



The ABAA NEWSLETTER

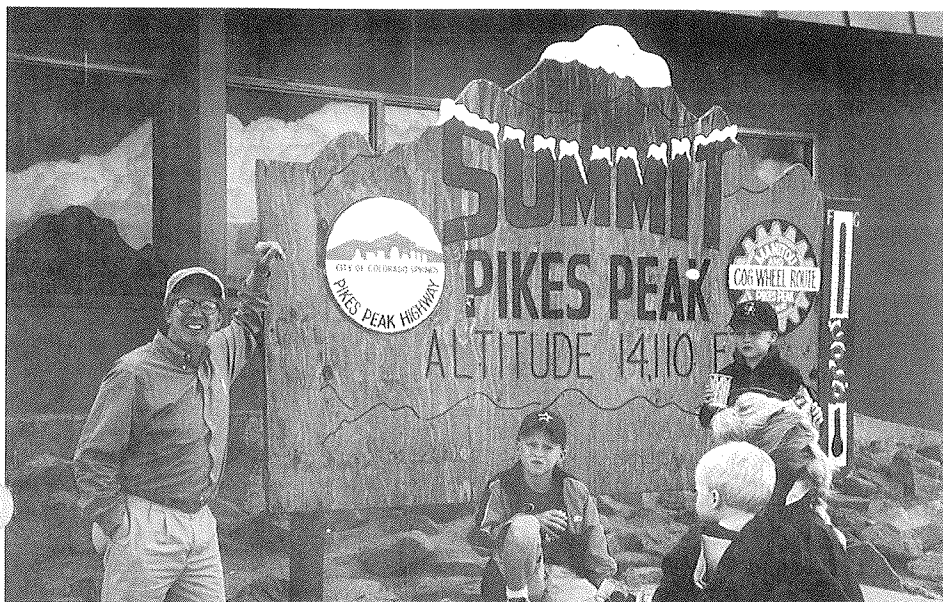


VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER 4

ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SUMMER 2003

INSIDE: *Caveat Emptor*. By Jennifer Larson. PAGE 5



Dan De Simone, the Lessing J. Rosenwald Curator at the Library of Congress, gained new heights this August in Colorado as the Antiquarian Book Market Seminar keynote speaker.

Fun with Fakes

The following is the text of a paper presented at TRUE/FALSE: Facsimiles, Fakes, Forgeries, and Issues of Authenticity in Special Collections, The Forty-Fourth Annual RBMS Preconference, held in Toronto, Canada, June 17-20, 2003.

by David Szewczyk

I am not a forensic document examiner; I am an antiquarian book and manuscript dealer. My science training in college was, and my lifelong continued reading has been, in geology. I know tens of thousands of times more about plate tectonics, subduction, and the Mohs Scale than I do about X-ray florescence, chromatographic

analysis, or computerized inflection detection—which might seem a surprising fact, or even confession, in one asked to speak at this conference about historical fakes and forgeries. The fact is, though, that forensics comes into play *only after* doubt has been raised: Forensics is the *last* line of defense against fakers, forgers, and other grifters. In many ways, dealers in antiquarian books and manuscripts are the *first* line of defense, and for them, it's not what's available in a lab, but what's available in their heads, in their reference libraries, and in the institutions holding comparable artifacts they can consult, that provides the primary, significant moats, redoubts, and ramparts.

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ABAA Planning Committee Drafts Resolutions on Website, Staffing, Book Fairs, and Chapter Dues

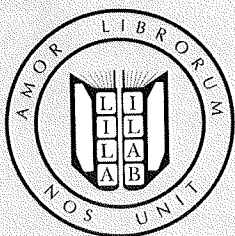
by Ken Lopez

The Planning Committee of the ABAA met in Amherst, Massachusetts, on August 7, 2003. It was the first meeting of the Planning Committee in three years. Two days had been reserved for the meeting, but the Committee covered all of the items on its agenda, and some new business, in a single eight-hour meeting. There was time at the end for the Committee to view *Bibliomania*, the hour-long documentary by British filmmaker Paul Ryall highlighting the 2003 California book fair in San Francisco and instigated by the Public Relations Committee.

The Planning Committee is composed of ten members, all current or former members of the ABAA Board of Governors. Present at the meeting were Sarah Baldwin, Rochelle Caney, Tom Congalton, John Crichton, Bob Fleck, Priscilla Juvelis, Ken Lopez, Forrest Proper, Ken Sanders, and Ed Smith. Also present, at the invitation of the Planning Committee, was Jelle Samshuijzen, because the Committee wanted to look at the middle- to long-term prospects of ABAA's relationship with Rockingstone, both as our Webmaster and as our search-engine provider.

The Planning Committee meets only once every two to three years and is

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ILAB Book Fairs

2003

October 31–November 2

Boston, MA (ABAA)
Hynes Convention Center

November 14–16

Sydney, Australia (ANZAAB)
Masonic Centre

November 26–29

Madrid, Spain (AILA)
Hotel Reina Victoria

2004

January 23–25

Stuttgart, Germany (VDA)
Württembergischen Kunstvereins

February 6–8

Los Angeles, CA (ABAA)
Marriott Airport Motel

April 15–18

New York, NY (ABAA)
Park Avenue Armory

June 3–6

London, England (ABA)
Olympia Exhibition Centre

Gilkey Sentenced for Book Thefts

John Charles Gilkey, the alleged northern California book thief profiled by ABAA Security Chair Ken Sanders in the last *ABAA Newsletter* (XIV, no. 3), will be incarcerated in San Quentin Prison.

Gilkey was apprehended in March of this year, due in large part to the efforts of Sanders and other ABAA members, and has spent the last six months in the Santa Clara County Jail.

Sanders reported early in September, with not a little discouragement, "Gilkey and his ongoing parade of attorneys are playing the legal procrastination game as long as they possibly can... The reason for these delays has to do with Gilkey's ultimate sentencing to the California state prison system. County jail is considerably more cushy and it is easier to serve time there than in the state prison system. The longer Gilkey delays his eventual sentencing, the less time he will have to actually spend in prison... given that all of his current time served will count towards his prison time."

On September 26, 2003, Sanders reported that Gilkey "has pleaded guilty to the theft of antiquarian books and has accepted a plea bargain from the state of California, which will send him to San Quentin Prison for a period of three years." Gilkey's prison term will begin in late October.

Unfortunately, the stolen books recovered from Gilkey's apartment will probably not be returned to their rightful owners before the summer of 2004. The items are currently being held by the San Jose Police Department, Sanders reports, and will stay there until at least six months after sentencing. In addition, a number of the books recovered have not been claimed by their owners. Sanders has speculated that these items may be returned to Gilkey.

The unclaimed books are listed in the last *ABAA Newsletter*; if you can identify the owners of any of these, please contact Ken Sanders, 268 South 200 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84111; phone: 801-521-3819; <ken@dreamgarden.com>.

ABAA Film Premieres in Seattle

Bibliomania, a film by Seattle filmmaker Paul Ryall, premieres October 11, 2003. The sixty-minute documentary film is the brainchild of the ABAA Public Relations Committee and its chair, Ed Smith.

Ryall filmed for six days and shot more than forty hours of film featuring the February 2003 ABAA California book fair in San Francisco, the world's largest fair with more than 240 exhibitors. *Bibliomania* shows what happens at a large ABAA fair, from set up to buying and selling on the floor to packing up. The PR Committee hopes *Bibliomania* will generate interest in ABAA book fairs and dealers and educate interested members of the public about collectible and rare books.

The film captures the excitement of book fairs and the enthusiasm, passion, and knowledge of all involved, book-sellers, collectors, and librarians alike. Through conversations with fair goers and exhibitors, viewers gain insights into

the minds and motivations of all breeds of bibliomaniacs and the allure of books as collectible objects.

The world premiere of *Bibliomania*, sponsored by the ABAA's Pacific Northwest Chapter, takes place Saturday, October 11, 2003, 9:00 PM, at The Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle, Washington. The showing occurs following the first day of the Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair, with all proceeds going to the ABAA Benevolent Fund. There is a minimum required donation of \$10. For more information, contact Louis Collins at 206-323-3999 or <info@seattlebookfair.com>.

Bibliomania will also be shown at ABAA book fairs, beginning with the October fair in Boston, and a DVD version will be available to ABAA and ILAB dealers. The PR Committee also hopes to see the film on PBS and cable television networks.

Is it a Frankfurter?

by Joe Luttrell

There is a bookplate, which looks to be that of Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, found in books that are still occasionally surfacing in the book trade. The bookplate bears Frankfurter's name and depicts a scale of justice; it seems a little crude aesthetically.

In fact, the bookplate was not created by Frankfurter, but rather was created by a Washington bookseller many years after Frankfurter's death. Here is a brief version of how this happened, as told by the bookseller to me.

The bookseller saw at a local Washington auction, following Frankfurter's death in 1965, a number of books that were said to have been those of Justice Frankfurter. These he bought. He then learned that a fair number of other of Frankfurter's books had been dispersed around Washington, and so he sought them out, buying a considerable number of books that, as best he could determine, had been Frankfurter's.

Then for many years (as is the case with many of us) he didn't get around to doing much with them and stored the volumes in one of his warehouses. Some years later, he got back to them, but by this time it had become extraordinarily

difficult to to determine whether, or even if, they had been Frankfurter's to begin with. The dealer had, after all, omnium-gathered them from numerous locations, and although he had in the intervening years tried to segregate the books, in fact, there was some concern that they may have been intermingled with other books that were not Frankfurter's.

In this uncertain state of affairs, he created a "Frankfurter bookplate," the one described above, and began pasting it into the books he thought, in his best judgment, had been Frankfurter's.

Some time after this, he placed an advertisement in the classified section of the *New York Times Book Review*, which I spotted, and which led me to call him up, at which point he honestly enough recounted to me the history of the bookplate described above.

So, if you should get one in a book that seems on the surface of things to be Felix Frankfurter's, it is probably this



This bookplate was created after Supreme Court Justice Frankfurter's death in 1965.

one, created by the bookseller. It may or may not be a book that was once in Justice Frankfurter's library, but for sure the bookplate was not created by the Justice or anyone authorized by him to do so. So far as I have been able to determine, Justice Frankfurter himself never created a bookplate for insertion into his books. ■

ABAA Represented at SUNY Librarians Conference

by George Krzyminski

Back in February of 2003, I received an emailed invitation to be a "Vendor Exhibitor" at the State University of New York Librarians Conference, this year sponsored and held at Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York, during the first week of June. The invitation came directly from Susan Wemer, the Conference Coordinator, who knew of my book-dealing activities through the acquisitions department there. Stony Brook is one of four large university "centers" in the state; there are over sixty colleges, university campuses, and

related schools in the group. The conference is held once a year with the purpose of bringing together all the librarians in the state university system for three days of lectures, workshops, and interactions with appropriate vendors. More than 200 librarians were registered for the conference this year.

David Lilburne, the ABAA Mid-Atlantic Chapter representative, and I discussed the possibilities for presenting ABAA at the conference and the benefits to the association—and its individual members—an informational ABAA booth and display would bring. John Fletcher,

the MAC President at that time, and Ken Lopez, ABAA President, both concurred with the idea. Since it was a New York State activity, we decided it would be best supported as a Mid-Atlantic Chapter event, and the booth fee of \$250 was underwritten by the MAC treasury. My shop location is about an hour from the campus where the event was held, and I looked forward to manning the booth and representing the ABAA.

At first I thought only to bring our directories, newsletters, and our public

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information brochure. With more discussion, David and I realized that bringing a representative sampling of our membership's book catalogues would give the librarians a very good idea of the scope and variety of the material that we offer as an organization. David and I called MAC members and the response was terrific, resulting in many members who still publish catalogues sending multiple copies.

The logistics of display were a little tight, with only one hour of set-up time preceding the event. It gave me just enough time to display the ABAA materials and our members' catalogues, and to set up a rack of books, some ephemera, and maps, which served to attract attendees. I had been given the corner booth, the first in line of sight as conference participants came into the vendor hall. It was the best booth location I've ever had anywhere! Having some antiquarian and out-of-print materials on display brought immediate results: people just had to look, and many of the librarians stopped to talk, ask about the display, and browse. At that point I asked if they had our latest ABAA *Directory* and pointed out the list

of member specialties at the back, which everyone found useful for their future reference. Surprisingly, except for a very few people, there was not a lot of familiarity with the ABAA or what we were about. This is a group of people who buy books regularly, for their schools and as collectors, and who influence other book buyers and should be cultivated as such. I have sold books to several of the New York state university libraries; this year they have been my biggest customers. For the amount of money spent on the booth fee, this was very cost-effective advertising. It got our directories and information into the hands of those who would use it and buy books from us. I had a laptop computer set up with the ABAA website on screen, so www.abaa.org and its searchable database were also introduced to these potential customers. Our catalogues were given out to those who were really interested in the topics. There were no "catalogue collectors" among this group; they only picked up a catalogue if very engaged with the topic for their library.

The conference organizers were extremely cordial and welcoming, presenting free buffets in the morning, lunch, and afternoon tea. Plenty of fruit, water, snacks, sandwiches, and cakes, as well as coffee and tea, were available during the

day. It was a pleasure to be there with the other vendors, who represented everything from the *Encyclopedia Britannica* to special computer equipment for libraries and complex software solutions for systems analysis and photocopy machines. The ABAA was the only "book" organization represented. Most people were genuinely interested and happy to see some good books; nobody else there had any.

This ABAA effort could be duplicated in any state with a library conference for its university system, and it should be perhaps considered on a national level as well. ABAA should be represented at next year's conference, which will be held in Cortland, New York. Any qualified opportunity for the ABAA to get in front of book buyers should not be missed; this was certainly one of them. One of the results of the conference was that I was asked to teach a segment of a rare book course in July, at NYU's Bobst Library, by the Dean and Director of Libraries at Stony Brook, Christian Filstrup. This put the ABAA in front of yet another group of librarians and people interested in antiquarian books. Thanks to all in MAC for sending catalogues to take to the conference, to Liane Wade for the ABAA directories, and to Greg Powers for a box of our brochures. Big thanks to David Lilburne for all his support from the beginning of the idea and for making phone calls to members for catalogues. ■



George Krzyminski manning the ABAA booth at the 2003 State University of New York Librarians Conference held at Stony Brook University in June.

The ABAA Newsletter welcomes contributions from all its readers, members & non-members alike. Send your articles, photographs, announcements, and letters to:

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Deadline for the next issue is November 10, 2003

Caveat Emptor: Lessons of Some Recent and Not-So-Recent Forgery Problems

The following is the text of a paper presented at TRUE/FALSE: Facsimiles, Fakes, Forgeries, and Issues of Authenticity in Special Collections, The Forty-Fourth Annual RBMS Preconference, held in Toronto, Canada, June 17-20, 2003.

by Jennifer Larson

Many ABAA *Newsletter* readers, I expect, are familiar with at least part of the story of the Vinland Map, the earliest known cartographic representation of America, brought to the attention of its present owner, Yale University, by one of the most respected and respectable antiquarian booksellers the world has ever produced, the late Laurence Witten of New Haven, Connecticut. The nature of this map was disputed and remains, I believe, in dispute. There is a large impressive book attesting to the map's authenticity, some scientific and other evidence that later called it into question, and finally, further research that casts some doubt on the accuracy of the conclusion that it is a fake. There was a conference devoted to the Vinland Map, at which Larry Witten repeatedly reaffirmed the truth of the story of the map's reported provenance: he maintained that he had personally visited the grand private library in which it had been kept for generations and had met the owner himself. Unfortunately, this was a lie—and a significant one. Years later, in 1989, Larry Witten published a heartrending confession in the *Yale University Library Gazette* in which he acknowledged that he had adopted his source's story as his own account, representing what that individual had told him as what he had himself personally witnessed. Unfortunately, there was a major difference in character between the two men: Larry Witten was an honorable man, I believe (witness his confession); Enzo Ferrajoli, his source for the map,

was later disclosed to have been a convicted book thief.

I do not wish to repeat the error of Mark Twain's famous cat who, having once sat on a hot stove lid, never again approached any stove, hot or cold. The point, though, is that it is unwise to suspend all disbelief regarding authenticity, even when transacting business with an antiquarian bookseller of formidable reputation. The stature of the bookseller should not be a crutch, which is not to say that none of us can be trusted. I would prefer an analogy to the doctor-patient relationship. Wise patients know that their doctor is not periodically examining every square inch of their skin for misshapen moles, the possible precursor to life-threatening cancer; wise patients take on some this responsibility for their personal well-being, because they must.

Almost invariably, when a buyer is concerned about the authenticity of an item, he or she asks the bookseller or autograph dealer who is offering the item for his opinion in the matter. This, of course, is somewhat akin to asking a used car dealer to disclose all the faults of a car one is thinking of purchasing. It is also, however, no small tribute to the general integrity and expertise of members of the antiquarian book trade.

Nevertheless, history has disclosed problems with this approach. Sometimes trust in a member of the antiquarian book trade is misplaced, for a variety of reasons. Mark Hofmann, the forger turned murderer whose career ended in Salt Lake City in 1985, knew, as did Enzo Ferrajoli, that in using Larry Witten as his agent, the reputation of a bookseller could provide a convenient shield for the activities of a forger. Hofmann employed another bookseller of sterling reputation, Justin Schiller, the great children's book dealer, as his unwitting "front man," hijacking, as it were, Justin's many years of built-up goodwill and contacts to considerably enhance the warmth of the reception of his forged "Oath of a Freeman" by the scholarly world.

In a more recent example, in December 2000, a newspaper reported that a copy of the limited edition of Sinclair Lewis's *Arrowsmith*, the property of a state historical society, was being returned for a refund. The item was newsworthy because it had a warm presentation inscription from the author to another giant of American literature, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and a typed signed letter laid in. It had been purchased in 1997 for \$8,500 from a prominent member of the antiquarian book trade. The letter and inscription are fakes. While I can't say how much the librarian relied on the reputation of the dealer in considering the authenticity of this item, I will say that it was not hard to prove that the letter could not have been written in 1925, as it was dated. Simple research in Moody's *Manual* showed that the corporation named in the printed letterhead of the laid-in correspondence was formed in 1927, two years later than the letter was supposedly written.

I have noticed, in conversations with dealers about the authenticity of various items, that these discussions almost always hinge on the dealer's qualifications as a judge of such matters: how many similar items the dealer has handled or examined, his or her long experience of successful and unquestioned dealings, his or her impeccable reputation, the number of forged items the he or she has identified in the past, and the like. Rarely does such a discussion involve the actual attributes of an item in question. If it does, they are not the sorts of attributes that a forger is likely to overlook in the imitation of a famous person's handwriting. For example: Since Abraham Lincoln's signature generally slants upward at the end (it is said), if the autograph in question also slants upward, this is considered evidence that the autograph under consideration must be a genuine Abraham Lincoln signature.

Sometime in the past few decades, the Internal Revenue Service revised its reg-

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ulations and standards relating to the performance of appraisals of non-cash charitable contributions, stating in them that “an expert opinion is no more valuable than the facts upon which it is based.” That is to say, an appraiser can no longer state an opinion about the value of an item and support it with nothing more than his or her own personal qualifications; i.e., “The William Shakespeare autograph letter is valued at \$10 million because I say so, and I’m very knowledgeable and have seen and sold a lot of Shakespeare over the years, and everybody respects me.”

The notion that an expert opinion ought to be judged according to the facts upon which it is based needs to be invoked in authenticity questions, and it seldom is. When a dealer says an item offered for sale is absolutely genuine, you need to ask for the facts upon which this representation is based.

Many dealers go about their business observing many things they believe to be genuine, and a few things they believe not to be genuine, in the absence of proof either way. This has a tendency, which I have very frequently observed, of perverting genuine understanding by making us believe that since we recognize certain items as forgeries, we are therefore detecting all forgeries.

Sometimes this is quite overt, as in the case of the dealer who, in the course of a recent ABAA online discussion about the wisdom of banning the display of books with supplied facsimile dust jackets at ABAA book fairs, was incredulous at the possibility of deceptive sales of such items. The facsimile dust jackets that this dealer had seen had all been quite obviously identifiable as facsimiles; therefore, she was inclined to think that all facsimile dust jackets are easily identified. Stated thus, this is clearly a false conclusion. But it is extremely difficult to recognize that which we do not know, and we cannot know, obviously, how many forgeries we have failed to recognize as forgeries.

This is the way I thought about such matters myself until a wake-up call in

January 1988. I had agreed to perform an appraisal, for insurance purposes, of objects damaged in a fire suffered the preceding September by my colleague, Texas bookseller John Jenkins. I noticed, in examining the materials, a number of damaged but not destroyed items that I thought were not genuine. The story of this forgery scandal has been well told elsewhere (in W. Thomas Taylor’s highly recommended *Texfake*), but the aspect of it that has altered my entire worldview is not, I think, generally recognized. There were a handful of fire-damaged Texas broadsides of the 1830s that I concluded were not authentic, though I had not seen copies of any of them before. Many people familiar with nineteenth-century printing, and facsimiles thereof, would have reached the same conclusion. The problem for me in this case, unlike in the past, when I would simply refuse to handle such items or advise someone else not to buy them, was that I would have to furnish proof of my opinion satisfactory to the claims adjuster who had hired me, to the attorney who had hired him, and ultimately, perhaps, to a Texas jury.

I did not think this would be difficult, and it is not a hard problem in comparison with the authentication of autograph material, for instance. I was able to list a number of subjective problems with the broadsides in question, but I wanted some objective scientific evidence to support my conclusion. I arranged with Yale University for the loan of genuine examples of two of the broadsides, which were to be compared to two of the fakes by means of cyclotron analysis at the University of California at Davis. I had read up on UC-Davis’ published studies of the ink composition of the Gutenberg Bible, analyses so precise as to be able to distinguish separate batches of the same ink formula. These studies persuaded me that conclusive proof of forgery could be obtained through the process if I was correct that the fire-damaged documents were fake and those at Yale were genuine.

The physicists at Davis were aware that this case might result in litigation (quite a lot of money was involved), and they made it clear that they would provide me with the raw data of the analyses (about

five separate tests were performed on each document) but would not interpret that data for me. This seemed fine—but it was not fine. The raw data was so precise regarding the elemental composition of the ink that to my untrained eye, it looked as if each of the documents was printed in five different inks. There was virtually nothing in the results of these tests that I could offer as proof with respect to the authenticity of these documents. The matter worked out satisfactorily, from my standpoint anyway, because not long after the tests were performed, John Jenkins acknowledged that these and many other Texas broadsides existed in numerous fake copies. What this experience made me realize—and this is an opinion that has only grown stronger for me with each passing year—is that we in the trade, and those in the collecting and scholarly worlds, do not have adequate means at our disposal to determine with certainty the nature of the materials we deal with.

The first idea I had when I became quite energized about forgeries was to publish lists of known fakes: the ABAA created a committee that issued a sixteen-page compilation of fakes and facsimiles in 1990, which may have done some good. More recently, an alert about an autograph forger was distributed through the tireless efforts of ABAA’s then Security Chair, John Crichton. I believe that there is an effort currently underway in the ABAA to publish such compilations and alerts online, and I applaud it.

My own efforts became focused over time towards an impossible research project: uncovering the nature and extent of Mark Hofmann’s forgery career. Despite numerous books, extensive media attention, and a massive police investigation, a great many of Hofmann’s forgeries remain publicly undisclosed. Part of the reason is that many of the published accounts of Hofmann’s activities were based on the excellent police work in the case, and the police had as their goal the effective prosecution of a murderer, not a complete list of the forgeries that were the motive for the murders. A mistaken impression has thus arisen that the forgeries are all exposed. It is frequently expressed, as recently as last summer at

the Mark Hofmann conference Ken Sanders arranged, that there are not a lot of Hofmann fakes currently floating around in the trade. The dealer who made this statement based it on the fact that he had not noticed any Hofmann forgeries at book fairs or in dealers' catalogues. Once again, we all must recognize that which we do not know, and be wary of it.

A few years ago, an unpublished poem purportedly by Emily Dickinson surfaced and was consigned to Sotheby's; it sold for a substantial sum of money to the Amherst Public Library (see Simon Worrall's *The Poet and the Murderer* for an account of this episode).

At the same sale, Sotheby's sold an ostensible Nathan Hale autograph item although it was called to their attention prior to the auction, by Hofmann's victim Brent Ashworth and by me, that it has a Hofmann provenance. I was able to get the sale reversed by publishing some facts about it in *The ABAA Newsletter*. I am grateful to Rob Rulon-Miller, its editor, for his courage in publishing it.

Another publication, which had announced the price realized for this item with a photograph post sale, chose not to publish my letter to the editor. I don't believe that either of the buyers of these items would agree that there aren't many Hofmann forgeries in circulation.

I have, in my burgeoning files on Hofmann forgeries, a reproduction of an

engraved portrait of John Quincy Adams with a printed facsimile signature below the legend and a purported autograph signature at the top. This item is in my files because the name of John Quincy Adams is on Hofmann's own list of the non-Mormon names he forged, and because in a 1988 prison interview he stated that he had sold what he called "an etched portrait" of Adams with a forged signature. The item is also in my files because it appeared in a Charles Hamilton auction catalogue in 1980 with a description stating that "signed photos of Adams are unobtainable, and this is an ideal substitute, the only such known to us." It brought \$1,400 at auction. Charles Hamilton did a significant amount of business with Mark Hofmann.

That Hofmann says he faked such a thing is bad, but worse is the fact that this portrait of Adams was published posthumously as the frontispiece to Nathaniel Dearborn's *Boston Notions* and that Adams' death date, printed below the facsimile signature, is trimmed off. Though this particular portrait may have also been published prior to Adams' death, allowing for the possibility of an authentic end-of-life signature, the present example is trimmed in such a way, with a wider margin at the top than at the bottom, to make that seem implausible at best.

Another example of essentially the same Adams item (the autograph is not

identical to the auctioned example above) was published in the book, *Sincerely Yours: The Famous & Infamous as They Wanted to be Seen, in Autographed Photographs from the Collection of M. Wesley Marans* (Little, Brown, 1983). A copy of *Sincerely Yours* was among the books in Mark Hofmann's possession at the time a search warrant was executed at his house in 1985.

Yet another example of the Adams item can be found in a Charles Hamilton retail catalogue (as opposed to an auction catalogue) appearing in December 1984. So, in the span of four years, we find three of these items in the trade, where previously there were none. There matters stood until February 2003, when yet another example surfaced, different from all the others. Now called a "carte-de-visite engraving signed," it is offered at \$9,500 in a dealer's catalogue. I find this state of affairs disgraceful.

I have not published the results of my Hofmann research, which consists of dozens of items such as those described here. Some items are clearly identifiable and others are not, for a variety of reasons—a different set of them for each document or autograph in question. I have tried to make public a few, such as the Adams portrait, because, even though I have not seen them, I feel I have adequate grounds to publicly impugn their authenticity: statements by people who knew of Hofmann's possession of them, the apparent linking of a typewritten legend to Hofmann's typewriter, a flood of new material lacking provenance (I'm thinking of Daniel Boone in this instance), and similar evidence. For many of the items, my conclusions are much shakier. And the longer I delay publication, the more I find out. Every few weeks I get an inquiry about a particular item of concern, and I am happy to share what information I have, more or less on a need-to-know basis. The undertaking as a whole, however, is so unsatisfactory that I may never be able to publish it.

Why do I not contact the dealers involved with these questioned materials

Become a Member of RBMS

To become a member of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), one must apply for membership in the American Library Association, requesting membership in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and in RBMS in particular. Dues for associate membership, "for those not employed in library and information services or related activities," is \$45 per year. Membership in ACRL is an additional \$35 annually.

One may apply online at www.rbms.nd.edu/ or by telephone at 800-545-2433, press 5. You can also print out an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) of the membership application at www.ala.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Our_Association/Membership/Membership.htm. In addition, a printed application can be obtained by writing Membership Services, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611, or by calling 800-545-2433, ext. 5108.

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and report to them what I know (or think I know) about the items' murky origins? I used to do just that, and as I recall, never had what I would call a successful outcome. I have mentioned already my futile attempt to prevent Sotheby's sale of that Nathan Hale autograph: its questionable authenticity was ignored until I published some of my research, post sale. Years ago, I wrote to a dealer offering an ostensible Myles Standish signed document about its possible ties to Hofmann; I never received a reply. I have dozens of examples of this unwillingness to consider my information about Mark Hofmann, and over the years, I've found it very discouraging.

An extreme example of the book and autograph trades' unwillingness to adjust ideas when confronted with unwelcome information follows: Years ago, a number of dealers were selling purported "souvenir" typed transcripts signed of Richard Nixon's letter resigning the office of President of the United States, of Gerald Ford's subsequent pardon of Nixon, and of Spiro Agnew's letter of resignation. These documents were offered at thousands of dollars apiece. I wrote to all three of these former elected officials. Ford replied with a strong denial of ever signing such papers; Agnew acknowledged that he had been asked at times to sign such things but, astonished at the temerity of some people, always refused; Nixon never answered. Even in the face of these denials, no dealer involved with these documents ever acknowledged that the authenticity of the items was, at the very least, questionable.

Provenance is still the strongest weapon in our arsenal against forgeries, and it is likely to remain so until something akin to the revolution in law enforcement effected by DNA analysis comes our way. The trade has yet to come to grips with the unpleasant fact that provenance is often not disclosed; the Larry Witten episode is not the only instance I know in which a dealer adopted his source's story as his own and failed to disclose the intermediary. Sadly, my experiences have taught me that the major reason for this is money, not concern over authenticity: Dealers, I think, are reluctant to disclose information concerning provenance because doing so risks the disclosure of the prices they paid, which, to potential buyers, may not seem commensurate with the current asking prices.

The reputable segment of the antiquarian book trade should be more forthcoming about provenance, and it should also do more to disclose the uncertainty surrounding the authentication of mere signatures and brief documents. The community of forensic document examiners is, I believe, in general agreement that with nothing more than a signature and perhaps a few words of handwriting, such as one finds in an inscribed book, certainty that an autograph is what it purports to be, based solely on handwriting evaluation, is impossible. I am not saying that such items should not be bought and sold, just that disclosure of such items' inherent uncertainties should be made.

Every dealer, every autograph collector, every curator of manuscripts, and every scholar researching original materials would do well to commit to memory two simple maxims regarding the authentication of literary and historical documents: 1.) Provenance is usually the key; and 2.) An expert opinion is no more valuable than the facts upon which it is based. I can think of no better mnemonic device to drive the point home and keep it there than the following selection, reproduced below, from the unpublished papers of Mark Hofmann. ■

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the "Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas. . . Columbus: Follett, Foster and Company, 1860," which is inscribed by Lincoln to S. H. Treat is, in my best judgment and professional opinion, authentic in every way; the inscription having been authenticated by the New York autograph expert Charles Hamilton as well.


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charged by the ABAA by-laws with the "general responsibility of evaluating and stating long-range goals, and the implementation thereof for the Association." At the last Planning Committee meeting in August 2000, for example, the decision to adopt Rockingstone as the search-engine provider for the ABAA was made and subsequently presented to the Board in the form of a recommendation. The vote of the Board confirmed the decision. The job of the Planning Committee is, in effect, to gaze deep into the future and make decisions and recommendations about the direction ABAA will take over the ensuing years. No other committee is called upon to look as far ahead, or with as broad a vision.

This particular Planning Committee brought a great deal of experience to the table and many years of service to ABAA. It included all but one of the current Executive Committee of the ABAA: myself, John Crichton, and Shelley Caney, the President, Vice-President, and Secretary, respectively. Three former ABAA Presidents were also in attendance: Bob Fleck, Priscilla Juvelis, and Tom Congalton, collectively. These committee members represented a great deal of experience extending back into the 1980s. Bob Fleck is currently serving as the President of ILAB, so he brought not only his experience as ABAA President but also his current perspective on the international context of ABAA's activities.

The chairs of several ABAA committees also attended: Ed Smith, who is currently serving as Chair of the Public Relations Committee and was responsible for the creation of the video on the California book fair; Ken Sanders, the current Chair of the Security Committee who has done much to educate ABAA and ILAB booksellers in the ways to identify and prevent scams and fraud in the trade; Sarah Baldwin, Chair of the By-Laws Committee and also our RBMS liaison; Forrest Proper, Co-Chair of the Internet Committee; John Crichton, the current Vice-President and Chair of the Ethics and Standards Committee; Shelley Caney, the

current Secretary and Chair of the Membership Committee; and Tom Congalton, immediate past-President, who is Chair of the Nominating Committee and the Chair of the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund.

With such a broad spectrum of ABAA experience on the committee, ideas come to the fore and percolate. Important and timely issues are discussed; if the committee reaches agreement, recommendations for specific actions are drawn up for presentation to the board. At this meeting, the Planning Committee developed five resolutions. All of them passed with unanimous votes and will be recommended to the Board either by the Planning Committee directly, or by one of the other ABAA committees in whose general sphere the resolution falls. As such, a resolution by the Planning Committee could, for example, be recommended to the Board by the Internet Committee, as happened in 2000 with the recommendation that ABAA use Rockingstone's search engine for <www.abaa.org>.

Resolutions

The five resolutions of the Planning Committee are noted below. Following the resolutions is an explication of the issues and a synopsis of the Planning Committee's discussion and decision.

1.) The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the contract with Rockingstone, when it comes up for renewal, be renewed for a term of three years, with one clause contracting for webmastering services at an agreed-upon rate comparable to that of the last three years and an additional clause contracting for search-engine maintenance and enhancement at the rate of \$25,000 per year.

A.) Tasks covered under the webmastering clause to be attached on a separate list and subject to review and revision on a periodic basis.

B.) Tasks covered under search engine maintenance and enhancement to be attached on a separate list and subject to review and revision on a periodic basis.

C.) Terms for the termination of this contract to be included in the contract and revised from the current terms.

2.) The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the Security Committee be charged with preparing guidelines for procedures to be published in the member *Handbook* and online, and that funds be budgeted for paid staff help for this and other security-related administrative tasks (including entering data for security databases, preparing email communications to all members, and centralizing security-related records at ABAA headquarters and disseminating as much of this material as possible in the Member Services area of <www.abaa.org>).

3.) The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that ABAA hire a second full-time employee for ABAA headquarters whose job would be to work creatively and actively on projects to benefit ABAA and its members, and to project ABAA's name and its values more widely and effectively in the book trade than is currently the case.

A.) Job description to follow.

4.) The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the following changes be made regarding book fairs.

A.) That the Book Fair Committee be restructured to comprise the following members:

- a Chair, currently sitting on the Board, and having had experience as member of a local book fair committee
- the Treasurer of ABAA
- the Secretary of ABAA
- the President of ABAA (*ex officio* member of all ABAA committees)
- two members from each of the four local book fair committees
- any other member designated by the President of ABAA

B.) That the national Book Fair Committee approves and signs off on all budgets and contracts for all ABAA book fairs and provides funds to the local book fair committees;

C.) That all proceeds from book fairs are paid by promoters directly to the ABAA treasury.

5.) The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that chapter dues be abolished and that each chapter shall receive an amount from the ABAA treasury at the beginning of the fiscal year equal to \$100 for each member of the chapter, minus the current balance of the account. Any funds currently in the chapters' accounts and above that amount represented by \$100 per member of the chapter shall be transferred to the ABAA treasury.

A.) any chapter with extraordinary needs can direct its Chapter Representative on the Board of Governors to request money from the ABAA treasury.

Explications and Synopses

1.) The Planning Committee wanted to address the question of ABAA's internet presence in the coming years and devise a way to provide for ongoing stability and built-in improvement for the website and the search engine.

Several issues factored in this resolution by the Planning Committee. First, Jelle Samshuijzen was invited to the Planning Committee meeting in order that the Committee be able to get first-hand answers to questions it had about Rockingstone's own directions for the future.

ABAA had two webmasters and three search engines prior to Rockingstone. Each transition was fraught with difficulty, requiring much effort on the part of the Internet Committee to identify issues and assign priorities, and an even greater effort to establish a realistic budget for the services to follow.

In addition, at the last Planning Committee meeting in 2000, it was agreed that ABAA would provide no direct financial support to Rockingstone for the search engine after an initial \$5000 to link the search engine to the existing ABAA website and integrate the two. All revenues to Rockingstone after that would come solely from members' monthly subscriptions. In 2000, that was the prevailing model for internet search engines.

Since 2000, all of the major search engines have radically modified that

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model. No major search engine provider has been able to survive, sustain itself, and grow on the basis of revenue derived solely from booksellers' monthly subscription fees. There was, and is, no reason to expect Rockingstone to be able to do it either, and this fact raised the question, "In what way is Rockingstone going to restructure itself in order to provide the kind of revenue that a company providing these services needs to grow and to keep pace with changing technology, improved software, and increased competition on the internet?" A corollary to that question was, "What can ABAA do to enable itself to have a hand in helping shape those changes, so that they will tend to be in ABAA's interests?"

The decision, in 2000, to have no direct ABAA participation in the search engine meant, among other things, that ABAA had no particular standing to request changes or enhancements in the search engine. They could be contracted for with Rockingstone on a case-by-case basis, but this was subject to several factors outside of ABAA's control: the effect the changes would have on non-ABAA ILAB users of the search engine, limitations based on Rockingstone's current hardware and software, and the manpower required to handle the other tasks for which Rockingstone was currently responsible (including the ILAB site, other national associations' sites, individual booksellers' websites and databases, and special projects such as online book fairs, the book fair exhibitors' database, the wireless network connections offered at the San Francisco book fair, and so forth).

The Planning Committee wanted to find a way for ABAA to have a meaningful say in the development of the search engine, including prioritizing enhancements in our members' interests. To the extent that some features ABAA members might want would be of little consequence to others using the database, the surest way to get these changes made would be for ABAA to provide funds, over and above

members' monthly subscriptions (which essentially provide for maintenance, at best), that would allow Rockingstone to devote its resources to pursuing our goals. Put simply, if we want to have an ongoing say in how the search engine develops, and at what pace, we should put our money where our mouths are and be willing to pay for these changes.

And we should do so in a way that gives Rockingstone assurances that we would be there for the long run and that we would come to them, on a continuing basis, with requests for changes and enhancements. They get greater security and more money; we get an ongoing say in the direction of changes to the database and the reasonable expectation that our requests can and will be handled in a timely manner, to some extent, regardless of whether other national associations, ILAB, or individual users have the same priorities as we do.

We talked specifically about certain changes to the sorting of the search results from the ILAB-ABAA database, about the searchability of members' listings by Google, which is fast becoming one of the primary ways that individuals locate books (or anything else) on the net, and the hardware and software requirements, and manpower, for these and other changes.

It should be noted that because ABAA's contract with Rockingstone was negotiated in dollars, the actual value of that contract to Rockingstone, which pays its bills in Euros, has shrunk by nearly twenty-five percent since 2000.

Jelle Samshuijzen assured us that, if this contract were approved, it would change the equation substantially with regard to Rockingstone's making hardware and software decisions designed to accommodate ABAA's requested changes. In the past, a sub-committee of the Internet Committee had worked on prioritizing a list of changes for Rockingstone, but since ABAA did not have a contract with Rockingstone regarding the search engine at all, these changes all came under the general heading of work-for-hire and needed to be fit into Rockingstone's overall task load. The implementation of a new clause to the contractual relationship between ABAA and Rockingstone, with annual funds coming directly from ABAA

to Rockingstone for search-engine related work, will help assure that Rockingstone always knows there will be tasks of this sort coming up over the course of a year, and it will also help assure that they have the resources on hand to deal with them when they do arise.

There was a great deal of discussion of this issue among the Planning Committee members and many pointed questions for Jelle Samshuijzen. The Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend this change to the Board in October.

2.) Ken Sanders, the current Security Chair of the ABAA, is slated to end his term on the Board at this year's annual meeting, which will be in Boston during the Boston Book Fair. As Security Chair, Sanders has done an enormous amount of work educating ABAA members about frauds and scams and how to avoid or deal with them, and learning about specific thieves and groups of thieves and working to thwart them or get information about them to ABAA members and also to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. In the process of doing this, he has compiled enormous amounts of information on a variety of subjects. Right now, however, Sanders is the sole repository of this information, and the Planning Committee felt it was in the interest of ABAA to consolidate as much of that information as possible, and to make as much of it as possible available to future Security Chairs and ABAA members.

The quantity of material to be dealt with should not be underestimated. In response to a request for information from a law enforcement agency about just one individual, David Holt, Ken Sanders turned over more than 300 pages of material.

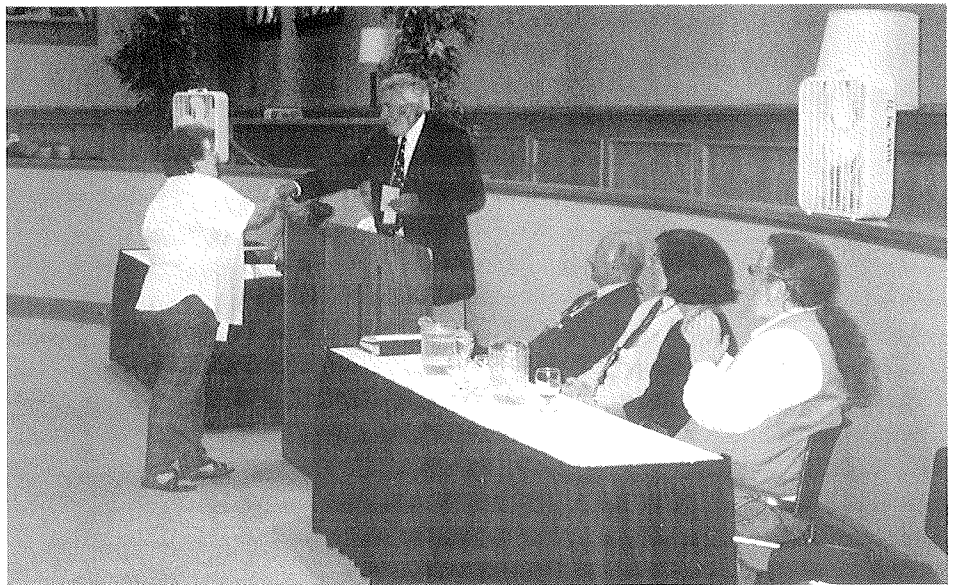
The ABAA's Stolen Books Database at <www.abaa.org> is in place, but there is a substantial backlog of material to be entered in it. ABAA has avoided making much of an effort to promote the database—and, by extension, to use it for promoting ABAA—until there is a more substantial body of information available in it. Also, Sanders has been working with Rockingstone to improve some of the processes by which the Security

Chair is notified when somebody enters a report at <www.abaa.org> for inclusion in the Stolen Books Database. Similarly, here is a Forgeries Database ready for use on the website, but much data entry work also needs to be completed for this resource to be effective.

Some of this is work that the Planning Committee felt should not fall on the backs of volunteers from ABAA, since much of it would likely go undone. Maintaining these databases, and the collecting and collating of other fraud and security information, tend to be tasks that have long-term value for the Association and other users of the databases, but not so much immediate value for enough people to get to the top of a volunteer's list of priorities (i.e., in many cases there is not enough urgency associated with a specific task to assure its completion by a volunteer, even though in the longer run many are tasks that cumulatively will be of great benefit to ABAA members and to ABAA itself, in the sense of ABAA's providing useful information and services to the book trade at large).

As such, the Committee wanted to assure that these tasks get done and that information is collected at the website and at headquarters in New York—tasks that have not even been considered in realistic or practical terms so far, aside from the above-mentioned databases. The Committee felt that these tasks were substantial enough that they would not be able to be added to Liane's workload, or to the workload of other members of the Security Committee, and that funds would need to be provided in order to enter this data and, in the case of making it available at the Members Services area of <www.abaa.org>, to pay for the changes to the website that would be required. As such, the Planning Committee voted unanimously for this resolution.

3.) As an issue separate from data entry for security and fraud-related matters, the Planning Committee felt that in the middle-to-long term the question of staffing ABAA headquarters when Liane Wade retires should be considered. Liane is currently planning to retire at age sixty-five—five years from now. If the next



Ed Glaser, ABAA member and long-time instructor at the annual Antiquarian Book Market Seminar in Colorado Springs, presents one of three ABAA fellowships awarded in 2003. This year's awards went to Linda Howard of Evansville, Indiana, Aimee Noyes of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Linda Roller of Avis, Pennsylvania. Seated, L to R, are ABAA member Michael Ginsberg and fellow faculty members Mary Francis Ciletti and James Canary.

Planning Committee meeting were not held for another three years—the gap between the previous one and this most recent one—Liane's retirement, and any issues involving transition, would be fairly imminent. In addition to the work she does as Executive Secretary for ABAA, which amounts to virtually all of the administrative work involved in ABAA's ongoing existence, Liane Wade also represents a large part of ABAA's institutional memory. Larry Fox, ABAA's counsel, and other Board members also provide part of this, to be sure, but as the keeper of the records at headquarters and as a participant in Board meetings going back decades, Liane's body of knowledge about ABAA is large and, although largely taken for granted, an important resource for ABAA and its Governors.

The Planning Committee felt that the person replacing Liane upon her retirement would have to spend a year, at the minimum, working with our current Executive Secretary. A lengthy training period will be necessary so that the new administrator can see, just once, the full cycle of tasks involved in maintaining and administering ABAA's headquarters. Preferably the transition time would be longer, so that the person stepping in

would see the cycle more than once. If a person were going to be, in effect, an apprentice at ABAA headquarters for up to two years prior to Liane's retirement, he or she would have to begin three years from now—which might be the time frame for the next Planning Committee meeting. At that point, there would be little time to consider all options and to look ahead carefully, and the decision would, by definition, be more urgent and, also by definition, more short-sighted.

The Planning Committee felt that the present moment was a good time to consider that question and to consider alternatives for the long-term. One of these was an idea that has been considered or tried in a variety of forms over the years: having a second person at headquarters whose job description would be different from Liane's. In the past, we have hired part-time workers to beef up ABAA's PR capabilities—issuing press releases and publicity items—and we have hired part-time workers to help Liane with data entry during production of the ABAA Directory.

The idea of hiring a person for ABAA headquarters whose job was project-related—that is, someone who could

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engage in creative projects for the benefit of ABAA and be around to follow through on them—would address two issues of long-term concern for the Association: first, having someone in the office with Liane long enough to become familiar with the cycle of activities involved in ABAA's ongoing administration; and second, opening up the possibility for creative projects emanating from ABAA's headquarters, without adding unacceptably to the workload Liane already carries, and without having to funnel projects to ABAA volunteers for follow-through and implementation.

For example, one idea, which has been raised numerous times over the last decade and more, has been that of a "floating" ABAA book fair: one year in one city, the next year in another. While some have cited the desirability of this—if one could be sure of having a "good" ABAA book fair in each city—practical considerations have doomed the idea: chapters that don't have local book fair committees would have to take on the task for the first time, meaning those with the least experience for such a task would be the ones charged with pulling it off successfully the very first time. There would be little chance for gaining experience, as the book fairs would probably be one-shot deals. The likelihood of failure seems much greater, under those circumstances, than the likelihood of success. However, if there were a person at ABAA headquarters who had a job description including these kinds of tasks, and the time to follow through on them, it would be a much more realistic prospect to be able to, say, find a good promoter in a city for an ABAA book fair; that person could look at the other local book fair committees' budgets and contracts and use them as models to gain perspective on a prospective promoter's budgets and terms, etc. This is just one example of the kind of project that is conceivable with another person at headquarters, one whose job is project-related, not maintenance- and administration-related. Yet at

the same time, that person would be gaining a degree of familiarity with the exigencies of ABAA headquarter tasks that currently only Liane herself is aware of. Having two people at headquarters in the years leading up to Liane's retirement would give ABAA a better set of options for handling the transition when Liane does retire than we would otherwise have, and it would also create a new set of possibilities for ABAA's active involvement in promoting its members' interests and its own than it currently has.

Because it puts ABAA in a better position for the long-term transition at headquarters and also opens up new possibilities for activity and support from headquarters in developing new and ongoing projects, the Planning Committee voted unanimously in favor of this resolution.

4 A, B, and C.) Resolutions 4 and 5 are related, and have to do with addressing several long-term issues within ABAA. Section 4A restates the composition of the national Book Fair Committee, and enlarges it and strengthens it. Section 4B simply restates currently existing and long-standing book fair rules. The need for their restatement, however, is an indication of the degree to which they have not been followed in recent years. Section 4C revises the existing rules regarding revenues from book fairs, based on the experiences of recent years and projections for the future. This will doubtless be a controversial issue in some circles within ABAA, so it's important to make the Planning Committee's thoughts and reasoning as clear as possible on these issues.

There are a number of factors that made this an issue to consider at the Planning Committee meeting. First, and most importantly, the way ABAA book fairs are handled has a direct bearing on the long-term well-being of the Association. Book fair rules have been changed over the years to improve the way book fairs work and the way they benefit the Association and its members. The Planning Committee is the appropriate forum for considering changes to book fair rules because they tend to have long-term impact on the Association and the regional chapters that host the fairs.

In recent years, the national Book Fair Committee has had increasingly little to do with the book fairs, which have been handled essentially in their entirety by the regional committees. The current Book Fair Rules provide that the national Book Fair Committee Chair be an *ad hoc* member of every chapter book fair committee, but this has seldom, if ever, been true in practice in recent years.

Section 4B simply restates Section C1 of the existing book fair rules: "As ultimate financial liability lies with the ABAA, a proposed book fair budget and all contracts must be submitted to the Board of Governors, or the ABAA Executive Committee for approval. All contracts must first be approved by the [national] Book Fair Committee." This has not happened in recent years; the first clause is the key here: ABAA has ultimate financial responsibility and liability for the fairs, and the lack of communication and accountability in recent years has put ABAA in an extremely vulnerable position, according to our former Treasurer and our accountant. This has been pointed out in Board meetings over the last several years by Larry Fox, ABAA's counsel, and it was the primary reason for consolidating the chapters' separate bank accounts. Until the recent consolidation, ABAA's tax returns could have been called into question and at times, could have been deemed to have been fraudulent, since incorrect or incomplete information was given to the national Treasurer regarding the proceeds from book fairs and the status of chapters' accounts.

Section 4C revises the existing Section Q of the Book Fair Rules, "Chapters' Rights to Revenues." The existing rules provide for the chapters to keep 100 percent of the first \$15,000 of revenue from the fairs, and one-third of any amount over \$15,000. This was a revision of the earlier Book Fair Rules, which allowed chapters to keep 100 percent of the first \$10,000 earned by a fair and relinquish any amount over that figure to the national treasury. The figures for the biennial fairs, currently held only in California, were double those amounts.

The upshot of this division of revenues has been that several chapters have

amassed relatively large amounts of money in the chapter treasuries, with very little to do with that money. This deprives ABAA's national treasury of an important source of revenue without providing much useful benefit to either the chapters or the Association as a whole. The sums of money generated by ABAA book fairs and currently in the chapter treasuries are remarkably large, yet neither the chapters nor the Association benefit from these funds. Several chapters have decided to discontinue collecting the chapter dues that are due them under existing rules, simply because there is no need for them. (This is addressed in further detail in Resolution 5.)

In sum, the Planning Committee concluded that an important potential source of revenue for the Association, revenue which would enable good and useful things to be undertaken on behalf of its members, was effectively being tied up in non-productive accounts, ostensibly for the benefit of the chapters but with little real benefit, in actuality, for anyone. Given the growth of the chapters' treasuries over the past several years, and their ability to rescind the collection of chapter dues, this trend seemed likely to continue and to tie up an increasingly large amount of potential revenue for the Association in non-productive accounts.

The tax return problems are mostly gone by virtue of the consolidation of the accounts in a single bank. But the continued accumulation of monies in the chapter treasuries raises legal questions and more importantly, questions of what the "opportunity costs" of such a practice are: "What does the ABAA forego, in terms of possibilities and opportunities for benefiting its members, in order for the chapters to amass so much apparently unneeded wealth?" The Planning Committee felt that these issues must be addressed immediately, and that the evidence of the last several years indicated clearly that this is now a chronic situation, one that would only continue to grow under the existing system.

The most important element of the Planning Committee's consideration, however, was the feeling that this revenue could be, and should be, an impor-

tant component of ABAA's budget; that the national Association should have the responsibilities outlined for it in the current Book Fair Rules; and that the profits from ABAA book fairs should go to the ABAA, for the benefit of all members. The "profit" for the chapters already is a huge inflow of booksellers and collectors to their region to attend the fair, and this benefits both exhibitors at the fairs and non-exhibiting businesses in the region of the fair. The need for the chapters to profit financially from the fairs as well is not apparent and, in fact, appears to be something of a redundancy with respect to the chapters' actual needs, as the collecting of chapter dues—a significant potential source of revenue for the chapters—is increasingly being forgone.

It is worth noting at this point—and it came up in the Planning Committee meeting followed by some discussion on the subject—that the immediate past President of ABAA, Tom Congalton, in his farewell speech at the Grolier Club in April 2002, concluded with what the *Newsletter* called "The Future of the ABAA: A Modest Proposal" [*The ABAA Newsletter* XIII, no. 3 (Spring 2002), p. 14]. In this talk he argued that the regional chapters of ABAA "have outlived their usefulness as political and financial entities." He pointed out that the regional chapters were conceived in a different era, "when geographical barriers seemed greater, and a long distance phone call was an exciting event, and a gathering of one's ABAA colleagues at a chapter meeting or function was a special occasion. That time has changed."

When chapters were first conceived, the rationale for them was not just social and collegial but also business-related: the likelihood of an ABAA colleague from thousands of miles away being able to materially help one in a business matter—whether by providing a book, a reference on a customer, or some other business-related help—was small. It was much more likely that one's local or regional colleagues would be of assistance in practical matters relating to business. Similarly, the likelihood of a small office for the national ABAA headquarters in New York City being

materially central to one's business was remote. The chapters provided both a social network and a business-related infrastructure that was more immediate and accessible, and therefore more useful, than one's far-flung colleagues or even the national Association office would be likely to be.

All of that is drastically different now. Long distance phone calls cost pennies; the advent of faxes and email has meant that more ABAA colleagues can be in closer touch more easily and cheaply than ever before, and it makes more sense for a dealer to be in contact with a colleague three thousand miles away who shares his or her specialties than one down the block who deals in entirely different material. At this point, virtually all of the initiatives taken by the Association on behalf of members' business interests originate in the national level, not the regional level. The obvious ones are the ABAA website and search engine (the idea of chapter websites and chapter search engines points up the absurdity of thinking of the chapters as separate business entities); security postings; the newsletter; the directory; etc. While some chapters still print chapter directories regularly—and this can be an important factor in one's business—it is happening less and less, and there is a move even at the national level to reduce the number of printed directories and increase the availability of directory information on the Association's website, both in terms of accessing information online and also being able to download and print it; needless to say, this can be set up in such a way that regional directories can be downloaded and printed, whether they correspond exactly to a chapter's boundaries or to some other user-defined criteria.

The Planning Committee did not go so far as to question the usefulness of the chapter structure itself, but it did question the need for large sums of money in the chapter treasuries at a time when the chapters have less need to provide for themselves than in the past. This is especially true in light of the

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possible uses to which these funds could be put for the benefit of all members, by the national Association.

Tom Congalton's speech at the Grolier Club addressed these issues head-on. He said, "I believe the maintenance of large balances in the chapter treasuries is probably the most destructive threat to the organization that I have encountered. At any one time, the total of the bank balances of the four largest chapters can rival or exceed that of the ABAA itself." He went on to add that "I have been privy to more than one discussion by members of various chapters trying to determine the best method of retaining funds for the already bloated treasuries, funds that might otherwise go to the national board for use in projects that would benefit the whole organization. A large percentage of these chapter revenues has resulted from book fairs, and a redistribution of book fair

profits might go a long way towards delaying future dues increases or increases in book fair taxes."

Tom Congalton's sense of the scale of this issue was correct: currently the chapter treasuries have \$175,585.11; ABAA's checking account has \$125,182.25. And this is with the Southern California chapter's account being at an artificially low level since much of its money is already tied up in book fair preparations. The usual balance of the Southern California chapter's account is much higher than its current \$18,000-plus and under current rules, would go back to being much higher after the forthcoming fair.

The Planning Committee agreed wholeheartedly with the assessment presented in the past-president's speech and felt very strongly that the time was right for this change — in particular, because there were several proposals on the table that had a strong likelihood of benefiting the Association as a whole and that could be more easily and confidently pursued if ABAA could count on additional revenue. As such, the Planning

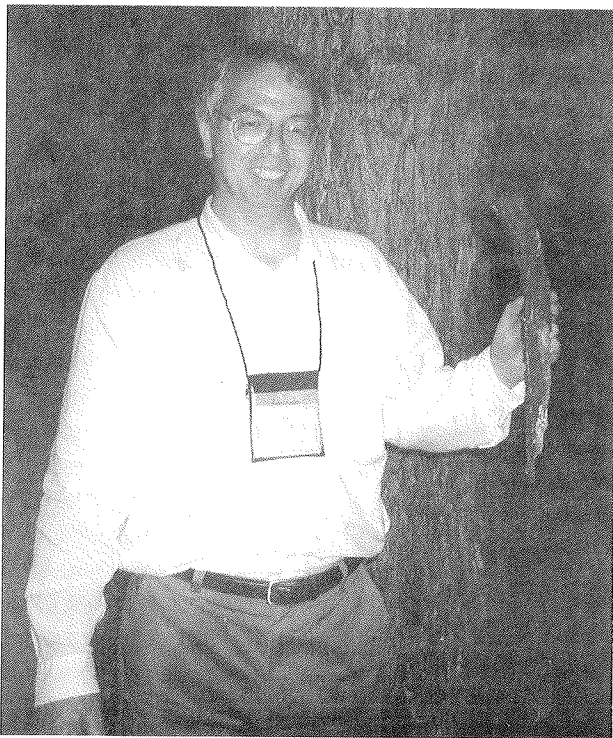
Committee voted unanimously in favor of Resolutions 4A, B, and C.

5) This resolution was, in effect, an adjunct to the previous one. If the book fair revenues were no longer going, in large part, to the chapters, it would be possible not only to eliminate chapter dues altogether but also to fund the chapters to a reasonable level from the national treasury. This would provide funds for many of the types of activities the chapters currently undertake—a chapter meeting and dinner, a directory, etc.—but would free up book fair generated revenue for use by the Association as a whole. The resolution also addressed the transfer of funds currently in the

chapter treasuries, so that this transition would begin immediately upon the Board's approval of these resolutions. 5A simply restates what is already the case, but which could conceivably be a more frequent occurrence if chapters do not have book fair revenues lying around unused in their chapter treasuries, as they currently do.

One example of an unexpected byproduct of the current chaotic status of chapter dues—where different chapters charge different amounts, some have no dues, some have dues but don't collect them, etc.—is that the simple administrative task of sending out bills for members' dues was remarkably complicated. Every chapter was different, and some chapters were different from what they had been previously by virtue of not collecting chapter dues they were entitled to. This has hindered the effort that has been ongoing over the last few years to streamline and computerize the ABAA's administrative processes; under the current situation there is no end in sight, nor is there any likelihood of improvement. Besides making the chapters' treasuries more reasonable, with funds allotted sufficient for most of the endeavors chapters undertake these days, and benefiting the national Association by increasing its sources of revenue, it will help simplify the administration of ABAA and be another step toward moving the national office into the twenty-first century.

The Planning Committee meeting was surprisingly successful. Members reached agreement on several fairly bold initiatives and one issue—book fair revenues and the chapter treasuries—that has been discussed off and on for many years. The Committee reached unanimous decisions on all the resolutions, and it did so with a remarkable amount of enthusiasm: One attendee said he had never participated in an ABAA meeting that was as energized as this one. Clearly, the Committee was very much of one mind about the value, benefits, and importance of these resolutions, and it believes that their implementation will point the way to a stronger, healthier, and more effective ABAA for years to come. ■



Lightning never strikes twice: Jeff Marks holds a charred remnant of a lightning-struck tree that almost did in Jeff and the editor. The near-tragedy occurred in August on the campus of Colorado College, where Jeff was the specialist dealer for this year's Antiquarian Book Market Seminar.

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So my short presentation this afternoon will be bereft of scientific terms and theoretical constructs. It even lacks the names of infamous ne'er-do-wells. Rather, I will walk you through my discoveries in the ordinary way of business, in two instances where things before me were not what they held themselves to be. One case involves printed historical documents of the eighteenth century, and the other, a cache of manuscripts of the same era.

In the case of the printed historical documents, I was hired on purpose to exercise skepticism! In the early summer of 1992, a very reputable, high profile dealer in Americana hired me to authenticate several important printed documents—mostly broadsides—of the American Revolutionary era. By strange coincidence, I had considerable foreknowledge of these documents. One day in May a year earlier, while I was visiting a colleague and friend in New York City, he mentioned to me that he had recently been to Philadelphia. “Well,” as he explained, “not really Philadelphia, but one of those small Main Line communities with a small Catholic college.” He had been retained to review and advise on some American historical material that the husband of an alumna had collected in the 1930s and 1940s and that the widow had donated to the school library in the 1960s. The college now wished to convert this historical paper from the presses of various Philadelphia printers into folding paper issued by the press of the U.S. Treasury Department. That is, the broadsides would become bucks.

A few weeks prior to being hired by the dealer in Americana, I had noted that a small Main Line Catholic college had consigned to Christie's the documents that my colleague had described to me a year earlier. When the parcel of documents for authentication arrived at Philadelphia Rare Books, I realized quickly that yes, these *were* the documents from the Christie's sale—and the same ones described by my fellow book-

seller all those months ago. The stack included such famous or near famous Revolution-era broadsides as: “To the Commissioners Appointed by the *East-India Company*, for the *Sale of Tea*, in America” (Philadelphia, 1773); a notice published by the Pennsylvania War-Office, April 13th, 1777, reporting that British warships had been seen in Delaware Bay; and from Philadelphia on June 10th of that same fateful summer, a call to a public meeting referring to defensive measures against Gen. Howe's huge army—which was clearly heading for something big, but where?

With the documents in hand, the first thing I did was consult the Evans bibliography of American imprints through 1800 to see if copies were available to me, for comparison, at any of the Philadelphia libraries: The Library Company, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, The American Philosophical Society, the University of Pennsylvania, the Free Library, Temple University, and so on. As luck had it, all items were held by either the Historical Society or its next-door neighbor, the Library Company of Philadelphia, meaning that because of their cooperative work, I could compare the items submitted to me with exemplars that were held in two renowned institutions, all with only one trip to one downtown Philadelphia block. (In fact, I wouldn't have to go outdoors to move from collection to collection.)

I arranged with Jim Green of the Library Company to visit at a time when he would be available, just in case I had questions. And it was a good thing to have done.

Prior to arriving at the Library Company, I made careful notes of checkpoints for each broadside. Though their paper and typography looked “right” to an eye that had seen much paper and printing of the era, I would take the actual printed documents, not just photocopies, along to the Library Company for comparison. For each item to be authenticated, I began to build a chart recording the watermark in the paper, if any; the number and distance apart of the paper's chain lines; and the measurements in millimeters from the top to the bottom of the text block, and from its left edge to its right edge.

As I began comparing the Historical Society and Library Company copies with those my client had just acquired at auction, everything jibed for the first two examined. In all copies of each, there were the same watermarks, the same distances between chain lines, and the same measurements for the text blocks.

Then a curious twist occurred. Of the third item, the Historical Society and the Library Company each had a copy. The Historical Society's copy matched the one sent to me for authentication, but the copy owned by the Library Company did not! The Library Company's copy had a watermark—one recorded in Gravell and Miller's work on watermarks found in paper used in the U.S. during the period to 1835—while the Historical Society copy and “mine” had none. The text block of the Library Company's copy was larger, and the distance between its chain lines differed too, significantly, from those measured on my copy and that of the Historical Society. Suddenly *very* suspicious, Jim and I examined the three exemplars with a magnifying device I always carry for such work: a philatelist's “linen tester.” Examination with that tool revealed the Historical Society copy and mine to be kind of fuzzy—to use the technical term—as regards the impression of the type.

Then Jim excused himself to do a little behind-the-scenes checking in his files and databases. After about fifteen minutes, he returned with notes on the provenance and acquisition records of the Library Company and Historical Society copies of all the items we were examining. The Company's copy of the third, suspicion-raising item had been in the collection since the 1830s and came from the collection of a local collector. The Society's copy also came from the collection of a local collector, but one who had been active in the 1920s and 1930s.

So, the Society had acquired its copy in the late 1930s: the same era in which the small, Catholic, Main Line college's collector had acquired the perfectly matching copy that my colleague had briefly been shown a year ago, that Christie's had sold a few weeks ago, and

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that I had now been sent for examination and formal authentication!

As I continued my examination of the rest of the documents, the same pattern played out. Whenever a document measured smaller in its text block than a Library Company or Historical Society copy with a pre-1860s provenance, the smaller document had a provenance that began in the 1930s. Its type appeared imprecise under magnification, the paper on which it was printed had no watermark, and its chain lines were different distances apart than those on the exemplar with the early nineteenth-century or earlier provenance. Questionable imprints were found that day among the Historical Society's holdings *and* among the items I was "authenticating."

In the end, it was clear to both Jim and me that the copies dating from the 1930s were photomechanically reproduced from authentic copies, using printing plates, and that the photographic process had not produced an accurate one-to-one copy—hence the smaller measurements. The paper, at first plausible, was either very good modern imitation laid paper—by that time, itself over fifty years old and so deceptively "antique" in look and feel—or it was real, actually-old laid stock, perhaps from the 1850s, that was used. It may have been the very availability of the old paper that suggested its fraudulent use!

Stimulated by the questions my document comparisons had raised, and the answers those questions suggested, I went to check the *List of Questioned Imprints* that Jennifer Larson had prepared and that the Southern California Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association had published in February 1990, on the occasion of the California International Antiquarian Book Fair. Sure enough, the suspicious broadsides were among the questioned imprints.

Why didn't I look at the *List* earlier?—First, even? Because I did not want to be influenced in *either* direction—by a particular suspicion *or* a predisposition to "believe"—when I took it on to look

at the things themselves. I wanted to be able to see, purely, what I *would* see—and not what I might have expected to see. In the end, with "authentication," it's the things themselves that must tell you what you want to know.

Christie's accepted the documents back without question or difficulty when my client returned them, accompanied by my report. That client was, of course, disappointed that the broadsides were bogus—but very, very glad that he had not paid for them as authentic. And he was glad, too, that he had not been responsible for passing them on, as authentic, to some private or institutional buyer!

Now we move from the realm of printed documents representing the sophisticated urban life of eighteenth-century Philadelphia and the heady events of the American Revolution, to the world of manuscripts produced in the sleepy eighteenth-century village of Monterey, California, where notable events were few and far between.

In February 2001, I received a telephone call from an "appraiser" in Texas wanting me to help her value an eighteenth-century Mexican manuscript relating to an early explorer of California. She had only the most basic information—perhaps three sentences from a collector's or a dealer's description of the item. I explained that the first step was to authenticate the manuscript's genuineness, *then* to place a value on it. She was neither willing to send the document to me for authentication nor to pay me for my services, despite the fact that she was being paid for doing what she proposed that I do for her! The matter seemed to end with the telephone conversation.

Two months later I received another telephone call from Texas, again relating to that same California document, but this time the caller was the owner. He also had Continental illuminated diplomas, portions of a minor Italian noble's family archive, and "very old" letters written in Spanish. He wanted me to travel to Texas to appraise the items, agreed to the fee structure I outlined, and promised to send me by overnight delivery a list of the manuscripts in question. The list arrived as promised, and a review showed the collection to con-

tain manuscripts from the fourteenth to eighteenth centuries in Latin, Italian, and Spanish, falling into such categories as illuminated manuscripts, personal letters, diplomatic correspondence, viceregal documents, and personal family papers.

From an Americana perspective, and the perspective of delight in sheer romance and glamour, the standout item on the list was the series of private letters from one friend to another, all dated 1774–1776, Monterey, California. Private letters from California's era as a Spanish colony on the periphery of New Spain are extremely rare. And these purported to be from the earliest days of the settlement of Monterey! Even before heading for Texas, I eagerly inquired of the owner as to their provenance. He replied that he was a native of San Jose, as was his father, and that all of the manuscripts traced back to his paternal grandfather, who had settled in the area after fleeing Italy during the at times heady and unsafe events of the *Risorgimento*. Family history had it that he'd swapped family papers, Italian for Spanish-Californian, with a descendant of the Berryessas, a distinguished Novo-Hispanic land-grant family whose name yet lives attached to a lake, a library, a road, a school district, and more in—yes!—what is now Silicon Valley. It was thus that the intriguing California documents were acquired—and what, at that point, could be said against the account?

In July of 2001 my business partner, Cynthy, and I flew to Texas to spend a weekend examining and evaluating a very nice assemblage of very various manuscripts. We started with the obvious things—the seventh-century university diplomas hanging on the walls in nice frames—and we worked our way through the Italian archival materials. All, most interesting. Then, eventually, we got to the anxiously awaited California letters, the letters that had intrigued me sufficiently to cause me to undertake an appraisal I would normally not have agreed to. Houston in late July is not my idea of an ideal travel destination.

Our first review revealed that the letters and related California documents totaled some thirteen items, most written by a Juan Vargas who lived and wrote in Mon-

tery between 1777 and 1816. Some of the letters were addressed to the Bachiller José Antonio García, who was living in San José de Guadalupe—thus, aha! the San Jose provenance! The content of the letters revealed the writer and his correspondent to be well educated, one even holding, as the appellation “Bachiller” shows, a college degree. The language was cultured and the spelling accurate. Among the topics discussed were the origins of the American Indians, the discovery of a rock crystal cave, the arrival of Russian pirates in Monterey Bay, and a cache of Indian gold. It was page-turning stuff—what would the next page, the next letter, contain that was even more exciting?

However, the devil was in the details, and the devilish details piled up slowly. For example, the handwriting did not jibe with what I know of eighteenth-century Hispanic writing styles. And the writer, Vargas, in discussing the possible origin of the Indians, talked not only about natives of California, but also about Alaskans and Mayans. He even mentioned the Peruvian rebel, Tupac Amaru, and then cited books on Indian history he had seen and consulted in a private library in Quito, Ecuador. How does a man who is educated enough to interest himself in the origins question, and who has traveled to Ecuador to read about it in obscure private libraries, end up in the sleepy, not to say “backwater,” village of Monterey, California, practically at its first settlement? Staying there for a stretch of nearly forty years? And from the evidence of the letters, not as a government official, merely as a settler... one who, in his time off from farming or ranching, scoped out a local rock crystal cave and discovered an ancient Indian gold hoard?

Another challenge to my imagination jumped off the pages of the letter discussing the arrival of those Russian pirates. This occurred in 1777. The town was rescued by the single-handed bravery of a woman—and not just any woman, but the quintessential amazon. This blond, Anglo lady—referred to as “la americana”—rode down to the shore on her large white horse (in Spanish, women equestriennes are “amazonas”) and she stared the pirates down! She

denounced them until they *fled* back to their ships and sailed away. Wow, the things I never imagined about Monterey in 1777: blond, Anglo, horse-riding, strong-willed American women ruling a roost that included well-traveled Mexican men with minds contemplating the origins of the American Indians. With, remember, gold caches and crystal caves to be enjoyed in the neighborhood.

Yes, my suspicions were greatly aroused by the too-glorious content. But actually what made me suspicious first was that handwriting I mentioned—and the paper and the ink of the letters. Some of the paper was not laid paper; instead, it was a very coarse and heavy wove stock. With careful scrutiny, it became clear that some of the missives had been written first in pencil and then overwritten in ink. Some of the paper was laid stock of folio size but with chain lines running horizontally, not perpendicularly—not normal. Some of the ink had feathered in unusual ways. And then there were the envelopes.

The almost universal practice of eighteenth-century Spanish-empire letter writers was to use an integral address leaf. In other words, at least the lower third of the last leaf of the letter was left blank for the address of the recipient; the letter was then folded over on itself and sealed with wax. None of these letters had been so constructed or sealed. Rather, there were present with the letters a clutch of handmade envelopes of the same paper as that on which the letters were written: if a letter was on the rough, near cardboard-like paper, then its envelope was also; if on laid paper, so too the envelope. In addition to the envelopes’ basic anachronism, these were letters written on the periphery of the “civilized world”—a place where paper was a scarce commodity and not to be wasted on such a contrivance as an envelope when a self-seal would do.

It would have been great to believe it: What a discovery, what a researcher’s bombshell, these adventure-filled letters would have been! But on top of all the evidence to the contrary I’ve described, there was the clinchingly incredible spelling of Monterey. In Spanish it has a double “rr”, while in English, only one. The world-

traveling eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century Sr. Vargas, with his educated Spanish, consistently spelled the name of his adopted hometown with only one “r”, in the Anglo, post-Spanish style!

So, while I could assure the ex-Californian that his family documents proper, especially the illuminated items, were excellent and valuable (with the exception of an allegedly eighteenth-century copy of an eleventh-century account of a blood transfusion using walrus blood!), I had nothing but what I expected to be bad news concerning the California Berryessa documents. Prior to traveling to Texas I had indicated to the owner that if genuine, the letters could easily be worth upwards of \$50,000. Their only value now was as a wonderful teaching collection.

But our client was not upset or disappointed in the least. Only after our report was delivered did he tell Cynthia and me that Grandfather was renowned and beloved as a great storyteller, and that he had even written and published a book about his travels to the moon and the people he met there. The letters were *exactly* the kind of thing that he might have constructed to amuse himself and his friends in San Jose—letters artful, charming, and cheerfully naive on virtually every historical point.

My prospectus for this talk noted that fakers and forgers usually know beforehand the level of skepticism that their creations will encounter—that they want to meet it and exceed the tests that will be applied. The faker of the printed American Revolution document worked to a high and dastardly standard, intending to sell his product to serious collectors of high-priced material. While comparison of an authentic copy of one of his broadsides with an inauthentic copy quickly revealed his fraud to Jim Green and me, *only* such a comparison could make it certain. To the collector looking only at the copy before him in 1930-something, to the college librarians and their researchers looking only at that copy over the years, and to an experienced appraiser looking only at that copy prior to its going to auction, all would appear to be pretty darn

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perfectly kosher. In the case of the manuscript, however, the creator does not seem to have been actually trying to deceive. He created something to which the phrase “too good to be true” both immediately and splendidly applied—apparently, purely for the joy of it.

Knowledge of paper, history, writing styles, typography, language: in the end it is not one single type of knowledge, let alone any high-tech tool, that will authenticate the book, pamphlet, broadside, or manuscript with which one is typically presented. In the case of the printed American Revolution documents described above, the most basic examination techniques of comparison were sufficient: measurement and magnified examination of the impression of the

type. In the case of the California letters, yes, knowledge of paper and handwriting were important, but more so were a good command of Spanish and an understanding of the nature of early Spanish culture, its habits on paper, and the types of people who lived at the edges of the empire.

Both cases remind us of the importance of Marcus McCorison’s mantra during the investigation into the authenticity of Mark Hoffman’s offering of the *Oath of a Freeman*: “Provenance, provenance, provenance.”

And, finally, both cases remind us that well-maintained skepticism is the first tool that successful authenticators employ in document evaluation. In neither case that I’ve described was I acting as a dealer assessing materials offered to Cynthia and me for purchase—for our eventual offering to others. But I will close by noting that my skepticism, perhaps partly genetic and certainly cultivated by my

academic training, has flourished in me under the special discipline that being a dealer provides. A dealer is keenly, horribly aware that failing to spot an item as bogus, passing it on to a customer, and then discovering the awful truth means an immediate loss of real money. A responsible but erring dealer will immediately return the buyer’s money—all of it—and the odds are not good that he or she will be able to recover the purchase price in turn. More devastatingly, both for the long term and for the immediate ghastly nightmare, the dealer knows that lost face—and trust—will not be restored by reimbursement, not even reimbursement that may have been heroically achieved.

I find myself thinking of those fancily printed “certificates of authenticity” that some manuscript and printed document dealers supply with their wares. Too often, these certificates bring with them no promise of recourse: should the authenticity prove *inauthentic*, the buyer gets not his money back, but a mere, “Whoops, I made a mistake. Sorry, it won’t happen again.” Better dealers do offer real recourse with their “certificates of authenticity,” and they may even hire others, particular specialists in the kinds of documents in hand, to perform independent authentications and sign the papers—this was the practice under which I was hired to look at the Revolutionary material. Any sophisticated purchaser understands that a “certificate of authenticity” is exactly as useful as the dealer providing it is experienced, knowledgeable, and reliable.

Yet, though the buyer who places great store on a physical certificate is often unsophisticated, his impulse represents an authentic recognition: He has grasped that authenticity is the essence of the thing that the rare book, document, or manuscript dealer is selling. Whether a dealer supplies a separate piece of paper blazoning that authenticity—with or without gold lettering—or contents himself with the line, “Everything is guaranteed to be as described” in his terms—it is the essence of his profession to stand as the front line of defense against fakes, frauds, and forgeries entering private collections, libraries, archives, and the corpus of accepted texts. ■

George Kane is 90!

Longtime California ABAA member George Kane celebrated his ninetieth birthday on October 6, 2003. George was born in 1913 in Anthon City, Iowa. His father was a newspaperman and his mother was president of the local school board. A precocious tot, he started first grade at the age of four because he could read so well. As a young man, George began a newspaper career in Sioux City, Iowa, after two years of study at South Dakota State University. In 1936, he left the Midwest for Los Angeles, where he worked for six different newspapers. In that year he also married his lifelong companion, Mary. They have two children, Alexandra and Sara.

In 1940, George and Mary moved to northern California, where he continued in the newspaper business, eventually becoming editor and publisher of the Los Gatos *Times*. When the paper was sold in 1974, George began a second career in bookselling.

Newspapers and books lie together in the same bed. Books came naturally to George: He was an active book buyer by his teenage years, and by 1978, he had established a reputation sufficient enough among booksellers to be sponsored for membership in the ABAA. His sponsors were Warren Howell and Barney Rosenthal. George has just recently given up sailing but is still an active tennis player and, of course, bookseller.

The Northern California Chapter of the ABAA hosted a party celebrating George’s milestone birthday on September 16, in conjunction with its quarterly meeting. The festivities were held at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco, with cocktails and dinner.

Please join us in wishing a happy birthday to George Kane.

In Memoriam

Peter Harrington London, England

Peter Harrington, Sr., a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association (International) who was well-known to booksellers in the United States, died on Wednesday, August 13, 2003. He was sixty years old.

Harrington first started selling rare and antiquarian books from the Chelsea Antiques Market in 1969. Over thirty years Peter Harrington, Antiquarian Bookseller, grew into one of London's

largest and best-known rare book companies. In 1997 he moved the business to much larger premises on Fulham Road, also in London, where more than 20,000 volumes fill over three floors. Harrington opened a sister shop, Old Church Galleries, offering rare maps and prints, next to his bookshop, and in 2000, embarked on a new project: The Chelsea Bindery.

Harrington passed away peacefully, with his family at his side. A memorial service was held on September 4, 2003. He asked that donations be made to The

Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, for the hospital that looked after him so well with expertise and kindness during his illness. Donations can be sent c/o Peter Harrington Antiquarian Books, 100 Fulham Road, Chelsea, London SW3 6HS, Great Britain, with checks made out to "The Royal Marsden Hospital."

Peter Harrington's business enterprises will continue to run under the leadership of his wife, Mati Harrington, and his children, Pom Harrington and Nicky Heap. ■

Planning Underway for 2004 ILAB Congress Down Under

by Barbara Hince, ANZAAB President

The Australian and New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers (ANZAAB) would like to take this opportunity to give you a progress report on the organization of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB) Thirty-Seventh Congress and the Twentieth International Antiquarian Book Fair, which take place in Australia a year from now on October 8–17, 2004. A further report will be made to national presidents at the ILAB Presidents' Meeting in Potsdam during November this year, and each member of the affiliated national associations will receive a formal invitation with full program details soon after.

Both the ILAB Congress and the Fair will be held in Melbourne, and one of the highlights of our program will be a tour of the State Library of Victoria, which celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2004. The library will host a cocktail reception for Congress participants, who will also have the privilege of a private viewing of the library's history of the book exhibition (due to open in October 2004). As we speak, the Library's domed reading room, which is modeled after the British Library and the Library of Congress in Washington, is being re-opened with great fanfare after painstaking restoration of the original glass ceiling. We have selected the Hotel Sofitel in Collins Street, in Melbourne's central business district, as the Congress Hotel. Melbourne is a handsome Victorian city, and we are lucky to have secured the Royal Exhibition Building as our book fair venue. Completed in 1880 to house Melbourne's first international exposition, this is now the world's only surviving exhibition hall still serving its original purpose. For inquiries about the ILAB Congress and Fair, please email the ANZAAB office: < admin@anzaab.com >.

When you join us in Australia and New Zealand you will receive a warm welcome from booksellers across the two nations. We look forward to showing you not only our businesses, but also our famous kangaroos, koalas, and kiwis, our beautiful cities, our fine food and wine, and our breathtaking scenery, which ranges from tropical rain forests to world-famous beaches. We guarantee that you will have the time of your life. From Adelaide to Auckland, from Hobart to Perth, from Uluru to Sydney Harbor, from the Great Barrier Reef to Melbourne, Australia has a lot to offer. A separate Sydney program will precede the official Congress, and members in all regions are keen to hear from you so that they can offer advice and information on local tourism. Please feel happy to contact any of our members to discuss your trip, and in particular if you are planning to visit the following areas, we suggest you use these email contacts:

NEW ZEALAND: info@rarebooks.com.nz (Anah Dunsheath)

QUEENSLAND: mcilreavy@buderimrarebooks.com.au (Fiona and Alan McIlreavy)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/CENTRAL AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY: treloars@treloars.com (Michael Treloar)

NEW SOUTH WALES: paulcorn@anzaab.com.au (Paul Feain)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: books@muirbooks.com (Robert Muir)

TASMANIA: books@astrolabebooks.com.au (Michael Sprod)

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: info@asiabookroom.com (Sally Burdon)

VICTORIA: bookshop@hincebooks.com.au (Barbara Hince)

New Members

The *ABAA Newsletter* welcomes the following new members accepted at the Board of Governors meeting in August:

Malcolm Bert Bell, Bookfellows, 328 North Brand Boulevard, Glendale, CA 91203; phone: 818-545-0206; fax: 818-545-0094; <bookfellows@gowebway.com>; <www.mysteryandimagination.com>.

Jeffrey Hirsch, Jeff Hirsch Books, 717 Reba Place, Evanston, IL 60602; phone: 847-570-9115; <jahbooks@aol.com>.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Stephen Gertz, William Dailey Rare Books, Ltd., Los Angeles, CA. ■

Membership Updates

Antiquariat Botanicum has a new address and phone: 413 East 19th Street, Number 256, Lynden, WA 89264; phone: 240-375-9926.

Buckingham Books has a new email address: <buckingham@pa.net>.

California Curio Company has a new address: 275 South Beverly Drive, Number 200, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

Cavendish Rare Books has a new address, phone, and fax: 15 Chelmsford Square, London, NW10 3AP, Great Britain; phone and fax: 01144-208-451-2188; the email address remains the same.

The John Bale Book Company has a new location and mailing address: 158 Grand Street, Waterbury, CT 06702; mail to: PO Box 9060, Waterbury, CT 06724.

Kenneth Karmiole has a new location: 1239A Third Street Promenade, Santa Monica, CA 90401-1307.

Ben Kinmont has a new address, phone, and fax: 1160 Pleasant Hill Road,

Sebastopol, CA 95472; phone: 707-829-8715; fax: 707-829-8719; email and website addresses remain the same.

H. P. Kraus, Inc., has a new mailing address: H. P. Kraus, Inc., PO Box 949, Larchmont, NY 10538-0949

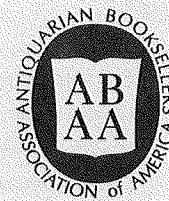
Old Algonquin Books has a new address: PO Box 861, Arvada, CO 80001-0861.

Edward T. Pollack has a new email address: <pollackbks@comcast.net>.

The Reynolds have a new address, phone, and fax: 352 Front Street, Bath, ME 04530-2749; phone: 207-443-8812; fax: 207-443-2638; the email address remains the same.

Richard and May Sykes, members emeritus, have a new address and phone: 27 South Easter Island Circle, Englewood, FL 34223; phone: 941-475-7646.

Jeffrey Thomas has an email correction: <finebks@jeffreythomas.com>. ■



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The deadline for submissions to the next *Newsletter* is

November 10, 2003