York, where multi-talented individuals became widely known as the Roycrofters. Among them were artists W.W. Denslow, later famous as the illustrator for Baum's *Wizard of Oz*, and Dard Hunter, who went on to become a world authority on papermaking. The whole operation brought Hubbard national fame as a popular lecturer on the Orpheum Circuit and still-lasting recognition today as a leading figure in the American Arts & Crafts Movement. A current and growing Roycroft Renaissance attracts thousands to the campus-like complex each year.

Hubbard authored books and published them, often in exquisitely-bound and hand-illuminated editions. Along with the works of numerous already-famous authors, it was his short essay in the March 1899 issue of *The Philistine* that has kept his name alive since he and his wife, Alice, perished aboard the torpedoed S.S. *Lusitania* in 1915.

The short essay on initiative, written in less than an hour and published in *The Philistine* (buried on the twelfth page without the later-added title), "A Message to Garcia" has enjoyed a remarkable continuing popularity of a dual nature.

It is still being reprinted and distributed as a motivational booklet, though not nearly as widely as it was during the first sixty years after 1899, during which it had been reprinted an estimated forty million times and in at least eight other languages, plus school text books. On its 100th anniversary, it remains among the world's ten most widely published works and the message is both "Y2K-compliant" and considered Y2K-relevant by scores of sites on the World Wide Web. In addition to being available on the web page of The Roycrofters (www.roycrofter.com), the essay turns up on educational, inspirational, military, literary, and individual web pages. Beginning its second century and approaching the new millennium, "A Message to Garcia" could well eclipse its entire first century's audience in a matter of a few short years!

The essay's new and growing popularity has been among bibliophiles in general and Hubbard/Roycroft collectors in particular over the last twenty-five years. They seek—and these days pay handsomely for—certain early and subsequent editions.

This would seem to be akin to seeking needles in a haystack, what with over forty million reprints having been published, but that isn't so. The special editions, while not abundant, were distinctive enough to stand out before the eyes of collectors who have researched their publication dates and format history.

Knowing some history of how the now-famous essay helps in the why of reading it or collecting prized printings of it. Had *Philistine* subscriber George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent for the New York Central Railroad not noticed and read the untitled message on page twelve of the magazine, it might never have emerged to be printed as "A Message to Garcia."

Impressed by it, Daniels sent a telegram to Hubbard saying, "Give me a price on one hundred thousand Rowan article in booklet form—Empire State Express advertisement on the back—also, how soon can ship." Hubbard wired back that it would take two years to supply so many because his print shop was too small to quickly print the asked-for

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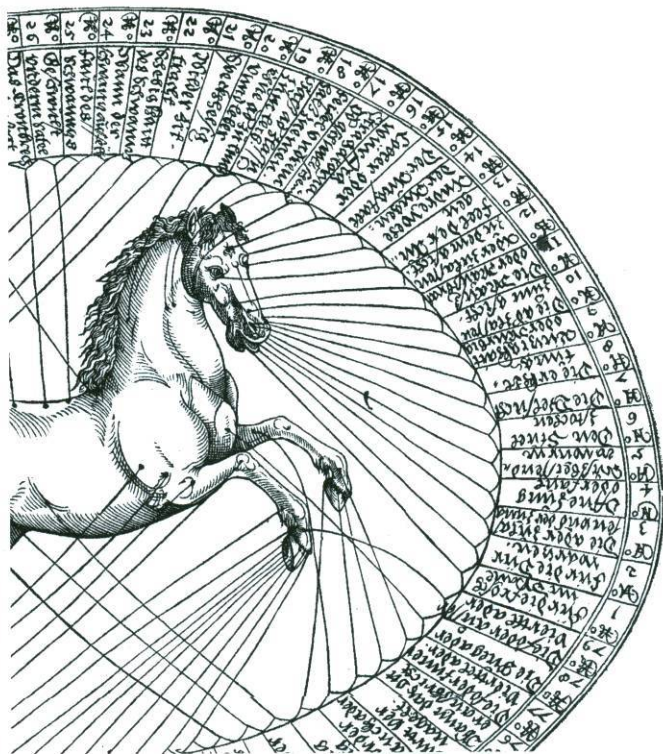
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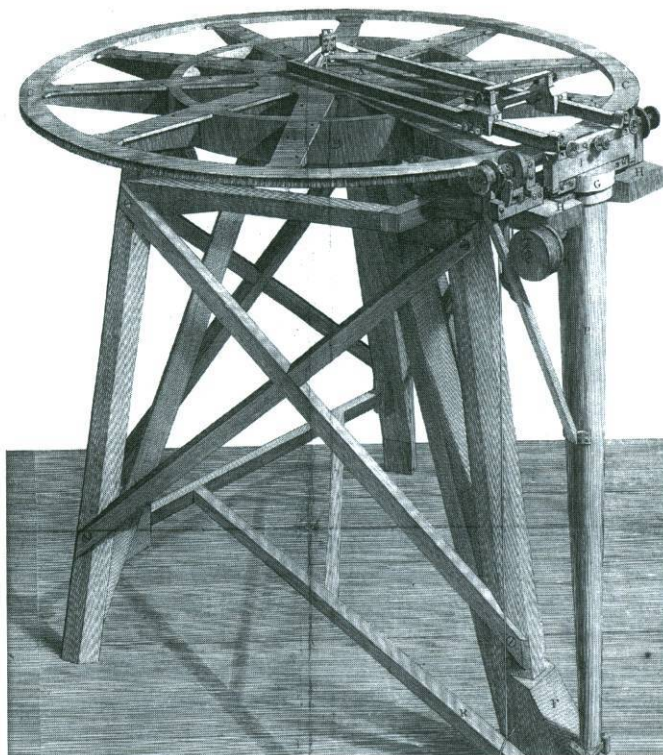
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quantity. Daniels settled for the printing of three editions of 1000 each from the Roycroft and asked for permission to reprint greater quantities. Hubbard granted the request and proceeded to supply the three printings of 1000 each to Daniels. They were printed on Holland hand-made paper and carried a New York Central ad on the outside back cover. Daniels had booklets printed first for in-house distribution to New York Central employees via his "Four-Track" series of educational and travel booklets. Sending some to various others outside of the company, the requests became so great that after his first printing in No. 25 of his Four Track booklets in the quantities of 100,000, it had been reprinted to a total of 300,000 by May 25, 1999.

In following years, keeping the No. 25 designation, he issued them in editions of 500,000 at a time. With glossy covers in color and increased to thirty-two pages that included black and white photos plus many travel-related advertisements, individual copies were offered free "on receipt of a postage stamp from any country on the globe" or sent in

packages of "100 each on receipt of 50 cents for each 100." (Though some railroad memorabilia collectors seek copies of all quantity-numbered "Four-Track No. 25" issues, the earliest 16-page 100,000 copy edition is most sought by railroad and Roycroft buffs alike.) Eminent bibliophile R.W.G. Vail's treatise "A Bibliographical Puzzle," published in 1930 by the New York Public Library, traced early editions of Hubbard's Garcia message. He estimated that Daniels distributed "between a million and a million and a half copies" and that even up to 1930 the New York Central was still receiving occasional requests for it.

Meanwhile, Hubbard was advertising special editions at varied prices to subscribers of his publications. This was continued by the Roycroft Print Shop until its closing in 1938, and a number of them are today prized by Hubbard/Roycroft devotees.

Charles F. Hamilton is a freelance writer in Florida.

Club News & Notes

The Baltimore Bibliophiles

Programs and Events

September 16, 1999, 6:00 p.m. Michael Dirda, Book Review Editor, *Washington Post Book World*. Johns Hopkins Club.

October 20, 1999, 6:00 p.m. Laura Lippman, *Baltimore Sun*. Journalist and author of *Three Murder Mysteries*. "Bibliomania: A Writers Perspective." Rosenberg Gallery—Goucher College.

November 18, 1999, 6:30 p.m. Annual Meeting. Dr. Carla Hayden, Director, Enoch Pratt Free Library and Jim Fish, Director, Baltimore County Public Library. Moderator: Dr. Larry Wilt, UMBC Library. "Libraries on the Eve of the Millennium." Evergreen House.

The Baxter Society

The Society had several outstanding speakers during 1999. In January, David Lazarus talked about his work as a wood engraver and scrimshaw artist. In February we heard from Lauri Twitchell, who showed us her creatively con-

structed handmade books. The March meeting was a showing of the collection at the Maine Historical Society and an interesting talk about the origins of the collection. The April meeting was held at the Portland Public Library, where we visited the Portland Room, the Library's collection of rare books. Tom Gafney, the librarian, showed us some of their collection and gave a fine talk. The Society did not meet through the summer months except for our summer outing in July to the Dartmouth College Special Collections.

FABS members are welcome at any of the monthly meetings, and are invited to contact Eliot Stanley at the phone number in the following paragraph for information regarding the fall schedule.

The Society's Publications Committee is taking subscription orders until 31 December, 1999, on the next publication, *The Mirror of Maine*, an annotated bibliography of the 100 greatest Maine books from colony to the second millennium. This is a collaborative project of the Baxter Society and the Maine Historical Society, to be published by the University of Maine Press. Two hundred specially-bound deluxe copies for subscribers are scheduled for release in the Spring of 2000. These copies will be \$150.00 until December 31, and \$200.00 thereafter. Subscriber's names will be printed in the book, if they so wish. Checks should be made out to and mailed to the BSPF, PO Box 1822, Portland, Maine 04104. Phone inquiries may be directed to Eliot Stanley, project chair, at 800-642-1988 or e-mail, jaehs15@aol.com.

Forthcoming Books:

The Bixby Book Club

The Bixby Book Club has just finished another successful year of touring the homes and offices of booklovers in the St. Louis area. The past year included a discussion of Christmas Books for the annual holiday party, a tradition at our home base, the Mercantile Library, as well as visits to the corporate collection of A.G. Edwards Inc., where the Club saw rare prints, views and maps, as well as the company's tremendous export trade porcelain collection, the largest in the United States. Pieces of china, as well as books, were on the shelves that fine day.

The fall series of tours will include a visit to the modern manuscript collection of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, one of the greatest collections on James Joyce, and a visit to the special collections department of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Both are full day trips. The schedule concludes with the Christmas Party at the Mercantile Library.

The Club's newsletter, "The Bixby Bibliopod" continues to be published and printed by noted fine printer Kay Kramer, proprietor of the Printery. The newsletter includes articles by Bixby members and members from other book clubs and societies.

The Book Club of California

Through September 21, the Book Club of California's exhibit is "California 49," original maps of California from the sixteenth century to the present. These were lent by Warren Heckrotte, Glen McLaughlin, and the late Alfred W. Newman. The exhibition was mounted in memory of Mr. Newman, who died on July 7, 1999. It marks the publication of *California 49* by the Año Nuevo Island Press (the 6th publication of the California Map Society). This volume reproduces forty-nine maps in honor of California's sesquicentennial and is edited by Warren Heckrotte and Julie Sweetkind, assistant editor.

The map exhibit will be followed by one of sea stories, through early November, and the Christmas exhibit will feature moveable books from the collection of John and Margaret Class.

Programs and Events

September 13, 1999—Warren Heckrotte and Julie Sweetkind of the California Map Society will speak about the making of *California 49*.

October 4, 1999—A special program of sea chanteys, with history, lore, and performance.

A Typographic Journey: The History of the Greenwood Press and Bibliography 1934-2000 by Jack Werner Stauffacher. Bibliography by Glenn Humphreys. The Greenwood Press. Illustrated.

Exploring Japanese Books and Scrolls by Colin Franklin. The Artichoke Press. Illustrated.

John DePol: A Catalogue Raisonné of his Graphic Work, 1935-1998. Edited by James Howard Fraser and Eleanor Friedl. Biographical essay by Catherine Tyler Brody. Classic Letterpress. Illustrated.

Book Club of Detroit

Programs and Events

The Book Club of Detroit's annual schedule includes six or seven major programs with catered meals, more modest programs on the first Tuesday of each month, and occasional out-of-town trips during the spring and summer months. Major programs scheduled to date include the following:

October 10, 1999—A viewing of the Arthur Rackham collection at the home of BCD members Joann and Ned Chatlat.

October 19, 1999—"The Sun Also Rises and the Development of Hemingway's Narrative Style," Dr. Gordon Beauchamp. Scarab Club.

November 16, 1999—"Miniature Books," Joan Knoertzer. Scarab Club.

December 7, 1999—Shakespearean dinner with Elizabethan music and entertainment. Scarab Club.

March 1, 2000—"Living on the Great Lakes," Mark Thompson (WSU Press author). Wayne State University Press.

April 2000—"Hidden Witnesses: African-American Photographs," Jackie Napoleon Wilson. Location TBA.

May 2000—Spring Seminar, TBA.

If you are visiting Detroit during any of our scheduled meetings, please feel free to contact Barry Neavill at (313) 577-0507 or e-mail aa3401@wayne.edu for more information.

The Book Club of Washington

Programs and Events

The first half of 1999 has been a quiet period for the Book Club of Washington, but we are planning to end the year with a flurry of activity.

September 30, 1999—It has become a tradition for the BCW to co-sponsor and host a “gala” get-together, for Club members, guests, and the dealers participating in the (now annual) Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair at the Space Needle. The evening includes cocktails, an excellent dinner, a speaker of interest, and the ambrosial book talk that any gathering of bibliophiles, bibliomanes and bibliopegists inevitably brings forth. Past speakers have included Kenneth Rendell, Robert Clark and John Dunning. Anyone contemplating a visit to Seattle for the Fair, October 1-2, 1999, is encouraged to write the BCW for details at PO Box 4081, Pioneer Square Station, Seattle, WA 98104.

October, 1999—David Helgeson, a gardener for the city of Seattle and an avid collector of gardening books, will give a talk on the subject augmented with slides from his collection. Date and venue TBA.

December, 1999—BCW members will gather for our much-anticipated and beloved Holiday Banquet, including the silent and live auctions. These are always very competitive

and friendly opportunities to obtain books, gifts, and services at bargain prices—and to contribute to the Club treasury for on-going publishing and other projects.

At present the BCW has available copies of its two publications:

The Washington 89 by George H. Twoney. Sagebrush Press, 1989. Published by the author “for the Book Club of Washington in commemoration of the Washington State Centennial in 1989.” A selective bibliography of 89 significant books in the history of Washington Territory and State. Limited to 890 copies. A valuable addition to any collection of Western history. \$45.00.

Gold Hunting in the Cascades by Loo-Wit Lat-Kla. Seattle, 1991. The Sagebrush Press. Only one copy of the original printing of this item (issued in Vancouver, W.T. in 1861) is known, in the Beinecke Library at Yale. This is a handsomely printed book, with a reproduction of a painting of Mt. St. Helens by Henry J. Warren. The book is an account of the second ascent of Mt. St. Helens. Limited to 300 numbered copies. \$45.00

The Caxton Club

Programs and Events

August 18, 1999—Dinner Program, 5 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Hall Witherell: “The Writings of Henry David Thoreau.”

Of the many voices calling out from the pages of American literature, none has been so persistent and influential as Henry David Thoreau. What a pleasure then to find that Dr. Elizabeth Hall Witherell (Beth), a leading scholar on all things Thoreau, was moving from Santa Barbara to the Midwest. Beth is the Editor in Chief for the magnificent Princeton University Press project, *The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau*. The project was established to provide accurate texts of Thoreau’s works, and is expected to be complete at thirty volumes. These include eleven volumes of material Thoreau published or prepared for publication, sixteen volumes of his *Journal*, and three volumes of his correspondence. Since The Thoreau Edition was established, Princeton has published eleven volumes to world wide critical acclaim and the great pleasure of those many people who have come to love the uncommon man from Concord. If Thoreau’s voice rang true throughout his life, how much more pertinent his observations of nature and humanity are today.

September 10, 1999—Luncheon Meeting. Caxtonian Dr. Gwin Kolb will share with us his experiences in China, where he taught English at the University of Peking and the

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Foreign Studies University in Beijing in 1994. He taught two American Southern classics, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Gone with The Wind*.

September 15, 1999—Dinner Meeting. We will have Dr. David Vaisey, C.B.E., Bodley's Librarian *Emeritus* at Oxford, England, speak on "Four Centuries of Collecting, The Bodleian Library and Some Of Its Treasures"

October 20, 1999—Dinner Meeting. We will have Dr. James Anthony West from Kent, England, who will speak to us on the bibliography and book history of The Shakespeare Folios with an emphasis on the first folio off the press.

November 17, 1999—Dinner Meeting. A talk on book collecting by Caxtonian Leslie S. Hindman, former owner of Leslie Hindman Auctioneers, now a part of Sotheby's. A silent auction of highly collectible books contributed by members will also be held at this meeting. The proceeds will go to the Second Century Fund.

December 15, 1999—Celebrate special Holiday Revels with a members viewing of the Caxton exhibition "Chicago Under Wraps: Dust Jackets 1920-1950" at the Art Institute of Chicago's Ryerson Library. Victor Margolin, professor of design history, University of Illinois, Chicago will speak at the Revels dinner at the Chicago Athletic Association.

The Colophon Club

The Colophon Club was created in 1979 to share and encourage knowledge and enthusiasm for books and the arts of the book. Members include printers, designers, librarians, collectors, calligraphers, illustrators, booksellers, and others involved or interested in all aspects of the book. The Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, for dinner and a lecture either by a Club member or an invited speaker.

The speakers for the 1998-1999 year were: Jim Sherraden, Hatch Show Print, Nashville, Tennessee; Dan Carr and Julia Ferrari, Golgonooza Letter Foundry & Press, Ashuelot, New Hampshire; Adela S. Roatcap, Ph.D., a Club member and art historian who presented a lecture on the Russian avant-garde; Michael Carabetta, Creative Director of Chronicle Books, San Francisco; Robbin Ami Silverberg, Dobbin Books, Brooklyn, New York; Felicia Rice, Moving Parts Press, Santa Cruz, California; Georgianna Greenwood, a Club member and professional calligrapher and artist who spoke about twentieth-century German lettering arts; Gillian Boal, Rare Book Conservator, who spoke on the documents of the Mexican Inquisition that she worked on at The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley; Robin Heyeck, a Club member, who talked about marbling, printing, and publishing at The Heyeck Press; and David Lance Goines, a Club

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Inquiries & Orders: Bob Baris, 11307 Hessler Road, Cleveland, OH 44106

member who did a presentation on his illustrations for the forthcoming *Chéz Panisse Cafe Cookbook* by Alice Waters.

This fall, our program includes talks by Mindell Dubansky, Preservation Librarian from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and Adam Larsson, a book conservator from Uppsala, Sweden.

For more information on the club or our meetings, please contact Janice Braun, Special Collections Curator, F.W. Olin Library, Mills College. (510) 430-2047 or e-mail jbrown@mills.edu.

Delaware Bibliophiles

Programs and Events

September, 1999—Opening of the exhibition on the collection of fakes and forgeries formed by the late Frank Tober, University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE (Tober was a founding member of the Delaware Bibliophiles).

October, 1999—Oak Knoll Fest, New Castle, DE—A celebration of fine press/small press printing, with an emphasis

on papermaking. Saturday and Sunday, October 2 & 3, 1999.

For its sixth year, Oak Knoll Fest offers a special opportunity for fine book lovers and collectors to intermingle with those keeping the fine press book tradition. Set in the historic, colonial town of Old New Castle, located on the Delaware River, this two-day event brings together fine presses and their books, collectors, librarians, and book-sellers from all over the world.

This year's focus will be on aspects of papermaking and the book. On Saturday, Cathleen A. Baker and Steve Miller will present their new work, *By His Own Labor—The Biography of Dard Hunter*, on the renowned paper historian and private press printer. They will be followed by Cindy Bowden who will give a presentation on the Robert C. Williams American Museum of Papermaking. On Sunday, Graham Moss of the Incline Press from England will give a talk about his press and work.

If you love fine, collectible books produced by masters of printing and the book arts, don't miss this rare chance to meet the printers in person and see their books. Come to this year's fair to show your support for those carrying on the revered traditions of fine bookmaking and browse the titles offered for sale.

For more details, directions, and travel information, contact: Oak Knoll Books, 310 Delaware Street, New Castle, DE 19720 USA, Phone (302) 328-7232 Fax (302) 328-7274, e-mail: oakknoll@oakknoll.com Web: www.oakknoll.com

November, 1999—Annual auction, where we bid on each other's cast-offs to raise money for the club treasury.

December, 1999—Christmas gathering at the shop of antiquarian book dealer Tom Macaluso, Dennett Square, PA.

The Fine Press Book Association

The Fine Press Book Association is a world-wide organization established to provide information about private press books from the Kelmscott era to the turn of our century. Membership is open to all. Most members are printers, bookbinders, papermakers, artists, collectors, or book-sellers. Our main vehicle for providing information to our members is through our journal, *Parenthesis*, which is published twice yearly. The journal contains articles on contemporary, as well as historical presses and artists. In addition it also contains numerous reviews of new press books. Issues alternate between the U.S. and the UK for editorial content and design. In addition, we have other events, such as a recent book show in a gallery in Bath, England, and the upcoming Oxford Fine Press Book Fair, to be held the 13th and 14th of November.

Inquiries and information about subscribing to *Parenthesis* should be directed to:

Carol Grossman
Fine Press Book Association
7228 Four Rivers Road
Boulder, CO 80301
Phone (303) 530-7567
e-mail: carolg@fourriversbooks.com

The Florida Bibliophile Society

Florida Bibliophile Society members enjoyed the Annual Banquet in May 1999. Outgoing President George Spiero was honored and incoming President Barney Arbeen was commiserated. The remainder of the Society's officers reupped for another term. Thirty-five members donated books and ephemera for our charity auction, which realized the munificent sum of \$111. (There were no "Tamarlanes" or Gutenbergs among the donations!) Monthly meetings resume in September 1999, and are held on the third Sunday of each month through the following May (December and May are exceptions with dates and places TBA). We meet at Heritage Park in southwest Largo (Pinellas County) on odd numbered months and in the Merl Kelce Library on the campus of the University of Tampa (Hillsborough County) on even numbered months. Meetings always begin at 1:30 p.m. and end before 3:30 p.m. The program schedule so far starts in November, which will see our annual flea market and member show and tell; December will be our annual Christmas party and auction; February will find Ms. Glenys Tarlow speaking on her Kate Douglas Wiggin collection, and May 2000 will be the Annual Banquet. Members of FABS organizations are always welcome at our meetings—good bookfellowship plus coffee and comestibles are always available for our visitors. Please call Lee Harrer, 727-536-4029, to confirm dates and how to find the meeting places should you be planning to visit.

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.

September 16, 1999—The first meeting of the season will include a brief business meeting followed by a bring your favorite book "Show and Tell."

October 23, 1999—A gallery talk and tour of the exhibit "Promise/Parallel Visions," presented by the Central Agency for Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation of Broward County. The exhibit, which includes the Ernest W. Michel Historical Judaica Collection and other important Judaica historical artifacts, will be on display in the Bienes Center, October 6 to November 10, 1999.

November 18, 1999—A tour of Capella Books Arts Bindery with the owner, Linda Rollins. She will discuss binding techniques as well as answer conservation questions.

November 23, 1999—Bienes Center Exhibit opening: "WFA: The Museum Extension Projects."

December 16, 1999—Annual Holiday Party. Members and guests bring favorite holiday recipes and holiday books. 7:00-9:00 pm.

January 21-22, 2000—The 11th Annual Fort Lauderdale Antiquarian Book Fair. Fontaneda Society Booksellers' Reception will be held Friday, January 21, 5:00-8:00. Music by Charlie Geanuracos. Other book fair activities include book arts demonstrations and on-going programs on collecting by booksellers.

On Sale: *The WPA: An Exhibition of Works Progress Admin-*

istration (WPA) Literature and Art from the Collections of the Bienes Center for the Literary Arts: October 6-December 31, 1998. The 88-page softbound catalog with 99 b&w illustrations features 261 books, pamphlets, ephemera and artworks from the 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 25"x 20" poster features Rober Fink's art from the dustjacket of *The Everglades: River of Grass*. \$15.00.

The Grolier Club

Programs and Events

Note: Events marked with an asterisk are for members only.

*September 7, 1999—Special Functions Dinner: Mark Samuels Lasner on "The Pursuit of the Rare: Three Early Beardsley Collectors."

September 15–November 13, 1999—Public exhibition: "A Century for the Century: Fine Printed Books 1900-1999." Curated by Jerry Kelly and Martin Hutner.

*September 15, 1999—Grolier lunchtime buffet: An opportunity to sit and talk about books with fellow members. Special guest: The Venerable Dr. David Griffiths, FSA, former Librarian of Lincoln Cathedral in England. At the Club, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. \$20 per person.

September 22–November 5, 1999—Small exhibition: "American Natural History Illustrated." From the collection of Robert Braun. Sponsored by the Prints, Drawings & Photographs Committee.

*September 28, 1999—New members tour, reception, and dinner.

*October 4, 1999—Curator's chat: Robert Braun on his exhibition, "American Natural History Illustrated."

October 5, 1999—Lecture: Jonathan Galassi, Editor in Chief, Farrar Strauss & Giroux on "The Poetry of Eugenio Montale." Jointly sponsored by the Grolier Club and the Trustees of the American Academy in Rome. 6:30 pm at the Club.

*October 12, 1999—Special Functions Dinner: Ronald Schuchard on "T. S. Eliot and the Music Hall."

October 16, 1999—Preservation Workshop: Mindy Dubansky on "Protecting Your Books and Archives."

*October 20, 1999—Grolier lunchtime buffet.

October 22-23, 1999—Twenty-Fourth Annual Conference of the American Printing History Association (APHA): "A



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Century of Book Design in Europe and America: Printing, Practitioners and Presses." At the Grolier Club. Registration is through APHA, \$60 for APHA members, \$70 for non-members.

*November 9, 1999—Special Functions Dinner: William Reese on "The Rare Book Market Today."

November 16, 1999—The 1999 Robert L. Nikirk Lecture: Professor Anthony Grafton on "Living Through the Media Revolution: Then and Now." Reception follows, 7 p.m.

*November 17, 1999—Grolier lunchtime buffet.

November 18, 1999—January 14, 2000—Small exhibition: "An End to Darkness: Renaissance and Baroque Books on Light and Vision." From the collection of Daniel M. Albert.

December 7, 1999—January 29, 2000—Public exhibition: "A Ha! Christmas!" Curated by Jock Elliott.

*December 15, 1999—Grolier lunchtime buffet.

For further information, the Grolier Club may be contacted in New York by telephoning (212) 838-6690.

The John Russell Bartlett Society

Programs and Events

September 23, 1999—William Reese will speak on "The Rare Book Market Today." This meeting is co-sponsored with the John Carter Brown Library, and will be held at the library at 8 p.m.

October 24, 1999—The John Russell Bartlett Society will sponsor a Book Fair to be held on the Brown University campus. It is a small press book fair, drawing mostly from the New England area. More specific information is to be announced.

November, 1999—Walker Rumble will speak on "Typesetting Contests."

February, March and April meetings are TBA. Our March meeting is the Annual Meeting, and our April meeting features the Stillwell Prize (for undergraduate book collectors). For more information, please contact Pamela Rakowski at rakpar@aol.com.

The Ottawa Book Collectors

Programs and Events

Dateline August 4th, 1999: A minor cabinet shuffle at the Federal level has not provided much in the way of new faces, politically speaking, and bibliophiles the country over are saddened by the total absence of politically pronounced book lovers, nevermind any indication of literacy in Liberal Cabinet circles!

In the meantime it appears the Feds have recently sponsored a survey south of the border to find out what Americans think of Canada (Ottawa Citizen, 4 Aug. 1999, p. A5). Mounties and igloos prevail and most interviewees have never heard of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (which may be a relief). Apparently more news of matters Canadian comes through stand-up comedy and references on "Jeopardy" which may explain why Leslie Nielsen is being made (in your dreams!) Minister for Funny Bones despite the fact his brother was a Tory.

A new Ottawa Book Collectors' Executive was elevated to supreme biblio power this past June and will carry the book of state into the next millennium. Page-turners include Ray Bollman and John Crysdale (providing continuity and corporate memory from the past executive) as well as fresh biblio-blood in the form of George Beelen and Ken Elder. Mark Williamson remains Hon. Treasurer (not having absconded with such funds as remain in the piggy bank) and the Hon. Ed. (P. Greig) will be suppressed whenever possible. More administrative details available as required from either Doc Bollman (809-110 Forward St, Ottawa, ON Canada K1Y 459) or by writing to the catch-all OBC address (c/o 156 Buell St, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1Z 762).

Meetings for 1998-1999, like the Canadian dollar (not known as a "loonie" for nothing), had their ups and downs. Given the partial participation of your FABS reporter not all meetings can be reported with equal partiality. Following September 1998's show and tell (new and fearsome acquisitions over the summer) the OBC set sail with the late lamented Helen of Troy (October '98). On this occasion renowned Schliemann authority Professor Andrew Bloedow provided a slide show on the life and times of the discoverer of Troy. November brought biblio-archaeology closer to home with local author Phil Jenkins talking about the research which generated and generally motivated his study of Ottawa's Lebreton Flats (*An Acre of Time*). December was incongruously devoted to the more maligned members of the fees and sprites syndicate with a talk by John Robert Rapley on witchcraft and the trial of Urban Grandier.

Moving on to the current year, OBC members enjoined in a biblio-wassail in January before getting down to brass tacks in February and attending an onsite working session on the how-tos of cataloguing rare books *chez* J. Patrick McGahern, mainstay of the Ottawa antiquarian book trade. March hares and other participants lent an appreciative ear to longtime OBC member Audrey Campbell discuss her collecting passion for C.S. Lewis in March. April's session

(due to an over indulgence in Easter eggs) was delayed until April 12th when noted local historian John Taylor discussed the iconographic issues (also backed up with an impressive slide show) involved in producing his pictorial study *Ottawa: An Illustrated History*. It wasn't all beer and skittles, nor entirely Ottawana, as Duff Hicks proved in May by presenting a masterful study of the literature on Sir William Alexander and the Baronets of Nova Scotia ("Founders and Fraudulence") with more emphasis perhaps on the fraudulents! Events wound up in June with the annual meeting, election of a new executive, and Liana Vander Bellen's discussion of collecting materials on the Canadian Rockies. Geographic discrepancies, any and all, likely will be made up in the coming season!

Speaking of which, the 1999/Millennium Executive have arranged the following delights and biblio-reposts to date:

September 13, 1999—Christine Jenkins on "Dorothy Sayers: A Peculiar Person."

October 4, 1999—Michel Brisebois, Director of the Rare Book Division at the National Library, will conduct a tour of the Library's exhibition "Impressions: 250 Years of Printing in the Lives of Canadians."

November 1, 1999—Edith Pahlke, OBC alumna, will discuss her collecting passion for "Russia America."

December 6, 1999—Mordy Bubis, doyen in training of the Ottawa antiquarian book bode, will discuss "Remaindered Books: Implications for the Antiquarian Book Trade."

January 10, 2000—A round table on "The 21st Century: Predictions from Books Published in the 20th Century" from OBCites' collections, somewhat leavened by traditional biblio-wassailery.

February 7, 2000—Staying somewhat with the sci-fi theme of things millennic, Professor Dominic Manganiello, noted authority on Tolkein, will speak to "Image of the Book in the *Lord of the Rings*."

The Philobiblon Club

Programs and Events

October 12, 1999—Thomas Whitehead, Chief of Special Collections Temple University: "John T. McIntyre, Philadelphia Novelist and Playwright."

November 9, 1999—Enid Mark, Proprietor, Elm Press: "A History Of the Elm Press."

December 13, 1999—Barbara Traister, Professor of English Lehigh University: "A Sixteenth-Century London Physician and His World Of Books."

February 8, 2000—Michael Benjamin, Collector: "They Speak Volumes! Books: Their Relationship to Time, Events, and Each Other In the History and Culture Of African Americans."

The Rowfant Club

Programs and Events

Below are the speakers for our 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evening dinners through January 2000. Our season extends to June, and a partial list of speakers is available. Members of FABS clubs who find themselves in Cleveland and would like to attend should call George Weimer at (216) 566-7019 for details and reservations. We also have lunches at our club house each Friday and Saturday until June. During the summer we have occasional picnics at members' homes or at sites of local interest.

October 13, 1999—Professor Henry Adams, curator of the Cleveland Museum of Art will speak on "American Art."

October 20, 1999—Michael Zinman, "the collectors' collector" from Long Island will speak on "What Do You Care What Anyone Else Thinks?"

October 27, 1999—William Gill will speak on "Globalization or American Independence?"

November 10, 1999—Lawrence Serman will speak on "Tombs and Temples of the Sudan"

November 17, 1999—Louis Auchincloss will speak on "Aspects of Henry James."

December 8, 1999—Professor William Noel will deliver the annual Jack Lang Memorial Lecture on "Eureka! The Archimedes Palimpsest."

January 12, 2000—Michael Verne will speak on "Quiet Elegance: Japan Through the Eyes Of Nine American Artists."

January 19, 2000—Phil Skerry will speak on "Dances With Wolves: Apocalyptic Post-Revisionism."

January 26, 2000—John Gach will speak on "Books: What They Are and Why We Want Them. A Preliminary Inquiry."

Sacramento Book Collectors Club

Programs and Events

September 10, 1999, 7:45 p.m.—A regular club meeting will be held at the Belle Cooledge Community Center in Sacramento. The guest speaker will be Bob Graham of Sacramento who will speak on the subject of his locating Western explorer John Fremont's campsite in the Sierra Nevada mountains.

October 8, 1999, 7:45 p.m.—A regular club meeting will be held at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. The guest speaker will be club member Charles J. Soderquist, who will

speak on the subject of the Sacramento Delta region. Mr. Soderquist is the author of the book *Sturgeon Tales*.

November 12, 1999, 7:45 p.m.—A regular club meeting will be held at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. The guest speaker will be Kenneth Owens, California State University, Sacramento. The topic of his talk will be "Begun by Gold: Sacramento and the Gold Rush Heritage After 150 Years."

December 10, 1999, 7:45 p.m.—A regular club meeting will be held at the Belle Cooledge Community Center. The speaker will be Dr. Leonard Shlain of Mill Valley, California, who will talk about his recent book *The Alphabet vs The Goddess*.

January 14, 2000, 7:45 p.m.—The club's annual meeting will be held in Room 500 of the California State Library & Courts Building I, 194 Capital Mall, Sacramento. The meeting will include election of new officers, a "Show and Tell" program featuring exhibits of book and book art collections belonging to members and the presentation of letterpress printed keepsakes and/or book art creations by club members.

February 11, 2000.—The club will celebrate its 61st anniversary with a banquet dinner on the legendary riverboat, *The Delta King*, on the Sacramento River in Old Sacramento. Social hour at 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. J. S. Holliday, noted authority on the California Gold Rush who will talk about his new book, *Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California*. Dr. Holliday will sign copies of his book.

Club Officer Change

Vice President and Program Chairperson Robert Young Jr. resigned due to ill health. The acting Vice President and Program Chairperson is Betty Jane Powell, Tel. 916-443-1717. Mr. Young will continue to edit the club's quarterly newsletter.

Club 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 Club address: Sacramento Book Collectors Club, PO Box 160044, Sacramento, CA 95815.

Tulsa Book Collectors Club

The Tulsa Book Collectors Club has gone to bimonthly meetings, in the odd numbered months (Jan., March, May, July, Sept., & Nov.). This change was effective in May 1999. We still meet the second Thursday of the month, with the occasional exception to accomodate our speaker's schedule.



BOOK REVIEW

JOHNS, ADRIAN. *The Nature of the Book*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1998. 753 pp. Cloth, \$40.00. ISBN 0-226-40121-9.

IN surveying the history of printing in England prior to the nineteenth century, Adrian Johns takes exception to the view that the advent of the printing press immediately brought about the mass dissemination of precisely the same text at different places, times and locations. While printing enabled the stabilization of texts, such precision, termed *fixity*, was rarer in early modern Europe than we assume. True *fixity* did not occur until the nineteenth century, which saw the necessary mechanical changes in technology and organizational changes in the printing community.

Until recent times, the author asserts, the text of a book was not necessarily a reliable reflection of the author's thoughts. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, books were often either abridged or pirated without the author's knowledge. Paper was expensive, and the printing process

could result in a particular edition being made available to the public with pages in various states of correction. The author states that for these reasons, it is anachronistic to use the term "edition" in its modern sense to refer to books published before the nineteenth century. "The myth of the standardized impression did not survive the reality of the printing house." In fact, it is estimated that there were more than twenty-four thousand variations of the King James Bible in existence before the 1830's. Additionally, there are no two identical copies of the first folio of Shakespeare. By 1860, the first folio "boasted some six hundred different typefaces, along with non-uniform spelling and punctuation, erratic divisions and arrangements, mispaging, and irregular proofing."

The author presents a vivid picture of the inner workings of London's book trade, in part by focusing on the history of the Stationers, the group chartered in 1557 by Queen Mary to "oversee the art and mystery of printing." The tribulations of authorship are colorfully presented in the story of John Flamsteed's dispute with Isaac Newton, pres-

ident of the Royal Society, Edmund Halley, and Awnsham Churchill, the bookseller originally responsible for the printing of Flamsteed's magnum opus, *Historia Coelestis Britannica*.

When George I ascended the English throne, Newton's patrons found themselves in disfavor. Flamsteed, the astronomer royal, was able to appeal over the heads of Newton and the Royal Society, who he believed were responsible for printing an embarrassingly corrupted version of his intended text. Churchill was ordered to give Flamsteed "as a present" from the king, three hundred of the three hundred and forty copies of the 1712 "edition" still remaining in his stock. Flamsteed sent a few copies to friends with the cautionary inscription that the Churchill edition was "Evi-

dence of ye Godless persons." As further satisfaction, he burned the book's accompanying printed catalogue and abridged celestial observations on a pyre on Greenwich Hill. Sadly, Flamsteed did not see his work presented to the public. That task was left to his wife, who carried on her husband's work and had the satisfaction of seeing the desired publication during the term of her husband's successor, Edmund Halley, who had edited the work her husband had burned.

The reviewer has offered a small hors d'oeuvre to stimulate your interest. In all, the book—six hundred plus pages—offers a very hearty meal. *The Nature of the Book* is a good read. It is interesting, well written, and deserving of your attention.

ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK

BOOKS

are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are; nay they do preserve as in a vial the purest efficacy and extraction of that living intellect that bred them.

MILTON ♀ *Areopagitica*

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Thursday, March 16, 2000

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COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH
THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA AND THE ROXBURGHE CLUB

Friday, March 17, 2000

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LUNCH AT THE FACULTY CLUB

DONAHUE RARE BOOK ROOM AT
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COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT THE CROWN PLAZA HOTEL

Saturday, March 18, 2000

BANCROFT LIBRARY AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

LUNCH AT THE FACULTY CLUB

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COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT "THE FAMILY CLUB"

Sunday, March 19, 2000

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to the Achenbach Collection at \$14 per person (admission is *not* included). \$ _____

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to the Napa Valley at \$30 per person (lunch is *not* included). \$ _____

Saturday Symposium

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