



The ABAA NEWSLETTER



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FALL, 1995



ILAB and the Internet

by Robert Fleck

An amazing phenomenon has just occurred in Brussels. Representatives from Germany, Belgium, France, England, the Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, the United States and Canada, with proxy representatives from many other ILAB countries, voted to act together with the ABAA to become part of the Internet. The vote was unanimous and the ABAA leadership effort was applauded. Everyone at the meeting realized that if the ILAB (and thus the ABAA) is to become the one "place to go" on the Internet for information on antiquarian books and booksellers, action must be taken immediately.

I left the meeting feeling that I had just witnessed a dramatic display of international cooperation and goodwill. Working

ILAB Committee members and national Presidents, with their guests, in front of Scy Sanssouci, the Belgian country home of bookseller Eric Speeckaert. The Committee and national Presidents attended meetings in Brussels in mid-September, 1995. Pictured here, from left to right, are: Millie Fleck, Sophie Nicolas, Anthony Rota (past ILAB President), Mrs. Eric Speeckaert, Poul Poulsen (ILAB Treasurer), Eric Speeckaert (kneeling), Rolande and Jaques van der Heyde, Dr. Lurline Stewart, Rodolphe Chamonal, Peter Arnold (ANZAAB President), Jean Rota, Guy Biart (Moretus Plantin Library, Namur), Claude van Loock (CLAM President), Jean-Etienne Huret (SLAM President), Paula Gerits, Alain Nicolas (ILAB Vice-President), Rob Rulon-Miller (ABAA President), Jutte Kuyper, Don Lake (ABAC President), Edmonde Huret, Professor Philippert de Foy, Bubb Kuyper (NVVA President), Takehiko Sakai (ABAJ President), Robert Fleck (ABAA Vice-President), Georg Schreyer (ILAB Committee member), Anton Gerits (ILAB President), and Jochen Granier (VDA President-elect). For more on the ILAB meetings, see page 6. *Photograph courtesy of Michiko Sakai.*

together like this is why the ILAB was formed.

The ABAA Planning Committee, and especially Michael Dawson, has been working on an ABAA presence on the Internet for almost a year. Phone conferences in August and September of this year resulted in authorization by the ABAA Board for Rob Rulon-Miller and me to seek ILAB participation at the ILAB Committee meeting in Brussels on

September 13, 1995, and the ILAB Presidents Meeting that followed. As I am currently acting as a liaison member of the Committee, I made a presentation to the Committee that summarized the ABAA's work on the Internet. The Committee issued a statement at the end of the meeting encouraging our work, and asked the Presidents of all ILAB countries to gather for a special meeting. The normal work

continued on page 13

Letters to the Editor

*From: Michael Hollander,
San Rafael, CA*

You used the word "should" in Articles 5, 7, 8, and 10 in the Code of Ethics. I'm glad to hear that this is all now voluntary. I think that the Ethics Committee should be disbanded. If the Code of Ethics was not so cleverly written this problem would not have arisen.

When a member does an illegal act and is convicted in a court of law the ABAA should have nothing to do with their conduct.

The problem to which Michael Hollander refers is the dispute between him and another ABAA bookseller who declines to send him catalogues.

The "shoulds" are used in those sections of the ABAA Code of Ethics which pertain to manners and courtesy. As I read the Code, these sections are included because they are ABAA's—if not endorsements, then—suggestions for good business practices.

The "shalls" are used in those sections of the Code where ABAA wishes to express determination. My interpretation here is that ABAA wants to enforce to the

best of its limited abilities the matters outlined in these sections of the Code.

We are not a Star Chamber. We strive for friendliness and common sense, and try to be as understanding of this diverse and sometimes unfathomable membership as we can.

Rob Rulon-Miller, ABAA President

From: Peter Stern, Boston, MA

I just received the joyful news that I'm again a full member. You know that I'm not a complainer, but let me see if I've got this straight. For an additional \$125 I get to vote for people like yourself, myself, and Jim Pepper. Hmm. Shouldn't I be paid to do this? Remember what Boston's great James Michael Curley said? "Vote early. Vote often."

Second, I lose my excuse not to recommend new members. For six years I could say that I was secretary and therefore was ineligible to propose membership; then I was an associate member. Now, I'm stripped naked, vulnerable to the pleas of supplicants.

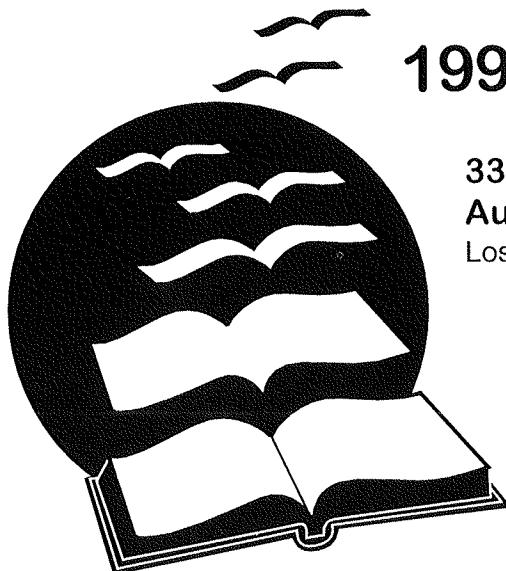
There is a reasonable rationale for the policy of having more than one member, unless we saw fit to make firms members

(and I do not propose this). However, given the Association's present strong financial situation, I think that the fee is excessive. Is there more than nominal additional cost to the ABAA beyond that of associate membership? Is there a privilege that's worth the differential? I think not. Are we entitled to a second booth at fairs?

Had this membership classification been proposed when the Association was in precarious financial shape I could see justification for the added revenue. I fail to see it today. Just because there's an opportunity to raise money from the membership we don't have to take it.

Largely, I believe that we offer good value for a membership, although value is certainly not the sole criterion for becoming a member. The ABAA has always had the problem of serving a fairly wide-ranging membership. Our book fairs are too expensive for some, and not expensive enough for others. Our dues structure should remain reasonable for every classification of membership.

That said, should the Board reconsider the amount of this fee, I would be happy to permanently pledge the difference to the Benevolent Fund. ■



1996 ILAB Congress & Book Fair

33rd ILAB Congress
August 30 - September 3
Los Angeles, California

16th ILAB Book Fair
September 6 - 8
San Francisco, California



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Washington Book Fair Attendance Up

by Tom Congalton,

Chair, National Book Fair Committee

The Third Annual Washington International Antiquarian Book Fair saw an approximately twenty percent increase in attendance from last year's fair. Unofficially, attendance at this year's fair reached 2,400 according to Allen Ahearn (the final figures have not been completely tallied as we go to press).

At least in the opinions of some of those questioned, the increase in attendance, perhaps coupled with fewer exhibiting dealers than in the previous two years, resulted in a marked increase in sales. Whether these results can be sustained and improved upon during the next Washington fair in 1997—after the one-year hiatus imposed upon the fair to prevent conflicts with the ILAB Book Fair and Congress to be held next September in California—remains to be seen. Additional uncertainties loom concerning the future location of the fair. The current venue, the Andrew Mellon Auditorium, is scheduled to undergo several years of renovation beginning next November, and the local committee is still exploring possible sites for the fair in 1997.

The Southeast Chapter Book Fair Committee members—Allen and Patricia Ahearn, Joanne Reisler, Nancy Langley, and Kim Stypeck—in conjunction with the promoter, Sha-Dor, Inc., did an excellent job of organizing the fair and ensuring smooth access and egress for both dealers and customers. Committee Chair Allan Stypeck was everywhere in evidence, bustling about, directing porters and security, ferrying around newspaper and television reporters and camera operators, and in constant communication with the show office via walkie-talkie.

The set-up was as easy as the onerous task could be, although it was occasionally punctuated by the sound of crashing shelves from a few faulty glass cases provided for the fair. Luckily no one was hurt and damage was negligible, although a few bloodcurdling shrieks from startled booksellers enlivened the pre-fair. Security before, during, and after the fair was



Nicholas Basbanes, author of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes and the Eternal Passion for Books* (Henry Holt, 1995), prepares to sign copies of his book at the Third Annual Washington International Antiquarian Book Fair. The ABAA is selling first editions of his book, with all profits going to the ABAA Benevolent Fund. Basbanes will also sign books at upcoming ABAA fairs in Boston, New York, and Los Angeles, and at the ILAB fair in San Francisco, September 1996.

visible and active, and the promoter diligently and repeatedly delivered cautions and warnings. Despite all efforts, however, one dealer reported having two books stolen.

Two hundred people crowded the Mellon Auditorium lobby for an appearance by Nicholas Basbanes, who was signing his new book, *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes and the Eternal Passion for Books*. Of those in attendance, 132 purchased *A Gentle Madness* at the ABAA booth. The ABAA has secured 750 copies of the first edition of the popular book (which now has gone into multiple printings) for sale at its fairs, through the good offices of Cambridge, MA bookseller and ABAA Secretary

Priscilla Juvelis. Agreement has been reached with Basbanes and his publisher, Henry Holt, to repeat the signings at the upcoming Boston, Los Angeles, and New York book fairs, and at the ILAB Fair in San Francisco. All profits from the sale of the book will benefit the ABAA Benevolent Fund.

The local committee arranged other signings, with Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Mary Lee Settle, and mystery and thriller writers Justin Scott and Larry Bond. Booksellers Allen and Patricia Ahearn took time out from exhibiting to sign copies of the new edition of their *Book Collecting: A Comprehensive Guide*. William Safire, who was origi-

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Congalton

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nally scheduled to sign at the fair, was unable to attend. However, signed copies of his latest book, *Sleeper Spy*, were available for sale.

Basbanes also spoke at a banquet organized by the Southeast Chapter and held at the Willard Hotel. His subject was the book trade and his involvement in it. Service and ambiance at the Willard were excellent and the dinner fare was generally conceded to be superior to similar book fair conjoined banquets—despite the expected lamb entree's mysterious replacement by filet mignon without the knowledge of any of the organizing committee. Luckily a liberal pre-dinner cocktail hour seemed to render the change of little concern to diners, although some strategic browbeating by the committee did result in a token rebate from the hotel.

The DC Fair, which has been marginally self-supporting during its first years, was again within striking distance of breaking even. Dealer attrition (five con-

tracted dealers canceled after signing up for the fair) kept the fair from showing an anticipated surplus. When we went to press the local Committee was calculating the final figures.

Allan Stypeck, the book fair chair and proprietor of several area bookstores, stressed that Washington had an active and engaged market for rare and collectible books and that future fairs would serve to stimulate and expand that market. However, the high cost of exhibiting at the fair discouraged many dealers who might otherwise have liked to participate. He speculated that an increased number of dealers exhibiting in future fairs could have the eventual effect of lowering the overall booth rental fees, which at present are the second highest of any ABAA-sponsored fair. He also suggested that coordinated advertising between the three current East Coast fairs could benefit them all while lowering the costs to each fair, as well as encouraging collectors to visit from beyond their immediate geographical locales.

Stypeck expressed concern that increasingly the responsibilities for

mounting an ABAA fair have devolved on a diminishing group of people. The same people are continuously called upon to organize the fairs, and "book fair burnout" is already being exhibited by some of the fair organizers. This syndrome seems particularly evident in the smaller chapters that host fairs. The Midwest Chapter's longtime book fair chair, Florence Shay, after stepping down, generously allowed herself to be coaxed into running this year's Chicago fair, and Stypeck questioned whether or not his chapter would field enough committee members for the 1997 reprise of the Washington show. Last year when the Southeast Chapter enthusiastically explored the possibility of mounting an Atlanta book fair the effort was eventually scuttled because of the lack of available volunteers.

The implications to the ABAA seem clear: unless more members volunteer for book fair (and other) committee duties, the long-term health and continuation of the book fairs—our first and most visible public presence—might eventually be jeopardized.



Ken Lopez and Tom Congalton shared one of the long, narrow booths available at the Washington Book Fair, created to take full advantage of the irregular layout of the Andrew Mellon Auditorium.



Sue Kalk and David Lilburne are all smiles at the Washington Book Fair.

FBI Agents Address ABAA Seminar

by Tracy E. Smith

What are the rights of booksellers involved in recovering stolen goods? What procedures should booksellers follow when offered goods they know are stolen? Who should booksellers turn to in this situation? Are there guidelines in place?

These questions, and more, were raised, and preliminary answers forwarded, in an informative seminar held during the Washington Book Fair, September 16, 1995. Organized by Allan Stypeck, proprietor of the DC area's Second Story Books and Chair of the Washington Book Fair committee, the seminar offered concerned booksellers a chance to query representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Stypeck kicked off the seminar by recapping his recent involvement in recovering works stolen from the Folger Library. Twice in the past three years, he was approached by persons offering manuscript and printed materials he recognized as the property of the Folger Library. In both instances Stypeck purchased the materials, informed the library and the FBI of his actions, and offered his cooperation in apprehending the thief.

In the first case, in good faith, he returned the items immediately to the Folger. Although the library board acknowledged Stypeck's good work with a letter of appreciation, they voted not to reimburse the \$1,100 he had spent to obtain the stolen goods. In the second case, the library did reimburse Stypeck, but only after the FBI interceded on his behalf. The library informed him, however, that it would not reimburse him for the earlier recovered goods, according to Stypeck, "Because that's the risk I take being in business."

Stypeck added, "How can we do the right thing and not get burned every single time. Libraries, as we all know, are pretty arrogant toward us. I mean, they look at us as just being mercenary. This is a perfect example of how we try everything we can possibly do to secure the [stolen] item to help them out, and they thumb their nose at you." In introducing his guests from the FBI, he expressed hopefully, "This could be the beginning of a struc-

ture in our association where we can come up with some kind of a procedure when working with stolen merchandise."

FBI Special Agent Raymond B. Smith, Jr., responded by asking the booksellers present not to let Stypeck's experiences with the Folger sour them on aiding the recovery of goods stolen from libraries and repositories. "There are alternatives to the situation that Allan found himself in," he said. "I can't speak for every FBI office in every city, but there is money available to assist those who will help assist us, so that you are not financially out your \$1,100, \$1,500, whatever." Agent Smith also made it clear to the group that this did not constitute a "blanket offer."

Special Agent Scott Salter, who works in property crime, offered further explanation. "The FBI certainly spends money—we have funds to authorize purchase of evidence. [Who] knows how much money we spend to buy drugs every year. We also can spend money to buy stolen property. If somebody comes into one of your stores, and they're looking to sell thousands and thousands of dollars worth of material for \$200, you know it's stolen. If you call me and explain the situation and you're able to put the guy off and have him come back later in the day, I'll show up before he gets back. And I'll have the money to buy that evidence and I'll arrest him. Or we'll continue the investigation."

If a bookseller uses his or her own funds to purchase stolen goods, reimbursement cannot be guaranteed, Salter reiterated. "But if it's a situation where the items are stolen and we can investigate the case and arrest somebody for the prosecution, then many times we can make a one-time payment to cooperating witnesses." In many cases, he pointed out, this can amount to a reimbursement for procuring evidence. When asked by the audience if the scenarios he described were dependent upon individual agents, Salter answered firmly, "It's not agent by agent."

Agents Smith and Salter also suggested a second avenue for possible restitution. The United States Attorney's Office has a witness assistance program and they should be contacted "the next time you

are in a prosecutive state, where you are a witness." Through this program booksellers may be able to receive a witness fee, if testimony is needed.

The agents fielded many questions from the audience. For instance, should a bookseller call the FBI rather than the local police? Agent Smith responded, "A police officer is interested in locking up the thief, the FBI is looking to take out the entire enterprise." The agents pointed out that local police departments might not have the money for evidence purchases, although "in Washington DC the officers may be more responsive than other officers throughout the country because a lot of the stolen material is from the Library of Congress, the Folger Library, which falls under government property. You may not have as much luck in your city as you would in Washington."

Many of the ABAA members in attendance agreed with Peter Howard, of Serendipity Books in Berkeley, that "the biggest question is what mechanisms are we legally entitled to based on when a thief either comes to us selling or when he is stealing from us—do we have the right to physically restrain someone—and what ethical rights do we have to the money when a library is involved." Agents Smith and Salter said they did not have the authority to answer any questions on legal matters, but that they could do some research and then give "as definitive an answer as our guidelines permit us."

The seminar wrapped up with suggestions from both ABAA members and agents Smith and Salter on ways to continue the dialogue that had just been initiated. "It seems like your industry is now in the spotlight; I've heard of more cases in the last couple of years than I did in the [previous] ten years," agent Smith said. He continued, "I would like to see a cooperative venture between the ABAA and the [FBI] program managers for interstate theft throughout the country. It has nothing to do with geography. It is that special. This problem is rapidly on the rise and now is the chance that we should take a proactive stance so that we're not constantly trying to catch up." ■

Report from Brussels: The ILAB Committee and Presidents Meetings

by Rob Rulon-Miller

ABAA Vice-President Bob Fleck and I traveled to Brussels, Belgium during the week of September 11 for a series of meetings with our ILAB colleagues from around the world to discuss matters relevant to the booktrade, and in particular, the future of bookselling on the Internet. As President of ABAA, I represented our Association during the Presidents Meetings, and Bob Fleck attended the ILAB Committee meetings in his capacity as special liaison to that body.

Much of our time was spent socializing, touring, and being treated to a delectable array of Belgian cuisine, but in the meeting rooms it was business as usual. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Newsletter*, Bob Fleck gives an account of the ILAB Committee meeting, our success in introducing ILAB to ABAA's presence on the Internet, and our offer to ILAB to join in ABAA's endeavors with regard to it.

Attendees of the Committee Meeting and the Presidents Meeting included Peter Arnold (Australia); Marcello Tabanelli (for Vittorio Soave) and Giuliano Gallini (Italy); Anton Gerits and Bubb Kuyper (The Netherlands); Jochen Granier (for Christine Grahamer) and Georg Schreyer (Germany); Jean Etienne Huret and Alain Nicolas (France); Helen Kahn and Don Lake (Canada); Petr Meissner (Czech Republic); Pelegri Haro Perich (Spain); Poul Poulsen (Denmark); Antony Rota (Great Britain), Takehiko Sakai (Japan) and our gracious host Claude Van Loock (Belgium), as well as Bob Fleck and myself. Proxy votes were held for other countries who were not able to send representatives.

This was my third ILAB Presidents Meeting, and the second in my capacity as ABAA President. My general observation is that for the most part our colleagues are a competent, hard-working, and caring group of booksellers concerned about the future of ILAB and the future of the trade as a whole.

The adept Mr. Gerits (Amsterdam), the current ILAB President, is an effective presence, and runs a very efficient meeting, no small feat given the constraints of language, nationalities, and personalities. Poul Poulsen (Copenhagen), the ILAB Treasurer, has given much time over to revising and expanding the ILAB financial reporting, and thanks to him, all members are now able to see more precisely where the ILAB money goes and how it works for them. Alain Nicolas (Paris), who was seated officially as Vice-President during this round of meetings, has generously undertaken the compilation of a new ILAB *Directory*, which will appear in expanded form in 1997. Mr. Nicolas is now in line to be the next ILAB President. As Secretary, Helen Kahn (Toronto) continues her excellent service to the League.

The Presidents Meeting was held in the Roy d'Espagne-Grand Palace, on old Brussels' opulent central square which is bordered on all sides by the beautifully maintained guild halls. After the introduction of the new national Presidents, and introductory remarks by Mr. Gerits, we heard reports from the Treasurer and Secretary. Then the Presidents voted to confirm Alain Nicolas and Bob Fleck as Vice-President and liaison respectively.

ILAB committee expanding

A proposal was put before the Presidents to expand the size of the ILAB Committee from seven to eight in 1996, a proposal unanimously approved. In 1996, no less than three, and perhaps four positions will need to be filled on the ILAB Committee, which will represent the largest turn-over on that body in recent memory. Already two candidates have been nominated: Walter Aliche (proposed by the Committee and supported by the Swiss and German Associations); and Ms. Kay Craddock (proposed by the Australian and New Zealand Associations), both of whose candidacies have been agreed to by the Committee.

A proposal was made and passed to expand the Treasurer's Report in order to give all members of ILAB a chance to see how ILAB's resources are spent, and to publish this report in full in the first issue of the ILAB *Newsletter* that follows its approval at either a Presidents Meeting or a Congress. Furthermore, the Treasurer's Report will incorporate for the first time an ILAB budget which will show projected income and expenditures for the following year. This is an innovation for ILAB, and will better enable national presidents to explain to their members how ILAB plans to spend the annual income it receives from dues and booth taxes, as well as from the sales of its publications. Following its approval, the budget will also be published in the ILAB *Newsletter*.

Income and expenditures

The annual statement of ILAB cash receipts and disbursements is, in abbreviated form, as follows: cash in bank (August 1, 1994): \$106,328; income: \$221,527; expenditures: \$100,186; cash in bank (July 31, 1995): \$121,341. After the *Directory*, which cost \$42,000 to produce, the next biggest expenditure was \$17,183 for "Committee Expenses."

As the ILAB Book Fair Booth Tax has elicited much comment in the United States, the following figures are provided to show how much each country has contributed over the past twelve months: Australia and New Zealand (Sydney Book Fair, 1994) \$282; Finland (Helsinki, 1994) \$187; France (Paris, 1995) \$908; Great Britain (London, 1994) \$709; Japan (Tokyo, 1995) \$238; Spain (Madrid, 1994) \$402; Sweden (Stockholm, 1994) \$333; Germany (Cologne, 1994 and Stuttgart, 1995) \$1,352; The Netherlands (Amsterdam, 1994) \$1,330; United States (Los Angeles, New York, Boston, and Washington, all 1994) \$5,991.

With regard to annual dues: France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United

States each paid \$2,174; the Netherlands and Switzerland paid \$626; Italy and Japan paid \$517; Belgium and Sweden paid \$348; Austria paid \$343; Canada paid \$278; Denmark paid \$261; Norway paid \$170; Korea paid \$152; Finland paid \$96; Brazil and the Czech Republic paid \$87. No dues were reported received from Spain or Australia and New Zealand.

Rule changes

A number of proposals were made and passed with regard to changes in wording in the ILAB Rules, as follows:

Rule VII, 33, 1st line: amend "General Assembly" to read "National Presidents Meeting";

Rule VII, 32(a) add: "which shall be at variable rates according to the association's size and/or ability to pay. The rate applicable to each association shall be determined by the Committee in consultation with the national president";

Rule VII, 33, 2nd line: insert following "League": "At each National Presidents Meeting the Treasurer will submit a budget showing projected income and expenditure for the following year." And add: "The relevant statement of accounts and projected budgets will also be presented at conventions of the General Assembly, and will be published in the [ILAB] *Newsletter*";

Rule IV, 14, line 5: after "another tie" insert: "Any proposal to change or amend or add to the Rules must appear on the Agenda that is sent out 45 days in advance."

Rule V, 22, line 3 add: "For meetings of the Committee five members shall constitute a quorum but proxy votes given in writing shall be allowed";

Rule VI, 30, add a third paragraph: "Candidates nominated by the Committee shall be subject to the agreement of the national associations to which they belong. Candidates nominated by a national association shall be subject to the agreement of the Committee";

Rule V, 29, rewrite as follows: "The League shall reimburse Committee Members with the cost of their return fares at second class/tourist rates, and shall pay a daily subsistence allowance (fixed in



Marion and Claude van Loock, President of the *Chambre Professionnelle Belge de la Librairie Ancienne et Moderne*, served up a spectacular cake for ILAB Committee members and national presidents. The cake, in the form of a large folio—complete with gilded edges, bookmark, and spine label—bore the ILAB motto, *Amor librorum nos unit*. The van Loocks served the cake for dessert at a dinner they hosted in their Brussels home. *Photograph courtesy of Claude van Loock.*

1995 at US \$100 per day but to be reviewed at intervals as necessary), for attendance at Committee Meetings (deemed to last two days), National Presidents Meetings, and General Assemblies (each deemed to last three days). Travel expenses incurred by Committee Members on other extraordinary missions shall be reimbursed on the same basis. An annual allowance for office and secretarial expenses incurred by Officers of the Committee shall be paid at rates to be set and agreed upon from time to time by the National Presidents."

A further proposal was made to allow the offices of the President, the General Secretary, and the Treasurer "a yearly allowance of US \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$1,000 respectively to help in defraying expenses, starting in 1996 and for each successive year until new figures are set."

ILAB publications

Reports were made on the sale of ILAB publications, as follows: Edgard Franco's four-language *Dictionary* cost a total of \$10,618 to produce; receipts on sales thus far total \$13,753, and 952 copies remain. The *ILAB Directory* cost \$50,299 to produce; receipts on sales thus far total \$63,904, and 578 copies remain. Barney Rosenthal's *Dictionary of Abbreviations* cost a total of \$3,725 to produce; receipts on sales thus far total \$6,576, and 287 copies remain. [Note: Anyone wishing to order any of the above should contact headquarters in New York.]

A report was also made on the status of the fund for the ILAB Bibliographical Prize, which currently stands at \$36,613.

As there was no new business at the time, the meeting was adjourned. The rest

continued on next page

Rulon-Miller

continued from previous page

of our time was taken up socializing with our colleagues. In honor of the Presidents and Committee Meetings the Belgian Association (CLAM) sponsored a small, intimate book fair (the Salon Belge de la Bibliophilie) in the "Skyroom" on the twenty-second floor of the ITT Building in downtown Brussels, which most of us attended. There was also a private visit to the Royal Library.

On our first night in Belgium, the president of CLAM, Claude Van Loock, and his wife Marion hosted a perfectly sublime dinner for all the attendees at their rooftop apartment in the fashionable Chaussee de Waterloo section of Brussels. The highlight of the evening was a large and very delicious cake served for

dessert which was made up in the form of a large folio, but the whole meal, sweet-breads, terrines, folio cake, and all was most memorable.

Touring Namur

The following day we were bused approximately forty miles south and east of Brussels to Namur, a small, picturesque city that rests at the confluence of the Sambre and Meuse Rivers. Here we visited the quaint and unassuming Priory of Oignies which houses the famed treasure of Brother Hugo of Oignies, a master metalworker of the 12th century and the founder of the Priory. In the convent of the Soeurs de Notre Dame, under the guidance of an English-speaking nun, we viewed the Gothic treasures, which included samples of Brother Hugo's skillful metalwork: pyxides, phylacteries, and reliquaries which held, purportedly, an assortment of holy relics (read body parts), including St. Peter's rib, St. James' foot, and the jaw of St. Bartholomew.

From the Priory we made short work of a walk in the drizzle, and entered the Collection des Manuscrits de la Societe d'Archeologie de Namur at the Musee des Art anciens du Namurois. There we found a table-full of early books and manuscripts that had been pulled from the holdings for our benefit and pleasure, and we were treated to a short presentation thereon by the helpful staff.

After visiting the Museum of Art, we were bused into the Belgian countryside to the splendid estate of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Speeckaert, capriciously named Scy Sanssouci, where we were treated to yet another wonderful and memorable meal. Here we were also invited to peruse their fine library of books on landscape gardening, while enjoying the far-reaching views over Guernsey-filled meadows. The house is still under some construction, but it was plain for all to see that no expense was being spared, and that when complete will be nothing short of a Belgian landmark.

On the way back to Brussels we stopped at the Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous where extensive scholarly research on the Bible and Biblical studies

is being conducted, all of it on computer, much of it now enabled by the Internet technology. We were all very impressed with the level of research here, as well as the advanced state of the technology employed. There was a lively discussion about the future of computers, especially our collective futures on the Internet.

Back in Brussels, we attended a warm cocktail reception at the Librairie FI. Tulkens, and were afterwards treated to yet another mouth-watering meal by Rolande and Jacques Van der Heyde at one of Brussels' finest restaurants, Aux Armes de Bruxelles.

University of Leuven

The next day we boarded the buses again, and this time traveled east and slightly north, perhaps twenty-five miles, to the city of Leuven. There we visited the famous library at the University of Leuven, twice burned in the 20th century, both times with a loss of a million volumes or more, and twice rebuilt and resupplied, most recently with the help of many American universities, colleges, and private schools, the names of which are chiseled into integral stones in the foundation and the walls of the massive building. There was an excellent exhibit here which touched on all periods, and included letters of Erasmus and Sir Thomas More, illustrated incunables, illuminated manuscripts, and Egyptian, Persian, and Mongolian manuscripts, some dating from the 2nd and 3rd centuries. There was also at this University an extraordinary reference collection that had all of us in awe. Following a fine lunch at the Salon Georges, the ILAB delegation, presidents and committee members alike, went back into session where Bob Fleck presented his Internet proposal.

A farewell dinner was held back in Brussels at the Bibliotheca Wittrockiana, a private library of fine and early bindings, among other books, all wonderfully displayed in a carefully controlled humidified gallery. It was here we all had a chance to say our last good-byes to each other, for in the morning we'd all be on our respective routes to whatever far corner of the globe we call home. ■

ILAB Publications Available through ABAA

ILAB/LILA International Directory of Antiquarian Booksellers, 1994/95.

ABAA members: \$30 postpaid
Non-members: \$42.50 postpaid

Dictionary of Terms and Expressions Commonly Used in the Antiquarian Booktrade in French, English, German & Italian. By Edgar Franco.

ABAA members: \$32 postpaid
Non-members: \$40 postpaid

A Dictionary of Abbreviations Commonly Used by German and Italian Antiquarian Booksellers and Auctioneers. By Bernard M. Rosenthal.

ABAA members: \$7.50 postpaid
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New York, NY 10020.
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Going Down in History

by Sheila Markham

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Bookdealer, no. 1196, (March 9, 1995)

To lose one book may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness. Of course no one said as much when the *Titanic* went down, taking with it the jeweled copy of the *Rubaiyat* bound by Francis Sangorski, and the 1598 edition of Francis Bacon's *Essays*. The latter had just been purchased by Harry Elkins Widener, who disappeared with it in the early hours of April 15, 1912.

If the person in the street knows anything about icebergs, he/she tends to speak of their tips. In the case of the iceberg that sank the *Titanic*, the tip alone towered 100 feet above the water. But the real trouble lurked below the water line where the hulking mass of ice sliced through the unsinkable ship like a knife through butter, and sank it.

Fatal damage was inflicted in seconds although it took another two and a half hours for the ship to sink, during which time the atmosphere on board appears to have been one of utter disbelief. It was, after all, the maiden voyage of the ship that God himself could not sink, and passengers were prepared to suspend common sense as the North Atlantic lapped around their ankles.

Was it really so surprising? Not to anyone who had read Morgan Robertson's story about a luxury liner called the *Titan*, which hit an iceberg in the Atlantic and sank though unsinkable. Robertson was an American master of romantic sea stories whose *Wreck of the Titan* was published eighteen years before the sinking of the *Titanic* in identical circumstances.

The Wideners asea

Harry Elkins Widener (1885-1912) was returning to the States with his parents after a few weeks in London. They were traveling first-class in unimaginable splendor as became a family of bottomless wealth. Harry was twenty-seven and

had been collecting books for five years under the guidance of Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach of Philadelphia. During his visit to London, he spent his time and money in the book shops that were well-stocked with glamorous items from the dispersal of Henry Huth's collection, which began in 1911 and went on for eleven years.

Just before he was due to board the *Titanic*, Harry bought the Huth copy of Bacon's *Essays* from Bernard Quaritch, remarking as he pocketed the small volume, "If I'm shipwrecked, it will go down with me."

When it happened, Harry was playing bridge in the first-class smoking room. He and his companions felt a jolt and rushed on to the deck just in time to see a tremendous iceberg sliding away into the darkness. They returned to their cards thinking the excitement over. In fact, it was just about to begin and, in less privileged parts of the ship, salty water was already making an unwelcome entrance. Twenty-five minutes later the card game stopped when an officer arrived to announce trouble ahead.

Clearly, it was an occasion for women and children first, and Widener *père et fils* duly escorted Mrs. Widener and her maid to their lifeboat. The women survived and the men perished. All credit to the name of Widener. (I don't know why I should wish to put the boot into this touching tableau, but it is a dismal fact that the survival rate was considerably higher for first-class men than third-class children.)

The last hours of the *Titanic* abound with stories of extraordinary courage. The musicians played till the water affected their instruments; the postal clerks struggled to keep the mail dry; the ship's boys handed biscuits into the lifeboats; eighty-four stokers and fire-fighters battled to keep the lights on; they all died. Of Harry Widener it is said that he gave up his place in a lifeboat to rescue Bacon's *Essays*, which had been left in his stateroom. Anyone else might have

Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

by Peter B. Howard
Chair, Nominating Committee

In April 1996 the terms of the three governors who comprise the Class of 1996 will expire. Helen Kelly, representing the New England Chapter; Jay Platt, representing the Midwest Chapter; and Allen Ahearn, an At-Large member will step down from the Board. They will be replaced by three new governors who will serve as the Class of 2000.

According to the ABAA By-Laws, the Nominating Committee must ask for the names of candidates who would like to serve. Replacements from the New England and Midwest Chapters are mandatory; the At-Large governor may come from any chapter.

The ABAA membership will also be voting on nominees for the offices of President, Vice-President, and Secretary. The first two of these positions have current office-holders as candidates; but they need not run unopposed. Competition is welcome. The ABAA is ensured some sense of continuity by the succession of vice-president to president—all candidates being willing. However, calamities occur, and no one is excluded from seeking office.

The Nominating Committee consists of a representative from each chapter, two out-going Board members, and myself as past president. Candidates should confer with their regional chapter chairs, representatives, and/or apply directly to the committee before the end of 1995, to: Peter B. Howard, Serendipity Books, 1201 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702; phone: (510) 841-7455; fax (510) 841-1920.

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stopped to calculate the chances of getting back into a lifeboat (1,178 lifeboat places ÷ 2,207 passengers = no chance).

Building a monument to Widener

Since his student days, Harry Widener had decided to devote his life and wealth to building a great library which was to be left to Harvard University on his death. When Mrs. Widener returned alone to the family estate at Lynnewood Hall in Pennsylvania, she consulted Dr. Rosenbach on her son's ambitions. Together they constructed in record time a lasting monument to the memory of America's most promising young book collector.

Large sums of money were spent by Mrs. Widener and Harry's grandfather on notable additions to the collection. Rosenbach was instructed to find books in keeping with Harry's interests which he had helped to form. Major items were acquired in a very short time, notably Dickens and Thackeray material, Cruikshank drawings, the manuscripts of Scott's *Life of Swift* and Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade."

According to Rosenbach, "Mrs. Widener desperately wanted to spend a lot of money for what she bought, and the more she spent the better she liked it. There was nothing she wished to do with the vast fortune which had so unhappily come to her except to build her monument in books and marble to Harry's memory" (Edwin Wolf and John F. Fleming, *Rosenbach: A Biography*, 1961). A further \$2 million was spent on the marble building to house the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library at Harvard University, which was opened by his mother within three years of his death.

Widener and Dr. Rosenbach

Dr. Rosenbach was first introduced to Harry Widener during the Christmas vacation of 1905, while Harry was still a student at Harvard. The Doctor, as he was always known, rapidly became a popular guest at Lynnewood Hall, delivering purchases from his shop in Philadelphia and

amusing his hosts with "an endless supply of biblio-anecdotes which made the volumes he handled come alive."

Although Harry was not the first collector in the Widener family, he was the first to collect books. His grandfather collected paintings on a grand scale, and his mother collected silver and porcelain. Other relatives collected anything they fancied and together the family spent \$50,000 within a few months of meeting Dr. Rosenbach. But Harry was the principal object of the Doctor's attention. Here was a born book collector, "the kind of man who could talk about books by the hour and not realize until he looked at this watch that it was three o'clock in the morning."

At an early stage in his collecting, Harry focused on the highspots of English literature, adopting the classic *Grolier Hundred* as his guide. Rosenbach came regularly to Lynnewood Hall and together they discussed, collated and catalogued Harry's purchases. In 1910, their collaboration resulted in a *Catalogue of Some of the More Important Books, Manuscripts and Drawings in the Library of Harry Elkins Widener*. This was the first printed catalogue of the Widener collection, and the only published example of Harry's considerable expertise as a bibliographer.

After the disaster of the *Titanic*, Rosenbach continued to work on the books at Lynnewood Hall, and in 1913 he published a catalogue of Harry's collection of Robert Louis Stevenson. The collection was inspired by *Treasure Island*, which Harry had read nineteen times. This was followed by the four quarto volumes of the Widener catalogue published in 1918, after the books had been installed in their marble home.

Although the catalogue is regarded as Rosenbach's crowning bibliographical glory, it contains one curious statement. "Every volume in the library," claims Rosenbach, "every autograph letter or manuscript, was personally selected by (Harry Widener)." Little suggestion here of Mrs. Widener's massive patronage of the Rosenbach Company after her son's death.

The catalogue was divided into four volumes: two devoted to general books and manuscripts, with separate volumes for Charles Dickens and the Cruikshanks. Rosenbach originally inspired Harry's interest in the work of the Cruikshanks, and a couple of rare pamphlets illustrated by George Cruikshank were amongst his last purchases in London. As Rosenbach reflected in the preface to the catalogue, "All collectors begin with Cruikshank and always end with him." ■



Lou Weinstein stops on one of his tours around the Third Annual Washington International Book Fair to chat with Dan De Simone.

Obituaries

Howard S. Mott, Sheffield, Massachusetts

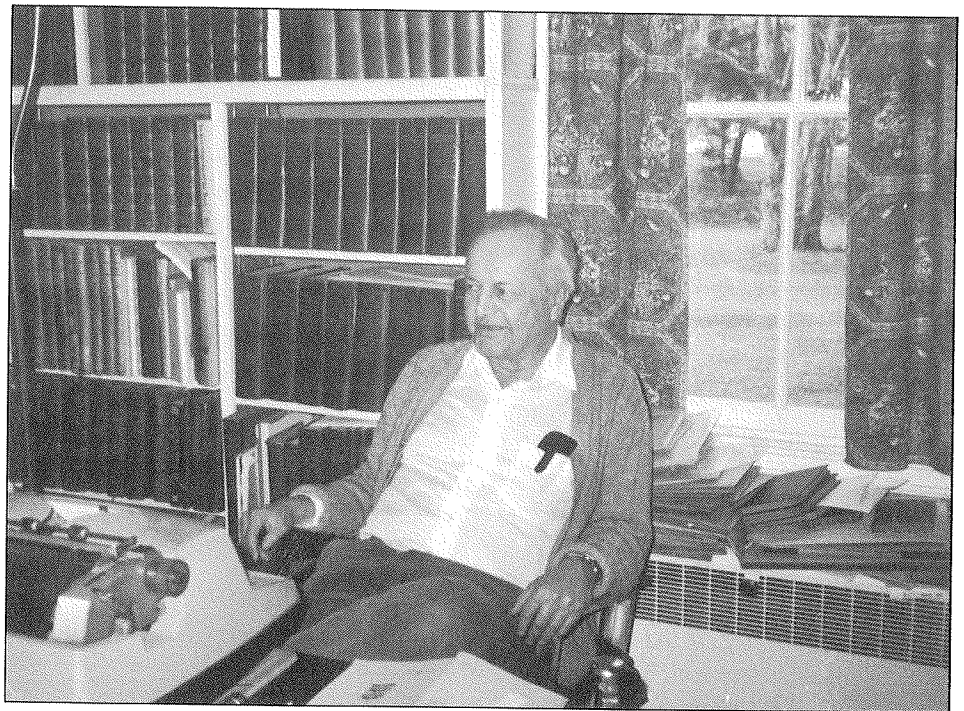
Howard Schenck Mott, 82, a founding member of the ABAA who served as its Vice-President in the 1950s and multiple terms as a member of its Board, died Sunday, September 17, 1995, after a short illness. He was an antiquarian book dealer for almost sixty years, issuing over 200 catalogues throughout his long career. With his wife, Phyllis, and later his son, Rusty, as his business partners, he operated an international mail order business until his death.

Mott was born in New York City on July 26, 1913, the son of Howard S. Mott, Sr., an investment banker with the Irving Trust Company, and Dorothy Coleman Mott. He graduated from The Gunnery in 1931, and from Harvard University in 1935. It was during his sophomore year at Harvard that he met his future wife, Phyllis Nelson, who was at that time training for a career in the medical sciences. Howard and Phyllis were married on June 12, 1937. The Motts and their family lived for many years in New Jersey before moving to Sheffield, Massachusetts in 1956.

Howard was a bookman almost from the beginning of his life. He collected modern literature beginning in 1924 on a schoolboy's allowance, his favorite author being H.M. Tomlinson.

He established an antiquarian book business at his parents' home in Tenafly, New Jersey in February 1936, and a few months later moved the business to 40th Street in New York City, across from The New York Public Library. He would become the auction agent for the Berg Collection at that library.

The depths of the Depression were not a good time to try to establish a business, but the time seemed right just the same. As Howard used to say, "Books were hard to sell, and you couldn't cook them up for soup." Despite the times and a lack of capital the business progressed. New York was the rare book capitol of the



Howard S. Mott at his home/office in Sheffield, MA, in 1981. Photograph by Jake Chernofsky.

country and good books and good book people were plentiful.

He had the good fortune to have his office in the same building as Lathorp C. Harper, who was kind enough to let him use his reference library. He was just down the street from his good friend Jim Drake and his brother Marston, and very near the Eberstadt brothers. He lived near and was friends with John Kohn, Mike Papantonio, Jack Bartfield, Bill and Marianne Salloch, Peter Decker, Dick and Carola Wormser, Charles Grand, David Randall, and other "youngsters" of the book trade.

Howard was friendly with Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach who was kind enough to offer a young struggling bookseller any \$10,000 worth of books from his stock on consignment—then a king's ransom. Being young and independent he refused the offer and later regretted his decision as he realized how much he could have learned from the books even if he had not been able to sell them.

He was friends with and supplied rare books and manuscripts to many of the great collectors of the time including Dick Gimbel, Clifton Waller Barrett, Sinclair Hamilton, J.K. Lilly, Jr., and many others. He was fortunate to meet and know some of the greats of the rare book

and literary world such as Michael Sadleir, John Carter, Bruce Rogers, Jacob Blanck, Carroll A. Wilson, Merle Johnson, and Herman Wouk.

After publication of Wouk's *Caine Mutiny*, Howard appraised the manuscript when it was being given to Columbia University. He refused payment for the appraisal except for two inscribed books, saying that he, Mr. Wouk, was too young and the book too new to know if it would stand the test of time. Recently, when Howard's son Rusty met Wouk, the author reminded him that the manuscript had been appraised for \$5,000, and with a twinkle in his eye asked, "Do you think it is worth any more today?"

Dylan Thomas used to try to sell Mott manuscript poetry for \$25 when he was looking for drinking money during his last days in New York. Howard knew Kenneth Roberts, met Robert Frost and F. Scott Fitzgerald, and was a friend of the Belloc Lowndes family. At one point he was offered a remainder of 175 copies of one of Fitzgerald's novels, mint in dust-jacket, at \$.75 each but turned them down as he knew that at that time he wouldn't be able to sell them and the monetary outlay then was significant.

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Obituaries

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He was an expert in English literature from the 16th to the early 20th centuries and American literature from the 18th century, with an emphasis on Victorian fiction, 18th century novels, 18th and 19th century American fiction and poetry. And, he was a leading expert on 19th century American humor. One of his well-known catalogues was *American Humor, 1639-1939*. For many years one of his firm's specialties has been historical material relating to the West Indies, especially the Lesser Antilles.

Phyllis Mott joined the business in 1953 after many years in the medical field, and they moved with their family to Sheffield, Massachusetts in 1956. There they conducted their business by appointment from their home.

Howard helped build a number of institutional and private rare book collections including the Walter Beinecke, Jr. collection of James M. Barrie at Yale University, the Beinecke Collection of the Lesser Antilles now at Hamilton College, the J.K. Lilly, Jr., collection of American literature now at Indiana University, the collection of 18th and 19th century British colorplate books given by Paul Mellon to Yale University, and the Sinclair Hamilton collection of early American illustrated books now at Princeton University, among others.

He was an early foreign member of the Antiquarian Bookseller's Association (International) of Great Britain, joining in the 1950s. He was always proud of having been the first American bookseller to exhibit at the London antiquarian book fair at the National Book League in 1962, excepting his good friend David Magee (then living in San Francisco but still a British citizen). He and Phyllis made many buying trips to Britain, for ten years principally to buy from a titled family introduced by a family friend, and for the same length of time to buy from another private source through the good offices of Winnie Myers. These extended trips gave them the opportunity to see good friends such as Winnie, Bill and Renee Fletcher,

Normand and Audrey Storey, Dudley Massey, Harold and Olive Edwards, Max and Dwywnwen Brimmell, Peter Murray Hill and Phyllis Calvert, Sam and Jack Joseph, and Harry Prattley. Of course, there were others, too.

In addition to his stints on the ABAA Board and his term as Vice-President—which he accepted only on the stipulation that he not go on to serve as President—Mott served as president of the Middle Atlantic Chapter of the ABAA and was one of several dealers who began the first American antiquarian book fair in New York. He was a founder of the ABAA's Bookmans' Benevolent Fund, then known as the Charles Grand Memorial Fund.

He was also a member of the Association Internationale de Bibliophilie of Paris, the Grolier Club, the Old Book Table, and had been a long-time member of the Century Association.

Howard Mott had a life-long passion for rare books and rare book people. It was his vocation and his avocation. That interest and the well-being of the trade led him to be very helpful to young booksellers starting out. To those in whom he saw potential he was as free with his expertise as he was in bringing along his son. He would frequently write an encouraging word to those who had produced an interesting first catalogue and make an effort to buy if he could.

He had an encyclopedic knowledge of rare books and related materials. The week before he died, his son showed him a large literary poster from 1861, and he commented that the only one he had ever seen before was one he had sold Sinclair Hamilton. Upon checking, he was right and that had been more than thirty years before. Howard Mott will be remembered as an honorable bookman who dealt in interesting books. And that would please him.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, Phyllis Mott; his son Donald (Rusty) Mott; and two grandchildren. His son, Newcomb, was killed in the Soviet Union in 1966.

Rusty will continue the business as usual.

Rusty Mott, Sheffield, MA

Aubyn Kendall, Limestone Hills Book Shop, Glen Rose, TX

ABAA member Mary Aubyn Kendall, 76, died of a stroke on August 12, 1995 in Fort Worth, where she was hospitalized. She was the proprietor of the Limestone Hills Book Shop in Glen Rose, about 80 miles southwest of Dallas.

Kendall earned degrees in journalism and English at the University of Texas at Austin in the 1930s. During World War II, she became the first female business reporter for UPI's New York bureau.

In the 1960s, she moved from journalism to teaching, holding positions in English at schools in Fort Worth. Later, she became curator of collections at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

Upon her retirement from the Museum in 1980, Mrs. Kendall and her late husband, Dr. Lyle Kendall Jr., opened the bookstore in Glen Rose.

Mrs. Kendall is survived by her son, Peter, of Cleburne, Texas, a daughter, Susan Colley, of Los Angeles, and two grandchildren.

Harry Levinson, Beverly Hills, California

A founding member of the ABAA and a bookdealer for more than 75 years, Harry Levinson died on June 27, 1995 in Beverly Hills, California. He was 91 years old.

Levinson was born in New York City on May 27, 1904, and it was there he began working in the book trade, at age 14. In 1929, he opened his own shop, doing business under his own name.

Eleven years later, in 1940, he became a partner in New York's Chaucer Head Bookshop. He again opened a shop under his own name in 1946, on 47th Street in Manhattan.

Levinson left New York in 1948, moving to southern California with his late wife, Josephine. He opened a shop on Brighton Way, in Beverly Hills, and in the 1970s, moved his rare books and manuscripts business to his home in Benedict Canyon. He specialized in incunabula and early scholarly books.

As an early member of ABAA, Levinson organized the first ABAA book fair in southern California in 1961.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Cvitanic Levinson.

**Timothy Mawson,
Washington Depot, Connecticut**

Timothy Mawson, a book seller specializing in antiquarian books on gardening and horticulture, died of AIDS on July 31, 1995 at his home.

Mr. Mawson was born in Lancashire, England, and emigrated to New York City in 1969. In 1975 he became a partner in Manhattan's Pomander Bookshop. In 1984 he opened his own shop in New Preston, Connecticut.

Mr. Mawson was also the author of *The Garden Room* (Clarkson N. Potter, 1994),

a book devoted to porches, greenhouses, and gazebos.

Mr. Mawson is survived by his companion, Gael Hammer, and by Mr. Hammer's daughters, whom he helped raise, Katherine, of Austin, Texas, and Evelyn, of Washington Depot.

**Betty Steffy Means,
Summerfield, Florida**

ABAA member emeritus Betty Steffy Means died June 23, 1995, of natural causes. Born in Rockville, Indiana, she

moved to Summerfield in 1992 from Glastonbury, Connecticut, where she sold antiquarian books as B.L. Means Rare Books.

Mrs. Means was also a retired school teacher. She is survived by her husband, John R., two daughters, Beth A. of Danbury, Connecticut, and Kathleen L. of Manchester, Connecticut; two sisters, Rosalie Lee of Rockville, Indiana, and Lois McCall of Lafayette, Indiana; and two grandchildren. ■

Fleck

continued from page 1

of the Presidents Meeting took place on September 14 (see page 6); it was agreed to meet again on the 16th for the sole purpose of discussing the Internet.

Having four days to discuss the Internet on an informal basis with ILAB officers and national presidents before the actual meeting proved to be a godsend. I discovered that the Australians and New Zealanders had just authorized spending money to develop their own homepage. After we talked, Peter Arnold, ANZAAB President, quickly faxed his organization and told them to hold off spending any money. I also found out that the Belgians were prepared to request that the Europeans act together to develop their own Web site for the continent. Don Lake, speaking for the Canadians, said that the ABAC had already asked someone to set up a homepage, but that the cost quoted had been too high. They were eager to continue their search for a cheaper price.

Part of each ILAB meeting involves a social program put on by the host country. The Belgians outdid themselves with wonderful meals and special visits to important libraries. The Internet proved to be the most discussed item over the next four days. Everywhere we went, from the Royal Library to the Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous, actual Internet usage jumped off the computer screen. In two of the libraries we visited, Rob connected to the ABAA homepage. By the time Saturday came, everyone was ready to act.

On Saturday, the room was full of not only Presidents and ILAB officers but other interested parties as well. I began the meeting by trying to get everyone to understand the urgency of what we are doing. As Michael Dawson so aptly put it during one of our phone conference meetings, the computer world operates at a much higher speed than our normal antiquarian bookselling pace. I told them of the efforts of a non-ILAB British firm in setting up a bookselling homepage. I reminded them how important it was for the ILAB to have the most visible Web site on the Internet; after all, we have most of the great books for sale, and we have ethical standards to back up our businesses. If we all do not take steps to make us number one, we will surely end up being number two, or worse.

After giving a history of the ABAA's development of and future plans for its homepage, the group was given more detail about all the different features of our Web site. They were shown the on-line listing of ILAB countries that the ABAA has already incorporated into its web site as a token of good faith. I then handed out the brochure that Michael Harris developed for the meeting. That brochure arrived during my stay in Brussels, after being passed in concept by the Board, reviewed by ABAA counsel Larry Fox, and quickly printed by Harris. The discussion continued with technical questions: how do we get connected? who will help us with problems? how much does it cost? and many others.

When the questions were finished, I asked the group how they would like to

proceed. Anton Gerits, President of the ILAB, asked if the Presidents would be willing to hire Harris to develop a homepage for the ILAB. The Presidents of all nations present voted unanimously in favor of this proposition. Mr. Gerits then asked me to request from Harris a quote detailing the costs of developing a homepage for each ILAB member nation. This quote would be circulated to each national organization, which would then be asked to vote on the expenditure. If the majority were in favor, all countries would have a homepage developed by Harris. With each country's homepage in place, each national organization could work with Harris to add individual firms to the homepage in a more detailed manner than just the address. This approach was also approved in principle by the Presidents. The cost of each member's presence would be negotiated by the ILAB with Harris.

The Presidents were informed during this meeting that the ABAA's current arrangement with Harris calls for twenty-five percent of all revenue to go back to the ABAA to help defray the development work by the ABAA. Don Lake, the Canadian President, asked if the ABAA would be willing to cap their reimbursements to a maximum of their investments. Rob thought that the ABAA would indeed agree to that proposal but stated that he would have to present that proposal to the Board of the ABAA. The meeting was then adjourned but only after Anton Gerits asked for a show of appreciation for the efforts of the ABAA which brought the ABAA a warm round of applause. ■

From the Archives

by David Margolis

Nothing seems more permanent than an old book store. Sadly, that is not the case. Bookstores are incredibly ephemeral. What seem like institutions can disappear without a warning. This past spring, Santa Fe lost The Santa Fe Bookseller and Parker Books of the West. Both had kept open shops for more than fifteen years and people are still amazed that they just closed. ABAA has seen the demise of shops such as Seven Gables, Howells, Zeitlin & Ver Brugge, Duschnes, Eberstadt, and Fleming. Now you see them; now you don't.

The memory of these shops is also ephemeral. The further we get from their actual presence, the less is remembered.

After a generation, some fade completely. Incredibly, it's possible that there are modern first edition dealers today who have never heard of House of Books.

This leads me in a roundabout way to my periodic begging for information for the ABAA Archives. Happily, with the listing of old members (whose names began with the letters A and B) published in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, we received information and assistance from Glen Dawson, Albert Phiebig, David Holmes, and Ron Lieberman (my first e-mailed message for the archives!).

For an organization that has over 450 members, that's not much of a response. Yet we received a 1952 catalogue for the Southern California Chapter, addresses of

half a dozen old members to be contacted, and even a 1989 clipping from the *New York Times* of an interview with one of our members. Bits and pieces, but each item is a small piece of evidence that some day will help keep our collective memory alive.

Please send photos, clippings, stories, gossip... Let's stuff the ABAA Archives files full of the life that has been our business for the past fifty years. Below you will find a listing of former ABAA members whose names begin with the letters C through F. Send your precious bits to David Margolis, ABAA Archives, PO Box 2042, Santa Fe, NM 87504; e-mail: 102077.2112@compuserve.com

Cacak, Frank	Classic Book Shop, Detroit	1950-1958	Dufour, Paul Joseph	Dufour Editions, Philadelphia	1956-1960
Calder, Albert	Albert Calder, New York City	1950-1953	Duschnes, Philip	Philip C. Duschenes, New York City	1953-1987
Caler, John W.	John W. Caler Publications, CA	1972-1979	Dwyer, Jeffrey P.	Dwyer's Bookstore, MA	1977-1984
Campbell, William	William J. Campbell, Philadelphia	1949-1951	Dykes, Jeff	Jeff Dykes Western Books, MD	1968-1986
Canner, J.S.	J.S. Canner & Company, Boston	1949-1965	Eberstadt, Lindley	Edward Eberstadt & Sons, New York City	1949-1974
Cannon, Foster	Foster Cannon Books, Milwaukee	1952-1968	Edgren, Soren	J.S. Edgren, Carmel, CA	1982-1986
Carr, William H.	William H. Carr, Tucson	1951	Edmunds, Larry	Larry Edmunds Bookshop, CA	1960-1977
Cassidy, William J.	William J. Cassidy, Kansas City, MO	1986	Efron, George	George Efron, New York City	1952-1968
Celmer, Ernest V.	Celmer's Book Store, Chicago	1974-1977	Eidenberg, Irving	The Bookseller, San Francisco, CA	1957-1974
Chafey, Wilbert W.	Chafey's Books Prints, Philadelphia	1963-1970	Eidenmuller, Marvin	Bonanza Inn Book Shop, CA	1954-1965
Chodak, Jules	Southern Book Company, Baltimore	1954-1963	Einhorn Marilyn M.	M.M. Einhorn Maxwell Books, New York City	1984-1986
Choffel, Donald C.	Donald C. Choffel, Chicago	1968-1972	Ellison, Chester	Ellison Book Shop, Lansing, MI	1949-1970
Christensen, Niels	Niels H. Christensen, NJ	1950-1965	Elmendorf, George	Libros Latinos, Redlands, CA	1980-1982
Christian, Peggy	Christian's Book Shop, Los Angeles, CA	1956-1972	Emdin, J.L.	A.H. Roemer Company, Union, NJ	1968-1979
Claff, Julian B.	Beekman Place Book Shop, New York City	1954-1970	Engebretson, David	The Archives Book Store, NJ	1964
Clark, A.H., Jr.	The Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, CA	1950-1955	Engel, Gabriel	Gabriel Engel, New York City	1949-1953
Cohn, Louis Henry	House of Books, New York City	1949-1984	Epstein, Ben	Argonaut Book Shop, CA	1953-1955
Cole, John	John Cole's Book & Craft Shop, CA	1950-1951	Epstein, Louis	Pickwick Bookshop, CA	1949-1960
Coleman, Leonard	Coleman Book Locators, CA	1977	Faerber, Max	Paragon Book Gallery, New York City	1949-1968
Coleman, Lucile	A-to-Z Book Service, NY	1962-1986	Fales, Edward C.	Edward C. Fales, NH	1968-1982
Cook, Deborah	Atticus Books, CA	1982-1986	Farr, Linnea	Miss Linnea Farr, Philadelphia	1950-1956
Cormany, David	The Book Cellar, Fullerton, CA	1979-1987	Farrell, William	Farrell's Book Shop, CA	1957-1963
Coutant, Grace H.	Grace H. Coutant, NY	1964-1977	Feldman, Lew David	House of El Dieff, NY	1949-1982
Cowen, Nathaniel	Nathaniel L. Cowen, Chicago	1956-1977	Feldman, Theo.	Theo. Feldman, New York City	1949-1956
Cowen, Nathaniel	Central Book Store, Chicago	1949-1965	Ferbrache, L.E.	Old Book Shop, CA	1952-1953
Craig, David J.	Craig's Antiquarian Books, IL	1970	Finch, Bob	Bob Finch Books, Torrance, CA	1982
Creely, Bunster	Bunster Creely, CA	1950-1951	Firuski, Maurice	Housatonic Book Shop, Salisbury, CT	1949-1977
Currie, James L.	Apollo Book Shop, CA	1968	Fleming, John F.	John F. Fleming, New York City	1955-1987
Dale, Harry	The Dale Bookstores, CA	1953-1956	Fletcher, Herbert	Herbert Fletcher, Houston	1954-1968
Dame, Nathaniel	Nathaniel Dame & Company, Cambridge, MA	1949-1977	Foley, Mason	Hingham Book House, Hingham, MA	1950-1968
Dana, H. Douglass	Dana's Old Corner Book Shop, Providence	1949-1974	Folk, Walton O.	Continental Book Company, Macon, GA	1949-1963
Daub, Albert	Lange, Maxwell & Springer, New York City	1953-1986	Fonda, Douglas, Jr.	Fonda Books, NY	1964-1979
Davidson, Alexander	Alexander Davidson Jr., New York City	1949-1956	Foote, Robert K.	Winter Farm Books, ME	1984-1986
Davies, Bevan	Bevan Davies Books, New York City	1984-1986	Foster, Richard W.	Rittenhouse Book Store, Philadelphia	1964-1968
Davies, Jordan	Jordan Davies Books, New York City	1986	Fox, Allen C.	Allen C. Fox, Sherman Oaks, CA	1982
Davies, Owen	Mr. Owen Davies, Chicago	1954-1980	Franklin, Burt	Burt Franklin, New York City	1949-1970
Davis, Cecil	Coronet Bookshop, New Orleans	1949-1965	Fransen, Thomas.	Fransen's Books & Prints, Portland, OR	1968-1970
Davis, Harry E.	Harry E. Davis, Chicago	1950-1953	Fraser, Craig	Specialty Book Concern, CA	1970-1977
Davis, Violet M.	Violet M. Davis, Chicago	1954-1962	Freedman, Samuel	Lyman Associates, MA	1986
De Freitas, Robert	De Freitas Book Store, Oakland, CA	1951-1958	Freeman, Arthur	Hofmann & Freeman, Oakland, CA	1970-1982
Decker, Peter	Peter Decker, New York City	1949-1977	Freeson, Lee	Lee Freeson, CA	1950-1972
Depler, Harold E.	Depler's Book Store, CA	1952-1968	French, Palmer D.	Palmer D. French, Oakland, CA	1972-1980
Devean, Delmo	Del's Book Service, CA	1964	Frey, Robert	Green Thought Booksellers, Yonkers, NY	1977-1980
Dienst, Robin	Robin's Bookshop, IL	1950-1953	Friedman, Harry S.	Harry S. Friedman, NY	1949-1968
Domeyko, Sergio	Sergio Old Prints, San Francisco, CA	1979-1986	Friedman, Ira J.	Ira J. Friedman, NY	1949-1970
Drake, James	James F. Drake, New York City	1949-1965	Friend, John	John Friend Bookseller, CA	1958-1962
Driscoll, Emily	Emily Driscoll, New York City	1949-1987	Front, Theodore	Succ. to E. Gottlieb, Los Angeles, CA	1962-1977

From ABAA Headquarters

1996 Dues notices

At the Board of Governors meeting in May, the Board approved the Membership Committee's recommendation that "future annual dues notices require the primary member to reaffirm current membership status. This is to avoid the rare instance of a new owner of a firm assuming he/she has also assumed ABAA membership."

This notice was sent with all 1996 dues notices. Due to ambiguous wording of the notice some members were under the impression that they were the only one receiving it; every current member did. Sorry for the mix-up.

Membership cards

The ABAA headquarters office requests that those primary and associate members not in possession of an ABAA membership card call headquarters in New York; one will be ordered. The cards are personalized and take two weeks to receive. They are white plastic with blue and gold lettering, and are meant to last for many years.

Lapel pins

ABAA headquarters still has silver ABAA logo pins for sale at \$30 each. Send a check made out to the ABAA to receive one.

ILAB Newsletter

Two hundred copies of the ILAB Newsletter, number 48, have been received. Any member wishing a copy should contact headquarters and one will be sent. We did not receive enough from ILAB to do a complete membership mailing this year.

Contact: Liane Wood-Thomas, ABAA, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020; phone: (212) 757-9395; fax: (212) 459-0307; e-mail: abaa@panix.com

Recent Books by ABAA Members

Uncommon Value: A Rare Book Dealer's World. By F.J. Manasek. Arbor Libri Press, 1995. Hardcover, 146pp.

Both the novice and the expert alike—whether bookseller or book collector—will find something in Francis J. Manasek's *Uncommon Value*. Manasek's chapters cover a wide and freely ranging array of topics, all offering glimpses into the bookselling world at large, and into the particular world of the author's experiences, intellect, and views. Novices should find his discussions of "What is this worth?", "Where did you get it?", and "Breaking and faking" particularly informative, as are his patient descriptions of bookselling terms. In other chapters, experts should recognize old friends, old enemies, and old pests as Manasek relates tales from his open shop in Hanover, NH, his shop in London, and his travels through the near and far east.

Uncommon Value is available for \$20 from G.B. Manasek, Inc., P.O. Box 1204 Norwich, VT 05055; phone: (802) 649-1722; fax: (802) 649-2256. Dealer discounts apply.

The 100 Most Significant Books Published by Ticknor and Fields, 1832-1871: A Guide Book for Collectors. By John William Pye. John William Pye Rare Books, 1995. Hardcover, illustrated.

Each entry in *The 100 Most Significant Books* is annotated with a description of the title's place in the history of the Boston publishing firm. The entries feature works of prose, poetry, and essays; childrens' books, medical books, and cook books; biographies, and more. Among the authors included are Longfellow, Emerson, Whittier, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Holmes, Lowell, Stowe, Dickens, Tennyson, Thackeray, Browning, and Swinburne. Bibliographical information is also provided, some of which has never before been published. Author and title indices are also provided.

The book is available for \$55 through November, 1995 (thereafter \$65) from John William Pye Rare Books, 79 Hollis Street, Brockton, MA 02402-1218; phone: (508) 588-6566; fax: (508) 584-5338. Please add postage: \$4 (domestic) or \$10 (international). Dealer discounts apply. ■

In the News: Rostenberg & Stern

Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern were featured prominently on the front page of the *New York Times* Arts section, Tuesday, August 29, 1995. Later the two were seen on CNN, all in connection with their half-century of scholarship on Louisa May Alcott.

In 1942, they unearthed pseudonymously published "blood and thunder" stories by Alcott. With subjects like feminism, transvestitism, and hashish smoking, these are a far cry from *Little Women*.

This fall, William Morrow republished *Behind a Mask: The Unknown Thrillers of Louisa May Alcott*. Also to come are a new compilation of Alcott stories from Modern Library, *Modern Magic*, and a reprinting of another collection, *A Marble Woman*, from Avon. Next spring, Northeastern University Press will issue a new compilation, *A Woman's Power*. All these works are edited and introduced by Ms. Stern. Next spring, Random House will reissue Ms. Stern's biography, *Louisa May Alcott*. ■

London ABA Book Fair, 1996

The Thirty-Seventh ABA Antiquarian Book Fair will be held at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 from June 27-29, 1996. The fair opening hours will be Thursday, June 27: 4:00pm-9:00pm; Friday, June 28: 11:00am to 7:00pm; and Saturday, June 29: 11:00am to 6:00pm.

During early November 1995, exhibitor application forms will be dispatched to all ABA members, National Association Secretariats, and any ILAB members who have exhibited at the London fair during the last five years. The closing date for exhibitor applications is Friday, December 1, 1995.

Any ABAA member who would like to receive an application form should contact either ABAA headquarters in New York, or the ABA office in London: Antiquarian Booksellers Association, Sackville House, 40 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PA. ■

Membership Updates

Richard Adamiak has new phone and fax numbers: phone: (312) 640-1610; fax: (312) 640-1613.

Nick Adams & Co., Rare Books does not have an e-mail address.

Ray Boas, Bookseller has a new address, phone, and fax: 6 Church Street, New Preston, CT 06777; phone: (860) 868-9596; fax: (860) 868-9939.

Andrew Cahan has a new e-mail address: acahan@nando.net

Columbia Books has a new location: 22 South 9th Street, Columbia, MO; phones remain the same.

Thomas A. Goldwasser has a subsidiary location: Goldwasser & Wilkinson Books, 486 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94104; phone: (415) 292-4698.

Jeffrey H. Marks Rare Books has a new second phone number: (716) 288-2544; the number (716) 271-4302 is no longer current.

Rare Oriental Book Company has phone number corrections: phone: (408) 689-0203; fax: (408) 689-0204.

Schoyer's Books now has a toll-free phone number: (800) 439-2199.

John Scopazzi Gallery has an address correction: 130 Maiden Lane (Mezzanine), San Francisco, CA 94108.

Patterson Smith now has an e-mail address: patsmith@openix.com

Tavistock Books has a new e-mail address: tavbooks@ccnet.com

Vagabond Books now has an e-mail address: pgrambook@aol.com ■

Deadline for submissions to the next issue of the Newsletter is:

January 15, 1996

ABAA Welcomes New Members

The *Newsletter* warmly welcomes the following new members, admitted at the Officers and Board of Governors' Meeting in September 1995:

FULL MEMBERS

Erik William Heldfond, Heldfond Gallery, Ltd., 310 San Anselmo Avenue, San Anselmo, CA 94960; phone: (415) 456-8194; fax: (415) 383-3310; e-mail: bkgallery@crl.com.

Gary P. Hurst, A. Parker's Books, Inc., 1488 Main Street, Sarasota, FL 34236; phone: (813) 366-2898.

Paul Nicholas, Kauai Fine Arts, PO Box 1079, Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii 96765; phones: (808) 335-3778 or (808) 742-7608; fax: (808) 332-9808.

Howard Schickler, 52 East 76th Street, New York, NY 10021; phone: (212) 737-6647; fax: (212) 737-2534.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lee Biondi, Heritage Book Shop, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

Elizabeth A. Jones, Quill & Brush, Rockville, MD

Suzanne Kalk, Quill & Brush, Rockville, MD

Nancy Ruppert, Heritage Book Shop, Inc., Los Angeles, CA

TRANSITIONS

Patricia Ahearn, Quill & Brush is now a full member.

Natalie Bauman, Bauman Rare Books is now a full member.

Lee Campbell, Joseph the Provider is now a full member.

Marcia Carter, Booked Up is now a full member

William McDonnell, Reade Moore Books is now a full member.

Mary O'Neal, David L. O'Neal is now a full member.

Donald Reisler, Jo Ann Reisler, Ltd is now a full member.

Peter Stern, Pepper & Stern Rare Books is now a full member.

Charles Vilnis, Boston Book Company is now a full member.

MEMBERS EMERITI

Glen Dawson, Dawson's Book Shop, Los Angeles, CA

John Johnson, Natural History Books, North Bennington, VT

John Sinkankas, Peri Lithon Books, San Diego, CA

George H. Tweeney, reinstated, Seattle, WA ■

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