

F.A.B.S. *

*Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

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NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1995

A Warm and Special Welcome to San Francisco

On behalf of The Book Club of California and The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, we are pleased to greet members of The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies on the occasion of your first "official" gathering in historic San Francisco! We know you will find the world of our city, from the Book Fair to our great libraries and bookshops extraordinary. Please call on us if we can assist you in making your visit more enjoyable.

Sandor Burstein, The Roxburghe Club
Paul E. Birkel, Book Club of California

Membership in FABS

The founding member societies of FABS are in the order of their "seniority"--

The Grolier Club of New York City (1884)
The Club of Odd Volumes, Boston (1886)
The Rowfant Club, Cleveland (1892)
The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia (1893)
The Caxton Club, Chicago (1895)
The Book Club of California (1912)
The Roxburghe Club, San Francisco (1927)
The Baxter Society, Portland, Maine (1984)

If you are a member of another bibliophilic club and would like more information on possible membership of your group in FABS, contact our membership director, Bruce McKittrick, 43 Sabine Avenue, Narberth, PA 19072, phone (610-660-0132) FAX: (610-660-0133). FABS is designed as a loose affiliation of independent clubs, with each member club free to maintain its quaint traditions and peculiar ceremonies.

WIT & WISDOM

*"When I get a little money, I buy books;
if any is left, I buy food and clothes"*

-Erasmus

*"How long most people would stare at the
best book before they would give the price
of a large turbot for it!"* --Ruskin

*"Where is human nature so weak as in
the book-store?"* --Henry Ward Beecher

Rules of the Sette of Odd Volumes,
London, 1878:

*"Rule #9: Any Odd Volume losing his
temper, and failing to recover it, shall be
fined 5 shillings;...*

*"Rule # 11: Any O.V. giving to another
O.V. unasked advice will be fined 5
shillings;...*

"Rule #16: There shall be no Rule 16."

A Few Words from Chairman Pro-tem Lawrence N. Siegler

As we celebrate the first social gathering of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (known acronymistically as FABS), I'd like to review with you the rationale for this organization.

Those of us who attended the first formational meeting of FABS at the Grolier Club, November 5 1993, shared a common desire to see the national bibliophilic clubs get better acquainted, to share ideas to improve our respective organizations, and to further the social and intellectual enjoyment derived from the larger world of books. This was the first try, so far as we know, to create a truly national affiliation of bibliophilic groups.

By April of 1994, we had drawn up Articles of Association which stated the Object of the Fellowship to be "the promotion and development of the common interests of the member societies, including the joint sponsorship of conferences and seminars; assistance in arranging speakers and other programs for meetings of the member societies; arranging for joint trips of individual members of member societies to member societies' cities and other domestic and foreign locations; establishment of relations with other domestic and foreign bibliophilic societies; publication of a periodic newsletter and other joint publications; and such other beneficial purposes as shall be determined from time to time by the member societies."

Representing the various founding clubs at these formational meetings were:

GROLIER:	Martin Antronetti	Carolyn L. Smith
CLUB OF ODD VOLUMES:	Charles Warner	Rodney Dennis John Lannon
ROWFANT:	Lawrence N. Siegler	John F. McClatchey Robert H. Jackson
CAXTON:	Robert Cotner	Hayward Blake Bruce McKittrick
PHILOBIBLON:	George Allen	Thomas Whitehead
ROXBURGHE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA:	Sandor Burstein	Joanne Sonnichsen
BAXTER SOCIETY:		Eliot H. Stanley

From this list of participants in the formational meetings, we informally selected a group of pro-tem officers, as follows. Phone/fax numbers are included for your convenience.

Chair:	Lawrence Siegler
	800-999-3983, 216-363-6533 (FAX)
Reporter:	John McClatchey
	(216) 566-5704; (216) 566-5583
Membership:	Bruce McKittrick
	610-660-0132; 610-660-0133
Newsletter/Publications:	Eliot H. Stanley
	800-642-1988; 207-761-2406
Conferences:	Robert Jackson
	216-696-8500; 216-621-8964