

FABS Book Tour & Symposium 🍷 Minneapolis & St. Paul 🍷 May 13-16, 2009

THE FELLOWSHIP OF *American*
Bibliophilic Societies

WINTER 2009

VOLUME XIII • NUMBER 1



JAMES SMITHSON

Courtesy National Portrait Gallery

The Henry W. Poor Auction 🍷 Why I Collect What I Collect 🍷 The Collector's Bin
Club News & Notes 🍷 The Library of James Smithson 🍷 The Codex Foundation

Member Clubs

- The Alcuin Society, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
www.alcuinsociety.com
- The Aldus Society, Columbus, OH
www.aldussociety.com
- The Ampersand Club, Minneapolis, St. Paul, MN
www.theampersandclub.org
- The Baltimore Bibliophiles, Baltimore, MD
www.goucher.edu/library/baltimore_bibliophiles
- The John Russell Bartlett Society, Providence, RI
- The Bixby Club, St. Louis, MO
- The Bolton Society, Philadelphia, PA
www.chemheritage.org/about/about-nav6-bolton.html
- The Book Club of California, San Francisco, CA
www.bccbooks.org
- The Caxton Club, Chicago, IL
www.caxtonclub.org
- The Colophon Club, San Francisco, CA
- The Delaware Bibliophiles, Wilmington, DE
- The Book Club of Detroit, Detroit, MI
- Fine Press Book Association
www.fpba.com
- Florida Bibliophile Society, St. Petersburg, FL
www.floridabibliophilesociety.org
- Fontaneda Society, Fort Lauderdale, FL
www.co.broward.fl.us/lii07400.htm
- The No. 44 Society, Urbana-Champaign, IL
- The Grolier Club, New York, NY
www.grolierclub.org
- Long Island Book Collectors, Garden City, NY
- The Manuscript Society
www.manuscript.org
- Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society, Northern Ohio
www.nobsweb.org
- Ottawa Book Collectors, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia, PA
www.english.upenn.edu/~traister/philo.html
- The Bibliophile Society of Rochester, Rochester, NY
- The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, OH
- The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- Sacramento Book Collectors Club, Sacramento, CA
www.sacramentobookcollectors.org
- The Book Club of Texas, Dallas, TX
www.smu.edu/cul/degolyer.org
- The Ticknor Society, Boston, MA
www.ticknor.org
- Washington Rare Book Group, Washington, DC
www.washingtonrarebookgroup.org
- Book Club of Washington, Seattle, WA
www.bookclubofwashington.org
- The Zamorano Club, Los Angeles, CA
www.zamoranoclubla.org

Contents

- From the Chair *Robert H. Jackson* 3
- Minneapolis & St. Paul: Book Tour & Symposium 3
- The Henry W. Poor Auction PART ONE *Geoffrey D. Smith* 7
Great Auctions of the Past
- Why I Collect What I Collect *George Chapman Singer* 10
- The Library of James Smithson *Leslie K. Overstreet* 12
Gentleman-Scientist
- Club News & Notes 14
Programs, Events, & Publications
- The Codex Foundation *Peter Rutledge Koch* 29
- The Collector's Bin *Kenneth J. Palko* 30

International Affiliates

- Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group, Aberystwyth, Wales
- Les Amis Du Livre Contemporain, Paris
- Associació de Bibliòfils de Barcelona
- Société Royale des Bibliophiles et Iconophiles de Belgique, Brussels
- Berliner Bibliophilen Abend E. V., Berlin www.berliner-bibliophilen-abend.de
- The Society of Bibliophiles in Capetown
- Maximilian-Gesellschaft e.V. für alte und neue Buchkunst, Stuttgart
- Nederlands Genootschap van Bibliofielen, Amsterdam
- Private Libraries Association, Pinner, Middlesex plabooks.org

FABS Officers

CHAIR	VICE CHAIR
ROBERT H. JACKSON <i>The Rowfant Club</i>	PAUL T. RUXIN <i>The Caxton Club</i>
SECRETARY	TREASURER AND CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATES COMMITTEE
RONALD L. RAVNEBERG <i>The Aldus Society</i>	JOHN F. MCCLATCHEY <i>The Rowfant Club</i>
CONFERENCE CHAIR	MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
ROBERT H. JACKSON <i>The Rowfant Club</i>	ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK <i>The Baltimore Bibliophiles</i>
CHAIRS EMERITUS	
LAWRENCE N. SIEGLER <i>The Rowfant Club</i>	ARTHUR S. CHESLOCK <i>The Baltimore Bibliophiles</i>
JOHN C. CARSON, M.D. <i>The Zamorano Club</i>	
PUBLISHER	
KAY MICHAEL KRAMER <i>The Bixby Club</i>	
editor@fabsbooks.org 314 821-1465 FAX 314 835-9249 1717 Winesap Lane Kirkwood, Missouri 63122	

Copyright © 2009 by *The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies*.
The cover portrait of James Smithson is from a 1786 oil on canvas by
James Roberts and is courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery,
Smithsonian Institution.