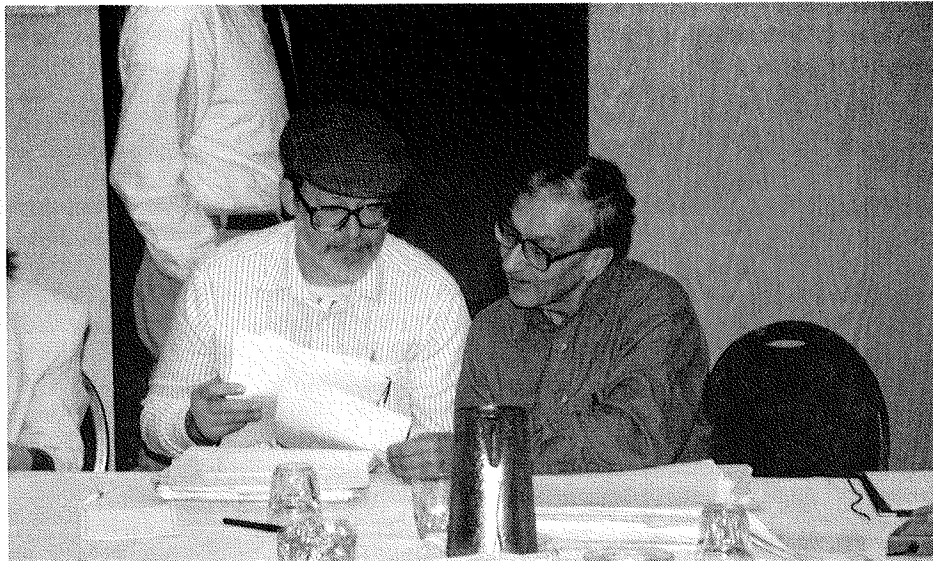




The **A B A A**
N E W S L E T T E R
 VOLUME THREE, NUMBER 3 · SPRING, 1992



Newly-elected ABAA President Peter Howard, left, and past President Muir Dawson review administrative business at the Board of Governor's meeting in Los Angeles in February.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

by Peter Howard

Yet another drive from Berkeley toward Vancouver, BC on Rte 5 in pursuit of books was certainly conducive to reflection about the nature of our trade. At the risk of seeming too much before you, I would like to remark the changes I have observed within and without our organization over the last 29 years. The ABAA has grown immensely since the presidencies of Walter Schatzki and Harold Graves (1963-1966) when I first applied for a resale number and 3 years later joined up. It was then a loose teenage confederation of individualists with not too much self-consciousness and a negligible allowance with which to play. In 1966 I was its youngest member. That was 14 presidents ago.

I do not locate the golden age

in the past, but I have always sought wisdom among older and long-established booksellers. Their experience is our common heritage. I careened wildly from coast to coast, bouncing among Maxwell Hunley, Jake Zeitlin and Frank Scioscia in Los Angeles; Warren Howell, David Magee, John Swingle, and Bob Hawley at Holmes in the Bay Area; Preston McMann in Portland; Jim Lowell in Cleveland; Franklin Gilliam [then] in Austin; Margie Cohn in NYC; Henry Wenning in New Haven; Rota in London. These were my mentors and all are gone now, or in seriously reduced or altered circumstances. All but Frank of course, who has more books than ever! In common each of these [again excepting Frank, than whom none more welcoming] had a public shop and each [continued on p. 7]

PETER HOWARD ELECTED ABAA PRESIDENT

Peter Howard was elected the 22nd president of the ABAA at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Association held in Los Angeles, February 13, 1992. Also elected were Robert Rulon-Miller, Jr. (St. Paul, MN): Vice-President; Jay Platt (West Side Book Shop, Ann Arbor, MI): Midwest Governor; Allen Ahearn (Quill & Brush, Rockville, MD): at-large Governor; Helen Kelly (Boston Book Co., Boston, MA): at-large Governor.

Bob Fleck (Oak Knoll Books, New Castle, DE) remains on as Treasurer of the Association; Jeff Marks (Rochester, NY) remains Secretary. Committee chairs for the new administration are: Finance: Bob Fleck; [continued on p. 3]

LETTERS RECEIVED

From Justin G. Schiller (Justin Schiller, Ltd., New York City):

The latest *Newsletter* (Winter '92) was packed solid with interesting matter on every page, an excellent "read" from cover to cover. As one of the older members of my generation, I especially appreciated the reminiscences of past presidents. Remember, I go back a long ways, having issued my first catalogue while I was still in high school (1959) and then working my way through college buying and selling antiquarian books.

In 1960 Howard and Phyllis Mott allowed me to help them at the first New York Antiquarian Book Fair, in the Steinway Building on West 57th Street, and I can still remember the first item I sold for them: a fine copy of Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*, first trade edition, fine in dust-jacket, priced at \$25! At the suggestion of Madeleine Stern, I wrote to the ABAA to learn how I could become more professional and join its organization. Walter Schatzki was president at the time, and he arranged an appointment for me to visit him at his shop when I was back in town during college recess. He counselled me to finish my academic training, and keep in close touch with the organization for it required one to be a full-time bookseller before being nominated for membership. Howard Mott, Dick Wormser, Walter Schatzki, Jack Tannen, Eleanor Lowenstein, Frances Hamill: these were the dealers who encouraged my period of apprenticeship, and guided me when I had questions on doing specialized types of research. And when I left graduate school, my ABAA application was processed against five years of back catalogues and recommendations of good friends, and I was elected to membership in February 1967.

As one reads in between the various memories of past leadership, the times have been changing

drastically and neither the rare book world nor the ABAA can survive in terms of simplistic naivety. The growth of individualism has replaced the old comradeship of everyone working together, and some dealers are out just for making the "fast buck" without considering their responsibilities: collating books to be certain they are complete, with all faults noted; identifying an item not only as 1st edition but also by specific state and/or issue; and taking the time to help educate others, whether it be customers or a young bookseller who needs to have some questions answered and doesn't know where to turn. In this current economic climate, one cannot afford to make many mistakes and from the very beginning each of us builds our own reputation. The great London bookseller, Bill Fletcher, told me back in 1964: "always remember that your best friends in this business should be you fellow bookmen [and bookwomen]. You may sell an expensive book and an important one to a private collector, and they may thank you, but underneath it all there almost always exists an unspoken resentment for you having made a profit on them. But sell a good book to another bookseller, and they will only appreciate the opportunity you have given them to buy such a book." The strong dealers are not the ones who have lots of money to spend at auctions... but those who look to work together with colleagues. We are our own best friends, but all too often we also become our worst enemies.

One final observation about so many references to the demise of the Antiquarian Booksellers Center, formerly in Rockefeller Plaza: I was a member from 1967 until it was terminated by the Board of Governors a few years ago, and during much of the 1970s I also served as Chairperson to monitor its activities and further its role as the unproclaimed representative of

the entire ABAA. We issued cooperative catalogues and held impressive exhibitions, including a 1973 350th anniversary of Shakespeare's first folio with several non-ABC members (of the ABAA) loaning rare books for both sale and show; Walter Goldwater even loaned us his first folio Shakespeare (which was not for sale) displayed along with copies of the three later editions, all of which were available for purchase. Sales were never terrific, but always kept up with daily expenditures so long as its members would send in rotating inventory every six to twelve months. It became a frequent meetingplace for dealers, librarians and collectors, all of whom were introduced to one another by the indefatigable Edith Wells. No one was more loyal to an ideal or a cause than Edith... who worked for minimum salary and managed to survive only because she supplemented her income with investment revenues and social security payments. Only the few people who volunteered working as ABAA intermediaries knew of her sacrifices. She never complained, and always tried to make the best of it. And when she died about five or six years ago, only a quiet handful of dealers showed up at her funeral service: Lucien Goldschmidt, Kay Gregory, Leona Rostenberg, Madeleine Stern, Ray Wapner and myself.

But the Antiquarian Booksellers Center is *not* gone. With the approval of the Board of Governors of the ABAA, it was resurrected by the former ABAA Treasurer Raymond Wapner and exists under the name Antiquarian Booksellers International. It has become a private enterprise, operated by my business partner as a separate company in which I have no personal involvement. Raymond signed the lease with the Place des Antiquaires on East 57th Street and Lexington Avenue, and invites dealers from all across the country

(and elsewhere) to consign quality inventory for sale. So far only about twenty dealers participate, and with such expensive floor-space my own business uses it a showcase (and we pay our share of the overhead expenses). But anyone willing to catalogue and consign quality merchandise is eligible to participate. Raymond does not charge any rent or overhead costs until something sells: then he takes a 25% commission charge. If the book has been discounted to a dealer, that 10% comes out of his 25% commission. Each sale made lets the buyer know exactly to whom the book belongs, and the dealer receives with his payment (30 days later) a copy of the sales receipt with the name and address of the buyer clearly printed on it. And on top of this, the ABI is frequently referring enquiries about other types of books to ABAA membership regardless of their participation in this cooperative venture. Getting quality material consigned from other dealers continues to be difficult, and anyone interested in this affiliation may want to stop by and visit the next time they come into New York City. One can never again have the old ABC with its Christmas parties and summer picnics without Edith Wells, albeit sponsored by our regional ABAA chapter; but ABI is equally idealistic, and without the unselfish energies of Ray Wapner and Greg Gillert (for the most part, done without reciprocity) this bibliophilic phoenix would have become all but vestigiary.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC PRIZE COMPETITION OFFERED BY ILAB

The International League of International Booksellers announces the terms and conditions for its Eleventh Prize for Bibliography, as follows:

Article 1. The ILAB, an international association grouping

together the National Associations of Antiquarian Booksellers, awards every three years a prize worth, as a rule, US-\$10,000.00 to the author of the best work published or unpublished, of learned bibliography or of research into the history of books or of typography, and books of general interest on the subject.

Article 2. The competition is open, without restriction, but only entries submitted in accordance with these conditions will be considered.

Article 3. Entries must be submitted in a language which is universally used.

Article 4. A work already published is eligible only if its publication occurred within the three years immediately preceding the closing date for submission, or if it has an imprint bearing a date within those three years.

Article 5. Entries in the form of a specialized catalogue of one or more books destined for sale are not eligible, nor periodicals or public library catalogues.

Article 6. The Judges. a. The judges will be composed of: 1) the President of the ILAB; 2) the Secretary of the Triennial Prize; 3) a member nominated by the League Committee; 4) three persons whose bibliographical knowledge is generally recognized. These last three, chosen from countries speaking different languages, will be helped by specialists, appointed as necessary. b. The judges reserve the right to withhold the award if they consider that the entries do not reach a sufficiently high standard. c. The judges' decision is final. d. In the case of a tie an unpublished work will have the advantage over a published one.

Article 7. Two copies of each work whether published or unpublished must be deposited at the office of the Secretary of the Triennial Prize (Dr. Frieder Kocher-Benzing, Rathenastr. 21, D-7000 Stuttgart 1) at the very latest sixteen months before date of award.

The next award is Summer of 1994. The last date for submitting entries: 31st December 1992.

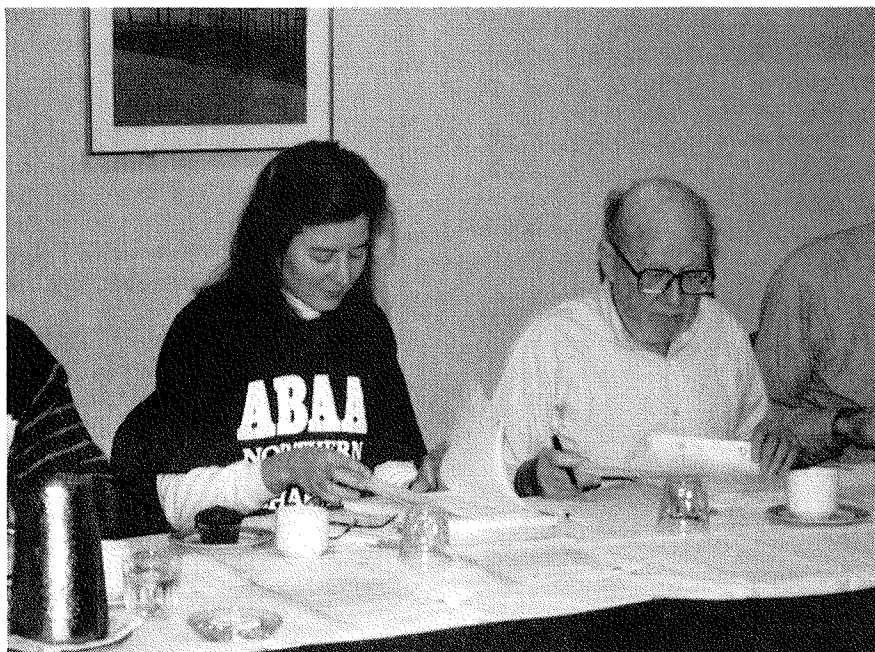
Article 8. Works which are unpublished but are not awarded the prize will be returned to their authors during the two months following the announcement of the award. Works which have been published but not awarded the prize will remain the property of the ILAB., except by special arrangement made between the competitor and the Prize Secretary, before the final date for submitting entries.

Article 9. The ILAB is not committed to publish unpublished prize works. Nevertheless it does not dismiss the possibility of such publications.

Article 10. The prize winner will retain all rights of publication. Any further information relating to the prize for Bibliography awarded by the ILAB can be obtained from ABAA Headquarters in New York, or direct from the Prize Secretary.

[Elections, continued from page 1]
Benevolent Fund: Muir Dawson;
Book Fair: Priscilla Juvelis; Ethics & Standards: Rob Rulon-Miller;
Membership: John Crichton;
Questioned Imprints/Replevin: Jennifer Larson; Publications: Rob Rulon-Miller; Security: Ron Lieberman; Planning: Bob Fleck;
House/Archives: David Margolis; Publicity: Louis Collins; By-Laws: Rob Rulon-Miller; 1996 ILAB Congress & Bookfair: Peter Howard. Other members of the Board of Governors include Charles Goldsmid, Jim Presgraves, and Nicholas Pavlov.

Our appointed ILAB representative is Barney Rosenthal. Lawrence I. Fox continues as ABAA's legal counsel; and Liane Wood-Thomas is the Association's capable Executive Director and House manager.



Bay Area Board members Jennifer Larson, left, and Barney Rosenthal

NOTES ON REPLEVIN

From a Work in Progress

By Jennifer Larson

[*Editor's note:* The following is based on rough notes supplied by the author, and is intended neither as a guide to replevin laws, nor an endorsement of ABAA's position on the matter. It is provided here as an informative piece only. ABAA will soon be making a full report on the subject, compiled from information supplied by Larry Fox, ABAA counsel, and Ms. Larson, available to the membership in a convenient format. Readers interested to learn more about replevin are urged to consult the laws of their states in conjunction with an attorney.]

Possession of a historic document for decades, or even generations, does not always constitute ownership. Good faith purchase for value of a rare document that has never been stolen does not necessarily convey title. Dealers and private collectors should be alert to the possibility of

replevin of documents which may be determined to be public records and may therefore be the property of an official repository despite longstanding custody in private hands. The options open to the subject of a replevin action are not attractive: the cost of litigation to recover the property is likely to greatly exceed the value of the disputed property, and, as a review of the disposition of prior actions will show, will have an uncertain outcome.

DE LA O V. THE PUEBLO OF ACOMA 1 N.M.226 (1857)

Ownership of a 1669 document granting a tract of land to the Indians of the Pueblo of Acoma, now in New Mexico was disputed in this early case. Although originally deposited in the archive of El Paso (at the time part of Mexico) the document by 1833 was in the possession of Victor De La O, described as a speculator in Indian pueblo documents. In the 1850's, De La O offered the document to the Indians for the

Pueblo of Acoma for \$600. The Indians, to bolster their title to the land, agreed to purchase the document, but failed to make payment. De la O sued, and lost. His explanation for his possession of the document--the result of the turmoil attending the struggle for Texan independence--was found to be extremely suspicious. The paper was restored to the Indians of Acoma. Had El Paso been part of the United States at the time of judgement, the decision might have been in favor of the El Paso archives.

NEW YORK *V. LENT*,
51 BARB. 19 (1868)

In 1868, the Supreme Court of New York heard a case in which the facts were uncontested. In 1784 the common council of the City of New York expressed its gratitude to George Washington in an address presented with the freedom of the city. Washington responded in a fine letter addressed to the "Honble. The Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York," which was produced and read by the mayor in council on May 2, 1785. The text was entered into the minutes of the meeting and ordered to be published. By unexplained means, private collector John Allan was in possession of the Washington letter in 1834, and continued to possess it until his death in 1863. His executrix consigned the letter to auction, where DeWitt C. Lent purchased it for \$2,050 in 1864.

The city of New York sued for the return of the document. The court found that there are exceptions to the general rule that possession of personal property implies ownership, and that the Washington letter's style, address, and character should impart notice to all that it was the property of the corporation to which it was addressed. The lower court's jury found that Allan's possession was without title by any alienation by the

corporation, and that the statute of limitations did not apply because no notice was shown to have been given by Allan to the city. The court found for New York. A dissenting opinion, however, held it improbable that the corporation valued the letter as property in 1785, and found that it had probably been sent to a printer to be published, after which no importance was attached to its preservation by city authorities. Thus, the evidence was, by one judge, held to be insufficient to rebut the presumption that Allan was lawfully in possession of and had title to the document.

MORRIS'S APPEAL,
68 PA.16 (1871)

Another case involving a George Washington document reached the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1871. In 1777, General Washington wrote a commendation of the First Philadelphia City Troop. The document was retained by the troop's captain, Samuel Morris. In 1823 Captain Morris's son possessed the commendation, a fact that was noted by the archival committee of the troop, which resolved at that time that it had no claim to the document and that it should rightfully remain with the descendants of Captain Morris. In 1870, however, the troop requested the return of the document, and sued when Elliston Morris declined to comply. The court, in finding for Mr. Morris, found that whatever rights the troop originally had were negated by its awareness of the document's location in 1823 and its decision at that time that it had no claim to ownership.

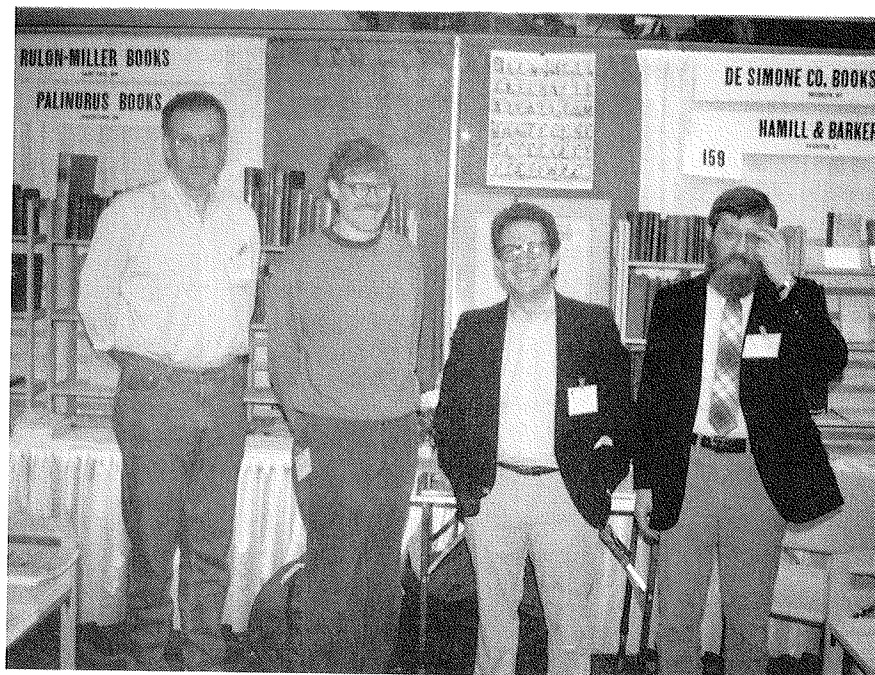
PRIVATE RESOLUTION, 1915

In 1862, a Union detachment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel David Thomson was occupying the county courthouse in Fairfax, Virginia. Some of the soldiers were burning county records for heat, but Colonel Thomson managed to rescue Martha Washington's will from this fate. He took the will

home with him to Ohio, and his daughter eventually sold it to J. Pierpont Morgan. In 1914, some members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, aware that the will was then in the Morgan Library in New York, desired that the will be returned to Fairfax Courthouse, to be reunited with George Washington's will. (How it was that George Washington's will escaped the certain destruction from which only Colonel Thomson's heroic action saved Martha Washington's will, is not explained.)

J.P. Morgan, Jr. felt that Fairfax Courthouse was not a secure repository for two such precious documents, and proposed donating Martha Washington's will either to Mount Vernon or the Library of Congress, if the State of Virginia would similarly donate George Washington's will. The governor of Virginia did not agree; Virginia brought suit against Mr. Morgan; the Morgan Library returned the document to Virginia; and the case was dismissed.

MANNING V. ANDERSON (1927)
GALLERIES, 130 N.Y. MISC. 131
The next decade saw a different outcome in the court system. In 1926, Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach purchased at auction for \$22,500, the will of Joseph Stanley, probated in the province of Georgia in 1771. The will is valuable because it bears the signature of Button Gwinnett, signer of the Declaration of Independence, as attesting witness. James H. Manning, autograph collector, purchased the document at the Danforth Sale in 1912 for \$4,600. Earlier, it formed a part of the Louis J. Cist collection of Signers, and had sold at the Cist Sale in 1886 for \$185. The State of Georgia claimed in 1926 that the will was a public record, stolen or surreptitiously removed from its archives, whereupon the Rosenbach Company, which had not yet paid for the document, returned it to the auction gallery. Manning's heirs sued Anderson Galleries, the auctioneer, for the purchase price, all parties



Left to right: Hellebrand, Rulon-Miller, DeSimone, and Tanner.



Larry and Mary Dingman alive and well in LA

agreeing that the only question was one of title.

The Supreme Court of New York found that Georgia failed to provide its title to the documents, stating that the only real basis for the claim that the Stanley will was a public record is a colonial act of 1755 which required the recording of wills and testaments in the records office. The law is silent on the retention of any original documents required to be recorded. "Common experience and the invariable practice established by law and custom indicates that registration of documents of the character referred to in the colonial statute is identical in procedure with the requirement of recording, and that after the record is made the original documents are returned as private papers to their owners... The authority to retain a private paper such as an original will in public custody must be predicated upon some statutory enactment, or upon some legal practice or custom sustained by common law. There is

no proof in this case of such authority..."

REPORT ON STOLEN BOOKS

Patricia and Allen Ahearn (Quill & Brush, Rockville, MD) report that a large quantity of books owned by noted author and educator, Sterling Brown, and destined for Howard University, were allegedly stolen last year. The thief has been identified and the FBI is involved but it is understood he has not yet been charged and may still be selling the books. Therefore, dealers should be aware that any book with the ownership signature of Sterling Brown, or inscribed to him, may be of questionable provenance.

PETER HOWARD'S BOOK- KEEPING TIPS

[Editor's note: Peter Howard proposes submitting a tip an issue, based on the good word of his accountant. The *Newsletter* advises all members to seek the competent

advice of their own accountants for specific instances.]

You can write off per year 100%-up to \$10,000 of equipment purchases. As I just bought a good copier for about \$6,000 and am contemplating a micro-fiche reader/combo printer which costs \$2,500, this sort of news was welcome to me.

ABAA PINS

Silver ABAA pins are available for full and associate members of the ABAA from Liane Wood-Thomas at ABAA Headquarters, 50 Rockefeller Center, NY, NY 10020. The pins are identical to the ABAA logo. Send a check for \$30.00 (includes postage) to Headquarters, and your pin will be shipped to you immediately.

OBITUARY NOTES

Karen P. Lefkowitz, 43, late wife and partner of Edward J. Lefkowitz, and vice president of the Fairhaven, MA, bookselling firm of Edward J. Lefkowitz, Inc.; of pneumonia, in Providence, RI, on 16 January, 1992.

A native of Keene, New Hampshire, Karen attended Boston University and encouraged and supported Ed when he first contemplated entering the antiquarian book business on his own in 1974, and went on to take an active role in the publishing arm of the Lefkowitz firm in 1985. She served as editor and marketing director, and then office manager of the antiquarian business. Her love, help and encouragement was vital to the success of the Lefkowitz firm.

She was a former volunteer at the Kendall Whaling Museum in Sharon, MA, and was the chairperson of the Greater New Bedford Chapter of the American Field Service Intercultural Programs, and host mother to a current foreign exchange student from Rouen, France.

Survivors include her husband;

a daughter, Jessica Lefkowicz; her mother, Patricia Bolton; two brothers, David K. Bolton of New Haven Mills, VT; and Christian Bolton of Marston Mills, MA; two nephews and a niece.

A scholarship fund has been established in her memory at the Greater New Bedford Chapter of A.F.S.; c/o David Brenneke, Treasurer; 363 Whitlow St.; New Bedford, MA 02746.

[Howard, continued from page 1] each was uncommonly helpful to young booksellers. It's apparent now that I was lost in modern first editions for many years. Not until I met Norman and Michael Kane did I begin to appreciate the book I did not already know and understand, bibliographically speaking. It took me an eternity in the trade to want to grow curious. If there was one quality in another I most fiercely needed (for whatever private or mistaken or false reasons) to emulate, it was that a bookseller served the customer. I always felt Margie first infected me with this virus.

Several changes have substantially affected or altered our profession since those days. First, the parameters of what we sell have been battered further apart, torn asunder or vaporized. Comics, film scripts, Superman's uniform; Steve McQueen's Mantra Mirage, ephemera in every conceivable area of human interest - there is little or nothing our members will not deign to offer for sale, proudly, and well-researched. Incunable dealers catalogue Longfellow and Bill Everson; science fiction and fantasy specialists scout Charlie Russell bronzes; Kerouac enthusiasts represent pioneer New Mexico manuscripts. All barriers traditional or staid, if artificial, have come down. One felt during the 1970s and later that although the number on

institutional customers was shrinking, the number of booksellers increased vastly. This in consequence I believe not only of the misperception that ours is a free and easy life in an otherwise growingly repressive and constrictive society, but also in proper recognition that there is in fact no limit to what an enterprising and imaginative bookseller can get his or her hands into. Then too, the younger generation is remarkably more adept than mine was in its youth at gaining access to capital. I would add here, parenthetically, that the expansion of the ABAA in the years considered did not include minorities. There was not then, nor is there now a single member of the ABAA who is black or Asian. We have only two Chicano members. We must and do here promise to encourage and support by educative means a wider interest in bookselling.

There have been very particular consequences of the increase in the number of booksellers. There are

more kinds of dealers, and they come in more shapes. High rents, impossibly high costs of commercial purchase, inadequate space - all these factors drive daily more and more dealers to mail order and to book fairs. The most recent phenomenon, cooperative space, pioneered by Everett Cunningham at the Gull, expanded upon by Tall Stories in SFO (25 applicants in waiting, 15 stalls in place), and reported elsewhere as well, is obviously in its infancy. The book fair, originally intended by the ABAA to be an educative tool, is a spore upon the land. In a practical sense, exhibition and sale at a fair has displaced the catalogue as a principal mechanism by which many dealers seek revenue. The range of what most exhibitors offer is thereby much narrowed in my opinion. The counterbalance that more and more individuals and more specialists exhibit is not entirely satisfying. Insofar as the ABAA is concerned, I have always been of the opinion that every member has an equal



John Curtis, left, and John Ballinger



Peter Stern, left, and Ralph Sipper discuss the price of eggs

right to exhibit at each ABAA fair; that it is the Board of Governor's collective responsibility to structure and accommodate equitably; that no such fair can be too large. That size is self-correcting. That we owe it to our less centrally located brethren to underwrite and sustain fairs in their areas upon request. So shall we do in Washington in fall, 1993. In 1996 the ABAA has the privilege of hosting an ILAB congress in Los Angeles and Fair in San Francisco. I am unalterably opposed to the frequently floated notion by several vested interests that the ABAA should allow more exclusive, screened and heavily vetted fairs in NYC.

Second, the speed with which information is now exchanged would bedazzle and blind the 1963 beginner, I used to run up the postman's route, impatient for a response to an AB quotation two weeks old. In 1971 it took an hour to get a phone line to Berkeley from Frenish, Foss, Pertshire,

Scotland (a bookseller's paradise). The greatest single wonder for me then or now was the fact that Henry Wenning sold his catalogues out 80% in 3 days by phone; one of the most painful memories was Henry on Alka-Seltzer and cigarettes, enduring the thought that he knew it would take him a whole year to recreate the experience. And there was no sustaining profit. Now we routinely sell each other's books singly or by the roomful, by phone and fax, in an instant. It is cheaper now in absolute dollars to fly across country or across the world, than in 1964. So we may be more in Prague or Equador than in San Francisco, easily, in a year. UPS 200lb / cwt discount rates and in-house postal meters; copiers and faxes; computer processing; gigantic data base reference works (NUC, BM CAT; auction records) on microfiche - all these forces and factors facilitate the accurate, speedy, and efficient sale and delivery of merchandise. I acknowledge these developments with no dislike, fear or trepidation.

Each bookseller will adapt as able to technological innovation, hopefully aware that at risk may be the time for stable and sustaining relationships not only with books, but as well with customers and friends.

Concomitant with the increase in the number of dealers, the variety of their wares, is certainly, now at last, anyway, a very real increase in the number of private buyers. We are vastly informed by our customers if we only allow their intrusion into our consciousness. Hence the immeasurable pleasures for some of keeping an open shop. The range of what we sell, we must remember, is exactly expanded by what we learn from all the world's customers.

Of all the changes in the book business external to those in my psyche, in the last 29 years, none is more obvious, nor more misrepresented and misunderstood, nor more wrongly represented, than the perceived value of valuable books. The notion of a fair price, *prix fixe*, the "right" price, the "going" price--all of these traditional concepts went out the window or down the drain the day *Ulysses* (1/100 signed) went to \$20,000.00 from \$10,000.00 because of appreciation in the yen or depreciation in the dollar. Whenever I went to England the pound was pegged at \$2.20. So it was in 1971 (my first visit) and so I imagine it always. But one day, for one month (only), the pound was valued at \$1.05. From that moment onward, it appeared (to me, anyway) that many, many more people sought to put money into books, sought to create money from books, sought by force of will to say that the book in hand was beyond compare, its value arbitrary (meaning; any highly profitable price was justifiable). And this may indeed be so. The prices of all books at the top end of every field then knew no bounds. Markets became international. More and more

frequently on our premises were, or were rumored to be first, Canadians, then Australians; then Japanese, now South Americans and continental Europeans. America may well soon have the cheapest and the most books in the world. The dangers to the individual buyer ought to be, but are not, obvious. At any given time the Shakespeare first folio may not resell for more; the perfect Faulkner first edition may acquire a nick in its dust jacket. To what degree shall we

standards which it enforces. The Board's members have exhibited extraordinary compassion in an extremely difficult ethics case, and, more widely, by promoting the Benevolent and Woodburn Funds, by which on the one hand we can more readily assist those who suffer illness or accident among us and beyond us, while on the other hand we can encourage those who aspire to greater proficiency and honor in our trade, by underwriting their continuing education. The ABAA

hamlet.

ps: among us Westerners Everett Cunningham alone remembered on our behalf the illness or death of an old bookseller; a forgotten bookseller; on our dinner plates at local meetings as often as not was Everett's mimeoed memorial for one we may well not even have known. Here's to you, Everett.

Fondly, Peter B. Howard
President, ABAA (1992-1993)



Left to right: Ginsberg, Goldsmid, Shay and Fleck

disguise ourselves as stock-brokers or mask deceit and greed with feigned enthusiasm? I hope I am as willing to ask this question of myself as the next dealer.

The ABAA has grown steadily. Resignations are very rare. It is prosperous, even if all its members are not. The dues are meaningful, not onerous. In consequences of the Arader case, the ABAA has a legal contingency fund of considerable clout. The ABAA has mechanisms for stable continuity in its Board. It has superb legal counsel and equally superb house management in our Executive Director Liane. It has permanent and accessible premises. It has promulgated a set of ethical

has survived very serious attacks upon the reputation of its members and upon the reputation of the ABAA as a whole in the Texas forgeries matter.

The ABAA now has a fifty year history of volunteer leadership. Although I am honored to represent the organization as President, it is respect for all Boards members I ask you to confer equally. They work very hard because they care. The ABAA is no longer teen-age. We ought now to be mature enough to use wisely our so carefully harvested assets, first to enhance further the knowledge and well being of our membership, and then to carry our reputation into every

ILLEGAL USE OF ABAA LOGO

Two ABAA members reported the misuse of the ILAB and ABAA logos by a non-member on his letterhead and in the Napoleonic Society of America's bulletin.

ABAA Counsel Larry Fox wrote to James R. Taylor, Houston, Texas, informing him of the illegality of such claims. Mr Taylor apologized and will publicly retract claims to ABAA membership, both in the Napoleonic Society's bulletin and by a sign in his place of business.

This is the second time within the last six months that the ABAA logo has been used illegally, and the Board treats this fraudulent use of the logo as a serious matter that will not be tolerated. The Board was sufficiently pleased with the thrust of Mr. Fox's letter, from which we excerpt:

"Your ... unauthorized use of the ABAA's trademark constitutes an actionable infringement by you and subjects you and your firm to a potential lawsuit seeking injunctive relief and monetary damages...

By improperly associating your firm with the ABAA trademark you have not only subjected yourself and your firm to action by the ABAA, but similarly to an action by ABAA members who may suffer economic damages as a consequence of purchasers being misled by your representation into transacting business with your firm under the

mistaken impression that it is a member of the ABAA. Moreover, the false designation of your firm as an ABAA member likely constitutes an actionable fraud on consumers, which would be cognizable as a violation of the Texas consumer protection statutes. In light of the foregoing, it is imperative that you immediately

institute measures which are designed to protect against the misrepresentation... In this connection, we are hereby demanding...:

1. That you immediately place a sign in your retail store in a prominent location which notifies the public that your firm is *not* a member of the ABAA...

2. That you place an advertisement in the Napoleonic Society Bulletin which sets forth the name, address, and telephone number of each of the current ABAA members located in your geographical area..."

Taylor buckled under. So be forewarned, ye pretenders to ABAA.

**ABAA NEWSLETTER
400 SUMMIT AVENUE
SAINT PAUL MN 55102
USA**