



THE FELLOWSHIP
of
AMERICAN BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETIES

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The Aldus Society, Columbus, OH
The Ampersand Club, Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN
The Baltimore Bibliophiles, Baltimore, MD
The John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI
The Baxter Society, Portland, ME
The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA
Book Hunters Club of Houston, Houston, TX
The Delaware Bibliophiles, Wilmington, DE
The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI
Florida Bibliophile Society, St. Petersburg, FL
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University of London Bibliophiles

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

Letter From the Chair

Meeting in annual plenary session on 11 March 2021, the trustees of FABS addressed an issue that has been lying “out there” since the founding of FABS: gender discrimination practiced by one of the founding member societies, the Rowfant Club in Cleveland. In March 2020 the trustees voted to take some action with the assistance of a “task force.” With due regard being given to COVID-19 limitations, the Chair designated the Executive Committee of FABS to serve in this capacity (William Butler, Chair; Alexander Ames, Vice Chair; Ronald Smeltzer, Secretary, and Jennifer Larson, Treasurer). The task force proposed a set of “Canons” to set out FABS policy on this question with a view to laying the groundwork for amending the Articles of Association of FABS to this end. The draft Canons were amended in advance of the meeting by what the Executive Committee considered to be a friendly amendment submitted by the Book Club of California and the William Morris Society in the United States. After extensive discussion, the Canons were adopted as an interim measure and statement of FABS policy by an overwhelming majority.

The trustees then adopted a second motion to call an Extraordinary Meeting during the first half of June 2021 with a view to amending the Articles of Association to incorporate the provision on inclusivity. Although the principal catalyst for the decisions on this matter was the gender discrimination policy of the Rowfant Club, which does not accept women members, that Club resigned from FABS on 4 March 2021; all other member clubs of FABS and international affiliates are compliant with inclusivity requirements. It was stressed emphatically during the discussions that FABS has no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of societies on these matters or of adjudicating disputes that may arise on individual membership issues.

The lack of a FABS logo, noted in the previous issue of this *Journal*, the Executive Committee duly repaired by commissioning Jerry Kelly to design one for us. The pleasing result is illustrated here and will appear on FABS materials as seems appropriate.

Following our practices of the past, FABS officers participated as judges in various stages of the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest. An impressively large field took part with many worthy entrants. The outcome was announced by the ABAA organizers.

Under active discussion and likely to produce results in the forthcoming months are a number of initiatives on the part of FABS, among them a virtual “Collector’s Showcase” available to member societies and their members and a series of virtual presentations provisionally entitled “Bibliophilic Futures,” the last intended to assist societies in recruiting new members, developing programs, and the like.

It is a pleasure to report that one of the FABS societies and trustees has just published anecdotes of bibliophilic quests: see Kurt Zimmerman, *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades* (Houston, The Book Hunters Club of Houston, 2021), in paperback and available from Amazon or directly from the author.

William E. Butler
FABS Chair

Note From the Editors

Hello, all! Ryan and I are honored to begin work on the FABS Journal as your new editors. We are grateful to Annie Rowleson and Scott Ellwood for their excellent work on the Journal and on this transition, and we look forward to the future. As a reminder, we are always looking for submissions and contributions; please reach out if you have anything to share.

On a more somber note, we regret to announce the passing of Kay Michael Kramer (1939-2021) of St. Louis, MO, on April 2. A distinguished book designer and private press printer, Mr. Kramer was director of Art & Design at The C. V. Mosby Company (now part of Elsevier), where he worked for 36 years. He also ran his own private press, The Printery, founded in 1970. Among other projects, he oversaw the production of this very journal for a decade. We are grateful for his many contributions to FABS and to the book arts; he will be missed. For those who wish to make a memorial contribution, the family would be most appreciative of donations to Central Print, 2624 North 14th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106, www.centralprint.org/donate, where a celebration of his life and printing will be held at a future date.

Tess Goodman
Editor
Ryan Greenwood
Assistant Editor

The Aldus Society

The Aldus Society opened its twenty-first year in January 2021 after cancelling most of our planned 2020 events. Our board continues to meet via Zoom and to lay plans to maintain connection with and among our members through our newsletter, list-serve postings, website, and virtual events. As a result of cancelled events, we have suspended dues payments for 2021.

Our traditional "Aldus Collects" program on January 11 was a Zoom event



Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, first edition, London, 1773. Sold March 2021 for \$26,250.


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hosted by George Bauman during which four Aldus members discussed their collections. Our speakers were: Margot Thacker on “Forks and Salt and Tea—Oh My! A Collection of Books about the History of Food and Feasting”; Tom Thacker on “Dear Boss—Confessions of a Jack the Ripper Collector”; Miriam Kahn on “The Surprising Variety of Epistolary and Diary Novels in My Collection”; and Jack Salling on “Kelliegram Bindings” in his collection.

On February 11, Koritha Mitchell, author and Associate Professor of English at The Ohio State University, spoke via Zoom to a virtual assemblage on her research and writing. She has recently published with the University of Illinois Press two award-winning books: *From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture* (2019) and *Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930* (2011).

The Caxton Club of Chicago has kindly given our members access to their online programs and lectures. In addition, we continue our search for virtual programming to maintain connections with and among our members. We hope to return to face-to-face events by the end of 2021, if not by autumn of 2021, but only if we can do so safely. Our Program Committee is currently working to reschedule our cancelled speakers from 2020-21 to our 2021-22 program year. Our schedule for next year will be posted on our website as soon as it's complete.

Dan Jensen
Treasurer, The Aldus Society

Baltimore Bibliophiles

Since we are all still in the coils of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Baltimore Bibliophiles have decided to take a leaf from other FABS members' books: we began having Zoom sessions. Below is a summary of our virtual meetings, which began in December 2020, and are now programmed through July 2021. All sessions begin at 7:00 pm. Kudos to BIBS member Nick Rosasco, our webmaster, for setting up and coordinating the Zoom sessions.

On Wednesday, December 9, 2020, our group held our Annual Meeting, followed by a talk from Elizabeth Atwood, who spoke on “Marguerite Harrison, American Spy.” On Thursday, January 14, 2021, Ed Papenfuse discussed “Jefferson's Printer.” On Thursday, February 18, 2021, Spencer W. Stuart spoke on all aspects of “Collection building, maintaining, etc.” On Wednesday, March 17, 2021, Arthur Cheslock will speak about “Blasphemy!” Our Tuesday, April 20, 2021, speaker is George Barnum, on his book, *Picturing the Big Shop: Photos of the U.S. Government Publishing Office 1900-1980* (Washington, DC: GPO, 2017). On Thursday, May 20, our speaker will be Posey Boicourt. In her charm-

ing memoir, *Blue Tulip: An Artistic Adventure with the Painter François Joseph Kinsoen and His Niece Adèle* (Story Arts Media, 2019), she explores the forgotten world of a portrait painter from whom she is a direct descendant. Our June speaker is tentatively scheduled to be Dr. April Oettinger, Professor of Art History, Goucher College. Dr. Oettinger will speak about her work in progress: *Animating Nature. Lorenzo Lotto and the Sublime Turn in Venetian Landscape Art*. In the works are (to be scheduled) talks by Sallie Lowenstein (children's book author, illustrator, publisher and maker of handmade books) and Charles Tharp, whose topic is "George Washington's Library and What He Read." Both members and friends of The Baltimore Bibliophiles are welcome to attend the Zoom sessions. Efforts are made to reach out to members of FABS as well as the general public via Facebook at www.facebook.com/BaltimoreBibliophiles and our website: www.BaltimoreBibliophiles.org.

Binnie Syril Braunstein
Baltimore Bibliophiles

John Russell Bartlett Society

In an attempt to add value to membership in these times when so many were (and still are) isolated, since June the president of the Bartlett Society (jrbs.org) has been sending out to members a fortnightly e-publication entitled *Book Notes*. They are generally small essays on Rhode Island bookish history, and a conscious homage to Sidney S. Rider's publication of the same name over a century ago. Sidney Rider (1833-1917) was a Providence bookseller, publisher, and collector of Rhode Island history. He produced 870 issues of his fortnightly "historical, literary and critical" notes from 1883 to 1916. Our modern version is available on the publications page of the website. Also newly added on that page are PDFs of the tenth and 25th anniversary publications of the JRBS.

The executive committee of the society held a virtual meeting in October to plan the season, and our first event was a virtual tour of the newly renovated special collections of the Providence Public Library on December 12th. Changes include a dedicated HVAC system, increased storage, and new spaces for research, teaching and exhibition. The exhibition room is stunning, and a great improvement on the old brass-and-wood cases relegated to the hallway outside of the department. The new reading room is awaiting their full reopening, and several other organizations around town are looking forward to partnerships utilizing their new teaching and event spaces. Jordan Goffin, Head Curator of Collections, conducted the tour and also shared a few recent acquisitions.

Our second event, on January 10th, featured Spencer W. Stuart, a Collections Advisor who discussed the structural changes that he has observed in the

rare books and printed material markets, and some of the trends he is observing with new collectors and how these approaches are redefining notions of who collects and what influences their focus.

Our Annual Meeting will be virtual, and held in late March or early April (TBD). The program will be a talk by Richard Ring, Deputy Executive Director for Collections and Interpretation at the Rhode Island Historical Society, on the history of the Providence Theatre (1795–1832). The talk will focus on a newly digitized collection of nearly 200 playbills from the theater owned by the RIHS, as well as “the old drop-scene,” a massive view of Providence painted in 1810 for the theater, which is apparently the oldest surviving example of American theater scenery. Acquired by the RIHS in 1833, a project to digitally restore the image and make it an interactive interpretive tool is underway.

Finally, the society will finish the season with its annual book collecting prize for undergraduates on April 21, 2021. First awarded in 1985 and open to any undergraduate in the state of Rhode Island, the prize is named to honor the life and work of Margaret Bingham Stillwell (1887–1984). Several past winners of the prize have become distinguished collectors.

Richard Ring
President, Bartlett Society

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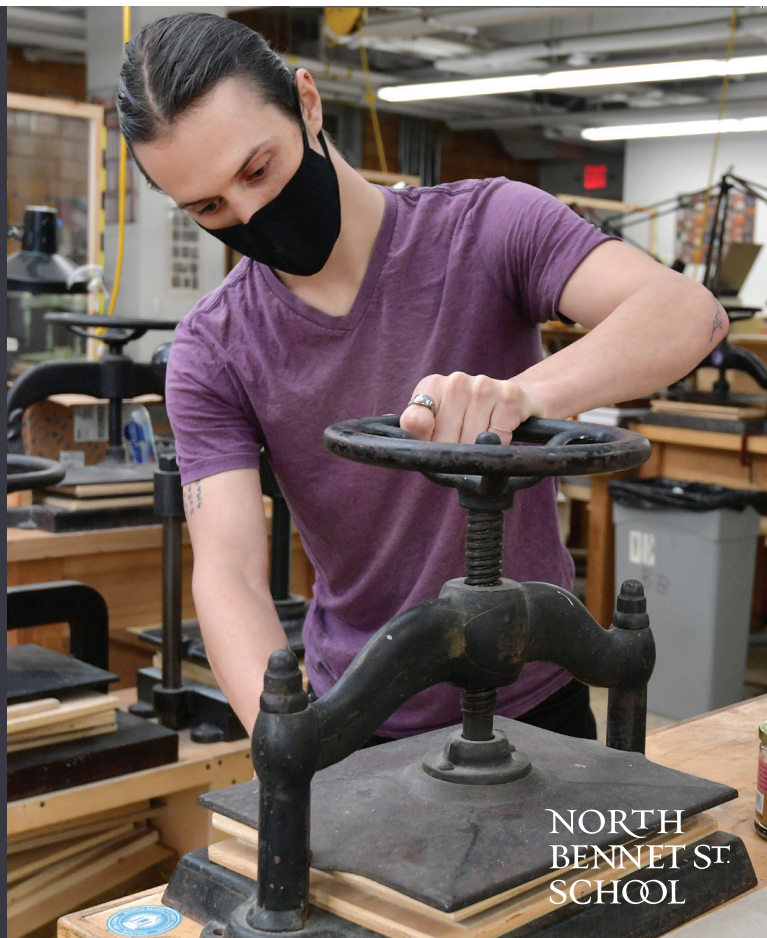
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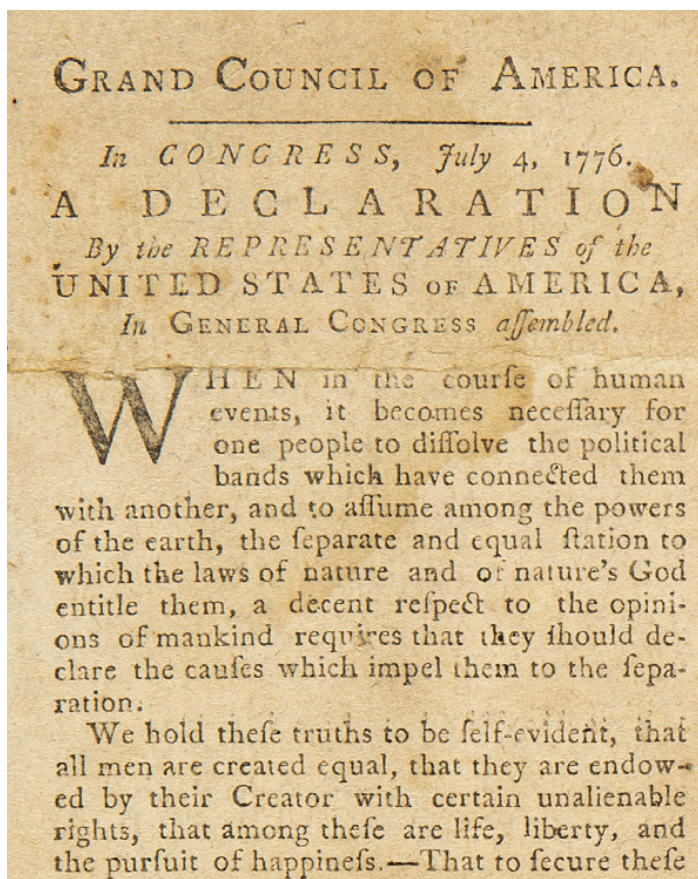
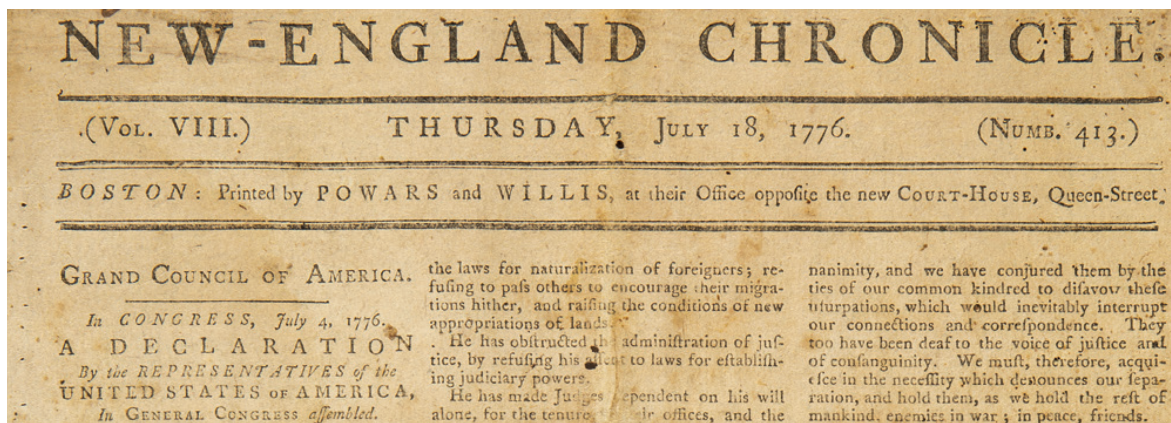
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The Baxter Society

The Baxter Society, a Portland, Maine group of bibliophiles, has been meeting together for more than 35 years. This year brought us challenges. Like many, we moved to Zoom rather than take a hiatus. And we are mighty glad we did.

Embracing Zoom, our monthly meetings engaged with speakers both local and from the far points of the compass. We added to our member base by inviting people to join us as guests for a particular program and quite a few of these, some “from away” as we say here, have subsequently joined as members. Our Board is now in discussions on how to meld in-person meetings (as we’ve done in the past) and Zooming, thereby allowing our new members to continue to participate in our meetings. The bottom line is that through no planning on our part change came our way (pandemic), we embraced it, and have actually benefited from it.

We have had a great success with our speakers recently and have had much positive feedback from our members about their talks, all via Zoom:

September 2020: Chris Lafave, Curator of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum & Library, Indianapolis, spoke about Vonnegut and his life and books, as well as several treasures of the museum.

October: Marylene Altieri, Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America (Radcliffe), introduced us to their renowned culinary/cookbook collections, and their suffrage collections and programming related to the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage in the US.

November: Martha Kearsley, bookbinder, owner of Strong Arm Bindery, and professor in the book arts program at the Bennett Street School in Boston, spoke of how the pandemic changed their approach to training fledgling book binders and running a small business.

December is usually our annual holiday party, but this time we Zoomed with festive intention with Margaret Hathaway and Karl Schatz, authors of the newly published *Maine Bicentennial Community Cookbook*, joined by Don Lindgren, of Rabelais Books, Biddeford, Maine, noted authority on gastronomy and community cookbook history.

January 2021: our annual “show and tell” is always fun, and with always a few surprises. We have grown to love this “themed” meeting.

February: Angela Waldron, curator at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine, spoke about publishers’ bindings in the current exhibit running through 2021: “Transforming the Ordinary: Women in American Book Cover Design.”

March: Lynne M. Thomas, head of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois and a nine-time Hugo Award (science fiction and fantasy) winner, entitled her talk “The Time Traveler’s Archivist” based on a forthcoming book she is writing with Katy Rawdon, Temple University.

April: Steven Lomazow, MD will be discussing *Magazines and the American Experience*, his current show at the Grolier Club, NYC.

In May the Baxter Society finishes out its 2020-21 season with Reid Byers, our vice president, speaking about his new book *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom*.

And we submit this reminder—that we welcome any FABS members to our always lively and engaging meetings. Please e-mail BaxterSociety@gmail.com and you will be put on our guest list, assuring you receive an e-mail invitation. If visiting Maine in person post-pandemic we hope you would look us up for some fine book banter.

We meet the second Wednesday evening of each month, September through May at 7pm, and always welcome guests. Our website: www.BaxterSociety.org. We are also on Facebook.

Zip Kellogg
Baxter Society

Book Club of California

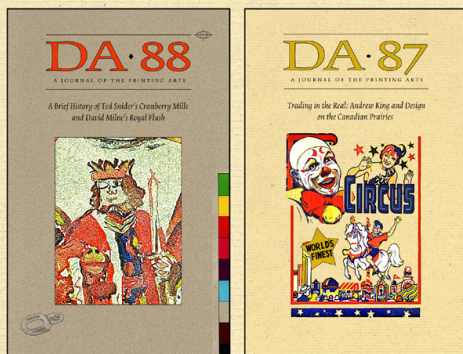
Despite the continued shelter-at-home order, the Book Club of California had a full schedule of programming. The club continued the virtual Zoom webinar live presentations and member virtual community meetings. For our members, we introduced Lunchtime with the Librarian and a new area of our website, BCC@Home, where recordings of past Zoom programs can be accessed.

Our live virtual programs are extremely popular with members and guests, attracting more than 100 participants each evening. The virtual format has allowed us to reprise programs that were only available in Southern California. We welcome program attendees from all over the country and beyond, as well as recording the programs for our members to view at their leisure.

There were a number of programs about famous Californians. Charles Janigian talked about his cousin, Pulitzer Prize and Academy Award winner William Saroyan, whose words are perhaps more relevant today than at any other time in the last 100 years. Author Elizabeth Pomeroy discussed her book, *Glen Dawson: Mountaineer and Bookman*, about the avid globe-trotting climber who became a beloved and renowned man of books. Charmian Kittredge London's story, freed from the shadow of her famous husband Jack London, was told by Iris Jamahl Dunkle.

Other programs included Mary Risala Laird speaking about her work at the Quelquefois and Perishable Presses. Novelist and printer Alix Christie discussed the beginnings of printing with moveable type in "Gutenberg's World: The Rise of a New Technology in 15th-Century Mainz" by describing the principal actors involved and specific conditions that led to this monumental event. In December, printer Peter Koch traced the history of printing in California.

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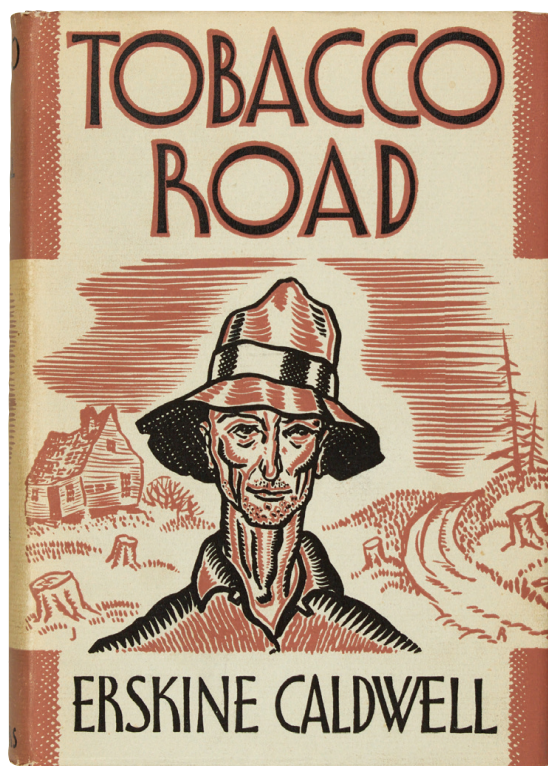
Our virtual community meetings are for small groups of members and are meant to be interactive among attendees. We have covered such topics as Sheltering in Place with New (or Old) Books, Virtual Book Fairs, Discussion on *The Booksellers* Film, Little Free Libraries, Miniature Books, and more.

Although we have just launched our Lunchtime with the Librarian, our members have responded enthusiastically. Each month members receive an email with insider information and opportunities to learn about what's happening in the library and engage with materials from the club's collection. One week later, our wonderful librarian Elizabeth Newsom hosts a Zoom meeting with an in-depth look and live conversation about the books introduced in the email.

In December, we opened our first digital exhibition, *Beauty Bound as 19th Century British Propaganda: From London to Bengal*. The exhibit was an introduction to the early nineteenth-century literary annuals. Published from 1822-1860, moderately priced and intended primarily for the middle class, they were full of poetry, prose, sheet music, art and much more. Since they were released in November, they were ideal Christmas gifts.

We welcome all to upcoming programs. Visit us at www.bccbooks.org for more information. Membership in the century-old club is open to all and benefits include discounts on publications, members-only events, keepsakes, and a subscription to the club's *Quarterly*, the only letterpress-printed scholarly journal in the country.

Sharon Gee
President, Book Club of California



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Book Hunters Club of Houston

The Book Hunters Club of Houston has been on general hiatus during the pandemic. We look forward to resuming meetings and activities this summer. We normally have a fine mix of private library tours, special collection events, and eating out. However, we are pleased to announce the first book publication of the Club. The work is Kurt Zimmerman's *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades* (2021), a collection of essays spanning over thirty years of book hunting. Zimmerman is a noted collector of material related to the history of American book collecting. He also has an extensive collection of Latin American literature. The essays draw from his varied biblio-background as a collector, dealer, rare book librarian, auction house director, and appraiser. There is literally something for everyone who has an interest in rare books. Copies can be ordered via Amazon. Signed / inscribed copies can be ordered directly from the Club via the author.

Kurt Zimmerman
Book Hunters Club of Houston

The Delaware Bibliophiles

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept the Delaware Bibliophiles from live meetings and activities now for a full year. Our annual anniversary dinner with speaker, our annual auction and dinner, and field trips were all cancelled. Filling the in-person void, we were treated to a Zoom presentation by Delaware Bibliophiles members Ray Nichols and Jill Cypher, who operate Lead Graffiti, a fine printing letterpress in Newark, DE. In the fall of 2006, Wallflowers Press (now Lead Graffiti) was approached to design and oversee publication of a book entitled *Histories of Newark: 1758-2008*. A group of 57 authors was close to finishing 75 chapters of the book about the city of Newark, Delaware, in time for its 250th anniversary. Ray and Jill presented us the story of the composition of *Histories of Newark*, a 288-page hardback book documenting Newark's quirks, growth, milestones, and losses. Before closing the meeting, the DBs had an opportunity to comment, catch up on other business, and renew personal contact with one another. While looking forward to restoring live meetings when the pandemic abates, we have scheduled a Collector's Showcase Zoom meeting, and possibly other virtual events in the meantime.

The Delaware Bibliophiles are proud to recognize the contributions of DB member Paul Preston Davis of major collections to two local institutions, the Historical Society of Delaware and the Brandywine River Museum. The Historical Society of Delaware was the recipient of a generous contribution of

Delawareana from Davis, the Paul Preston Davis Collection of Delawareana, an important and vast collection of rare business trade cards, photography, African Americana, print materials, and commemorative objects. In addition to being a major collector of Delawareana, Preston Davis was a major scholar of the works of Howard Pyle. Davis's *Howard Pyle: His Life – His Work* (Oak Knoll Press, 2004) is the definitive catalog of the works of this Wilmington-based artist and illustrator. Davis contributed his Pyle archival collection to the Brandywine River Museum. Both institutions have recognized Davis's contributions on their online sites.

R. M. Walsh
Delaware Bibliophiles

Florida Bibliophile Society

With the coronavirus running rampant in Florida, the Florida Bibliophile Society has conducted all of its meetings so far this season via Zoom. At the September meeting, club members displayed and discussed the bookish treasures they acquired during the summer. At the October meeting, Nigel Beale reminisced about the bibliophiles he has interviewed on his podcast, *The Biblio File*. An extended question-and-answer session followed his presentation and was particularly rewarding. This session and other question-and-answer sessions this season have been just as enjoyable as the presentations themselves.

Ten years ago, Mark Samuel Lasner and his exhibition, *Facing the Late Victorians*, came to the Tampa Bay area. We invited him back for our November meeting to tell us all about what he's added to his collection in the last ten years.

For its December meeting, the Florida Bibliophile Society had a BYOB (Buy Your Own Book) Holiday Party. Club members were asked to buy a book as a Christmas present to themselves, and then show and tell us about the books at the meeting, all of which was published in the society's newsletter, *The Florida Bibliophile*.

In January, FBS President Charles Brown gave an impressive presentation on the Chicago author and artist Charles Darger. Caxton Club members were invited to attend this presentation, and a recording of the presentation was made available for the other clubs.

In February, Rebecca Rego Barry gave a well-received presentation on the mystery author Carolyn Wells. Members from six different clubs attended this meeting.

At the March meeting, Jewish history scholar Eric Stickler will give the presentation, "The Jews in the American Civil War." In April, Florida poet Lola Haskins returns to give a presentation of poems from her latest collection, *Asylum: Improvisations on John Clare*. Lola previously appeared before the Flori-

da Bibliophile Society in April 2018, during National Poetry Month. She was scheduled to appear in April 2020, but the coronavirus caused its cancellation. We are hoping to end our season with an in-person banquet in May, but that may have to be cancelled as well. May we all return to normal meetings next season!

Jerry Morris
Vice President, Florida Bibliophile Society

The Grolier Club

During early 2021, numerous activities continued to keep Grolier Club members in contact with the club. The weekly e-newsletter *The Grolier Club News Flash*, currently up to issue number sixty-eight, is used for both club announcements such as the election of new members, which continues ongoing, new club publications, online exhibitions, and member business matters, and for selected announcements of non-Grolier, mostly-virtual events such as programs of the Bibliographical Society of America and activities of libraries, universities, and other FABS clubs. Other activities done virtually are show-and-tells, happy hours, exhibition openings, lectures, and panel discussions.

The exhibition “The History of Plastic Surgery: Much More Than Skin Deep from the Collection of Douglas M. Monasebian” was on display from November 19, 2020 until February 13, 2021 in the second floor gallery. More information can be found at <https://grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/plastic-surgery>.

In the first floor gallery, “Magazines and the American Experience: Highlights from the Collection of Steven Lomazow, M.D.” provides a chronological history of periodical print media in the United States, highlighting specific genres, topics and events using rare and unique magazine issues. The exhibition is on display through April 24, 2021. A virtual panel discussion “Magazine and the Book Trade” was held on March 16. An online version of the exhibition is available here: <https://grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/american-magazines>.

On March 4, the exhibition “Taming the Tongue in the Heyday of English Grammar (1711-1851)” from the Collection of Bryan A. Garner opened in the second floor gallery. Professor Bryan A. Garner, lawyer and lexicographer, tells the colorful story of these books and the characters who wrote them. The collector is the author of, among other titles, the 1056-page *Garner’s Modern English Usage*. The exhibition is on display until May 15, 2011. A catalog of the same title is available from the Grolier Club. More information is found here: <https://grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/english-grammars>.

Just announced is a new Grolier Club publication *The Earliest Dutch Im-*

position Manual, edited by Frans A. Janssen. The volume is a facsimile of the manuscript *Overslag-Boek, zeer nuttig voor alle Liefhebbers der Edele Boek-druk-konste* [Imposition manual, very useful for all practitioners of the noble art of printing], compiled in the years 1794–1795 by printer Joannes Josephus Balthazar Vanderstraelen from the collection of the Grolier Club library. This unique manuscript illustrates, through a series of diagrams in ink and watercolor, the correct position of composed pages, arranged so they would appear in the correct order after being printed and folded. The volume includes a detailed introduction and notes by Frans Janssen, a foreword by Eugene S. Flamm, a description of the original manuscript, and English translations of the table of contents, headings, and text of the manual.

The galleries of the Grolier Club can be visited, by members and non-members, by appointment made at least 48 hours in advance.

Ronald K. Smeltzer
Grolier Club

The Himes & Duniway Society

Everyone is beginning to get Zoom weary. The Zoom platform has given us the ability to include many more of our members in our meetings. Zoom is really a mixed blessing.

Our fall program was a wonderful and very quick virtual tour of the significant collections held by the University of Oregon. David De Lorenzo, the Giustina Special Collections Librarian at the University of Oregon, showed selections from the major collections. Of particular interest to our members was the collecting policy developed by the university.

Himes and Duniway worked with Mr. De Lorenzo to host a collegiate book collecting contest at the University of Oregon. We had a significant number of excellent collections represented. I am pleased to report that the book and book collecting are alive and well among the students at the University of Oregon.

Delaney Hetrick, a current UO undergraduate majoring in Architecture, submitted an entry titled *A Curated Collection of Bound Print Matter on Architecture*. The committee was very impressed by Delaney's focused theme, and by the details of concern for the original book artifacts.

Our winter program was centered on the history and laws surrounding copyrights and copyright protection. Our own member, Charlie Seluzicki, took our members through the history of book publishing and the pirating of printed materials as far back as publishing became common place.

Peter Staples, an experienced copyright attorney, started with the copyright laws passed in 1909 and moved forward in time to the present time. Mr. Staples spent some time focusing on the fair use doctrine and exploring the limits of what can be used without permission and without reality.

If a sister club would like to include us in a virtual event, please feel free to contact me at showard@himesduniway.org.

Scott Howard
Himes & Duniway Society

Manuscript Society

Manuscript Society Executive Director Dr. Shirley Sands is retiring as of July 31, 2021, after more than ten years of service. In her term she has used her administrative skills to expand the services the Society offers its members and the manuscript collecting community dramatically. MS President Douglass Rohrman extended the Society's gratitude to Dr. Sands and wishes for a long and pleasant retirement.

The Manuscript Society is searching for her replacement, and our website, www.manuscript.org, will have contact information and a job description for those wishing to apply.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in cancellation of in-person meetings for the rest of 2021, but the much anticipated Williamsburg Annual Meeting scheduled originally for May 2019 has been reset for May 10-15, 2022, so reserve the date. Meanwhile, Zoom events and webinars will take place. These will be announced on the website, where interesting features will be available to all. Currently there is an article by MS Trustee James West on explorer Fridtjof Nansen, and Brian Kathenes' webinar on the various versions of the US Declaration of Independence. Plenty of other engaging reading is on www.Manuscript.org, such as current and past issues of the *MS Digest* (check the link to an article on the most expensive scientific manuscripts) and archives of the last seven years of the *Manuscript Society News*, the publication so ably edited by Patricia K. Vaccaro. The *News* always has descriptions of various MS events as well as news of personalities in the world of autographs, including collectors and archivists among others.

Manuscript Society members have not let the lockdown go to waste, instead "sharpening their quills" and producing entertaining and informative writings. The winter 2021 issue of *Manuscripts*, our journal in charge of Bradley D. Cook, the David R. Chesnutt Editor, has an article by Dr. Stuart P. Embury on "Abraham Lincoln Pardons." Dr. Embury presents a survey of the 343 presidential pardons issued by Lincoln to various Native Americans, Union deserters, Confederate traitors, and criminals. An original signed Lincoln pardon from Dr. Embury's collection illustrates the article. John Hickman, the man pardoned by Lincoln, had been convicted of rape, and Dr. Embury relates the interesting story of the crime, the trial, and the pardon. Readers are left to draw their own conclusions!

In the same issue of *Manuscripts*, historian Kerry Ellard has the "goods," or

at least what survives of (manuscript) “goods” on Abraham Lincoln’s love life. Read the article titled “Missed Opportunities in Lincoln Gossip” and learn of Lincoln’s fraught prenuptial relationship with Mary Todd, his other romantic interests, and a bit about the state of his marriage during the presidency.

Another stellar author is Manuscript Society Past President Scott W. Petersen, whose recent book *Renaissance Hombre: Reflections on a Well-Rounded Life* receives an appreciative review by Book Editor William Butts. Petersen distills material from over 1000 blogs he posted over the past nine years into seventeen chapters of biography, philosophy, humor, and autograph collecting into a book of great interest. Quoting from William Butts’ review, “Petersen writes well—really well . . . *Renaissance Hombre* captures the collecting mindset, the collector’s mentality.” My personal reading of the book makes me enthusiastically second the sentiment, so I respectfully suggest you buy this book, and join the Manuscript Society.

Finally, we note the recent death of L. Dennis Shapiro, MIT graduate, inventor, businessman, philanthropist, and Manuscript Society member. Dennis gave his sage advice and support to the Manuscript Society for many years, and those who were fortunate to know him recall with gratitude his friendship as well as the parties he and his wife Susan held at their residences during Society events in Massachusetts and California. The Shapiros last year donated a stellar collection of American historical documents to The Huntington Library, along with funds to establish The Shapiro Center to Advance Scholarship for American Culture and History. The Center is a fitting memorial to a memorable collector.

Barton Smith
Manuscript Society

Miniature Book Society, Inc

Just like so many others, the Miniature Book Society was impacted by the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. The highlight of our year, our annual Grand Conclave, was cancelled. Despite its cancellation our co-event, the Miniature Book Competition, was still held. Chaired by long-standing MBS member, Rob Knoll of Oak Knoll Books, there were fourteen outstanding entries.

The three Distinguished Book Winners for 2020 were: “UMBRELLA” (Mathi Page, author, illustrator, and publisher); “WO? / WHERE?” (Herbert Hüpfel, author; Hasan Akten, illustrator; Robert Fitzgerald, translator; Offizin am Wolfersberg, publisher); and “SAINT LUCIA” (Camille Riner, author, illustrator, photographer, and publisher). Details as well as pictures and information on the other entrants are available in the 2020 Miniature Book Competition and Exhibition Catalog, which can be downloaded from the MBS website.

We have high hopes that the 2021 Grand Conclave XXXVIII will be held.

Everything is reserved for August 6-8, in Tarrytown, New York; you must be an MBS member to attend. MBS would like to invite all of you to visit our website for more information about membership, the Grand Conclave, the 2021 Miniature Book Competition (open to non-MBS members), to download past MBS Newsletters, and to view our “Resources” page for a list of our Business Members for the opportunity to build your network.

For us, 2021 started off on a very sad note. Miriam Owen Irwin of Mosaic Press passed away on February 7th at the age of 90. Mrs. Irwin was one of the founding members of the Miniature Book Society. She will be deeply missed and always remembered as a trailblazer in miniature book publications.

The MBS wishes everyone a safe and healthy 2021.

Cathie Abney
Miniature Book Society

Movable Book Society

The Movable Book Society is persevering in having its next biennial conference. The date has changed slightly to September 30-October 3, 2021, still in Denver, CO. A virtual component is being created and commensurate fees will be posted on our website.

The keynote speaker remains the same as planned so far: Suzanne Karr Schmidt, a noted scholar and the George Amos Poole III Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts at the Newberry Library. Events will follow MBS’ traditions with a hands-on workshop, more presentations, a new virtual book sale, and a local exhibition of movable books. Of course, the Meggendorfer Prizes will be awarded. Check our Facebook page and website for up-to-the minute information.

Gradually moving into the world of publishing, the MBS continues to sell its 25th Anniversary publication, *A to Z: Marvels in Paper Engineering*, a very limited edition. Amazon is selling the Society’s coverage of its Meggendorfer Prize, given from 1998-2018, and named after the nineteenth century paper engineering genius, Lothar Meggendorfer [1847-1925]. It is available at <https://amzn.to/2RhgaG0>.

Another publication is in the works, thoroughly creating an index of all of the Society’s quarterly newsletter, *Movable Stationery*. The newsletter is available at the Smithsonian’s website presently with a limited index: <https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/movable-stationery>.

Finally, international pop-up enthusiasts keep coming to the Society’s Zoom events. The next is scheduled for May 22, 2021. Headliners for the event are movable book scholars, Rebecca Rouse and Lissa Holloway-Attaway, both from the University of Skövde, Sweden. The final video episode of pre-

1800 movable books from The Popuplady's collection will be shown. Sign up for the FREE Zoom event by subscribing on the Society's web page: www.movablebooksociety.org.

Ellen G. K. Rubin

Founding Member and Board Member, Movable Book Society

Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society (NOBS)

NOBS was formed in 1983, and contains a diverse membership mostly within the Ohio region and its neighboring states. In response to the public health crisis, we deferred our live action programs, but look forward to a re-opened schedule this fall, when we plan to resume our widely popular semi-annual book fairs (Akron and Cleveland), which draw dealers and visitors from the Midwest, and recently from elsewhere.

In the meantime, we continue to publish *Libros Loqui* as a thrice-yearly journal devoted to local cultural news and literature. In addition to this, we've resumed our forum programs in an online format, and these cover a range of subjects: miniature books, the complex origins of Dr. Seuss, Elementary Book Collecting, Witchcraft and Magic, Zines, the history of collage, local private press, and the Wade family archives. After we reopen, we plan a medically informed seminar on the history and literature of pandemics in the United States.

For more information, feel free to make contact with Carl U. Weitman at cuw123@aol.com.

Carl U. Weitman

Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society

Book Club of Texas

The Book Club of Texas is sad to announce that Dorothy Sloan (1943-2021) died on March 14. A fifth-generation Texan, Dorothy was born and raised in Houston, where she met her first husband, Stephen M. Sloan, and where both of her children, Julia Ann Sloan (now Jasmine Star) and Anthony Vail Sloan, were born. After Anthony, her youngest child, started school, Dorothy returned to her own education, ultimately earning a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies at the University of Texas in Austin, graduating with high honors. The family then moved to San Francisco, where Dorothy fell headlong in love with rare books—a passion that remained paramount for the rest of her life.

In San Francisco, she took her apprenticeship at the venerable firm John Howell Books. In her own words, "I was immediately thrown into the heady inside track on rare books, deals, dealers, and clients. Every single day was

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exciting to me, and I threw myself wholeheartedly into doing the best job I could”—an ethic that remained with her throughout her career, as all who knew her would attest.

In 1979, she returned to Texas, where she worked for the Jenkins Company until 1984. To cite Dorothy: “again, I stumbled into an accidental learning experience of unusual depth and opportunity. Jenkins had purchased the Eberstadt collection [and] there were mountains of unprocessed books. It was such a thrill to go through a pile of what appeared to be late nineteenth-century dilapidated atlases and suddenly find things like a Choris.”

Dorothy met her second husband, Peter Oliver, in 1983, and with his support, she established her own business, Dorothy Sloan Rare Books, in 1984, a challenging endeavor in a trade dominated by men. Never one to be limited by others’ expectations, Dorothy applied herself ceaselessly. Thanks largely to her unparalleled scholarship, persistence, and ethics, she rose to become one of the leading lights of the rare book trade in the United States and beyond.

Over the next thirty-six years, she was both thrilled and honored to handle many incredible items, from magnificent imperial folio Audubon prints to not one, but two complete collections of the elusive Zamorano 80, along with many other invaluable materials, from manuscripts and artworks to countless

maps, many of them seminal and groundbreaking. She benefited many individual and institutional collectors of Texana and she was actively involved as an officer and member of the Book Club of Texas from the beginning.

Although Dorothy Sloan is gone, her legacy will live on through her incomparable catalogues and her website, which will be archived with her papers at Southern Methodist University and eventually made available to the rare book community. Memorial gifts may be made to the Dorothy Sloan Fellowship Fund at the DeGolyer Library, SMU. Proceeds from this fund will be used to support visiting scholars at any stage of their careers who plan to pursue research on bibliographical projects or women's history at the DeGolyer Library. Donors may send checks to the DeGolyer Library, Box 750396, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275. Please add "Sloan Fund" to the memo line. For more information, contact degolyer@smu.edu. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

Russell L. Martin III
Book Club of Texas

Ticknor Society

The Ticknor Society's board met online in July to plan the upcoming season. We already had tentative plans that could move online. On September 17, Dan Lipcan, Head Librarian, and Angela Segalla, Director of the Collection Center at the Philips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum, welcomed us to an online tour in real time and with recorded portions. October 7, we enjoyed a rescheduled event from the spring, an online viewing of the exhibition "Devoted Catholic and Determined Writer: Louise Imogen Guiney in Boston" at the Burns Library at Boston College. Conservator Barbara Adams Hebard curated the show and with Burns Librarian & Associate University Librarian for Special Collections—and board director—Christian Dupont led us through the display. Head of Archives and Special Collections Abby Stambach joined the conversation from Holy Cross College where Guiney left family papers, and we could compare manuscripts with the printed materials.

We had planned Sid Berger's talk, "Frankenstein in the Popular Imagination," on Halloween. Berger is not only a board director but also on the faculties of Simmons University and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and is the retired Ann C. Pingree Director of the Phillips Library of Peabody Essex Museum. His presentation on the monster's evolution from Mary Shelley's text through engravings to movies, comics, and innumerable objects kept everyone glued to their screens. Ticknorites also perked up at his report that a moving company had just delivered 120 boxes of part of his book collection,

unpacking and organizing a chore most of us would eagerly undertake.

The Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair (IABF) is a highlight for the Ticknor Society with our annual roundtable of collectors. This year we maintained that tradition of fostering a conversation on book collecting at the Virtual Book Fair (VBF). Participants included Heather O'Donnell (founder of Honey & Wax Booksellers of Brooklyn), Erika Hapke (Bernett Penka Rare Books of Boston), and Peter X. Accardo (Programs and Public Service Librarian, Houghton Library), and their descriptions of their collections and the process of collecting was followed by an engaged Q&A. We announced the 2020 winner of the second annual George and Anna Eliot Ticknor Book and Book Culture Collecting Prize: Maida Tilchen, for "In Celebration of New Mexico Books and Book People." Her winning entry is on our website (<http://www.ticknor.org/dw3/collecting-prize.html>) with more details on requirements, eligibility, and applying. The deadline is April 15.

The year ended on another highlight: the annual show and tell, December 10. Online events preclude the conviviality of conversing over refreshments, but the silver lining is ease of commuting—and no worries about spilling red wine on fine print pages. No one has to rush from work or brave downtown Boston traffic or find parking in Back Bay. As usual, there was serendipitous overlap between the subjects of our five collectors. In order, our presenters: Phoebe Bean, "A Woman's Touch: Ann Franklin Imprints"; John Hemenway, "Howland Island, Its Birds and Rats, as Observed by a Certain Mr. Stetson in 1854"; Jean Maguire, "Nature and Design"; George F. Murphy, "Price of Books: Shabby American Imprints and the Legacy of Richard Price"; and Tim Weiskel, "Some New Questions from Reading Old Books: Imagining & Imaging the Agro-Ecology & Pathology of European Empire." The surprise of the evening was without doubt John Hemenway's odyssey to bind his reprint in a material appropriate to the subject: rat skin.

The new year's programming began January 28, 2021, when Maryanne Grebenstein, professional calligrapher and owner of the Abbey Studio in Marblehead, MA, gave a virtual presentation "'Marley was dead': A Christmas Manuscript Three Years in the Making," on her hand-lettered manuscript containing the complete text (based on Dickens' original manuscript in the Morgan Library in New York) of Charles Dickens' classic story, *A Christmas Carol*.

At its February meeting, the board discussed future events, which we plan as virtual for the next six months at least. We start with two events in March, a month for New Englanders to hunker down at home with bibliophilic pleasures. The board also discussed recruitment for the important role of membership secretary and transitioning from managing membership with a spreadsheet to using software that offers easier registration, tracking, and distributing the e-newsletter and events. Another benefit of online events is that recordings can be made for members who cannot attend. That said, we all look forward

to gathering over a table of books, marveling at the bindings, endpapers, and illustrations while admiring the bite of the type on the page—with the wine well out of the way.

Mary Warnement
President, Ticknor Society

Book Club of Washington

The Book Club of Washington (BCW) actively continues to provide interesting events for our members, who primarily reside in the Pacific Northwest. We also publish two *Journal* issues each year. Due to the coronavirus situation, we have suspended on-site meetings and events and now provide book-related events online. Our events, publications, and membership information can be viewed on the Book Club of Washington's new and improved website, www.bookclubofwashington.org.

The Book Club of Washington typically hosts a new event most months, which is continuing online. We have been able to open our online programs to more guests and prospective members than was the case with our in-person events. So far this year, a few of the notable events have been a conversation about the film *The Book Makers*, with special guest Peter Koch; an illustrated talk by Randal S. Brandt from the Bancroft Library about the real-life events behind David Doge's book *To Catch a Thief*, the basis for the film of the same title; and an introduction to items in Special Collections at Gonzaga University, including the Bing Crosby Collection, by Special Collections Librarian Stephanie Plowman. Over the next few months we will host several more presentations exploring Special Collections at other universities in the Pacific Northwest. By popular demand, we are now regularly recording our events and have established our own Book Club of Washington YouTube channel to share them. These programs can be viewed at any time at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU9C-ZAiiCBCLmzhEd6tHPw>.

Our regular award programs continue in the online environment. This spring we will present awards to students entered in the University of Puget Sound Collins Memorial Library Book Collecting Contest, as well as presenting our Robert D. Monroe Award to an outstanding student in the Publishing & Printing Arts Program and the Elliott Press at Pacific Lutheran University. This fall we will present our notable 2021 Emory Award to someone who has made a significant contribution to the culture of the book in Washington. Previous award winners can be viewed on our website.

Receiving the Book Club of Washington *Journal*, published twice a year in spring and fall, is one of the benefits of membership. Each issue assembled by our Editor, David Wertheimer, features articles on a broad variety of subjects

by members and other invited contributors from the bibliophile community. The contents of all the issues (and of books we have published) are specified on our website, which also includes details of how *Journal* issues or the books can be purchased by members or non-members.

We welcome bibliophiles from anywhere to become members of the Book Club of Washington—collectors, dealers, librarians, and all who enjoy books. Memberships can be purchased directly on our website or you can contact us at info@bookclubofwashington.org about mailing a check.

Claudia Skelton
Vice President, Book Club of Washington

Washington Rare Book Group

The Washington Rare Book Group (WRBG) has gone virtual!

The year has been an exercise in adaptability, flexibility, and creativity for the WRBG, and our all-virtual events have allowed us to expand our reach to new speakers and new audiences! The year began in September as we were joined by Ashleigh D. Coren, WRBG's first Rare Book School Scholarship recipient, to hear about her experience at RBS, where she took *The History of Printed Book Illustration in the West* with Erin C. Blake. In October, the group heard from Chet Van Duzer in his talk, "Colored as its Creators Intended: Hand-Painted Maps in the 1513 Edition of Ptolemy's *Geography*," in which he presented his census of all extant hand-colored exemplars of the book, in an effort to identify the coloring scheme intended by the creators of that edition. The results of Mr. Van Duzer's research shed light not only on workshop practices and early modern hand-coloring techniques, but also on the cartographic and aesthetic philosophy behind the coloring of these maps. In November, Allie Alvis provided insight into illuminated manuscripts at the Smithsonian Libraries' Cooper Hewitt branch in her talk, "Monsters in the Margins: Curious Creatures in Illuminated Manuscripts." After a holiday hiatus, the group reconvened for the talk, "Intimate Rituals: Books of Hours and the Form of Interiority." Drawing upon examples of Books of Hours and breviaries from the nation's Medieval and Renaissance Manuscript Collection, Marianna Stell from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress led us in a captivating reflection on the role of ritual in a particularly medieval understanding of creativity.

Last year the group awarded its second annual scholarship to Rare Book School to Ms. Julia Fine, a Humanities Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, and this year we are happy to announce the third scholarship recipient, Ms. Hannah Jones, Assistant Librarian at Dominican Theological Library.

As a reminder, WRBG also debuted our redesigned website in 2019, which includes a Community Board, allowing the WRBG to become a hub for all things bookish in the DC-Metro area. The Board aims to share job postings, internship opportunities, and events that may be of interest to the community, but **we need your help!** If you know of an event or opportunity that you think should be added to the Board, please email the details to washingtonrarebookgroup@gmail.com.

If you are interested in learning more about the group or would like to join us, feel free to visit our website at <http://washingtonrarebookgroup.org/> or send us an email.

Amanda Zimmerman
President, Washington Rare Book Group

William Morris Society in the United States

In a first collaboration with another FABS organization, the William Morris Society in the United States co-sponsored a virtual visit to the Grolier Club on February 12, 2021. Presented by Meghan Constantinou, the club's Librarian, and moderated by Director Eric J. Holzenberg, "William Morris (and Friends) at the Grolier Club Library" showed that Morris has always had a special place at the Grolier Club. In her talk, Constantinou showed and discussed a selection of fascinating Morris-related materials in the library's collection, including (but not limited to) books from Morris's personal library, autograph letters, platinotypes of drawings made by Edward Burne-Jones for Kelmscott illustrations, and a spectacular (and recently rediscovered) embroidered binding by May Morris. Together, these items offered a multifaceted view of William Morris, whose legacy embodies the spirit of the Grolier Club in so many ways.

Bibliophiles will like to know that we are organizing International Kelmscott Press Day, to take place at the end of June. A worldwide celebration to commemorate the founding of the Kelmscott Press in 1891, this is envisioned as an unique opportunity to promote the life and work of William Morris, the beauty of books, and the history of printing. International Kelmscott Press Day is scheduled for June 26, 2021, the 125th anniversary of the publication of the Kelmscott edition of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Four years in the making, with illustrations by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones, and designed by Morris in every detail, the Kelmscott Chaucer, as it is commonly known, is universally considered one of the most beautiful books ever printed. Our focus, however, will extend beyond it to encompass the whole of William Morris's "typographical adventure," which exerted great influence on the private press movement and the modern book. Libraries, museums, and other institutions and groups are invited to participate, knowing that there are

significant Kelmscott Press collections in Australia, Japan, France, Germany, The Netherlands, South Korea, and other countries; throughout Britain; and in 29 US states and several Canadian provinces. As of this writing, the Caxton Club and the Newberry Library are on board with a special display and online talks and plans are being made by, among others, the Morgan Library & Museum, the Library of Congress, the University of Delaware Library, Museums and Press, the University of Puget Sound, and the University of British Columbia. Sponsorship is coming from the UK and Canadian William Morris Societies, along with the Bibliographical Society of America, the Museum of Printing (Massachusetts), and the Pre-Raphaelite Society. For more information: www.morrisociety.org/news/KelmscottPressDayAnnounce.pdf.

Also in the works are monthly online events, a revamped website (due in May), and sessions of papers at next year's meetings of the College Art Association and Modern Language Association.

Mark Samuels Lasner
William Morris Society

Zamorano Club

As I indicated last issue, the Zamorano Club, in the interest of everyone's health and well-being, has chosen, not to cancel, but to postpone our 2020 slate of meetings and to substitute a series of virtual meetings via Zoom. In addition, the normally scheduled joint meeting with the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, to have taken place this year at the University of California, Riverside, has also been postponed. I am happy, however, to report that we have been able to maintain a fairly full schedule of presentations by Zoom. I've not been able to tune in on all of them, but those I have attended have been exceptional.

On October 7, our normal beginning meeting for the Fall session, Howard Prouty gave a skilled, fact-filled discussion of "Stanley and the Boys: The Hollywood Book Culture of the 1930s," a chronicle of the career of Stanley Rose and his legendary book shop next door to the Musso & Frank restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard. Prouty gave broad insights into the intersection of the movie industry and the book industry in what many would call the Golden Age of both.

Then, on November 3, Michele Zack presented her many years of research into the world of the Lisu people of Southeast Asia in a talk titled "Tales from Zomia." Zack has published a book based on her field research there, *The Lisu: Far from the Ruler*.

On December 2, Mark Dimunation spoke on his 22-year project to reconstruct Thomas Jefferson's 1815 library in the Library of Congress. Jefferson's collection was severely damaged by fire in 1851, and Dimunation has made it

his personal quest to acquire enough replacement volumes to restore it to its original completeness.

The February 3 meeting, originally planned for January but delayed by national events on January 6, featured Megan Rosenbloom, UCLA Librarian, speaking on “Dark Archives: A Librarian’s Investigation into the Science and History of Books Bound in Human Skin,” a talk based on her book published in late 2020. The process of using human skin for bookbinding Rosenbloom refers to as “anthropodermic bibliopeggy,” a term you can use for your next Trivial Pursuit competition.

On March 3, the Club celebrated three winners of the California Young Book Collectors Prize. In 1919, the first year of the prize, Matthew Wills won with his collection of anti-Confucian propaganda in Mao’s China. The following year, Nolin Deloison-Baum won with a culinary collection based in Georges Auguste Escoffier. Then in 2021, Jessica Camille Jordon won with a collection focused on women in subscription bookselling.

I must also add how impressed I am with the invitations that have been printed for recent meetings by Jean Gillingwaters and the Blackbird Press in Upland, California. They have been original, colorful, and, of course, beautifully printed. Gillingwaters’ invitation for the Dimunation talk is a stunning, multi-folded, illustrated introduction to the lecture, a collectors’ booklet in itself.

The Zamorano Club also continues its series of “Show and Tell” meetings, gatherings in which seven Zamoranans have the opportunity to share with the club their personal book collections or their particular literary likes and dislikes. They are informal, relaxed, and always entertaining. As of March 17, the Club has hosted no less than ten of these “Show-and-Tell” sessions.

Finally, I wish to welcome our new officers for this year: Nick Ervin, president; Jim Tranquada, vice-president; David Archibald, secretary; Andrew Foster and Susan Allen, treasurers; and governors Kim Keeline, Laura Magnusen, Carrie Marsh, and Helena de Lemos.

Dr. William Lomax
Zamorano Club

PSYCHOPATH, RAPIST, MURDERER, CANNIBAL



*Melcher Hedloffs sonst Schütze=Melcher genannt...
verübete und begangene Mord=Thaten. Wrocław 1654.*

After military service in the Thirty Years War, Melchior Hedloff, (1606-1654) became an exceptionally bloody highway robber, who mutilated the corpses of his two hundred fifty victims.

The booklet describes each crime, including killing, cooking and eating his grandson.

His execution in the Oleśnica market square made a wild public spectacle. His fingers were torn off one at a time. He was skinned alive and the exposed flesh cauterized, preventing him from bleeding to death while being dragged around the square, then having his bones broken, his heart cut out, his body quartered and the parts strewn about.

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