

---

---

THE  
FELLOWSHIP OF  
AMERICAN  
BIBLIOPHILIC  
SOCIETIES

FALL 2014 VOLUME XVIII NUMBER 2

Contents

From the Editor	1
Book Notices	2
FABS Study Tour in Philadelphia, June 2015	4
Book Review: <i>Michael Blanding, The Map Thief: The Gripping Story of an Esteemed Rare-Map Dealer Who Made Millions Stealing Priceless Maps</i>	
Miriam Kahn	7
Club News	9

---

---

# *The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies*

## OFFICERS

Geoffrey D. Smith, *Chair*

The Aldus Society: smith1@osu.edu

Michael Thompson, *Vice-Chair*

The Caxton Club: michaelthompsonlaw@earthlink.net

James P. Ascher, *Treasurer*

The Grolier Club: james.ascher@gmail.com

Ronald K. Smeltzer, *Secretary*

The Grolier Club: rksmeltzer@verizon.net

Lawrence N. Siegler, *Conference Chair*

The Rowfant Club: lawrence\_siegler@ml.com

Arthur S. Cheslock, *Membership Chair*

The Baltimore Bibliophiles: acheslock@juno.com

William Butler, *International Affiliates Chair*

The Grolier Club: webakademik@aol.com

Richard Ring, *Editor, FABS Newsletter*

The Grolier Club: Richard.Ring@trincoll.edu

Scott Vile, *Production Designer, FABS Newsletter*

The Baxter Society: scott@ascensiuspress.com

## INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES

Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group, Aberystwyth, Wales

Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofielen, Amsterdam

Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona

Berliner Bibliophilen Abend E. V., Berlin

Biron Stables Bibliophile Club, St. Petersburg

Société Royale des Bibliophiles et Iconophiles de Belgique, Brussels

International Federation of Ex-libris Societies, Newville, Pennsylvania

Moscow Club of Bibliophiles, Moscow

National Union of Bibliophiles, Moscow

(formerly Organization of Russian Bibliophiles)

The Society of Bibliophiles in Capetown

The Sällskapet Bokvännerna i Finland (Helsinki)

The St. Petersburg Society of Bibliophiles

Les Amis Du Livre Contemporain, Paris

Private Libraries Association, Pinner, Middlesex

Maxmilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart

Book and Graphics Section attached to the Russian  
Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg

Copyright © 2014 by The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.  
Over 7,500 copies of the FABS Newsletter publish twice annually and  
distributed during the first week of January and September to our  
30 North American Member Clubs and 16 International Affiliates.

## *From the Editor*

Dear fellow bibliophiles:

I'D LIKE TO OPEN this issue on a hopeful note. It may interest the membership to know that the 2006 FABS publication *Book Talk: Essays on Books, Booksellers, Collecting, and Special Collections*, edited by Robert A. Jackson & Carol Z. Rothkopf, is one of the texts I use in a course called "The World of Rare Books" at Trinity College. I teach this in the summer as a graduate course, and a "lite" version of it in the fall as a freshman seminar. In both versions, whenever possible, I take the students to auctions, book fairs, and private collections. The courses are gaining popularity, and bibliophilia seems to be enjoying an upsurge, with rare book school courses offered in Virginia, California and London, and a growth in book studies programs. It seems to me that FABS member groups are well placed to take advantage of this in some way, and I would be happy to make public any efforts your societies or clubs are making in this vein.

Readers will appreciate, I trust, being able to view back issues of this publication online. Over the summer I was able to scan back issues generously provided by the FABS Secretary, Ronald K. Smeltzer, who has placed them on the website in PDF format. Please note that Mr. Smeltzer has taken on the role of maintaining the FABS website, so any corrections or suggestions should be addressed to him directly ([rksmeltzer@verizon.net](mailto:rksmeltzer@verizon.net)).

We are delighted to welcome two new clubs to our international affiliates: The Sällskapet Bokvännerna i Finland (Helsinki) [The Society of Book Collectors in Finland] and The St. Petersburg Society of Bibliophiles. The St. Petersburg Society was founded at Leningrad in 1865, initially as the "City Section of Bibliophiles" and a structural subdivision of the Leningrad Division of the All-Union Society of Lovers of the Book. At times its membership has exceeded 400, but is presently in the range of about 20-25. In 2011 the Society adopted a new Statute and renamed itself the Petersburg Society of Bibliophiles. It meets twice monthly and has held 1,480 meetings since its founding. The Chairman of the society is Professor Alexander Matyshev, who is publishing an encyclopedia of repressed writers during the Soviet era, of which two volumes have appeared.

Finally, this fall I plan to enhance the "Book Talk" blog with reviews of booksellers' catalogs that will not fit into the newsletter due to printing costs. I welcome submissions of reviews of catalogs from any FABS group member. As always, please submit pictures (in JPEG format) and descriptions of your events and initiatives to me for posting, to which you and your members can link from websites and social media outlets.

*Sincerely,*  
Richard J. Ring, Editor



## Book Notices

I would like to notice recent books by members of FABS groups in the Newsletter, so please contact me if you have a book coming out that is of bibliophilic interest.

Thomas A. Horrocks, a member of the Ticknor Society, has written *Lincoln's Campaign Biographies*, just published by Southern Illinois University Press as part of their "Concise Lincoln Library" series. The book "focuses on Lincoln's campaign biographies of 1860 and 1864 and explains the roles they played in shaping the Lincoln image." In successive chapters, Horrocks presents a brief history of the relationship between politics and print in the age of Lincoln, examines the rise of presidential campaign biography, discusses the biographies of Lincoln that appeared for his 1860 and 1864 campaigns, and analyzes the role those biographies played in those elections.

—Richard J. Ring

### MEMBER CLUBS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| The Alcuin Society,<br>Vancouver, B.C., Canada                        | The No. 44 Society,<br>Urbana-Champaign, IL               |
| The Aldus Society, Columbus, OH                                       | The Grolier Club, New York, NY                            |
| The American Book Collectors of<br>Children's Literature, Newtown, CT | The Himes & Duniway Society,<br>Portland, OR              |
| The Ampersand Club,<br>Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN                      | Long Island Book Collectors,<br>Garden City, NY           |
| The Baltimore Bibliophiles,<br>Baltimore, MD                          | The Manuscript Society                                    |
| The John Russell Bartlett Society,<br>Providence, RI                  | Miniature Book Society                                    |
| The Baxter Society, Portland, ME                                      | Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society,<br>Northern Ohio      |
| The Bixby Club, St. Louis, MO   | The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia, PA                    |
| The Book Club of California,<br>San Francisco, CA                     | The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, OH                           |
| The Caxton Club, Chicago, IL  | The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco,<br>San Francisco, CA |
| The Colophon Club, Berkeley, CA                                       | Sacramento Book Collectors Club,<br>Sacramento, CA        |
| The Delaware Bibliophiles,<br>Wilmington, DE                          | The Book Club of Texas, Dallas, TX                        |
| The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI                                 | The Ticknor Society, Boston, MA                           |
| Florida Bibliophile Society,<br>St. Petersburg, FL                    | Washington Rare Book Group,<br>Washington, DC             |
|   | Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA                      |
|   | The Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, CA                        |

For member club websites, please visit <http://www.fabsbooks.org/Pages/MemberClubs.aspx>