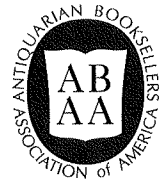


The A B A A NEWSLETTER



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ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SPRING 2004

INSIDE: *ABAA Hires New Co-Director.* By Chris Loker. PAGE 3

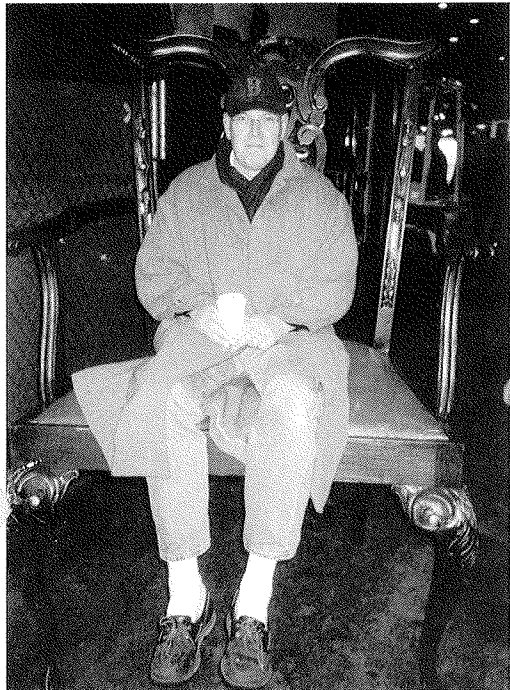
In Memoriam

Harvey Tucker New York, New York

In his thirty-fifth year as a bookseller, and in the sixth decade of a life imbued with genuine love for the words of poets and the creations of artists that extended far beyond the concerns of commerce, Harvey Tucker died on March 25, 2004, after a long and courageous battle with progressive supranuclear palsy.

A New Yorker in almost every (positive) sense of the word, Harvey was born in Brooklyn on October 3, 1941, and apart from book trips, an occasional vacation, and trips upstate with his wife Linda to their weekend home in Woodstock, he remained connected with the city and its surrounding region for most of his life. After high school—which included a stretch of serious dedication to weight lifting—Harvey attended Long Island University, where he earned a BA in English, and most importantly (Harvey would, I am sure, be most eager to emphasize) he met Linda. The year 1964 marked both his graduation and their marriage, the beginning of a life-long personal partnership and business collaboration.

Harvey taught at New Utrecht High School and other area high schools from 1964 through 1969, pursued graduate studies at City University of New York (Brooklyn College) from 1964 to 1967, and finished work on his Master's Degree in English in 1968. Evidently, these pursuits were simply not enough to keep him busy during this period. Somehow, he also found time to write. His play, *The Game*, was produced at the Coda Gallery, New



New chair of the New York Book Fair Committee, John Hellebrand, tests his ability to fill the seat.

For additional committee assignments instituted at the Annual Meeting held in April, 2004, please see page 2.

Literary Con Man: David George Holt

How Did a Soft-Spoken Loading Dock Supervisor from Milwaukee Turn a Genteel Industry on its Ear?

by David Jackson

Reprinted with permission from the Chicago Tribune, June 4, 2004.

Before he became an international con artist, Waukegan native David George Holt was a workaday loading dock supervisor at a Milwaukee chemical company. He showed his wild side by collecting Rod Stewart albums and growing his sideburns long.

Then, in the middle of a January night in 1991, the 48-year-old father of five walked out on his wife and family. Holt drained the bank account and pocketed \$95,000

more by forging his grandmother's signature on her U.S. savings bonds, federal court records and interviews show. He took off for the far side of the world.

Operating from a New Zealand apartment and a post office box in Latvia, Holt used Internet servers based in Russia to confect myriad aliases and swindle rare-book dealers from Chicago to Italy and England, records and interviews show.

In 1998, Holt was extradited to America and sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for stealing his grandmother's bonds in addition to a separate stock fraud. He never has been charged with the alleged swindles that book dealers call his signature business activity.

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Letters to the Editor

From: Barney Rosenthal
History repeats itself, sort of...

I noted with interest and a good dose of nostalgia that visitors to the gala opening of the New York Book Fair in April of this year were asked for a donation of \$150 for the privilege of arriving when the doors opened at 5:00 PM, and \$100 if they could be patient and wait until 6:30 PM. All proceeds, the announcement said, would be donated to the New York Public Library. A historical footnote may not be out of order.

Attendance at book fairs was gratis in the early years, until 1969, when the ABAA celebrated its twentieth anniversary with a fair at the Biltmore Hotel in New York. The Board of Governors set the fee for the opening evening at \$3.50 and \$1.00 for the other days. There was quite a bit of opposition to the whole idea of an entrance fee until Richard Wormser suggested that, to make it palatable to the public as well as to the booksellers who opposed it, all proceeds should go to the

New York Public Library, and the ticket buyers could deduct it as a charitable donation. Brilliant.

At the festive anniversary dinner which followed the fair I was proud to present a check for \$3,028 to Edward Freehafer, director of the New York Public Library, who showed his appreciation by presenting the ABAA with a miniature reproduction of the NYPL lions. I hope they're still at 20 West 44th Street, not far from the originals...

ABAA Committee Assignments 2004–2005

Executive

John Crichton, Pres.
Forrest Proper, VP
David Lilburne, Sec.
R. Rulon-Miller, Tres.
Ed Smith
Ken Sanders

Benevolent Fund/Woodburn

Ken Lopez, Chair
Tom Congleton
John Crichton

Book Fair

Rob Rulon-Miller, Chair
Brad Jonas
Susan Dixon
2 representatives from each chapter book fair committee

By-Laws

Sarah Baldwin, Chair
Stuart Bennett
Rob Rulon-Miller
Mary Gilliam

Ethics and Standards

Stuart Bennett, Chair
Ben Weinstein
Forrest Proper
Rob Rulon-Miller
John Hellebrand
David Lesser
Larry Fox, Counsel

Finance

Rob Rulon-Miller, Chair
Tom Goldwasser
Michael Vinson

House

David Lilburne, Chair
Chris Loker
Liane Wade

ILAB Representative

Bob Fleck

ILAB Congress 2006

John Spencer, Chair
David Lilburne
Bob Fleck
Tom Congleton
Bruce McKitterick
Jack Freas
Susan Dixon

Insurance

David Lilburne

Internet

Tom Goldwasser, Co-Chair
Forrest Proper, Co-Chair
John Hellebrand
Tracy Smith
Michael Vinson
Andrew Armacost
Susan Dixon

Membership

David Lilburne, Chair
Stuart Bennett
Tom Goldwasser
Forrest Proper
Ben Weinstein
Michael Vinson

Nominating

Ken Lopez, Chair
Tom Congalton
Sarah Baldwin
Ken Sanders
A representative from each chapter

Planning

John Crichton, Chair
Others TBA

Public Relations & Advertising

Ed Smith, Chair
Sarah Baldwin
David Lilburne
Susan Dixon

Publications

Brad Jonas, Chair
Rob Rulon-Miller
Tracy Smith
Greg Gibson
Susan Dixon

RBMS

Sarah Baldwin, Chair
Mary Gilliam
Vic Zoschak
Howard Rootenberg
Susan Dixon

Security

Ken Sanders, Chair
David Lesser
Dan Gregory
Susan Dixon

ABAA Hires Executive Co-Director

by Chris Loker

This is an official, warm welcome to the new leadership “team of two” in our ABAA offices in New York: Executive Co-Directors Susan Dixon and Liane Wade.

Most of you know Liane Wade well. She has been the administrative “voice,” and the backbone of our Manhattan office, for the better part of twenty years. We take this opportunity to thank Liane heartily for her steady, evenhanded stewardship of the Association office in her past role.

We also extend a heart-felt hand of welcome to the new addition to our ABAA executive staff, Susan Dixon. Susan, who began work on June 1, 2004, also is known to many of us. She comes to the ABAA from her recent position as Director, Art Fairs and Advertising, at Sanford Smith and Associates, the promoter of our New York book fair. Most of us, if we’ve exhibited at the New York Antiquarian Book Fair, are already familiar with Susan’s honed skills in helping us to navigate the aisles of the Park Avenue Armory as smoothly as possible, come heat, cold, leaks, or any of the other vagaries of that venue.

Susan joined us last month after we’d undertaken a rigorous job search process. Her hiring was the result of much work by members of the Job Search Committee: John Crichton, President of the ABAA; Ken Lopez, Past President of the ABAA; David Lilburne, Chair of the House Committee, ABAA Board of Governors; Liane Wade, Job Search Committee Advisor; and Chris Loker, Human Resources Advisor to the ABAA. This committee was created to find the best fit for the position of Executive Co-Director of the ABAA.

To make a long story somewhat short, we’ve listed below the steps that we took in the search process to locate, interview, and hire our new executive staff member. During the last three months, we:

- Drafted a detailed Executive Co-Director job description.
- Posted the job description on Exlibris, and also provided it via email to all members of the ABAA.
- Received, and reviewed closely, eleven resumes sent from candidates interested in the job.
- Invited six qualified candidates to visit our offices during New York Book Fair week for a “team interview” with the Job Search Committee.
- Deliberated in depth on the qualifications of all interviewed candidates, and conducted appropriate reference checks.
- Offered the position to the final candidate, Susan Dixon.

During the selection process, the Job Search Committee talked with many fine job applicants, and with a number of our ABAA members for their input into the hiring deliberations. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of those individuals for their time, interest, and assistance.

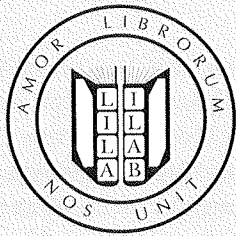
Now that Susan has started her new position, let’s look briefly at the roles and responsibilities she shares with Liane. As Executive Co-Directors, Susan and Liane both will have accountability for the smooth, effective, “client services-oriented” functioning of our Association. They will work together as a team, insuring that members, and prospective members, receive the information and support they need from the ABAA. Within the scope of their shared position, Susan and Liane will focus individually on separate areas of this general accountability. Specifically, Liane will focus on the administrative, office management, and special project aspects of the job. Susan will focus on current project / program management, and on new project / program development and implementation. Together,

however, they will be accountable for the following tasks:

- Establishing an ongoing public relations campaign for the Association.
- Developing a uniform “brand” for the ABAA name and logo.
- Promoting the ABAA.org website.
- Editing the ABAA *Newsletter* and website.
- Developing advertising initiatives.
- Proofing publications and other printed materials issued by the Association.
- Centralizing security information; and posting security announcements about frauds, forgeries and thefts.
- Assisting the Security Committee in pursuing the involvement of law enforcement in the investigations of frauds, forgeries and thefts.
- Establishing a series of public events to promote the Association, and coordinating events with other organizations.
- Coordinating and working on annual Association book fairs.
- Working with legal and financial counsel of the Association.
- Expanding member services in the areas of insurance, shipping, office supplies, etc., and negotiating agreements with vendors.

As you can see, Susan and Liane have an important job and are there to provide the support and services available to you from the ABAA. If you need their assistance or would like simply to welcome them to their new roles, please feel free to phone them at (212) 944-8291 or email them at sdixon@abaa.org (Susan) and hq@abaa.org (Liane). ■

- ing
- Created a Job Search Committee.
 - Designed an inclusive job posting process, as well as an objective interview process.



ILAB Book Fairs

2004

October 15-17

Melbourne, Australia (ILAB)
Royal Exhibition Building

November 12-14

Rome, Italy (ALAI)
Palazzo Venezia

November 19-21

Boston, MA (ABAA)
Hynes Convention Center

2005

January 21-23

Stuttgart, Germany (VDA)
Württembergischer Kunstverein

February 18-20

San Francisco, CA (ABAA)
Concourse Exhibition Centre

March 4-6

Zurich, Switzerland (VEBUKU)
Art Museum Zurich

April 28-May 1

New York, NY (ABAA)
Park Avenue Armory

June 2-5

London, England (ABA)
Olympia Exhibition Center

ABAA Offers Scholarships for ILAB Congress in Melbourne

The Board of Governors and Officers of the ABAA are pleased to announce that the ABAA is sponsoring two scholarships for ABAA members to attend the ILAB Congress in Melbourne, Australia, October 8-17, 2004.

The scholarship will provide \$1,000 towards round trip airfare, the entire fee for the ILAB Congress, October 8-13, and free participation in the ABAA booth at the ILAB Book Fair October 15-17. Airfare expenses above \$1,000.00, lodging and shipping of books to the book fair will be the responsibility of the recipient.

Recipients are expected to exhibit their books as part of the ABAA booth at the ILAB Book Fair and to participate in setting up, manning and packing up of the ABAA booth with other members during the full three days of the ILAB book fair. Recipients will also be asked to write about their ILAB Congress experience for the ABAA Newsletter.

Requirements

The scholarships are open to full members of the ABAA who have not previ-

ously participated in an ILAB Congress and who have not registered for the Melbourne Congress.

Applicants must write a brief essay of approximately 250 words describing why they think they are deserving of the scholarship, and what contributions they will make by attending the Congress and participating in the Book Fair.

Please submit the essay by July 15 either by email to sdixon@abaa.org, or to ABAA headquarters at 20 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. Applications will be reviewed and recipients awarded by the Executive Committee of the ABAA. Scholarship recipients will be announced by August 1. All applications except those awarded scholarships will be kept confidential.

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers, our hosts for the 2004 ILAB Congress, have generously contributed to the ABAA scholarships by reducing the Congress fees for scholarship recipients. ■

Send Your Books Down Under!


You may not be participating in the ILAB Congress and Book Fair in Australia this October, but a selection of your books can!

Members are invited and encouraged to participate in the ABAA co-op booth at the ILAB Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

Booksellers may send up to 15 books to be offered for sale in the booth that will be managed by ABAA members.

More info will be forthcoming. Please contact Co-Executive Director Susan Dixon, 212-944-8291. fax 212-944-8293, or via email at sdixon@abaa.org.

ABAA at Book Expo America, Chicago, June 4–6

 by Ed Smith

The ABAA Public Relations Committee, which I chair, figured having a booth at Book Expo America, the book fair for new books held in Chicago, June 4–6, was a no-brainer. Booksellers and librarians attend, and this year over 25,000 showed up. Many of them visited the ABAA booth, where they could pick up copies of the *Directory* and ABAA dealers' catalogues, ABAA t-shirts and caps, ABAA bookmarks and brochures, and a few copies of our documentary film, *Bibliomania*.

Of the dealer catalogues, Oak Knoll was most recognized, followed by Ken Lopez; we also had catalogues from Roy W. Clare, Ed Smith, Quill & Brush, Second Life Books, Philadelphia Rare Books & Manuscripts, Bromer, Bookworm & Silverfish, and Parmer Books. We left the Expo empty handed: all ABAA directories, bookmarks, and brochures, as well as caps and shirts were consumed by the attendees; all dealer catalogues were snapped up—forty boxes altogether! I also delivered a directory to each booth.

The event was held at McCormick Place in Chicago, one of the few cities that can easily handle large conventions. Bill Clinton was the main speaker. His hour-long speech filled the 3000-seat auditorium and at least 3000 people who could not get in watched the presentation on big screens outside the hall.

Book Expo America, a trade show closed to the public, was a great event for the ABAA. We reached all the librarians and also booksellers, both new and used (a surprising number of these). Most of the public was delighted to see the ABAA have a booth, and there was great interest in those seeing our booth, and handouts, for the first time. ABE Books was a few aisles over from the ABAA booth, and we were both sending attendees back and forth. The ABAA had a corner booth by the University Press booths, a really good location with lots of traffic. We could not have done this fair without the help of Tom Joyce, who stockpiled all boxes and then drove us and the boxes down to McCormick Place. He deserves our heart-

felt thanks for all his work. Florence Shay also came and helped out in the booth, which we greatly appreciated. At the same time in Chicago, there was the Printers Row Book Fair. The *Chicago Tribune* took this fair over two years ago, and this was the twentieth consecutive fair held on this site. Over a million people attended this fair over the weekend. It is held outdoors (with plastic at the ready) but under fair skies this year. June 4–6 proved to be a major book event weekend in Chicago.

The ABA announced during the show that sales of consumer books was up 6.3%, religious books rose a stunning 37%, and E-books grew 45% (though that was from a tiny beginning base, and after all, E-books are never returned while mass market books were returned at a rate of 41% of sales). Adult hardcover and adult mass market books, together more than half the consumer market, were flat. Most books still are sold by bookstores, while adult mass market and religious books are sold mostly to retail chain and big box stores. But 26% of religious books are distributed directly to the consumer.

What did we hope to accomplish for the ABAA with this booth at Book Expo? Recognition, name recognition, which was also helped by the fact the ABAA was the only exhibitor there who sold used and rare books, maps, and prints. There were, in all, 2000 exhibitors at Book Expo. Each person stopping by the booth had an interest in either antiquarian or rare books, prints or maps. The majority who stopped didn't just grab a *Directory* or catalogue and run; they lingered to talk about books, wanting to know more. I was pleasantly surprised to learn of the great interest in maps. Also, I was surprised to see foreign booksellers and book people there, from every country you can name. Film types were there buying up film rights. Librarians came in droves, and all wanted a directory, saying they always had to refer people to a place that had antiquarian books, prints, maps, and rare books.

We recognized many, many booksellers and buyers of rare books attending the

fair, including some of our own members. Stopping by the booth were Fred Bass (The Strand), Michael Powell (Powell's in Portland), Wonder Books, Bob Brown, Bill Leone, a fellow who worked for King's Books in Detroit who told me about a huge stained glass window for sale of a saint reading a book, a South African bookseller who wants to join ILAB (he has 21 other member dealers), a used bookseller in El Paso who was there offering to sell 30,000 used books, and Dickens bibliographer John Podeschi. I started keeping track of used booksellers who stopped by, making marks on a sheet, but so many visited I soon lost track. I also spoke to a person who is resurrecting *AB Bookman's Weekly* book auction form at < www.CollectorsBookAuction.com >. A banker from Bank of America, specifically the "program manager," stopped by to offer the ABAA, as an organization, a special credit card processing rate. (Treasurer Rob Rulon-Miller is now following up on this.)

All types of magazines and review papers were at Book Expo, including the *Bloomsbury Review* and about twenty others. So many authors stopped by for a directory, including James Dalessandro, who wrote the screenplay for his book, *1906 Earthquake*, a 200 million dollar disaster film now being produced. By the way, over 200 authors were signing books at this event. Disney executives in suits were picking up directories and dealer catalogues, librarians from Iowa, and Illinois, and New Mexico, and New York, and all over were talking about hard to find books, maps, and prints. I could go on and on. It was a great event, a major book event, for all of us who love and deal in books and the like. Did I mention the weather was perfect? I also got a close-up view of Wrigley Field and the statue of Harry Carey out front. I also loved shooting down the red line to the site each morning (on the train). Lastly, being from the Seattle area, I was surprised to find the best coffee I ever had at

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In Memoriam

continued from front page

York, in 1964. Literally hundreds of his poems appeared in little magazines, including *El Corno Empulmado*, *South & West*, *Penumbra*, *Wild Dog*, *Symbolica*, *Ann Arbor Review*, and *Dust*, to name just a few of the better-known periodicals. And, leaving aside anthology contributions, over a dozen separate publications or collections of his poetry appeared beginning in the late 1960s: *Revelations and Doubts* (1967), *Extinct Faces* (1968), *Obscured Chronologies* (1968), *The Insignificant Angel* (1968), *And Where Does the Circle End Beginning* (1968),; *The Destruction of Trinities* (1968), *Sedna Hill (The Infant Years)* (1968), *Dream Songs* (1968), *The Mask & Other Poems* (1968), *The Dwarf's Hump* (1969), *Pieces of the Clock* (1969), and *Pauses* (1987).

Harvey was a founder and coordinator of The New Generation of Poets, a non-profit literary organization dedicated to the promotion of the arts in local communities. He participated, during season 1966–7, in thirty-five programs at various branches of the Brooklyn Public Library, and during season 1967–8, over fifty programs at Brooklyn Public Library, New York Public Library, the Donnell Library Center, and elsewhere. He helped orga-

Smith

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Meinl's, at the corner of Addison and Southport, Wrigleyville, Chicago.

Finally, this event gave booksellers an opportunity to "hand-sell" their books, and this was no different for the ABAA. The ABAA *Directory* is a powerful tool and along with our member catalogues, drove home even more the diversity of our organization. Next year Book Expo America will be at the Javits in New York City, and I think the ABAA should be there once again, promoting our organization in an environment that can lead to sales and nothing but goodwill and name recognition for our organization as a whole, not to mention our website. ■

nize a poetry-writing workshop at the Brooklyn Public Library in January 1968 and coordinated and participated in readings at St. Mark's Church, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn Public Library, WBAI Radio, the Five Spot Café, and Group 212, as well as a series of joint readings with his friend, the poet Diane Wakoski.

In 1964, Harvey founded the Black Sun Press and its associated periodical. Through the spring of 1969, the press published over a dozen books and, I believe, at least six or seven issues of *Black Sun* magazine. In 1969, in a supplement to *Works: A Quarterly of New Writing* (Volume II, no.1) comprised of statements by the principals of a dozen or so significant small presses and checklists of their publications, Harvey announced the imminent suspension of Black Sun Press and the birth of The Pierrepont Press (named after Linda and Harvey's street in Brooklyn), with a first list of nine titles, including books by Cid Corman, Larry Eigner, Clayton Eshleman, Michael McClure, Jackson Mac Low, Norman Rosten, Jerome Rothenberg, and Diane Wakoski. McClure's *Lion Fight* was duly published in 1969, but unfortunately, the printer Harvey and Linda had contracted to produce their books shut down, at a point when several of the next titles in the first series were in the middle of production. Only by chance did they rescue the few extant copies of Harvey's collection, *Pieces of the Clock*, and a handful of fragmentary copies of Cid Corman's *Nigh* from the pile of curbside refuse. Several of the titles that were scheduled to appear as Pierrepont Press publications were eventually published in later years, though under other imprints.

Harvey's activities in small press publishing and the milieu of New York poetry at the time brought him into contact with the Phoenix Bookshop's Bob Wilson, who placed Harvey's manuscripts and the Black Sun archives in the Avant Garde Collection at the Fales Library, New York University. Under Wilson's mentorship, Harvey learned the basics of book-collecting, and after learning that some of the books he'd acquired over the years, which he had formerly just given away to

friends and colleagues, might actually be worth money, he set about learning the basics of bookselling as well.

In 1969, Harvey and Linda founded Black Sun Books at their Pierrepont Street address in Brooklyn. After a busy year acquiring inventory, in 1970 they issued the first of a series that now, after three and a half decades, extends to over 150 catalogues of literary first editions, manuscripts, original art works, *livres d'artiste*, press books, and rare books in a variety of fields, all representative of Harvey and Linda's growing interests and areas of expertise. Concurrently, because of his poetry, Harvey was offered an academic post in Illinois as poet-in-residence, but in light of their growing book business, and Linda and Harvey's personal and family ties to New York, he declined the offer. In 1972, Harvey and Linda joined the ABAA and ILAB, as well as the Manuscript Society, and moved from Brooklyn to Manhattan, setting up shop at what became over the next few years the famed booksellers' center of New York City, 667 Madison Ave. When the building sheltering that nexus of bookselling talent fell victim to the forces of Manhattan redevelopment in the late 1980s, Black Sun Books relocated, first to Sixtieth Street for a period of three years and then to its continuing location, at Harvey and Linda's home on East Fifty-Seventh Street.

It's likely of little interest to this newsletter's readership for me to record the details of my personal indebtedness to Harvey as a friend and colleague. This indebtedness is considerable and dates as far back as *Black Sun Books Catalogue 6* (the first book catalogue I received and ordered from, as a neophyte collector), through Harvey and Linda's generosity in making possible the acquisition of the first significant item for my Yeats collection at a time when it was clearly beyond the limits of my budget, and on through any number of joint ventures over the last two decades.

I'd prefer, instead, to say just a few words about Harvey's interests outside the realm of bookselling that might not be generally known to his colleagues, though any attempt to compile a list of

these interests is doomed to overlook some, if not many things, if only because they were so numerous and varied. I can comment on those I knew about or in some cases, was fortunate enough to participate in or witness in some fashion. But whatever the field, above all else, I must report that once one of those interests had captured Harvey's attention, it stood a good chance of becoming a passion. For in all of these pursuits, Harvey was largely, if not completely, self-taught, and on occasion, he became almost an unstoppable force in his search for the information, resources, and paraphernalia associated with his new interest, whether it be bench-rest or trap shooting, classical music and opera, photography, gardening, or woodworking—and there are several more that would qualify just as much for mention were my time and space unlimited.

The trips to their weekend house in Woodstock offered the perfect venue for Harvey's gardening and woodworking, and I suspect that his transition from bench-rest shooting, a pastime it is possible to pursue in Manhattan to a limited extent, to trap-shooting was in response to the enjoyment Harvey and Linda had participating in the Woodstock sporting community, with its preference for shooting at moving things over shooting at stationary targets. And when photography edged out gunning in Harvey's life, Woodstock and environs again provided the natural background of his subjects of choice, chief among them meticulously composed close-up studies of floral life.

Harvey's relatively early adoption of, and fascination with, computers for business and personal purposes opened up a new mode for his quest for the *exact* information he needed to decide which lens, which turntable, which shotgun, which software, which whatever fit best his exact needs at any given point. I suspect that Harvey's billings for CompuServe (CIS) usage back in the late 1980s and early 1990s went a long way



Harvey Tucker

toward keeping that online service vital for as long as it survived in its original form. If there was a CIS forum that somehow related to something that engaged Harvey, he was an active participant in it, long before the more formal and structured original format of that online service had been supplanted by the broader chaos that now struggles along in its place.

But even then, there was room for Harvey's own form of structured chaos: early on in my own adoption of computers for home use, and without much in the way of explanation, Harvey urged me to sign into a subsection of the CIS Support Forum for a now defunct accounting/investment program. When I finally did, after some delay—I recall connection charges were then in the neighborhood of eight or nine dollars an hour—I found what was already many months of long-running threads of postings by Harvey, engaged in dialogue with a small, disparate group of widely scattered, occasionally bewildered individuals with whom he was spontaneously holding forth, in prose, poetry, parody, and satire, on subjects ranging from daily events to politics to economics to literature and the arts to... well, you name it. Though it was clear from his ID that the writer was consistently

Harvey, he had discovered a means to alter his user's name to create a seemingly endless cast of character names, each chosen to match the particular point of view he wished to project in his postings on a given topic or for a period of time—easy enough to do now, but something of an innocent online novelty then, in those pre-“chat room,” pre-blogging days. For a couple of years I followed the threads in this subsection, engaged as a participant, occasionally as a foil of sorts, and often as an interpreter of the extemporaneous, often wickedly funny brilliance Harvey posted at odd and pre-dawn hours. At times, I was barely able to keep up with just reading the volume of his postings, let alone consistently reply in kind to his post-

ings and those of the other members who hung out there. To my great regret, I did not have the foresight to archive and preserve that material, now lost, for it was clear that in this obscure corner of the developing digital world, Harvey, a poet of the '60s and beyond, had discovered a new voice—in fact, several new voices—and a new audience.

Many of those who knew Harvey as a colleague, and all those fortunate to have known him as a friend, while mourning his passing, are nonetheless consoled by memories of his embracing friendship, spontaneous acts of generosity, and seemingly bottomless reservoir of wit. Those wishing to make a memorial are urged to do so in the form of a contribution in aid of further research to: The Society for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Woodholme Medical Building, Suite 515, 1838 Greene Tree Road, Baltimore, MD 21208; < www.psp.org >.

—Terry Halladay

William Matheson Chevy Chase, Maryland

The ABAA *Newsletter* notes with sadness the recent death of William Matheson, of William & Nina Matheson Books, Inc., and former Librarian of Congress. An obituary will run in the next issue. ■

Jackson

continued from front page

"He's got to be some kind of particular crazy. He can't be doing this just for the money," said Ontario, Canada book dealer Steven Temple, general secretary of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers.

"I shake my head," said San Francisco book dealer John Crichton, who in 1999 as security chairman of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America turned over booksellers' correspondence with Holt to the FBI. "Why does he keep coming back to us? There's something scary about it," Crichton said.

"A lot of old books are common as dirt. You have to be very knowledgeable to pull something like this over on someone," said rare-book dealer Richard M. Weatherford, founder of the book-selling Web site www.alibris.com. In 1997, Weatherford sent a sheaf of book dealers' letters from Holt to the FBI.

The book dealers' files helped federal authorities track and imprison Holt for unrelated bank and mail fraud charges, FBI agent William Hann said in an interview.

Holt did not respond to letters and phone messages delivered to his Wellington, New Zealand, apartment. But a portrait of the elusive bibliophile emerges from court and business records and interviews with those who know him.

In the trade, his specialty was known as peddling "vapor books."

In e-mails heavily salted with charming, European-seeming malapropisms, he conjured aliases such as elderly Swiss antiquities dealer "Frederik Buwe" and offered precious folios at remarkably low prices, book dealers' records show. "Dave J. Masd," allegedly a Holt alias, advertised a vellum leaf from an illuminated mid-13th Century Bible for only \$211 and a copy of the Giant Bible of Mainz (1452-53) in good condition, all pages complete, for \$224.

Some of the book descriptions were pirated from the catalogs of legitimate dealers. In several cases documented by book dealers, the Holt alias asked the prospective buyer to wire a down payment to an associate in Russia, then disappeared.

In cases examined by the *Tribune*, the alleged losses were sporadic and in the hundreds of dollars.

"That's probably been his strategy," said FBI agent Hann, who helped convict Holt for bank and mail fraud. Holt's alleged book crimes were too small to merit the attention of federal law enforcement and—with victims spread around the globe—too costly for local prosecutors to tackle, Hann said.

But in the tight-knit world of print devotees, Holt paved the way for waves of imitators and tarnished the culture of trust that sustains the high-end trade, said Philip Salmon, manager of Bromer Booksellers of Boston. "This used to be a handshake business, and now it's a lot more complicated. He is a factor in the turning of that," Salmon said.

In March 2003, as rare-book dealers confronted Holt and publicly exposed his aliases, his behavior turned threatening, according to their accounts.

When Salt Lake City rare-book dealer Ken Sanders sent a taunting response to the alias "Frederik Buwe," Sanders received an ominous message on his answering machine: "This is David. . . . You may know me as David Holt. . . . I am very much looking forward to coming to Salt Lake City and cutting off your balls. . . . Goodbye now."

Sanders—a specialist in the literary West who currently serves as the unpaid security chairman for the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America—was delighted by the threat: Holt had exposed one of his aliases, making it possible to trace others.

The e-mails of "Buwe" were linked to another questionable Internet-based antiquities dealer, "Prof. Karl Fisher," who gave the address of a Swiss hotel while advertising rare stamps. Both "Fisher" and "Buwe" directed that down payments be wired to a bank account ostensibly controlled by a Russian charity director named "Prof. Elena Nelepova." (The *Tribune* could not determine if she is a real person.)

"Fisher," in turn, shared a second Russian account with suspected Holt alias "Dave J. Masd." The connections went on.

In March 2003, as Holt traded angry e-mails with Sanders, tragedy struck: New

York rare-books dealer Svetlana Aronov disappeared. Her body would surface in the East River two months later before the stunned luncheon crowd at a popular Long Island restaurant.

Police seek dealers' help

As part of their investigation of Aronov's death, in April 2003, New York police detectives posted an Internet notice asking book dealers for information about the whereabouts of Holt or "Buwe." The *New York Post* wrote a short, 133-word item on the police request, headlined "COPS EYEING CON MAN'S TIE TO MISSING BOOK DEALER."

No evidence has emerged publicly linking Holt to Aronov's death. A New York City medical examiner's autopsy could not determine whether Aronov drowned in an accident, suicide or murder. New York police and Aronov family representatives declined to discuss the case.

Five weeks after Aronov's disappearance—and a few weeks before her discovery—the alias "Prof. Karl Fisher" added an atypical personal note in an e-mail to a London gallery:

"Sorry for such a big delay in answering, I've been carrying my wife for several months, but unfortunately, she has passed away 2,5 [sic] weeks ago."

This is the story of the soft-spoken loading dock supervisor who turned a genteel industry on its ear.

David George Holt was born in Waukegan on Feb. 27, 1942. Raised by his maternal grandmother after his parents divorced, he grew into a gangly teenager whose pocket protector couldn't shield him from scorn. "He never played catch as a kid," said Holt's cousin Timothy D. Morales.

"He couldn't throw a ball if his life depended on it," said Holt's high school classmate Craig Hook. "He was kind of a loner, the neighborhood geek."

Holt's father gave the teenager a sporty Corvette, but Holt would later try to explain his penchant for fraud by telling a Milwaukee federal judge that he felt unloved as a kid. He dropped out of college after a few months and married Chris Holt when she was 19 and he 21. They had four daughters and a son. A

series of lateral career moves made David Holt a \$32,000-a-year supervisor at Aldrich Chemical Co.

“David liked to read about things,” Chris Holt said in an interview. “When he decided to study something, he really studied it.”

And sometimes he was crabby and uncommunicative, downing a six-pack after work and dozing on the couch, she said. “He definitely didn’t have friends,” Chris Holt said. “He was a loner. He annoyed people. He liked to cut other people down.”

In his mid-40s, David Holt got interested in New Zealand and pored through library books. He began corresponding with pen pals, many of them women, Chris Holt said. Starting in spring 1990, he began forging his grandmother’s signature on her savings bonds, federal court records show. The woman who raised him was in a nursing home under his care. After 10 months, When Holt had amassed \$95,000, he left his wife a note saying the car was in an airport parking lot.

“I left for New Zealand to start a new life,” David Holt wrote in a later letter to federal court officials.

“I’m still feeling it,” said his son, Daniel Holt, now 25. “If I ever meet him, I have no idea what I’d do. Try to get answers. Punch him out.”

Having never worked a day in her life, Chris Holt in 1991 took a \$5.70-an-hour job scrubbing the floors at a local hospital where she now is a receptionist.

“I loved my husband. I was not ready to divorce him. He was the one who left,” she said in an interview. “With 20/20 hindsight, I can see how controlling he was, and how I was under his thumb. I was married to one person for 27 years, but this was a separate person.”

Before leaving for New Zealand, David Holt wrote a letter assuring his grandmother her savings bonds were safe. The loss and huge tax burden hastened her 1995 death, Holt’s cousin Morales said in a 1998 court statement and in a *Tribune* interview. “She went downhill,” Morales told the *Tribune*. Divorced from his wife, Holt traveled to central Europe and Russia, finding women through lonely hearts newspaper ads, FBI agent Hann said. In

New Zealand he married a widow, but the union lasted only until 1994, court records show.

During roughly that period, from 1992 through 1995, Holt sold about \$55,000 worth of Abbott Laboratories stock left to him by his deceased father, then used a ruse to resell the same stocks, according to his federal conviction.

Disability benefits

Holt also got money from Uncle Sam, the *Tribune* found: While living in New Zealand in 1993, he applied for U.S. Social Security disability insurance benefits, claiming he was stricken with chronic fatigue syndrome and unable to work.

Without holding a hearing on Holt’s case or taking testimony from him, a Social Security Administration lawyer in 1997 recommended in Holt’s favor. Holt was awarded retroactive benefits of \$60,000 and continued benefits of roughly \$1,000 a month, federal court records and an interview with Holt’s attorney show. The money was wired to Holt through U.S. embassies overseas, attorney Bernard Kansky said.

In 1995, Holt gained New Zealand citizenship. Two years later, in 1997, FBI agents nearly caught him when he checked into a Miami hotel and ordered a few thousand dollars worth of computer equipment with a credit card number obtained from an antiquarian book dealer, FBI agent Hann said in an interview.

Within weeks, New Zealand police arrested Holt on a U.S. warrant and extradited him to Milwaukee. At Holt’s New Zealand apartment, authorities found photographs and letters from women Holt met through personal ads, FBI agent Hann said.

A year later, he was convicted for the stock and savings bond frauds.

From his Milan, Mich., penitentiary cell in 1998, Holt wrote book dealers in Ann Arbor, inquiring about volumes on hermetic philosophy, lorikeets and herpetology.

In January 1999, Holt was released from prison with unsupervised parole. “I will go to Europe and marry a woman I love dearly. She is a psychiatrist,” he wrote in a letter to the court.

Within days of his prison release, Holt appeared at Jay Platt’s Ann Arbor bookstore and left a list of books he wanted to buy, Platt said in an interview. Having established that tenuous relationship, Holt sold Platt an expensive volume about the Arctic. When the promised book was never delivered, Platt said he successfully stopped payment on his \$125 advance check.

“I’m amazed he’s still operating,” Platt said, “because almost everyone in the trade seems to be aware of him now.”

In the five years since his 1999 federal prison release, Holt has engaged in increasingly bellicose face-offs with his nemesis, Salt Lake City rare book dealer Ken Sanders.

A soft-spoken, high school-graduated gentleman of letters with a tangled beard, Sanders found himself cast as the accidental sheriff of an industry roiled by fraud. His unpaid tenure as security chairman of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America has come amid an uptick in Internet-based credit-card swindles and stolen goods fencing. Sanders’ combination of book smarts, street savvy and sheer bull-headedness fit him for the job of tracking the wily grifters who prey on aficionados of the printed word.

Last year, after piecing together clues from dealers’ files, Sanders helped San Jose, Calif., police put rare-book swindler John Charles Gilkey in San Quentin prison for three years. They caught Gilkey using a stolen credit card number to have a \$6,000 edition of John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath* delivered to a Palo Alto hotel. Sanders describes him as “a collector gone to the dark side.”

In a more personal case, Sanders ran on foot after the getaway car of a thief who stole a \$1,500 painting of Christ from his shop—smashing the thief’s car window with his fist before tumbling to the pavement. The thief later left the painting at a nearby restaurant.

“Ken’s got this element of the Wild West in him,” said his friend Ken Lopez, a Hadley, Mass., bookseller. “He doesn’t play the victim easily.”

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Jackson

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"I get in their faces," Sanders says.

He got his start in the rare-book trade as a child who scoured local drugstores for color-saturated comic books—reselling the Marvels on school playgrounds. During the 1980s, Sanders' Dream Garden Press published novelist Edward Abbey and cartoonist R. Crumb, and his house was used to publish the radical environmental newsletter *Earth First!* And over the years, Sanders says, "I've gotten kind of adept at tracking crooks, I guess."

Sanders says he tracked Holt's electronic fingerprints on e-mails sent by "Buwe" and other, more mysterious personalities. "He's a phantom," Sanders says.

Luring 'Buwe'

In 2003, led by Sanders, book, stamp and coin dealers began to correspond with "Buwe" in the hopes of luring him to daylight.

"Our system shows definite signs of working as we had hoped," book dealer Temple wrote in a February 2003 Internet posting.

Two months later, New York City police asked Sanders to post a notice for

help from "anyone with information regarding the disappearance of Svetlana Aronov . . . or information about David Holt, a.k.a. Frederik Buwe."

At the same time, Sanders baited Holt with what Sanders would later call "sav- age . . . over the top" e-mails. On May 2, 2003, Sanders sent an alias a short e-mail listing the things Holt had been selling—"Books, coins, stamps, cars. It's a small world, Dave," Sanders wrote.

A day later, Sanders got a disturbing reply from the alias: "We are working good, right? Please add to the books, coins, stamps, cars also loans, credits, deals, signed on behalf [of] our mutual name Ken Sanders :-)."

After that, antiquarians began receiving questionable offers from "Kennet Sanders Rarities."

The real Ken Sanders was forced to post another bulletin to book dealers: This was only Holt, Sanders wrote, "offering the usual assortment of fraudulent merchandise he doesn't own."

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Postscript

As the *ABAA Newsletter* deadline was only days after David Jackson of the *Chicago Tribune* broke the David Holt story to a national audience, the story is yet unfolding and the repercussions still

being felt. The ABAA Security office has learned that members of the philatelic community have positively identified the man using the alias Karl Fisher at the March 2003 Biloxi, Mississippi, stamp show as David Holt, something I have long suspected but never had access to the photographs to prove. I would like to thank members of the Holt family for providing the first photographs of Holt that the ABAA has had access to. This places David Holt in the United States during the week of ABAA member Svetlana Aronov's disappearance and Holt's telephonic threats to me, and a threat to at least one other ABAA member. Other members of the international media, particularly in New Zealand, are beginning to take notice of David Holt, and it is likely his activities will be followed closely in the months to come. It is hoped that law enforcement officials in Russia, New Zealand, and the United States, along with their counterparts at the FBI and Interpol, will take a renewed interest in the ongoing alleged fraud attempts of David George Holt.

At the time of this writing, it has just been learned that David Holt's landlord in Wellington, New Zealand (an older Russian man), has been found dead under unexplained circumstances. It is being reported that David Holt's whereabouts are currently unknown.

In the past year the ABAA Security office, with the help of the antiquarian book community, has uncovered and issued warnings on a half-dozen new alleged aliases of David Holt, including a current scam originating out of Latvia. We will continue to cooperate with the authorities and the media in exposing David Holt's alleged frauds in the antiquarian book trade in the hopes that this will lead to his arrest and conviction for these frauds. David Holt has been defrauding and attempting to defraud members of the international antiquarian book community, more or less continuously, since his release from prison in 1999. It's time for the international law enforcement community to take over the chase. There's only so much time and personal resources that the volunteer chair of the ABAA Security Committee can do.


—Ken Sanders ■



Courtesy of the Holt Family

David George Holt.

Recent Books by Members

 **Trade Bookbinding in the British Isles, 1660–1800.** By Stuart Bennett. New Castle, DE, and London: Oak Knoll Press, 2004. Quarto, 176pp., clothbound. \$85.

Reviewed by David Szewczyk

Listen up! You need to read and learn all of what Stuart Bennett has to say about binding practices in the Irish and British Isles in the period to 1801. And if you specialize in books of that period printed anywhere in the British–Irish realm, you need to read, digest, and own a copy of this book. And now I will tell you why.

In the fall of 1968, I wandered into the Lilly Library at Indiana University in search of an article in *Playboy* magazine—in fact, an interview with Fidel Castro—and for two years thereafter, I went back almost every day to serve what turned out to be an ideal bookman’s apprenticeship under the tutelage of David Randall, Josiah Bennett, and Elfrieda Lang, among others. During those novitiate years, one of the many things I learned was that trade and publishers’ bindings were a nineteenth-century development—that the practice during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was to sell books in folded gatherings so that purchasers could bind books to their own specifications and tastes. But Joe Bennett, head of cataloguing at the Lilly—a man who grew up in the Bennett Binding Studios and, by the time I knew him, knew bindings backwards and forwards, up and down, inside and out—always recited this truism with a modicum of non-belief on his face.

It was in the early 1980s that I first met Stuart Bennett (no relation to Joe). By that time I had studied in Texas; won, served in, and left my position as one of the curators at the Rosenbach Foundation (that curious and yet marvelous remnant of Dr. R’s empire); and was head of rare books and manuscripts at the venerable firm of William H. Allen (est. 1918). Stuart’s purchases at Allen’s on our first meeting harbingered his specialty as a bookseller—eighteenth-century English books—and part of our conversation did

involve the bindings on the books he was taking. Now, twenty-some years later, Stuart has produced a volume on such bindings that all antiquarian booksellers, rare book librarians and cataloguers, rare book collectors, and scholars of the book will receive with enthusiasm.

In *Trade Bookbinding in the British Isles*, Stuart has amassed cogent and compelling evidence, drawn from printed, manuscript, and artifactual materials, that by 1750—at the latest—it had become not just an occasional practice for British and Irish booksellers and publishers to offer books to the public already bound in calf, sheep, and goat, as well as in wrappers and boards. Such offering actually was to become common long before conventional wisdom has understood to be the case. Stuart shows that this change in trade norms came about as a series of late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century acts of Parliament, which favored printers and publishers, and as publishers formed syndicates, which shared ownership of copyrights and the distribution of publications, led to the ascendancy of the printers/publishers over authors, independent binders, and booksellers. Why would the most powerful entrepreneurs on the scene NOT want to offer their product in a more attractive, easier to use form, while controlling another element in its production and taking the profits of engaging in what had been a separate, but closely related, variety of enterprise?

The evolution of the practice of issuing editions or portions of editions in uniform or nearly uniform bindings is carefully traced and documented in Stuart’s book. He explains the difference between trade bindings and publishers’ bindings, explains that some very deluxe bindings were in fact trade or publishers’ bindings, demonstrates that the power of the printers/publishers even extended to turning bookbinders into warehousemen of publishers’ inventory (!), and proves that some publishers enjoyed the privilege of using the royal cipher and crown on bindings intended not for royal use but

for the well-heeled general public to purchase! And more . . .

One entire chapter is devoted to “Common Trade Bindings: A Sampler,” and its numerous and well-chosen illustrations will help all to better understand the characteristics of early trade bindings and how to identify them. The pictures’ captions are themselves a mine of information, supplementing the formal text to illustrate both arguments and facts.

Yes, those of us who have had decades of handling lots and lots of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English, Scots, Welsh, and Irish books have accumulated a goodly amount of anecdotal evidence that has caused us to wear that same look of skepticism on our faces that I saw on Joe Bennett’s. When one has owned six copies of a particular edition of *Robinson Crusoe* and they have all been in the same binding, suspicion grows that they were not bound by six different binders satisfying six individuals’ tastes. And after seeing multiple copies of an English colonial production, each with the same tooling as all the others—say, Ben Franklin’s printing of Abel Morgan’s *Anti-Paedo-Rantism* (1747)—suspicion grows stronger. But it takes years of patient research into publishing practices, ferreting out proof beyond the randomly anecdotal, to prove that what was previously believed and taught is not fully accurate or is simply wrong. Stuart’s well-documented work will cause much “fact” of the past to be discarded and will require us to learn anew what the facts about the earliest era of British and Irish trade bookbinding actually are and were—starting with a brand new timetable that redefines “earliest.”

● **LA’s Early Moderns: Art/Architecture/Photography.** By Victoria Dailey, Natalie Shivers, and Michael Dawson. Introduction by William Deverell. Los Angeles: Balcony Press, 2003. Octavo, 325pp., illustrated, softbound. \$34.95.

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Recent Books

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Galka Scheyer, Walter and Louise Arensberg, Richard Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, Will Connell, Lloyd Wright, Norman Bel Geddes, Edward Weston, John Cage, Anais Nin, Jake Zeitlin, Merle Armitage, Harriet and Sam Freeman, and several dozen others: this was a circle. It isn't just that they knew one another, though that is abundantly clear. The modernist pioneers of Los Angeles art and architecture made statements in their work and legacies, but they were every bit as much a community as they were individual satellites of expression. These people gathered in solidarity, they met as friends and lovers, and they shared excitement over their important breaks with tradition. In modest but lasting ways, they changed Los Angeles forever. There's history in that, and there's inspiration as well.

This book is about a secret Los Angeles, a Los Angeles filled with optimism about a different kind of "city of the future." The reader will enter a rarified social realm where client, artist, architect, lover, patron, and publisher merged in a creative ferment that occurs spontaneously and magically at rare moments in a city's life. Chronicling this creative ferment are ABAA members Victoria Dailey and Michael Dawson, who are joined by architectural historian Natalie Shivers. Their essays—Dailey on art, Dawson on photography, and Shivers on architecture—reveal a distinctly regional modernism practiced by their subjects, one informed by and celebrating California's natural world, its landscape, and its quality of light.

● *The Bookman's Promise. A Cliff Janeway Novel.* By John Dunning. New York: Scribner, [2004]. Octavo, 384pp., clothbound. \$25

Reviewed by Rob-Rulon-Miller

This novel, the third in the author's celebrated Cliff Janeway series (*Booked to Die* and *The Bookman's Wake* are the

others), opens with an interview on National Public Radio where Cliff Janeway, Dunning's alter-ego (cop-turned-bookseller) is answering questions about an intimately inscribed copy of Richard Burton's *A Pilgrimage to Medina and Mecca* (i.e. *Personal Narrative of a Pilgrimage to El-Medinah and Meccah*, 1855-56) for which he has just paid at auction the not inconsiderable sum of \$29,500. The inscription to one Charles Warren reads: "A grand companion and the best kind of friend. Our worlds are far apart and we may never see each other again, but the time we shared will be treasured forever." The date of the inscription is January 15, 1861. And therein lies the story.

Richard Burton's journey to America in 1860 is documented well enough, and his subsequent publication, *The City of the Saints* (1861), about the Mormons in Utah, is the record of that trip. Or at least a part of the trip, according to the novel. Dunning uses a three-month gap in the Burton chronology to fabricate a trip Burton made through the tumultuous American South with Charles Warren, an under secretary in the War Department during the Buchanan administration. In perhaps the most interesting part of the novel, Warren and Burton become fast friends on their journey to Charleston, South Carolina, where, it turns out, Burton (in a possibility concocted by Dunning) becomes instrumental in the beginnings of the American Civil War. And while Burton and Warren never saw each other again after this journey, Burton remained true to his promise and continued to correspond with Warren, and send him, upon completion, two copies of all his books, inscribed.

When the NPR interview aired in any number of markets across the nation, one person in particular was captivated by the story, the nonagenarian, Josephine Gallant, who arrives from Baltimore rather nonchalantly, if not improbably, on Janeway's Denver bookstore's doorstep. She is barely hanging on to life, and she claims that the inscribed Burton once belonged to her grandfather, who happens to be Charles Warren, and that it, together with a whole library of

inscribed Burtons, was stolen many years ago, shortly after her grandfather's death.

The stolen books, as well as Burton's manuscript journal of his trip with Warren, were to descend to Mrs. Gallant, and Janeway's promise—the "bookman's promise"—is to uncover the mystery shrouding their disappearance. At the moment of the NPR interview, Janeway has little idea as to the significance of the inscription, but as the story plays out, Janeway's book-collecting friend, the Denver judge Lee Huxley (rumored to be on the short list for a Supreme Court nomination), shows an uncommon interest in acquiring the book just about the same time that Josephine Gallant, so fatigued from her own journey, dies of natural causes at the home of her impromptu chauffeur, Mike Ralston. By then Janeway has already heard from Ms. Gallant of the fifth-generation Baltimore booksellers, the Treadwells, of whom Josephine was ever suspicious, and of her friend, confidant, nurse, and ex-librarian Koko Bujac, who had made audio tapes of Josephine recollecting her youth while Josephine was under hypnosis.

The next evening, Ralston's wife, Denise, who Janeway had temporarily entrusted with the inscribed Burton, is found dead, the life smothered out of her by a pillow, and it is soon obvious that Janeway may not be the only one on the trail of the books. This mysterious Denver murder sends Janeway to Baltimore to find Mrs. Gallant's friend, Koko, and with hard-boiled investigative work he learns of a secret association between the Baltimore bookstore owners, the brothers Treadwell, and Hal Archer, a Pulitzer-prize winning author who Janeway had met earlier at a dinner party at Judge Huxley's and who lives, coincidentally, in Charleston, South Carolina.

The cast of characters is wide and varied, and includes the dastardly Dante, the Treadwells' enforcer; Erin d'Angelo, the young, comely Denver lawyer who mysteriously turns up in Charleston at the seaside home of Hal Archer; the mobster Vinnie Marranzino, Janeway's childhood friend; and even Abner Doubleday, not to mention the great explorer, Richard Bur-

ton himself. In a modern-day reenactment, Dunning draws on these fictional troops to create his own civil war, not North vs. South, but West vs. East. Fort Sumpter looms large in the unraveling, as does his own character, the sturdy, unflappable, almost Lincoln-esque Mr. Janeway. There's lots of bookish talk throughout, and no book person can fail to delight in its reading. Highly recommended for summer fun.

● **Early Mapping of the Pacific.** By Thomas Suarez. Singapore: Periplus Editions, 2004. Quarto, 224 pp., illustrated, clothbound. \$50

Reviewed by Rob Rulon-Miller

Subtitled *The Epic Story of Seafarers, Adventurers, and Cartographers who Mapped the Earth's Greatest Ocean*, this fine adventure into the history of the mapping of the insular terrains of the Pacific Ocean is more than just another book about cartography. It is a romantic excursion into the daring, swashbuckling world of voyagers and explorers plying some of the most remote longitudes on earth, and while cartography remains his main focus, Mr. Suarez has gone out of his way to recount the particulars of important voyages made into the region for purposes of discovery, profit, and honor, beginning with the earliest accounts and reaching into the last part of the nineteenth century.

As it was not until the late nineteenth century that detailed surveys were made of many of the more remote islands in the Pacific, Suarez was compelled to compress a half millennium of exploration into a single volume. The book, then, while on one level only a survey, is on another a steppingstone to more serious investigations—"a general overview of the evolution of cartographic knowledge of the Pacific." Beginning with the notion of Pangaea (Earth's single landmass of 250 million years ago) and the incipient Pacific Ocean (both the Atlantic and Indian Oceans were formed millennia later), Suarez traces the geological history, continental drift, and the human migration into the Pacific regions 25,000

to 50,000 years ago. He details the anthropological debate over the peopling of the Pacific basin and contrasts it with the earliest European records. Then, he follows the course of the historical record, describing the earliest voyages and travelers, together with their cartographic productions, however primitive, both from the Asian mainland and then from Europe, and follows the historical flow of voyagers through the Elizabethan period, the Age of Discovery in the eighteenth century, and into modern times.

The author takes care with introducing the reader to the specifics of Pacific geography (explaining, for example, the difference between Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia) and the perennial problems of navigation (determining longitude the most prevalent), and the challenges of geographers once the extent of the Americas became more fully known, before launching into specific accounts of the discoveries of Magellan, Cavendish, Drake, and Medaña, and the mapping of such groups as the Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii. There are detailed sections on Cook, La Perouse, the London Missionary Society, the influence of whaling, and the United States Exploring Expedition under Charles Wilkes. Suarez

also gives a close look at the map trade in Europe, the contributions of scientists and buccaneers, and literary landscapes, the most famous of which remains Juan Fernandez, the fictional home to Robinson Crusoe, and the spurious landmass, Beach. Many later voyages are also discussed, including those of Anson, Bougainville, Carteret, Dixon, as well as Forrest, d'Urville, and Wallis.

Not to diminish the scholarly achievement of its author, the book is enhanced by over 200 color and black and white illustrations of maps, charts, manuscripts, title pages, and other illustrations from contemporary sources. The captions are often detailed and offer in themselves salient capsules of the larger survey. The illustrations are lavish and exotic, and the book as a whole is beautifully laid out.

Extensively indexed with a select bibliography, this book, destined for a wide audience, joins others of Mr. Suarez's pen, including his *Early Mapping of Southeast Asia* (Periplus, 2000), and the fantasy, *The Crustacean Codex* (Terra Nova Press, 1977). He also edited *The Art of Maps: Of Mortals and Myths and the Human Figure on Antique Maps* (1977), and he continues to be a featured political analyst on the ABAA discussion list. ■



Helen and Marc Younger, Aleph-Bet Books, welcome Dennis M. V. David, Justin G. Schiller, Ltd., to their booth at the New York Book Fair in April.

Books, Briefly Noted

● **Collecting Books.** By Matthew Budman. New York: House of Collectibles, 2004. Octavo, 192pp., wrappers. \$12.95

According to the press release, "If you love books, and are surrounded by books, but aren't sure whether what you own constitutes a genuine collection, the best way to understand the field of book collecting is with *Collecting: Books ...*

Whether you have a rare first edition of a favorite novel, accumulate books in a favorite genre, or bought a lovely old volume that gives you a warm feeling when you hold it, you are a book collector!"

This is a guide for novices, and for those looking to collect Anne Rice and Sue Grafton, by an author who, to the apparent spite of his publisher, does not know the difference between *collectible* and *collectable*. The book is not without merits, however, and contains much practical information, a glossary, and an "instant expert quiz."

● **John Carter, *The Taste & Technique of a Bookman*.** By Donald C. Dickinson. Preface by Sebastian Carter. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2004. Octavo, 422pp., illustrated, clothbound. \$49.95

Throughout his professional career, John Carter, 1905-1975, was recognized as one of the most important figures in the Anglo-American book world. He was known as an imaginative book dealer, a creative bibliographer, and a stylish and thoughtful writer. In 1934, after working for several years in the London book trade, he achieved instant fame, along with his co-author Graham Pollard, for *An Enquiry in to the Nature of Certain Nineteenth-Century Pamphlets*, a brilliant piece of detective work that exposed forger Thomas J. Wise.

Carter quickly built up a circle of friends including Frederick Melcher, the editor of *Publishers' Weekly*, and Elmer Adler, the editor of *The Colophon*. With those useful connections he was able to publish over a dozen articles on bibliog-

raphy and the rare book trade before he was thirty years old. Critics agreed that Carter's writing was characterized by precision, elegance, and wit. Among his best known publications were *Taste & Technique of Book Collecting* and his popular glossary, *ABC for Book Collectors*. He was, above all, an articulate spokesman for the pleasure and challenges of book collecting. With a full checklist of Carter's publications and a wealth of illustrations, Dickinson's work will be appreciated by all bibliophiles who are interested in twentieth-century bibliophilia.

● **Info & Tips for Book Sellers & Buyers.** Independent Online Booksellers Association, 2003. Free

Reviewed by Rob Rulon-Miller

Any organization that attempts to bring booksellers together for mutual benefit seems worthwhile, at least on the surface of it, and over time might even be lauded. The Independent Online Booksellers Association (IOBA), founded in 1999, now boasts, according to its website, 195 voting members and counting. (As the total number of "dealers" selling online now approaches 10,000, IOBA's membership, like that of the ABAA, is a mere drop in the proverbial bucket.)

While they have had an online presence since 2000, IOBA's lately published *Info & Tips* has only just come to our attention. It contains the IOBA Code of Ethics (about a third of it lifted word for word from the ABAA Code of Ethics); the IOBA Mission Statement ("Negotiating with businesses, organizations, and possibly governmental agencies that have an impact on internet bookselling."); the IOBA Book Buyer[']s Bill of Rights ("When you order online, you should receive your book or have your payment refunded. Don't let anyone tell you different."); Tips on Bookseller Customer Service ("Title does not change hands until the buyer receives the item in the same condition as advertised."); How to

Identify a First Edition: An Introduction ("Serious collectors pore over every detail, from subject, to publisher, to editor, to writer, to illustrator. What the illustrator commonly ate for breakfast is considered a fairly relevant detail, among the more hardened cases."); Book Condition Definitions ("binding copy: a book in which the text block, including illustrations, is complete, but the binding is lacking"); and, Book Terminology (containing entries such as IOBA: "a trade association of online booksellers," and Sp: "spelling.") Among the "references" touted as being good introductions to the book trade are not Glaister's *The Glossary of the Book*, not Winterich and Randall's *A Primer of Book Collecting*, not even Carter's *A.B.C. of Book Collecting*, but rather "the murder mysteries of John Dunning."

Would it be disingenuous to take this fledgling organization to task for naive errors, bad editing, and imprecise thought? There is so much that is faulty in this little booklet that it's hard to recommend even to IOBA's own members, let alone their customers. There is no denying that there is a place in the book trade for an organization such as IOBA, but an imprecise text in a guidebook such as this can lead only to problems down the road, not only for the organization itself and its members, but more importantly, for the members' customers. With so many newbie booksellers online, IOBA is perhaps a good a place for them to get their feet wet with the customs and usages of the book trade. With some careful rethinking of what *Info & Tips* is meant to be, together with a more comprehensive editing job, this IOBA guidebook could become an excellent entry-level manual for the new breed of online bookseller.

● **A Book of Booksellers. *Conversations with the Antiquarian Book Trade*.** By Sheila Markham. To be published September 2004 in an edition limited to 500 copies. Quarto, 320pp., hardbound. £25

Markham converses with fifty book-sellers from around the globe in this volume. Among those included are Edith Finer, Michael Hollander, Eric Korn, and Mitsuo Nitta. Orders should be directed to: Sheila Markham, POB 214, London SE3 9XS. Email: markham@endpaper.demon.co.uk. "Sheila Markham makes the book trade come alive with extraordinary skill" (Ed Maggs).

● ***A Portrait of the U.S. Used Book Market.*** By Susan & David S. Siegel. Yorktown Heights: Book Hunter Press, 2004. Quarto, 60pp., wrappers. \$25

Reviewed by Rob Rulon-Miller

For those not trained in statistical analysis a good deal of this *Portrait* will be difficult to comprehend in its entirety, but enough useful information emerges to make it interesting to those of us in the trade, which the Siegels now estimate to be upwards of 10,000 dealers.

Together with a plethora of tables and graphs, the *Portrait* includes a detailed "definition" of the used book trade, a

survey methodology, an "overview" of the used book market, dealer profiles for open shop and online dealers, online selling, changes in business practices over the past five years, and a final chapter on emerging trends. Appendices include the original survey questionnaire, and the methodology for calculating gross average and annual sales.

According to the *Portrait*, in 2003 the used book market (which includes rare books):

- generated estimated total sales of \$614 million, a drop of 8.1% since 2001
- 80% of 2003 sales were made from open shops (including their internet orders)
- 54% of all used book sales were made online
- 56% of dealers had inventories of under 15,000 volumes
- 70% of dealers were generalists and 60% were in the business full-time

- 72% of dealers are age 50 or older
- 25% of dealers sell fewer than 50 books a month, and 8% of dealers sell more than 2000
- 78% of dealers use ABE, and ABE accounts for 39% of all online sales
- 91% of online dealers had other sources of income

I imagine that the accuracy of this *Portrait* could be challenged (in fact, the Siegels offer a number of caveats throughout), as used, out-of-print, and rare booksellers, who operate small, independent, and even idiosyncratic businesses, can be notoriously private with regard to sales statistics. Therefore, some of the data collected, while precise on an individual level, might seem a little murky when extrapolated into the larger picture. Informative, but not instructive, this is the best study we have today of our trade, though more informative for the average internet bookseller than the average ABAA dealer. ■

An Important Message for ABAA Members Regarding OCLC Access

As of Wednesday, June 23, at 5:00 P.M. Pacific time, the ABAA password for access to OCLC Firstsearch will change. The authorization number will remain the same. You can get the new password anytime Wednesday after 8:00 A.M. Pacific time by going to the Member Services page of ABAA.org and clicking on the OCLC icon in the right margin of the page, but the new password will not be in effect until 5:00 in the afternoon. If you do not know your password to get into the Member Services page of ABAA.org, e-mail Liane Wade (hq@abaa.org) or Susan Dixon (sdixon@abaa.org) at headquarters. Older browsers (Netscape 4.7 in particular) do not work well with this.

Please remember: Your access to OCLC is a privilege of membership in the Association for which the ABAA pays considerable fees. The authorization number and password should not be shared with those who are not members. Adherence to this will insure that we have faster, more efficient access.

A new feature of our OCLC access will be searches on ABAA.org, ABE and Alibris each time you search a title on OCLC Firstsearch. In the future OCLC may add other searchable databases to this feature, but for now is it limited to these three.

Membership Updates

Cartographic Books has a new address:
PO Box 163; PO Box 163, Manakin-
Sabot, VA 23101.

Detering Book Gallery has moved to
the Houston Museum of Printing History
at 1324 West Clay Street, Suite 4, Hous-
ton, TX 77019; phone and fax numbers
remain the same.

Gregor Books has a new address: PO
Box 1491, Langley, WA 98360.

Klemm Books has a new email address:
klemmbooks@charter.net

Paul Melzer has a new address and
phones: 797 North St. Augustine Road,
Chesapeake, City, MD 21915; phone
410-885-3269 or 909-264-1181.

**Thomas & Ahngsana Suarez Rare
Maps** has a new email address:
mail@cosmography.com

**The deadline for submissions
to the next *Newsletter* is**

August 23, 2004

**Send your contributions to:
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400 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102
FAX: 651-290-0646
EMAIL: newsletter@abaa.org**



Susan Dixon, ABAA Co-Executive Director, at the Roman Forum

Please welcome the very talented Susan Dixon as a new executive on the staff of the ABAA. Susan Dixon comes to the position of Executive Co-Director of the ABAA with impressive experience, credentials, and interests.

EXPERIENCE:

- Director, Art Fairs and Advertising, Sanford Smith and Associates, New York, New York
- Associate Rare Book dealer and Cataloguer, Aleph-Bet Books, Pound Ridge, New York
- Managerial Assistant, Columbia Artists Management, New York, New York

CREDENTIALS:

- Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., B.M. in Vocal Music, Cum Laude

INTERESTS:

- Co-founded eight member a cappella ensemble, REFRAIN
- Conversational in French, German, and Italian; proficient in Spanish

Read more about Susan and her new position on page 3



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