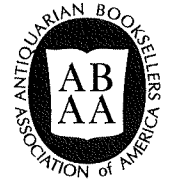


# The ABAA NEWSLETTER



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ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SPRING 2000

INSIDE: *AB Bookman's Weekly and the ABAA.* By Barney Rosenthal. . . . . PAGE 5



Photograph courtesy of Wendy Wilson

ABAA presidents (l to r) Bob Fleck, Rob Rulon-Miller, Leona Rostenberg, Ed Glaser, Priscilla Juvelis, and Tom Congalton. Madeleine Stern (back, 2nd from right) served in other capacities for the Association.

## ABAA Elects New Board

by Greg Gibson

The ABAA Officers and Board of Governors met Wednesday, April 12, at the New York office of Larry Fox, ABAA counsel, and the Association's annual meeting was held on the Saturday evening following. At its annual meeting, Tom Congalton was elected President of the Association by the membership (about 210 votes were cast). Congalton succeeds Priscilla Juvelis, who had served since 1998. Ken Lopez was elected Vice-President.

New Board members were elected as follows: from the Midwest Chapter, Owen Kubik; from the New England Chapter, Gregory Gibson; and At-Large, Forrest Proper. Additionally, Thomas Goldwasser was elected as Northern Cali-

fornia Chapter representative, filling the spot of John Crichton, who has been elected ABAA Secretary. Finally, John Freas was named as Mid-Atlantic Chapter representative, replacing Daniel De Simone, who has retired from the ABAA.

Outgoing officers include Natalie Bauman, Thomas Boss, and Takis VANDOROS. The Board thanked them for their years of service. The Board also gave Priscilla Juvelis heartfelt thanks for a job well done, and she returned the compliment with a gracious retirement speech, thanking the board for their effort and enthusiasm.

Other business is covered in detail in the minutes of this meeting, which will

## A Statement from the President

by Tom Congalton

Several weeks ago, someone on the ABAA-Discuss list called for statements from the candidates for the Board of Governors and Executive offices. During that time I was away at three consecutive book fairs in the South, and regrettably I was not able to access email with any frequency. However, my depression at missing the camaraderie of the discussion group was more than compensated by my delight in reading 400 ABAA-Discuss messages all at one time when I came back. I have given the request for a statement some little thought, and the following will have to stand as my statement. I have no doubt many will disagree with significant portions of it, which is why it is so great that we elect a president who enjoys just one vote on the Board and no veto power.

### ABAA and the Internet

I think that the current state of the ABAA, for all the continuous brouhaha and occasional divisiveness on the discussion group, is basically very healthy. Despite recent vast changes and new challenges in the way we do business, most ABAA members seem to be adapting and thriving. Although we are all privy to innumerable book-related Internet horror stories and an almost equal number of dire predictions about the future of the book trade, I know very few ABAA dealers who haven't managed to

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# Letters to the Editor

*From: Tom Suarez*

The Internet Committee has been hard at work on [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org), our Association's lifeline to the new world of cyberspace. There is one aspect of current policy regarding [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org)—that of removing the email and web site addresses of members who do not participate in the optional services offered for \$20/month—that I believe we should reconsider. Here are my reasons.

1. The listing of members' full contact information is a most elementary, basic function of a professional association. Members pay money to the Association so that their names and full addresses are included in ABAA directories. This information should never be withheld pending purchase of an unrelated, optional service. The policy is equivalent to deleting this information from the printed directories disseminated at book fairs, for dealers not exhibiting at the fairs.

2. By making the listing contingent on the purchase of unrelated, supposedly optional services, the credibility of those optional services is tarnished. It would appear that they cannot stand on their own merit, but rather that support for them must be garnered by the linkage.

3. By summarily expunging the contact information for a large part of the membership, we also lose any incentive on the part of those members to promote the site. In the final analysis, the success of [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org) is dependant on our ability to get prospective customers to visit it—neither the finest search engine nor most elegant design will matter if no one accesses it. Such firms as Amazon and Alibris have professional publicity people and large budgets to plug their sites. We don't—but we do have a very potent weapon they don't, namely 475 professional, committed booksellers who in turn have exposure to collectors and to the media. But members will not push a site that doesn't list their own contact information.

4. The obligatory purchase of "optional" services in order to obtain essential Association contact information

appears to be in violation of Sherman Anti-Trust laws. Since all of us in the Association take the utmost pride in our Code of Ethics, it is especially important that we never appear disingenuous in upholding a high ethical standard when dealing with our own policies.

Finally, I would like to stress that the issue is not the twenty dollars per se, but rather the implications of "buying" a directory listing. However unintentionally, this policy has disenfranchised many active members who do not wish to participate in a forced tariff in order to list their businesses.

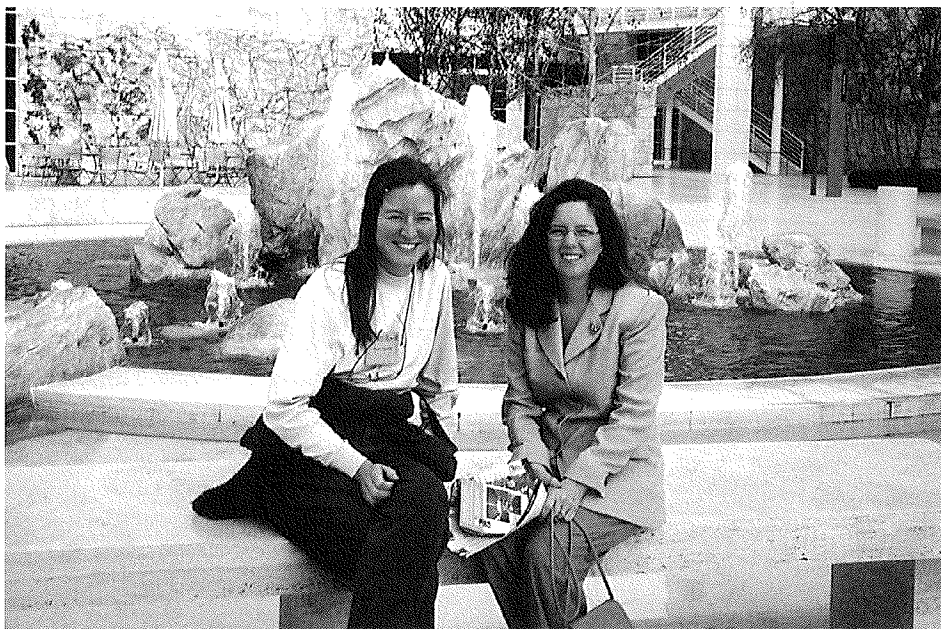
My thanks for this opportunity to offer my input to the Internet Committee's ongoing, and much appreciated, efforts.

*From: Wayne Somers*

I hope you can find more articles like Dan Gregory's "The Database Race" (Volume XI, No. 2, Winter 2000). One small demurrer: his statement, "For a database of books to be of any use, the bibliographic information has to be segmented into appropriate fields: author, title, place and date of publication, and so on," may sound like a truism, but I don't agree with it. It is a common misconception (though one not necessarily held by Mr. Gregory)

to think that every identifiable element of a description ought to have its own field. In a modern database, in which all fields are large and searchable, one absolutely needs separate fields only for elements by which one intends to sort. A database intended only to support the making of catalogues to be arranged strictly by author, for example, might well have only one field, in which the entire entry appears, beginning with the author's last name. Filling in boxes is satisfying but not always the most efficient way to work.

Of course, multiple fields can offer advantages (for instance, in helping a novice cataloger remember all the elements, in providing for automated entry of some data, or in formatting), and, moreover, the on-line matching services require certain minimum fields, but in general I think there is much to be said for using as few fields as possible. I have created my own databases for over ten years now, using FileMaker, and though I can have as many fields as I want, I choose to put publication data, format information, and annotation all in a single field. I mention this not because I'd care to argue about it, but simply to suggest that the proliferation of fields is optional. ■



*Photograph courtesy of Heidi Congalton*

**Jennifer Larson and Heidi Congalton at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles prior to the book fair.**

# An Update from the Internet Committee

by Ken Lopez

The ABAA Web site at [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org) has continued to grow, slowly but surely, and has begun to gain more traffic in the past several months. Various changes to the Web site have taken place recently, with more slated for the near future.

A book fair calendar was added to the site to replace the loss of that hosted by *AB Bookmans Weekly*, which has shut down operations. The calendar at [www.abaa.org/bookfairs/calendar2000.html](http://www.abaa.org/bookfairs/calendar2000.html) is set up to allow promoters to post particulars about their fairs, whether ABAA- and ILAB-sponsored or not.

Additional content has been added to the site and continues to be added periodically. An article by Larry McMurtry, taken from a talk he gave at an ABAA dinner in Chicago, has been posted recently at [www.abaa.org/collectors/bc-splendors.html](http://www.abaa.org/collectors/bc-splendors.html).

Options for contacting the ABAA or its member dealers have been improved, so that messages from visitors can be efficiently funneled to their most appropriate destinations, and instructions for using the various forms at the site have been expanded and clarified.

The Member Services area of the Web site has, or will soon have, links allowing ABAA members to join the site's searchable book database, as well as links facilitating the uploading of books to the database.

The ABAA database is now being searched by [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) (although at this writing there appear to be some technical glitches that make the ABAA database unavailable to the [bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com) search more often than should be the case). This should result in significantly more exposure for members' books in the ABAA database than they have had in the past.

Much more content is scheduled to be added, as time permits. Also, the framework for a preliminary visitor registry has been laid, and the feature should be available soon, perhaps by the time this issue of the *Newsletter* is published. The first phase will allow visitors to list their

interests, wants, etc., and this information will then be disseminated via email to the ABAA members who support the site by paying the Web site user fee. A more elaborate, databased version has been proposed; but the Internet Committee (IC) intends to see how the initial one pans out and whether specific improvements can be identified before committing to any further development.

The search engine question continues to be addressed. As approved by the Executive Committee last fall, ABAA is taking a two-pronged approach: contracting with Alibris for the use of the Bibliocity search engine, for now, and continuing to explore other approaches to the question, including developing our own search capabilities, looking for other alliances, and monitoring new approaches being developed for booksellers that have yet to appear in fully operational form. The contract with Alibris assures us of use of the Bibliocity search engine for at least fifteen months from the time of signing in mid-April. The IC has had preliminary talks with three possible vendors of search engine (and other bookselling-related) software and services. We are watching as closely as possible the development project that ABA has announced, and we have had informational talks with [www.worldbookdealers.com](http://www.worldbookdealers.com), which has been very helpful in discussing issues with us and sharing non-proprietary information on an informal basis. We expect that, by keeping up the search for the best possible approach to this question, we will in fact find it.

The ABAA has also opened up a dialogue with both the ILAB Internet Committee and the ABA. We are now entering a global information world, and we believe that ILAB will become an important portal to anyone seeking rare books. Cooperating with the national associations of ILAB to eventually establish the best rare bookselling sites available to the public is very important to us. Our strength lies in our united presence on the Web.

Although it has been one of the most controversial issues in recent memory, the Alibris contract has been formally signed by both parties. The IC vote to recommend the contract to the Board was four to three. The Executive Committee and Board, however—following the long tradition of being guided by a committee's recommendations—voted unanimously in favor of it. Many ABAA members have voiced objections to the very notion of signing a contract with this new, large, well-funded entity in the OP book trade, which is at some level a competitor to the businesses that comprise ABAA. The rhetoric on the subject has been heated and emotional, and facts about the beneficial aspects of the ABAA contract with Alibris seemingly have had little impact on a certain percentage of the membership who regard any contractual agreement between the two entities as harmful to ABAA, no matter what the agreement entails. It has been a divisive issue and continues to divide members, although it has been my hope, as Chair of the Internet Committee, that by signing the contract and thus guaranteeing search engine services for a length of time, we could put this issue behind us and concentrate on forward-looking questions and concerns—including that of a long-term solution to the search engine question.

The main points of the ABAA-Alibris contract are as follows:

- ABAA gets use of the Bibliocity search engine, free of charge to ABAA or its members, for the length of the contract (two years, renewable a year at a time after that).
- For the first year, Alibris may only terminate the contract "for cause"—i.e., a breach of contract on the part of ABAA. There is a remedy period specified if such a breach occurs or is alleged. After the first year, Alibris can terminate with ninety-days notice. So, the search services are guaranteed

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# ABAA Committees, 2000-2001

The following ABAA Standing Committees were elected at the Annual Meeting in April, 2000:

## **Executive Committee**

Tom Congalton, Chair; Andy Cahan, John Crichton, Donald Heald, Mark Hime, and Ken Lopez.

## **Archives Committee**

Michael Thompson, Chair; Jack Freas and Priscilla Juvelis.

## **Benevolent & Woodburn Fund Trustees**

Priscilla Juvelis, Chair; Tom Congalton and Bob Fleck.

## **Book Fair Committee**

Mark Hime, Chair; Donald Heald, Jeffrey Marks, and a representative from each Chapter Book Fair Committee.

## **Business Committee**

Mark Hime, Chair; Rochelle Caney, John Crichton, Bob Fleck, Donald Heald, and Peter Stern.

## **By-Laws Committee**

Andrew Cahan, Chair; Rob Rulon-Miller and Michael Thompson.

## **Education/Public Relations**

Andrew Cahan, Chair; Ken Lopez and Liane Wade.

## **Ethics & Standards**

John Crichton, Chair; Rochelle Caney, Andrew Cahan, and Ken Lopez.

## **Finance Committee**

Donald Heald, Chair; Mark Hime and Greg Gibson.

## **House Committee**

Jack Freas, Chair; Andrew Cahan, Donald Heald, and Liane Wade.

## **Insurance Committee**

Rochelle Caney, Co-Chair; Ken Sanders, Co-Chair.

## **Internet Committee**

Ken Lopez, Chair; Allan Ahearn, Bill Ewald, Bob Fleck, Tom Goldwasser, Carol Grossman, James Jaffe, Owen Kubik, Kevin MacDonell, Forrest Proper, and Vic Zoschak.

## **Membership Committee**

Rochelle Caney, Chair; Andrew Cahan, Tom Goldwasser, Ken Sanders, and Michael Thompson.

## **Nominating Committee**

Priscilla Juvelis, Chair; Andrew Cahan, Michael Thompson, and a representative from each Chapter.

## **Planning Committee**

Tom Congalton, Chair; John Crichton, Donald Heald, Mark Hime, Priscilla Juvelis, Ken Lopez, Peter Stern, and a representative from Past Presidents Group.

## **Publications Committee**

Greg Gibson, Chair; Dan Gregory, Rob Rulon-Miller, and Liane Wade.

## **Security Committee**

Ken Sanders, Chair; John Crichton, Bill Ewald, and Liane Wade.

## **ILAB Representative**

Bob Fleck.

## **ABAA/RBMS Committee**

Michael Thompson, Chair; Carol Grossman and Priscilla Juvelis.

*The President of the ABAA is an ex-officio member of all committees.* ■

## **New Locale, Dates for Boston 2000**

This year's 24th Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair takes place during peak foliage season in New England: October 13-15. This is a full month earlier than Boston fairs of the past.

Also new is the venue for the fair: the World Trade Center, 164 Northern Avenue. For many years, the fair has been held in the Hynes Convention Center.

Situated in the city's rapidly developing Seaport District, the World Trade Center overlooks Boston Harbor and is conveniently located just minutes from Boston's historic North End, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, and Logan Airport. ■



*Photograph courtesy of Wendy Wilson*

**ABAA President Tom Congalton, Ken Rendell, and ABAA Secretary John Crichton at the 2000 ABAA Annual Meeting, the Grolier Club, New York City.**

# AB Bookman's Weekly and the ABAA

by Barney Rosenthal

*AB Bookman's Weekly* ceased publication in December, 1999. Some will say the AB was a victim of the Internet, others will attribute its demise to the fact that our trade has changed so much that this sort of publication was simply no longer needed. Regardless of our interpretation, we must all agree that this is an event marking the end of an era and deserving our attention and comment. Surely more will (and should) be written about this remarkable magazine that, from a back section of *Publisher's Weekly*, grew into an independent weekly trade journal published for over half a century by only two editors. Its audience was large, and dozens, if not hundreds, of booksellers came to depend on it for their livelihood. My comments here will be limited to describing AB's critical role in supporting the ABAA in its formative years.

Few of my younger colleagues (and by younger I mean anyone under sixty) may be aware of the key role the AB played in the growth of our association in its early days. As an active member of the ABAA since 1955 and a past-president (1968-70), I feel qualified to tell that story—indeed, I consider it my duty to do so.

I opened my book shop in New York in 1953, the year Sol Malkin purchased the *Antiquarian Bookman* (as it was then called) from Bowker. Like everybody else in our trade I subscribed immediately and always opened it before reading even the catalogues, not so much because of the "Want Lists" and "Books for Sale" pages, but because of Sol Malkin's reports on the activities of the ABAA, which became especially important to me after I joined the organization. Today, it is difficult to imagine what an essential—indeed, critical—role Sol Malkin played in supporting the ABAA. We had no publication of our own then, and we didn't have a system for efficiently disseminating news of planned projects and events in the ABAA. It was Malkin and his AB who became our recorder, chronicler, reporter, encourager, and, occasionally, avuncular scolder. His

columns included news of every chapter meeting, often with accounts of the minutes and with the names of all the officers. Election results were promptly published, and annual meetings were recorded in even greater detail, more often than not with the full texts of the presidents' annual reports and speeches. When the first antiquarian book fair was held in New York City in April 1960, under the auspices of the Middle Atlantic Chapter led by Madeleine Stern, Sol gave it extensive coverage and editorial encouragement. The "Mail Box" section provided a convenient and popular platform for ideas, dialogue, controversy, and, occasionally, fun. I'll just mention one specimen of the latter: In 1969, while I was president of the ABAA, I was approached by a professor who asked what I thought of the possibility of establishing a centralized computer system to store information about the availability of out-of-print books. I thought the idea was worth discussing, and I encouraged the professor to write a letter to the AB. Sol published it, adding a comment ridiculing the whole thing (remember, this was thirty-one years ago) and ending with the comment, "We sure hope Barney will keep any more such bright ideas to himself. Or better yet, let Barney do the work" (see AB, May 26, 1969). Vintage Malkin!

Another important point to remember is that AB's subscribers were not limited to members of the trade, but included thousands of librarians and collectors and people involved with books. With almost every issue, whether they liked it or not, these readers got a dose of news of the ABAA, and they became conscious of our existence.

Sol's role was repeatedly, unambiguously, and gratefully acknowledged at the time—there isn't a single president's annual report back then that doesn't conclude with thanks for his constant support. We even offered him honorary membership in the ABAA, but Sol refused, fearing he might lose his independence.

Terry Belanger has honored his memory by sponsoring the Sol M. Malkin Lectures in Bibliography endowed by Sol's wife, Mary Ann O'Brian Malkin. I was invited to give one of these lectures in 1987, and at the time I called him "the foremost chronicler of the antiquarian book trade in America during its formative years, a man without whose devotion and involvement our world would have been far, far duller. Those of us whose careers, especially whose early careers, coincided with Sol's active years as editor of the AB owe him an immense debt of gratitude..."

By the time Jacob L. Chernofsky became editor and publisher of *AB Bookman's Weekly* in 1975, our organization had become more self-assured: the West Coast chapters had begun to flex their muscles, our book fairs had become more or less institutionalized, and in 1980 we started our own journal, *The Professional Rare Bookman*. Yet, we were happy to see that as far as the ABAA was concerned, Jake Chernofsky continued Sol's policies in all respects. Not only that, but he succeeded in realizing a project that had long been discussed within the ABAA and the ILAB, and that somehow we had never been able to bring off: the creation of a school for antiquarian booksellers. Together with Dr. Margaret Goggin of the University of Denver, Jake managed to launch, in 1979, the Out of Print and Antiquarian Book Market Workshop Seminar. These yearly, intensive one-week seminars, staffed by members of the ABAA, have contributed immeasurably to raising the standards of professionalism in our trade.

Without *AB Bookman's Weekly* at our side, we wouldn't be where we are. Let us all remember this. ■

## Scholarships Available

The ABAA Benevolent Fund, in honor of Elisabeth Woodburn, is offering two scholarships to the 2000 *Colorado Out-of-Print and Antiquarian Book Market Seminar*.

The seminar, presented by Book Seminars, is an intensive week-long program designed for new and experienced booksellers who have never had the advantage of formal training in the field, as well as for book collectors and librarians. It will be held August 6-11, 2000, on the campus of Colorado College, in the resort city of Colorado Springs.

Competition for the two awards of \$1,250 each is open to all.

Entrants must submit a brief essay of 500 words or less stating need and purpose; a letter of support by an ABAA member is also welcome. Submit materials to: Peter B. Howard, Trustee Emeritus, The ABAA Benevolent Fund, Serendipity Books, 1201 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702; fax: 510-841-1920; email: pbhoward@serendipitybooks.com. Applications must be postmarked no later than July 1, 2000.

The successful candidates will be notified by phone or fax, and by mail. Awards will be presented at seminar registration in Colorado Springs by an ABAA member.

These awards are in memory of



**ELISABETH WOODBURN**

ABAA President, 1982-1984,  
& for many years in addition  
a distinguished bookseller

## Gibson Redux

In case anyone missed it, ABAA member Greg Gibson, author of the critically acclaimed *Gone Boy* (Kodansha, 1999), appeared on the front page of *The New York Times* (April 12, 2000) in a full color photograph over a feature article about his book and the random murder of his son, Galen. The article, "Man and His Son's Slayer Unite to Ask Why," by William Glaberson, recounts the tragic event and describes the ongoing aftermath. Galen's assailant, Wayne Lo, has now contacted Mr. Gibson through the mail, and the two are presently in correspondence with one another. In his first letter to Gibson, Lo writes: "I just finished reading your book. It was a good book, though I don't think you need to hear that from me, because you didn't need to write it. I mean, if it wasn't for my horrible act. There is so much I want to say, but it is hard to put all of it on paper."

Twenty letters have been exchanged to date and the story continues to unfold.

"One of the most memorable things Wayne Lo told me has to do with the gun," Gibson noted recently. "He said that, when he thought he was on his Mission from God, the ease with which he was able to obtain the gun and ammunition seemed like a blessing, as if God was paving the way for him. Now he realizes it was the greatest curse in his life.

"This underlines what to me is the profoundest tragedy of all. When this kid was so addled that he thought God was talking to him, it was still a simple matter for him to legally obtain a semiautomatic rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition. It was a simple matter for him to carry them onto a college campus, and it was a simple matter for him to use them. Apparently, we like it this way in America, because if we didn't, we'd change it. This is a tragedy that far surpasses my own family's suffering, and the suffering of any individual victim of gun violence. I consider it a great shame on our nation."

## 22nd year for Colorado Seminar

The Out-of-Print & Antiquarian Book Market Seminar will take place this year from August 6 through August 11 at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. This will be the twenty-second consecutive year of operation. More than 2000 booksellers, librarians, and collectors—including many ABAA members—have graduated from this intensive one-week program.

Specialists share their expertise and experience with booksellers, librarians, and collectors in this survey of the out-of-print, antiquarian, rare, and used book markets. Basic procedures and problems are discussed both formally and informally through a series of lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and practical workshops.

This year, seminar topics include The Used Book Shop, Mail-Order Book Business, Buying and Selling Books on the Internet, Bibliographic Description, Pricing and Appraisals, Acquisition of

Rare and Out-of-print Materials: Problems of Librarians and Dealers, and Collecting Antiquarian Books.

Among the faculty members are former ABAA presidents Michael Ginsberg and Ed Glaser, as well as Jennifer Larson, Lois Harvey, and Mary Francis Ciletti. The specialist dealer this year will be Ursula Davidson, a leading dealer in fine children's and illustrated books. John Dunning, proprietor of Old Algonquin Books and the author of several popular bibliomysteries, will be the keynote speaker. James Canary, Head of Special Collections Conservation, Indiana University Libraries, will return once again to lead tutorials in book repair and restoration.

For complete information and registration forms, please contact Kathy Lindeman, seminar coordinator, at (719) 473-6634 or check out the seminar Web site at [www.bookseminars.com](http://www.bookseminars.com).

# ILAB and the Internet

**byt** [The views expressed below are not necessarily shared by the ABAA or ILAB and do not constitute an official position of either organization.]

**by Rob Rulon-Miller**

The Internet remains the most important issue on the agenda of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB). Many of the national associations associated with ILAB have their own Web pages; some of them, such as the ABAA, even have search engines. But as any Web master will tell you, the amount of traffic that comes to any given site depends on the amount of recognition that site receives, whether that recognition be in print or on the Web itself.

The moneys spent on large search engines at sites such as worldbookdealers.com or the new Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (ABA) site in England, as well as whatever site ILAB might develop in the future, will largely be for naught unless these organizations are able to generate traffic to their respective pages. As it stands now, no one of these sites will ever generate much traffic beyond that of regular customers and members of the antiquarian trade. To make the most effec-

tive use of its Web presence ILAB should strike as many alliances as possible with other Internet entities, including its own national association sites, search engines (where possible and appropriate), portal sites, and perhaps most importantly, compatible commercial sites that seek to share a common and mutual enrichment—the outside enterprises by aligning themselves with ILAB and its ideals, and ILAB by aligning itself with enterprises that seek to promote and maintain ILAB's high standards of ethical commerce.

Given the past history of ILAB, this may well be a thorny issue, but it is an issue that ILAB must resolve if it is to have a viable and successful Web presence. ILAB's unwritten determination not to have any ties with commercial enterprises on the Internet is a rather shortsighted view in this writer's opinion, given that its own members are commercial entities themselves. Imagine, for example, if Amazon.com were to offer ILAB a partnership of some kind—Amazon.com, the largest Internet business of all—where the ILAB logo and its ideals were visible to every Amazon.com visitor (millions of people a day!), perhaps with links to the Web pages of national

associations, perhaps even with links to individual dealers—would we say “no” to this incredible offer as long as our aims and ideals are met? These large companies offer something that ILAB or any of its national associations will never be able to offer: exposure and advertising on a tremendously large scale, which can only lead to new customers and more business. ILAB should be helping its member booksellers sell books, and in my opinion, more book business makes for a better book business. Any capitalist who can't follow this logic should bring his or her head up out of the water for a deep breath of air.

The ILAB Rules allow the body of National Presidents to decide their destiny, and now is the time for the presidents to act. The beauty and genius of the Web is that it can reach the entire world, not just the book world. By not getting ILAB's site fully exposed in cyberspace we defeat the purpose of the Internet, and we will be left at the starting gate as if we had no Web page at all. Please, dear colleagues, do not squander any longer what the Internet brings to us, and let ILAB be known and admired around the globe. ■

## ABA to Open Web Database

**by Paul Minet**

As the immediate Past President of the ABA (International) in Great Britain, I thought I would like to give ABAA members some account of what I hope will be the outstanding achievement of my two years in office. In parts of my account there will perhaps be some relevance to Samuel J. Hessel's letter in the last issue of *The ABAA Newsletter* as regards our organization and the matter of monopolies in e-commerce.

**civc** Two years ago, in common with many British dealers, I knew very little about the Internet. For most of us, the trade was essentially the same as it had been for decades. Dealers tended to travel less, partly because country dealers went to

book fairs and prices got ironed out (or ironed upwards), so that bargains were less common. The number of bookshops had been falling for years as rents and wages outpaced the price of used books. More and more of my colleagues operated through catalogues, in some ways a relaxed manner of doing business, but one isolated from other people and inaccessible to casual purchasers.

I think it was only about eighteen months ago that most of us woke up to the fact that the Internet might be a revolution rather than just an extra selling tool. Little more than a year ago I was negotiating with Dawsons to buy *Book Auction Records*, the classic reference work on this side of the Atlantic, for the

ABA. We were thinking in terms of around £50,000 with an investment into updating of a similar amount. By the middle of last year, however, we had concluded that BAR was being outdated as a reference tool by on-line lists and that it was probably worth nothing. We therefore broke off negotiations and thought we had been vindicated when it became known that BAR was being closed down. It has now been acquired by iCollector and will be revived mainly as a free on-line tool for customers. Our fears proved completely correct.

At the ILAB Congress in Vienna in late 1998 I represented my association, both at

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# Minet

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the Presidents' meeting and in the subsequent open assembly. I voted, in common with the majority, for a Committee proposal that we back a Web firm with a very fine search engine for a site for all ILAB members, one with high standards and worthy of the League. The problem (as I see it) is that ILAB really lacks a "body"—it has no full-time staff, no office, and none of the decision-making capability required of the very fast moving Internet world. By the Florence meeting in late 1999 nothing very material had actually happened that I could see. There was, however, an Internet subcommittee, and it brought a whole batch of fresh material to the Presidents' meeting in Florence.

By this time I was discovering somewhat more about the Internet myself. My own business was now connected up, and we had plans to expand quite sharply. Nonetheless, I found myself increasingly confused by the rumors and conflicting signals we were receiving about the commercial side of the Web. In common, I suspect, with almost everyone who reads the financial pages of the papers, I thought the economics of many of the companies in the field were crazy. I accepted then, as I do now, that nine out of ten of quoted companies will not succeed and that the bubble must eventually burst, with unquantifiable results for stock markets generally and the Internet in particular.

The ILAB Internet Committee had clearly done estimable work, but I felt that the broad approach was wrong. Because of the lack of an ILAB structure, we were going to have to throw in our lot with a major supplier—in this case Alibris, which, just before the meeting, had taken over Bibliocity. Moreover, Alibris had also circulated a paper about its intention of becoming a principal dealer rather than simply a conduit in the supply of rare books. I instinctively felt that this was the wrong approach, and I argued against it hotly (perhaps too hotly) in Florence. The proposal was eventually carried, but the opposition was strong enough to ensure that no very firm action would result. Sev-

eral continental European associations have continued investigations into their own sites, and I understand that the ABAA is continuing to talk to Alibris. [*The ABAA signed a contract with Alibris on April 10, 2000. —Ed.*]

I reported in some detail to my own ABA committee, and we subsequently followed this up in our own *Newsletter*. The result was an overwhelming demand from our members that we start our own search site, owned by ourselves and not susceptible to takeover by any commercial interest. We would have to have an element of management brought in, but this must be under our own control, so that we could replace the management at need, and the essentials would remain the same. We even felt that we had to safeguard the ownership of the site from ourselves, so that it was not subject to internal coups in the event of great success.

The ABA is in some ways fortunate. We have just finished a root and branch reorganization of our office, so that it is better staffed and more professional than ever before. We have overhauled and tightened up our rules and created a standards committee to enforce the rules. Our successful move in London from the elitist West End to Olympia has brought many more of our members into our major fair and also thrown us open to the general public, at the same time creating a useful improvement in our funds. Committee members now do less voluntary slogging than they used, leaving us free to plan more. There is still a great deal of work done, but most of the day-to-day routine now runs through the office and John Critchley, our new Director. The year 2000 is going to see a greater program of fairs than we have ever run before.

We have also had an Internet committee that has been under no illusions about what it was trying to achieve: an independent site for all our 250 members and for any other ILAB members who cared to join, one that was organized under ABA rules and was inviolate. All this had to be done quickly. As it was, we were overtaken by a few of our own members, headed by Hugh Pagan Ltd. who got [www.worldbookdealers.com](http://www.worldbookdealers.com) off the ground very quickly, although with an

element of commercial partnership that was not what we wanted. We were fortunate in having Tony Fothergill, an expert, amongst our members, and we benefited from the advice of other experienced ABA members.

The result was that, at our February committee meeting, we were able to authorize a substantial expenditure program, with an expert Ministry of Defense contractor, to get a site up and running in time for a formal launch during the Edinburgh ILAB Congress in the autumn. Not only are we funding this from inside the ABA, but I am also satisfied that we have allowed for running costs, any slippage in initiation costs, and suitable recompense for such of our members as are being asked to help write the site programs, to the detriment of their normal business. We even have in place extra bank facilities should we need them. By the autumn we will have available to our own members, and to any other ILAB members who wish to subscribe, a highly professional service run under tight standards of description and probity, with high security, all for around £25 [about \$38] per month. Although the technical management of the site will be in professional hands, we will oversee things from our office, and disputes will come before ABA committees in the normal way. Any overseas ILAB members, like our own members, will have to subscribe to these standards. We do not expect the ABA site to be enormous in the sense of numbers of titles listed—what we are after is a high quality of books, of dealers, and of service.

I feel that there should be some choice available to ILAB members who are not happy to tie themselves too closely to a commercial site, although we will never be able to rival such sites in terms of publicity. The ABA, with its full-time staff, very hands-on management, and frequent committee and subcommittee meetings, is now ideally situated to pioneer this experiment, and I shall watch its progress from my ex-presidential niche with great interest. Incidentally, since my term ended on March 31, I have become Treasurer of the ABA, with a specific brief to look into the matter of



an ABA-owned property, since our opinion of landlords tends to equate with our distrust of professionals in e-commerce.

I mentioned above that we needed to safeguard the site from ourselves. Should it become very successful in future years, it might acquire a value that would tempt a significant proportion of our members to utilize existing rules to sell the site and distribute the proceeds to the members. This would not be in the long-term interests of the ABA as a trade institution. I and others are therefore looking at the idea of incorporating a new rule stating that, should such a sale ever take place, the proceeds must be transferred to our Benevolent Fund, which is a registered charity. By embedding this poison chalice into our rules, we would hope to deter any opportunist action against the long-term aims of the Association. Once passed, it would need the permission of the national Charity Commissioners to alter. Make no mistake: we are in this for the long-term and for the overall good of the international trade.

*Mr. Minet notes quite precisely that ILAB "lacks a 'body'—it has no full-time staff, no office, and none of the decision-making ability required of the fast-moving Internet world." ILAB needs a voting body at its head, not its tail. Either the ILAB Committee should be empowered with voting*

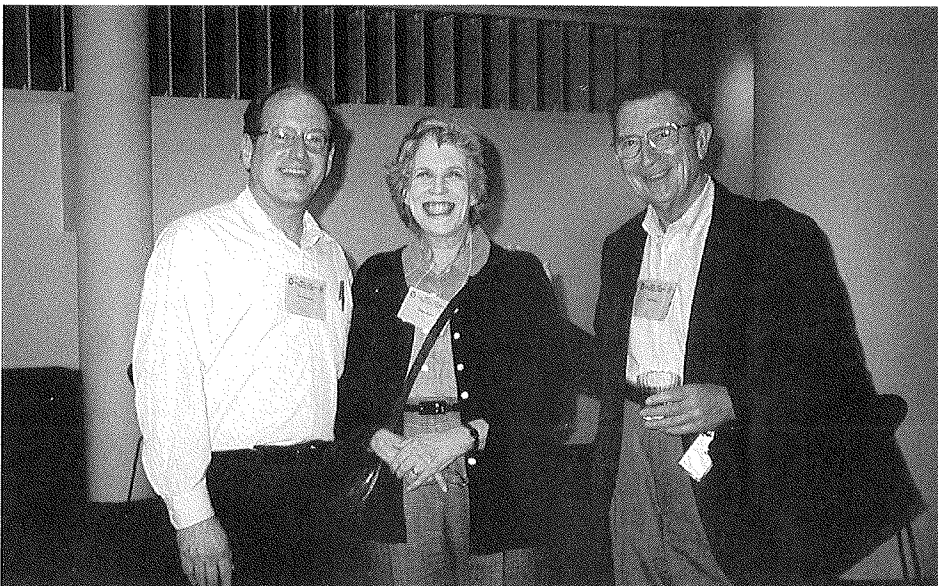
*rights, or it should be wrapped into the body of national presidents it represents—which, by ILAB rules, is already empowered with voting rights.* —Ed. ■

## abainternational.com

Owned and operated by ABA book-sellers, abainternational.com is slated to open to the public Autumn, 2000. The site will feature:

- listings from ILAB dealers only
- full secure e-commerce facilities
- unrestricted customer and book-seller contact
- unlimited listing of wants
- no outside commercial interference
- no commission payments
- search by media (ie., books, maps, prints, manuscripts, or ephemera)
- sophisticated matching of customer wants
- linkage to [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com)

For more information on this new site, please contact Tony Fothergill: [helpdesk@kenspelman.com](mailto:helpdesk@kenspelman.com) or the ABA Office: [info@aba.org.uk](mailto:info@aba.org.uk)



Photograph courtesy of Heidi Congalton

Ken Karmiole, ABAC member Helen Kahn, and Fred Kahn in Los Angeles.



# ILAB Book Fairs

2000

### June 8-11

London, England (ABA)  
Olympia Exhibition Centre

### September 21-23

Edinburgh, Scotland (ILAB)  
18th International Book Fair

### October 13-15

Boston, MA (ABAA)  
World Trade Center

### October 20-22

Cologne, Germany (VDA)  
Gürzenich

### November 16-19

Melbourne, Australia (ANZAAB)  
Malvern Town Hall

### December 8-10

Helsinki, Finland  
Snellmangatan

2001

### February 23-25

San Francisco, CA (ABAA)  
Concourse Exhibition Center

### May 17-20

Paris, France (SLAM)  
La Maison de la Mutualité

2002

### September 12-14

Copenhagen, Denmark (ILAB)  
19th International Book Fair

For a calendar including non-ILAB book fairs, visit [www.abaa.org/bookfairs](http://www.abaa.org/bookfairs)

# ILAB Announces \$10,000 Prize

The International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB) is pleased to announce a call for entries for its Thirteenth Prize for Bibliography. This prize, given every four years, awards US\$10,000 to the author of the best published or unpublished scholarly bibliography or work pertaining to book history, typography, or works of general interest relating to these subjects.

This award has become the most important and recognized international prize for bibliography. Past prizes and special recognition have been awarded to bibliographies relating to printing, book illustration, botanical and horticultural literature, travel and exploration, book-binding, private libraries, American literature, and architectural books. The Eleventh Prize was shared by Jacob Blanck's *Bibliography of American Literature* and Eugene Rouir's *Felicien Rops*; and the Twelfth Prize was awarded to L. H. Wuthrich, *Das druckgraphische Werk van Matthaesus Merian*.

Entries are welcome from all countries subject to the following conditions:

- The work must be in a universally used language.
- If the work is already published, it is eligible only if published within the four years preceding the closing date

for submissions (1997, 1998, 1999, or 2000) or if it has an imprint date falling within these four years.

- Specialized catalogues of one or more books intended for sale, periodicals, and public library catalogues are not allowed. However, catalogues of private libraries *are* permitted.
- Works published in electronic format or CD-ROMs are not eligible.

To submit entries from the United States, the author or publisher must send two copies of each work, published or unpublished, to Roland Folter (the American member of the Prize Jury), H. P. Kraus Inc., 16 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2000.

Special cases in which only one copy can be sent must be cleared with Mr. Folter. Publishers or authors submitting copies will receive confirmation of their entries.

Unpublished works not selected for the Prize will be returned to their authors within the two months following the Prize's announcement. Published works not selected will remain the property of ILAB unless special arrangements are made between the competitor and Mr. Folter before December 31, 2000. The ILAB is not committed to publishing

unpublished works winning the Prize. However, the ILAB does not dismiss the possibility of publishing such Prize winners. The Prize winner will, however, retain all rights of publication. The Award will be given in 2002 at the ILAB Congress in Scandinavia.

The jury presiding over the competition is composed of the President of the ILAB, the Secretary of the Prize, an ILAB member nominated by the ILAB Committee, and three persons recognized in the field of bibliography who are not ILAB members. These last three judges are chosen from countries speaking different languages and will be helped by specialists, appointed as necessary.

In the case of special circumstances, the judges will reserve the right to withhold the Award if they decide that the submitted entries do not reach a sufficiently high standard. Their decision is final and in the case of a tie, an unpublished work will have the advantage over a published work.

For more information about the Thirteenth Prize for Bibliography, please contact Roland Folter at H. P. Kraus Inc., 16 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017; phone: 212-687-4808; fax: 212-983-4790; email: [hpkraus@worldnet.att.net](mailto:hpkraus@worldnet.att.net) ■

## ABAJ Elects New Officers

The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of Japan elected new executive officers at its last meeting on April 24, 2000. They are: Noriaki Abe, President; Tsukasa Maeda, Vice President; Kazuo Namikawa, Treasurer; Isamu Nitta, Secretary; and, as committee members, Atsushi Kataoka, Takao Saito, Masaji Yagi, and Tadataka Yagi. ■

## Book Trade History Goes Online

British dealer Sheila Markham has been writing monthly profiles of prominent figures in the antiquarian book trade for the *Bookdealer* magazine since 1991. The project continues, and the current profile is now available each month on her Web site. A list of booksellers who have been interviewed in the past is also supplied, and an increasing number of these are going online every month. Among those interviewed and available online are ABAA members David Brass, Barbara Grigor-Taylor, Michael Hollander, and Rob Rulon-Miller.

Read about them all at [www.sheila-markham.com](http://www.sheila-markham.com)

# Congalton

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turn the Internet into a useful tool for their businesses, with very few of our fellows dissatisfied with the net results (yeah, I know it's a pun). It is my observation that "the Net giveth and the Net taketh away," but generally it seems to have given more than it has taken away. The unprecedented expansion of our pool of potential collectors/customers has more than compensated for the temporary discomforts of dislocation and competition we have faced because our competitors now also have easy access to materials, information, and our existing customers.

I think that we have been helped immeasurably by the awareness of several Net-savvy members within our midst and by previous Boards of Governors who have been open and responsive to the evolving situation, and who have helped to establish a relatively early ABAA presence on the Net. Despite an ever-shifting landscape, our members and the Board have never ceased from engaging these challenges. While we seldom all agree, even the most negative of our members can't say we are unaware of the many challenges that remain.

My personal feeling about the ABAA Web site is that the search engine question is a tempest in a teapot that has been blown way out of all proportion and probably has become our biggest waste of time and energy. I think that a search engine is a necessary and integral part of our Web site. However, it is only one part of the Web site. I believe the Internet Committee (IC) cut the best and most economical deal they could for our current search engine, for a relatively short time period, and that other options should continue to be explored. I believe that Alibris is neither Santa Claus nor Satan, and I believe our current arrangement can be construed as an endorsement of Alibris or its business model only by the most twisted logic. I believe that, for a brief moment in time, some small portion of our two interests have intersected, and that eventually, probably sooner rather than later, they will

diverge. In the meantime, having in hand an elegant, working, and free search engine, with maximum, even draconian, protections from our lawyers, is better than a possible search engine at some future date with undetermined cost. The IC is already looking into eventual alternatives, hopefully buying us time during which the technology will become increasingly affordable.

I am not among those who think that ABAA can not afford to own a search engine. However, I think that the investment in what will probably end up rather quickly as an obsolete piece of software is unwarranted at this time, and, ideally, we should probably lease (or in our current case, get for free) up-to-date software, from someone whose business it is to maintain and upgrade it, until easily maintainable software becomes available at relatively low cost—when it becomes an easy decision to purchase it. I don't want to invest a lot of ABAA money in a horse and cart if someone is developing a Ferrari next week. Whatever search engine we are using, I think it is imperative that that engine be listed on whatever book meta-searches exist, such as [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com). Ideally, at least in the long term, that software would be provided by someone who is not perceived to be our direct competition.

I think our future is inextricably bound up with the Net, but rather than trying to play at being Internet entrepreneurs (as an organization at least), I think we should do what we've always done best: gathering, cataloging, and advertising great books for sale. I think we should draw upon our strengths: our bibliographical expertise, our vast holdings of great and near-great books, the established cachet of our organization, and the continuing enforcement of our ethics code (before the web made it necessary to pay lip service to having one), to enhance and enlarge our Web site. I think the IC should double or even triple in size and engage in projects to generate articles, reports, bibliographical information, galleries of photos, seasonal and topical features, and on-line forums and bulletin boards. Additionally, I think the IC should feel free to cajole non-committee

members into contributing time and articles for specific projects. I think we will enhance our position by being open and forthcoming, even though the antiquarian book business has traditionally been insular and cloistered. I think by making our Web site *the* place to go for books, by making ourselves warm and fuzzy to collectors and librarians, we will enhance our position in both the book world per se and as an Internet entity. We will never have the capital to compete as a book search business on the same playing field with corporations awash in venture capital. However, if we can provide voluminous, expert, and engaging Web site content (which everything I've read leads me to believe is "king"), we can look for ways to leverage our position on various service providers and meta-search engines. Though we are relatively cash poor, through some form of corporate sponsorships and/or co-operative advertising programs, we can achieve greater success. To this end, the Board has recently created a Business Committee to explore and, hopefully, exploit opportunities of this nature that may arise.

## Promotion

By the same token, we have never had, and I suspect never will have, the capital to advertise and promote ourselves through traditional methods—purchasing for cash vast amounts of print, media, or Internet advertising. I think the only way we will be able to promote ourselves will be to act creatively and, occasionally, untraditionally. Our greatest resource is not money, but our members—a group of exceedingly well-educated, erudite, and creative people. If each of us thought of small ways to spread the name and reputation of the ABAA, the results might be surprising. Just the other day, Dan Gregory, an associate member at *Between the Covers*, took a few minutes to email a Web site that purports to lead consumers to experts in every field. Under rare books, this site linked to four booksellers, of whom neither of us had ever heard. Now the site will link to the ABAA. Perhaps most importantly I urge, and will continue to urge, all ABAA

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# Congalton

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members to splash our logo at every opportunity—on catalogues, Web sites, and even on the dreaded Internet auctions if you choose to participate.

## Book Fairs

I think book fairs are what we have always done best. The ABAA initiated book fairs in America, and there is as yet no other American fairs that can begin to compare to ours. All who attend our fairs leave knowing that if they are serious about collecting, or dealing, they had better engage the ABAA and its members. Four of our fairs are thriving: Boston, New York, and the two California fairs. Two others, Chicago and Washington, DC, are currently in hiatus, but I am encouraged to hear from both of the chapters involved that attempts are being made to revive them.

My observation, having exhibited at every fair since I've been a member, is that even weak fairs generally bear fruit in the long run, for both the individual dealer and the organization as a whole. I've met some of my best customers at fairs where I've barely covered my booth rent. As a former Chair of the Book Fair Committee, I think we should do everything we can to encourage chapters to experiment with new fairs, and, while chapters that run fairs should strive to break even at the very least, we shouldn't hesitate to invest ABAA funds in fairs that might well open untapped markets, cultivate new collectors, and inspire existing collectors. I have no desire to squander ABAA capital, but I think an investment in new fairs is a wise one. Many customers in cities and locales that have experienced more or less successful, long-term regional book fairs—Atlanta, Florida, Philadelphia, Houston and Seattle, for example—might be ripe for the message and products of the ABAA.

## The Big, Big, Big Picture

One of the candidates for the Board, earnestly and in all sincerity, suggested we re-re-vamp the Web site, buy a search

engine, and hire a CEO and staff (with attendant expenses). He suggested we pay for this several hundred thousand dollars in new expenditures by cutting \$10,000 from Board dinners and travel expenses and, oh, by the way, tripling member dues.

With all respect, while I think this is novel and interesting, it is clearly financially irresponsible. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to raise funds and spend them wisely. In the past two years the Board has raised dues incrementally, reinstated a larger book fair booth tax (\$100 rather than \$50), and authorized [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org) to charge members who avail themselves of the full benefits of the site \$240 per year. All of this has been borne ungrudgingly by and mostly with the apparent approval, or at least goodwill, of the membership. I think that tripling dues for what may be dubious gains is not what the membership would likely approve, even if some or most of us can afford it. I think a good motto for the Board is "Think carefully before you spend other people's money." Another we might consider is that, when in doubt, "*Don't just do something, sit there.*" I know this flies in the face of many of our more activist (and occasionally hysterical) inclinations, but I think we are better served by well-thought-out, pragmatic, and strategic action, than drastic, grand, and ill-thought-out gestures.

If, however, we were to invest additional money in personnel, I think we would be best served by a full- or part-time Web site content editor, whose job would be to generate content and otherwise harangue members into contributing to the Web site and perhaps to the *Newsletter* as well. This would require considerable thought, the right person, and an expenditure of between \$20-40,000. This has not been currently budgeted, but if it meets with some enthusiasm from the membership and from the Board, the process could be explored and instituted in a relatively short period of time.

## The Trojan Horse

I have observed two recurring themes on ABAA-Discuss list: (1) the Board is a small and insular group that ignores the

membership at large, and (2) the Board is unresponsive to the suggestions and complaints of the membership, especially as expressed on ABAA-Discuss.

This is, frankly, patent nonsense. My response to theme (1): Board meetings are relatively large-scale events including sixteen Governors and Officers, our Executive Director, our Attorney, at least one Past-President, and, with the exception of executive sessions for Membership and Ethics, a revolving cast of Chapter Chairs, representatives, and others with proposals or business before the Board. Members can have virtually any complaint or suggestion heard by submitting it to their Chapter Representative or any other member of the Board sufficiently in advance of the next Board meeting. How much consideration that piece of business receives is strictly based on its merits and the enthusiasm of the Board.

My response to theme (2): most Board members subscribe to the ABAA-Discuss list, and several that I know of, including me, read every single posting (although I admit I have occasionally forgone the pleasure of reading to the end of each one). Most questions of any consequence receive pretty close to immediate attention from Board members. Follow up and, occasionally, multiple reiterations for those who have missed, disagree with, or have either by error or by choice misunderstood the replies are also usually prompt. The give and take on ABAA-Discuss comprises much of the discussions between individual Board members on a daily basis and, rather than too little, often occupies more of our attention than it should. My real suspicion is that those who think they are being ignored are really those who disagree with the policies and explanations of the Board. I think the very volume of mail from those who claim they are being censored or having their opinions squelched, by its very presence, effectively contradicts that particular complaint.

Still, the perception exists that the membership, or at least the opinions of some members, are under represented. As I hope I've indicated above, the solution isn't to expand the occasional cacophony of the Board. Here is my solution: Those

who participate in ABAA business and projects are the ones that have the most say in how our business, our policies, and our Web site are conducted. You don't like what's going on? *Don't just sit there, do something!* Get involved. When I joined the Board I was one of probably a majority who felt that nothing got done by committees. While there may be at least a grain of truth in this, I no longer feel that way. ABAA committees were formerly made up only of Board members. A few years ago the Board opened

all but Executive, Membership, and Ethics Committees to the full membership. Under the guise of democratization and getting your voice heard effectively (the Trojan Horse) I want to harness the talents and enthusiasms of the membership to benefit us all. As I said above, our best resource is our people.

#### Obligatory Literary Reference

If I could pick one individual for the ABAA to emulate in the next two years, it would be Candide. I think we will be

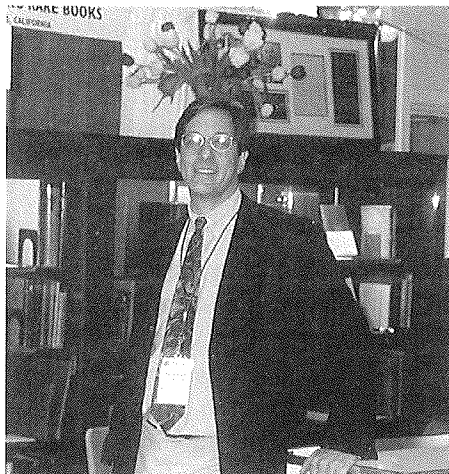
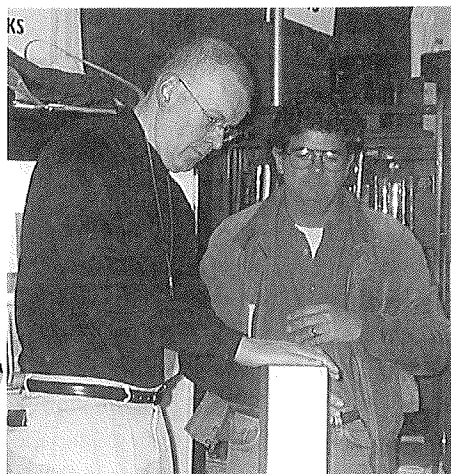
best served by tending our own gardens. Rather than giving in to panic, engaging in hysterical speculation about the end of the world as we know it, and hatching and discarding crackpot solutions to problems that effect us only tangentially, we should be doing what we have always done: enhance what we do best, by being watchful of, attentive to, and engaged by the changing situation. Then, we will continue to thrive in this best of all possible worlds, which, after all, is the only one we've got. ■

## LA 2000 Fair a Big Success

The Los Angeles Book Fair, held February 11-13 this year at the Marriott Airport Hotel, was a remarkable one in many respects, not the least of which were the gross receipts of many dealers. Perhaps there should have been some consternation right from the start. Another non-ABAA book fair (promoted by Walter Larsen) was taking place in San Francisco the same weekend that siphoned off a number of ABAA dealers who otherwise might have exhibited in Los Angeles. The Marriott was a new and untested venue. The configuration of the booths left some exhibitors in less accessible anterooms or in rows facing blank walls. The weather was not sublime. All of which may have spelled doom for the L.A. Fair.

But even now, some months removed, many hats are still being tossed at the collective feet of the Southern California Book Fair Committee. This Committee

put in extraordinary efforts on behalf of the ABAA and the exhibitors. It was chaired by David Brass, who had as his able assistants Ellen Enzler, Bennett Gilbert, Mark Hime, Gordon Hollis, Ken Karmirole, Eric Kline, Howard Rootenberg, and Michael Thompson. Advertising for the fair was prominent in print, on the Net, and on television. The crowds were large and steady, and there were eager buyers on all three days of the fair. The Marriott proved more than adequate for the exhibitors. And the sales in most quarters were really quite remarkable, with many dealers reporting figures of \$100,000 or more. In retrospect, it seemed like a watershed event for ABAA and the other ILAB dealers who exhibited, many of whom left Los Angeles rather stunned by the activity. Congratulations to all who helped make this such a successful event. ■



In Los Angeles: (l) John Hellebrand and customer; (r) Howard Rootenberg with flowers.



A contribution to the ABAA Benevolent Fund or to the Elisabeth Woodburn Memorial Fund is a meaningful way to honor the memory of a departed colleague. A contribution can also be a thoughtful celebration of an important event in the life of an antiquarian bookseller—a birthday, an anniversary, or a retirement.

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Benevolent Fund is a non-profit charity fund established by the ABAA in 1952 to benefit any antiquarian bookseller in time of personal need. The Elisabeth Woodburn Memorial Fund offers financial assistance for education and scholarly research relevant to the antiquarian book trade.

*Direct your contributions and inquiries to:*  
Antiquarian Booksellers'  
Association of America  
20 West 44th Street  
Fourth Floor  
New York, NY 10036

## Gibson

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be circulated as usual to ABAA members. It should be noted here, however, that a considerable amount of discussion was devoted, off the record, to the frustration some chapter members felt at being unable to voice their concerns to the Board. In response, President Juvelis pointed out that there is a simple and guaranteed way to have communications from ABAA members brought up at Board meetings.

Any ABAA member wishing to bring business before the Board should submit it *in writing* to his or her chapter president or chapter representative. It must then be presented by the chapter presi-

dent or representative to the appropriate ABAA Committee, *in written form*, four (4) weeks prior to the next Board meeting. The committee will then have two weeks to consider the matter. It must then be presented by the committee, in written form, to the Board, two (2) weeks prior to the Board meeting. If these steps are followed, the communication will be taken up in the course of the meeting, when the business of the particular committee is discussed. Before submitting proposals, members are advised to consult with their chapter president or representative as to which committee would be the most effective advocate for their idea.

This procedure ensures that the Committee can make a reasonable presentation of each matter before the Board, so

that at least several Board members will have given the matter serious thought and research before it comes up for general discussion.

Board members were in general agreement that everyone reads, and heeds, the emails posted on the ABAA-Discuss list, but that because of the tremendous volume of ideas floated in this forum, it is not a suitable way to introduce ideas for discussion by the Board. In addition, the Board recognized that about one-quarter of our association is not yet subscribed to the ABAA-Discuss list.

A list of ABAA committees is available in this issue of the *Newsletter*, online at [www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org), and from Liane Wade at the ABAA office. ■

## Lopez

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to ABAA for fifteen months, minimum, from the date of signing (April 10, 2000).

- ABAA can terminate the contract on thirty-days notice at any time.
- No transfer of rights occurs in the contract: full rights to ABAA members' book descriptions and any other copy-rightable marks or intellectual property are retained by the association and its members. Alibris retains ownership and copyright of the search engine software and database structure.
- ABAA retains ownership of all personal information about users of the search engine—names, email addresses, or any other personal information a user may provide in the course of inquiring about or buying a book. Alibris may not collect this, use it, or turn it over to anyone other than by court order.
- Alibris retains aggregate usage information about the searches conducted at the site and will share this information with ABAA twice a year at ABAA's written request. (This has been a hot-button issue for some ABAA members; however, it has been

pointed out that this is not information ABAA is "giving away," since we would never, under any other circumstances, have compiled it ourselves, let alone analyzed it. Alibris will do both, and ABAA will benefit from their doing so, albeit in a limited way.)

- ABAA will credit Alibris for providing search services on a credits page at the ABAA Web site. Such credit will not be linked and will not contain a reference to the Alibris Web site.

I'd like to reiterate a few points about which ABAA members have frequently expressed some confusion. No ABAA member is required to join Alibris in order to have books searchable in the ABAA database. The search of the ABAA database is handled from the ABAA Web site, not from Alibris. Having books searchable in the ABAA database does not mean they will automatically be available through Alibris. The two databases are treated entirely separately, and, the last time I checked, the servers on which they reside were in entirely different locations—one in Madison, Wisconsin, the other in Emeryville, California. There is no link to ABAA at Alibris, and no link to Alibris at ABAA.

ABAA is committed to having the best Web site of any comparable organization in the world, and, at this moment, we believe we do. Even when compared with the sites of similar organizations outside the book trade, the ABAA Web site stands out as far and away the richest in content, the most useful in terms of resources provided, and the most flexible in terms of the ways in which visitors can interact with the association and its members. We intend to keep the site growing and evolving so that this continues to be true. And we intend to build the network of our links and relationships with other, compatible Internet entities so that the site's traffic will continue to grow through a large and diverse set of reciprocal links to member sites, other national organizations, an ILAB portal, trade publications, and compatible commercial entities. Perhaps the single most negative impact of the controversy over Alibris has been that it has taken time and energy away from other developments that could enhance the site. In the future, we hope updates to the site will be more regular and that developments at the site—some of them significant in scope—will continue to expand and improve ABAA's presence in the ever-changing Internet marketplace. ■

# In Memoriam

## **bt** Harvey Brewer Closter, New Jersey

Long-time ABAA member Harvey Brewer passed away on April 5, 2000.

Harvey was one of my very first customers, back a quarter-century ago when I had a small general shop in New Jersey. He would come in regularly and would usually buy a good book or two, sometimes a trifle I had overlooked (I was very inexperienced), more often something substantial that was, for a shop like mine, quite fully priced. He was always agreeable and encouraging, and I enjoyed his visits for the company as well as the sales. There was something about Harvey that always reminded me of a mildly crusty, but good-hearted, Maine farmer—to me, as a relative newcomer to the US, he always seemed like the epitome of the New Englander.

Once I had graduated from the used book trade to the rare, I would visit him sometimes, and would buy the odd book. Alice Brewer was generally somewhere in the background, a somewhat fragile, always charming presence, who would bring in tea. She, I recall, was a keen gardener. Occasionally I'd quote him something over the phone, for auld lang syne (and ready cash), or once in a while he would order from a catalogue. I learned during one visit that he was a stalwart Democrat and, I believe, a generous contributor to the party. I'm sure there were (as with so many of our colleagues) many aspects of his interests and personal history that I never knew. Perhaps others can expound on that.

After the death of Alice, a few years ago, he seemed to withdraw from the book world, little by little, naturally enough. Something of the spark went out of him. I always had the impression of great mutual affection between them, and sensed that theirs was a very loving marriage. Still, for a couple of years subsequent he issued an occasional catalogue (always with some interesting and sometimes unexpected books), and exhibited at the New York Book Fair. Latterly, I had heard nothing of him for a year or

so, and had been intending to stop by and see how he was doing when on my way down to New York City. I never got around to that, which I regret.

Like so many old friends from my first days in the trade, I'll think of him fondly from time to time.

*Ted Ripley-Duggan*

Harvey Brewer was a sweet and modest man and a generous mentor. I was a raw, raw rookie when I first visited Harvey and Alice in Closter, New Jersey, and I must have gasped when I saw his wall of books. There were so many of the wonderful books that I had heard about but had never seen before. I said, "Harvey, you've got great books." Typically, he answered: "These? These are my mistakes; if they were really good books they would have sold."

So long, Harvey.

*Ed Glaser*

## **James G. Davis** Los Angeles, California

James G. Davis was born on December 18, 1935, the son of Harold Cullen and Alice Butler Davis. Graduating from Willamette University in 1957, he worked briefly in publishing in New York City before returning to the Pacific northwest to take a master's degree in library science from the University of Washington.

In 1959, he was hired by Lawrence Clark Powell, director of the UCLA Library. He had various positions within the UCLA research libraries during his thirty-eight-year career there.

In 1983, Davis became Rare Books Librarian in the Department of Special Collections at UCLA. In this position he was strongly supported by the late Franklin D. Murphy, former head of the Times Mirror Company, a former chancellor of UCLA, and an influential advocate for its rare book collections. Dr Murphy was a trustee of the Ahmanson Foundation, which has made a large annual contribution to the UCLA library's acquisitions funds for many years.

Davis strengthened UCLA's collections in four principal areas: early Italian imprints (now known as the Ahmanson-Murphy Collections), historical children's books, Victorian fiction, and Californiana. As Rare Books Librarian he was responsible for many notable rare book exhibitions at UCLA during his fifteen-year tenure in the post. Upon his retirement in December 1997, the UCLA library established an endowed fund in his honor to support rare book acquisitions.

Beginning in the summer of 1986, Davis joined the professional staff of Rare Book School (RBS), a continuing education institute based first at Columbia University and, since 1993, at the University of Virginia. He returned to RBS each summer as both staff member and instructor. He was widely known and greatly liked by the American rare book community: by librarians, dealers, and collectors alike.

Davis was a member of the Zamarano and Rounce & Coffin Clubs of Los Angeles, the Grolier Club of New York City, and many bibliographical and bibliophile organizations. He is survived by his father, Harold Cullen Davis, of Salem, Oregon; a sister, Ruth Davis Tedder, of Issaquah, Washington; and a brother, Loyal Davis, of Olympia, Washington.

*Terry Belanger, University Professor  
University of Virginia Book Arts Press*

## **Kenneth M. Ramseur, III** Los Angeles, California

Kenneth M. Ramseur, III, a long-time associate of ABAA member George Houle, passed away after a brief illness on November 21, 1999, in Los Angeles. He was born May 12, 1933, in Statesville, North Carolina.

A service of memory was held for Mr. Ramseur at the Old North Church, Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Hollywood Hills, on November 29, 1999. He is entombed

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# In Memoriam

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in the Sanctuary of Salvation, The Courts of Remembrance, at Forest Lawn.

## Richard Rykken Guerneville, California

I have been asked to report the sad news that Dick Rykken of Rykken and Scull (ABAA/NCC) passed away on January 4, 2000. He was born in 1931.

Dick was one of the nicest people I had the pleasure to meet. He apparently died of heart failure.

Those who knew Dick will agree that he was one of the most unassuming people in our trade. He never really talked much about himself so it might come as a surprise for many to learn the following. Many knew that Dick had a law degree, but few knew that he held a Ph.D. in law. Dick flew a jet in the Korean War, and at one time he was the golf pro for the United States Air Force.

One last thing: I have been asked to relate that Dick did not wish any kind of memorial whatsoever. This message, then, will have to do. Dick will be missed. Nice people are always missed.

*Bob Haines, Jr.*

## Byra J. Wreden Menlo Park, California

Byra J. Wreden, a cultural volunteer leader, particularly known for her long commitment and dedication to the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries, died early Wednesday morning, March 1, at Stanford Hospital from pneumonia. She was eighty-five years old.

Mrs. Wreden was born in Spokane, Washington, to Victor Brower and Florence McEachran Smith on January 25, 1915. As a child she moved with her family to San Francisco. She often visited her grandmother, whose reading helped develop Mrs. Wreden's own lifelong interest in reading and books. As the only girl candidate in her grade school, she ran and was elected president of her class. In the late 1920s her family

settled in Hillsborough, where she attended Burlingame High School and San Mateo Junior College.

On August 1, 1936 she married William P. Wreden at St. Paul's Church in Burlingame. On their honeymoon, stopping in Los Angeles, Mr. Wreden bought a collection of books which led to the start of his antiquarian book business, William P. Wreden Books & Manuscripts. In 1938, Mrs. Wreden accompanied her husband on the first of many book-buying trips to Europe, and Mr. Wreden opened his first bookshop. From its beginning Mrs. Wreden played an active role in her husband's business, from bookkeeping to being a hostess to an endless and fascinating stream of booksellers, collectors, and librarians. On one occasion in 1957 Mrs. Wreden and her husband were hosts to over 150 bookmen in the garden of their Atherton home for a Japanese Bansan Buffet, catered by the noted Yamato of San Francisco, for the Rare Books Pre-Conference of the American Library Association held at Stanford.

Mrs. Wreden had many interests besides books. In the 1950s, through her daughters, she began collecting dolls, and later joined and became president of the San Francisco Doll Club. She helped organize a United Federation as well as a concurrent special exhibition of dolls at the DeYoung Museum.

Mrs. Wreden served as a president of the San Francisco Garden Club in the 1960s. Her love of flower arranging and Japan led her to become a founding member and president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Ikebana International. She served as a delegate to the first convention of Ikebana International in Japan in the 1970s.

A member and president of the Strybing Arboretum Society in Golden Gate Park, she helped organize the fund-raising and building of the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture there in the early 1970s.

It was as a founding member, chair, and longtime board member of the Associates of the Stanford University Libraries that Mrs. Wreden's creativity, generosity, and leadership reached their

greatest heights. Dubbed "Lady ASUL" in a 1990 profile, she esteemed the late William J. Monihan, S. J., of the Gleeson Library of the University of San Francisco, as a particular mentor in her own work at Stanford. She often organized joint book tours and trips for the associates of both the Gleeson and Stanford Libraries. As recently as 1997 she organized and led one of many remarkably successful literary tours, in this case a two-week Charles Dickens tour to London, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight. Even last year, when health prevented her from traveling, she prevailed upon Stanford professor and author Peter Stanisky and others to help organize and lead a successful William Morris to Bloomsbury literary tour of England.

In recognition of her many accomplishments in the book world, Mrs. Wreden was elected a Fellow of the Gleeson Library Associates of the University of San Francisco in 1985 and given the Warren R. Howell Award for excellence in the world of books by Stanford University in 1997. She has also been honored by the Kennedy Library at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo for both her and her husband's many contributions there.

Predeceased by her husband in 1995, she is survived by her sister, Betty J. Buckwalter of Palo Alto, and her brother, Justus K. Smith of Jarrettsville, Maryland; three sons: William, Jr., of Berkeley; Douglas of Santa Margarita, and Phillip of Whitefish, Montana; two daughters, Paula Campbell of San Luis Obispo, and Denise Wreden of Arcata; thirteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and her companion of recent years, Christopher E. Elliott, of Concord.

A memorial service was held on April 15, 2000 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park. Contributions for a library fund in memory of Byra J. Wreden may be made to Stanford University, Memorial Gifts, 301 Encina Hall, Stanford, CA 94305-6076.

*William P. Wreden, Jr.* ■



# Library of Congress Celebrates Bicentennial with Major Exhibition on Thomas Jefferson

*The bicentennial anniversary of the foundation of The Library of Congress was celebrated on April 24 of this year.*

*Numerous events are planned over the next twelve months, but the most important and most relevant to members of the ABAA is the exhibition of the Jefferson Library that members of the Rare Book and Special Collections Division have been working on for two years. It is also relevant because so many American and European dealers were involved, whether they knew it or not, in finding titles that were not in the stacks of LC. Mary O'Neal is especially prominent among this group.*

*I had the good fortune to come to The Library of Congress as this project was being pulled together and the privilege of working for many hours with Jefferson's books. Handling Jefferson's copy of the Laws of Virginia (Williamsburg, 1723) or his editions of Burke, Coke, Blackstone, and Montesquieu has been amazing, to say the least. Finding his copies of the Report of the Trial of Aaron Burr and Franklin's An Historical Review of the Constitution and Government of Pennsylvania (London, 1759) have become everyday occurrences. All these books have his familiar initials at signatures "J" and "T", which gives an immediacy to both the content and the physical object. Being a witness to the scope of Jefferson's interests by working with his books and learning the organization of his library has given me a new appreciation of the man and The Library of Congress.*

*I encourage all of you who are visiting Washington over the next six months to take advantage of this opportunity. You will not be disappointed.*

*Daniel De Simone, Curator  
Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection*

The keystone for the Bicentennial celebrations of the Library of Congress is an exhibition about the Library's very own "founding father," Thomas Jefferson,

whose personal library of 6,487 books was the seed from which the nation's library grew. Congress purchased Jefferson's library after its own collections, housed in the U.S. Capitol, were burned by the British in 1814.

That library—the original volumes that came to Washington in carts from Monticello—will be a major feature of the "Thomas Jefferson" exhibition. Because of another fire, this in the Library in 1851, many of those original books had been lost. Spurred by a very generous donation of Jerry and Gene Jones as a Bicentennial "Gift to the Nation," the Library has been reassembling copies of the same editions of the works that Jefferson held. The reconstituted Jefferson's library should be more than ninety percent complete at the time of the exhibition opening on April 24.

The display of Jefferson's books as part of this exhibition will be the first time ever that the public will be able to view his library. It is also the first time that the volumes have been assembled in one place in the original order that Jefferson himself devised since the collection came to Washington in 1815. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to tell which volumes were owned by Jefferson and sold to Congress in 1815, which volumes were recently identified and pulled from the Library's general collections, which have been recently purchased, and which are still missing.

"Thomas Jefferson" will be on view in the Northwest Gallery and Pavilion of the Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street S.E., from April 24 through October 31. Hours for the exhibition are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday- Saturday.

Items from the exhibition are available on the Library of Congress Web site at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov), and by April 24 the Library's entire collection of Jefferson Papers (more than 25,000 items) will be accessible on-line.

Thomas Jefferson—founding father, farmer, architect, inventor, slaveholder,

book collector, scholar, diplomat and third president of the United States—was a complex figure who contributed immeasurably to the creation of the new republicanism in America. Wherever Anglo-American culture has shaped political and intellectual developments, Jefferson is almost inevitably part of the mix. Drawing on the extraordinary written legacy of Thomas Jefferson that is held in the Library's collections, the exhibition traces Jefferson's development from his earliest days in Virginia to an ever-expanding realm of influence in republican Virginia, the American Revolutionary government, the creation of the American nation, the revolution in individual rights in America and the world, the revolution in France, and the burgeoning republican revolutionary movement throughout the world. Items borrowed from other institutions contribute to the exhibition's attempt to offer viewers a fully rounded portrait of the nation's third president.

The exhibition focuses on the complexities and contradictions of Thomas Jefferson, the man, the myth, the model. He was simultaneously an unquenchable idealist and a hardheaded realist. He deplored inequality among men, but owned slaves, supported servitude, and relegated women to a secondary role. He supported freedom of the press until his own foibles and politics became the focus. He was a firm believer in the separation of church and state, but he was often accused of being anti-Christian. He expounded the virtues of public education, ensured that his own daughters were well educated, and founded a public university at Charlottesville, but he assumed that access to higher education would be strictly limited. His life embodies the public and private struggles of life in a democratic republic.

Some 150 items in the eight sections will illustrate and provide a context for

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# Library of Congress

continued from front page

the life and character of Thomas Jefferson. The final and ninth section will be the reassembled “Jefferson Library.” Visitors to the exhibition will see such items as the only surviving fragment of the earliest known draft of the Declaration of Independence as well as the desk on which he composed the Declaration; Martha Jefferson’s thread case; Jefferson’s instructions to Lewis and Clark; political cartoons of the day lampooning Jefferson; and the last letter that Thomas Jefferson wrote to the mayor of the city of Washington just ten days before he died, espousing his vision of the Declaration of Independence and the American nation as signals of the blessings of self-government to an ever-evolving world.

“Life and Labor at Monticello” examines how Jefferson’s family, his era, education, role as plantation master and slaveholder, and his love and use of books influenced his character and the formation of his ideas on individual and institutional rights and limits. Items include:

- Thomas Jefferson’s Memorandum Book, 1773, where he kept detailed records on his expenditures including the purchase of slaves
- Plantation account books kept by Jefferson’s wife and then his granddaughter, recording purchases made from Monticello slaves, especially the Hemings family, for vegetables and fowl from the slave families’ own flocks and gardens
- The 1873 memoir by Madison Hemings published in the *Pike County (Ohio) Republican*, who testified that his mother, Sally Hemings, gave birth to five children “and Jefferson was the father of them all.”
- Letters Jefferson exchanged in 1791 with Benjamin Banneker, a free black living in Maryland, in which Jefferson praised Banneker’s mathematical accomplishment (“no body wishes more than I do to see such proofs as you exhibit, that nature has given to

our black brethren, talents equal to those of the other colors of men...”) as well as with Abbé Henri Gregoire in 1809 trying to explain why he asserted the inferiority of African Americans in his *Notes on the State of Virginia* published in 1785

- Letter written by Thomas Jefferson to John Adams in 1815 in which he says, “I cannot live without books, but fewer will suffice where amusement, and not use, is the only future object.”

The exhibition continues by demonstrating the expanding influence of Jefferson on American life and his interest in creating a culture based on republican principles—first in his own state of Virginia, then on the federal scene with his drafting of the Declaration of Independence and his election to the presidency in 1800. On view are:

- One of the nation’s greatest treasures—Jefferson’s “original Rough draught” of the Declaration of Independence. The “Rough draught” is the final draft presented by Jefferson to his fellow committee members and indicates changes made by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.
- Fragment of the earliest known draft of the Declaration of Independence in Jefferson’s hand
- An 1806 document in President Jefferson’s hand calling upon Congress to end the practice of importing slaves as soon as permitted by the U.S. Constitution in 1808
- *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1785, the only book ever published by Thomas Jefferson

“The West” explores Thomas Jefferson’s persistent fascination with the vast part of the continent that lay beyond Virginia—an area he never saw—and his conviction that the new nation had to expand westward in order to survive. A highlight is Jefferson’s instructions to the explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark before they set out to map and explore the Western territories with their Corps of Discovery in 1803. Visitors can also see a Nicholas King manuscript map documenting the Lewis

and Clark expedition that is annotated by Lewis with information from fur traders and Native Americans.

The influence of Jefferson’s republican ideas was felt far beyond America, especially in France, his first experience on the world stage beyond America. He became an ardent supporter of the French revolution and often consulted with Lafayette during the drafting of the French Declaration of the Rights of Man. In a July 9, 1789, letter to Jefferson, Lafayette asked him for his “observations” on “my bill of rights” before presenting it to the National Assembly. On view in the exhibition is a manuscript copy of the French Declaration written in a clerical hand, with emendations in the hand of Thomas Jefferson. Also in the exhibition is the 1789 passport that Thomas Jefferson used upon his return from France, signed by King Louis XVI.

The exhibition concludes with “Epitaph: Take Care of Me,” which reviews Jefferson’s own evaluation of the meaning of his life and his thoughts about how he would be viewed by history. Key items here are:

- A sketch and wording for Jefferson’s tombstone, in his own hand
- A letter explaining his position on slavery, written just six weeks before his death
- A letter to Jefferson from his granddaughter, Ellen Randolph Coolidge, despairing of the “canker of slavery” that oppresses the Southern states
- A newspaper account of the sale of Jefferson’s slaves by his heirs in order to pay off estate debts

A volume accompanying the exhibition, *Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty*, includes an introduction by Garry Wills and essays by Jefferson scholars Pauline Maier, Charles A. Miller, Annette Gordon-Reed, Peter S. Onuf and Joseph J. Ellis. Published by Viking Studio, the hardcover volume is highly illustrated with mostly color images and sells for \$35. It is available in major bookstores and from the Library’s Sales Shops; order with major credit card by calling (202) 707-0204. ■

## Dewitt Stern Group Announces Changes

Dewitt Stern Group is pleased to announce that Zurich-American Insurance Company now underwrites our ABAA Insurance Program. In our continuous effort to provide the ABAA membership with superior insurance brokerage service, we at DeWitt Stern Group have solicited proposals from the most qualified fine art and collectible insurance underwriters to ensure that our clients receive the broadest coverages and most competitive premiums.

Zurich is a leading international insurance carrier with excellent knowledge and ability to insure fine art and collectibles. Underwriting expertise and flexibility combined with depth and breadth of coverage and superior claims handling service motivated our decision to move the program. Zurich's competent team of professionals is well poised to serve the insurance needs of the ABAA.

Effective April 1, 2000 all policies within the Travelers program will be renewed with Zurich-American Insurance Company as the renewal dates are reached. Those of you who were renewed with the Travelers prior to April 1, 2000 will continue to have coverage through that policy until it renews next year. Claims on these policies should also be submitted to the Travelers and of course send a copy to DeWitt Stern Group.

We continue to offer the broadest coverage available in the industry. In fact, one improvement is that Zurich has agreed to expand coverage under our program to include overseas transit coverage without charging an additional premium, and eliminating the need for year-end overseas sending reports.

Zurich is a very innovative company, and we are in discussions about launching other new products for fine art and collectible insurance dealers. We will keep you posted as to new products available in the near future. If you should have any questions, please call Catherine Torsney, DeWitt Stern Group Fine Art Dept. Manager at (212) 297-1494. ■

## Rare Book Course at Lilly Library

This July, the Indiana University Division of Continuing Studies and the Lilly Library will sponsor a weeklong course on rare books, "Reference Sources for Rare Books." This course will be taught at the Lilly Library on the Bloomington campus and will draw from the Lilly's collection of bibliographical resources, including a large reference collection and an extensive collection of rare books and manuscripts.

Scheduled for July 10-14, the course is intended for librarians (with or without rare books experience), researchers, collectors, and those in the antiquarian book trade. Participants will be introduced to the different uses of reference sources in working with rare books, an overview of some of the most useful general sources, and a detailed discussion of many of the principal reference works in specific fields. Elec-

tronic sources, as well as those in print, will be covered. Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions on the selection of sources, and practical experience.

Joel Silver, Director of Education for Special Collections in the School of Library and Information Sciences and Curator of Books at the Lilly, is the instructor.

Tuition is \$450 and includes all instructional materials and refreshment breaks. Housing, parking, and meals are not included. Enrollment is limited. The registration deadline is June 23.

For more information contact Jane Clay, Continuing Studies, 204 Owen Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; phone: 812-855-6329; fax: 812-856-5139; email: jclay@indiana.edu; Web site: [www.indiana.edu/~constu/refsources.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~constu/refsources.html) ■

## RBS Offers Summer Sessions

Rare Book School (RBS) is pleased to announce its June and July/August 2000 sessions. Each session offers a collection of five-day, non-credit courses on topics concerning rare books, manuscripts, and special collections. Students make a full-time commitment to any course they attend, from 8:30 am to 5 pm, Monday - Friday; most students also attend an informal dinner on the Sunday evening before their first class on Monday. In addition to the formal classes during the day, there will be early evening public lectures and other events throughout each week of RBS.

The educational and professional prerequisites for RBS courses vary. Some courses are primarily directed toward research librarians and archivists. Others are intended for academics, persons working in the antiquarian book trade, bookbinders and conservators, professional and avocational students of the history of books and printing, book collectors, and others with an interest in the subjects being treated.

The tuition for each five-day course is \$690. Air-conditioned dormitory housing

(about \$35/night) will be offered on the historic Central Grounds of the University, and nearby hotel accommodations are readily available. Students are encouraged to take advantage of RBS's housing to arrive a few days before their course, or stay a few days later, in order to give themselves (and their families) a better chance to explore the Charlottesville area, which includes many sites of historic, educational, and scenic interest as well as various vacation attractions.

For an application form and a copy of the RBS Expanded Course Descriptions (ECDs), providing additional details about the courses offered and other information about RBS, write Rare Book School, 114 Alderman Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22903-2498; fax 804/924-8824; email [oldbooks@virginia.edu](mailto:oldbooks@virginia.edu); or telephone 804/924-8851. Electronic copies of the application form and the Expanded Course Descriptions are available on the Internet Web site: [www.virginia.edu/oldbooks](http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks) ■

## ABAA Welcomes New Members

The ABAA *Newsletter* welcomes the following new members accepted at the last Board of Governors' meeting in April, 2000, in New York City:

**Nina W. Matheson**, William & Nina Matheson Books, Inc., PO Box 9494

Washington, DC 20016-9494; phone: 301/718-7911; fax: 301/718-7912; email: matheson@boo.net

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

**Mary McMichael Ritzlin**, George Ritzlin Maps & Prints, Highland Park, IL. ■

## Membership Updates

**Bookmine** is now conducting business solely on the Internet: Web site: [www.bookmine.com](http://www.bookmine.com); email: [books@bookmine.com](mailto:books@bookmine.com); mailing address: 4020 El Camino, Suite D2, Sacramento, CA 95821; phone: 916-441-4609; fax: 916-485-6772.

**Bowie and Company Booksellers** has an email correction: [bowiebks@isomedia.com](mailto:bowiebks@isomedia.com) or [taylorb@alibris.com](mailto:taylorb@alibris.com)

**Daniel De Simone** is now Curator, Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, The Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington, DC 20540-4740; phone: 202-707-3402; fax: 202-707-4142; email: [ddes@loc.gov](mailto:ddes@loc.gov)

**Rodger Friedman Rare Book Studio:** please note correct spelling of this new member's first name.

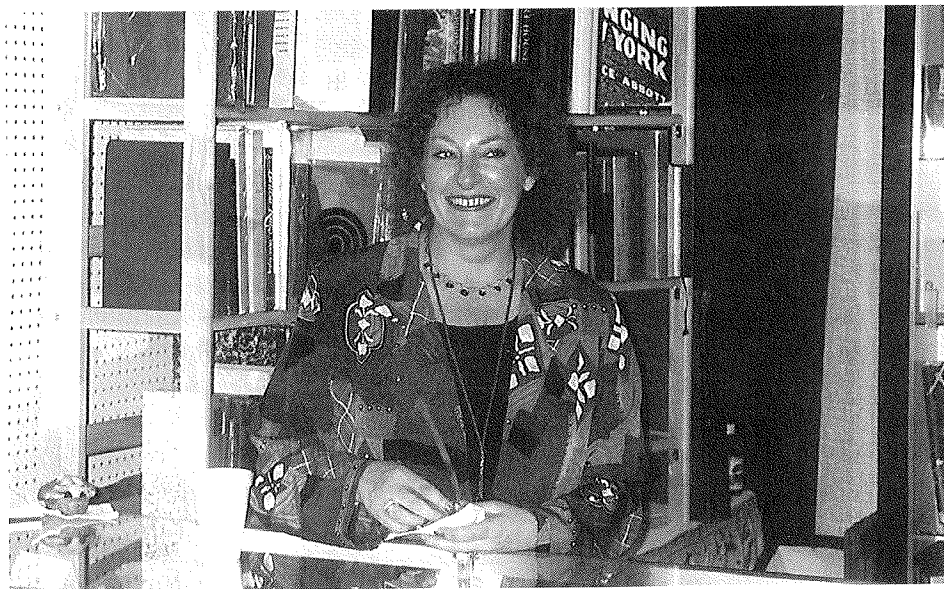
**Gail Klemm-Books** has a new address, phone, and fax: PO Box 518, Apple Valley, CA 92307; phone and fax: 760-242-5921.

**The Observatory** has a new email address: [deelong@alaska.com](mailto:deelong@alaska.com)

**A. Parker's Books** has an email correction: [aparkers@aol.com](mailto:aparkers@aol.com)

**Quill & Brush** has new email and Web site addresses: email: [firsts@qbbooks.com](mailto:firsts@qbbooks.com); Web site: [www.qbbooks.com](http://www.qbbooks.com)

**Vagabond Books** is now conducting business solely on the Internet and by appointment: Web site: [www.vagabondbooks.com](http://www.vagabondbooks.com); email: [vagabondbk@aol.com](mailto:vagabondbk@aol.com); phone: 310-442-BOOK. ■



Judy Cohen at the 2000 New York Book Fair.

The deadline for submissions to the next *Newsletter* is

July 1, 2000

Send your contributions to:  
**ABAA Newsletter**  
400 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
FAX: 651-290-0646  
EMAIL: [rulon@winternet.com](mailto:rulon@winternet.com)



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20 West 44th Street, Fourth Floor  
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PHONE: 212-944-8291  
FAX: 212-944-8293  
EMAIL: [lwade@abaa.org](mailto:lwade@abaa.org)  
[www.abaa.org](http://www.abaa.org)

EDITOR: Robert Rulon-Miller  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Greg Gibson,  
Tracy E. Smith & Liane Wade

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Send submissions and letters to:  
*ABAA Newsletter*  
400 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-2662 USA  
PHONE: (651) 290-0700  
FAX: (651) 290-0646  
EMAIL: [rulon@winternet.com](mailto:rulon@winternet.com)