



The ABAA NEWSLETTER



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ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SUMMER, 1994

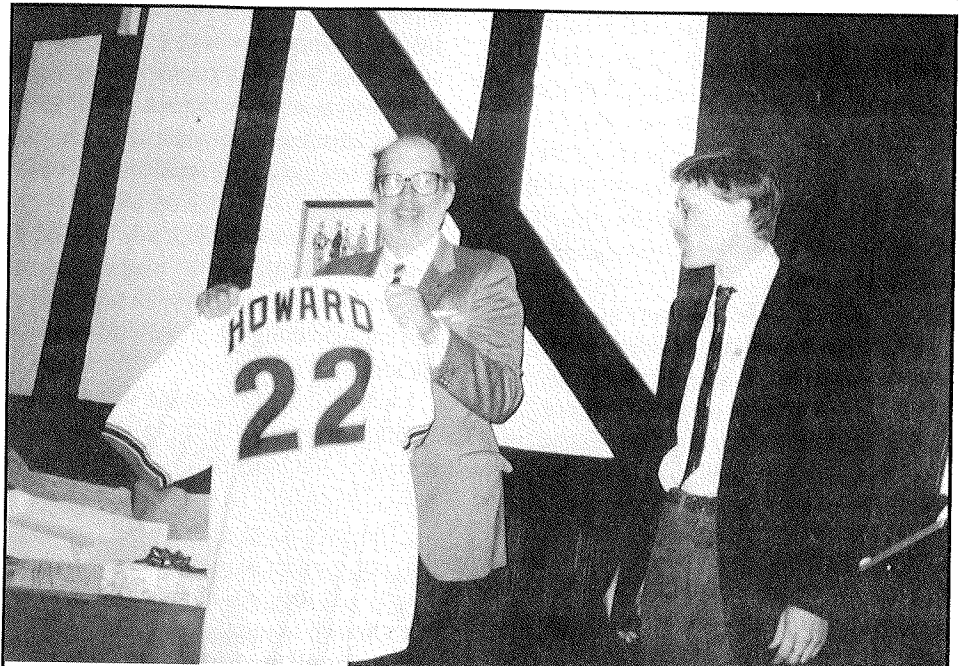
New York Conference a Success

"The Collector & Bookseller: Fellowship of the Book", a conference sponsored by the ABAA and organized by the Middle Atlantic Chapter under the direction of Bruce McKittrick, has drawn praise from attenders and participants alike. The event was held at the Grolier Club in New York on April 20, the day before the opening of the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. This is the first conference of its kind undertaken by the Association, and it provided a unique forum for the exchange of ideas among members of the international book community.

After introductory remarks by Martin Antonetti, Grolier Club Librarian, by Rob Rulon-Miller, and by Mr. McKittrick, the entire delegation was treated to an instructive and entertaining lecture by Christopher de Hamel on "The Manuscript Market from the 20th to the 12th Century." This lecture, delivered in the Grolier Club's main floor exhibition hall, was attended by approximately ninety participants and Grolier employees. Following de Hamel's presentation, the delegation broke into two groups to discuss and hear additional lectures: the first on illustrated books under moderator J.M. Edelstein of the Getty Library, Santa Monica; and the second on medical books, under moderator Anton Gerits, Dutch bookseller and current ILAB President.

Mr. Gerits and Mr. Edelstein also moderated two sessions each in the afternoon program. Gerits led discussions on manuscripts and on voyages and travel, while Edelstein lead groups in discussion of modern literature and art and natural history. Several ABAA members prepared papers for the event, including Edwin

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Peter Howard (left), outgoing ABAA President and a devout San Francisco Giants fan, accepts a farewell gift from incoming President Robert Rulon-Miller at the Annual Meeting in New York, April 1994. The gift was an official Giants jersey. Howard was the twenty-second ABAA President.

ABAA Board, Planning Committee Meet

A combined meeting of the ABAA Planning Committee and the Board of Governors met Saturday and Sunday July 16 and 17 at the Elkins Park, PA home of John Hellebrand. Bob Fleck (Treasurer and Planning Committee Chair) and Rob Rulon-Miller (President) co-chaired both meetings. Almost every member of the Committee and Board were present, including: Allan Ahearn, Louis Collins, Tom Congalton, Dan DeSimone, Don Heald, Mark Hime, Peter Howard, Helen Kelly, Jennifer Larson, Joe Luttrell, Jeff Marks, Peter Stern, John Stroud, Allan Stypeck, Jeffrey Thomas, and of course, our giant host Mr. Hellebrand, when he wasn't instructing the caterers or shoeing

his bat-eared dog. Executive Director Liane Wood-Thomas was present with a borrowed laptop, as was David Margolis representing the Southwest Chapter.

A number of new initiatives were presented by members of the Planning Committee and the chairs of the various committees of the Board, as below.

Finance Committee

Bob Fleck submitted for review the ABAA balance sheet for June 30, 1994 which showed a \$14,445 balance in the checking account, a \$267,280 balance in the money market account, \$90,000 in the legal contingency fund, and \$10,000 in treasury notes, for a total of \$381,725.

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Letters to the Editor

Due to both the quantity and the quality of letters received regarding screenplays and piracies, the editors have become compromised in trying to publish all correspondence. To date, all letters received for publication have appeared in this column. Some contained interesting and valuable contributions but were laced with personal attacks. Others were inane, often vituperative, and contributed nothing at all to the ongoing debate. With this issue we have elected not to print several letters received, and henceforth, we will be selective in what we print and will reserve the right to edit all letters received. The views expressed in all letters are those of their authors, and in no way constitute an endorsement by the ABAA. As ever, we seek letters of reasonable length and timely content on pertinent issues.

From: Helen R. Kahn, Montreal, Quebec
To all my friends and colleagues in the ABAA: Fred joins me in offering our sincere thanks for all the expressions of sympathy which have found their way to us.

I have written to many of you individually, to thank you, but to anyone whom I might have missed, please be assured that your thoughts have helped us through a very difficult time.

Name withheld upon request

What has happened of late to the custom of paying fellow exhibitors for books purchased at ABAA book fairs before packing up? Dealers who once handed me a check (with a smile and a thank you) now are taking thirty days (occasionally more) to pay for books they bought for a discount before the fair opened, depriving me of a potential retail sale.

As someone who wouldn't think of leaving a book fair without paying for the books I bought there, I would be interested in hearing what other booksellers have to say.

From: Lillian Cole, Twelfth Street Booksellers, Santa Monica, CA

Thanks for sending the issue requested. I especially wanted to see the review of John Sinkankas' *Bibliography of*

Gemology (by Karmiole). It is such a marvellous work, and I had hoped it would be reviewed in *AB*, but it was not. I use it constantly; there's nothing like it! Thanks again.

From: Jack Hanrahan, J & J Hanrahan, Short Hills, NJ

I'd like to thank you for your efforts in editing the *Newsletter*, which is the single best thing that has happened to ABAA since I have been a member (twenty-three-plus years now), and I hope you continue to give various opinions of members before we adopt any new laws. It seems to me that in the past few years we have had too many vague laws that just confuse things and don't do anything constructive for anyone.

I would also like to thank you for the careful presentation of the text in my review of Joe Felcone's book, *New Jersey Books, 1698-1800* [*ABAA Newsletter* V, 3]. The only suggestion I would make is that you consult with the writer—at least briefly—before making changes. I have been known to family and friends and colleagues all my life and for my thirty years in the book business as Jack. And someone there decided to change my name to John J. Why? My mother and father were satisfied with Jack. Why not the Editor?

Apologies. —Ed.

From: Michael D. Heaston, Austin, TX
Just received my Spring, 1994 *ABAA Newsletter* and was disappointed and saddened to read the totally unfair and nasty comment regarding all Austin booksellers by Larry McMurtry. Equally disappointing that the comment was put into print by the *ABAA Newsletter*.

From: Dorothy Sloan—Books, Austin, TX
Though I am loathe to add even one more word to the mass of hyperbole surrounding the piracy debate, I cannot live with myself if I do not strenuously object to Larry McMurtry's scurrilous characterization of Austin booksellers. I am saddened that someone I admire and respect has engaged in the worst sort of blind prejudice against an entire group of people. I cannot fathom why the ABAA

would stoop to printing slanderous sweeping generalization of this sort.

From: Shirley Solomon, Pageant Book & Print Shop, New York, NY

It seems some things never change. While I'm sure that my photocopying the enclosed is illegal, please bear in mind that I'm not selling it, nor am I enclosing it for publication. It really is another writer's opinion on piracy and I thought you all would appreciate seeing it. I really dig the "brain production" as a commodity. Anyway, the book is called *Pirates* by Bernhardt Wall (1925), and it is the high seas kind that the book is really about:

"There is a class of modern pirates sailing under the black flag. The book-pirates and printer-pirates make brain productions their prey. For the benefit of the hundred owners of this edition, we have procured the protection of our government." [From the copyright page.]

From: Peter L. Stern, Pepper & Stern—Rare Books, Boston, MA

While, as Tom Congalton puts it, all this piracy brouhaha is a "tempest-in-a-teapot," it is very entertaining; not quite so good yet as *The New York Post*, but for this trade it's hot stuff. It's wonderful fun to see character assassination in print when you know the assassins and the assassinated so well.

I don't think we need mourn Mr. McMurtry's departure from the ABAA; he seems to nurse many old grudges. We have dealt in screenplays, some unproduced, but will avoid dealing in those in the future. Mr. McMurtry points out that trading "in unproduced scripts is interfering in a complex and expensive process; one day such a sale will cause the sky to fall." Regardless of the arguments on the legality of selling such items, the threat here is clear. Someone will be bankrupted by legal fees and it won't be Mr. McMurtry and it won't be a studio.

I doubt if I've exchanged fifty words with him over the last twenty years, but to mutual friends Mr. McMurtry has made no secret of his personal distaste for me, an opinion he's entitled to and no doubt shares with others. I don't wish to be the victim of his retribution. This decision is made much easier, of course, by the fact that screenplays are generally hard to sell anyway, so I can be both ethi-

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Membership Committee Confronts a New Problem

Our Association has a long history of debate regarding who we are and what our criteria for membership are. Years ago the door was closed on print dealers. In 1991 the membership was asked to decide whether additional auction houses should be allowed within our ranks; the membership's answer was a resounding no.

The issue before us in 1994 is whether those individuals who deal primarily in autograph and manuscript material should continue to be admitted to the ABAA. The question is coming to the fore because of a significant increase in the number of autograph dealers as well as a staggering increase in the price structure of some autograph material.

In the interests of our association the Membership Committee is considering a proposal to tighten membership rules. But first we are anxious to hear from the membership at large regarding this issue.

Joseph Rubinfine, West Palm Beach, FL has responded:

"It is quite understandable that book-seller members of ABAA might envision becoming a minority in their own organization, given the proliferation of autograph dealers.

"In my opinion, the rapid growth in the number of autograph dealers has been fueled by disproportionate publicity, rising prices, and what must have the appearance of an easy and pleasant occupation. This in some cases is connected to the thought that an inventory can be acquired at little cost by harassing celebrities (the propriety of this is not an antiquarian issue, of course, but the word "antiquarian" must be admitted to be less descriptive of our organization than any of the other parts of its name). As the autograph trade has in recent years changed in a haphazard manner threatening to its future, one very noticeable result has been wildly varying perceptions on the part of the public as to the abilities and reputations of the dealers. I regret to observe that I do not find ABAA membership to be a major correcting factor in this regard. In fact, the traditional connection between rare books and manuscripts is lost on many new people in the autograph field. Still, there are so many new dealers that as those better informed come of age in ABAA time-in-

business membership requirements, numerous applications are to be expected.

"Recently arrived autograph dealers are often characterized by a lack of knowledge even about their own material since very few have served any sort of apprenticeship and some weren't even collectors. Without question many are at least well meaning and enthusiastic, but their guarantees are still questionable, while others are opportunistic, inclined to scam-type activity, or worse. A number are fugitives from largely discredited stamp or coin operations. Their use of "investment" as a sales tool is widespread, and there is very little concern for or even recognition of ethical considerations. As one effect, the autograph pricing structure is changing to a haggler's market system inconsistent with ethical approach or with long established practices. Another factor is the rise of specialty stores offering framed autographs. Not all, but many of these places price their merchandise at three to five times demonstrable market value. Such places have tended to legitimize each other.

"All of this sorry behavior does not suggest the ideal type of ABAA member on

whom the public can rely. Yet to block any new applicants merely because they are autograph dealers seems to me to be unfair without some sort of review of those of us already members. ABAA surely does not want to discourage the development of new talent or impede the careers of promising people who will become reliable dealers, and what I have outlined regarding what in my view is both prevalent and distasteful does not mean that there are no such promising people in the membership pipeline. To segregate them because they are autograph dealers ignores the long standing relationship between rare books and manuscripts as well as the fact that a number of dealers handle both. Therefore, while I cannot defend the majority of new autograph dealers, I still hope for a continuation of honorable autograph selling as a part of ABAA."

The Membership Committee would like to know your opinions on this issue; please send your responses to the chair:

Helen Kelly, Boston Book Company,
705 Centre Street, Boston, MA 02130;
617-522-2100; FAX 617-522-9359. ■

ABAA Board Votes on Piracy Language

As reported in the last issue of the *Newsletter*, the ABAA Ethics Committee was considering a separate statement and two possible additions to the Code of Ethics that would create an Association policy on piracies. Meeting in New York City in April, the ABAA Board voted to add a paragraph addressing the piracy issue to the Code of Ethics. Henceforth, paragraph number 3 will read:

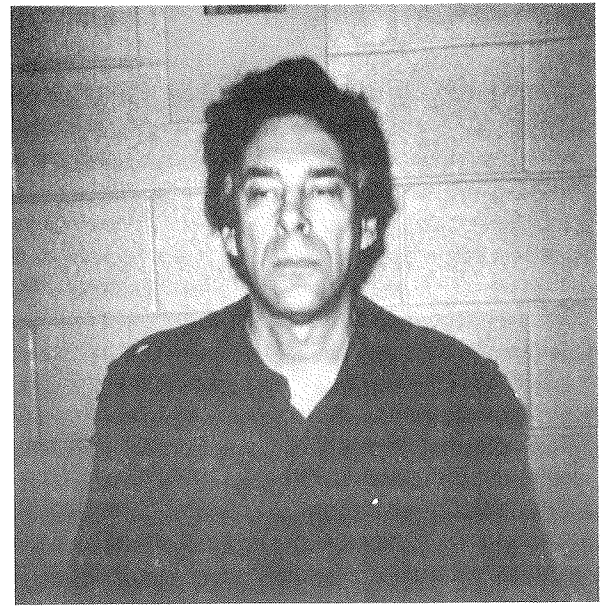
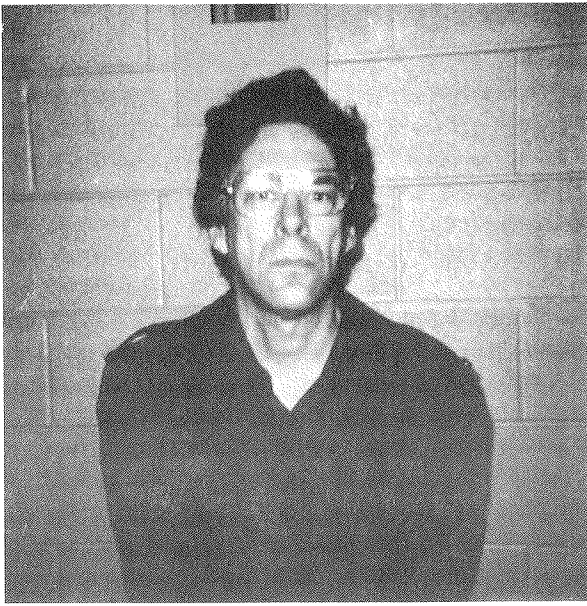
3)(a) An Association member shall be responsible for passing to the buyer clear title to all material sold, and shall not knowingly purchase, hold, or attempt to resell stolen materials. An Association member shall make all reasonable efforts to ascertain that materials offered for sale to him or her are the property of the seller.

(b) An Association member shall make every effort to prevent the theft or distribution of stolen antiquarian books and related materials. An Association member shall cooperate with law enforcement

authorities and the Association's Board of Governors in the effort to recover and return stolen materials, and apprehend and prosecute those responsible for the theft, including, but not limited to, providing the names of persons involved.

(c) The Association endorses the principles embodied in national and international copyright laws. An Association member shall not knowingly violate copyright laws by selling, trading, distributing, or creating unlawfully produced copies of works currently protected by copyright, without the written, oral, or implied consent of the copyright owner.

ABAA members will receive copies of this new wording, along with changes in the ABAA By-Laws, to update their ABAA *Guidebook* later this summer. Other interested parties may obtain a copy of the ABAA Code of Ethics from ABAA, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020. ■



Howard Bassett, a.k.a. Tony Allegretti, from Polaroid pictures provided by the Chicago Police.

Chicago Police Arrest Alleged Book Thief

by R. Russell Maylone, Curator,
Northwestern University Library

Howard Bassett, a.k.a. Tony Allegretti, was arrested by Chicago police when attempting to sell engraved plates removed from various books. The arresting officer, Detective Michael Fleming, Detective Division Area 5 Violent Crime, apprehended Bassett at Fleming's shop, which deals in aeronautica and other small antiques. Det. Fleming and a colleague determined the plates had been ripped out of books and were not the property of Bassett. "No collector would do that," said Fleming's friend. When arrested, Bassett had an expired driver's license and an old social security card.

The police have inventoried and are holding six nineteenth-century engravings on steel and wood of George Washington torn out of various books, a large sixteenth-century map, a hand-colored copperplate engraving, and three plates from a rectangular celestial atlas, probably German, eighteenth-century. Bassett also had in his possession a card catalog drawer guide card which listed two books by numbers indicating their presence in Northwestern University's Special Collections department. When checked, the two volumes were found to be properly

shelved, with nothing missing. Neither Detective Fleming nor Curator R. Russell Maylone were able to determine where any of the plates came from.

Detective Fleming contacted Northwestern University Library because among the items Bassett had were several slips from the Library indicating the locations of call number sequences in its stack towers. There were also a series of notes in Bassett's hand indicating his work in going over the towers.

When shown polaroid pictures of Bassett, Curator Maylone recognized him as a recent patron who had been in the Special Collection Department at Northwestern asking to see Gould's *Hummingbirds*. Maylone also reported that Bassett was accompanied by a heavily made-up blond woman; both were wearing long black leather coats. Since it was near closing time, Maylone informed them he could not retrieve the Gould. Bassett and his companion left after looking at the paintings and other artworks in the room.

From the materials found in Bassett's possession, it is clear that he went over Northwestern University Library systematically. He listed each tower, and each floor was checked off as though he had

been through it. He also had a long list of subjects in which he was interested: Americana, African materials, natural history, travel, and others. One of Bassett's notes read: "*Harper's Weekly*, find out where it is, who has it." Also present was a single page hand-written list of maps of various locales with prices ranging from \$20 to \$50. According to Detective Fleming, Bassett was very smooth in striking up conversations about items and picking up on values. He was not above understanding the relationship between two dealers and realizing that if he could get an affirmative from one in support of his materials, the other might be more inclined to purchase.

From simple images of Washington to prints from Gould's *Hummingbirds* is a significant jump in appreciation in what appears to be a very short time. Bassett is charming, a con-man of accomplishment, one who in conversation with Chicago police appears to have no scruples whatsoever and appears to be a novice in the field of the theft of books and prints for resale. Though he may be a novice just now, his actions and effects reveal a growing knowledge of books and prints, their value, and where he might find them.. ■

Bookseller and Librarian: Beware!

The following are descriptions of a few suspected book thieves from *Focus on Security*, published by The Triad Company, specialists in library and museum security (P.O. Box 9930, Moscow, ID 83843; 208-882-0311). If you see any of these people, please contact your local law enforcement authorities, or your local FBI Office.

Charles Merrill Mount. Born Sherman Suchow on 5-19-1928, Charles Merrill Mount is 5' 7" and weighs 155-160 pounds. He has green eyes, grey hair, and is very dapper and/or professional in appearance.

Suchow (a.k.a. Mount) is a scholar, artist, author, historian, and a Guggenheim Fellowship Recipient. He is listed in *Who's Who in American Art* and in *Contemporary Authors*. He passes himself off as an English gentleman and is able to penetrate most security measures because of his demeanor.

He was arrested in 1987 in Boston attempting to sell rare books stolen from the Library of Congress and National Archives. Items recovered had a street value of \$200,000 and consisted of letters written by Lincoln, Churchill, Henry James, and several Civil War documents.

Mark Lawrence Bilus. Born 6-17-1957 in New York City, Bilus is 5' 10" tall and weighs 155-165 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes and sometimes wears a beard and mustache.

Bilus, also known as Mitchell Bilus, Mark Lawrence, Mitchell Jay, Mark Anory, and Lai Rivera, is wanted on a federal arrest warrant for the theft of rare books from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. The material was recovered when the suspect tried to sell them in Philadelphia.

Stuart Lee Adelman. Born June 4, 1938 in New Jersey, Adelman is 6' tall, weighs 155-170 pounds, and has gray hair and brown eyes. He is suave and crafty, playing the role of a cultured Englishman.

Adelman has been convicted of stealing signed documents from the Folger Shakespeare Library in July, 1992. He violated parole and is being sought by the FBI.

Adelman is known to target extra-illustrated books, removing signed documents and selling them. He was last reported in Vancouver, British Columbia.

William March Witherell. Forty-two years old, Witherell is 6' to 6' 1" tall with a slender build. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He sometimes wears a full beard and mustache but is clean-shaven at times. A reputed schizophrenic, Witherell

is socially withdrawn and exhibits difficulties expressing a logical train of thought.

Witherell has been described as an absent-minded professor type and is very mobile. He has reportedly stolen books from several Special Collections and Rare Books Departments, especially from state colleges and universities such as the University of Minnesota and Ohio State University. ■

Photography can Foil Book Thieves

Photography can play an important role in deterring thefts from libraries and bookshops. Bill Moffett of the Huntington Library has noted: "It is in the interests of 'our community' that photographs of indicted and/or convicted library thieves be taken so that they can be shared. Sometimes copies of mugshots can be obtained.... When such photographs are available, it is perfectly legal to publish or otherwise distribute them, provided no false allegation is made (such as calling someone arrested on suspicion of having committed a crime a thief instead of an 'alleged thief', etc.) It was in part the lack of getting a snap of Blumberg despite several occasions when it would have been legal and possible to make his portrait that permitted him such a long and troublesome career.

"The problem is that there is no agency set up to do this, and victimized libraries must simply add this to the list of steps in the ACRL/RBMS Guidelines that must be taken when a theft occurs: when you've got someone in custody, by all means arrange to have a photograph taken—at a hearing, in a courthouse corridor, being taken from a patrol car, etc. No matter what the ultimate outcome of the arrest is—and that includes escape, jumping bail, prosecution failure, conviction, probation, whatever—it could be extremely useful to have that as part of the victimized institution's records."

Booksellers, too, can make very effective use of photography. Some years ago, when The Bookstall and Argonaut Book Shop occupied neighboring downtown San Francisco street corners, a well-dressed, professional-looking browser/buyer left The Bookstall with what proprietor Louise Moises was certain were several of her books. As he headed for Argonaut, she telephoned colleague Robert Haines with his description and a brief account of what had happened. The suspect arrived at Argonaut toting a bag of books in each arm. Louise followed shortly thereafter, confronted the man, and demanded to search his bags. As soon as Louise discovered the shoplifted books in the suspect's possession, Bob, ever at the ready, snapped a Polaroid of him and immediately informed the individual that he would circulate the photograph to every bookseller he knew. Upon hearing this, the suspect claimed "never to have done this before," and left. Later, Bob found that the subject of their candid portrait was a well-known customer and a possible thief among their bookseller colleagues. They have not been troubled by him, however, since the snapshot was taken.

Joel Chapman of Acorn Books in San Francisco has also found photography to be an effective deterrent to shoplifters. He maintains, for his own use only, a private "rogue's gallery" of suspected shoplifters. (Booksellers can photograph suspects under the guise of photographing their own store or inventory.) It is a powerful technique of unexplored legality, to be employed only in cases of absolute certainty, since Joel reports that no one whose picture he has taken has ever returned to his bookstore.

A WORTHY CAUSE

Over the years, the Benevolent Fund of the ABAA has helped countless booksellers in their time of need—regardless of their affiliation with the ABAA.

The Benevolent Fund was used to assist California booksellers who were devastated in the January earthquake, and the funds are seriously depleted. Your help is needed. So, rather than waiting for the holidays, we repeat the timeless message originally presented by the late Sol M. Malkin, *AB Bookman's Weekly* founding Editor, and former Editor and Publisher:

This fund was specifically set up to provide "assistance for needy persons, regardless of any affiliation, who are or who have been engaged in the business of selling and dealing in books or allied material." Trustees of the fund are the present and the two immediate past presidents of the ABAA operating under a Declaration of Trust drawn up according to the laws of the State of New York.

In establishing the fund, the trustees stated: "We appeal for donations to this fund. Give as generously as you can to this worthy cause. We are advised by our counsel that contributions are deductible for income tax purposes. Checks should be made payable to the Antiquarian Booksellers Benevolent Fund."

We hope that this appeal will be answered by every book person—every dealer, librarian, and collector, every friend of the trade. Book people ask but little—beyond books; but sometimes through no fault of their own they are faced with an unexpected emergency with which they cannot cope. That is when this fund has proved of greatest value. That is why book men and women should make this their favorite donation this year, and every year.

No names of donors or of applicants will ever be published, but periodic accounts of the progress of the fund will be made. An applicant does not have to be a member of the ABAA, or any other organization, to apply for aid, nor does a donation to the fund now disqualify one from making a possible application in the future. The only qualification is personal need. Your only qualification should be: How large a sum can I give, now and every year?

Please, won't you fill in the form below—or send a separate sheet.

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' BENEVOLENT FUND
50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020

I (We) enclose \$ _____
as a contribution to the Benevolent Fund as set forth in the Deed of Trust

Name: _____

Address: _____

(FORM OF BEQUEST: I give and bequeath unto the Antiquarian Booksellers' Benevolent Fund, a Trust created and existing under the laws of the State of New York, the sum of \$ _____ to be applied for the purposes set forth in the Deed of Trust.)

ILAB Scholarships to Press, Weber

Richard L. Press (Sacramento, CA) and Jeff Weber (Glendale, CA) will be attending their first ILAB Congress and International Book Fair in Amsterdam this fall, thanks to the generosity of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Antiquaren and the ABAA's Elisabeth Woodburn Memorial Fund. The two were selected from a field of applicants who all have been full ABAA members for less than five years. The Dutch and American Associations will pay for Press and Weber's participation in the 32nd Congress and for the cost of a booth at the 15th Fair. ■

Scholarship Recipient Offers Her Thanks

Aimee England, (Volume I, Hillsdale, MI) has been in the book trade full-time for five years. Recently, she acquired Ann Arbor's oldest bookstore, the Wooden Spoon. In her spare time, she promotes book fairs.

I would like to express my gratitude to the ABAA and the Woodburn Fund for awarding me a scholarship to the Book Seminar in Gainesville, FL held March 6-11, 1994. In attending the workshops and classes I learned many things that I have already put to use in the day-to-day working of the trade. I am especially grateful for having had the opportunity to meet respected members of the trade and to learn from them. It was a pleasure to meet and talk with Anthony Rota, and all the others on staff as well. The pleasure of spending a whole week with so many other people that share a love of books was wonderful, and the friendships that began will be valued for many years to come.

I would like to thank those who encouraged me most; both in applying for and in receiving the scholarship. Particular thanks to Michael Ginsberg as the Trustee representative, Dr. Margaret Goggin of Book Seminars, Jay Platt of West Side Books in Ann Arbor who, as a friend and colleague, has always encouraged me in the trade, and to Jim Babcock of Harsens Island who has always had great faith in the youth of the trade. ■

Closed Shops & Open Book Fairs: ILAB Presidents' Meeting, Los Angeles, February 1994

by Raymond Kilgarriff, Howes Bookshop,
Hastings, East Sussex

Christine Grahmer mounted a robust defence of the Germans' "closed shop" book fair policy at the National Presidents forum. The Verband's insistence on restricting entry to its own members and barring all others had come under renewed criticism at the Cologne meeting eighteen months earlier and Dr. Grahmer had agreed to come back with the German response. She rested her case firmly on the ILAB Rule II, 7 (usually invoked on these occasions): "The national associations are independent in their own internal affairs." The Stuttgart and Cologne fairs, she insisted, were internal affairs and the Verband was fully entitled to write their rules. Both were national book fairs, to be distinguished from Congress-linked fairs. In fact, she reminded the Presidents, Germany had organised ILAB fairs in Dusseldorf 1977 and in Cologne 1992, and all applicants had been allocated stands, none was denied, in accordance with ILAB Guidelines (which incidentally, she murmured, were not Rules anyway). But the national fairs were different, especially so in Germany where the Stuttgart fair in particular was not run strictly by the Verband but by an independent body, and the Verband had no jurisdiction over it. They were over-subscribed and there were waiting lists of the Verband's own members. Dr. Grahmer also mentioned, slightly darkly, that after all it was always perfectly possible for the German fairs to waive formal ILAB sponsorship. This would result in a loss to ILAB funds of some \$1,400 per annum in book fair levies.

Beginning to enjoy herself she moved into the attack. It was after all also an internal affair for an Association to admit or refuse overseas members to its roll. For the Verband, it welcomed them; and once admitted an overseas member was immediately free to apply for a fair. The Verband's membership was currently twenty-percent foreign (fifty-nine out of 289 members) and it was ready and will-

ing to accept more. Here she was certainly on firm ground because, as is well-known, America, the land of the free, practices a rigid "anti-immigration" policy and accepts no overseas members, indeed is precluded by its constitution from so doing. Yet Dr. Grahmer carefully avoided mentioning that the ABAA actually pursues an exemplary book fair policy, opening its arms to the whole international community, at Boston, at New York, at Los Angeles and San Francisco, and any other fair.

Glancing backwards for a moment, Dr. Grahmer pointed out that Germany had been attacked on this matter repeatedly before but each time had been vindicated by the current ILAB President who had reaffirmed the Verband's right to its own rules. She feared good relations with the League would be jeopardised if her country were to be arraigned on the same charge at regular intervals and now appealed to all to regard the matter as settled and closed.

Hardly surprisingly, some debate ensued, though it was not as heated as might have been predicted and it was left to Anton Gerits, the President, to point out delicately that Germany was alone in refusing foreign exhibitors, all other nations accepted them. As far as the openness of its membership policy was concerned, if all others followed the German example, dealers who exhibited internationally would find themselves having to pay the national subscription several times over, to the various Associations. This was hardly in line with the spirit of the League. Don Lake (Canada) remarked that the problem would not go away and would continue to be a serious irritant. Barney Rosenthal gently reminded the meeting that there was and would ever be a book trade quite apart from book fairs and they should not be allowed to get out of proportion. As he had himself introduced book fairs to America back in the fifties, his words carried some weight. Anton Gerits summed it up by asking for understanding for the German Committee's position in the light of the views expressed by its members in

General Assembly and he hinted that some flexibility appears possible with regard to new German fairs likely to emerge in places like Berlin and Leipzig ("the mother of all fairs") following German reunification and the enlargement of the Verband to take in book-sellers from the East.

This is supposed to be an era of openness and the dismantlement of national barriers, particularly in Europe. Although the majority of ABA members have little ambition to traipse round the globe exhibiting at an endless series of international book fairs, there is a growing number in the wider ILAB community who want to expand markets in this way. After all if you are based in Europe there may be half a dozen good fairs only a few hours distant on the autoroute from your door, so free and open access to exhibiting space becomes paramount. There for the moment the matter rests. Thankfully there were no tit-for-tat threats of reciprocity. But history, with a little help from the League quietly going about its business of mediation by stealth, is ranged against the Germany First-ists.

Lively as it was this was not the only matter on the Agenda. The National Presidents also heard about the enlargement of the League as applications from Spain and Czechoslovakia were approved; of attempts in the Far East to smooth the path of the Chinese book-sellers towards opening free markets in China; of progress with new editions of the ILAB *Directory* and the ILAB *Dictionary of Trade Terms*; of the arrangements for the Amsterdam Congress and Fair in September now being put in hand by Dr. Kuyper and his Netherlands colleagues; and, further ahead still, of preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the League which will be celebrated in Sydney, Australia in 1997. All this and much more will be found in the minutes of the National Presidents' meeting to be published, as the rules requires, in the next ILAB *Newsletter*.

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From the Archives: Southern California 44 Years Ago

By David Margolis
Margolis and Moss, Santa Fe, NM

Chick Goldschmidt has brought to our attention a little volume in the archives that can be instructive in helping us develop our fiftieth anniversary directory. It is the first directory of the Southern California Chapter of the ABAA, issued in 1950, within a year of our founding. Of the thirty-two members listed, four are still in business. Some are run by the next generation, and some are still run by the original member of forty-four years ago. Here are the 1950s descriptions of these four firms:

The Arthur H. Clark Co., 1264 South Central Avenue, Glendale 4, California. This company, which has long specialized in Americana, was founded in

Cleveland, Ohio in 1902. In 1930 it moved to Glendale where it has been located ever since. American history and travel, sets of serials, and out-of-print Americana are carried in stock; the firm likewise engages in the publishing business and many volumes of American history have appeared with its imprint. Catalogues are issued. It is now moving from 1214 South Brand to its new location on South Central.

Dawson's Book Shop, 627 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 17, California. Pioneer rare book shop of Los Angeles, this firm opened in 1905 as Ernest Dawson's Antique Book Shop at 713 South Broadway. In 1908 it moved to 518 South Hill. Since 1922 it has been in its present location. The cutting through of Wilshire Boulevard in 1930 put it on

the northwest corner of the beginning of the "fabulous boulevard" and it is near Robinson's Department Store, and Booksellers' Row on West Sixth Street. In 1937, the founder of the shop, Ernest Dawson, took his elder son Glen, whose field is Californiana and early printing, into partnership with him, and in 1947 Ernest Dawson's interest in the firm was transferred to his younger son, Muir, an amateur printer and specialist in fine printing. A staff of twelve carry on the work of the various departments. Eleanor E. Reed handles Californiana and ancient philosophy; Ellen Shaffer specializes in first editions, illuminated manuscripts and English literature; Tom Neal in fine bindings and sets; Jack Gyer in oriental books; C. Marjorie Freeman in art books, early science and medicine; Richard



The staff of Dawson's Book Shop, April 15, 1940, the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the shop in 1905. 627 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. Left to right: Glen Dawson, Geraldine Kelly, Ellen Shaffer, Richard Marshall, Frances D. Moss, Edna Williams, Muir Dawson, Ernest Dawson, Lucille Smith, Eleanor Brockway, Tom Neal, Don Blakely, Eleanor Reed, and Bess Manning Rodriguez.

Zumwinkle in general literature; George Shochat in foreign language books and mountaineering; Dean Ashcroft heads the shipping department and also deals in Californiana; the office staff include Eleanor M. Brockway, Ardel Bradley and Mary Lou Cozad. The shop, which is one of the few remaining one-story buildings in downtown Los Angeles is convenient for browsing and is the meeting place of book club members, librarians, and collectors. Usually a yearly trip to Europe in search of rare books is made by some member of the staff and buying trips in the United States are fairly frequent. In 1907 Dawson's issued the first rare book catalogues in Los Angeles, and catalogues now appear monthly.

Harry A. Levinson, 9527 Brighton Way, Beverly Hills, California. Harry Levinson, graduate of the College of the City of New York, has been in the book business since 1929, when he opened a shop under his name in New York. Later, he was a partner in the Chaucer Head Book Shop. In 1940 he moved to 18 East 56th Street, where his firm was again under his own name. In 1946 he purchased the building at 141 East 47th Street and established his shop there. In 1949 he moved to California and is now located in Beverly Hills not far from the Beverly Wilshire Hotel. His attractive ground floor establishment specializes in Incunabula, Color Plate Books,

Illuminated Manuscripts, Early English Literature, First Editions and Bibliography. He has inaugurated book auctions which are held at intervals in his shop. The firm issues catalogues regularly.

Kurt L. Schwarz, 450 North Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California. Few bookmen have the cosmopolitan background of Dr. Kurt L. Schwarz. He entered the rare book business of his father, Dr. I. Schwarz, and the University of Vienna simultaneously in 1927 and received a Ph.D. from the University in 1932. For the next six years he engaged in the book business in Vienna, until Hitler's advent forced him to go to London, where he continued in business until 1940, when he went to the Far East as librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society's Library at Shanghai. After Japanese occupation closed his library, he became an associate of a well-known book firm in that city for several years. At the end of the war he came to the United States and in 1948 he opened his shop in Beverly Hills on the second floor of the picturesque Beverly Hills Arcade. There he and his patrons enjoy a lovely view of the surrounding mountains and hills. The location is midway between the Beverly Wilshire and the Beverly Hills Hotels. He carries rare and scholarly books on Art, Science, Literature, and the Orient, and his special interest is in Illustrated Books

and Prints of the 15th and 16th centuries. He is associated with Ernest E. Gottlieb, who deals in rare books on music. From time to time he issues excellently prepared and entertaining catalogs.

A full listing of the 1950 membership in the Southern California Chapter: Abbey Book Shop, Argonut Book Shop, F.N. Bassett, Eugene Bechtold, Bennett & Marshall, Philip S. Brown, John Q. Burch, Cambridge Book Shop, Claremont Book & Art Shop, The Arthur H. Clark Co., John Cole's Book & Craft Shop, Dale's Bookazine, Dawson's Book Shop, The Larry Edmunds Book Shop, Lee Freeson, Ernest E. Gottlieb, Hillcrest Book Shop, Maxwell Hunley, N.A. Kovach, Larson's Book Store, Harry A. Levinson, Dr. Kurt Merlander, Walter E. Neuman, F.R.G.S, Roman Novins' Book Shop, Pickwick Book Shop, M.J. Royer, Kurt L. Schwarz, John Valentine, John and Jane Wilgress, Charles Yale, Karl Zamboni, Zeitlin & Ver Brugge.

We would like to extend a warm thank you to Mrs. Lucian Goldschmidt who sent the archives, at Barney Rosenthal's suggestion, a copy of the memorial pamphlet issued for her late husband, Lucian, who was a founding member of ABAA.

Anyone with biographical information on ABAA members is heartily encouraged to place that information in our archives. ■

Psychological Profile of Book Collectors in the Making

Dr. Ruth Ann Smith, associate professor of marketing at Virginia Tech, is a student of consumer behavior who has created a most interesting and provocative questionnaire designed to provide insights into the characteristics and behaviors of book collectors.

"Collecting in general," she writes, "and book collecting in particular, is an unusual form of consumption that has not received the attention it deserves." The research for which this questionnaire was designed is the first in what may be a series of investigations into the dynamics of book collecting.

The questionnaire is divided into three sections and takes about twenty minutes to complete. The first section pertains to the role of books in our lives; the second to our feelings about books; and the third to our knowledge and skills about books.

A fourth section asks for your demographic profile. The slant of the questions is definitely psychological and some require self-examination. For example, would you strongly agree, neither agree nor disagree, or strongly disagree, with the following statement: "When I want more excitement in my life the last thing I think about is my books."

Many ABAA members have already been in touch with Dr. Smith and offered cooperation. Anyone wishing to partake in the survey are asked to be in touch with Dr. Smith directly at the address below. Dr. Smith promises to share her findings with us as soon as they are available.

Please contact:
Dr. Ruth Ann Smith
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0236 ■

More on Insurance from Dewitt Stern

By Christopher Fletcher

Recently we had the opportunity to explain some of the finer points of the ABAA Program to a member and Program participant. We thought that perhaps our response, dealing with Inventory Requirements, Valuation Clauses, and the concept of Coinsurance, might have interest for the membership at large.

In the new Program wording (see *Newsletter* vol. 5, no. 2), the only requirement noted in respect of record-keeping is found in Clause 7—Records Clause. This clause reads as follows: “It is a condition of this Insurance that the Assured will maintain an accurate and itemised inventory of all insured property...other than for items valued at \$250 or less. In the event of a loss covered hereunder, the Assured will maintain an ability to provide insurers with satisfactory documentation to substantiate their loss.”

An insurance policy is designed to be a contract of utmost good faith. At any time during a policy year, the insurers must feel confident that their customers are living up to their ends of the contract. In most cases, this reliance is only tested at the time of loss (which, thankfully, isn't too frequent). The underwriters do not have the ability nor the time available to review copies of inventories on a regular basis; hence their requirement that the burden of substantiation is on the client to maintain appropriate records.

What constitutes such records? Primarily, these are itemized inventories listing standard details such as author, title, date of printing (actual or estimated), condition, etc. Some dealers add more verbiage to the description, but then again they also use the listing as a sales tool. In addition, copies of catalogues serve as an effective mechanism to “reconstitute” stock and inventory, and substantiate prices on goods offered for sale.

Photographs and videotapes can also play a key role in loss adjustments. Many people make videotapes of their home furnishings for this exact reason. In addition to providing evidence of the item's existence, pictures can support a subjective position regarding the quality and condi-

tion of an item, and assist in determining the actual value of a particularly singular piece. However, such evidence cannot be used alone; it must be in conjunction with the required inventory list.

In order to judge the utility of your inventory list, we should review one other clause in the policy, namely the Valuation Clause. The Clause that most members elect for valuing owned items reads as follows: “Property owned by the Assured at the time of loss (shall be valued) at Selling Price less 20% or Cost Price plus 30%, whichever is higher.”

The benefit in having such a split basis is to provide you with additional protection in the event that your Sales Price (from which the 20% would be deducted) at the time of loss is actually lower than what the item cost (to which 30% would be added). It therefore follows that your Inventory Listing should be on the same basis, listing either Sales Price or Cost Price. Any percentages would be calculated, up or down, at the time of loss adjustment.

In respect of items valued below the \$250 threshold, you could use either catalogues, purchase receipts, photos, videos, invoices, brochure if bought at auction, or any combination of the above.

Lastly, the member had a question regarding what constitutes “underinsurance.” The policy does not contain a Coinsurance Clause, which is an absolute requirement that you carry an amount of insurance greater than or equal to 80% of your total inventory value at the time of loss. However, the rates on the policy entail an assumption that you are buying sufficient coverage to protect you from losses involving a substantial percentage of your values. The reasoning behind this assumption is clear, and it is why we include a question on our Application dealing with the current value of inventory when completing the form.

The underwriters are aware that in most cases a complete and total loss of stock will not occur. Smaller losses are anticipated. By carrying limits close to or equal to your maximum “probable” loss, underwriters can offer lower rates, as they would be receiving the benefit of enough premiums to provide coverage for the

anticipated losses over a given period of time.

Problems occur when an Insured willfully purchases enough coverage to simply get protection for the anticipated loss. The underwriter is put into a position of providing, in insurance parlance, “Primary Coverage” or “First Loss Protection.” The client “self-insures” the remaining amount of values, and insufficient premiums are generated on the policy to protect against the anticipated loss.

One must keep in mind that the logic behind not having a Coinsurance Clause is not to allow the client to decide how much insurance to carry; rather, it is to allow the dealer the normal flexibility of the operation of buying and selling. In practice, if your policy had a Coinsurance Clause, every time you were to make a purchase of a significant value, the opportunity exists for you to be carrying less than the required amount of coverage. You would then be forced to contact the underwriter to increase or decrease the limits as necessary.

Take, for example, an Insured who has Premises Limit of \$55,000 and stock valued for insurance purposes at \$80,000 (being a total Sales Value of \$100,000 less 20%). The Insured may not be carrying sufficient limits at their main location. On a per-dollar basis, the underwriter would probably want more premium to insure the \$55,000 limit than the \$80,000 amount at risk, since it is more likely that a loss of 69% of the stock (\$55,000/\$80,000) will occur than will a loss involving 100% of the stock.

All things being in order at the time of a loss of \$25,000 (arising out of a peril covered under the policy), the Insured would stand to collect \$25,000, less the deductible. However, if an 80% Coinsurance Clause were included on the policy, the Insured would only collect \$15,625 ($\$55,000/\$80,000 \times \$25,000$), less the applicable deductible. In other words, under the Program you would not be penalized for carrying less than the required amount of coverage at the time of loss; however, your rates might be higher if you elect to carry an amount of insurance less than your actual exposure at the time or application or renewal.

Conference

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Glaser ("The Bibliographies and Reference Works for Collecting the History of Medicine"); Sandra Hindman ("The Manuscript in the age of Gutenberg"); Jeff Marks ("Modern Literature"); Richard Ramer ("Printers on the Move: The Spread of Printing in the Iberian World"); Peter Stern ("Detective Fiction"); and Charles Wood ("Trade Catalogues: An Emerging Source for Material and Cultural History").

A number of letters of praise and support for the conference were subsequently received; this, from Sanda Hindman, Illuminations, Chicago, is an example:

"Many of us who participated either as speakers and moderators or in the audience had the unique opportunity to share views, formally and informally, with other booklovers. That this could happen in the forum of a series of lectures and discussions in the congenial atmosphere of the Grolier Club, instead of over the counter tops or in the aisles of a bookfair, was unique, to my knowledge, in the history of the ABAA. Bravo!

"...I was also impressed with the international publicity the conference received. Booksellers and collectors in Portugal, Portland, and Peoria seemed equally well-informed, not to mention enthusiastic, about the ABAA's sponsorship of such an innovative program. Through such an event, the ABAA is bound to gain greater respect from its sister organizations worldwide." ■

Books, Briefly Noted

The Architectural Guidebook to New York City. By Francis Morrone. Photographs by James Iska. Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith, 1994. x & 290pp.; b&w illustrations. Reviewed by Robert Rulon-Miller.

Compiled by ABAA associate member Francis Morrone (New York Bound, New York, NY), *The Architectural Guidebook to New York City* is indexed, with an extensive bibliography, and a useful appendix listing buildings by period and/or style. Unfortunately, there is no general map, which is the first order of business in any guide of this type. The vignette maps of the twenty-one different sections of the city are adequate, but there's no way to gauge their geographical relationship, and were one to walk from one section to the other there's no way to do it by the book. Furthermore, for those of us only vaguely familiar with the borough of Manhattan (the title of the book is misnomer), it's hard to look up the one or two buildings you really do know, unless you comprehend that they are in Yorkville or Chelsea.

Antiquarian Books: A Companion for Booksellers, Librarians and Collectors. Compiled and edited by Philippa Bernard with Leo Bernard and Angus O'Neill. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994. xiv & 461pp.; b&w illustrations. Reviewed by Tracy E. Smith.

Structured as a dictionary, the *Companion* offers over 400 entries and thirty specially commissioned essays by well-

known names in the British book community: Clive Farahar on travel books, Mirjam Foote on fine bookbinding, John Kerr on book auctions, Brian Lake on English literature of the nineteenth century, Melanie McGrath on booksellers as publishers, Peter Miller on art and architecture, Charles Ross on computers for booksellers, Anthony Rota on book-selling in a changing world, and Karen Thomsen on dictionaries, among others. In addition, a useful index locates names, terms, and topics not given their own entries in the text, and another section gives bibliographies for nearly 300 (mostly European) authors. Finally, appendices provide translations of Latin and other foreign place-names, and of Roman numerals, show the spread of printing, and list book trade directories (all European in origin).

The authors of the *Companion*, all British booksellers, have attempted to produce a single-volume work compiled "with particular attention to the needs of those who do not have ready access to all the necessary reference sources." Indeed, the *Companion* is a general reference book, of use to novices—both to the book trade in general, and to areas outside those of specialization. It is a useful introductory tool. It will not supplant, however, John Carter's *ABC for Book Collector's* or *Glaister's Glossary of the Book* on my desk when I'm researching and cataloguing books for sale. ■

Proposal for Ethnic Diversity Presented to Membership Committee

The following letter, received by Helen Kelly, Chair of the ABAA Membership Committee, was introduced at the recent meeting of the Board of Governors and the Planning Committee as part of the Membership Committee's Report:

As we approach the 21st Century one of the most important problems that the ABAA faces as an association is that our membership does not reflect the diversity of America. The increasing interest in collecting African American, Asian American, and Chicano history indicates that our customer base is changing and

may change even further in the future. The ABAA should seek out ways to encourage beginning minority booksellers, and eventually to make them welcome in our organization.

1. We should seek Woodburn Scholarship applications from people of color, including publicity in relevant associations (African American librarians groups, etc.).

2. We should ask members to consider acting as mentors for beginning booksellers.

3. We should encourage members to hire people of color, and have the National Office help, if possible, with the search process.

4. We should publicize our interest in recruiting minority booksellers to our membership and in other relevant forums.

These small steps that we can take will help ensure that we do not enter the 21st Century an all white organization.

Submitted by: John Durham and Mike Pincus, (Bolerium Books); Elizabeth Garon and Paul Garon, (Beasley Books); Don Conner, (Don Conner Fine Books); William A. Ewald, (Argus Books and Graphics); Sheri Plummer-Raphael, (Barnstormer); Dick Rykken and Robert Scull, (Rykken and Scull); Jordan D. Luttrell, (Meyer Boswell Books); Donnis De Camp and Marc S. Selvaggio, (Schoyer's Books); and James Perry Musser, (Skyline Books). ■

Meeting

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So that participants could approximate the balances of ABAA finances over the next five years, Fleck distributed cash-flow charts based on various combinations of proposed expenditures and estimated membership levels. In a continuing effort to standardize and streamline ABAA finances, he also stated that rules for financial reporting from the various chapters to the national Treasury would soon be finalized, and will be included in due course in the *ABAA Guidebook*.

Membership Committee

Helen Kelly, Committee chair, proposed reducing membership fees for second and third full members of a given firm.

A motion was made and passed to allow Canadian members of the ABAC into the ABAA, although the same motion was tabled the next day for further review. Questions to be considered include what effect this may have on both Associations, and whether this policy should be expanded to include members of other foreign countries. Corollary to this was the discussion on the requirement of some ILAB member-nations of mandatory membership in their Associations in order to exhibit at their book fairs. Might ABAA in some future time make membership in ABAA a prerequisite for exhibiting at our fairs? The question of admitting the phalanx of autograph dealers who have recently entered the trade was also discussed, as was the tenor and tempo of their business practices. It was decided that these questions should be placed before the membership for input, and letters and comments on both questions are welcome.

As a last item of business the Committee introduced a letter received from John Durham and Mike Pincus of Bolerium Books on the matter of increasing the ethnic diversity of the Association (for full text, see p.11).

Chapter Chairs Committee

Jim Presgraves, past chair of the Chapter Chairs Committee, reported in writing that his Committee did not respond to his request for ideas. Mark Hime, chair of the Southern California Chapter, volunteered to rekindle the fire under this Committee to elect a new Chair to replace Mr. Presgraves, who turned over the chair-

manship of his Southeast Chapter to Pat Ahearn in the last chapter election. The President of the Association offers on behalf of the Board of Governors both praise and thanks for the hard work put in by Mr. Presgraves over the last five years. His efforts have been most appreciated.

Benevolent and Woodburn Funds

Peter Howard, immediate Past President and chair of the Benevolent and Woodburn Funds, seeks to increase the balances of these funds to \$500,000 and \$250,000 respectively. To do this, he seeks to solicit larger donations from members and non-members alike, by providing them with the opportunity to make provisions for these funds in wills, trusts, etc. Once these balances are achieved, Howard stated, then the Funds will become more or less self-perpetuating. The interest earned would cover approximately our current rate of disbursements, and the principals would be protected. Howard recommended that the lawyer contingency fund be put into the Benevolent Fund, as there is question as to whether such a fund of \$100,000 was necessary. He also volunteered to have a form drawn up which would facilitate and advance the notion that bequeathing a portion of one's estate is honorable and worthy and needed. The idea of moving the legal contingency fund into the Benevolent Fund was revisited the following day, and it was ultimately the recommendation of the Planning Committee to the Board that the legal contingency fund be reduced to a level appropriate for our needs, and that the excess be placed back into the ABAA Treasury, some of which in the future may be voted to the Benevolent Fund.

Mr. Howard noted briefly that the Woodburn Fund started with \$20,000. Each small ad announcing Woodburn scholarships generates at least twenty requests for applications. Howard said the Fund should be open to any request that comes, not just the Denver Seminar and the ILAB Fair grants.

He also suggested ABAA make inquiries into aligning itself with the Rare Book School in Virginia. His enthusiasm may have been a result of having just returned from teaching for forty hours straight at the School, but he had his points. This is yet another door ABAA can open into the world of libraries and most of all, librarians in training.

House Committee

In the absence of committee chair Jean Moss, the report was delivered by Liane Wood-Thomas. A five-year lease at Rockefeller Plaza was entered into within the last year and no changes in the physical location are foreseen at this time.

As soon as time permits, Wood-Thomas will compose a detailed job description of her position at ABAA headquarters, including skills needed, chronology of ABAA calendar, outline of logistical operations and management of office, and supplemental requirements, such as staff and equipment.

Book Fair Committee

The Book Fair Committee report was presented by co-chair Tom Congalton. He reported a high percentage of returns for the book fair questionnaire which was sent to the membership in June. Already over 140 returns had been received, but only eighty had thus far been tabulated. Results will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

David Margolis reported that Santa Fe was exploring the possibilities for a fair in July or August, 1997. Congalton reported that a new proposal has been received for an Atlanta fair in May 1996.

Publications Committee

Rob Rulon-Miller reported that if membership increases substantially over the next few years the format of the *ABAA Directory* may have to be altered, as we are near our limit for the saddle-stitch binding presently employed, and perfect binding could not sustain such a narrow format. The addition of E-mail numbers, and increasing demands from the membership for flexibility and detail in subject specialties and indexing will also swell the overall bulk of the *Directory*.

Rulon-Miller also raised the question of chapter directories, and suggested that if local chapters wish to produce expensive directories for themselves, there may be a call for scaling back the national *Directory*. It was also suggested that a study of national and chapter directories and their costs and benefits should be undertaken by the Publications and the Chapter Chairs Committees.

This fall the *Newsletter* celebrates its fifth anniversary and it was reported that the unanimous feeling of the Publications Committee was to leave it much as it is, and to adapt to the professional climate of the moment. The chair reported that the

Vice-President Jennifer Larson, Treasurer Bob Fleck, and President Robert Rulon-Miller, Jr. at the Board meeting in Philadelphia.



mission of the *Newsletter* is to serve our members and its policy is not to censure.

The Committee expects to continue to advertise the *Newsletter* for subscriptions as markets present themselves. The Committee will also prepare subscription forms which can be made available to members for inclusion in catalogues.

The Committee continues to discuss the notion of classified ads in the *Newsletter*, with neither consensus nor passion. Rulon-Miller presented the idea of trying a one-time insert in the *Newsletter* containing a classified ad for every member, free of charge, and noted that the plan, which could be accomplished for a modest sum, would foster good will, even jocularity among the membership. The Committee felt that commercial advertising from outside vendors is not needed at this time, but Rulon-Miller did not exclude the possibility of proposing acceptance of such ads in the future.

The *Guidebook* will be updated on at least an annual basis, and more frequently as needed. Updates will arrive in members' mail before the end of summer.

The work continues on the *Anniversary Book*, which will hopefully be published on the occasion of ABAA's fiftieth birthday in 1999. The compilation of the names and addresses and dates of all-time ABAA members is already near completion. Considerable time will have to be spent to prod members to write brief summaries of their businesses, and to seek out brief histories of deceased members and defunct firms. All ABAA members should begin to contemplate their histories. It is hoped that long-time mem-

bers will be able to offer help on deceased members. Solicitation for help of all kind on this project will begin to appear in the *Newsletter* shortly.

Planning Committee

Television: Allan Stypeck summarized the results of his sub-committee's attempts to develop a television series sponsored by the ABAA. A series treatment was written and given to Loeb and Loeb, a Hollywood agent. As further exploration of the sale of the series treatment through that agent would have required spending money with no guarantee of success, no further action is contemplated at present.

Another option Stypeck mentioned was a radio show on National Public Radio (NPR) or its equivalent, involving booksellers. Stypeck recommended that his committee continue to explore alternative media options without committing the ABAA to spending money.

Education: The conference, **Fellowship of the Book**, was held at the Grolier Club, New York in April 1994. When planning began, the estimated number of participants was fifty—over eighty actually signed up. MAC worked hard to make this conference a success and special thanks go to all volunteers, but especially chair Bruce McKittrick, and MAC chair Ted Ripley-Duggan.

In planning for a sequel to this conference, scheduled for 1995, McKittrick sent out a questionnaire to all participants and elicited good points and points that should be improved. A number of changes are incorporated into the 1995

conference, which has an expected attendance of one hundred. McKittrick is hoping to build toward a special theme conference in 1996.

Two requests have been received by ABAA to publish the papers of the 1994 conference. More requests will be sought. If the papers are published, the ABAA will realize a royalty on the book which will help to defray expenses.

As there was a deficit in running this first conference, the Planning Committee passed a resolution for MAC to run the 1995 conference with no deficit.

Regarding a **Conference of Booksellers and Librarians**, Dan DeSimone and a committee of ABAA members and librarians have been working hard to develop a conference in which the relationships between librarians and booksellers can be explored in an attempt to understand the dynamics of each group. This conference, for approximately two hundred people, is scheduled for October 1995 in Philadelphia. To date the commitment by library groups has been outstanding, with the following stating that they will co-sponsor the event: Independent Research Library Association (IRLA), Rare Book and Manuscript Section of the American Library Association (RBMS), and Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL). DeSimone requested that ABAA pass the budget as presented and, most importantly, give its enthusiastic support in helping to make it happen.

He also outlined follow-up programs to this conference in which participants

Meeting

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could organize mini-conferences in their local communities to discuss the results.

The Planning Committee agreed with DeSimone in all regards, but again asked that careful fiscal control be practiced.

Computerization: Michael Dawson, who unfortunately couldn't attend the meeting, prepared a two-page letter outlining his thoughts on computerizing the ABAA and its great benefits to members. Also presented was a four-page "proposal of a proposal" by consultant Dr. Michael Harris describing the basic steps of computerization: 1) Upgrade ABAA headquarters and survey members; 2) Establish a "node" for the ABAA on Internet to allow us to have better methods of exchanging information, and to access library holdings; and, 3) Use the "node" as a basis for selling books.

The Planning Committee voted to proceed with the first stage. Dawson will continue the discussion with Harris over the next year in specific stages as described by Harris in his proposal and recommend further changes to the committee as needed.

Ethics Committee

Jennifer Larson, Ethics Committee chair, reported that the Committee had no plans that would require any financial expenditures for the next four or five years.

Security Committee

Chair Donald Heald reported on progress made in standardizing the format and the procedure for reporting to the authorities and disseminating the information about thefts to the membership. He stressed the need for a data base of stolen books and book thieves, which data base may be incorporated onto Internet, and available through information systems at ABAA headquarters. Heald seeks the participation of booksellers, librarians, and collectors in this effort, and he also reported on the possibility of approaching insurance companies for supplemental funding for these projects.

ILAB Book Fair/Congress Committee

Jennifer Larson, chair of the ad hoc committee overseeing the 1996 ILAB Fair and Congress asked the Committee to

consider to what financial extent, if any, the ABAA would subsidize the Los Angeles Congress. She reported that 250 had thus far signed up for the 1994 Amsterdam Congress, 120 of whom had also signed up for the Amsterdam Fair. Larson said the Southern California Congress Committee projected a total of 400 participants, and that the Northern California ILAB Book Fair Committee projected a total of 250 book fair participants. Larson proposed a possible formula for the Congress subsidy by making it equal to the projected profit from the bookfair, which is budgeted at \$42,500.

The chair also reported on funds needed for start-up costs both in Los Angeles and San Francisco. The Committee approved \$20,000 for the book fair venue; and \$18,500 for start-up costs for the Congress in Southern California.

Questions regarding youth program scholarships to the fair and congress and a fair catalogue and/or keepsake were broached without final resolution. Concern was expressed by several members over the timing of the Congress, which begins over Labor Day weekend, 1996.

Archives Committee

Chair David Margolis continues to seek an appropriate repository for the ABAA archives. It was decided that there was little purpose to organizing the myriad files in our Archives as this would most likely be accomplished more effectively by the institution that eventually houses them.

Margolis reported that he continues to search the Archives for names and particulars of past members for inclusion in the *Anniversary Book*. So far approximately 800 names and addresses of past and present members have been recorded.

The Planning Committee met in two sessions from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday, and on Sunday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Separate meetings were held by the Membership Committee and the Ethics Committee over breakfast Saturday and Sunday respectively. Discussions continued on an informal basis into the wee hours of the morning. We broke for meals and refreshments, and of course sleep. We're not crazy, you know, although by the time we headed for the airports, or the train stations, or 95 North late Sunday afternoon we were beginning to think we were.

For recommendation to the Board, the Planning Committee moved that:

- the Membership Committee be charged to increase ABAA membership by promoting the benefits to potential members
- the lawyer contingency fund be reduced to a level deemed appropriate for our needs and that the excess be placed back into the ABAA Treasury, some of which in the future may be voted to the Benevolent Fund.
- Allan Stypeck continue exploring alternative media options without spending money.
- MAC reduce the deficit of the 1995 conference to zero by a combination of reduced costs and increased income. ABAA will agree to cover one-half of any deficit run by the conference if unforeseen events cause a deficit. However, the MAC Treasurer is instructed to carefully monitor all costs and immediately report potential deficits to the Board of Governors of the ABAA.
- MAC stage a conference and that the ABAA agrees to absorb up to a \$10,000 deficit in this conference. However, the ABAA requests that MAC attempt in all ways to reduce this deficit to zero.
- the House Committee draw up a specific proposal for upgrading the computer and communications technology with a specific dollar amount.
- Michael Dawson proceed with a survey of the membership about their computer technology.
- the Southern California ILAB Congress Committee may budget for a \$42,500 subsidy and they may spend that money as they choose. The \$42,500 is equal to the budgeted profit from the 1996 ILAB Book Fair.
- the Security Committee look into funding from insurance companies for devising a computer system using a standardized database format for book theft.

The Board of Governors convened its meeting at 11:00 a.m. Sunday to consider the motions approved by the Planning Committee as well as other business. Board action will be duly reported in the Minutes, which Liane Wood-Thomas will have in front of the entire membership before the Board meets again as a whole. ■

Letters

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cal and cautious without financial hardship.

More generally, I am puzzled by the depth of his resentment, and what, at least in this correspondence, appears to be an extraordinary lack of sympathy with the trade he has engaged in for more than two decades. In his earlier discussion of screenplays, by way of example in demonstrating possible financial harm, he pointed out that one of his unproduced screenplays was shown to him by Richard Zanuck. I don't recall Mr. McMurtry asking Zanuck for its return, or questioning him as to the source of the screenplay. I doubt that Mr. Zanuck bought it from Peter Howard or any other bookseller. I don't know much about Hollywood, but I suspect that unproduced screenplays are sometimes widely distributed in an attempt to draw interest, the screenplay as prospectus, as it were. Of course, I'm also sure that some remain closely guarded, and the studio or screenwriter has a right to protect his financial or artistic interest in the item. By the time, however, that one of these reaches a bookseller, I would imagine that the harm has already been done.

Our mutual friends tell me that McMurtry is genuinely concerned for his fellow bookseller who might run afoul of a studio, and I would like to believe that, but if so, it's very hard to discern from this exchange.

As to piracies, this seems so insignificant, and begs the question, why bother? The world is fraught with potential difficulties, and I think we can safely ignore those that are so unlikely to bother us. We can't codify everything and we can't act on everything, and occasionally one of our members won't pass the smell test. We are free to put enough distance between ourselves and them to let it pass. Personally we're free to be judgmental, but as an association let's give our colleagues the benefit of the doubt. That, at least, should be one benefit of membership that we can guarantee.

From: Kevin Mac Donnell, Mac Donnell Rare Books, Austin, TX

I've ignored the copyright "debate" and found some of it mildly amusing. It's

become less amusing now that my name has appeared in this tabloid.

I'm not shocked that Larry McMurtry would take cheap shots at me and my fellow Austin booksellers; before loading himself "once more into the breach" he fired off in my direction with a personal nasty-gram of the same caliber. But I am genuinely surprised that the ABAA would print and mail his character defamation to more than 700 of my colleagues and customers. Of the four booksellers named in his letter, only the three ABAA members were shown his letter in advance and invited to respond. No such courtesy was extended to me; I first heard of the letter when a colleague called me to ask playfully what life is like in the "vermin-pit of American bookselling." I'm not hard to reach. I'm in the phone books in three cities. I even get UPS and mail delivery daily (they just toss it into the pit). Surely a self-proclaimed professional organization like the ABAA has a written editorial policy for its newsletter. Is defaming booksellers (singly or by the city) policy? Is it policy to notify only ABAA members in advance when you plan to trash them?

In fiction, characters who don't exist do things that didn't happen, all manipulated by their omnipotent author. Pulitzer Prize or no, this is not how the real world turns. It is true, as McMurtry says, that he bought from me two copies of a 1979 printing of his work. That is all he chose to reveal before he called that printing a piracy, implied that the surviving printer's proof of the same work might be bogus, portrayed me and other Austin booksellers as vermin, and accused booksellers who don't share his viewpoints of lacking "tact, decorum, courtesy, and respect." Such economy of fact subverts the truth, and the facts of that transaction provide examples of people displaying exactly those four traits, and one breeding author who utterly lacks them. Ready for some non-fiction?

The Uncollected Fictional Works of Larry McMurtry consists of twenty-two leaves of pale yellow paper, laid into unprinted gray-green paper wrappers. The title and colophon leaves are printed letterpress; the text leaves are photocopies from the college magazine in which the stories and poems originally appeared. The edition was thirty-five copies and none were sold. The two people who produced it functioned as printer

and publisher. The printer retained ten copies and the publisher twenty-five. Contrary to the popular image of a piracy, it did not involve any copyrighted works, was not done in secret, and was not done for profit. It was given the whimsical imprint of Thalia, Texas, a familiar place in McMurtry's fictional landscape. McMurtry was sent four copies. He asked that it be withdrawn. It was. About a dozen copies had been given away by that time. The publisher and printer got back all they could, and obtained promises from other recipients that they would send their copies directly to McMurtry. A few complete copies were sent to McMurtry, but he was sent only the title-pages and colophons for most of the edition. McMurtry told me that thirty-five complete copies were sent to him for destruction. His statement directly contradicts the written statement made by the publisher at the time, which was mailed to McMurtry's attorney along with some title-pages and colophons, and never contradicted until now. His claim is also contradicted by the recent independent recollections of both the printer and publisher.

I purchased two sets of sheets at a Texas bookfair in 1992. I'd never seen a copy, nor did I have the complete story of its publication. In September, 1993 I was offered the printer's proof copy, along with a 1979 affidavit by the publisher. A comparison confirmed that the two copies I owned were indeed what they appeared to be; I was allowed to photocopy the affidavit, which I was seeing for the first time. Nothing in the affidavit mentioned the issue of copyright or piracy, nor did those words even appear in the text. The affidavit simply alluded to McMurtry's "displeasure." I then offered my two copies for sale, briefly explaining their publication history as reflected in the affidavit, and making it clear that the printer's proof and two sets of text had survived. I cannot prove who is or is not the ultimate source of the two copies I bought. Both the printer and the publisher say they destroyed the text sheets in their possession, and McMurtry claims he destroyed thirty-five complete copies.

When the two copies of *The Uncollected Fictional Works* appeared in my catalogue in December, 1993, McMurtry called and asked me to withdraw them from sale and I did so. He'd read my catalogue description, made no threats, thanked me for my cooperation,

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and expressed purple rage at the original “pirates”; our conversation was friendly. Orders went unfilled in the meantime. He then wrote me a genial two page letter saying he would “cheerfully buy [them] from [me] at something over [my] cost, in order to destroy [them]—this offer holds for any other copies [I] can obtain, or know about.” I wrote back that I’d “cheerfully” sell him the copies I owned, and expressed sorrow that he felt compelled to buy back copies of his own works in order to destroy them. I also offered to tell him of other copies I might come across so he could acquire them, in particular the printer’s proof copy. Earlier, I’d offered to buy them myself and pass them along at cost. As for my two copies, I proposed that we split the difference: I told him what I’d paid for them, and proposed a price very slightly less than half-way between what I’d paid and what I’d priced them in my catalogue. I wrote that I agreed with his general assessment that the ABAA could lay claim only to those ethical standards that they chose to enforce and that in my experience they chose to enforce very few. And I gently challenged his notions about piracy and copyright.

His response (with check enclosed) was a little over a page, dated Christmas Eve, 1995 [sic], peppered with eighteen typos, threatening in tone, and it seemed to me, less coherent than his first letter. It began, “At \$1700 it’s a close call between paying you and suing you.” He went on to state, “The stories were in copyright; besides which, I’m a living author.” He speculated that he’d “get at least a million dollars” for his fledgling fictional efforts if he published them, commented on evil booksellers and Salinger, and closed with a pithy counter-offer to my proposal, expressed no interest in the printer’s proof copy, and ignored my offer to report other copies to him. I deposited his check, and sent him my two copies. I thought I was being reasonable and cooperative in my dealings, not to mention my flagrant display of “tact, decorum, courtesy, and respect.” Nobody was forcing him to buy them. After the dust settled and the check cleared, says I to myself, could this cranky novelist be the self-same soulful poet who’d emoted in his

youth “Wake / to us, the branded children, / Thigh-torn, sometime fairy. / Hanging out hand-me-down pities / ...O warm me stranger, wrap / Me warm...”

I’m not some Visigoth with a cash-register, but I do make a very good living as a bookseller, and was indifferent to whether he bought them. McMurtry called the price he paid for the two copies (\$850 each) a “not inconsiderable sum,” but how does that compare to the \$1000 price attached to his leather-bound fifteen-page tribute to Irving Lazar (100 copies, signed) that’s been announced for later this year? My copies of a suppressed printing (of which perhaps a dozen copies may survive) seem like a bargain in comparison. As a merchant of used goods, whatever happened fifteen years ago between other people is not my concern. I’d have been content to hold them and gamble that someday they’d be valuable, assuming McMurtry didn’t end up as a footnote in the literary histories. Jennifer Larson points out that the “literary record” can be preserved in exactly this fashion. With that thought in mind I acquired the printer’s proof copy on January 12, 1994, and acquired three other sets of sheets about the time of the Austin Bookfair on January 29 or 30—flushed out by my catalogue listing. I intend to buy others that are offered to me. I’ve heard rumors that other fragments exist, but I’ve not located them. Yet.

I also spent forty dollars to have the Library of Congress Copyright Office conduct a search for a copyright for both the college journal (*AVESTA, Literary Magazine of North Texas State College*, Fall 1956, Spring 1957, Fall 1957) and each story and poem by McMurtry those issues contained: “The Best Day Since,” “Cowman,” “Biederbecke,” “Yes, I Am Old,” “Roll, Jordan, Roll,” “Journey to the End of the Road,” and “Quietus” (that inspiring poem of “thigh-torn sometime fairy” fame). The Copyright Office’s written report states that no record of copyright (or renewal) can be found in their records covering the years 1946–1994. An addendum to the previously mentioned publisher’s affidavit states that a subsequent investigation disclosed that the material was not copyrighted, and that the publisher of *AVESTA* considered the material to be in the public domain. I wrote the archivist at North Texas State College, who provided photocopies of

AVESTA that confirmed the absence of a copyright notice. I’ve consulted my Houston attorney, as well as Library of Congress *Copyright Circulars 1 (Copyright Basics)*, 14 (*Registration*), 15 (*Renewal*), 15a (*Duration*), and 22 (*Status*), and find that works copyrighted between 1950 and 1977 and “in their first 28-year term on January 1, 1978, will still have to be renewed in order to be protected for the second term. If a valid renewal registration is made at the proper time, the second term will last 47 years. However, if renewal registration for these works is not made within the statutory time limits, a copyright originally secured between 1950 and 1977 will expire on December 31st of its 28th year, and protection will be lost permanently.” These works were not protected by copyright; but what if they had been, as McMurtry claims? In that case, McMurtry would have had until December 31, 1984 and December 31, 1985 (six years after the “piracy”) to renew his copyright on the works in question. If he held the copyrights on these works, why doesn’t the Copyright Office have a record of a renewal? I’d think a victim of “piracy” would be amply motivated to renew his legal protection against future improprieties. McMurtry was an unknown and virtually unpublished wannabe when he thrust these stories into the public domain by publishing them without copyright; now he’s a successful writer whose every word drips with dollar signs, but these early stories are still the same: uncopyrighted and in public domain. In light of this do I have a right to ponder whether McMurtry obtained a substantial discount from me (32%) by misrepresenting the legal status of the work in question? If he ever tries to rejoin the ABAA I shall protest.

McMurtry made a clear distinction in his letter to me and in his published comments that these legal and moral issues deserve special consideration because they apply to living authors. Copyright law makes no such distinction, and extends certain protections well beyond the lifetime of the original copyright holder. I would be astounded to discover that the learned and righteous McMurtry himself, through his several bookshops and during his many years in the business, had studiously avoided the purchase, sale, or distribution of any of the well-known American piracies of dead

authors whose stature may not quite equal his own: Hemingway, Eliot, Lawrence, Kerouac, Stevens, Joyce, Wolfe, et al. Am I to correctly understand McMurtry that it's okay to profit on the verbiage vitae of the electroencephalographically-challenged but not any scrivener with a pulse?

McMurtry learned that I had purchased the printer's proof and other copies, and had his attorney write me a letter on his behalf on May 4 (demanding a response by May 6), accusing me of misrepresenting my copies as being the only ones in existence and selling them to him with an explicit warranty to that effect—a claim that neither I nor any bookseller I know could make about any book they've ever sold. I was also accused of possessing additional copies at the time I sold McMurtry the two copies I owned, and of making a statement that I owned eleven more copies (I had said to several people that I thought perhaps ten or twelve copies might still exist, assuming McMurtry did indeed destroy whatever he was sent back in 1979). His attorney's letter concluded by accusing me of “intentional fraud and misrepresentation, unethical conduct, unfair and illegal business practices and false advertising.” I gave it to my attorney for review, and was especially curious to see my attorney's reaction to five fabulous demands that it made, which deserve to be quoted in full:

1. That you immediately cease and desist from any further duplication, sales, marketing, distribution or other use or exploitation of the works described in this letter in any form, including without limitation any derivative or partial works or copies;
2. That you immediately deliver into Mr. McMurtry's possession any and all originals, derivations, versions or copies of the described works presently in your possession, or under your custody or control;
3. That you refund to Mr. McMurtry forthwith the \$1,700 payment he made to you for the copies of the described works which were sold to him;
4. That you provide to us a verified accounting of any and all sales or other distributions of any kind you have made of the described works in any form, including any and all orders which have not been filled, and;
5. That you disclose to us your source or sources for any and all originals, derivations, versions or copies of the described works which you

possess or of which you have knowledge.”

I got a second letter from his attorney on May 14, saying she was “surprised and dismayed” by my lack of a timely response. My attorney simply responded by phone that these works were not protected by copyright: case closed. But my attorney also offered, on my behalf, to waive my one week return period and refund McMurtry's \$1,700 upon receipt of the two copies I sent him (if they were in the same condition as they were when he purchased them—no autographs, please). I actually told my attorney I'd like to buy additional copies. McMurtry's attorney expressed surprise at the news that the works were not copyrighted and giggled at my refund offer (I'd chortled, myself). She agreed to respond the following week.

Within a day of this phone call (May 16), McMurtry was placing phone calls trying to make contact with the person from whom I'd purchased the printer's proof copy. That person refuses to return his call, saying he has more productive things to do than chitchat with McMurtry. Rob Rulon-Miller reports that McMurtry spoke with him by phone, acting like he didn't know that the printer's proof copy existed, a peculiar lapse of memory considering that he mentioned it in his letter published in the *ABAA Newsletter*, of which Rob is an editor. Shouldn't this flurry of phone calls have taken place before leveling serious accusations against me? As of June 18, my attorney has heard nothing from McMurtry's attorney and my refund offer has expired.

If my memory serves, McMurtry once dubbed his hometown of Archer City “the armpit of the universe.” He now calls that armpit, and Tucson, home; I reckon he should know. I call Austin home, and it is not, as he christens, the vermin-pit of American bookselling. (More about his pit fixation will appear in my forthcoming book, *Of Vermin, Armpits, and Pendulums: Pit Motifs in American Cow-Poke Fiction*.) To bolster his claim, he says that some Austin vermin has pirated his book, *In a Narrow Grave* (this time a pit with a body in it). You couldn't prove it here in the pit. The original publisher, Bill Wittliff, is unaware of such a piracy. A brief survey of the local used, rare, and retail vermin failed to turn up a single one who knew anything about such a piracy. Neither have any vermin I know

ever met a single one of the four or more Larry McMurtry impersonators that bedevil McMurtry as he describes in his introduction to *Texfake*. Two Elvis sightings were reported, however.

After all the pontificating subsidies (mine included), the ABAA can adopt any policy they want on this subject. Despite constant pressure to join, I've refrained on the grounds that the ABAA has never to my personal knowledge enforced its ethical standards in an equitable, reasonable, or effective manner: nobody has ever been expelled for forgery, thievery, arson, or insurance fraud that I know about. The only ethical infractions of which I'm aware that have resulted in any sort of effective action involved unpaid bills. I predict that despite a lot of hard work and thoughtful revision by the folks who have fashioned the best policy that they could, most members will ignore it and the ABAA will not enforce it. A bookseller will have little to fear if they forge a piracy, steal one, burn one, or defraud their insurance company with one. But if you buy one you'd better pay for it, or watch out! I have a stronger moral compass that, and don't need the interference of the ABAA's weak magnetic field.

Everybody and their dog can howl their opinions, but the facts provide a choke-collar: piracy is the theft of copyrighted material; those who publish material in the public domain are not pirates; and booksellers who sell fifteen-year-old second-hand copies of uncopyrighted public domain material are doing nothing wrong. Nobody is “befouled” (to use McMurtry's word) by buying or selling *The Holy Bible*, *Hamlet*, or (you guessed it) *The Uncollected Fictional Works of Larry McMurtry*. To quote McMurtry's ABAA letter: “Copyright laws are, after all, laws.” For anyone to defame a person's character based upon half-truths and misrepresentations is inexcusable. To print and distribute such yelping is recklessly unprofessional, and hardly seems consistent with the ABAA's published code of ethics statement: “to encourage and promote interest in and appreciation of antiquarian books and other printed materials... establish and maintain professional and ethical standards; and to foster friendly relations both among the membership, and the bookselling community at large.” Can someone explain to me how publishing unconfirmed incomplete

Center for Book Arts Offers Summer Classes

The Center for Book Arts in New York City is offering three courses of interest to booksellers and collectors. "Protecting Your Books and Archives" is a preservation-oriented workshop that promises to provide direct solutions for common problems found in personal libraries and collections. Through lecture, demonstration and discussion, the class will evaluate treatment options for protecting and refurbishing damaged books and archival materials.

Treatments to be reviewed include the construction of mylar wrappers, polyester bookbindings and protective enclosures. The workshop will be taught by Mindell Dubansky on August 27, 1994, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Thomas J. Watson Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Book Restoration" will focus on the problems of book conservation and present a survey of standard procedures for restoring books, including cloth backing, dry cleaning of pages, paper mending, and sewing methods. The course, taught by Sara Weddell Dillion, will be held August 15-19, 1994.

"Conservation Binding" is an introduction to conservation book structures and their applications. Participants will learn conservation recasing, "Italian" papercase making, rebacking with airplane linen, and will become familiar with a variety of endsheet constructions and sewing methods. In addition to technical skills, students will learn the reasons conservators utilize different bindings for particular projects. The course will take place August 8-12, 1994, 10 am - 4pm. Howard Stein is the instructor.

For registration, fee, and prerequisite information, please contact Nina Schneider at the Center for Book Arts, 626 Broadway, New York, NY 10012, (212) 460-9768.

Bibliographical Society Offers Grants and Fellowships

The Bibliographical Society now invites applications for awards to be made in the calendar year 1995. The Society hopes to make awards both for immediate research needs, such as for microfilms or travel expenses, and for longer-term support, for example to assist with prolonged visits to libraries and archives. One major award, up to a maximum £2,000 and a number of smaller awards will be offered.

One or more of these awards will be particularly associated with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association which has contributed generously to the Society Fund. The Society also offers a Fredson Bowers award of \$1,500, funded by the Bibliographical Society of America, and, in conjunction with the Oxford Bibliographical Society, a Falconer Madan award of up to £500 for research undertaken in Oxford libraries or, under certain circumstances, conducted elsewhere upon topics connected with Oxford.

Applications must be submitted by November 30, 1994, and two referees, familiar with the applicant's work, should be asked to write directly to the address below. Successful applicants will be noti-

fied following the meeting of the Council of the Bibliographical Society early in February, 1995.

In addition, the Society offers a limited number of minor grants, of £50 to £150, for specific purposes, such as the costs of travel or of microfilming. Applications for these grants may be submitted at any time and should be supported by a letter from one referee and a statement that the funds applied for are available from no other source.

Further particulars and application forms for both major and minor grants are available from Dr. E. S. Leedham-Green, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, England.

Further information about the Society and its interests may be found in its centennial publication, *The Book Encompassed*, ed. Peter Davison (Cambridge University Press, 1992), or from recent issues of its journal, *The Library*.

Applicants for all awards may be of any nationality and need not be members of the Society. ■

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stories and ridiculous characterizations fulfills that worthy mission? Far be it from me to deny Larry McMurtry his right to a good conniption fit now and then, but he can do us all a favor and hold his pity-parties in private. Instead, he plays The Whining Victim in public, The Hairy-Chested Bully in private, and comes off (to me) like a Petulant Invertebrate Twit (PIT). Just because some hollow-point slug loads himself into the breach doesn't obligate the ABAA to take shaky aim and jerk on the trigger. The ABAA has disgraced itself (and McMurtry) by providing him a public forum in which to misfire.

Although some of us have advanced degrees, scholarly credentials, and backgrounds as rare book librarians, all any of

us really have are our reputations. The ABAA, by devoting space in its *Newsletter* to unverified stories and sleazy accusations, has fostered some fairly unfriendly relations inside and outside its membership. The ABAA ethics statement proclaims that the organization exists for precisely the opposite purposes. When the ABAA ignored its mission and avoided enforcing its ethical standards in the past it merely looked ineffectual. Now the ABAA has acted in clear contradiction of its publicly touted mission—a far more serious matter than the tempest in a teapot over copyright and piracy. This belies whatever professional or ethical standards that the ABAA claims it upholds.

Basta? Oh, Don McMurtry de la Manch! Sucha bombasta befouls you. My letter's long, and life's too short. When tilting at imaginary pirates another word seems apropos. All together now: arrgh! ■

The Golden Hind Press Subject of Exhibition

"Arthur Rushmore and The Golden Hind Press" is the subject of an exhibition organized by the Public Library of the Borough of Madison, New Jersey.

Head of book production and design at Harper and Brothers, Rushmore established The Golden Hind Press at his home in Madison so that he could give free reign to his experiments with title-page designs and decorative elements. Eventually he was designing and producing entire books, as well as planning and setting type for books published and distributed by Harper and Brothers. The Golden Hind Press operated from 1927 to 1955, during which time Rushmore, often with the help of his family, produced

nearly two hundred books and pamphlets.

The exhibition is drawn from the Library's rich holdings as the depository of Rushmore memorabilia and correspondence as well as of Golden Hind publications. On display will be productions of the press, limited editions of Harper and Brothers books with type set by Rushmore, and some of the linoleum blocks used in their completion.

The exhibition will run from October 1-30, 1994 at the Public Library of the Borough of Madison, 39 Keep Street, Madison, NJ 07940; 201-377-0722. A lecture by a contemporary of Rushmore's is also being planned; please call the Library for details. ■

SHARP Calls for Papers for Edinburgh, 1995

The third annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing will meet 15-17 July 1995 at the University of Edinburgh. SHARP welcomes proposals for papers dealing with the creation, diffusion, or reception of the written word in any historical period. Conference proceedings will be in English, but papers may deal with literature from any culture. There are no limitations on topics, but we may organize special panels on publishers' archives, electronic texts, periodicals and newspapers, Scotland, interdisciplinarity and cultural studies, ongoing collabora-

tive research projects, and teaching programs in book history.

Proposals (one page maximum) and inquiries concerning the conference itself should be sent to the conference host, Dr. Bill Bell, Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh, 5 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9JX, Scotland. The deadline for proposals is 1 November, 1994.

For information about joining SHARP and subscribing to the SHARP newsletter, contact Jonathan Rose, History Department, Drew University, Madison, NJ 07940, USA. ■

ABAA Welcomes New Members

The *Newsletter* warmly welcomes the following new members to ABAA, accepted at the Officers' and Board of Governors' Meeting in July in Philadelphia:

FULL MEMBERS:

Charles Agvent, R.D. 2, Box 377A, Mertztown, PA 19539; phone: 610-682-4750.

Donal A. Brody, Great Epic Books, 15918 20th Place West, Lynnewood, WA 98037; phone: 206-745-3113.

Susan Levin Hoffman, North Shore Manuscript Company, Inc., P.O. Box 458, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577; phone: 516-484-6828.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Ben Kinmont, Jonathan A. Hill Bookseller, Inc., 325 West End Avenue, New York, NY 10023.

Deborah J. Ward, Thomas F. Schwarz Antiquarian Bookseller, P.O. Box 602, Mill Valley, CA 94942. ■

APHA Celebrates Twenty Years

The American Printing History Association (APHA) celebrates two decades with a conference in New York, October 7th to 9th, 1994. Participants will attend an opening reception Friday at the Grolier Club, hear a roster of five speakers on Saturday at the Pierpont Morgan Library followed by a reception at the Union League Club, and may attend related exhibitions at institutions around the city on Sunday.

"APHA at Twenty: Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future," will feature the lectures: "Three (Possibly Four) Ages of APHA" by Terry Belanger, University of Virginia; "The Art Preservative: From the History of the Book Back to Printing History" by Michael Winship, University of Texas at Austin; "The Temper of the Present" by W. Thomas Taylor, publisher and antiquarian book dealer of Austin, TX; "Type in the Modern Book" by Cynthia Hollandsworth, U.S. Type Marketing Manager at the Agfa Division of Miles Inc.; and "Ink vs. Electrons: Comments from the Field" by Wendy Richmond, independent consultant in interactive media of Cambridge, MA.

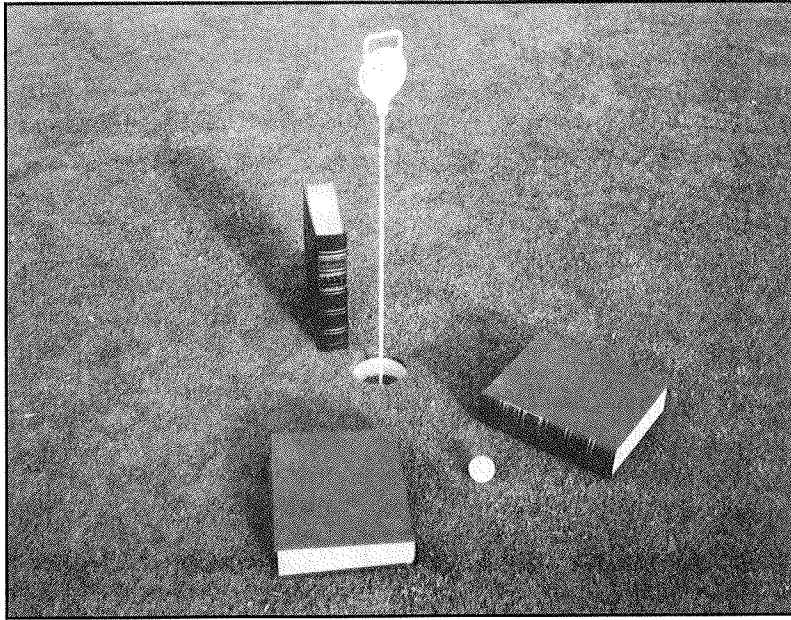
A special boxed portfolio of broadsides designed and printed by many of America's most distinguished printing practitioners is being created in an edition of 200 to mark the anniversary. The result, "A Type Miscellany," will be available for purchase at the conference, or by mail order at the address below.

The conference is open to the public. Registration brochures may be obtained by writing APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

APHA was founded in 1974 to encourage the study of printing history and its related arts and skills, including calligraphy, typeface design and type-founding, paper-making, illustration, binding and publishing.

GOLF TOURNAMENT for ABAA Benevolent Fund

Wednesday, August 24, 1994
The Links at Hiawatha, near Owego, New York



Bookselling is not all work!

Come out and enjoy the outdoors and help raise money for the fund that helps booksellers in need of assistance.

- The tournament will be organized in a captain and crew format, with teams made up according to abilities and handicaps. The fee for members of ABAA or ILAB is \$75 per person including greens fee and cart. Guests of members may join the group by donating \$35 to the Benevolent Fund and paying separate course expenses of \$42. Make checks out to the Antiquarian Booksellers' Benevolent Fund, and send to the address below.
- The Links at Hiawatha is a new, eighteen-hole golf course located about four miles east of Owego, New York, approximately three and a half hours from New York City, Philadelphia, or Buffalo. Enjoy a summer trip to the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Inexpensive lodging, good food, and maybe a tennis game can be arranged.

Contact John D. Spencer, Riverow Bookshop
187 Front Street, Owego, NY 13827
607-687-4094

Directories, Updates Out Soon

The newest edition of the ABAA *Membership Directory*, for 1994-1995, is at the printer's in Massachusetts at the time this issue of the *Newsletter* goes to press. Members and non-ABAA subscribers to the *Newsletter* should look for their copies late August, according to Executive Director Liane Wood-Thomas.

Meanwhile, in the "production office" of the ABAA Publications Committee in St. Paul, pages updating the ABAA *Guidebook* are nearing completion. These pages reflect changes that have occurred in the past year in the composition of the Board of Governors and its committees, the By-Laws, Book Fair Rules, and the Code of Ethics. ABAA members can expect the updates sometime during mid-August. ■

*Deadline for submissions to
the next issue of the
Newsletter is
October 10, 1994*

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