



The A B A A N E W S L E T T E R

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MEMBER
ILAB

THE 30th CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS TOKYO, OCTOBER 7-11, 1990

By Muir Dawson, president, Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America

A large part of an ILAB Congress is devoted to social activity, but there are also important business meetings of the League. First, there is the meeting of the Committee, then a meeting of the Presidents of the 17 member associations, and finally the General Assembly of all those attending the Congress. This procedure allows for the business of the League to be conducted in an efficient manner, but still allows for general discussion or comment by any of the attending members.

Treasurer Louis Weinstein (ABAA) reported £10,858 in the League treasury as of August 31, 1990. The \$10.00 to be paid by each exhibitor at every ILAB sanctioned bookfair will be an important, albeit controversial new source of money for the treasury.

President Anthony Rota (ABA) reported a busy year in shepherding a new ILAB Directory (see page 4 below), a forthcoming polyglot Dictionary of bibliographic terms, keeping an eye on stolen books that turn up at auction and being ready to assist in settling disputes between both individuals and member organizations. The new edition of the Dictionary has been in preparation for

many months and is coming all well. Proofs for final corrections will be reaching each association in the near future.

The Code of Guarantee composed by the League last year has been adopted by all member associations and will be printed in full in all bookfair catalogues, although for some reason it was not printed in the catalogue for the Tokyo Bookfair.

The Newsletter of the ILAB is one of the most important activities of the League, and as will all Newsletters, needs the support of the membership with quality submissions. Send news and articles to Anton Gerits, Delilaan 5, 1217 HJ Hilversum, Netherlands. All newsletters published by member associations are also sent to him.

The next ILAB Bibliographic prize will be an award of \$2,500 and will be announced at the 31st Congress at Cologne, Germany in 1992. Of the thirty-one titles that have been submitted, sixteen have been selected for consideration. The League plans to solicit contributions in the (continued on page 6)

MARK HOFMANN UPDATE

By Jennifer Larsen

Despite three books and considerable media attention, we are very far from knowing the full extent of Mark Hofmann's forgery career. The official investigation concentrated on transactions in Utah- and Mormon-related material, and past researchers have largely based their work, insofar as the forgeries are concerned, on the documents identified by the prosecution. This has resulted in a general and mistaken confidence that all the forgeries have been identified, and the erroneous impression that the success of the deception was the result of the gullibility and vulnerability of the Mormons.

That the perpetrator (cont. on p. 5)

FROM FUJI TO THE GINZA: SOCIAL LIFE AT ILAB

By Rob Rulon-Miller

More than 360 registrants for 19 countries attended the recent ILAB Tokyo Congress. Included in the group were six booksellers from Korea who attended the Congress as observers, and who have petitioned the ILAB for membership status.

Most of the attendees first gathered Sunday evening, October 7 at the Book Fair Explanatory meeting where we heard from various members of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of Japan (ABAJ) about the logistics of the fair, as well as from a talkative representative from Yamato Transport who for twenty minutes explained with undue diligence that (cont. on p. 6)

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Robert Fleck

The ABAA treasury at the end of September has about \$10,000 in checking, \$121,000 in a money market account, and \$10,000 in a treasury note. Our balance is high as dues were collected for the entire year in the spring. From these dues expenses will be paid over the remainder of the year.

Liane Wood-Thomas at Headquarters has completed the switch-over to a SAFEGUARD system and has all accounts accurately balanced. All tax reports have been filed. We are now in the process of setting up an income statement and balance sheet based on our (cont. on p. 6)

ABAA ARCHIVES IN NEED OF HELP

By David Margolis

While sorting a small group of old catalogs I came across a 1955 ABAA directory. The 42 page pamphlet contained over 200 names and addresses. With fascination I noted familiar names, a surprising number still active today, thirty-five years later.

After discussing some business with Liane at Headquarters, I asked if she had a copy of this directory in the archives, and if not, would gladly offer it as a gift. To my surprise, there is no archive. ABAA presently has copies of only the two most recent directories. ABAA has copies of only 4 posters for ABAA sponsored book fairs (these have been between two and four fairs a year for about 20 years). ABAA has issued plaques, rings, tote-bags and T-shirts; few examples are at the headquarters.

Granted, this is not an earthshaking deficiency. There are no law suits or six-figure deals hinging on our having a run of old directories, but for a group of antiquarians, it is surprising that our 40 year old trade organization is so poorly keeping track of its own history.

If you have any ABAA directories, posters or other "paraphernalia" older than 1987, Liane would love to have it. Ten minutes of going through dead files and a quick mailing to headquarters might bring in a surprising amount of "stuff." Please take the time.

ANOTHER WORD ON ARCHIVES

By Ron Lieberman

We would like to see a photo and press archive started at ABAA. A stock of 8 x 10 glossy photos would help our publicity efforts. Newspaper, magazine, radio, and TV articles about members should also be documented. The Middle Atlantic Chapter will appoint a photolibrarian/archivist at their meeting October 19--or, rather, hopes to find a worthy volunteer. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute photos and clippings. Photos used in old catalogs would be OK. Also photos of shops, books, etc.

REPORT FROM HEADQUARTERS

By Liane Wood-Thomas

In mid-November I'll have been at ABAA for one year. It has been a full, busy and good year for me. When I came on board I thought I'd be more in command of office routines earlier than I was; I had unfortunately underestimated the complexity of the Association's myriad activities.

The first task was to collect annual dues which, until I mastered the computer, was slow going -- as some of you noticed. My first book fair and board meeting was in Los Angeles in February. It was both fun and rewarding to be able to finally match familiar voices with new faces.

Rob Rulon-Miller and I had just started work on the 1990-91 ABAA *Directory* when I received a stack of galley sheets from Edmund Brumme (Secretary of the ILAB and compiler of the new ILAB *Directory*) of Frankfurt, Germany for the 1990 ILAB *Directory*. All other matters were put aside until the ILAB *Directory* work was complete. I thought that the ILAB's publication deadline of the Tokyo Fair superceded ours because the last ILAB *Directory* was published four years ago, in 1986.

In August I attended the Out-of-Print and Antiquarian Book Market Seminar in Denver. It was an intense week of immersion in books and the book world. The teaching staff was outstanding -- knowledgeable, hardworking and candid about the problems and joys of bookselling. The seminar gave me a better appreciation of your concerns as well as a clearer idea of what I can do for the Association.

A typical day at headquarters office consists of answering five to fifteen telephone inquiries, often requesting a copy of the ABAA *Directory*, or seeking the value of grandmother's bible just discovered in the attic. The daily mail usually brings five to ten more requests for the *Directory*. I've sent an average of 110 *Directories* per month within the U.S. and another ten per month overseas. One hundred and four requests for information on

ABAA membership have been fulfilled from January to mid-October.

A computer program for Missing and Stolen Books has been designed by one of our members (who requests anonymity), and will go into operation next month. This will mean that the information you've been receiving on the "pink sheets" will be in alphabetical order as well as in a more uniform and logical format.

I enjoy the daily routine of the ABAA office, attending the Book Fairs and of course, meeting many of you. I look forward to yet more of the same this next year.

**BRUCE RAMER REMEMBERS
EMIL OFFENBACHER**

Emil Offenbacher, a leading expert and dealer in the world of antiquarian books, died in Vermont 16 August 1990, of cancer. He was 81, and was active in business to the end. He issued his last catalogue in late winter, as usual; and had made a trip to California in February.

I got to know him quite well over the past ten years, and considered him a friend. I saw him for about an hour and a half in June, when he knew he was getting progressively worse, but he never let on about how serious the cancer was. I owe him a great deal for the encouragement he gave me, and I know he did the same for other collectors, librarians, and dealers. He was generous with his time and was a storehouse of knowledge.

I first met Emil through my brother, Richard, who said Emil was the man to consult if I was considering collecting seriously. I first met Emil June 11, 1981 (I know the date because I still have the bill for the book I bought: Voltaire's *Elemens de la philosophie de Newton*, 1738). I had gone to visit him at his apartment in Kew Gardens, New York (a countrified section of the borough of Queens,

about 30 minutes from Manhattan), expecting to stay about a half an hour. But he kept me for about three hours, showing me his entire bibliography collection. It was an experience I can never forget. On the ride back to Manhattan I had changed my mind from continuing my 10 years of collecting, and decided to try the book business instead.

Mr. Offenbacher was an expert on science and medicine (especially the earliest books), as well as rare books. He began his career at age 16 working for an uncle who was a bookseller in Germany. In 1933 he established his business, and was forced to move to Paris during the rise of the Nazis in pre-war Germany. His shop near the Madeleine became very well known. I have two important catalogues he issued there, one on alchemy, the other on occult books -- subjects on which he was an authority.

Because of the Nazi occupation, he left France for America in 1941. He established Emil Offenbacher, Inc. in Manhattan on Fifth Avenue, and later moved the business to his home in Kew Gardens. As everyone who knew him well can attest, Emil kept his style of business from the time he established it until the end, keeping the highest professional standards. He published one catalogue a year. The bibliographical details and descriptions were legendary, admired by collectors, librarians, and booksellers alike. He helped to develop some of the most important collections, among them those of Duveen (who asked him to help write his bibliography), Edelstein, and Dibner. Every great science and medical collector of this period, as well as countless institutions relied on his taste and expertise to develop their collections.

With his passing, the era of the great emigrant bookseller comes to an end. He is survived by his wife, Anne; his children, Claude Offenbacher and Florence Keller; his brothers, Eric and Erwin; his sister, Deborah; and 4 grandsons. A memorial service for Emil was held September 23, 1990, at the Grolier Club in New York.

TWO NEW DIRECTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

By Rob Rulon-Miller

The 1990-1991 ABAA *Directory* will be available in early November, in time for the Boston fair. The editors hope you find it useful.

For the first time members were encouraged to write a synopsis of specialties in any form, the only guideline being that the length of the entry was limited to 145 characters, including punctuation and spacing. In spite of the carefully laid out grid on the information request form, some members submitted excessive listings, thereby increasing the work of the editors who, in fairness to the majority of the membership, edited, and in a handful of cases deleted some of the excessive text. The new specialty listings are now more detailed than in previous editions, and the index of specialties has grown by nearly 30 percent.

Many members listed "Rare Books," "First Editions," and "General Antiquarian" in their specialty listings. When the computer sorted by category we found that there were over 100 names for each listing. Consequently, these headings were not included in the index, both because of their commonness and the extreme length of the list. The "General Americana" category is one which we may abandon in future *Directories* for the same reason. Comments welcome.

There are twenty-four new members listed in the new *Directory*, replacing a like number who have either died or resigned. Many more FAX numbers have been included, and we have added dealers' hours of business, where applicable. The new ABAA Code of Ethics, recently approved by the Board of Governors, is for the first time printed in the front, together with lists of officers.

The 1990-1991 ILAB *Directory*, edited by Edmund Brumme of Frankfurt, Germany, is also now available. As a privilege of membership in ABAA it will be distributed free of charge to all members in good standing. I had the

opportunity to eat dinner with Brumme in Tokyo last month and it was interesting to compare notes, since I had worked some on the ABAA *Directory*.

Anyone who has worked on past ABAA *Directories* must certainly be humbled by Brumme's fine effort, a listing of approximately 1600 dealers in 26 countries associated with 17 national organizations. Each listing is bilingual (French and English), with telephone and FAX numbers, hours of business, and a limit of five specialties. Separate indices cross-reference specialties to dealers, list services (such as auction houses and search services) and key sub-specialties to indexed specialties (such as "Baseball, see Sports & Games). There is also a complete list of both business and personal names.

Immediately impressive is the fact that Brumme, a German, composed the *Directory* in English and French -- the two official languages of ILAB -- both foreign to Brumme. Which brings me immediately to my one major complaint about the ILAB *Directory*, one beyond Brumme's control. Protocol is one thing and practicality quite another. It seems unfortunate that an Italian scouting Italy, for example, cannot read the *Directory* in Italian. My suggestion to ILAB would be to find one common language for the *Directory* (since nearly half the ILAB membership hails from English-speaking countries English is the obvious choice), and make the native language from each country's listing the second language. The Italian listing then would be in English and Italian. This would not only save an immense amount of space (nearly half the *Directory* would be in only one language -- English); but it would also make the *Directory* a good deal more useful to those in countries not French- or English-speaking. (cont. on p. 8)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following letters have been received in response to the proposed bookfair rule changes as published in the last issue of the Newsletter.

I read with great interest in the ABAA Newsletter the proposed changes in ABAA Book Fair rules put forth by the Fair committee, and I wish to state strong disagreement with two of the proposals.

The proposal to require that all book fair committees allot all booths by a new lottery each fair, no matter if the venue is the same, is an encroachment on the committee's authority to observe the present ABAA rule if they so wish, i.e. to give dealers their previous spaces in succeeding years.

The practice to allow dealers to have their same booth has, in my opinion, worked very well. It has silenced previous complaints and feelings of mistrust that the lottery is "rigged" and that committee favorites always get the "best" booths. More than 85 percent of the dealers coming to San Francisco, which is even larger than in 1989, want their previous booths!

I also believe that separate lotteries for corner or any other booths, is questionable. If a lower price is to be charged for the "worst" booth, what's the next worst booth worth and so on and so on. It would be simpler just to sell the booths to the highest bidder and to hell with the lottery. I believe it to be a hornet's nest best left alone.

Wider representation of ABAA chapters on the fair committee might help the committee in its work and time and effort for which I thank them.

Remember, Confucius say "any booth good if books good." -- Sincerely, George Robt. Kane, Chair, San Francisco 1991 Book Fair Committee

TO: ABAA Board & Book Fair Committee
SUBJECT: Proposed Book Fair Rules Changes

Just as we, and the majority of book fair exhibitor members did when it was suggested previously, we object most strenuously to the proposal for annual booth lotteries. We also object to the three tiered favorable/good/poor booth lotteries, and pricing system.

The reasons advanced for these changes seem to be:

1. "There is nothing in the planning of fairs that gives local committees more trouble, especially charges of favoritism, than the assignment of booths."
2. "New members could have the same opportunity to exhibit."

If the idea is to lessen the committee's work, or at least make it less stressful, these changes would seem to

have the opposite effect. The additional work, arguments, controversies, and general confusion would make the committee's job most unpleasant, if not impossible.

First there are the obvious problems in multiple lotteries: favorable booth (which everyone would go into first), good booths, and poor booths. Booth switching right up to until the last moment, with many trying to get back to their regular position, would also add to the confusion.

Except for the few lucky enough to draw a front row or corner, most of the dealers would be unhappy with a new booth that has no advantage, but a distinct disadvantage in that regular customers would have trouble in locating them and may visit other dealers first.

(Incidentally, if the committee gets first choice, how many "favorable" booths would be left anyway? If you really want an impartial lottery, why not have the committee take their chances along with everyone else?)

As it stands now, most of us are happy with what we have even if it isn't front row center. We've been in the back at Boston, LA, and San Francisco for many years and, as long as we keep the same booth we are at least reasonably content.

Certainly these changes would produce far more complaints and generate far more unhappy exhibitors than the present system.

Aside from "helping" the committee, the only other reason advanced for the lottery is that: "new members should have the same opportunity to exhibit." The obvious rebuttal would be: is it necessarily fair that new members be put on the same footing with exhibitors who have supported the shows for many years--good and bad? Further, many new members are not "up to speed" and it would not be to the overall membership's advantage if these people, by luck of the draw, are showcased in front row corner booths.

If a new member sends in their application promptly, it seems to me that they do have an opportunity to exhibit. That's how we got in.

(Right here let me interject another point, or objection. In reading the last part of paragraph # 4 it sounds as though late applicants would be thrown into a lottery with all other previously accepted applicants to determine who will be stuck with a half booth. Personally we always send in our application a few days after we receive it, yet under this rule we would be put on the same basis as late applicant.

What should happen is this: first come, first served, and once the fair is subscribed any vacancies should be filled in the same order as the applications were received, and with the same booth space, be it full or half, that is being vacated. This is the way almost all fairs and shows are handled--why should we be different. Further, why should late applicants be rewarded?)

We have been ABAA members for just about 20 years, and have been doing book fairs for 17 years. Of all the fairs that we have done, and at one point it was up to 22 a year, and all of the hundreds of exhibitors we have associated with, no fair rule or administrative practice is considered more important or more inviolable that which permits us to keep the same booth each year.

If the above, and the myriad of other objections you receive are not sufficient, and if, as you say, you really want to be fair, let's decide by a vote of ABAA members who do book fairs. Less than 20%, only about 100 (excluding foreign exhibitors) participated in the last Boston and west coast shows. If they are anything like us, this business is their livelihood, and ABAA fairs are a very big piece of the action. Shouldn't we be permitted a voice in such a radical change? Especially so when the Book Fair committee admits at the outset that most member complained about the proposal the last time. --William Pinkney

Portions of Peter Stern's response to William Pinkney, September 20, 1990 are as follows:

Thank you very much for your comments... The variable pricing system is not disallowed by the rules as they have stood for some years now. The floor plan and pricing of booths has been up to the local committees and will remain so. These rules do not require booths to be priced differentially but merely set the rules by which it may be done in order to insure equal opportunity. If the local committee doesn't want to wrestle with it, they don't have to, but it is a way in which they can increase their revenues.

I agree with you that it is not necessarily fair that "new members be put on the same footing with exhibitors who have supported the shows for many years". If we were to be truly fair then I would favor giving the choice of best booths to those members who have served on the local

or national level, attend chapter and annual meetings, as well as those who support all of the fairs. If we were a private corporation whose business is book fair promotion we would be well within our rights, and good businessmen to boot, in rewarding loyalty.

However, by law, and by our own bylaws, every member is meant to be equal. Other than associate members, we have no classes of membership. By allowing previous exhibitors to retain their booths we are vesting them with seniority rights, and favoring these members over others. There was a time when the New York fair was by invitation only, and new members sometimes had to wait for years for their call. Fortunately, those days are long gone, and this favoritism of old exhibitors over new is a vestige of those days of privilege...

Last year we discussed with Sanford Smith the possibility of managing our New York Fair. Sandy is the best fair promoter in New York. While there were other factors that made our engaging him too difficult, what made it impossible was his insistence that he would choose which of our members would be eligible for the fair. This was a point which we could not concede. Many would argue that this process makes for a better show, but I like our way better...

The following letter on another fair matter --that of frequency-- was also received.

A NEW FAIR?

With an idea towards greater expansion of the merits of the ABAA, I propose that we add another book fair every year to our schedule. I propose a rotating fair in 3 or more major cities in alternating Mays with the Chicago fair. Atlanta, Dallas, and Philadelphia would be possibilities, for example. I understand that this may seem to be an ambitious idea, and I am curious to know how other members may feel. --David Aronovitz

(Hofmann, continued) himself wishes to cooperate with identifying his forgeries is severally indicated: his lengthy interview with a member of the Salt Lake County Attorney's Office, in which he spoke freely about many forgeries with which he was not charged; his candor in the prison interviews resulting from his plea agreement, which was apparently checked only by his attorney's frequent advice that he not discuss any uncharged forgeries; and three recent letters to me, in which uncharged forgeries are listed and a desire to assist further expressed. Regrettably for collectors, the trade, and the scholarly community, Hof-

mann's attorney has continued to object to his client's disclosures.

Nevertheless, I am pleased to report progress towards a complete list of books and documents handled by Hofmann, which, it must be recognized, are not all necessarily forgeries, or related to his forgery activity. In this effort I have received the cooperation of many individuals and institutions connected with the case. Several ABAA members and non-ABAA members of the trade have provided information, and as time permits, I will be contacting others with whom Hofmann had dealings. I wish to make a general plea for information from anyone who

knows of Hofmann's dealings.

Issues of confidentiality are clearly overridden in this case by the need to prevent future sales of items without the buyer's full knowledge of provenance. There are no easy answers to the problems posed by questioned documents, nor, despite information to the contrary, easy ways to infallibly determine their nature.

Note: *Those with information that may be helpful to Ms. Larsen are encouraged to contact her at Yerba Buena Books, 882 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94108*

(ILAB, continued from p. 1) near future so that the prize can be increased in future years.

The International 1990-1991 *Directory of Antiquarian Booksellers* is one of the most important projects of the League. The new edition was completed just in time for a few copies to be distributed at the Tokyo meeting. For the first time the *Directory* has been completely composed on a computer, and now that this step has been taken it is expected that new editions can be issued every two years and at a lower cost. For a number of reasons the information provided by the ABAA gave editor Edmund Brumme (VDA) a difficult time. He has been assured that it is the aim and desire of the ABAA to cooperate fully at all times. A starting point is for every member of the ABAA to be prompt in sending changes of names and addresses, phone and FAX numbers, etc. to the ABAA office in New York. These changes will be periodically sent to Mr. Brumme who will incorporate them into his database. Each member of the Board of Governors of the ABAA was contacted, and it was decided that the ABAA purchase enough copies to give to each member. This will be the best edited ILAB *Directory* to date and is an excellent value. Copies will hopefully be delivered in time for the Boston Bookfair.

The following resolution was approved by the ILAB:

"Disturbed by the continuing thefts of rare books from institutional libraries, the ILAB urges booksellers and auctioneers to take particular care in checking the *bona fides* of those who offer them books and manuscripts for sale.

"Proud of its members' record of helping to catch thieves and of returning stolen books to their rightful owners, the League wishes to emphasize the need for librarians to play their part by checking and strengthening security measures, and in particular by notifying the book trade promptly when losses have occurred, giving full details."

All of the work of the ILAB is done by volunteers. There is no paid help. Not all members of ABAA are aware of the importance of the League, but once a person has attended at least one Congress, it can be seen and felt that our world of antiquarian books would be much poorer without the unifying activities of the ILAB.

(Treasurer's Report, cont. from p. 1) accountant's format. These reports will be completed on a monthly basis with accumulated totals. A procedure for budget development for our next fiscal year will be presented to the Board of Governors at the November meeting. The Board will then be able to determine what financial impact Board decisions will have on overall ABAA finances.

Our next step is to take over monthly salary tax reporting from our accountant and thus reduce our accounting charges. This has already been discussed with the accountant.

(ILAB Social Scene, cont. from p. 1) books neither shipped nor packed by Yamato would be neither repacked nor shipped back by them. Some of us suspected even then that time might be better spent on the Ginza shopping for dancing alarm clocks and plastic spaghetti. So the Yamato man was all the talk at the cocktail reception that followed the meeting, where all of us had the opportunity to meet new friends and greet old acquaintances, as well as speculate on what new business the Congress and bookfair might bring.

The following morning officers of the ILAB met in private session, which left the rest of us loose with all of Tokyo. Some of us found the way through the massive Tokyo subway to the Ginza, while others were content to stroll the city parks or catch up on sleep lost to jetlag. Others still scouted the bookshops along the Kanda, although what with the relative weakness of the dollar I can't say there were many

purchases being made.

That afternoon we assembled again at Casals Hall for the official opening festivities which consisted of a rousing traditional drum ceremony followed by opening remarks from Mitsuo Nitta, president of ABAJ, Anthony Rota, president of ILAB, as well as some foreign dignitaries, including the Swiss ambassador to Japan. We were all given earphones so we could follow along in translation, and make like we were important dignitaries wrestling with world affairs. Nonetheless, there we were, a United Nations of booksellers so to speak, collectively acknowledging the validity and usefulness of our organization, and I for one felt moved by the profundity of being together under one roof with distinguished colleagues from all over the world. *Amor librorum nos unit.*

The next morning we were shepherded (the unsheepish Americans I noticed all ran to get the good seats) onto a total of eight buses for an overnight tour to the mountains of Hakone. Along the way we stopped at the Museum of Art, a privately-financed fortress it seemed, carved into the side of a mountain. Here, in the middle of nowhere, we viewed a wonderful collection of native ceramics, scrolls, and other artifacts, and somewhat out of place, a small group of impressionist paintings. But what I found most impressive about the museum was the physical structure itself. We entered through a small hall, then ascended a series of mammoth escalators which took us deeper and higher into the mountain. It was right out of a James Bond set, complete with a laser light show at one of the landings. We spent some hours here, perhaps too many, although life could have been worse than sitting quietly on the grass terrace overlooking the Pacific Ocean in the distance, quibbling with

colleagues over the values of books, or worse yet, wondering if ceramics from Pier One Imports would pass for the real McCoy if placed behind glass. We were treated to a traditional Japanese tea ceremony in the teahouses out back, then lunch on the floor in a large banquet hall. After lunch we were given a private showing of terrifically costumed and choreographed Noh play.

Later in the afternoon, and now back on the buses, we were shown where we could see Mount Fuji if the clouds would only lift, which they didn't, so we listened to the guide and watched Fuji on the TV monitor which played endless travelogues for our viewing pleasure. Our guide, a budding orthoepist, was equally entertaining. He had a habit of repeating the last word of every third or fourth sentence, then spelling it for us for the sake of clarifying his broken enunciation. "This lake is famous," he'd announce over the microphone, pivoting to face us, struggling to keep his balance as the bus swerved down a switchback, then gesticulating wildly with his arm in the direction of a lake I quite honestly never saw. "This lake is famous for its having a fresh water fish brought from your Great Lakes. The black bass, b.a.s.s., bass."

We arrived at Hakone at dusk. We'd been given elaborate floorplans, itineraries, and a good deal of hype about the Hakone Inn and its hot spring-fed baths, and there were some among us who were determined to achieve a Shinto oneness with nature here in the crisp, green mountain air. The inn was divided into two sections, one for westerners, the other for Japanese, and there was a small rush to get rooms in the Japanese section even though we'd been assigned rooms elsewhere. As it turned out the western section was really more desirable because we didn't have to put up with the tweeting of birds over the Muzak system, or the video and shopping arcades which lined virtually every hallway of the Japanese section. The East and the West met miserably here, but it didn't matter to us at all. We

consigned ourselves to fate and headed off to the baths and the bar. John Hellebrand and I went straight to the baths figuring on beating the rush, only to eye - and what a sight this was - through the gentle wisps of vapor rising like snakes from the water, Peter Howard sprawled naked in the far corner of the bath, dribbling over his round head water from his fist, grunting profoundly as he alternately floated then submersed his (as we later learned) 220 pound carcass in the pool, looking for all the world like immortal Zeus fresh from escapades with numerous nymphs.

Upon our arrival at the Inn we had each been presented with a traditional Japanese "happi-coat" - a kimono-type affair, mid-thigh, cobalt blue and trimmed in black, with the logo of the 30th Congress on the back, and ILAB and ABAJ initials on the lapels. These "happi-coats" came to us with the compliments of ABAJ, and I know we are all thankful for the Japanese association's generosity. No doubt these "happi-coats" will be turning up now during set-up at the American fairs, a pleasant memory of our stay in Japan.

That evening all 350 attendees, kimono clad and happi-coated, gathered for a traditional Japanese-style dinner, complete with Geisha service, another traditional drum ceremony, Geisha dancing, and much festive carousing. Attendees of the 1973 ILAB Congress in Japan were given special recognition, the Americans among them ABAA president Muir Dawson, Ben and Louis Weinstein, and Mike Ginsberg.

The next morning (it's Wednesday now) we piled onto the buses again and were driven to the Hakone Open Air Museum, another privately-financed museum, this one a massive sculpture garden high in the hills with sweeping panoramic views of the valleys below and hundreds of sculptures, primarily from the 20th century, including a particularly impressive group of Henry Moores, and a separately housed collection of Picasso paintings, drawings and ceramics. In some eyes the quantity of work was overkill -

even in these wide open spaces the art appeared cramped - but the sun was out and the sky was blue, and there was a tranquil slow-motion quality to all our aspects, rooted, no doubt, in the night before.

We stopped once more, before the long trip back to Tokyo, this time at a much frequented scenic overlook where we could climb the rocks to visit the sulphur springs, and where at last we saw Mount Fuji through the clouds - a good omen, we hoped, for a successful bookfair.

The next morning back in Tokyo there were tours of the National Diet Library and the Tokyo National Museum, and that evening, closing ceremonies and an impressive Farewell Dinner at the noted Chinzano Restaurant. As we ate dinner, we were treated to more drums and a tiger dance for our continuing entertainment. And in his closing remarks, president Anthony Rota profusely thanked Mr. Nitta and all the members of the Japanese Association for their hospitality and efforts on behalf of ILAB.

On Friday, most of us moved into the Hotel Grand Palace, the venue for the bookfair, and spent the better part of the afternoon setting up booths. While smaller than Western fair booths, these were well equipped and handsomely appointed. The fair seemed well attended, and as usual, results varied widely. But in the end I think we all agreed that the amount of business conducted at the fair was secondary to the contacts made, and the good will extended to our foreign colleagues, to say nothing of the memorable time we all had together.

I have often likened the booksellers who regularly do fairs to a band of far-flung gypsies who four or five times a year get on planes and go to far away places to peddle their wares. There is truth in this. And although we hail

from cities from all over the planet, and speak in many tongues, we are truly neighbors, almost family. There is no event that compares to an ILAB Congress for bringing out these poignant emotions in all of us. We joke, we clown, we make fun of our failures and shrug off our successes, and we guffaw and jab each other in the stomach while doing it. Say what you will but there is something about the ILAB and indeed the ABAA that lends this wacky business of ours a legitimacy, and makes it possible for us to have so much fun in the process.

(**Directories, cont.**) other complaint is purely nationalistic, although both England (with counties) and Canada and Australia (with provinces) might have a similar complaint. All listings within a given country are by city. My listing for St. Paul, for example, immediately precedes that for my father in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. This is a fine coincidence as far as family is concerned, but Andover Antiquarian Books (Andover, Massachusetts) is followed immediately in the directory by Leaves of Grass (Ann Arbor, Michigan). Arrangement by state (or province and county) might be more appropriate in some of the national listings, and certainly more

useful.

Other additions that might have been made include the list of ILAB officers; the text of the new ILAB bookfair resolution, and perhaps the ILAB Code of Ethics.

All in all, however, I have nothing but praise for the new ILAB *Directory*, cloth-bound in a convenient duodecimo size, with three ribbon bookmarks, and a handsomely laser-printed computer-generated text in roman and italic, arranged in double column. Six years have lapsed since the last ILAB *Directory* was published. Mr. Brumme tells me he plans another edition in two years.

The next issue of the *Newsletter* will appear in the Spring, and will coincide with the New York Bookfair in April. Submissions are due no later than March 15, 1991. Chapter presidents and committee chairpersons are particularly urged to file reports so that the membership may be kept apprised of ongoing ABAA activities. Getting enough material on ABAA and/or book-related matters to fill out eight pages three times a year should be a snap. Unfortunately, it's like pulling teeth. Anyone with anything at all to say about ABAA affairs, anyone with feature articles about books and the book business are encouraged to contribute. Please help make this *Newsletter* as fine a production as our membership deserves.

ABAA NEWSLETTER
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