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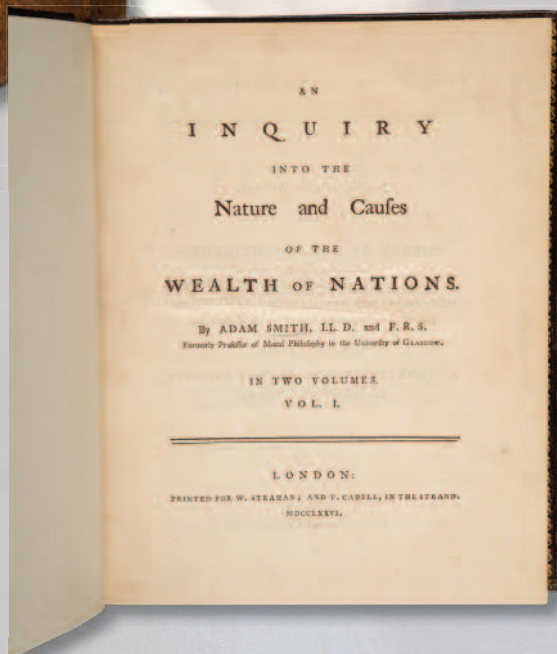
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Letter from the Chair

THE Trustees of FABS met in plenary session on 21 April 2022 in person and via Zoom at The Grolier Club, that session as usual coinciding with the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair. This meeting marked a “changing of the guard”. The three-year term of the Chairman was up and our long-serving secretary, Dr. Ronald Smeltzer, has retired from that position after a decade or so of sterling service. Jennifer Larson has transitioned from the post of Treasurer to become the new Chairman. Mary Warnement will serve as Vice Chair and, all being well, would under the Rules of FABS become the Chairman in 2025. Gary Simons was elected Secretary, and Gretchen Hause assumes the position of Treasurer. A bibliophilically experienced generation with new ideas has taken the helm.

Looking back over the past three years, coping with Covid was unexpected and put an end, temporarily one hopes, to FABS tours. The vexsome issue of a FABS member society not admitting women to their ranks was decisively resolved by introducing a non-discrimination clause into the Articles of Association of FABS. Societies that resigned from FABS over that issue have mostly been reinstated at their request. Additional societies have joined FABS as full members or international associates.

FABS commissioned its own logo, designed by Jerry Kelly and well received by the membership. New advertisers supported the FABS journal, and a new editor is undertaking the transition from a “bulletin” format to a fully-fledged journal – a transition that requires more than a change of title. FABS inaugurated the virtual showcase, two of which have been held to acclaim with impressive participation. The website has been significantly upgraded and improved. More easily navigated and accessible, it now incorporates a complete file of FABS newsletters and journals with a good concise history of the organization. FABS officers have become an important and stalwart cadre of judges for the ABAA book collecting competition – a tradition well worth continuing. The financial status of FABS can always improve, but it has been stable throughout these fraught times and enabled FABS to undertake the aforementioned initiatives.

The new leadership will have its own Agenda to be communicated in due course. One issue to be confronted is the legal status of FABS and its potential transition to a more tax efficient non-profit status.

The FABS Journal can only flourish if members of FABS societies contribute articles, notes, book reviews, and advertising. The Editor welcomes inquiries, proposals, and manuscripts.

It remains to express my thanks to all the Trustees for your active support in what were challenging times. We were sorry to lose our Vice Chairman, Alexander Ames, to the press of other business. Ronald Smeltzer we are indebted to for years of devoted service to our cause. Jennifer Larson will be a more than worthy successor who will move FABS forward into promising areas of development.

William E. Butler
FABS Chair

The Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

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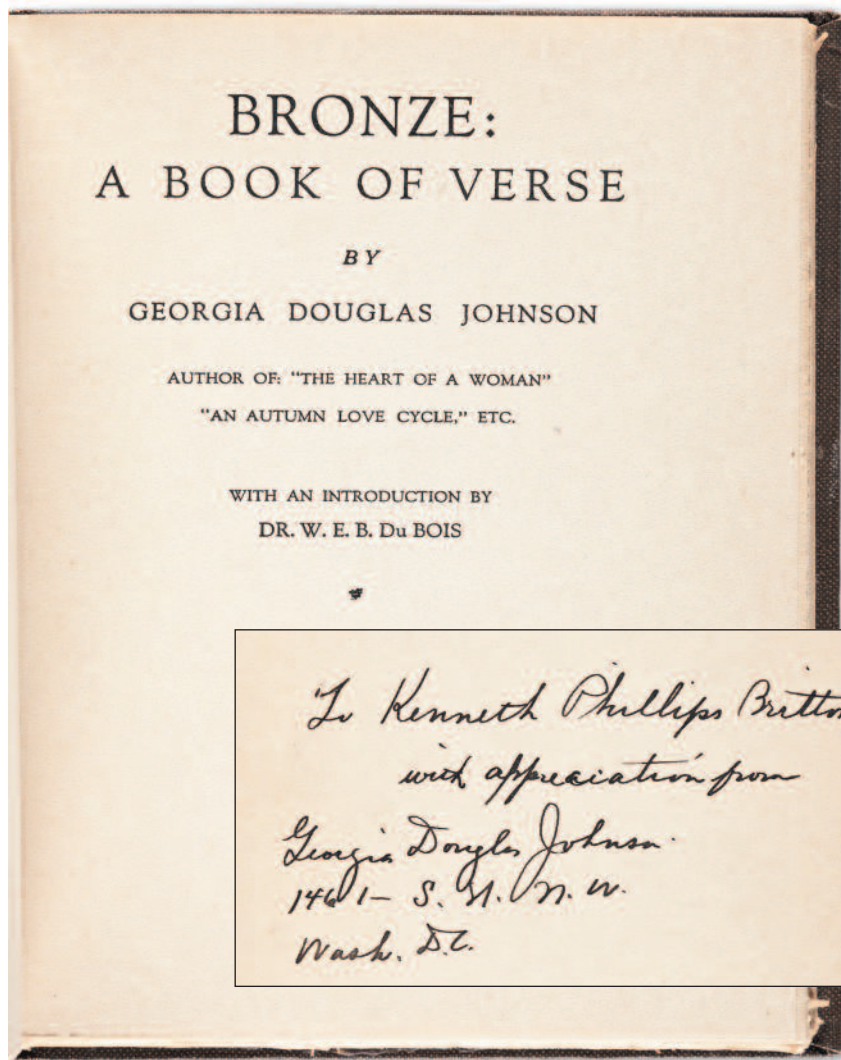
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Queer Books At Borders

By Christopher Adams

“DAMN,” I said under my breath, as I watched my backpack and personal item bag bumped into the “for inspection” queue in the security line at JFK Airport.

In pre-pandemic times I was a frequent and conscientious flyer, and I wondered if I had lost my touch: had I accidentally allowed a tube of toothpaste or a travel-size bottle of hand moisturiser (New York was very dry) to remain in my bag?

“Whose are these?” a friendly-looking security guard, wearing a TSA uniform the same shade of blue as an old-style television screen awaiting a command from a VCR, asked. I held up my hand, more resigned than guilty.

“Mine.”

With a grunt of effort, the guard lifted my backpack and bag from the

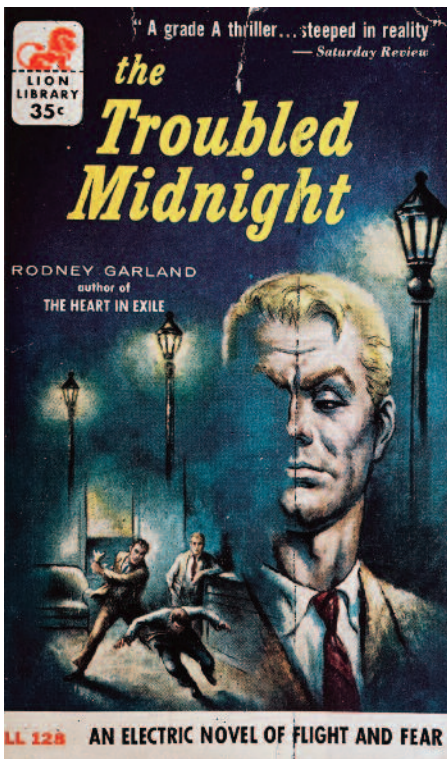


Fig 1.

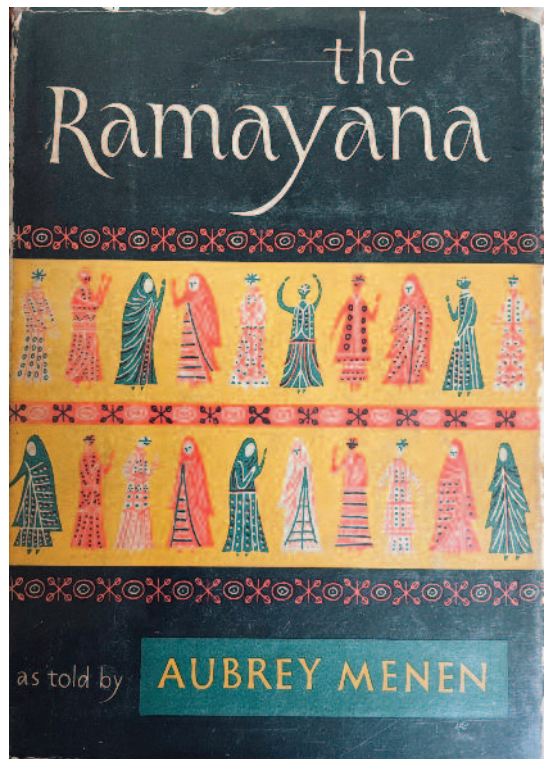


Fig 2.

Fig 3.

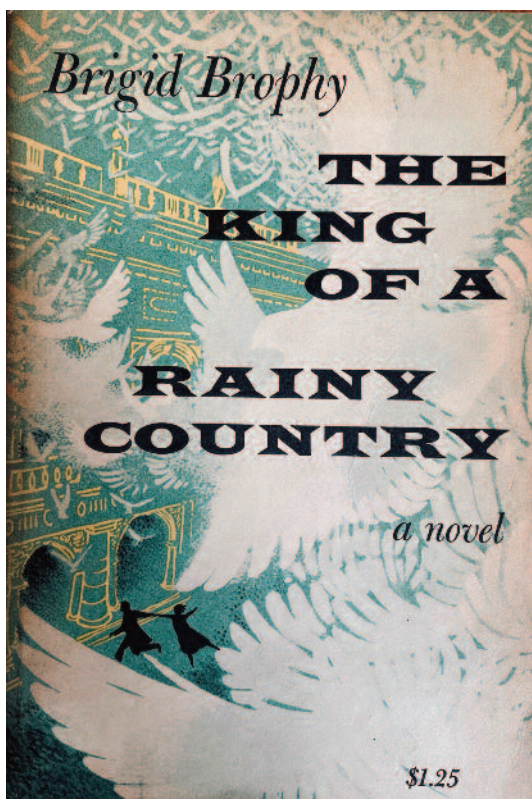


Fig 4.



queue and placed them on a chrome table, next to the machine that, I assumed, tested for explosive powders.

“Heavy,” he said.

“They’re books.”

“Ah, that explains why I have to inspect them.”

I gave a puzzled look.

“The X-ray machine has trouble seeing through them. Especially if you have a lot of them.”

I have spent most of my adult life being concerned with the physical properties of books: the weight and thickness of paper; the various qualities of pig, goat, or calfskin bindings; the smell of a book left in a basement versus the smell of a book left in an attic. But I had not, until this point, considered how books responded to electromagnetic radiation, how they in fact quietly subverted attempts to scan them, rather than open them to read.

As the security guard opened my backpack and began pulling out book after book, my newfound knowledge about the physical properties of books mingled with a sense of trepidation, and a slight feeling of—if I am being honest—embarrassment. I had been in the United States for a four-month research trip. Over-excited to explore bookshops I had never visited and to buy American editions of British books I already owned, my book buying had gotten out of hand. But I was embarrassed not only because of the number of books the security guard was pulling out of my backpack, like scarves from a magician’s hat, but also because the content of what I collect was suddenly exposed to the eyes of a stranger. If book collections say a great deal about the inner world of the collector, these books revealed to the security guard something very personal about myself.

My collection focuses on gay and lesbian British novels and magazines of the mid-twentieth century, roughly 1940-1970. I am interested in how and why these novels were published in an era in which homosexuality was criminalised and were often the cause of an obscenity prosecution. I am interested, too, as the books I bought in the States demonstrated, in how “queer books” migrated both ways across the Atlantic. Having studied how queer books were subjected to all different kinds of regulations and controls—in their authorship, publishing, marketing, and distribution—here I was, standing in front of a security guard, watching him inspect these queer books, learning not only something about my collecting interests but also my sexuality.

The guard pulled out a paperback copy of *The Troubled Midnight* (1956),

a thriller by “Rodney Garland” (Adam de Hegedus) about a gay spy ring (*Figure 1*). This was followed by a first edition of Aubrey Menen’s *Ramayana* (1954), its geometric dust jacket giving away little about its author’s identity as a British-Asian gay man (*Figure 2*). Several more titles followed: a signed copy of *The Collected Works of Jane Bowles* (1966); the first US edition of Brigid Brophy’s lesbian novel *The King of A Rainy Country* (1957; *Figure 3*); the US edition of Gore Vidal’s *Myra Breckinridge* (1968); a sequence of books in John Minton dust-jackets. Each book the guard opened carefully with his purple surgical-gloved hands, checking for any violent foreign objects. I thought it an inappropriate time to mention that, for years now, reading rooms discouraged the use of gloves while handling books.

I found myself becoming nervous as the security guard finished inspecting my backpack and moved to my carry-on bag.

“More books?”

“Sort of. They’re magazines. They’re . . . vintage.” As if the word “vintage” would cover for what he was about to see. He opened the bag. He tensed. Staring at him were around one hundred physique magazines (*Figure 4*). Having read David K. Johnson’s *Buying Gay: How Physique Entrepreneurs Sparked A Movement* (2019), I was fascinated by these small magazines, published in large quantities and sold by mail order and at newsstands throughout the United States, Britain, and elsewhere. But unlike the rather tame dust jackets of the books, the covers of these magazines left little to the imagination, with their nearly-but-not-quite nude models smiling cheerfully at the viewer. The guard’s inspection, previously so careful and considered, suddenly became perfunctory. The magazines’ obvious queerness could not be ignored.

While waiting for the guard to finish, my mind wandered to how queer books had a long history of being stopped for inspection at borders — in circumstances not nearly so benign as mine. Part of my time in the United States had been spent at the Harry Ransom Center reading the correspondence of Radclyffe Hall as she experienced the agony of watching *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) become the subject of a destruction order. It was customs officials—figures not unlike the guard in front of me—who seized a shipment of *The Well* from France, instigating the books’ prosecution. The oddities of British obscenity law were such that Hall was legally prevented from speaking in defence of her own book; her only recourse was to stand and cry “Shame!” before being told by the judge she must be silent or else be removed

from the courtroom. It was customs officials, too, who in 1984 raided London's *Gay's the Word* bookshop to seize supposedly obscene imported books. More broadly, it made me think how, even now, queer titles such as André Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* are subjected to bans in school districts across the United States.

"All good," the security guard said, as he handed me the pale grey plastic container holding my books and magazines, its colour leached by years under fluorescent lighting. "Have a nice flight." I smiled briefly and took my bags and the container to a long shiny metal table, perhaps more suited to a surgical unit than an airport, to begin the delicate process of re-packing the books into my backpack. I turned over the term "queer book" in my mind. These objects in front of me were queer in the fullest sense of the word. They had disrupted the system. Packed densely in my bags, they had scuppered attempts to be "read" by the X-ray machine, and had forced the industrial operation of modern security screening to, even for a brief moment, halt. But their contents too were queer and elicited a reaction from the guard, even though I had assumed that he—inspector of luggage belonging to the great mass of humanity that passes through the JFK airport—could not be surprised by what he saw. But he was. The queer book—both its contents and its physical form—were still provoking, still causing disruption, even decades after they had been published.

Christopher Adams is an AHRC-funded PhD student at the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. His work examines the publishing history of the postwar British queer novel. He is the editor of several plays in The Collected Works of John Ford (OUP) and periodically teaches bibliographical description at Rare Book School. He also works as a playwright and screenwriter. He was the 2022 Malkin New Scholar of the Bibliographical Society of America.

BOOK REVIEWS

REID BYERS. *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom*. Newcastle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2021.
By Jennifer Larson

“Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed of having my own things about me.” So says Mary Kate, the Irish bride played by Maureen O’Hara in John Ford’s *The Quiet Man* (1952). Mary Kate cannot rest until she has her dowry of furniture, pewter, china, and spinnet safe about her, to comfort and please wherever she rests her eyes. Booklovers will understand. It is well enough to own books, but the marriage is in name only until we have the precious volumes safe about us, where we can be refreshed by the sight of them on a daily basis. Reid Byers’ *opus magnum* on private libraries is everything it says in the title, but above all it is about the ways people contrive to have their books about them. Byers has coined a word for this singular experience: to be “book-wrapt” is to be pleasurably surrounded by books in the home. Byers’ interest is the evolution of the home library as a dedicated room or rooms, not simply a private accumulation of books. On this view a bookcase in every room fails to reach the critical mass required for enwrapment—a point which I am inclined to dispute, based on the analogy above. Yet I well recall the magic of the first bookroom I ever saw, a smallish spare room in a childhood friend’s flat, where mass-market paperbacks on brick-and-plank shelves filled every last inch of wall space.

Byers shows how home reading practices were shaped throughout history by factors we take for granted, like access to light. Early Mediterranean libraries, for example, were smallish storage rooms with attached colonnades for reading outdoors, while the transition to furnished reading rooms during the Roman Empire was surely facilitated by the invention of window glazing. Later, monks read in cloister walks to take advantage of the light. Characteristically, Byers points out that the introduction of larger, brighter stack rooms permitted browsing, one of the great pleasures of the book-wrapt state (“pottering” being another).

Security was a second factor shaping the private library, which always

(in its grander instantiations) reflected institutional trends. When the Roman Empire fell, great libraries shrank a hundredfold, and furnishings reverted back to the simple and secure book chest, which evolved into the medieval lectern with its chained books. The fascination of this history lies partly in the strangeness of past practices to our modern sensibilities: in the bench-and-lectern system, the reader came to the book and not the reverse. Books were stored with front covers visible, like magazines on a stand, an arrangement so wasteful of space that it could only be used in an age when a private library of three hundred books was considered huge. The stall system used at Oxford and Cambridge housed chained books standing upright in cases, but each case was still equipped with a bench and reading surface so the book could be read on the spot. Even after books were no longer chained, they were regularly shelved with fore-edges facing outward right through the seventeenth century, in private and institutional collections alike.

A third factor in the evolution of home libraries was privacy. Byers shows how libraries functioned as retreats, from the Chinese scholar's study, designed as a peaceful "mountain hermitage," to the Renaissance gentleman's *studiolo*, "hybrid of treasure room and cloister cell," to the libraries and intimate closets of early English country houses, positioned as far as possible from the public rooms, and often directly off the owner's bedchamber. In the eighteenth and especially the nineteenth centuries, however, country house libraries became spaces for family activities, music and theatricals, to say nothing of "alchemy . . . surgery, rendezvous, brandy drinking, opium taking, formal balls, and on at least one occasion at Eaton Hall, playing battledore and shuttlecock in the evening." One sympathizes with the bespectacled, bookish types who actually wanted a quiet place to read. Despite the beauty and grandeur of these English country house libraries—the single subject on which Byers waxes most enthusiastic—it appears that the collections so lovingly assembled and housed by bibliophilic ancestors often came to function more as symbols of rank or decorative backdrops. Still, the preference to canoodle, sing or tipple surrounded by books shows that book-wraptness never lost its spell, but was modified into *hygge* (a Danish word for an atmosphere of inviting warmth and conviviality).

Byers wears his considerable scholarship lightly, remarking that the first Roman libraries were brought back from Greece "lock, stack and librarian," and that Petrarch's study, equipped with an arrow slit, was "the only fully defensible reading room in my experience." So sprightly and charming is his style that I might call this light reading, were it not that the physical book

weighs in at nearly four pounds. Experimentally, I tested it against a few other books on my shelf, finding that it outweighs the *Complete Essays of Montaigne* by a full pound. Only Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy* presents a greater threat to sufferers of tennis elbow.

Those who desire a greater degree of book-enwrapment will find practical inspiration in this volume, particularly in the final chapters on contemporary private libraries, libraries of the future, and the appendices on the features of library room itself (page 455 explains the difference between a secret door and a jib door covered with *trompe l'oeil* book spines, while page 433 is particularly helpful when calculating the number of books one can fit into a room of a given size and shape). Especially delightful is Appendix D on "Traditional Amenities and Charming Anachronisms," where we find the finishing touches: stepladders, book-stands, globes, and human skulls (a *memento mori* being the perfect Renaissance touch). The seventeenth-century library expert Gabriel Naudé recommended ancient busts of famous authors, but allowed that good copies were permissible, the balance being better spent on the books themselves. For books do furnish a room, wrote Anthony Powell, and as friends have reminded me, no one should be ashamed of books stacked on the floor. If you have your own books about you, that is all you need.

The Rosenwald Schools in Pictures and Stories: A Review

By Joseph M. Morgan

ANDREW FEILER. *A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2021.

This handsome book is a happy marriage of photography and text in which Andrew Feiler tells the story of the Rosenwald Schools through interviews with many people whose lives they touched and images that will live long in the minds of those who see them.

Nothing exemplifies the importance of the subject of this university press book more than the fact that its foreword was written by the late and much lamented Representative John Lewis, a figure of enormous symbolic and his-

torical importance in the unending struggle for civil rights in the United States. He attended a Rosenwald school in Pike County, Alabama—in the Dunn’s Chapel AME Church “a half-mile hike downhill” and “a small wooden building, whitewashed and with large windows. It was beautiful and it was our school.”

The years from the mid-1890s to the mid-1910s are often referred to as the Progressive Era, a time in which social activism and political reform sought to alleviate the problems caused by urban squalor, the assimilation of vast numbers of immigrants, political corruption, laissez-faire industrialization, and the iniquities of racism. One of the important initiatives of the period was the result of the collaboration between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington. Rosenwald, the son of German-Jewish immigrants, was born in 1862 in Springfield, Illinois, in a building a short distance from Abraham Lincoln’s house. He rose to be the part-owner and leading figure of Sears Roebuck and a man who devoted his wealth to philanthropy and good works (including being the leading figure in establishing Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry). Booker Taliaferro Washington was born an enslaved person in 1856 in Hales Ford, Virginia. He became a leading intellectual, a powerful orator, adviser to presidents, author, and educator, founding the famous Tuskegee Institute. The two men met in Chicago in 1911, Rosenwald having read and been moved by Washington’s *Up from Slavery*. He joined the board of the Tuskegee Institute. Their subsequent discussions focused on the parlous plight of public black education in the Jim Crow South—grievously underfunded (and in places non-existent), subject to the miseries of segregation, and in appalling physical condition. The result was the Rosenwald Schools Initiative, which was in force from 1915 (the year Booker T. Washington died) to 1937. It was a true community effort in that the Initiative brought together private and public community interests with a common purpose of providing decent schools for young African-Americans in the segregated South. The Initiative provided 25% of the money needed for construction with local groups and government providing the rest. The effort resulted in almost 5000 schools and associated structures in 15 states in the region. The buildings were based on, in the words of the architect Michael Hall, designs far ahead of their time. This was a \$28 million program, with the Initiative providing about \$4.5 million, a similar amount from the (largely impoverished) African-American communities, and the rest from state and local governments.

Andrew Feiler, a noted photographer, undertook a journey of more than

25,000 miles to about 100 of the surviving 500 Rosenwald schools in all 15 states to photograph them and to interview former students and teachers, community leaders, and conservationists. The result provides ample proof not only of his skill as a photographer but also as a writer and teller of the stories of the people who came out of the schools, the communities that they enriched, and the tremendous effect they had on the wider African-American community. The photographs are visually stunning and made with an artist's eye. The stories are compelling and many would touch the stoniest heart with their tales of surviving and often thriving in a world dominated by economic hardship and often hostile forces. The practical human kindness of a Jewish Chicago businessperson and an African-American visionary enriched the USA. This book is a splendid testament to that enrichment.

I close this review with the final words of John Lewis's foreword. "Each of us must play a role, to help to redeem the soul of America, to help to create a beloved America, a beloved world where no one is left out or left behind. May the spirit of peace, justice, and love be our guide." May his memory be a blessing.

Contributed by Caxton Club member Joseph M. Morgan, this review was previously published in The Caxtonian.

CLUB NEWS

THE ALDUS SOCIETY

In February 2022, The Aldus Society returned to face-to-face meetings at the Thurber Center with a talk by David Weaver, Executive Director of Ohioana Library, the repository for literary works by Ohio authors. The March meeting featured a presentation on "American Book Canvassing Samples from the Ohio State University's Rare Books and Manuscripts Library" by Jolie Braun, Curator of Modern Literature and Manuscripts at OSU Libraries. Frank Mowery took us on a "A Conservator's Journey Through History" at our April meeting; Frank retired after 35 years as head conservator at the Folger Shakespeare Library and is a master bookbinder and expert paper conservator with long experience with major museums and collections. In May, Professor Jeffrey Gress of Capital University spoke on "The

Work of Mathias Armbruster”; following the Civil War, Armbruster founded a theatrical scenic design business that operated throughout the Midwest and was the foundation for a company that exists to the present day.

Plans for the 2022-2023 year are in the works. In addition to a holiday event, plans include possible presentations by Michael Blanding, award-winning author of *North by Shakespeare*, *The Map Thief*, and other books, and by Laura Wasowicz, Curator of Children’s Literature at the American Antiquarian Society, on the publications of McLoughlin Brothers.

Once again, we express our sincere thanks to The Caxton Club of Chicago for giving our members access to their excellent and engaging online programs and lectures.

Dan Jensen
Treasurer & Acting President

AMPERSAND CLUB

The Ampersand Club went virtual after an in-person visit to the Minnesota History Center exhibit of “Sinclair Lewis: 100 Years of Main Street” on September 16, 2021. We acknowledged COVID-19 induced restrictions and confinement by sharing created work related to the pandemic. “Minnesota Bookmakers and Their COVID Projects,” a Zoom program by local book artists with presentations by CB Sherlock, Jody Williams, Todd Thyberg, Regula Russelle, Chaz Nove, and Julie Baugnet happened on October 21, 2021. Fran Shor, author of *Passages of Rebellion* (Smartset, 2020), virtually presented on November 18, 2021, his political novel, a fictional account of real acts of protest against the war in Vietnam that happened at the University of Minnesota in the 1970s. On December 9, 2021, Paul Erickson, Director of the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, virtually presented, “The Varieties of Retail Experience; or Buying Books in Nineteenth-Century America.” Our planned January Holiday Party was cancelled because of the omicron variant surge. Gary Goodman, author of *The Last Bookseller: A Life in the Book Trade* (University of Minnesota Press, 2021) virtually presented his stories of the book business on February 17, 2022.

The March meeting will be Antaoly Liberman virtually discussing “Etymology for Everyone.” We plan to meet in person for our Book Auction in April and our twice missed “Annual Dinner” in May.

Richard Sveum

BALTIMORE BIBLIOPHILES

Fall 2021 ushered a full calendar of events for The Baltimore Bibliophiles. It was decided that this coming year, beginning with September, 2021, we would attempt a somewhat hybrid schedule; Zoom programs would predominate the schedule, but in-person events would be attempted when it was deemed safe. Unless otherwise noted, all programs mentioned were via Zoom. On Thursday, September 23, collections advisor Spencer W. Stuart gave a talk entitled “A Collection’s Coda: Deaccessioning Strategies.” Ed Papenfuse presented a talk on Wednesday, October 20 regarding “The Enterprising Roach Family of Baltimore, 1819-1830,” a saga of marketing books, stationery, musical instruments, umbrellas, printing, and sign painting, mixed with Millerites and fisticuffs with the constabulary. Our first in-person event took place during our Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 18. The featured speaker was Andrea Lewis, Director of Programs at Maryland Humanities. Her topic was: “Maryland Center for the Book—what is it?” The venue was Mt. Vernon Club in Baltimore. Our Thursday, December 16, next speaker was Olya Samilenko, who gave us insights into her book *The Snow Goose Chronicles* on Thursday, December 16. We ushered in the New Year on Thursday, January 20, with Sallie Lowenstein, children’s book author, illustrator, publisher and maker of handmade books. On February 16, we hosted Reid Byers, author of *The Private Library*. Our most recent speaker was Ken Gloss of Brattle Book Shop in Boston. He regaled us with takes of his life as a bookseller as well as an expert in Antiques Roadshow. Our Thursday, April 21, speaker will be Dr. April Oettinger, who will relate Innovations in Teaching the History of the Book in the Liberal Arts Classroom, as presented to the Renaissance Society of America annual meeting at Marsh’s Library in Dublin, Ireland. Prof. Oettinger will share innovative strategies discussed at the Dublin conference for exploring books as material, designed objects in classroom teaching and student learning. Programs for the rest of 2022 are still in the planning stages. We hope to have programs on Shakespeare, children’s literature, and the trials and tribulations of romance writing, among other sessions in the works. We also hope to be able to host one or two more in-person events. It is possible that a casual summer al fresco *Show & Tell* session might take place in June or July. During *Show & Tell* events, members are invited to bring a special or unique item from their collection and “share it with the class,” so to speak. Date and venue (Zoom or

in-person) TBD. Visitors are always welcome to our events, whether via Zoom or in person.

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JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT SOCIETY

The JRBS is very pleased to be in partnership with the Providence bookstore Cellar Stories (<https://www.cellarstories.com/>), which has agreed to donate a percentage of the sales of books given in our name. Several members have donated books (which must be of a certain condition and value to be accepted), and a number of sales have already supplemented our normal dues revenue in a significant way. To find books listed for sale to our benefit among their stock, simply enter the search term “John Russell Bartlett Society” into their online catalog and they will appear.

The Annual Meeting of the JRBS will take place virtually on Monday, March 28, at 6:30pm. Our speaker will be Rebecca More, a member of the Hroswitha Club (and the JRBS) and a collector of many subjects, most notably gardening and French cookery. Professor More received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Brown University in History. She directed the Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching at Learning at Brown from 1992 until her retirement in 2010. She continues an active research agenda, teaches and lectures, and is involved with environmental issues in New Hampshire. According to More, “I began collecting cookbooks in 1966. My original focus was on 19th- and early 20th-century French cookbooks, especially those with engravings and illustrations and related to well-known restaurateurs. However, over time, since I gave informal cookery classes from 1968 until 1985, the collection developed into a reference library. The cookery classes emphasized mastery of fundamental techniques and the book collection reflected how different cultures employed similar techniques to achieve different results. As a late medieval and early modern European social and economic historian, the cookbook collection encouraged my use of artifacts and anthropological source materials in teaching and research.”

The Stillwell Prize for book collecting event will be held virtually on Monday, April 25, at 6:00pm. First awarded in 1985 and open to any under-

graduate in the state of Rhode Island, the prize is named to honor the life and work of Margaret Bingham Stillwell (1887–1984). The speaker will be Mary Murphy, the Nancy L. Buc '65 Pembroke Center Archivist at Brown University, formerly of the Schlesinger Library at Harvard. Murphy's career has been continuously focused on the topics of gender and sexuality in the United States, and she will discuss her experiences in building and stewarding those collections.

Richard Ring

THE BAXTER SOCIETY

The Maine-based Baxter Society has been meeting on Zoom monthly (since early in the pandemic) September through May, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. We always welcome visitors and guests and would give a special, warm welcome to FABS visitors.

Here is a summary of both our recent and near future activity:

In May of 2021 we hosted our own Vice President, Reid Byers, who spoke about his newly published book *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom* (Oak Knoll Press). And if we don't say so ourselves, he is an engaging speaker with no shortage of stories to tell. Reid has also proven to be the envy of many an author as his book has been widely praised and received a significant amount of press coverage. Where else might you imagine "that there is at least one place in the world (the private library) where it is possible to be happy?"

We resumed meeting in September when Erin Fletcher, Chair of the New England Chapter of the Guild of Bookworkers, spoke. In her talk "Common Thread: 10 Years of Embroidered Bindings," Erin spoke of being inspired by embroidered bindings from the 15th century onward and shared with us several of her unique designs blending historic structures, fiber arts, and traditional bookbinding. Her work is well beyond beautiful.

In October the Baxter Society held a cooperatively hosted Zoom meeting with a book arts group: the Chappell Center for the Book Arts which is based at the University of Southern Maine. The two groups heard modernist photographer John Eide's talk "Photos/Pixels/Books" in which he very compellingly illustrated his own technique for creating one-of-a-kind digitally printed books.

November brought us Bryan A. Garner, noted authority on language,

grammar, jurisprudence, lexicography, and other topics and author of countless books on these topics. We were given a behind-the-scenes tour of his private library which might be in the running for the eighth wonder of the world.

In December the Baxter Society generally hosts its annual holiday gathering which this year meant: a) the election of officers and b) our annual show & tell, in which members and guests share any form of bibliophilic story . . . always a hit and always some fun and interesting surprises!

In January 2022 we asked four Society members (book artists) to share stories of what they have been doing during the pandemic and how it altered, enhanced, or otherwise changed their work. Book Artist Rebecca Goodale's "Campsite Residency" told of her association with another artist at a campground and how this experience brought about extraordinary creativity over time. Suzanne Hamlin showed us "6 Unique Bindings by 6 Designers," artists' bindings of the book *Dark Archives* by Megan Rosenbloom, concerning books bound in human skin. And Scott Vile, "Billeting in Bar Mills," showed us numerous absolutely beautiful examples of recent books (printed letterpress) and other work from his Ascensus Press.

Kurt Zimmerman, President of the Book Hunters Club of Houston (a fellow FABS member group) spoke to us in February. Author of *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades* (2020), Kurt told us many lively and engaging tales of his more than 30 years of dealing, collecting, and more. And we laughed a lot—he titled his talk "It's Not Hoarding If It's Books," and the laughter did not end there.

In March we heard stories from four members of a critique group associated with the Cheney Center for the Book Arts (Univ. of Southern Maine). Presenters Rachel Church, Liz Brown, Angel Simoneau, and Anna Low spoke about many new artist books in an exhibit at Glickman Library in Portland.

In conclusion, the Baxter Society will be celebrating its 40th year in 2023 and we hope to celebrate in some special ways which our board is currently planning. More on this later, too.

Our web address is www.baxtersociety.org where you may send us messages. As soon as the pandemic subsides, we hope to return to in person meetings and these are likely to have a Zoom component for those who may wish to participate from afar. And we look forward to participating in the newly formed FABS events calendar.

Zip Kellogg
President

BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

The Book Club of California was pleased to welcome members of FABS organizations to our Member Reception at the 54th California International Antiquarian Book Fair in February. Members enjoyed a variety of appetizers while sipping beverages and engaging in stimulating conversation with Book Club members and guests. Held at the first in-person major book fair in two years, many were excited to be seeing both books and friends.

In October, we held a small in-person celebration for the Oscar Lewis Award recipients from 2020 and 2021, with the entire ceremony streamed to our YouTube Channel. We honored both the 2020 and 2021 recipients due to restrictions around in-person gatherings during the pandemic. The 2020 awardees in the Book Arts category were Kathleen Burch and Mary Austin, the founders of the San Francisco Center for the Book. John Briscoe, poet, author, restaurateur, lawyer, and board member of several historical societies, was the 2020 recipient in Western History. He was recognized for numerous publications about California's history, people, and culture.

The 2021 award for the Books Arts went to veteran printer and book designer, Wesley Tanner. The noted historian Charles Fracchia was notified of his award in Western History in the spring. Unfortunately, Mr. Fracchia passed away between the announcement and the ceremony. His wife and daughters graciously accepted the award on his behalf.

The Book Club published our 241st book, *The Klondike and Alaska Gold Rushes, A Descriptive Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets Covering the Years 1896–1905* in October. Gary F. Kurutz, the author of the highly acclaimed *The California Gold Rush: A Descriptive Bibliography*, published by the Book Club in 1997, produced this essential reference work as a companion to his impressive earlier tome.

In January, we welcomed a live audience for a Monday evening program, *San Francisco Beer: A History of Brewing by the Bay*. Bill Yenne presented the story of beer in San Francisco including the famed steam beer produced by Anchor Brewing. Although the program was also live-streamed to Zoom, the audience in the room was able to sample some of current Bay Area beer offerings.

Other recent programs included *The Forgotten Homesteaders of California*, *Aztec Codices: An Introduction to their Form and Contents*, *Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*, and *The Reva and David Logan Collection of Photographic Books*.

Our virtual community meetings have remained very popular. Designed to bring our members together via Zoom, these small group conversations allow for spirited discussions on topics such as the Book Club's programs and publications, the digital book, the return of book fairs, and *500 Years of Women Authors, Authorizing Themselves*, a virtual exhibition from the Houghton Library.

Nearly all of our programs are live-streamed and we welcome all to upcoming programs. Please visit us www.bccbooks.org for more information. Membership in the century-old Book Club of California is open to all and benefits include discounts on publications, members-only events, keepsakes, and a subscription to the club's *Quarterly News-Letter*, the only letterpress printed scholarly journal in the country.

Sharon Gee
President

THE CAXTON CLUB

The Caxton Club, founded in 1875, elects a President and Vice President every two years. The current holders of these offices are Jackie Vossler and Ethel Kaplan. The Caxton Club Council, which sets the policies of the club, consists of 15 members, with five elected each year for staggered three-year terms. The club's FABS representative is Gretchen Hause. Full details of the club and its governance can be found on the club's regularly updated website (www.caxtonclub.org).

Meetings

The club holds mid-day and evening meetings—illustrated talks followed by Q&A sessions (all on Zoom currently and since the advent of the health emergency in March 2020) in September through June of each year. These well attended meetings (as many as 250 participants at some) are available free to those who register at the club's website and are available as online videorecordings via YouTube. Though it would be invidious to choose between the wide variety of subjects and the wide range of speakers (from all over the USA and from many other countries), recent highlights have included Cait Coker on women printers in Europe and North America from the 15th to 19th centuries; Anthony Grafton on the making of books in early modern Europe; Robert McCracken Peck on Edward Lear's natural history

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paintings; and Liesl Olson on five women in the Chicago avant-garde. In addition to its own meetings, the club co-sponsors presentations with other groups such as the Chicago Collections Consortium, the Union League Club of Chicago, and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. For details of current and upcoming events see: www.caxtonclub.org.

Awards

Since 2002, the Caxton Club has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to support bibliophilic study and the next generation of book artists. The 2021/2002 awards have gone to five young book artists, to a Bibliographical Society of America Fellowship for Midwestern Bibliographers, and for a scholarship to attend the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. For details of these awards and their recipients see: www.caxtonclub.org.

Caxtonian magazine

The *Caxtonian*, begun in 1995 and now a bi-monthly publication, publishes a wide range of bibliophilic (defined broadly) and literary articles by members of the club, by people who have spoken to club meetings, and by many authors who have no affiliation with the club. It also includes historical and current pieces dealing with the club itself. Five lead articles published in successive issues (May/June 2021 through January/ February 2022) illustrate the *Caxtonian*'s richness of content. They were on "wood libraries" (book-like collections of wood) by Bonnie Mak; a study of the publishing of the second edition of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, by Miles Harvey; the annotations made by John Adams in books in his extensive library, by Craig Fehrman; how the legacy of *Black Metropolis*, 1945 (by St Clair Drake and Horace Cayton) lives on in the Black Metropolis Research System, by Marcia Walker-McWilliams; and the creation of the Berger-Cloonan collection of decorated paper (now in Texas A&M's library), by Sidney Berger.

A major digitization effort, partly funded by generous legacies, has led to all issues of the *Caxtonian* from 1995 through the current issue being available in full on the club's website. All issues are available and downloadable to club members. Moreover, online versions of all issues from 1995 through 2014 are available on the website to non-members. The 2015 issues will be available to non-members next year, with subsequent years' issues added yearly.

The *Caxtonian*'s articles are indexed in detailed *Name/title* and *Subject*

indices on the website. The club funded an initiative to link each index entry to its online issue (that is, to make all the index entries “clickable”).

Diversity

The Caxton Club, like many organizations, is in the process of investigating ways to make its membership and programs more diverse and inclusive. Club president Jackie Vossler formed a Diversity, Equality, Inclusivity, & Outreach Committee (DEI Committee) last year with aim of ensuring “the vitality and sustainability of the Caxton Club by 1) broadening the scope of the club conceptually and programmatically to embrace new topics, formats, and technologies related to the book; and 2) developing an active and engaged membership that is intergenerational and reflects the rich diversity of our city’s and nation’s population.” So far, the committee and the club have created a reading list to encourage investigation of unconscious biases and other obstacles; sponsored and co-sponsored a wide range of DEI-related programs; sought out and published DEI-related articles in the *Caxtonian*; removed barriers to membership for potential members who are young and diverse; and surveyed other bibliophilic societies to see which moves they are making. These are fruitful steps in what is recognized as a sustained long-term activity involving all aspects of the club and its endeavors.

Michael Gorman

BOOK CLUB OF DETROIT

This past December the Book Club of Detroit celebrated the holidays with a luncheon in conjunction with our annual meeting. Former BCD president and long-time book dealer C. Hedger Breed III regaled the crowd with stories of his career and the fun and passion of buying, selling, and collecting books. Members outdid themselves with donations to the silent auction, resulting in a most successful fund-raiser.

Our board of directors is once again meeting in person and planning several events for this year.

Last fall, members had the unique opportunity to tour behind-the-scenes elements of Detroit’s Masonic Temple, completed in 1926 and the largest such building in the world. The archivists have graciously invited us to return in March for an exclusive chance to purchase a variety of de-accessioned books and artifacts.

The pandemic has challenged our local bookdealers, so one area of focus this year is to promote them while learning more about their trade. As we inch ourselves toward more in-person assemblies, an outdoor picnic is planned for June after first meeting up at Shaw's Books in Grosse Pointe.

BCD member Jay Platt of West Side Book Shop in Ann Arbor, will provide us with a talk on his experiences as a book dealer of over 46 years. He will also expound on the topic of one of his favorite areas of interest—the polar regions, particularly Antarctica—and will exhibit a few gems from his collection.

Once again, we will participate in and help sponsor the very successful annual Festival of Books to be held in Detroit's historic Eastern Market on July 17th. The Festival of Books is the largest book festival in the state of Michigan. Organized by one of our members and past president, the festival continues to grow in size and popularity since its inception five years ago. Last year we recruited a sizeable number of new members at this event.

One of our highly anticipated presentations will take place this fall at an area law school. A Michigan attorney and close friend of the late Justice John D. Voelker (a.k.a Robert Traver) will speak on Voelker's life and works. Voelker was a noted lawyer, author, and fly fisherman from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is best known for his novel *Anatomy of a Murder*.

BCD is fortunate to have a member who is an internationally recognized bookbinder. Jon Buller will provide a presentation on book repair and restoration.

We are continuing our tradition of periodically sending "keepsakes" to members. This year's will include a bookplate from one of Michigan's bibliophiles, author and psychic Joseph A. Sadony (1877-1960) who developed a personal library of 30,000 volumes. His personal files contained letters from well over 300,000 persons from 700 cities and 39 countries.

Finally, we are fortunate to have an outstanding resource in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The University of Michigan's William L. Clements Library holds collections of print and manuscript materials on the history of North America and the Caribbean, particularly 18th and 19th century American history. The Clements Bookworm Webinar Series has provided BCD members an opportunity to enjoy featured guests on a variety of topics from the comfort of their own homes. Interested FABS members can also pull up a virtual chair and attend by visiting clements.umich.edu/bookworm.

Charlene Kull

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY

The Florida Bibliophile Society (FBS) has settled into a hybrid meeting format, in which both attendees and speakers have the choice to either participate within a group setting or separately over Zoom. This season we have had outstanding remote presentations by two speakers whose recent books are currently being widely hailed in bookish circles: Kurt Zimmerman, author of *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades* (2020), spoke at our November meeting about his personal history with the late rare book dealer Dorothy Sloan, and Reid Byers, author of *The Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom* (2021), spoke in February about his book. In each case a number of visitors from other FABS clubs attended via Zoom.

We have also had interesting local speakers. FBS member Ed Cifelli, the preeminent biographer of mid-20th century poet and media personality John Ciardi, spoke in person at our October meeting about Ciardi's fascinating life and career. Elaine Togneri, a widely published Florida-based writer of mystery stories, spoke over Zoom in January and took us into the nitty-gritty of professional writing and the demands, opportunities, and practices of writing "to the market."

Before the 2021-2022 season is over we will also be reaching into the blogosphere. Boštjan Petrič, author of the *Fate of Books* blog, will speak to us on March 20th regarding the collection and the destruction of books in his home country, Slovenia, and Ray Betzner, author of the *Studies in Starrett* blog, will tell us on April 19th about the Sherlock Holmes scholar Vincent Emerson Starrett.

Our season has also had our traditional get-togethers. Our September meeting, "Treasures We Found during the Summer Break," was a joyous gathering full of laughs and chatter. Our December seasonal party featured a sumptuous dinner as well as a holiday book exchange. And, COVID permitting, our season-ending banquet will be held on May 15th with featured speaker Sarah Penner, author of the New York Times Best Seller, *The Lost Apothecary*.

We are also conducting a number of special activities. After a year off, our annual Student Book Collector contest is now back in full swing. Further, the Largo Public Library and FBS are co-hosting a special event on March 31st, a presentation by Connecticut bibliophile Ed S. Centeno entitled "Walt

Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* Still Relevant to Modern Times." Ed's Whitman collection encompasses more than 2,000 Whitman artifacts including first editions, autographs, stamps, medallions, postcards, national food product labels, private commissions, cigar boxes, miscellaneous ephemera, and the like. In support of this event FBS is issuing "*I Contain Multitudes . . .*," an exhibition catalog of selected items from Ed's collection with extensive introductory material. The catalog will be available for purchase both at the presentation and afterward.

Directly following the Whitman presentation, on April 1-3, the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, one of the largest book fairs in the U.S., will be held at the St. Petersburg Coliseum. FBS will be hosting an entrance table, introducing fair goers to FBS and to FABS at our own booth, and on Sunday providing free book valuations.

All of our "sayings and doings" are detailed in our monthly newsletter, *The Florida Bibliophile*, copies of which are accessible to all at <http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org/newsletters>.

Gary Simons
Secretary

GROLIER CLUB

During the second half of 2021 and into 2022, the Grolier Club maintained an active schedule of events, both virtual and in person, to keep members engaged with the club and with fellow members. The in-person events were open to a limited number of fully-vaccinated members and their guests. Most events were available virtually to the public.

A new monthly "Collector's Showcase" began under the guidance of member David L. DiLaura, coordinator and moderator. He is supported by a small Special Interest Group (SIG) that has been active during the past year. In the absence of conflicts, the meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month. The first session was February 16.

On view from January 12 through April 16, 2022 in the Ground Floor Gallery was *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects*, the first comprehensive Sherlock Holmes exhibition in New York City in more than half a century. Featured are many materials in Conan Doyle's hand. In conjunction with the exhibition, on February 22, 2022, Grolier Club member and collector Glen Miranker discussed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Glen, a foremost collector

of all things Sherlock, is the curator of the Grolier exhibition. His talk was presented in person to Grolier members and their guests and broadcast live to the membership and the public.

Highlights in the exhibition included leaves from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; four short story manuscripts; original artwork by the British and American illustrators who created Sherlock's iconic look for readers; a wealth of holograph letters from Conan Doyle to friends, colleagues, and well-wishers; a fascinating cache of pirated editions; the only known salesman's dummy for the US *Hound*; an "idea book" of Conan Doyle's private musings, in which he (in)famously and laconically penned "Killed Holmes" on his calendar for December 1893; and a handwritten speech—never before displayed—with the author's explanation for killing Holmes.

In the Second Floor Gallery through May 14 is the Member's Exhibition "Photographs at the Edge: Vittorio Sella and Wilfred Thesiger," drawn from the collection of Grolier member Roger Härtl. The exhibition combines Professor Härtl's collecting interests in exploration, mountaineering, and photography. Vittorio Sella (1859-1943) was an Italian photographer and mountaineer who specialized in mountain photography. Sir Wilfred Thesiger (1910-2003), a British military officer, explorer, writer and photographer, whose travel books include many classics, including *Arabian Sands* and *The Marsh Arabs*. Through rare books, photos, maps and ephemera from Dr. Härtl's collections, the exhibit reveals the intrepid spirit and documentary skill of the two explorers who worked to document the farthest reaches of the Earth: from spectacular high-altitude pictures of glaciers, peaks and valleys, to photos and written descriptions of the "Empty Quarter," a vast portion of the Arabian Desert.

Numerous invited presentations occurred during February and are reviewed below.

On February 18, British scholar Dennis Duncan, author of the new book, *Index, A History of the Index*, presented a program "How the Taken-for-Granted, Indispensable Index Came to the Backs of Books." He described how the index was invented—twice—in the 13th century, how it rose to prominence in the age of print, was weaponized by wags in the 18th century, and how it now underpins the search engines we use every day.

On February 24, the subject "Black Archives as Sites and Symbols of Black Liberation" was explored by two speakers: Grolier member Laurel Davis and Melanie Chambliss, with moderator, Grolier member Gabrielle

Dudley, Instruction Archivist at Emory University's Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library. The focus of the program was recent discoveries about how Black community libraries, activists and bibliophiles have preserved and advocated for deeper understanding of Black history. Librarian Laurel Davis, Curator of Special Collections and Lecturer in Law at Boston College Law School, spoke on Robert Morris (1825-1882) and a new digital exhibition from BCLS about his life and legacy. Morris was America's second Black lawyer and had a thriving practice in Boston. Morris was also a book collector; he and his wife Catharine donated books from his personal library to Boston College, forming part of the institution's foundational collection in English and American literature. Laurel discussed the recovery and reconstruction of the Morris collection at Boston College, and described how Morris's book collecting fit into the larger narrative of his life.

Dr. Melanie Chambliss, Assistant Professor of African American History in Columbia College Chicago's Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department, spoke on the George Cleveland Hall branch library in Chicago. Founded in 1932 as Chicago's first full branch to serve the city's growing Black population, the Hall Library became a site and a symbol for anyone wanting to learn more about African American history. The Hall Library's Special Negro Collection gave patrons the resources and frameworks with which to challenge White supremacist histories. Dr. Chambliss will explore how the surrounding community used and supported this collection as an expression of their racial identity.

On February 25, three speakers with a moderator told the story of the discovery in 2019 of medieval manuscript fragments containing an Arthurian text that surfaced unexpectedly at England's Bristol Central Library. The program was titled "The Bristol 'Merlin': From Treasure to Waste and Back Again." The speakers were Dr. Leah Tether, Dr. Laura Chuhan Campbell, and Dr. Benjamin Pohl; the moderator was Grolier member Daryl Green, Head of Special Collections, Center for Research Collections, University of Edinburgh.

The project team traced the journey of the fragments—seven 13th-century folios discovered inside the binding of a four-volume copy of the works of the French scholar and reformer Jean Gerson, printed between 1494 and 1502—from their inscription in France to their import to England, their possible ownership, and their evolution from recycled waste material to treasured possessions of the Bristol Library. The research work resulted in a

book: *The Bristol Merlin: Revealing the Secrets of a Medieval Fragment* (Arc Humanities Press).

On March 1 a presentation focused on the revival of the Plain Wrapper Press described the recent revival of a decades-old handpress known for its finely printed and illustrated limited editions of contemporary poetry and prose. New publications will carry the imprint Plain Wrapper Press Redux. In this Zoom talk, Plain Wrapper Press Redux publisher Mark E. Fischer, with Grolier Club member, printer, and designer Jerry Kelly, and Plain Wrapper Press printer/publisher Gabriel Rummonds, were the speakers. The original Plain Wrapper Press was founded in 1966 by Rummonds, who became one of the foremost handprinters of the 20th century. Fischer, founder of the fine press Stamperia Ponte Pietra, has teamed up with Rummonds and Kelly, who is designing Plain Wrapper Press Redux editions.

On March 4 Geoffrey Roberts, History Professor Emeritus at University College Cork and a major authority on Stalin and Soviet military and foreign policy, discussed his book *Stalin's Library: A Dictator and His Books* (Yale University Press, 2022). Roberts' book documents the Soviet dictator's voracious reading and annotation of thousands of volumes, how Stalin was influenced by his book collection, how the holdings were assembled, and what happened to the volumes after Stalinism fell out of favor.

Ronald K. Smeltzer

MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY

The Manuscript Society provides an incredible amount of current news, and educational and historical information about manuscripts and books. News of events, publications, and personalities are posted bi-monthly on the e-*Digest*, ably edited by Patricia Vaccaro. Links to original sources available on the internet are provided. Ms. Vaccaro also edits the Manuscript Society *News* provided quarterly to members, in print or electronic form. Issues typically contain a report by President Douglass Rohrman, detailed coverage of the Annual Meeting, and much more. The Fall 2021 issue featured an interesting article by Kenneth Rendell about his favorite autograph, and a tribute to esteemed MS member Anthony J. Mourek who died at age 78 on September 12, 2021. Mourek, a past Society President, was instrumental in the Society becoming a member of FABS, and directed unforgettable Annual Meet-

ings in Ireland in 1991 and 2002. He will be missed by not only the Manuscript Society but by other groups he graced such as the Caxton Club and the Grolier Society.

Manuscripts continues as a premier publication, now over 70 years in print, deserving to be much more widely known. Edited by Bradley D. Cook, it is published every 4 months. Articles based on original letters and manuscripts present historical information covering all categories of knowledge. Examples of topics from the last few issues include: The Marquis de Lafayette's efforts to obtain pensions for destitute veterans of the Revolutionary War; research on and examples of autopen and secretarial signatures of Supreme Court members; the rise and fall of eugenics; and the story of author Kenneth R. Bowley's search for the original 14 handwritten copies of the Bill of Rights, including how the First Ten Amendments to the Constitution came to be called "The Bill of Rights." *Manuscripts* book review editor William Butts presents cogent reviews of the best examples of recent books about manuscripts. In the Fall 2021 issue he writes about *The Bookseller of Florence*, by Ron King. Five hundred years ago the "book shop" was selling manuscripts (and there were a surprising number available), but when printed books came along the dealer retired.

From handwritten manuscripts, to printed books, to electronic letters and manuscripts, information transmission has evolved; and, somewhat paradoxically keeping up with the times, the MS introduces "Manuscript Monday Webinars." The series began Monday March 7, aired from 8-9 PM, EST. Brian Kathenes of National Appraisal Consultants presented a program titled "What's it Worth." It will be a walk through the appraisal process and guide on how to conduct valuation research on your collection by a top expert. On April 4 the subject, presented by Allan Ottens, is "a behind the scenes look" at writing his book *General John A. Rawlins: No Ordinary Man*. Ottens will provide tips for new authors, and traps of the publishing process to avoid. The May 2nd program is scheduled to be "Life Cycle of a Collection" by collections advisor Spencer W. Stuart, moderated by Brian Kathenes. Stuart will review things to consider while collecting as well as when the time comes to de-accession.

When you join the Manuscript Society (easily done on www.manuscript.org), you will be able to access the "Members Only" portion, where the Webinars, handouts and follow-up materials from each program, and the *Manuscript Society News* are archived. On the website non-members can

sign up for the *e-Digest* and the live webinars, but we hope you will join the Manuscript Society and take advantage of all the information available.

Barton Smith

NORTHERN OHIO BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETY

In 2021, all monthly NOBS Forums were held via Zoom. While we missed our in-person events, the virtual format had some advantages: people from all over Ohio (and beyond) were able to tune in to hear our featured guests and, during the long winter months, we were able to attend without having to clean snow off our cars. Through a varied slate of programs, we collectively learned about witchcraft, zines, pop-up books, and collage. We traveled virtually to the England of Jane Austen, peeked at the early days of Cleveland with the Wade Family, traced the Underground Railroad in Ohio, and envisioned the future of Philip K. Dick. Our annual meeting in November featured Betty Weibel, author of *The Ohio Literary Trail*, and David Weaver, director of the Ohioana Library Association.

Our 2022 Forums continue to be held virtually until the warmer months will (hopefully) allow us to meet in person again. In January, we held our annual Show & Tell event; while it was made a little more challenging via Zoom, we still enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity to learn more about some of our members unique collections. In February, Russell Maret, book artist and letter designer, presented a fascinating look at the history of typography, as well as a glimpse into his own journey as a typographer. Upcoming programs include presentations on photography, herbals, papermaking, Ulysses, and a field trip to Jane Austen Books in Novelty, Ohio.

The NOBS website (<https://www.nobsbooks.org/>) has been redesigned and offers many opportunities to learn more about NOBS, see upcoming events, view resources from past Forums, connect with dealer-members, and purchase NOBS publications. Our current officers are Ellen Strong, President; Wendy Wasman, Vice President; Andrea Klein, Secretary; Penny Shelby, Treasurer; and Larry Rakow, President Emeritus. Current board members are Paul Heyde, Robert Huber, Alex Krislov, Carole Lazarus, Laura Martin, Freddy Scott, and Todd Sommerfeld.

Wendy Wasman
Vice President

TICKNOR SOCIETY

The Ticknor Society began the 2021-2022 season with a visit to the home of Bob Frishman and Jeanne Schinto to learn about Bob's library on the subject of horology. Bob has repaired, collected, and sold vintage timepieces since 1980, founding his company Bell-Time Clocks in 1992, and his collection runs to over 860 books on clocks, watches, and the overall subject of horology. His engaging presentation included many highlights, such as the oldest book in his collection, ephemeral 19th-century clockmakers' catalogs, and modern reference works.

The start of October brought a guided tour by visual artist Sarah Hulsey of her new gallery show "Lexical Geometry." Sarah is an artist whose work explores the structure of language in a visual domain, and her show presented two new printmaking projects. In addition to her prints, Sarah also brought three of her artist's books and explained the sources and inspiration behind the imagery and the techniques she used to create the different works.

At the end of October, we were able to explore the recently renovated Houghton Library at Harvard University to view the exhibition "Animals Are Us," featuring examples of anthropomorphism in children's literature drawn largely from the collection of Peter J. Solomon. Scholarly and Public Programs Librarian Peter X. Accardo showed us around the newly redesigned and accessible public spaces of the library and guided us through treasures from the exhibition, such as original art by Beatrix Potter, Lewis Carroll's pocket watch, and modern children's books.

In November, Ticknorites traveled to Wenham, Mass., to the Jenks Library at Gordon College, where Professor Damon DiMauro and Archivist Sarah St. Germain introduced us to the Vining Rare Book Collection. We were able to see the exhibition "Eliot's Bible: Celebrating 100 Years of the Vining Collection" at the Barrington Center for the Arts before heading to the library for some hands-on fun with books from the collection, including a Nuremberg Chronicle and a 16th-century *Biblia Sacra Polyglotta*.

The annual Ticknor Society Collectors' Roundtable took place on November 19th in conjunction with the ABAA Virtual Book Fair: Boston Edition. Three panelists spoke on the subject of Edward Gorey: Gregory Hishchak, the Curator of the Edward Gorey House; Gorey collector and publisher Patrice Miller; and Christine von der Linn, the Director of the Illustration Art Department at Swann Auction Galleries. The discussion was lively and

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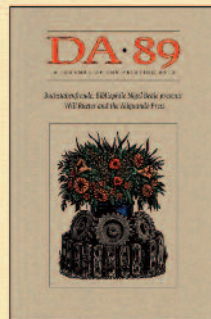
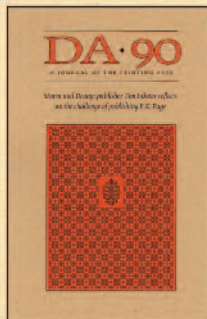


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informative, with excellent engagement and questions from the audience at the end.

During the roundtable event, we also announced the winner of the third annual Ticknor Collecting Prize, Erika Hapke Knowles, for her entry “A Pleasant Painting, Isn’t It?: New Milford, Connecticut as Artist’s Muse.” We began accepting entries for 2022 on March 1st, so if you’re a book, manuscript, and/or ephemera collector in New England, consider entering the contest for a chance to win \$1000. More details can be found at <https://bit.ly/3CpYCxg>.

Our final event of 2021 was our annual Ticknor Show & Tell, which brings together five Ticknor members to speak about the beauty and curiosities found in their libraries. This year’s participants were Marie Canaves, Drew Griffin, Claudia Hill, Marie Oedel, and Patrick Olson.

We held our first event of 2022 on January 22nd. Meghan Melvin, Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Curator of Design at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, hosted Ticknor members for an in-person look at the book illustrations of Ekua Holmes. Holmes is a Boston artist and community activist who works with a variety of materials, such as paper, paint, and found antiques, to create gorgeous, vibrant collages. The MFA’s exhibition primarily focused on her award-winning children’s book illustrations, which were often drawn from her own experiences and reflect her commitment to increasing representation in children’s literature.

In February, Ticknor members were treated to a virtual behind-the-scenes tour by Brittany Contratto, Archivist of the Museum of Science, Boston, who introduced us to the long history of the museum and its diverse collections, including first editions of seminal scientific works, photographs of mountaineering in the early 20th century, and records of preeminent scientists working in and around Boston.

The Ticknor Society has more exciting events planned for the latter half of our 2021-2022 season, including virtual presentations by Joan Ilacqua, Executive Director of The History Project, Boston’s LGBTQ+ community archives, and Erika Hapke Knowles, who will discuss her Ticknor Prize-winning collection of items related to New Milford, CT. This year also marks our 20th anniversary, so we are planning a special Annual Meeting to close out the season. More on that next time!

Shannon Struble

BOOK CLUB OF WASHINGTON

The Book Club of Washington (BCW) actively continues to provide interesting events for our members, who primarily reside in the Pacific Northwest but also other geographies. We also publish two *Journal* issues each year. Due to the coronavirus situation, we have suspended on-site meetings and events and provide many book-related events online. Many of our past events are also available via a video. Our events, publications, and membership information can be viewed on the Book Club of Washington's website, www.bookclubofwashington.org.

In 2022 we are acknowledging that this is our 40th anniversary as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting, preserving, and appreciating fine books. In particular, the Spring 2022 Book Club of Washington *Journal* will be focused on the founding of the BCW, the evolution, how we love and collect our books, and more.

The new website that we created last fall has brought many benefits, including a less time-consuming option for maintaining a roster of new and renewing members and collecting RSVPs for events. We have seen an increase in the purchase of our publications, which include books, individual issues of *The Journal of The Book Club of Washington*, and broadsides. We now have an active blog that automatically feeds a link to members and others who have signed up when there is a new post.

The Book Club of Washington typically hosts a new event most months, which is primarily continuing online. We have been able to open our online programs to more guests and prospective members than was the case with our in-person events. In recent months we have had several online events. Some upcoming events will be with Art Seto Professor of Book Design and Arts, Howard Iron Work printing museum, and more. Others will occur and be available this summer and fall. You can review the details and register to attend on the website.

Our regular award programs continue each year and are described on the Book Club of Washington website. The most prestigious Emory Award is presented annually to individuals that make a significant contribution to the culture of the book in Washington. It will be awarded this fall. The Monroe Award has been awarded to outstanding students who have made significant contributions to the culture of the book in our region. We also support a book collecting contest at the University of Puget Sound Collins Memorial Library in support of a new generation of collectors.

Receiving the Book Club of Washington *Journal*, published twice a year in spring and fall, is one of the benefits of membership. Each issue assembled by our notable Editor, David Wertheimer, features articles on a broad variety of subjects by members and other invited contributors from the bibliophile community. The contents of all the issues are specified on our website, which also includes details of how additional *Journal* issues can be purchased by members or non-members.

We welcome bibliophiles from anywhere to become members of the Book Club of Washington—collectors, dealers, librarians, and all who enjoy books. Memberships can be purchased directly on our website or you can contact us at info@bookclubofwashington.org about submitting a check.

Claudia Skelton
Vice President

THE WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

We hope that you, your families, and colleagues continue to be safe and well. As we continue to monitor the pandemic, we have thus far opted to continue with virtual programming, but of course we look forward to a time where we can meet again in person.

Our year began in September with a lecture by Kenneth Gloss, proprietor of the Brattle Book Shop in Boston, who shared the story of his historic bookshop, which opened its doors in 1825. Ken discussed growing up in the book business, showed some of his favorite finds, and explained how he appraises books and manuscripts.

In November the group welcomed Marianna Stell and Dr. Stephanie Stillo from the Library of Congress, who gave a fascinating lecture entitled, “From Wood to Wonder: Block Books in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection.”

In January the Group held its first Book Discussion, where we looked at *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray; a fictionalized story of Belle da Costa Greene, personal librarian to J.P. Morgan. We paired the novel with a scholarly article on Greene and three newspaper articles composed while Greene was still active, to provide additional context for the work and our discussion. The event was such a success, we’d like to hold another discussion next January. Please email the group if you have book recommendations!

We are also proud to announce the fourth winner of the WRBG Rare Book School Scholarship. This year's winner, Ryan Zohar, is completing his MLIS degree this year and currently works as a librarian for the Middle East Institute in DC. Having only worked with digitized copies of recent texts thus far, he intends to take the RBS course "Introduction to Islamic Manuscripts" at the Free Library of Philadelphia for the invaluable hands-on experience with early manuscripts

As a group of committed bibliophiles, we take pride in the WRBG scholarship to Rare Book School. We are enabling talented people in our area to build on their bibliographic interests and enjoy a week of intense study with like-minded students. Rare Book School administers the scholarship for us. More information is available here: <https://rarebookschool.org/admissions-awards/scholarships/wrbg-scholarship/>. The award includes a one-year membership in the WRBG and a request that each recipient make a presentation to the group on her experience at RBS. Several winners have had to postpone their courses due to the pandemic, but we look forward to hearing from them all about their experiences.

As we look ahead, we have some very exciting events planned, including a talk about the historic censorship of Hebrew books, and a possible in-person trip to a Rare Book Fair!

If you are interested in learning more about the group or would like to join us, feel free to visit our website at <http://washingtonrarebookgroup.org/> or send us an email.

Amanda Zimmerman

WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES

With the interests of the FABS *Journal* readership in mind, I am going to omit details here regarding the Society's growth in membership (students now join for free); its increased social media presence; the redone, beautiful, and increasingly augmented website; the remarkable people elected to the board of directors; and the fellowships and prizes officered for scholarly and creative work related to William Morris. Let's concentrate on what we are here for—matters related to books and collecting. (Mention, however, must



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be made of the Society's *print* newsletter, *Useful & Beautiful*, which often covers bibliophilic topics; it's under new editorship, the devoted, and wonderful Florence Boos having stepped down after many years.)

First off, back on October 6, the Society held a virtual visit to the Delaware Art Museum to see the reinstalled Bancroft Pre-Raphaelite Collection. In 2021 the museum completed a five-year reinterpretation and re-installation plan for the 200 works of Pre-Raphaelite art assembled by turn-of-the-century Quaker industrialist Samuel Bancroft. This new display successfully re-aligns the art of the Victorians with current political and social circumstances. The collection's curator, Margaretta S. Frederick, focused on the paintings, drawings, and works of decorative art, but pointed out several printed works, notably the PRB's radical periodical, *The Germ*, and volumes by Christina Rossetti and other writers, some with illustrations and covers designed by Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The Delaware Art Museum's library, by the way, holds not only a mass of Pre-Raphaelite books and manuscripts but also a significant gathering of publisher's bindings of the period 1880-1920 and much by the Brandywine illustrators, notably Howard Pyle.

A month later, the Society acted as a co-sponsor for the UK Morris Society's hybrid (part in-person, but also online) symposium, "The Kelmscott Press and Its Legacies," which took place at the St. Bride Foundation in London. In many ways a follow-up to our International Kelmscott Press Day (June 26, 2021), this tribute to Morris's last great artistic undertaking bringing new views and information forward. The ten presentations, headed by Marcus Waithe (University of Cambridge), giving a keynote on "Pocket Cathedrals: Craftsmanship, Architecture, and the Kelmscott Press," covered such subjects as illustration in the Kelmscott Chaucer, the making of a recent private press edition of unpublished Morris letters, and the histories of lesser-known associates who helped make Morris's printing venture possible. Sadly, technical problems prevented printmaker (and Society member) Yoshiko Yamamoto of the Arts & Crafts Press from delivering her video from Tacoma, Washington—we hope to make this a special event in the future.

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 had a deleterious effect on the Modern Language Association's annual conference, held in Washington, DC in early January 2022. The Society's two sessions had to be moved online, on short notice. Co-organized with the Society for the History of Authorship, Authorship, and Publishing (SHARP), the second session was devoted to "The Pre-Raphaelite Book." The participants and their topics were: "Illustrating History in *The Germ* (Courtney Krolczyk, Rutgers University),



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“Enigma Variations: Looking at Burne-Jones and Morris’s ‘Cupid and Psyche’ Prints” (Mark Samuels Lasner, University of Delaware), “Pre-Raphaelite Print Legacies and *The Lark*” (Rebecca N. Mitchell, University of Birmingham), and “Ornamental Borders: Paratext and Imperial Britain” (Jennifer Rabedeau, Cornell University). As with the tour of the Delaware Art Museum and the Kelmscott symposium in London, we hope these presentations will be made available to all online. (A visit to see the library of the Society of the Cincinnati was also on the schedule, but had to be cancelled along with the Society’s social gathering.) In the works are more virtual—and even, virus allowing, in-person—activities. Details will be found on the Society’s website, www.morrissociety.org.

Mark Samuels Lasner

ZAMORANO CLUB

Having resumed face-to-face meetings, the Zamorano Club has forged ahead with a full schedule of meetings during the 2021-2022 year under the leadership of Presidents Jean Gillingwaters and Nick Ervin. As the following list of meeting topics reveals, the Club continues to schedule a truly varied set of speakers under the guidance of Programming co-chairs Jen Johnson and Romy Wyllie.

Our last report, for the Fall 2021 issue, concluded with the October meeting. Following that, the November 3 meeting featured David H. Mihaly, the Curator of Graphic Arts and Social History at the Huntington Library, speaking on “The Perfect Wave: California Culture Ephemera and the Founding Fathers.”

For the December 1, 2021, meeting—our annual “Gaudeamus” celebration—the speaker was William Deverell, a man about as busy as a man can be, including working in the USC Dept of History and Spatial Sciences; as Director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West; as Director of the USC Library Collections Convergence Institute; and as host of the podcast series, *Western Edition*. Somehow he found time to speak to us on “The West on Fire: How the West’s Relationship with Fire Has Shaped Both Its Past and Present.”

Karla Nielsen, Curator of Literary Collections at the Huntington, spoke

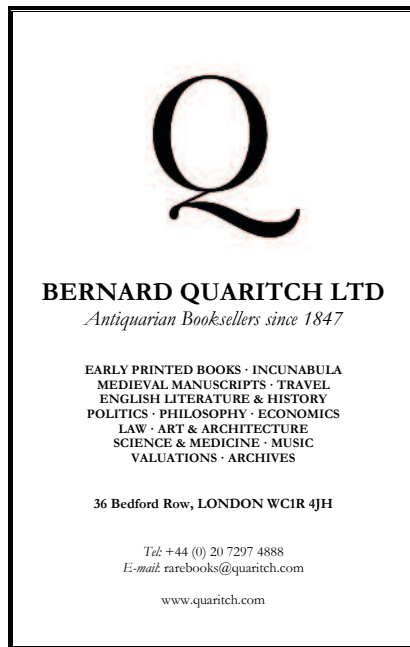
on January 5, 2022, on the topic of “About Mapping Fiction, an Exhibition on the Occasion of the *Ulysses* Centenary.”

Then, on February 2, 2022, Carolee Campbell spoke on “A Descriptive Bibliography of Ninja Press.”

Finally, bringing this report up to date, on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, the Club was honored with a presentation by artist Nan Rae. Her art has been chosen for the New York Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony Asian tours; for the Golden Globe invitations; and for numerous book illustrations. Her topic was “Understanding Chinese Paintings through the Lens of Western Art.”

Amid all the difficulties of dealing with the pandemic, the Club was also forced to relocate, having lost its venue of several years in Pasadena. But we did find another location at the Altadena Town and Country Club. Also continuing to serve the club, Kim Keeline and David Archibald have skillfully operated the computers while Jean Gillingwaters has provided the impressive invitation printing. Larry Burgess and Nathan Gonzales continue as editors of our quarterly journal, *Hoja Volante*. Margaret Dickerson also continues efficiently as Business Secretary.

Dr. William Lomax



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