

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

Volume 4, Number 1, Winter 1997

FROM THE EDITOR

Since our last newsletter, FABS has grown by two new clubs to a total of 13 affiliated organizations. We now will distribute over 3000 copies of the newsletter. Bruce McKittrick, our membership chairman, anticipates several more groups will join FABS in the next few months. It is not surprising that these new associate clubs share very similar bibliophilic interests and activities with the first eight clubs that formed FABS a few years ago.

This newsletter is an important link with one other. Through it we can learn what is going on at other clubs and perhaps get ideas on how to make our own clubs better. A short introduction of the newest clubs, reports of all the clubs, and a list of the designated FABS representatives are contained in this newsletter. These representatives are able to answer questions such as how well various speakers handled their subjects and whether they are available to speak in your city. If one is planning a visit to any of our cities, arrangements to attend a club function can be made through the representatives.

The newsletter is funded by the annual dues collected from each club. Clubs with a membership of over 100 pay \$200 annually and those under 100 pay \$100. The newsletters are sent bulk to each FABS club which distributes them to fellow members. Until now we have accumulated enough funds to produce one issue per year.

We welcome any questions about FABS and especially we welcome any volunteers who wish to become more involved in making this association work better. Our mission is simply to share information useful to member clubs and to create an opportunity to meet one another.

Editor

RECEPTIONS FOR MEMBERS

Hosted by the Caxton Club on Thursday May, 29, 1997 from 5-7 PM at The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago Illinois. This open house will allow members of FABS-associated clubs to meet with each other. If you are in Chicago during the fair in late May, call David Nowak, 216-361-4659 for more details. The gathering is on the eve of the ABAA book fair. The Grolier Club is trying to arrange a gathering during the April New York ABAA rare book fair. Specifics will be supplied when available.

AT THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR IN SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 21-23

FABS members are invited to the various demonstrations and exhibitions while they are at the Antiquarian Book Fair. There will be an exhibition: *Antique Books for the 22nd Century*. Marbled and paste paper demonstrations will be held on Friday evening. On Saturday, two demonstrations of various styles of bookbinding and book calligraphy will be held for two hours. On Sunday from 11 AM to 5 PM there will be discussions and demonstrations of leather coverings, gold stamping, tooling and use of gold in calligraphs, experimental books as well as restoration of books. For more information call Joanne Sonnichsen, 415-326-7679.

FABS IN BIBLIO

FABS was asked by BIBLIO magazine to submit an article on its activities its mission and its member clubs. This item will be in the March issue of the magazine. BIBLIO also asked to have the FABS' list of over 100 literary societies in this country, Canada, and England with their addresses and other salient data. I hope they will maintain and update the list and publish it periodically in their magazine.

RARE BOOKS THROUGH THE NET: A DEALER JOINS CYBERSPACE

-By Susan Heller, ABAA & ILAB
E-mail: hellersu@cyberdrive.net

As a dealer, I've had the experience of selling books to collector-dealers in Japan, Ireland, Jerusalem, England, etc. The e-mail between collectors in foreign lands and the dealer is immediate. One can conduct a multi-letter correspondence in minutes. It is common to negotiate a sale without ever hearing a human voice. If the book is available and the collector has no further questions, he/she will send his/her credit card number and preferred method of mailing and expect delivery of the book. Some clients are wary about sending credit card numbers through the mail and will either fax the number or use that archaic instrument - a telephone. Others send half the number in one e-mail and half in a second.

A doctor, who recently ordered a Cushing book from me, commented that initially he found one or two Cushings on the net. Now, in one search, he can find 40 and can compare edition, condition and price. He has given up browsing bookstores.

If you as a collector want to utilize the Internet to find items quickly and more completely, there are some relatively simple things you can do. The following is my experience.

You must have a provider, which serves to connect your computer to the "net." This usually costs between \$19 and \$25 a month and allows you unlimited time online. One of the major providers - American On Line (AOL) reduced its monthly fee to \$20, but in so doing, attracted too many subscribers, who received busy signals when trying to connect to the net. I went with a small local company and, though there were a few initial difficulties, they were always available and patient in working out the problems. It's working quite well now.

Once connected to the "net," one explores thousands of sites where books are being offered. Click on one of the "browsers" and type in any set of words: book collection, book searches, book dealers, book auctions, rare books, etc. There will be many choices. Click on one and you'll have a menu of other choices. These are called "hypertext links" or "links." When you find one to your liking, you can save it as a "bookmark," for easy access in the future.

The premier online system for locating and selling books is INTERLOC. It has been a boon for dealers wanting to sell and locate books. In late February 1997, it will be available to the public at