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IN MEMORIAM

ANTHONY JOHN MOUREK (1943-2021)

Late Trustee of FABS representing the Manuscript Society, bibliophile, and distinguished collector of political cartoons.

Letter From the Chair

On 10 June 2021, as previously announced, the Trustees of FABS held an extraordinary meeting via Zoom to consider amendments to the Articles of Association. The full amended text of the Articles is available on the FABS website. The key amendment was to Section 2(e) which included the following standard for member societies and international affiliates:

(e) its expressed policies do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. A member society may, however, set a minimum age for membership in compliance with state and local laws regarding the serving of alcohol.

The amendment was adopted by overwhelming vote. Several societies who resigned from FABS over the issue have reinstated their membership.

Our Vice Chairman, Alexander Ames, and Treasurer Jennifer Larson organized the first ever FABS Virtual Collectors' Showcase on 20 June 2021, to which more than 120 registered. All feedback was exceptionally positive, and we record our thanks to the five presenters: *Victoria Dailey* on the role of women in Parisian society; *Jesse R. Erickson*, who collects ethnobiography, African-American print culture, and the transnational printing history of Ouida; *Bill Fisher*, who spoke about Spanish language and Chicano movement material; *David Alan Richards*, the pre-eminent Kipling collector; and *Rebecca Romney*, the distinguished dealer and appraiser. We intend to organize another occasion.

We welcome The Fine Press Book Association in the United Kingdom as an international affiliate of FABS.

At the combined in-person/virtual meeting of FABS Trustees on 9 September 2021 the Trustees continued to investigate possible venues for the next FABS Study Tour. Suggestions and especially invitations are welcome, including those from sites previously visited.

FABS officers (Butler, Cheslock, Larson) served as judges once more for the

preliminary round of the ABAA National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest, reviewing and ranking thirteen entries in what was an impressive field.

The Executive Committee of FABS has formed or is forming several Committees to pursue matters raised during FABS Trustee meetings, the survey of FABS societies last year, and various informal gatherings to sound out the views of FABS society officers. Most important is the Website Committee, which expects to substantially upgrade our website by the end of this calendar year and seriously enhance our program and communication capacities. The Program Committee is in the process of gestation, and we welcome volunteers who would like to help shape the immediate and medium-term strategy of FABS. A Nomination Committee for the next team of FABS officers has been formed and will report to the FABS Trustees at the April 2022 meeting, which is likely to coincide with the anticipated ABAA New York Book Fair provisionally scheduled for that month.

The Trustees authorized the Executive Committee to explore the possibility of any changes to the Articles of Association that might be necessary for FABS to obtain tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization. Legal counsel will be secured to this end.

Finally, this Journal welcomes contributions for future issues: articles, notes, book reviews, and advertising. Submit what you will, or contact the editor about ideas for contributions. The officers of FABS are committed to making this Journal something more than a “newsletter.”

William E. Butler
FABS Chair

THE BOOK THAT MADE CATHERINE II “GREAT”

William E. Butler*

[Based on presentations to The Princeton Bibliophiles, 21 March 2021, and
The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, 18 May 2021]

Catherine II (1729-1796), Empress of All the Russias, found herself at the age of 15 in an arranged marriage with Charles Peter Ulrich (1728-1762), born at Kiel in Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp. His mother, a daughter of Tsar Peter the Great (1672-1725), died shortly after childbirth and his father not long thereafter. His mother’s younger sister, Elizaveta Petrovna (1709-1762), became Empress of Russia, brought Peter to Russia, and named him the heir apparent to the Russian throne. Elizabeth then promptly arranged his marriage in 1745 to Sophia Augusta Frederica, of Holstein-Gottorp, who became in due course the Empress Catherine II.

* Chairman, Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

But not without considerable patience, adroit cunning, and, if her account is to be believed, a life for nearly two decades of “boredom and seclusion” in what seems to have been an unhappy marriage between two individuals who detested one another. These years gave Catherine the opportunity to develop and sharpen her intellectual interests¹ in the arts, history, philosophy, the natural sciences, travel, politics, current events, even the law. She collected avidly and astutely—books, paintings, fine furniture, sculpture, and anything else that caught her eye or struck her fancy. She struck up a correspondence with Voltaire (1694-1778) and Denis Diderot (1713-1784)—the latter even visiting St. Petersburg to meet with the Empress.²

In the cases of Voltaire and Diderot, she acquired their private libraries. The negotiations with Voltaire's niece and heir were an epic in their own right, the price of 30,000 rubles augmented by diamonds and a jeweled box bearing the portrait of Catherine II. The implications were clear: purchase at any price.³ Six years later she added the personal library of Diderot. Both libraries repose in the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.

Russian historians of the book have recently reconstructed Catherine's personal “chamber” library and published a handsome catalogue.⁴ 2,406 titles are listed, presumably books of overriding interest for her, in a larger collection of ca. 44,000 located principally, as completion of construction permitted, in The Hermitage. Among the titles were works of Catherine's own authorship; she was an accomplished author—poetry, her own memoirs, plays, opera librettos, journal

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articles, fairy tales, Siberian geography, notes on Russian history, a dictionary of comparative languages. But the publication that brought her “Greatness” was a draft law code known as the “Nakaz,” a word translated into French and English as “Instruction.”

Catherine II achieved renown through Europe as a result of her authorship of the Nakaz. She began to draft the document shortly after ascending to the Russian throne following the death of her husband, Peter III. Influenced, of course, by Voltaire but also by Charles de Montesquieu (1689-1755), Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794), Johann Heinrich Gottlob Justi (1717-1771), François Quesnay (1694-1774), Elie Luzac (1721-1796), Denis Diderot’s *Encyclopédie*, and perhaps others, she produced a generally progressive draft that was never actually enacted, although gazetted in the Complete Collected Laws of the Russian Empire and known to have been applied in at least one Russian court case. Being of Germanic origin, it would hardly be unexpected that with her command of the French and German languages she might turn to foreign legal doctrinal and philosophical writings for inspiration. That she did so in such a systematic, thoughtful, and concentrated manner was not anticipated, however,⁵ and she reinforced a pattern for law reformers by having her draft Code published in the leading languages of Europe (German, English, Latin, French, Greek, Russian, Swedish). The Nakaz may have claim to be the most widely distributed law reform proposal in the eighteenth century.⁶ Although not, and not intended to be, a constitution, Colley rightly observes that the Nakaz is “. . . a significant text that casts light on how this political genre evolved, and how it came to proliferate.”⁷

A passing comment on the text itself before passing on to its appearance in book form. She used French-language sources to prepare the text, and she herself prepared the initial draft in the French language. In a burst of self-deprecation, she made no secret of her indebtedness to Montesquieu—later characterized by historians who do not understand legislative drafting as “plagiarism.” So far as is known, she did not consult texts of foreign legislation, although she seemed well aware of relevant Russian legal history. She also undertook a Russian translation with the assistance of close advisors and confidants. However much she borrowed from foreign sources, she did what every law reformer necessarily does: she drew upon the past but tweaked original passages to as to make them consistent with the values and principles she was proposing for her own subjects.

Sometimes called the Grand Instruction, or the Great Instruction, but herein simply the Nakaz, its appearance was presaged in Russia by a Manifesto of 14 December 1766 summoning a “Legislative Commission” to Moscow for the purpose of systematizing and modernizing Russian legislation. Although the phrase “code of laws” is often used in this connection, including in foreign accounts of the Nakaz, there is little evidence that Catherine II intended a “code” in the Napoleonic sense that this term later acquired. Rather it would seem that she wished to modernize the 1649 *Sobornoe ulozhenie* [Соборное уложение], itself a pre-eminent example of legal systematization prepared by a “Land Assembly” called for this purpose by Tsar Aleksei Mikhailovich (1629-1676), the father of Peter the Great.

The vast morass of individual edicts and other legislative acts generated from

1649 had stymied the efforts of eleven legislative commissions and committee during the succeeding century. The Nakaz was not, nor intended to be, a draft *Sobornoe ulozhenie*, and her Legislative Commission was not imagined to be a parliament to enact her proposal. The French “Instruction” is entirely apt, for the Nakaz was intended as guidance for the Commission members, an agenda for its deliberations, and a statement of general principles for properly establishing and ordering the State and society. A “. . . major, highly personal political experiment”,⁸ the Legislative Commission was formed by election and represented the “estates” of the Empire, fundamentally territorial but delegates to represent the nobility, each registered town, free soldier farmers, State peasants, and tribute-paying peasants. Ethnic minorities were included, whether Christian or otherwise, as were the Cossacks.

Because service on the Commission would require considerable time away from home, deputies were paid a salary and offered other privileges—immunity for life from the death penalty, corporal punishment, or torture. Their property was protected against confiscation for debt; anyone assaulting a deputy would sustain double the usual punishment. Each deputy was issued a special badge of office subject to return upon death to the State.⁹

After Catherine’s draft was circulated to advisors for comments and read aloud to the Senate of the Empire, and adjustments duly made in light of those reactions, the decision was made to print the draft for circulation to the Legislative Commission. The 1767 Russian-language edition was directed to be sent to about 57 State offices throughout the country, where the text was to be read aloud on Saturday mornings (“when they have nothing else to do”) to senior State officials but kept away from the clerks and people of lower ranks.¹⁰ In all it is estimated that the various editions of the Nakaz amounted to more than 5,000 copies—a tremendous figure for books of this nature during the eighteenth century. The school reforms introduced in the Russian Empire during 1782 required that portions of the Nakaz be read in schools and individual passages were selected to be written out as an exercise in penmanship.¹¹ The Decembrist, Petr Grigor’evich Kakhovskii (1799-1826), recalled in a letter to Emperor Nicholas I (1796-1855) on the eve of his execution how he had for the first time at meeting of peasant committees “extracts from the Nakaz of the Great Catherine” read aloud.¹²

As for the Legislative Commission, it met in solemn session on 30 July 1767, where the deputies had assembled at 07:00 hours in the Monastery of Miracles to sign an oath and then process with the Empress to attend a mass at the Dormition Cathedral. The deputies then processed into the Audience Chamber of the Kremlin Palace, where the Empress greeted them, clothed in the Imperial mantle and small crown and standing on the dais. Beside her on the table were the Nakaz, the rules of procedure for the Legislative Assembly, and the Instruction to the Procurator General. The Metropolitan of Novgorod delivered an address declaring Catherine to be the successor to Justinian and Russia to be the heir to the Byzantine legal tradition.

The Vice Chancellor of the Russian Empire then gave the deputies their charge, to comply with their oath, to glorify themselves and their era, and to gain the



Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Fama, y Obras Posthumas del Fenix de Mexico, Decima Musa, Poetisa Americana*, first edition of the third part of the poet's works, Madrid, 1700. Sold July 2021 for \$81,250.

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respect and gratitude of posterity. Each deputy was permitted to kiss the hand of the Empress.

At the second session of the Legislative Commission in the Palace of Facets, the full text of the *Nakaz* was read out aloud. Aware that much of her population was illiterate, including some of the deputies, Catherine had composed the *Nakaz* in a style suitable for public delivery. She imparted to the text an “urgent rhythm” in imitation of Montesquieu’s series of brief “staccato chapters.” She sought not merely to formulate a legal rule, usually in the form of a prohibition, but also to express the moral position. Her formulations routinely contained sentiments of a more noble nature—a style of presentation that invited comparisons with Russian sermons and theological literature.¹³

Reading the entire text of the *Nakaz* aloud was no mere formality. Unlike Western Europe, where a special legal vocabulary and language had developed that was comprehensible to individuals who had read law, Russian legal terminology coincided more or less with ordinary speech. Laws in Russia were set out in the same language in which any literary works were written. Or, to express the proposition another way, the great monuments of Russian law were simultaneously significant contributions to Russian literature.

The printed version of the Russian language text of the *Nakaz* was distributed to each deputy in the Legislative Assembly on 30 July 1767. Nearly a fortnight later, on 12 August 1767, the deputies assembled in the Palace of Facets to render personal recognition and homage to the Empress. They offered to Catherine the titles of Great, Most Wise, and Mother of the Fatherland. With “studied modesty,” she declined all three, leaving it to posterity, she said, to determine what was appropriate.¹⁴ The decision of posterity has been clear.

The *Nakaz* rapidly achieved fame throughout Europe and helped solidify the view of posterity that Catherine was fully deserving of the encomium “the Great.” Of the 45 editions known to date of the *Nakaz* published in ten languages, twenty-seven appeared between 1767 and 1797. In 1769 Étienne François, Marquis de Stainville, Duc de Choiseul (1719-1785), no doubt as part of his anti-Catherinian policies at the time, had the *Nakaz* officially prohibited in France as a “libertarian book.” In 1771 the French Government stopped 2,000 copies from entering France, the country of its inspiration. Emperor Paul I (1754-1801) later prohibited, during his brief reign, his mother’s *Nakaz* from being read in Russia. Voltaire, on the other hand, greeted the appearance of the *Nakaz* with unqualified praise in his correspondence with Catherine II.

The first and second versions of the *Nakaz* published in 1767 contain only twenty chapters. The final two chapters were each published separately in 1768 during the deliberations of the Legislative Assembly. The third version (St. Petersburg, 1768) was the first to include the entire *Nakaz*—twenty-two chapters—as a unit; it was priced at 50 kopecks.

The most desirable of all the versions of the *Nakaz* is the remarkable four-language edition of 1770. A masterpiece of eighteenth-century printing, the texts of the *Nakaz* are spread over two quarto pages, two columns per page, in four languages in parallel text—Russian, Latin, German, and French. There are four separate title

pages, one in each language. The first letter of each chapter is elaborately designed in contemporary Russian style. At the top of the first two pages of text and bottom of the last two pages of the book are allegorical engravings designed by Jacob Shtelin (1709-1785) and engraved by a Swabian artist then resident in Moscow, Christopher Melhior Roth (d. 1798). The Latin translation was by Catherine's state secretary and current favorite, Grigorii Vasil'evich Kozitskii (1724-1775).

The translators of the French and German texts have never been identified. It is known that the French and German texts from the 1769 and 1767 editions respectively were used in the 1770 four-language version, and presumably the French text belongs to Catherine herself and, on that assumption, is the most original of the texts. The nineteenth century bibliographer, A. Chertkov, credited the German translation to one or several of three individuals: G. F. Müller, Gr. München, and T. I. Klingshted.

The 1770 Nakaz was highly prized by Russian bibliophiles. Catherine's personal copy, beautifully bound, was in her personal library and now reposes in the Library at Tsarskoe Selo.¹⁵ Copies were presented by the Empress to contemporaries throughout Europe. One such presentation copy, accompanied by a letter in French in Catherine's own hand to Philip Dormer Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield (1694-1773), is held by the Harvard Law School Library.

The four-language edition evidently enjoyed a large printing. According to the Russian bibliographer, Vasilii Stepanovich Sopikov (1765-1818), 1,421 copies of the 1770 Nakaz were disposed of in 1808 at the price of 4.05 rubles per "pud" (one pud equals 36 pounds). Whether those 1,421 copies were pulped is unknown, but by 1861 the Nakaz was bringing five rubles at auction in St. Petersburg. Of the subsequent editions, the 1771 Russian Greek language edition is noteworthy for its beauty as well as another attempt by Catherine II to identify herself as the protectress of Greek interests.¹⁶

As for other versions, the 1776 Russian edition was printed in only 700 copies. The first Russian-language edition was reprinted without place or year of publication in 1796/97, as determined from the watermarks in the paper by specialists at the Russian National Library.

The Dutch language editions were probably, if not certainly, made from French and German language versions rather than from the original Russian.¹⁷ Moreover, the French text of the Nakaz was printed at least three times in Amsterdam from 1771, very possibly with a subvention or other encouragement from the Russian Government.

The Swedish version was most likely made from a French-language version. There is a copy in the Royal Library at Stockholm.

1. "... I was never without a book ...". Catherine II, *Записки императрицы Екатерина Второй* [Notes of Empress Catherine the Second] (1907; reprint ed., Moscow, 1989), p. 108.

2. Robert Zaretsky, *Catherine & Diderot: The Empress, The Philosopher, and the Fate of the Enlightenment* (Cambridge, Mass., 2019). Diderot wrote an extensive critique of the Nakaz. See Diderot, "Observations sur le Nakaz", in Diderot (ed.), *Political Writings*, ed. John Hope Mason and Robert Wolker (Cambridge, 1993). Also see S. Korolev, *Bibliothèque de Diderot: vers reconstitution* (Ferney-Voltaire, 2014).

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Voltaire: *Catalogue of Books*] (Leningrad, 1961). I purchased my copy new in 1962 at the bookstore of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg).

4. I. I. Zaitseva, *Комнатная библиотека Екатерины II: опыт реконструкции* [*Chamber Library of Catherine II: Attempted Reconstruction*] (Spb., 2019). 500 ptd.

5. She is said to have worked most mornings for two years on background reading and the composition, rising as early as 04:00 hours and enduring headaches and eye strain as a result. See Simon Dixon, *Catherine the Great* (2009), pp. 156-183; Linda Colley, *The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen: Warfare, Constitutions, and the Making of the Modern World* (2021), p. 58.

6. The Russian, Latin, German, French, and (two) English texts are collected with an Introduction and Bibliography in W. E. Butler and V. A. Tomsinov (eds.), *The Nakaz of Catherine the Great: Collected Texts* (2011).

7. *Ibid.*, p. 59.

8. Isabel de Madariaga, *Russia in the Age of Catherine the Great* (1981), p. 139.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 140.

10. Полное собрание законов Российской Империи [*Complete Collected Laws of the Russian Empire*], XVIII, no. 12,977 (1st series) (24 September 1767).

11. O. A. Omel'chenko, «История законодательства старой России» [*History of Legislation of Old Russia*], in Omel'chenko (ed.), *Традиции и наследие русского права* [*Traditions and the Legacy of Russian Law*] (2006), II, p. 108: "There are virtually no legal works or books on legislation, especially with regard to State and criminal law, where the Nakaz was not mentioned."

12. See P. I. Shchegolev, *Декабристы* [*Decembrists*] (1926), p. 166.

13. See W. G. Jones, "The Spirit of the Nakaz: Catherine II's Literary Debt to Montesquieu," *Slavoni and East European Review*, LXXVI (1998), p. 662.

14. Dixon, note 5 above, p. 180.

15. The spine of the binding is partially illustrated in color in note 4 above. For details on this Library, see Zaitseva, «Царскосельская библиотека Екатерины II» [*Tsarskoe Selo Library of Catherine II*], in M. Seslavinskii (ed.), *Библиофильство и личные собрания* [*Bibliophily and Personal Collections*] (Moscow, 2013), pp. 117-132.

16. The present writer had the pleasure of seeing and actually holding a copy during the FABS visit to The Hermitage Library in September 2017.

17. A. H. Huussen Jr., "Catherine the Great's Instruction (Nakaz) to Her Legislative Commission: The Dutch Translations of 1769 and 1794," in E. Waegemans (ed.), *Russia and the Law Countries in the Eighteenth Century* (1998), pp. 245-260.

BOOK REVIEW

Zimmerman, Kurt. *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades*. Houston: The Book Hunters Club of Houston. 2021.

By Jennifer Larson

Books about books come in many genres. My own shelves hold guides for the perplexed (John Carter's *ABC for Book Collectors*), studies in typography and the other book arts (*The Noblest Roman: A History of the Centaur Types of Bruce Rogers*, by Jerry Kelly and Misha Beletsky), and absorbing memoirs (Madeline B. Stern and Leona Rostenberg's *Old Books, Rare Friends: Two Literary Sleuths and Their Shared Passion*). There are novels of daring forgeries and long-lost treasures (Charlie Lovett, *The Bookman's Tale*—the bookish equivalent of Ben and Jerry's New York Super Fudge Chunk) and sprightly yet hard-core histories (Anthony Grafton's *Inky Fingers: The Making of Books in Early Modern Europe*).

And then there's Eric Korn's *Remainders*, which is more like horseradish ice cream: genre-defying and extremely pungent.

Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades by Kurt Zimmerman is perhaps a new genre, a book about books about books. Zimmerman is "first and foremost a collector," yet has been by turns an antiquarian bookseller, rare book librarian, auction-house cataloguer/director, bibliographer, and appraiser. He writes most passionately about what he calls "biblio-books," particularly bibliographies and association items having to do with the book trade and book collecting itself. This bibliophilic metaverse includes such items as a copy of Robert Hoe's *A Lecture on Bookbinding as a Fine Art* (1886) with J. Pierpont Morgan's bookplate, and A. S. W. Rosenbach's *Books and Bidders* (1927), inscribed by the author to his longtime antagonist Leslie E. Bliss, Henry Huntington's librarian. Although fond of the term "bookmen," Zimmerman lovingly chronicles women in the early twentieth-century American bibliophilic world: Henrietta Bartlett, the de facto co-author of Seymour de Ricci's *The Book Collector's Guide: A Practical Handbook of British and American Bibliography* (1921), and Nina A. Browne, who according to Zimmerman's research was the first American woman bibliographer to have her name on the title page of her work (*A Bibliography of Nathaniel Hawthorne*, 1905).

If all this seems a bit esoteric, not to worry. Selected from posts on Zimmerman's blog *American Book Collecting* and from unpublished writings, the chapters in this book are short and informal, often recounting the thrill of the chase, the delicate negotiation, and the ecstatic moment when the tissue paper is unwrapped and the besotted collector examines a newly-arrived biblio-treasure in physical form for the first time. Zimmerman entices with first lines: "Stupendously miraculous things can happen to a book collector without warning." "Rare books don't have a gender." "Wednesday morning February 9, 2011, dawned bright and clear, the air crisp as a mint dust jacket." Part I, "Essays," features a winsome pastiche of Thomas Dibdin's style in *Bibliomania* (1811), with such interlocutors as "Forgeron," "Nerudius" and our hero, "Bibliomagne," who unveils a holy relic of saints Dibdin and Heber to his awed companions. Part I ends with a moving homage to Zimmerman's idol, rare book dealer and Americana collector William S. Reese, the sale of whose personal collection at Christie's in May 2022 is highly anticipated.

The lengthiest piece in Part II, "Escapades," is the author's candid memoir of his experience working at California Book Auction Galleries (then owned by Butterfield and Butterfield) in the mid-90's, complete with highs (the sale of a pristine first edition of Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, inscribed by the author; books from the libraries of Twain and Jefferson) and lows (stingy employers who cared little about the Book Department). Another gem in Part II is "Thinning the Herd: McMurtry Cuts 300,000 Books Loose," in which we learn that novelist Larry McMurtry moonlighted as a book dealer. So acquisitive was McMurtry that he amassed multiple warehouses full of general stock, partially liquidated in a Texas-size auction of 1500 near-random lots: "Each nine-foot high shelf of books had a neatly taped lot number affixed. Individual lots consisted of approximately 200 books, and the lots with pamphlets and ephemera contained much more." The tale ends with Zimmerman and his friend Douglas Adams hoisting sixty boxes of

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books into two vehicles (one a rented SUV) and driving off into the sunset. No wonder Zimmerman wrote in a blog post for the ABAA, “You know you’re a book collector when . . . you quietly worry about the structural integrity of your home.”

If you enjoy books about books, this is a fiesta of flavors. The chapters are as addictive as jalapeño potato chips, full of gusto and *joie de livre*.

CLUB NEWS

AMPERSAND CLUB

The Ampersand Club celebrated its 90th Anniversary on September 17, 2020 with the publication of a seventy-page booklet, *CORDIALLY INVITED: History and Evolution of the Ampersand Club Invitations* by John J. Moriarty (available for purchase through Rulon-Miller Books, www.rulon.com). The pandemic delayed the first meeting of 2020 until October 15, 2020, when we went virtual with our Club Treasurer, noted Wildlife Biologist and author John J. Moriarty, presenting a power point of the “Cordially Invited: The History and Evolution of Ampersand Club Invitations.” Charlene Roise, local historic preservationist, presented “The Saga of the Stillwater Lift Bridge and Other Historical Adventures” virtually on November 19, 2020. The annual Holiday Party was cancelled, and our next online meeting was February 25, 2021, with Heather O’Donnell from Honey & Wax

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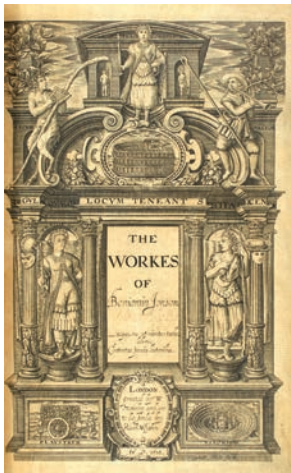
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Booksellers in Brooklyn discussing the documentary film by D.W. Young, *The Booksellers*, including her role in the film. Natasha D'Schommer on March 18, 2021 virtually presented her photographic artistry in an illustrated presentation titled "Picturing Rare Books: A Photographer's Key to the Beauty Locked in Vaults." The April 22, 2021 meeting was our first ever Virtual Show-and-Tell with a dozen members presenting: Joe Sitter, John Moriarty, Jim Lenfestey, Caitlin Moriarty, Wyatt Sandberg, Jonathan Hill, Bob and Carole Mullen, Anne Sovik, CB Sherlock, Peggy Korsmo-Kennon, and Richard Stephens. Finally on May 27, 2021, Dr. Craig Eliason, Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas, delivered a Zoom talk titled "Letters From Abroad: Encounters with Global Writing Systems in the History of Type Design." We gathered in person at the Minnesota History Center on September 16, 2021 for a guided tour of "Sinclair Lewis: 100 Years of Main Street" by the exhibit curator Patrick Coleman. Pat is an Ampersand Club Board member and recently retired after four decades as the Acquisition Librarian at the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Ampersand Club maintains a website and you are encouraged to visit it at <https://theampersandclub.org/>.

Richard Sveum

ALDUS SOCIETY

The Aldus Society continues to meet via Zoom during autumn 2021 but hopes to return to face-to-face meetings before the end of our twenty-second year in 2022. We maintain connection with and among our members through our newsletter, list-serve postings, website, and virtual events. Our sincere thanks to The Caxton Club of Chicago for giving our members access to their excellent and engaging on-line programs and lectures.

On September 9, 2021, Caitlin McGurk, Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, delivered our first program of the year via Zoom. Her lecture, "Ladies First: Women's Innovations in Comics and Cartoon Art," was supported with illustrations from the related exhibit at the University's Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, which she curated. Caitlin is Associate Curator at the Museum.

Our second lecture on October 14, 2021, "Hour by Hour: Reconstructing a Medieval Breton Prayer Book," was delivered, also via Zoom, by Dr. David T. Gura. Searching the World over, David gathered 92 of the 129 leaves known to have been in the original manuscript and documented the manuscript's importance to the people who owned it. His project has been widely exhibited and also featured in *The New Yorker* and scholarly journals.

"A History of Arguments for Freedom of Expression" will be presented by Dr. Wes Baker as our third program on November 11, 2021. Wes is a faculty member at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, where he teaches courses in media law, ethics, and journalism.

We have plans for a Holiday Gathering that is subject to our concerns over the

continuing pandemic. We hope to return to face-to-face meeting for our traditional “Aldus Collects” program in January 2022, if not before, but only if we can do so safely. Our Program Committee is currently working on the remainder of our meeting schedule for 2022; it will be posted on our website as soon as it’s complete.

Dan Jensen
Treasurer, The Aldus Society

BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES

And here we are. And so (still!) is the pandemic. On August 28, 2021, the Executive Committee (Board) of the Baltimore Bibliophiles met to discuss programs for the coming year—Fall 2021 through Spring 2022. Actually, we met to discuss virtual (Zoom) versus in-person events. It was decided that this coming year, beginning with September, 2021, we would attempt a somewhat hybrid schedule. On Thursday, September 23rd, collections advisor Spencer W. Stuart will focus on “A Collection’s Coda: Deaccessioning Strategies” (Zoom). Ed Papenfuse presents a talk on Wednesday, October 20th regarding “The Enterprising Roach Family of Baltimore, 1819-1830,” a saga of marketing books, stationery, musical instruments, umbrellas, printing, and sign painting, mixed with Millerites and fisticuffs with the constabulary (Zoom). Our first in-person event is slated for our Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 18th. The featured speaker is Andrea Lewis, Director of Programs at Maryland Humanities. Her topic is “Maryland Center for the Book—What Is It?” The venue is the Mt. Vernon Club in Baltimore. Our next speaker is Olya Samilenko, who will speak about her book *The Snow Goose Chronicle* on Thursday, December 16th (Zoom). We will usher in the new year with Charles Tharp, whose topic is “George Washington’s Library at Mt. Vernon.” The venue for the Saturday, January 15th presentation is the Hotel Indigo in Baltimore. Our Wednesday, February 16th speaker is Sallie Lowenstein, children’s book author, illustrator, publisher and maker of handmade books (Zoom). March’s speaker is slated to be romance novelist and short story writer Binnie Syril Braunstein, discussing how a trip on a bus led to a writing career. In person; date and venue TBD. April’s speaker is (appropriately) April Oettinger, Professor of Art History, Goucher College, discussing her Renaissance Society of America trip to Trinity College, Dublin. Date and venue [Zoom or in-person] TBD. Our May 2022 speaker is Elizabeth DeBold, Assistant Curator of Collections, Folger Shakespeare Library. Her topic is “Brush Up Your Shakespeare,” date and venue [Zoom or in-person] TBD. It is possible that a casual summer al fresco Show & Tell session might take place in June or July. During Show & Tell events, members are invited to bring a special or unique item from their collection and “share it with the class,” so to speak. Date and venue [Zoom or in-person] TBD.

www.BaltimoreBibliophiles.org

Facebook.com/BaltimoreBibliophiles

Binnie Syril Braunstein

JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY

The John Russell Bartlett Society's annual book collecting prize for undergraduates was a virtual program 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), a protégé of both George Parker Winship at the John Carter Brown Library and of Wilberforce Eames at the New York Public Library. Five student finalists from Brown University, Rhode Island College, and the Rhode Island School of Design presented their collections. While the judges deliberated in a breakout room, Sean Briody (Brown '19), a social studies teacher in South Carolina, spoke about his own collecting and the three different collections he submitted to the Stillwell Prize in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

All of the students were inspiring to watch as they explained their passion for collecting. Elizabeth Long and Luna Gomberg (both from RISD) displayed collections of pop-up books and illustrated books in Russian, respectively. Leandra Shields of Rhode Island College was awarded third prize (\$100) for her collection of museum exhibition catalogues. Nico Vella Page (Brown) was awarded second prize (\$250) for his collection of documentary poetry and the poetics of resistance. First prize (\$500) was awarded to Jeff Katz (a dual Brown/RISD degree student) for his collection of visual storytelling through contemporary comics and Zines. All five finalists also were given gift certificates donated by local bookstores.

Richard J. Ring
JRBS President

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 benefited from it.

We have had 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 col-

lections, 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 the 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 & tell," is always fun, and with always a few surprises. We have grown to love this "themed" meeting.

February, Angela Waldron, a curator at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine, spoke about publisher's 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 of Temple University.

April, Steven Lomazow, MD, discussed *Magazines and the American Experience*, his current show at the Grolier Society, NYC. We were given a wonderful, animated overview of the history of magazine publishing in this country (and shown countless terrific examples).

In May 2021 the Baxter Society finished out its season with Reid Byers, our society's vice president, speaking about his new book *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom* (Oak Knoll). The book had come out literally the week of Reid's talk, so we felt privileged to be honored with an early look! The book continues to receive accolades, including a review by A.N. Wilson in the TLS.

And we submit this reminder—that we welcome any FABS members to our 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. And 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. And we are on Facebook.

BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

The Book Club of California has continued our successful open-to-all live Zoom webinar presentations, member virtual community meetings, and Lunchtime with the Librarian meetings. Members are also enjoying the programs they missed by accessing recordings of presentations posted to BCC@Home, our member portal.

Our Monday evening live online programs continue to be extremely popular with members and guests, attracting more than 100 participants from all over the country and beyond.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month with programs about “Black Leaders of Leisure” by Alison Rose Jefferson, who presented on African American leisure sites during the Jim Crow era, including Bruce’s Beach in Southern California. Continuing with the theme of leisure, Dr. Kenya Davis-Hayes reprised her Southern California talk from 2020 on “*The Green Book: A Black History of the American Road Trip*,” which discussed Victor Green’s books that guided Black travelers to safe places of rest and relaxation nationwide. The month ended with Louise Steinman and Lynell George conversing about award-winning science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler.

Women’s History Month in March brought presentations on activist and artist Sister Mary Corita Kent, Mountain Maidu activist and California Native Americana newspaper editor and publisher Marie Mason Potts, typo-graphers and book designers Louise Fili and Lorraine Wilde, and on the Arequipa Sanatorium, a Marin County sanatorium for women suffering from tuberculosis.

Other programs featured Frances Gearhart, a California printmaker; Paul R. Williams, celebrated Los Angeles architect; Southern California Indians and field nurses; women who helped built the railroad; homesteaders of California; and Aztec Codices.

Our monthly virtual community meetings are for small groups of members and are meant to be interactive among attendees. We have covered such topics as member exhibitions, collecting menus, Book Club of California publications, and more. Our digital exhibitions have included *A Definite Claim to Beauty: The Kelmscott Press and the Aesthetics of the Book* and a tribute to *Lawrence Ferlinghetti: The Last Bohemian*.

We are looking forward to the publication of our 241st book, *The Klondike and Alaska Gold Rushes, A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets Covering the Years 1896–1905* by Gary Kurutz in October.

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 DETROIT

Following the derailment of our activities due to the pandemic, the Book Club of Detroit experienced a revival this past summer.

We participated in and were sponsors of the 4th Annual Festival of Books held in Detroit’s historic Eastern Market. Established in the 1800s to provide fresh produce to southeastern Michigan, the market has become a hub of activity in

Detroit. The Festival of Books is the largest book festival in the state of Michigan and is organized by one of our members and past president, Ryan Place, and his crew. Our booth resulted in a sizeable number of new members.

We also began the tradition of periodically sending “keepsakes” to members. Our first was a reproduction of a bookplate commissioned by Edward Groesbeck Voss (1929-2012), a professor of Ecology and Botany at the University of Michigan for many years. He is best known for *Michigan Flora* (three volumes) issued by the Cranbrook Press.

We are in the process of publishing a new member directory and have ramped up our social media efforts, beginning with our Facebook account which has already attracted new members.

Our board of directors are once again able to meet in person and we have planned three new events for the remaining months of this year. These include a talk on Henry Ford II, provided by a member and avid collector of all things Ford. Michael W. Skinner is one of the founding members of the Henry Ford Heritage Association, the historic Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, and the Piquette Model T Ford Club. We will also tour his extensive collection.

In November, members will have the unique opportunity to tour behind-the-scenes elements of Detroit’s Masonic Temple, the largest such building in the world. Completed in 1926 and designed by George D. Mason and Co., the spectacular neo-gothic structure consists of 16 stories, three theaters, two ballrooms, and seven “craft lodge rooms.” Designed by a young architectural sculptor from Italy, Corrado Parducci, each room has a different decorative motif influenced by Egyptian, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian, Italian Renaissance, Byzantine, Gothic, and Romanesque styles.

We are also pleased to be able to hold our annual meeting and Christmas dinner once again in person. One of our well-known area book dealers and members, Jay Platt of West Side Book Shop in Ann Arbor, will provide us with a talk on his experiences as a book dealer of over 46 years. He will also expound on the topic of one of his favorite areas of interest—the polar regions, particularly Antarctica—and will exhibit a few gems from his collection.

With a near 20% increase in membership and energetic efforts, we are looking forward to a vibrant and enlightening 2022. Plans are in the works for our 65th anniversary as well.

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 but also other geographies. We also publish two *Journal* issues each year. Due to the coronavirus situation, we have suspended on-site meetings and events and now provide many 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 new website that we created last fall has brought many benefits, including a

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less time-consuming option for maintaining a roster of new and renewing members and collecting RSVPs for events. We have seen an increase in the purchase of our publications, which include books, individual issues of *The Journal of The Book Club of Washington*, and broadsides. We now have an active blog that automatically feeds a link to members and others who have signed up when there is a new post. There is also a link on the website to our BCW YouTube channel, where online presentations that have been recorded can be viewed on demand. Visit www.bookclubofwashington.org to explore the content that our website has to offer.

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. In recent months we have had several online events. Some events were: "A Collector's Path: The Course and Content of Collecting Today"; "Book Arts Collections at Three University Libraries in British Columbia"; "Ivan Doig Archive"; and "Celebrating the Kelmescott Press." Others will occur and be available this fall. You can review the details and register to attend on the website.

Our regular award programs continue each year and are described on the Book Club of Washington website. This fall we had our first in-person event since the pandemic began. We presented our notable 2021 Emory Award to Jodee Fenton who was instrumental with her key role to create and lead Special Collections at

Seattle Public Library and who now is creating exquisite books through her own studio. The summary of her activities and the 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 are specified on our website, which also includes details of how additional *Journal* issues 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 HUNTERS CLUB OF HOUSTON

The Book Hunters Club of Houston had a strong turnout for our first in-person gathering since the pandemic began. Jay Rohfritch, proprietor of Good Books in the Woods bookstore, served as host. Jay's open shop has northwards of 50,000 volumes. They are housed in an older home that has been converted into a bibliophile's paradise. It is the type of book shop that has become rarer and rarer as time goes on—well worth a visit if you are in the Houston area.

Our open discussion included Kurt Zimmerman speaking about his new book *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades*, and his recent acquisition of the core of the reference library / archive of Texas antiquarian bookseller, Dorothy Sloan. Collector Douglas Adams related his recent purchase of material related to the Mark Hoffman forgeries including a printing plate utilized by the Salt Lake City police in their investigation. Jon Evans, director of the Hirsch Library at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, provided an overview of their collection and some specific areas the library was focusing on including Harlem Renaissance material. Jay Rohfritch expressed his surprise and happiness with his shop's strong sales during the pandemic. Local bookseller Bryan Young concurred with his online sales and updated us on the possibility of an in-person Houston Book Show in the spring of 2022. New member and avid collector Greg McCord was simply pretty darn excited to be there, and he showed no shyness in talking about his collections ranging from literary authors to African safari material.

With everyone surrounded by books in the store, it was inevitable that we eventually became distracted and more informal socializing and book hunting began. Jay supplied wine and his exceptional, home-made smoked Philadelphia cream cheese dip that was overlooked by some but not by yours truly or my wife Nicole. It was good to be among the gently mad again.

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY

As I write this Florida Bibliophile Society club news, the fourth wave of the coronavirus, the Delta variant, is still raging here in Florida into September, and with no signs of letting up. Consequently, the first meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society later this month will be a virtual meeting via Zoom. FBS members will have the opportunity to show and tell us about the treasures they found during the summer break.

In October, FBS member Ed Cifelli will give a presentation on the Jersey Poet John Ciardi. Ed wrote two books about Ciardi. This meeting will be held at Lighthouse Books in Dade City. This meeting will be limited to members who have been vaccinated. Everyone at the meeting will wear masks. Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to browse and buy books after the pre-sentation.

As of this writing, and provided that Floridians get a handle on this coronavirus, all our other meetings are tentatively scheduled to be in-person meetings. These meetings will be hybrid meetings, meaning they will be both in-person and broadcast virtually on Zoom. One benefit of Zoom is that our speakers don't have to be present at our meetings. And we will continue to take advantage of that!

In November, Kurt Zimmerman, President and founding member of the Book Hunters Club of Houston, and author of *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades*, will give his presentation from Conroe, Texas. In January, local mystery writer Elaine Togneri, author of over forty published short stories, will give an in-person presentation that will be broadcast on Zoom as well. In February, Reid Byers, Vice President of the Baxter Society and author of *The Private Library*, will give his presentation from his home in Maine. Zoom permits us to go far away for our next presentation. In March, Boštjan Petric, book collector and author of *The Fate of Books* blog, will give his presentation from Slovenia! Also in March, FBS will sponsor a special event at the Largo Public Library. Noted Walt Whitman collector Ed Centeno will give his presentation, "Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass Still Relevant to Modern Times." Ray Betzner, curator of the website *Studies in Starrett*, will give his presentation in April from his new home in Williamsburg Virginia. The Florida Bibliophile Society hopes to end its season with a banquet at Brio Tuscan Grille in Tampa in May.

GROLIER CLUB

During mid-2021, the Grolier Club maintained an active schedule of events, both virtual and in person, to keep members engaged with the club. The club reopened on September 6 after the usual August closure. On September 8, the ninety-fourth *Grolier Club News Flash* appeared. It listed new club publications, online exhibitions, member business matters, and selective non-Grolier events including programs of the Bibliographical Society of America, universities, libraries, and other clubs. Weekly virtual events have included a show-and-tell for member presentations and a Friday afternoon happy hour for conversation.

On September 14, an exhibition “The Great George: Cruikshank and London’s Graphic Humorists (1800-1850),” from the collection of Lea Iselin, opens in the second-floor gallery. The exhibition runs through November 13. On September 16, Robert L. Patten, Author and Professor Emeritus of Humanities, Rice University, will speak about the exhibition and discuss the relationship between Cruikshank and Dickens in connection with the exhibition.

On September 17, Gabrielle Dudley, Instruction Archivist for Emory University’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, will speak via Zoom on “Black Women Writers: Tracing Unexpected Connections on Paper.”

September 20 will engage Grolier Club member Reid Byers in a presentation describing his recent Oak Knoll publication, *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom*. In his unique and lively reference work, dealing with the layout of private libraries from earliest times to the present, the author examines the historical influences that have shaped the architecture and furnishings of the private library. Byers’ book, extensively illustrated in full color throughout and in excess of 500 pages, may be the successor to John Willis Clark’s classic text *The Care of Books* (Cambridge University Press, 1909).

To document the exhibition from earlier this year, *One Hundred Books Famous in Typography*, Jerry Kelly’s 335-page book of the same title is now in print, as the latest Grolier Hundred publication.

The galleries of the Grolier Club can be visited by members and non-members. An advance inquiry about current limitations and rules for visits is recommended.

Ronald K. Smeltzer

HIMES & DUNAWAY SOCIETY

We bring you greetings from the left coast, the land of forest fires and the Delta virus. We hope that our fellow clubs are staying safe and active.

Our summer event was a wonderful program by the retired historian of the Government Printing Office. Zoom allowed us access to George Barnum and his presentation was a smashing success. Mr. Barnum’s presentation centered around *Picturing the Big Shop: Photos of the U.S. Government Publishing Office, 1900-1980*.

There were so many highlights that it is hard to pick just one. The mental image that everyone will remember is the manner of the disposal of over one hundred Linotype machines. In their wisdom, the GPO opened a sixth-floor window and simply shoved the machines out to the hopefully vacant parking lot below.

If you and your group has not heard Mr. Barnum’s presentation and would like to, please email me or the Baltimore Bibliophiles for his contact information.

We are working with a small group from FABS to try and create a central calendar for Zoom events. The presenters go to a lot of trouble to prepare presentations and should be rewarded with significant attendance. Any thoughts that you may have would be welcomed.

We are planning for our Fall event and, of course, our White Elephant Holiday Book Exchange. The White Elephant Book Exchange is questionable because of the rapidly spreading virus even among those who have had the vaccine. We have several ideas for our Fall event and will report on them in the next time.

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

MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY

Manuscript Society members like to read other people's mail, not for prurient reasons but because they know John Donne was right when he said "... more than kisses letters mingle souls . . ." The particular letters we find of most interest are those with historical content and collectible signatures. So don't hesitate to join our Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, VA, May 10-14, 2022. You will find a congenial, welcoming group of new friends on a visit to attractions not available to the casual tourist. The tour has been organized by Bill and Marge Loscalzo. You will "walk the streets and visit the buildings our Founding Fathers frequented." Included are visits to: the Rockefeller Library, the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, the Earl Gregg Swem Library of William and Mary College, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture at Richmond, and the optional extra day tour to Jamestown. The registration price includes, as usual, some excellent meals, and there will be an auction of donated manuscripts. Check our web site www.manuscript.org for details and to register.

Having joined the MS and duly registered for the Annual Meeting, peruse other interesting material on the site. The Manuscript Society E-Digest, capably put together by Editor Patricia K. Vaccaro, is available and the June-July issue has links to the story of the recently discovered William Stone parchment engraving of the Declaration of Independence and its price at auction, and the story of the disposition of Stephen Hawking artifacts (e.g., wheelchairs) and archives. Hawking's papers will be joining those of Newton and Darwin at Cambridge, the donors apparently undeterred by the recent disappearance of some significant items from the Darwin collection there. As for the MS E-Digest, it is a free service to members and non-members, with delivery sign-up on the web site. Other important MS activities such as the Maass Grant for graduate students who are using original documents in their work, the Collector's Corner, and the Hall of Distinction are described. If you seek personalities, brief biographies of Manuscript Society Board of Trustees members are there as well.

Manuscripts editor Bradley D. Cook assembled another outstanding series of articles for the Summer 2021 issue. In the lead article, Chris Dahl writes about the effort of the Marquis de Lafayette to help veterans of the Revolutionary War to receive pensions for their service, 40 years after the war's end. The article's illustrations include Dahl's copy of Lafayette's letter, and from the Library of Congress, the letter



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of the veterans petitioning the government. It is a good example of the sort of stories that you can discover reading other people's mail.

Finally, a "tip of the hat" to two special people for their efforts for the Society. Dr. Shirley J. Sands has retired after ten years of outstanding service as Executive Director. (We are glad to welcome Alanna Colwell as Shirley's successor.) And thanks to Manuscript Society Past President Anthony Mourek, who has for many years sponsored our membership in FABS.

MINIATURE BOOK SOCIETY

After canceling our annual convention, the Grand Conclave in 2020, and potentially again in 2021, we chose to mount a virtual Conclave which ran from September 30 to October 3. Events included pre-recorded sessions as well as live events via Zoom. Several members offered tours of their private libraries, while others conducted bookbinding demonstrations, or historical talks on various miniature book topics. We had daily chat rooms for meet and greet as well as show and tell. We also had a virtual book fair that ran the entire weekend, as well as a live, online auction conducted by PBA Galleries. While it just wasn't the same as meeting in person, it did fill the long gap and afforded the opportunity to see and talk with distant friends. Hoping for better times, planning for the 2022 Conclave will get underway soon. The biennial MBS publication was issued, in spite of the difficulties we faced this year, not as a finely bound miniature book, but as a make-it-yourself miniature book kit. The text is Poe's "Masque of the Red Death." It was well received and members' efforts will be featured in the upcoming MBS newsletter.

MOVABLE BOOK SOCIETY

The Movable Book Society will conduct its biennial conference, September 30-October 3, 2021, in Denver, CO. There will be a virtual component as well with commensurate fees. As of this writing, we have roughly 60 participants attending on-site and 100 attending virtually. Considering COVID, MBS is very pleased about this participation.

In addition to the traditional Silent Auction, there will also be a virtual one, limited to 50 highly vetted movable books, mock-ups, and ephemera. Both auctions raise money for scholarships to the conferences.

Matthew Reinhart, world-renowned paper engineer, will be conducting a pop-up workshop and lecturing. Paper engineer Kyle Olmon, will also conduct a workshop. There will be a virtual tour of Special Collections at the Denver Public Library and an on-site exhibition reception at the Art Students League. As always, the Saturday night banquet will conclude with the awarding of the Meggendorfer Prizes for Best Paper Engineered book [in the past 3 years], an Emerging Engineer, and Best Artist

Book. Virtual registration will be open until the end of the conference in case you want to drop by. Please do!

Finally, international pop-up enthusiasts keep coming to the Society's Zoom events. The next is scheduled for November 13, 2021. These Zoom Events allow a great expansion of participation with collectors, paper engineers, librarians, and conservators attending. The November event shall be a recap of conference highlights and some behind-the-scenes extras. All Zoom Events are recorded and available at MBS' website. Sign up for the FREE Zoom event by subscribing on the Society's web page: www.movablebooksociety.org.

Ellen G. K. Rubin
Founding and Board Member

TICKNOR SOCIETY

By the start of 2021, the Ticknor Society had been virtual-only for six months and had pretty well figured out the technology (well, mostly), so we were able to experience some truly excellent programming as a result. Many of these events were recorded, so if any sound interesting to members of other clubs, email ticknorinfo@gmail.com and we'll be happy to send you a link to the videos on YouTube.

Maryanne Grebenstein of the Abbey Studio Calligraphers kicked off the spring season on January 28th, 2021, with a presentation on the inception, execution, and recreation of her manuscript version of Charles Dickens' classic story, *A Christmas Carol*. Despite a water-induced set-back that caused some damage to the manuscript, Maryanne was able to show attendees up-close views of her fine calligraphy, including examples of her twenty-one beautiful textual illustrations.

In March, we were treated to two events, the first of which was rescheduled after its cancellation the previous year. On March 6th, librarian Mark Procknik took us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the New Bedford Whaling Museum and Library, giving us a look at the processing and storage areas of the library before taking us to the reading room to show us his favorite highlights from the collection, including early New England newspapers, illustrated captain's journals, and Herman Melville's name on the crew list of the whaling ship *Acushnet*, from which he deserted 18 months into his four-year voyage.

On March 31st, the curatorial team of Dartmouth College Library's exhibition "A Boston Brahmin Abroad: George Ticknor, Hispanism, & Dartmouth" took us through highlights from the exhibit. George Ticknor, one of the namesakes of the Ticknor Society, was a Dartmouth graduate, and their library and archives hold many artifacts from his life, such as travel journals and letters, which were shown to us by curators Jay Satterfield, Jill Baron, and Daniel Abosso.

The deadline for submissions to the annual Ticknor Book and Book Culture Collecting Prize was April 15th, and the 2021 winner will be announced during the Ticknor Society Collectors' Roundtable at the Virtual Boston Book Fair in November. If you're a book, manuscript, and/or ephemera collector in New England, consider entering the contest for a chance to win \$1000 and a free membership to

The Ticknor Society. More details can be found at <https://bit.ly/3CpYCxg>.

The 2020 Ticknor Collecting Prize winner Maida Tilchen took Ticknorites on a tour of her collection of books, periodicals, and ephemera related to New Mexico book culture on April 17th. She showed us the breadth of her collection, while also offering insight into her collecting philosophy and the future of the materials.

The last regular event of the season was the launch party for Dale Stinchcomb's new book on Boston's Theater District on May 18th. Full of archival images, his presentation revealed the historical origins of the area and traced the district through its heyday to the present iteration, all accompanied by victuals from Cheryl Mariolis's themed cocktail and appetizer menu.

The Ticknor Society Annual Meeting was held on June 15th. After a short business meeting, during which we elected a new president, Shannon Struble, vice president, Dale Stinchcomb, and Membership Secretary, Kaelin Rasmussen, thanked several departing board members, and welcomed several other incoming board members, we heard an excellent talk by Theo Tyson, then Polly Thayer Starr Fellow in American Art & Culture at the Boston Athenæum. She spoke about the history of anti-slavery activist Harriet Bell Hayden's photo albums, which are now owned by the Boston Athenæum, and the many facets of meaning they embodied. Tyson showed numerous images from the albums and gave background on not only the individuals depicted, but also shared insights into the meaning behind the person's presence and presentation in the albums. Ultimately, she was able to use the albums as examples in a wider conversation about the respectful handling and disseminating of the histories of people in marginalized communities. Theo Tyson has since gone on to become the new Penny Vinik Curator of Fashion Arts at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

In July, board members met to bounce around ideas for our 2020-2021 season. High on our minds was the question of whether to reintroduce in-person events and how. Our first event of fall will be an in-person visit to a collector's home library of books on clocks, timepieces, and horology at the end of September, so stay tuned for the spring FABS newsletter to see how it goes!

Shannon Struble

WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

The Washington Rare Book Group (WRBG) is getting ready for another exciting year!

We hope that you, your families, and coworkers are well. We look forward to being able to meet in person soon, but in the meantime, we have planned to continue online programs for the fall.

The first meeting of this program year will be on September 29, 2021, at noon. Ken Gloss of the Brattle Book Shop, in Boston, will speak to the group. You may recognize him from Antiques Roadshow, where he is often a guest appraiser.

Other plans include a presentation on provenance research, and another on

preservation techniques for our personal book collections. Please watch your inbox, as we will announce our upcoming virtual events by email, with links and instructions on how to join in.

In other WRBG news, we are happy to welcome Hannah Jones as secretary on our executive committee. Hannah is the Circulation and Patron Services Librarian at the Dominican Theological Library, and a recent graduate of the MLIS program at Catholic University. We are grateful for her high spirits, good ideas, and willingness to pitch in. Hannah is also the WRBG's most recent Rare Book School scholarship recipient.

As a group of committed bibliophiles, we can take pride in the WRBG scholarship to Rare Book School. We are enabling talented people in our area to build on their bibliographic interests and enjoy a week of intense study with like-minded students. Rare Book School administers the scholarship for us. More information is here: <https://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/scholarships/wrbg-scholarship/>

The award includes a one-year membership in the WRBG and a request that each recipient make a presentation to the group on her experience at RBS. Both Hannah and Julia Fine, last year's recipient, have chosen to postpone their attendance until RBS can have in-person classes. We look forward to hearing from both of them.

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.

WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES

The Society's main activity in the last months was the creation of International Kelmscott Press Day, held on (and around) June 26 to commemorate the 1891 founding of the Kelmscott Press, specifically to mark the 125th anniversary of the publication of the Kelmscott edition of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*. Solicitations worldwide brought participation from libraries, museums, and other owners of the Chaucer and Kelmscott materials from four continents and six countries. Many in-person events centered on showing copies of the Kelmscott Chaucer. Wightwick Manor, for example, in the UK, displayed their copy alongside eight Kelmscott books amidst Morris decor. Arizona State University's Distinctive Collections opened the Wurzburger Reading Room for a hands-on exploration of the library's complete Kelmscott collection with presentations on bookmaking, bibliophile, and illustration. The Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, Germany offered a special tour for the celebration, presenting their Chaucer in the context of other exceptional books. The University of Delaware Library's exhibition (recorded on its website) had not only two copies of the Chaucer but also Morris's pen and brush. Another "association" item, a fifteenth-entry illuminated manuscript Bible from Morris's library, awed visitors who came to the Kelmscott exhibition at Ohio University's Mahan Center for Archives and Special Collections.

Most of the Day's events had, necessarily, to take place online due to covid-19 restrictions. A few standouts can be mentioned: Myron Groover's (McMaster University's Archive and Rare Books) lecture on the history of the Kelmscott Press, focusing on its role within the Arts and Crafts Movement, tied to McMaster's copy of the Chaucer bound by the Doves Bindery. Laura Cleaver (Institute of English Studies, University of London) spoke about the networks that made possible the acquisition of manuscripts and the creation of private press books from the 1890s to the First World War. In Argentina, bookbinder Sol Rébora's talk "'The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer': One Copy of the Book in Buenos Aires" revealed the process of her rebinding and conservation work. In Canada, the University of British Columbia presented a video of Gregory Mackie's presentation "'A nameless city in a distant sea': William Morris, Arts and Crafts, and the Kelmscott Chaucer," which went beyond book history to draw a connection between Morris's response to the effects of Victorian industrial capitalism and Vancouver's architecture and settler colonialism. Cait Coker and Caroline Szyłowicz from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign showed the ways Morris's emphasis on craftsmanship in making beautiful books contributed to the Labor and the Arts and Crafts Movements. Not to be overlooked were the several events in which FABS clubs were involved. The Caxton Club hosted a video presentation by Newberry Library rare books curator Jill Gage talking about the Chaucer and proofs of Burne-Jones's illustrations. "A Definite Claim to Beauty," an online exhibition by the Book Club of California, featured Kelmscott's Chaucer and California fine printing from the Club's collection. Last but not least, the Book Club of Washington co-sponsored (with help from the University of Puget Sound) the Morris Society's own online event. We brought together Sandra Kroupa (University of Washington) to speak on the history of the Kelmscott Press, Mark Samuels Lasner (University of Delaware) to talk on collecting Morris, and, best of all, Steven Galbraith and Amelia Hugill-Fontanel to give a remarkable live demonstration of printing on the actual Kelmscott press, owned by the Cary Collection, Rochester Institute of Technology. The amount of participation and variety of activities is a testament to the enduring interest in William Morris, the Kelmscott Press, and fine books. For more information about International Kelmscott Press Day, go to the Morris Society's website, www.morrisociety.org. You will find a list of more than 30 events (with links) and acknowledgment of our co-sponsors, which included the Bibliographical Society of America and the Bibliographical Society (London).

Speaking of the website, it has been revamped, indeed built all new from the ground up and well worth a visit. The Society's series of online presentations, which recently included a celebration of its 50th anniversary, will continue on a monthly basis. Upcoming are what we hope—pray—will be the kind where a physical presence is necessary: "The Kelmscott Press and Its Legacies," scheduled for November 6, 2021 in London, in which we shall be assisting the UK Morris Society, and two sessions (one on "The Pre-Raphaelites and the Book") at the Modern Language Association's annual meeting, scheduled for Washington, DC in early January 2022. Stay tuned.

ZAMORANO CLUB

After a year and a half of lockdown, we are finally making some small progress—including our first face-to-face meeting since winter 2019.

The Club has continued to produce its popular “Show and Tell” presentations. These are Zoom meetings presenting up to seven members who take a few minutes to discuss a favorite book or item from their collections. The most recent S&T occurred on August 18, 2021. Members Susan Allen, Bill Donohoo, Nick Ervin, James Keeline, Greg Krisilas, and Gordon J. Van De Water gave their five-minute presentations. President Nick Ervin assured us that anyone who exceeded their five-minute limit would be subject to the application of an “electronic shepherd’s crook.” Previous meetings have drawn up to 40 members and guests.

In the same month, on August 4, the Club offered a “Passport Lecture,” a summer series showcasing international experts. The meetings are scheduled for 12 noon, Pacific Time, to accommodate international audiences and speak-ers. This lecture was given by Paul van Capelleveen, Curator of Modern Printed Special Collections at the National Library of the Netherlands, The Hague. According to introductory notes, the *Koninklijke Bibliotheek* was founded in 1798 with a collection of books and manuscripts of William V. The library grew throughout the nineteenth century, becoming a significant academic library focusing on the humanities. Today it serves as the repository for all Dutch publications.

Then, on September 1, also at 12 noon, the Club presented Carlos Kessel, a Brazilian author, historian, and diplomat, speaking on “The Royal Portuguese Reading Room.” Kessel lives in Brasilia and is a researcher at the Luso-Brazilian Center of the Royal Portuguese Reading Room. As a diplomat, he has been stationed at Brazilian embassies in Cape Verde, Chile, and Portugal. My congratulations to the Club and President Ervin for presenting such internationally distinguished scholars.

The best news for Club members was the announcement in September that the first face-to-face meeting of the Club in nearly two years was scheduled for October 6, 2021. At that meeting, Brian Stokes, an expert in martial arts, spoke on “The Sword and the Centuries.”

The Zamorano Club continues to publish its quarterly journal, *Hoja Volante*, under the editorship of Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales. If any readers of FABS are not receiving copies and wish to be added to our mailing list, please contact me at wrlomax@gmail.com.

Dr. William Lomax

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