

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

Volume 1, Number 2

NEWSLETTER

Winter 1995-1996

WORDS FROM CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM LAWRENCE N. SIEGLER

SINCE our first newsletter in late January 1995, several encouraging events have occurred:

On February 23, we met in San Francisco during the West Coast Antiquarian Book Fair weekend. There was a cocktail party hosted by the Book Club of California and the Roxburghe Club. Over fifty people attended. Sandor Burstein, Jerry Cole and Paul Birkel made remarks welcoming book club members from various parts of the country. This gathering gave us the opportunity to meet other bibliophiles from the west coast and enjoy a fine city and book fair.

Another gathering, on April 20, was hosted by the Grolier Club in New York City. This gathering occurred at the outset of the New York Antiquarian Book Fair. Grolier President, William Warren, and Martin Antonetti welcomed members of the FABS clubs. They asserted Grolier's support of our organization. Some of us also attended Bruce McKittrick's Fellowship of the Book seminars. As in San Francisco we met collectors, dealers, and many members of the Grolier Club at this warm gathering.

The best environment for meeting one another seems to be at the various book fairs in different parts of the country. A modest reception, and time to talk to each other is all that is needed. We hope to continue this format wherever possible. Contacts made through FABS events should prove to be valuable to each club.

All this makes for an encouraging beginning. Much correspondence, many phone calls and conversation indicate we should go forward to make FABS a vehicle to stimulate our own clubs' activities and make this a more gratifying experience for our members.

So far there are eight clubs located around the country affiliated with FABS. As a new organization, FABS still must get its message to as many members of the various bibliophilic clubs as possible. We hope that each member of the FABS clubs will receive and read this newsletter.

The message of FABS is still simply to share information and create an environment to meet each other. The sharing of information is primarily through the newsletter. We hope to make the newsletter interesting and useful.

If anyone has additional ideas, comments, and espe-

cially a desire to further this work of FABS, do not hesitate to call. So far the work has been done by a relatively small number of representatives from the various clubs. To build a strong and permanent organization any and all help is vital.

LAWRENCE N. SIEGLER

THE founding member clubs 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.

NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

If you are interested in attending any of the events listed here, and are not a member of the host club, contact them for details and assistance in making arrangements. Some of the clubs have special rules for guest sponsorship, etc.

THE GROLIER CLUB

November 29-January 12—Small Exhibition: *Stephen Crane: An Exhibition on the Centennial of The Red Badge of Courage*. Curated by Stanley Wertheim.