

FELLOWSHIP OF AMERICAN BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETIES

Volume 2, No. 2, Fall 1998

FROM THE CHAIR

IN THE second issue of the FABS newsletter, Chair Larry Siegler wrote that the purpose of our organization was to promote exchanging information and to provide opportunities for meeting and sharing our enthusiasm and affection for, and our experiences with, the printed word. Since the first newsletter, FABS has grown from eight member societies to nineteen, representing more than thirty-five hundred members.

In April of this year, the executive committee, representing member societies, met at the Grolier Club to elect officers and to express gratitude to the men and women who had created and nurtured FABS. Larry Siegler, Chair emeritus, was given a plaque as a token of everyone's sincere appreciation for the wonderful work which he had done. Indeed, I maintain that Larry's promise to be an active emeritus and Jack McClatchey's agreeing to remain our Secretary/Treasurer had beneficial effects that day on both the stock market and the fervor with which we then tackled the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. Respecting the latter, I suspect the libations provided by the Grolier Club also helped.

It is a great honor to be elected your new chair. Speaking for your officers, committee chairs, and committee members, I can say emphatically that we look forward to, and are working diligently toward, a future that will continue to provide opportunities for our members to meet and enjoy one another's company in an atmosphere of bibliophilic conviviality.



IMPORTANT NEWS

The Book Club of California will have a reception for FABS members attending the 1999 San Francisco Book Fair, refreshments and no speeches; 5:00-7:00 pm, February 18, 1999, 312 Sutter Street, Room 510.



THE BAXTER SOCIETY

Programs and Events

Sept. 9, 1998 — Fred L. Richardson on "Edward Sylvester Morse: Portland Curiosity Writ Large."

Oct. 14, 1998 — Douglas Coffin, stonecutter, on "The History of the Alphabet" and a demonstration of stone engraving.

Nov. 11, 1998 — Presentation of the 1998 Stephen Harvard Prize for Excellence in the Book Arts. Presiding, Aprile Gallant, Curator of Prints, Photographs and Drawings, Portland Museum of Art. *Jury:* Martin Antonetti, Chief Judge, Curator of Rare Books, Smith College; Stephen Stinehour, President, Stinehour Press; and Katie MacGregor, MacGregor-Vinzani Papermakers, Whiting, Maine.

Dec. 9, 1998 — Annual Meeting, Election of Officers & Holiday Party.

Other Club News:

Work continues on the next publication project, an annotated bibliography of significant Maine imprints from colonial times to the present. The steering committee for this book, for which the working title is *The Mirror of Maine: Books That Have Helped Shape the Image and Character of the State of Maine*, is chaired by Eliot Stanley; deputy chair is Richard D'Abate, Director of the Center for Maine History, Maine Historical Society; committee members are Wm. D. Barry, past President of the Baxter Society; Bridget Healy, current President of the Baxter Society; Christopher Livesay, former State Senator and a leading collector of Maine imprints; Frederic L. Thompson, Chairman, Maine Broadcasting; Roger Stoddard, Curator of Rare Books, Harvard University Libraries; and Mary Anne Wallace, former Curator of the Maine Women's Writers Collection, University of New England at Westbrook. Research Director for the project is Laura F. Sprague, assisted by Bill Barry. The project is a collaboration between the Baxter Society and the Maine Historical Society; the book is slated for publication in the year 2000, with a concurrent exhibition at the Maine Historical Society of books and materials related to the *Mirror of Maine* theme.



BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

Programs and Events

Book Club of California public programs take place at 7 o'clock in the evening in the SPUR Room, 312 Sutter Street, 5th Floor.