



# The **A B A A** NEWSLETTER



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ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## A Backward Glance by Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern

*A Talk Delivered before  
the Middle Atlantic Chapter,  
26 March, 1992*

### PART I: LEONA ROSTENBERG

Nearly forty years ago, on the 18th of December 1953, a testimonial dinner was held at Trader Tom Restaurant on East 48th St., at which shrimp cocktail was followed by broiled sirloin steak, and steak by apple pie. For the two of us, it was a gratifying occasion because the dinner was in our honor. The ABAA was then only four years old. We had served its MAC Chapter as editors of one of the earliest co-operative catalogues, and in return for our labors—which were indeed arduous—we were each presented with a bound copy of the catalogue in which all those who had participated signed their names. Those names form a rollcall of pioneers in the early days of our Association.

Let me read them off to you:

**Richard Wormser**, who organized the dinner, led the list of signers. His indecipherable scrawl signaled his complex personality. He could be charming or scathing; he could be witty or caustic; he could be the beau of the ball or he could cast a deadly pall upon a social occasion. Above all, he was an interesting and accomplished bookseller who specialized not just in rare books but in what he called *uncommon* rare books. He was a motivating force in the inception of the ABAA and one of its first presidents, following the first ABAA president, the polished Englishman Laurence Gomme.

The next name in the bound copy of the catalogue is also that of an ABAA president: **Michael Papantonio**, partner of John S. Van E. Kohn in the celebrated firm of Seven Gables Bookshop located for years at 3 West 46th Street.



Madeleine and Leona at the New York Book Fair, Plaza Hotel, 1977.

Behind the main room was a small anteroom where the early governors' meetings were held. The style of the meetings was modest—we all sat on upturned barrels or cartons—but much was

accomplished. Mike was learned, unassuming, and Lincolnesque in appearance. He specialized in English literature, while his partner John Kohn

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## Replevin Update

by Jennifer Larson

In January, 1991, Jack Hamilton of Hamilton's Book Store in Williamsburg, Virginia, purchased a large and varied group of 17th and early 18th century documents pertaining to two Virginia counties from a collector who acquired them in the early 1970s at a paper show in Florida. He researched and valued 81 of them which pertain to Middlesex County, Virginia, at \$40,000; and offered them for sale. In February, the documents were seized by the Sheriff of James City County acting under court order. Later that month, another 57 documents relating to Isle of Wight

County and valued by Hamilton at \$15,000 were also confiscated. All these documents were alleged to be public records and therefore the property of the state.

On June 29, 1992, Judge William L. Person of the 9th Circuit Court of Virginia decided two questions: whether the Virginia Public Record Act and its provisions for the return and seizure of public records is constitutional; and, whether the 81 seized Middlesex County documents are public records. Judge Person upheld the constitutionality of Virginia's Public Records Act, and found that 38 of the disputed documents are public records and may be retained by

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# Letters

## To the Editor

From: Donald N. Mott of Howard S. Mott, Inc., Sheffield, Mass.

In the spring, 1992 issue of the ABAA Newsletter President Peter Howard had many interesting comments and thoughts on the state of our organization and our trade in general. One statement stood out with which I emphatically disagree. Mr. Howard says the ABAA "has promulgated a set of ethical standards which it enforces. The Board's members have exhibited extraordinary compassion in an extremely difficult ethics case . . ." My view is that the Board, of which I was a member at the time of the vote, made a ghastly mistake. I don't believe the case was difficult at all. I voted for the expulsion of Mr. Tumarkin and I will always believe that was the only course for the Board to take. When his problems were demonstrably over he could reapply, but expulsion was the correct course of action. It is true that we now have a strict code of ethics, but if, as in this case, they are not enforced, they are useless. Suspension for one year with a further one year suspension from ILAB book fairs is not enough. An admitted theft was committed within our trade, by one member of the organization from another. If that is not sufficient grounds for expulsion, then I submit that grounds do not exist.

In another, more recent case, Gilman Parsons was expelled from membership almost as soon as he had been admitted. His transgression was slow pay to his colleagues, compounded by lack of communication to those with whom he incurred a debt. I do not defend the lack of attention to his obligation, nor make a brief for him, but the incongruity of the two cases is striking. Mr. Parsons was expelled for slow pay, while Mr. Tumarkin was suspended for a year for theft. Go figure! I realize our code of ethics says "An ABAA member should pay in full for all material purchased within 30 days from the date of invoice unless other arrangements are made," but if slow pay is indeed grounds for expulsion the ranks of the ABAA may be thinned considerably.

Compassion is commendable, but clearly not at issue in the Tumarkin case. An injustice has been done to the

membership and they should be angry about it.

From: Peter B. Howard, ABAA President, Serendipity Books, Berkeley, CA

Donald N. Mott's opinions on the Tumarkin and Parsons ethics cases deserve a hearing and response. Fortunately, we have a forum!

The Board strives for due process, especially in ethics matters.

After at least 10 hours of discussion and more time spent by individual Board members behind the scenes, and after a personal appearance by Mr. Tumarkin, and in the light of extenuating medical circumstances, the Board voted overwhelmingly to suspend Mr. Tumarkin. There was only *one* vote for expulsion.

After discussion and after a personal appearance by Mr. Parsons, the Board voted overwhelmingly to expel Mr. Parsons.

Although Mr. Mott was party to the vote on Mr. Tumarkin, he was not party to the vote on Mr. Parsons, nor was he privy to all the evidence presented. Compassion and discretion were exhibited by the Board in processing these trying cases, in respect of our membership. The membership should be proud. ■

## Replevin

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the County; and that 43 are private papers which remain the property of Jack Hamilton.

As replevin expert H. Bartholomew Cox has noted, the implications of this case extend to all dealers and collectors of historical documents. Judge Person ruled that the statute of limitations does not apply; nor is a buyer of public records shielded by a good faith purchaser doctrine. The Court decided that in this case there are three ways a document can be proved to be a public record: 1) that it was required by statute to be kept; 2) that it was kept and later wrongfully removed from custody; or 3) that it falls within a common law definition of a public record. None of the 81 disputed documents were required by statute to be kept at the time of their creation. None of the disputed documents were proved to have been stolen, or wrongfully removed. The Court *assumed* that those documents

which are records of transactions of public officers *were kept* in accordance with the common law duty to retain such records.

All of the documents found not to be Hamilton's property despite his good faith purchase were determined to be public records under the common law definition. Among these were three accounts of estates returned to the court as part of probate, but determined not a public record was an account of an estate made by a private individual, perhaps for a purpose other than estate administration and bearing no evidence of court recording. Inventories, receipts, and settlements created for the purpose of estate administration were found to be public records, but six inventories bearing no evidence that they were returned to the court were found to be private papers. Receipts and orders for estate appraisals not bearing any indication that they were returned to the court and recorded were returned to Hamilton. Bonds of public officials, charters, and surveys created pursuant to court decree were declared public records. Deeds of emancipation, indenture, trust, and mortgage were found to be private documents between private parties; and docketed and recorded agreements and bills between private parties were not found to be public records since they were not created by public officers as records of their transactions, or by individuals acting in an official capacity. Appointments, commissions, and nominations, although written by public officials, could be and were given to private individuals and were therefore not found to be public records. Finally, a 1698 will was returned to Hamilton because it predated the first statute requiring the retention of original wills (1711), appears to be a draft, and bears no evidence that it was kept in the clerk's office.

It was very expensive for Jack Hamilton to pursue his claim to ownership of these documents. Any dealer or private collector considering the purchase or sale of a document susceptible to the definition "public record" should be alert to potential problems. ■

**Summary of Replevin  
Laws Available from  
ABAA. See page 6.**

# A Backward Glance: Rostenberg and Stern

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specialized in American, but Mike also formed a most distinguished collection of American book bindings now in the American Antiquarian Society.

Still another future president is represented among the names—that of **Walter Schatzki**, who presided over the grandiose 57th Street establishment that specialized in children's books. In fact, Walter looked like a comfortable old Santa Claus. He was sometimes pedantic, always gracious, and never lost the flavor of his continental beginnings. He was for years almost a landmark in bookish New York.

There are other illustrious names on the signers' page, names that are today legendary in the antiquarian booktrade: **James H. Drake, Peter Decker, J. N. Bartfield, Robert K. Black, William Salloch, Wilfred Pesky** of Schulte's, **Murray Gottlieb** of Old Hickory, **Frederick Bennett, Herman Cohen** of Chiswick Book Shop who had edited the first co-operative catalogue and was also honored on this occasion, **Nathan Ladden** of Maurice Inman, **Emily Driscoll, Carola Payne** who would shortly become Mrs. Richard Wormser—and of course the ubiquitous publisher/editor of AB—**Sol Malkin** who identified with our Association, attended all its meetings, and used his weekly to further its causes, just as Jake Chernofsky does today.

The remaining participants in this early co-operative catalogue were not present that night to eat the steak and sign their names, but they included **Howard S. Mott**, then still on West 40th Street, and **Geoffrey Steele**, then in Chappaqua.

The co-operative catalogue that was being honored that memorable evening is tangible testimony to the strong co-operation that existed in the early years of our Association. We worked together and we socialized together. We had at least four meetings a year at which suggestions were made and plans were hatched to advance our purposes: to encourage interest in our trade, to maintain its high standards, and to enjoy one another's company. At almost every meeting, in those early days, when there were usually about 50 in attendance, we swapped ideas, laid plans, and even sold some books.

Those MAC meetings were lively affairs. The early ones were held in Ben Swann's pre-Lowry auction rooms, and refreshment was provided by the bustling, energetic Anne Klein of Caravan-Maritime Books. Annie was a self-made bookseller who specialized in books of the sea, voyages and travel. Although she demanded cash with orders, she was a pillar of the Association, providing boundless enthusiasm as well as coffee cake—the latter out of the \$5 MAC dues. Incidentally, in those days, MAC went by the interminable name of Middle Atlantic States Regional Chapter. Like a great deal else, this was shortened later on. For later MAC meetings we graduated to a private area at 1407 Broadway, and still later we had a private room at Escargot in the West 50s. MAC was then taken very seriously.

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**Margie, as she was known to her friends, was a tiny woman with piercing eyes and frequently piercing tongue, who dressed impeccably, ate in gourmet style, and cast an aura of snobbish aloofness upon any personalities inferior to T. S. Eliot or Robert Frost.**

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It was the progenitor of *all* the ideas eventually taken over by the ABAA. In addition to its officers, we had an executive committee that met prior to the general meetings to work out the agenda. We also had a telephone committee to alert members to the meeting and attract a full house. Sometimes we discussed matters concerning the trade: insurance, relations with libraries, the I.R.S. Sometimes we invited speakers: collectors, librarians and booksellers. Always there were free-for-all discussions.

Two of the principal achievements of MAC were the Antiquarian Booksellers' Center and the Antiquarian Book Fairs. The former is now—alas!—defunct; the latter continue to proliferate. The Fair actually preceded the Center chronologically, so we shall tell you first about the circumstances and personalities in-

involved in that memorable *first American rare book fair*.

Did we ever believe that the book fair contagion would spread to every hamlet in the country—to every library, school, church and synagogue? Did we ever believe the fair would attract participants and customers the world over? Did we ever believe we might have difficulty finding space large enough to accommodate fair applicants? Did we ever believe we would have to engage a professional manager to organize and promote our fairs?

Let us recall to you our memories of the first antiquarian book fair—the one that germinated all those that have followed:

It took place 32 years ago—on April 4, 1960—at Steinway Hall on 57th Street, a New York concert hall measuring 1000 unairconditioned square feet. It displayed the wares of 22 antiquarian dealers in 20 booths. But, as you will see, its modest scale was in inverse proportion to its significance.

Fair Number One began in the minds of a few antiquarian dealers who had been impressed by news of the first British antiquarian book fair. At a MAC meeting, the suggestion was first proposed: "Why don't we have a book fair?" A committee was formed, with Madeleine Stern as Chair, consisting of Nathan Ladden, Anne Klein, Josiah Q. Bennett, successor to Dave Randall in Scribner's Rare Book Department, and Marguerite Cohn, the truly legendary doyenne of modern firsts, proprietrix of House of Books, friend of T. S. Eliot and Robert Frost. Margie, as she was known to her friends, was a tiny woman with piercing eyes and frequently piercing tongue, who dressed impeccably, ate in gourmet style, and cast an aura of snobbish aloofness upon any personalities inferior to T. S. Eliot or Robert Frost. Margie could have spent her life as a socialite playing mah jong or bridge all day long. Instead she immersed herself in Hemingway, Faulkner, Eliot, Frost, and all the avant garde.

It was this committee that actually mounted the first book fair. They met frequently, sometimes with future fair participants, to resolve all the problems anticipated no matter how minute. They

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made decisions relating to SOLD labels, signs and posters, velvet lining for display cases, wrapping paper, and security. Anne Klein ventured with Leona to the Bowery to commission a carpenter to construct showcases which we bought—20 of them for \$400. Our budget was worked and reworked almost daily, as the committee thought of one necessity after another, from insurance to hat checks, from badges to labels, from announcements to publicity. The charge per booth was set at \$250. Entrance to the fair was free. The fair ran for SIX days—April 4 through April 9, 1960, and its hours were as follows: Opening Night, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Remaining days: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

As a result of this long week of togetherness, we developed a genuine fondness for one another, and missed our colleagues sorely after the week was over. As AB would put it: "Many dealers . . . had a fine time, enjoyed themselves hugely, better than a Broadway show, got to know one another during the week, swapped stories and customers, had pleasure and profit too."

This was the fair scheduled to open at 5 p.m. on Monday the 4th of April, 1960. No one had the foggiest idea whether it would attract any visitors. Optimism did not prevail. Shortly before 5 p.m. Leona could not conceal her curiosity, and decided to duck out to see if there were any visitors. She returned—her expression a mixture of radiance and disbelief. "They're standing in line to get in! There are CROWDS outside!"

Despite the rain and storm, the jams of people on opening night filled us with incredulity and exuberance. Our publicity measures had paid off. The late Ben Grauer, radio and TV personality, as well as book collector and friend of bookpeople, had obtained spot announcements on the air. Even Parke-Bernet had mailed announcements to all their subscribers. Our ads and posters attracted immediate attention. AB would report: "With estimates running from

3-5000 for the week, on opening night, the Fair was so jammed that there was a waiting line in the adjoining cloak-room."

When they entered, those hordes of potential customers found 22 individual bookshops housed in 20 booths. We had all tossed our empty cartons onto the dais behind the stage curtain, but only the most inquisitive visitors observed that. Most of them saw an array of booths with steel shelving and velvet-lined display cases offering books and manuscripts.

Perhaps the most original booth was Margie Cohn's. Each of her shelves featured a different theme: Poetry of the 1930s; War Years and After; Fabulous Fifties; and Fledglings 1960. Her display included a first *Ulysses* and a Yeats on vellum.

Not everyone appreciated our treasures. A genuine prima donna swooped majestically into her concert hall, saw the alien purpose to which it had been re-dedicated, and exclaimed: "What have they done to Steinway Hall? Books!!" On the other hand, one of our illustrious visitors was Arthur Rubinstein to whom Geoffrey Steele sold two musical manuscripts—the property of Walter Schatzki, whose booth Geoffrey was tending at the time.

## PART II: MADELEINE STERN

Just as Leona has reconstructed that first fair from documentary evidence, reactions to the fair can be reanimated. In the AB of 2 May 1960, the comments of participants were recorded. Here they are:

J.N. Bartfield: "One new customer. . . made. . . who could well pay this year's rent."

Anne Klein: "Happy to see dealers helping one another, directing customers to appropriate specialists. . . I met many old customers who had bought only by mail, and many new ones who I think will also buy by mail. . . Of course, next year."

Burt Franklin, specialist in economics, grand scale reprinter, an enormous man with grandiose ideas: "Very happy at results. Certain special titles difficult to sell from catalogues sold well at Fair. Expect to double sales from resulting contacts. Excellent dealer cooperation. . . Fine for next year."

George Goodspeed, another former ABAA President, and the incarnation of

old New England: "Pleased with every part of the Book Fair, and as much with dealer cooperation as with sales."

K. Gregory, dealer in ephemera, graphics, decorative arts—the doyenne in her field—was "Extremely pleased at results. . . Glad to see old customers and. . . new faces. Many appointments made for the following week. Next year? Of course!"

Lew D. Feldman of the House of El Dieff, a larger-than-life personality who liked to move huge collections from his shelves to libraries, especially the library of the University of Texas. He also had a penchant for Sherlock Holmes. He could have been called Mr. Big. His reaction: "Extraordinarily impressed by number of persons who came. . . Pleasantly gratified by returns. Good number were customers but stimulus of Fair acted on competitive spirit."

Howard S. Mott: "We did absolutely terrific business—and it was lots of fun! At one time it seemed as if we had 150 customers in an hour. . . Best, we learned to know dealers, and it was good to see each helping the other."

Carola Paine Wormser: "Great pleasure in meeting other dealers and seeing the marvelous cooperation. Definitely for next year."

Josiah Bennett of Scribner's Rare Book Department: "I saw more people in a week than I did all last year!"

Richard S. Wormser: "Definitely exceeded all expectations. What impressed me most was number of interested people. . . There is more freedom in a Fair. Many people are scared in rare book rooms. . . It was not too great a surprise to find. . . high degree of cooperation among dealers at Fair. Confirmation of faith, and proof for skeptics. Yes, I will be here again next year. I even sold an ILAB Directory."

Elisabeth Woodburn, another future ABAA President, and another doyenne—of books on gardening: "A real wahoo occasion! Haven't had such fun in years! Sold plenty, will sell more. When is next Fair?"

As Betty Woodburn put it when she reminisced years later, "we had indeed started a new idea for old books," and the idea, no one can deny, has taken hold. In principle, the book fair initiated by pioneers in the trade has not basically changed its shape, though it has changed its size, its venue, its hours, its

appurtenances, and its fees. It may be salutary to remember from time to time that the proliferating international book fair of today was begun in a small New York concert hall more than 30 years ago by a handful of co-operating enthusiasts.

Another concept developed by pioneers of the trade has not persisted. The Antiquarian Booksellers Center (ABC), opened in 1963, was closed in 1987. It began as a byproduct of the ABAA's need for a headquarters. Originally, an attempt to found such a headquarters was made by the national association, but the committee assigned to that task failed. It was then that the suggestion was made—at a MAC meeting by Madeleine Stern—that the attempt be made once again, this time by a local MAC Committee. That committee consisted of Elisabeth Woodburn, Bernard Rosenthal, and Madeleine Stern. We spent considerable time traipsing New York City streets looking for a suitable location, until Betty Woodburn turned to good account her friendship with a neighbor who had connections with Rockefeller Center. Through those connections we were offered an area of 1000 square feet in what was euphemistically designated the Concourse (or basement) of Rockefeller Center's International Building at 630 Fifth Avenue. And there the original idea of a headquarters for the ABAA was reshaped into the idea of a co-operative bookstore of member firms that would lease space to the ABAA for its headquarters. The statue of Atlas holding the globe at the entrance of the building was appropriate for us. We hoped to bring the bookish riches of the world into a unique co-operative bookshop, and the idea worked—for 25 years.

It was not just Woodburn, Rosenthal and Stern who engineered the ABC. It was also their numerous co-operative committees. One of them was headed by Margie Cohn, who sewed by hand the draperies for the Center's huge windows. Another was chaired by Leona Rostenberg, who carried a broom across Fifth Avenue to sweep the Center's interior. A third co-worker was Emily Driscoll, in whose office the Center's bylaws were written. A fourth of course was Anne Klein who supplied doughnuts and coffee cake.

After truly intensive work by this hard

core of founding mothers and fathers, the Antiquarian Booksellers Center was opened on October 14, 1963. On opening day its plaster, paint and stain were still wet, and shelves had not yet been placed in the bookcases. Books of participating members were stored in a rented area, and the secretary—Bob Frey—had not even a chair to sit on. Even so, it was apparent that, with space for headquarters, the ABAA was about to come of age, and that, with its own Center, the American antiquarian book trade had come of age.

While it lasted, the Center was indeed remarkable. In the long and fascinating history of books and bookpeople, it provides a unique chapter. It was a bookstore, but an anomalous one, for it was a co-operative enterprise of between 50 and 70 rugged and frequently eccentric individuals from all over the country, all of whom happened to be members of the ABAA. In short, the Center was the only bookstore of its kind anywhere in the world. There participants met with their customers; there dealers bought from other dealers. In a way, it was a year-round Book Fair. But actually, it turned out to be more than that. It was a center for togetherness. There the Board of Governors of the ABAA met; there we frequently held MAC meetings; and there we initiated our Christmas parties for the trade. Under the aegis of one Center chairperson, Estelle Chessid, we held a series of well-attended lectures. But now we are getting ahead of our story.

Our first paid secretary, Bob Frey, lasted for only one year, after which he was enticed away to Brentano's bookstore. In place of Frey, we found a treasure—Edith Wells—whom some of you must remember. She was dedicated, untiring, helpful, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic about books. She remained with the Center almost to its end, and indeed, for whatever successes the Center could boast, she was largely responsible.

Most of the Center's successes stemmed from its wonderful book exhibitions. Our bookstore in the Concourse of the International Building was almost surrounded by enormous show windows. The Concourse itself usually swarmed with people—people on their way to lunch or to the subway—people who stopped short in their tracks when they saw the displays that Edith had

mounted in the immense windows of the ABC.

The displays were actually revolving exhibitions of members. As a result of the earliest Center display, the first Center sale was made—it was a Gershwin manuscript offered by autograph dealer Robert Black. One of the first of those revolving exhibitions was set up by our firm, and it turned out to be a tragically memorable one. The Center had opened in October 1963, and our exhibition was shown in November. In honor of the occasion our good friend, the collector of feminism, Miriam Holden, sent a beautiful bouquet of flowers. About two days into the exhibition, Bob Frey, now with his own desk and chair, answered a telephone ring. The message he received was that the President had been shot. When he informed us soberly of this fact, Leona looked up and asked, "Who would want to shoot Walter Schatzki?"—then President of the ABAA. It was funny at the time, but as you all know too well, there was no comic relief in what followed. When news was finally received that President Kennedy was dead, we placed Miriam Holden's bouquet in the show window, locked the Center doors, and joined the throngs of New Yorkers all leaving their offices, shocked and grieving at the tragic news.

Other Center exhibitions were happier. Caravan-Maritime put on a memorable exhibition of "The Ship through the Ages," for example; Emily

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Driscoll displayed "Nineteenth-Century English Illustrators," and a most interesting co-operative exhibition, with contributions from nearly every member, was mounted under the aegis

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of Justin Schiller, then Center chair, entitled "Shakespeare and his Times." At that exhibition, Joseph Papp was invited to view and comment on the materials shown.

Thanks to such exhibitions, the Center became a magnet for collectors and—perhaps even more important—an incentive to burgeoning collectors. The books they saw on view in the show windows aroused their attention, and they came inside to look around at showcases and bookcases, and to ask questions. In time, Edith Wells was able to type up lists of buyers and visitors to the Center, with their special interests, which she circulated among member firms. The catalogues of participants were also available to browsers, and so, many member firms extended their mailing lists and their lists of good customers. Many referral sales were made, and—equally important—many acquisitions were also made. For example, through the Center, we were able to purchase a fine Italian Renaissance library. Between its want lists and its lists of visitors and purchasers, the Center became a source of useful practical information to its members. And to the world that passed its loaded windows, the Antiquarian Booksellers Center became a microcosm of the antiquarian book world.

Then, on the 29th of March 1978, after 15 years in the Concourse of the International Building, the Center was moved upstairs to street level, and its address was changed to 50 Rockefeller Plaza in the Associated Press Building. There, in a double shop—one room of which became ABAA headquarters—the Center continued in dignified splendor, cheek by jowl with the Morgan Guaranty Trust. At the time of the move, the AB published a special issue on the Antiquarian Booksellers Center to which many dealers sent tributes. Here are a few samples:

From Ardis Glenn of Glenn Books in Kansas City: "I have been able to find stellar books of many varieties. . . and have made contacts I could never have made otherwise. The names on the catalogues turn into people if you frequent the Center."

From Kurt and Martha Schwarz of Los Angeles: "Being located at the other end of the continent, we have. . . been

afforded a show window in one of the best locations of Manhattan, as well as a place where we could meet customers and friends."

And from Elisabeth Woodburn: "Over the years. . . the ABC has certainly realized our fondest hope as a display center and a meeting point for the trade."

Unfortunately, the new ABC, elegant and beautiful as it was, did not attract the browsers it had lured when it was in the bowels of Rockefeller Center. The quiet area to which it had been moved was too quiet. The show windows of the new Center were very small and could not compare with those in the old quarters. Besides, there were no passers-by looking for cafes or subways. In solitary grandeur, the Center waited for new customers but only the old reliables were faithful. Gradually, and most unfortunately, the Center's input could not match its outlay. Members paid the Center a maximum of \$300 a year, in return for which they were given shelf space, display space, and the privilege of mounting exhibitions. In addition, the Center was paid 10% of all sales made. Although membership did not fall off,—indeed, membership rose at one time to over 80—Center sales did. And so, the Center struggled to survive. Edith Wells' retirement, the isolated area of 50 Rockefeller Plaza, and the decline in sales all contributed to its lacklustre balance sheet. The nominal fees collected from participants simply failed to cover inflationary costs. And so, at that period, the Center was invited to accept the umbrella protection of the ABAA. In 1987, autocratically and without polling member firms, the ABAA disbanded the Antiquarian Booksellers Center. For nearly 25 years it had stood—a monument to the tenacity and especially the co-operation that prevailed among members of the booktrade.

The Center had been engendered by MAC. So too had the co-operative catalogues and the Antiquarian Book Fairs. In later years other co-operative enterprises would be launched by MAC leadership, such as the two great innovations introduced by autograph dealer James Lowe as MAC chair: the Rare Book Tapes, and the publication of the *Professional Antiquarian Bookseller*. Mainly, however, all these achievements were the outgrowth and manifestation of

the co-operative spirit of pioneer booksellers.

They were all colorful personalities—those individuals who banded together to advance their common cause. Whether they were misanthropic or congenial, brilliant or eccentric, they were united by the love of books. Whatever they attained—including the ABAA itself—is testimony to that union and to the co-operative spirit it engendered. ■

## Summary of Replevin Laws Available from ABAA

Replevin of documents susceptible to the definition "public record" should be a concern of all dealers and private holders of historical materials. Because some such documents have freely circulated in the trade without being subjected to government seizure, many dealers are not aware of the risks of buying and selling archival records. Recent court decisions are likely to encourage state archivists to pursue public records with increased zeal.

As a first step in alerting the trade to this potential problem, the ABAA Board of Governors commissioned counsel Lawrence Fox to compile a state-by-state survey of the public records laws, with a brief Memorandum of Law. This survey is now available from ABAA headquarters, for the cost of photoduplication, plus postage. ■

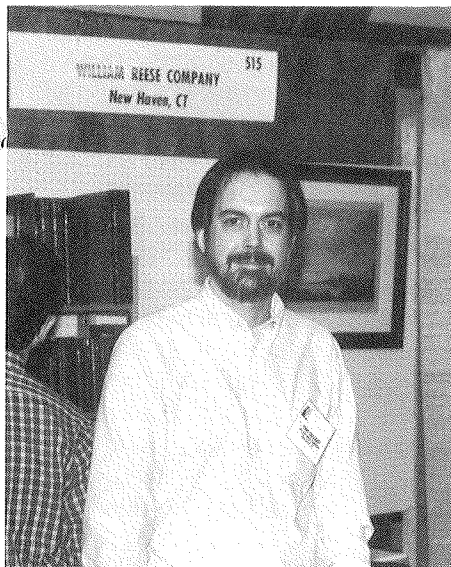
## O'Donnell Wins at Golf

Edward M. O'Donnell of Johnson & O'Donnell Rare Books, Syracuse, NY, has won the New York Seniors Golf Association Tournament on its 40th Anniversary. It was played May 18-19 at Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, New York—the site of the U.S. Open.

Ed's score was 74 on the final round on the East Course. The first round score on the West Course was 81. He said that he "doesn't like being a senior, but loved winning the tournament."

Johnson & O'Donnell specializes in baseball and golf in addition to 19th and 20th Century American & English Literature, Literary Documents & Autographs. ■





**Terry Halladay of William Reese Company.  
New York Book Fair, 1992.**

## Benefits available to ABAA Members

In our continuing effort to bring to the membership services at a discount, we report the following:

■ **National Car Rental** offers all ABAA members a continuing discount on car rentals. Please inquire of the agent when booking.

■ **Demco Library Supply** offers ABAA members a 9% discount off library, office and computer supplies. Excluded from this offer are furniture, equipment, and library promotional items as listed on pages 565-779 of their 1992 full-line catalogue, customs productions and specials. You must mention your ABAA membership on all orders, whether by mail, phone, or fax, and use our bid number C-24084. This number must be cited. This offer is good only through April 30, 1993. To order the Demco catalogue call 800-356-1200.

■ **Ruesch International Financial Services** offers its services as a benefit to ABAA members. As a financial institution specializing in foreign payments and related services, Ruesch assists booksellers nationwide in the payment of foreign bills. Bank drafts cost \$2.00 each; wire transfers are \$15.00. Orders can be easily placed over the phone or by fax. Exchange rates are very competitive, but ABAA urges you always to shop for better rates, especially on larger amounts. For more information call 800-424-2923. ■

## Videotape on Format and Collation Available

ABAA has purchased a 30-minute videotape, *The Anatomy of a Book: Format in the Hand-Press Period* by Terry Belanger and Peter Herdrich, the first of a projected pair of videotapes dealing with format (as here) and collation (to follow) in the hand-press period, between 1450 and the invention of moveable type by Gutenberg, and about 1800 and the development of machine-made paper and iron print presses. This videotape is available for loan to any ABAA member on request from headquarters in New York.

The promotional blurb prepared by the collaborators informs us that "this videotape is intended for use by students of literature and history who find themselves needing to know something about the physical construction of pre-1800 printed books. During the hand-press period, printers and publishers thought of their books in terms of the size and number of whole sheets of paper needed to produce them. An immediate concern in planning an edition was to establish its format, the way in which its sheets of paper would be folding into gatherings so that they could be sewn together and bound in an efficient and convenient manner. Authors, publishers, printers, and retail booksellers alike were conversant with the advantages and traditions associated with the various standard formats used during the hand-press period. Thus a knowledge of and a familiarity with these formats is an indispensable part of the scholarly equipment of modern students of book history—bibliographers, historians, textual editors, librarians, and antiquarian booksellers.

"*Format in the Hand-Press Period* is accompanied by a workbook containing the text of the presentation, a glossary of terms, and a list for further reading; it is also accompanied by several sets of full-size facsimiles of some of the printed sheets used in the videotape. It was written by Terry Belanger and directed by Peter Herdrich. It has profited from Terry Belanger's years of teaching the principles of format and collation at the Columbia University School of Library Service, both in master's level courses in the rare book program of the school and during the school's annual summer institute." ■

## ILAB News

The following was gleaned from the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the ILAB held in Amsterdam February 27-28.

From the President's Report: "All were welcomed by the President, Anton Gerits, and invited by the Dutch Association to attend a dinner on February 28. . .re: the Milan Book Fair. As per the correspondence between the President and the Italian Association regarding the Milan Fair, the matter is settled. The Italian Association voted to boycott it, and G. Oberle reported that the French Association (S.L.A.M.) has accepted the boycott. The President accepted the French position, but said that he had discussed the matter immediately with the Italian Association and explained that it was incumbent upon all members of the national associations to make their own judgements. . ."

From the Treasurer's Report: "The Treasurer, Poul Poulsen, gave a semi-annual statement. . .The finances of the League are healthy."

Regarding the application of the Spanish Association: The President was asked to comment on "the Spanish Association and its members. It was noted that, of the approximately 50 dealers listed, almost all were Catalan and/or based in Madrid. Mr. Rosenthal suggested we accept the Spanish Association, and the President suggested we should wait for their letter of request."

On the forthcoming application of a Chinese Association, the President reported "that Mr. Nitta of the Japanese Association suggested that this association has shown great interest in affiliating with the ILAB. Mr. Rosenthal pointed out that they really do not have a free-market economy, and it was suggested that we should perhaps wait until they have built up their own association of individual members, as at the moment, it seems they are run from a central market. Mr. Reiss pointed out that we shall face this problem again in the not-so-distant future from countries in Eastern Europe."

On the Congress and Book Fair in Cologne in September: "Mr. Reiss stated that there was one cardinal rule to be followed at the Fair, and that was that the customer who buys a book must be

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able to pay and take the book with him. The dealer will charge the German VAT, and pay that VAT to German Customs upon leaving the country."

On the exportation of books from France: "Mr. Oberle brought up the grave problem relating to proposed new legislation in France that would effectively shut the doors on the exportation of old and rare books from France, and cause much hardship to members of the League, both in France and outside, as well as to libraries, collectors, etc. He reported that Messrs. Courvoisier and Magis have been attending meetings pertaining to this proposed legislation, but so far no answers have been forthcoming regarding the proposed limitation on the export of so-called patrimony."

Other business: "Mr. Rosenthal reported that the 1996 Congress will be held in Los Angeles, while the Book Fair will be held in San Francisco . . . Also mentioned by Mr. Rosenthal was the objection some American booksellers voiced at having to pay

\$10.00 per fair as an ILAB surcharge, and could this be modified in some way. The Committee was not sympathetic." ■

## Query

For research on Frances Hamill, president of ABAA in 1953-54, and Margery Barker, I write to inquire of anyone possessing correspondence, records, newspaper clippings, memories, etc., pertaining to Ms. Hamill and/or the firm. I would also appreciate any general information about the ABAA. I am especially interested in the number of women members from its inception to the present.

My goal is to write a biography of the these two fascinating women, who began their rare book business in 1928, and sustained it until 1987, when the surviving partner, Ms. Hamill, died. I am an independent researcher, but am a faculty member of the English Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Please contact: Ruth B. Hutchinson, 3900 N. Lake Shore Dr. #7-G, Chicago, IL 60613. ■

## ABAA Welcomes New Members

Since the *Newsletter's* last announcement of new members, the following have been admitted in our membership. The *Newsletter* takes this opportunity to welcome them.

**FULL MEMBERS:** Catherine Barnes, 2031 Walnut St., 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103; tel. 215-854-0175.

**Michael Cahill**, Cahill's Book Store, 18838 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA 92708; tel. 714-963-8792. **Thomas A. Goldwasser**, POB 11727, Berkeley, CA 94701; tel. 510-848-2600. **Allen F. Hobbs**, Bebbah Books, 4840 S.E. Hwy. 101, Lincoln City, OR 97367; tel. 503-994-6882. **Jan Vincent Nelson**, The Santa Fe Bookseller, 203 West San Francisco St., Santa Fe, NM 87501; tel. 505-983-5278. **David Schulson**, David Schulson Autographs, 11 E. 68th St., New York, NY 10021; tel. 212-517-8300. **Monica J. Strauss**, MJS Books and Graphics, 9 East 82nd St., New York, NY 10028; tel. 212-517-8565. **George F. (Rick) Wilkinson**, Albatross Book Company, 166 Eddy St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Tel. 415-885-6501.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:** John H. Boyles, Joyce Book Shop, POB 310, Martinez, CA 94553. Margaret F. O'Connell, Western Hemisphere, Inc., 144 West St., Stoughton, MA 01072. Robert Scull, Rykken & Scull, 1031 Trillium, Mill Valley, CA 90403. ■

### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

**Jutta Buck**, Antiquarian Book and Prints, Box 221, R.R. 1, Stanfordville, NY 12581; phone 518-398-1495; fax 518-797-1189.

**The Printer's Devil, Ltd.**, 290 Heaton Park Dr., Decatur, GA 30030; phones 404-377-5197; 800-992-0723; fax 404-377- 5496.

**First Folio** new fax 901-644-9940.

**EXPELLED:** Gilman Parsons, Parsons Books, 564 1st St. E., Sonoma, CA 95476

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