

Antiquarian Booksellers' Association

NEWSLETTER



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In Memoriam

Rob Shepherd (1952 - 2022)



Rob Shepherd, who passed away in August 2022, is remembered here by his colleagues from across the bookbinding and rare book trades.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Rob Shepherd, Managing Director of Shepherds Bookbinders Ltd and co-founder of Bound by Veterans, who died on 13th August 2022 after a long illness. He set up his bookbinding business in 1988 and not only became widely known and respected amongst the bookbinding community but was also passionate about training and spared no effort in trying novel training methods and developing opportunities for learning craft bookbinding.

In 2011 he co-founded Bound by Veterans, known initially as The Wiltshire Barn Project, and as its prime sponsor helped it reach charitable status a year later. He then helped place Bound by Veterans on a secure footing by persuading the City &

Guilds Institute to reinstate bookbinding onto its list of heritage crafts and provided the means by which we are now able to award these internationally recognised City & Guilds qualifications to Veterans. In recent years he was a catalyst for the creation of the Queen's Bindery Apprenticeship Scheme and pivotal in the development of national Apprenticeship standards for bookbinding, although perhaps behind it all he was inspired by a keen desire to find Veterans from his "special" charity who might graduate from classes at the Daffodil Barn to a full-blown commercial apprenticeship in the bookbinding trade.

He promoted the charity tirelessly through the Worshipful Company of Stationers, of which he was a Liveryman, and the many other links he had made in the bookbinding and commercial world. He gave us a solid financial start and mapped out a development programme that we follow today. It combines craft training with the therapeutic support for which this charity has become synonymous, and produces a regime that promotes confidence, self-esteem and mental well-being. We will miss his advice and influence but, above all, will miss a real gentleman who supported us with charm, dedication and determination.

— Jonathan Powell, Co-Founder and Trustee of Bound by Veterans

The moving obituary above illustrates how wide was Rob's sphere of influence. It was difficult to meet anyone who knew him without discovering another charitable initiative in which he was closely

involved! It was thanks to Rob that a small group of us went to Windsor Castle in 2016 to celebrate the launch of the Queen's Bindery Apprenticeship Scheme, a wonderful day when we saw an extraordinary selection of fine bindings, my enjoyment tempered only by the constant fear of treading on a Corgi. On the way back to the station at the foot of Castle Hill, Rob proudly pointed out the pub where his father had been the landlord, and where he had been born.

Most of us thought of Rob as a bookbinder, so we were a little surprised when in around 2007 he applied to join the ABA; but he was beginning to deal in significant books (I remember selling him Nureyev and Chaplin presentation copies at this time), and of course his steadiness and warmth made him a perfect candidate. Within what seems to be no time he had taken over from Jonathan Potter as Treasurer: a hard act to follow, but Rob's obvious fairness, and his determination to do his best for every single member, meant that these were productive times for the Association. His move to ILAB was just as successful, and he ushered in a new era of transparency that has enhanced the League's reputation beyond measure.

I first got to know Rob as a frequent visitor to Chelsea Rare Books, probably not long after 1988, as I remember him talking about producing a binding to commemorate the Piper Alpha disaster in that year. I know I am far from alone in feeling that every time we met, he lifted the spirits. We will miss him.

(Readers will also enjoy Sheila Markham's interview with Rob, which can be found [here](#).)

— Angus O'Neill

ABA 'Fifty Years A Bookseller' Award

Bruce Marshall

Presented at Firsts London in September 2022, the ABA 'Fifty Years a Bookseller' pin was given to Bruce Marshall of Marshall Rare Books, Cheltenham.

Speaking of Bruce's experience, ABA President Pom Harrington said "Bruce has been dealing at the top end of the trade throughout his career, with great success. He has been a strong supporter of book fairs through the years"

Many congratulations to Bruce on being fifty years a bookseller!



Pom Harrington presenting Bruce with the 50 Years a Bookseller award at Firsts London 2022

The ABA Educational Trust Traineeship Scheme

Antiquarian booksellers play an important part in sustaining interest in the history of the book and the dissemination of knowledge through the books they sell. It is not surprising therefore to find that booksellers are often some of the best people to teach others about books and bookselling. To this end, the ABA Educational Trust Traineeship Scheme offers financial and tutorial support to an ABA member to hire a trainee. While working for the ABA member, the trainee follows a two-year course based on a curriculum devised and monitored by the ABA Educational Trust, ensuring that they gain experience in all aspects of the trade. The aim is that, by the end of the course, the successful trainee can be considered a competent junior bookseller. We are delighted to share these experiences from three recent participants in the traineeship scheme.

Poppy Connor-Slater



When I started my traineeship at Lucius Books I knew nothing about the book trade, and only a little about rare books in general. However, this quickly changed as I began to learn about the daily tasks involved in the running of a book shop such as cataloguing, fulfilling orders, shelving books, dressing the window, assisting customers, and managing social media accounts. I have also had the opportunity to help create catalogues, represent Lucius Books at book fairs, view auctions, and learn about buying books from the

public. The traineeship and the Educational Trust offered a useful structure and support system for my education in rare books, helping me to lay out clear goals and to locate holes in my knowledge.

Through exposure to the many various tasks and all the fascinating books that the job involves, I was soon able to identify the areas which excite me most, which are women's writing and pre-1970 illustrated children's books. Another aspect of the trade I am interested in is the potential for attracting more young female customers to the world of rare books, as I feel that this is an under-represented demographic. Having learned so much while working with rare books (and I continue to learn new things every day!) I hope that my enthusiasm for these topics will in turn bring something valuable to Lucius Books and to the trade.



Lucius Books in York

Ben Critchley



At the beginning of July I was told that it was exactly three years since I started my part-time traineeship at McNaughtan's, including working three days a week in the windows between lockdowns when the shop was legally allowed to be open. So it's been a disjointed traineeship/apprenticeship, but in that time I've handled thousands of books. The traineeship syllabus is flexible enough anyway – auctions, book fairs and people selling us their books never come along in any kind of order, and although no two things are alike I recognise more and more books and make more and more connections between things. I've catalogued hundreds of books now, each adding to the stock of comparisons, and I'm pleased to say that much of McNaughtan's latest catalogue is my work. I'm very lucky to have a boss who patiently fields all my questions and who also lets me loose on some astonishing things – to get to where I am now on my own would have taken a decade and cost me a great deal of

money. I still excitedly click on our catalogue when it comes through on the mailing list and look at the things I catalogued even though I know exactly what it's going to say because I wrote it last week, and I can't quite believe I get to do this as a career. I'm delighted to report that at the beginning of June I started full-time hours and I know that a full-time position at McNaughtan's would not have happened without the support of the ABA Educational Trust Traineeship. The help and encouragement I continue to receive from the rest of the trade is a joy and a wonder. To repay the trust put in me as a trainee bookseller is both a responsibility and a pleasure I look forward to in the coming years.



McNaughtan's in Edinburgh

Oliver Darkshire

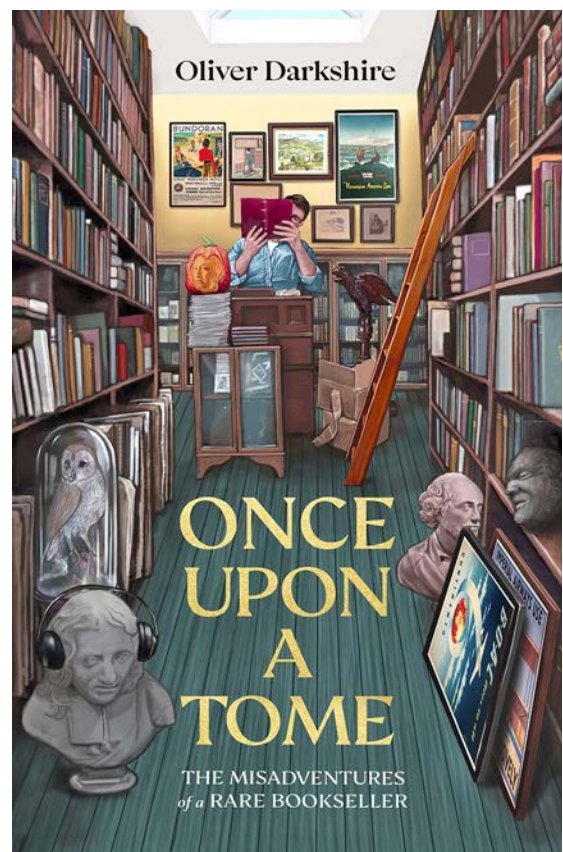


I don't think anyone plans to become a rare bookseller so much as the profession mugs them in a dark alley and replaces their CV with a set of elbow patches. I count myself incredibly lucky to have stumbled into an apprenticeship in the rare book trade. Rare books is something of a hands-on industry, where being close to the material on a daily basis really matters, and it was the help of the ABA Educational trust that gave me the chance not only to work alongside experienced mentors, but also to support myself financially in the process. Being introduced to the occasional stuffed owl along the way was merely a colourful bonus.

Every day in the rare book trade presents you with new experiences and challenges - I don't think a day goes by where you aren't placed in a dusty room with the opportunity to learn

something new. You don't have to know much about goatskin when you start, but you probably will by the time you finish! An apprenticeship or traineeship is a space designed for you to start at the bottom, get your hands dirty, and work your way upwards, which I have always felt is one of the best ways to learn.

Traineeships offered by the ABA help to introduce new voices and perspectives to the antiquarian book community, while also giving established booksellers an extra pair of hands around the shop. It's mutually beneficial, and an arrangement that represents the best of what an old trade like ours has to offer. If you're as fortunate as I have been then it might even lead to a career doing something you love.



Oliver's book, *Once Upon a Tome*, is out now

Titans of the Trade #25: Ric Latham

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Interview by Giles Lyon

How did you get into the rare book business?

I started working part time for a friend of my parents, Derek Wise, who was a PBFA member in his retirement and needed help with using a computer and selling online. His personal collection of Lord Byron was remarkable and gave me a crash course in issue points, piracies, watermarks and so on, as well as using bibliographies, all of which I remember finding utterly fascinating. After a year or so of cataloguing and packing parcels Alan and Jennifer Shelley took me on and I've been here ever since.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Not a concept I believe in.

What type of books do you tend to deal in?

Whatever we're offered - being in Sussex means that we sell a lot of Bloomsbury and St. Dominic's Press. With Gideon Mantell's house just up the road 19th century geology is a

minor specialism, but buying mostly privately we never know what's going to come in next. One of the joys of having general stock is the sheer breadth of it - recently we had a 16th century apocrypha and a Star Trek cookbook go out for sale on the same day.

What book(s) do you first remember reading?

A lot of the classics - A.A. Milne, *Swallows and Amazons* and C.S. Lewis, and then as I got a bit older Tolkien and Susan Cooper's *The Dark is Rising* series.

What aspects of our trade do you like / dislike?

I like how friendly it is. I missed bookfairs during covid far more for the gossip than the sales, and being in a world where everyone's more or less glad to be doing the job they're doing is very refreshing. Visiting collectors and their houses is always interesting even if you don't come away with any books - finding yourself in strange little corners of the country that you never knew were there.

I don't think there's much to dislike, although I wish there was some way to regulate the wilder fringes of online cataloguing.

What media do you tend to follow?

The Guardian, my son's Beanos, the New Yorker if I've got a long train journey.

Which five people would make up your dream dinner party?

Iain Banks, Joni Mitchell, Clive James, Ursula Le Guin and Peter Cook.

Favourite holiday destination?

The west coast of Scotland.

Favourite hotel / pub / restaurant?

The Swan or the Lewes Arms here, for food Flint House or Moshimo in Brighton.

What football team do you support (or other sports team)?

Liverpool.

Describe the rare book you dream of handling?

I still hold out hope that a copy of Tom Paine's first pamphlet, "The Case of the Officers of Excise", published in Lewes in 1772, is lying under a floorboard not far from here.

Glass of wine or pint of beer?

Beer, please.

What is your favourite book fair?

Chelsea. A lovely room to spend two days in, big enough to wander round without getting bored but not so big it gets tiring. And going home at the end of the day.

What do you do for exercise?

Walk up hills fairly briskly.

What's the square root of 97?

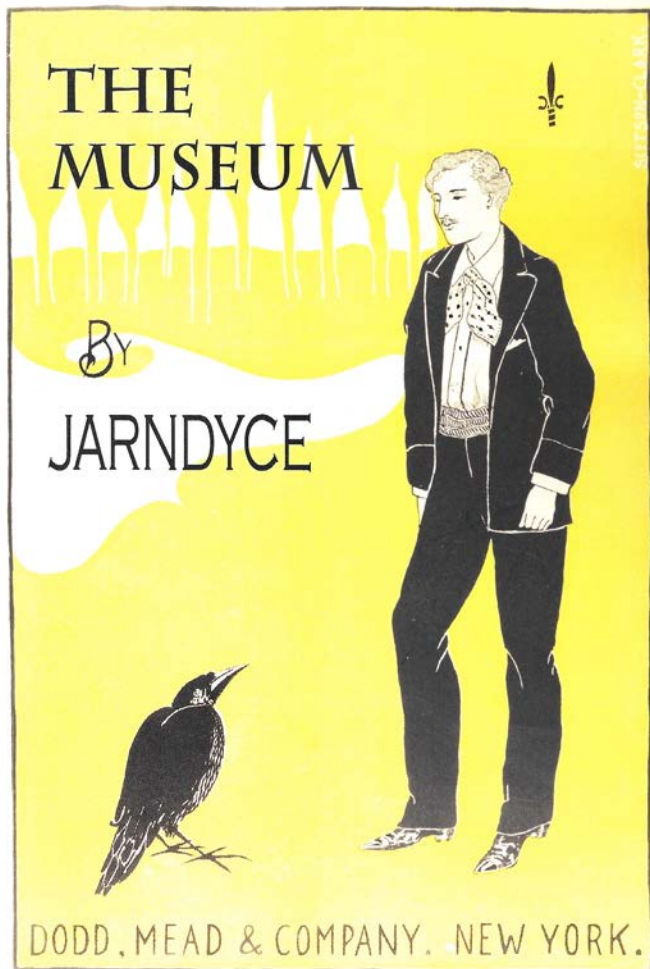
9.8 something.

Which celebrity customers come into your shop?

The scariest was definitely Ian Paisley.

Catalogue Review

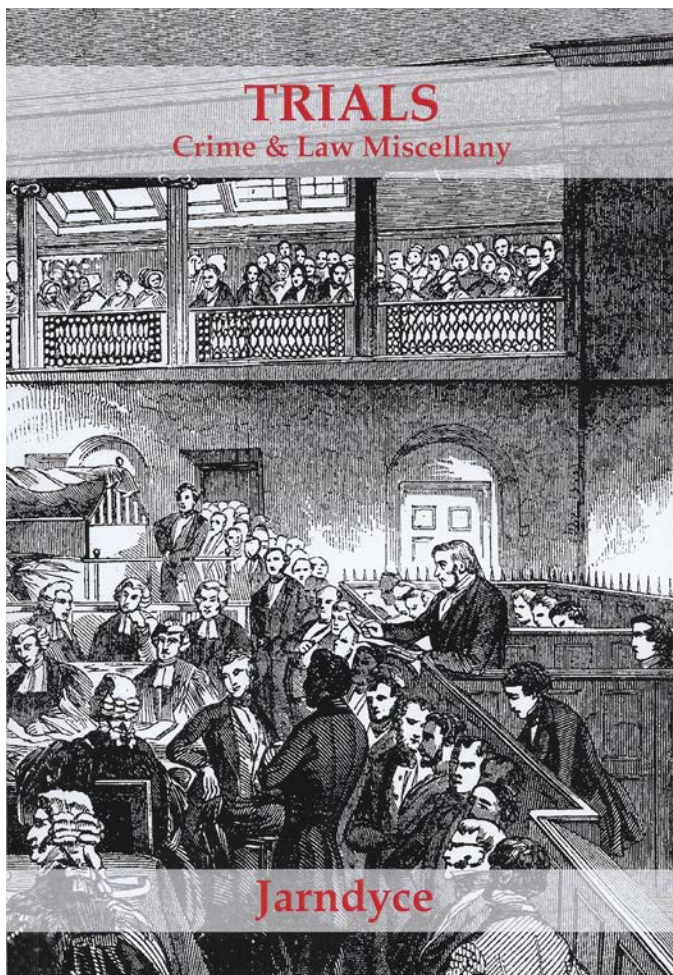
By James Fergusson



The multifarious catalogues of **Jarndyce** (books@jarndyce.co.uk) are a marvel of industry. CCLX, 'The Museum', 300 items, is typical. Heavyweight, but with a light touch, it is a cabinet of curiosities, indulgently described, nobly and colourfully illustrated. Here are a demure wash-and-watercolour portrait by Edward Nash of Sara Coleridge, 1816, the 13-year-old daughter of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, £6,500, and an 'unrecorded' memorial mezzotint of Princess Charlotte, 1817, charming but formidable, only child of the future King George IV but dead at 21 in childbirth, £350; a lively Cruikshank illustration, 'Clairvoyance', for *The Table Book*

(1845), £1,500, a Dickens letter, 1852, with extravagant signature, £2,000, a photograph of the Gladstones outside Hawarden, fooling about with trees, c1865, very evocative, £75, and Christina Rossetti's 1870 short stories, *Commonplace*, with the ownership signature of C.L. Dodgson, £2,000. Most poignantly thrilling are two 'lost' volumes of the manuscript journal, 1831–3, of Emily Shore (1819–1839, born in Bury St Edmunds, died in Madeira aged 19 of consumption) – 'perhaps the most important diary by a young woman' suggests Jarndyce's catalogue note 'in the pre-Victorian era', £65,000. The fastidious hand of the manuscript apes a printed text, and her sisters eventually saw it through the press in 1891.

With the winding-up last year of John Drury Rare Books, we lost valuable insights into the undergrowth of history. The Edmunds' catalogues, with their concentration on 'political economy and the human and social sciences', led one into happy byways, to treat more often with groundlings than the main players. In adopting the murky underclass as its subject, Jarndyce CCLVI, 'Trials & Law Miscellany', 519 items, has the same merit, and to the same vivid effect, like bizarre *cinéma vérité*. Alphabetising its contents by defendant, the catalogue gives equal weight to thieves, adulterers, arsonists and poisoners as to those charged with white-collar crimes such as libel and treason. Burke and Hare might get into trouble over their academic craving for cadavers, but turn the page and you find 'David Haggart, alias John Wilson,



alias John Morison, alias Barney M'Coul, alias John M'Colgan, alias Daniel O'Brien, alias The Switcher', 'who escaped from Dumfries jail by killing a turnkey and stealing his keys. He was apprehended and hanged aged only 21. "I cannot help it" he confessed. "I was born for a thief; look at my fingers, they are all of an equal length, like the prongs of a fork, and thus they never fail me."'

An account of Haggart's life, 'written by himself, while under sentence of death', is priced, in the third edition of 1821, at £85. Fifty-five years later, William Apsee is arraigned at Somerset Summer Assizes for, 'wickedly and against the Order of nature', bugging a cow. The manuscript brief for the prosecution, '7pp elephant folio, folded, tied

at top left corner with pink ribbon', is £280. For £450 the prurient may secure an account of the trial of Mrs Catherine Newton, 1782, sued by her husband for adultery with 'Mr. Isham Baggs, a young Oxonian; Mr. Brett, a Player at Bath; Thomas Cope, Mrs. Newton's Coachman; Isaac Hatheway, her Footman; John Ackland . . . and divers other Persons!' 'Highly salacious', comments Jarndyce. One Charles Lilburn puts together an extraordinary collection of broadsides and pamphlets, some unrecorded, relating to 'Remarkable Criminals, Trials, Confessions. 1661-1750' (grisly tales of pickpockets, perjurers, highwaymen, murderers), handsomely mounted and assembled in mid-19th-century half brown morocco, £12,500.

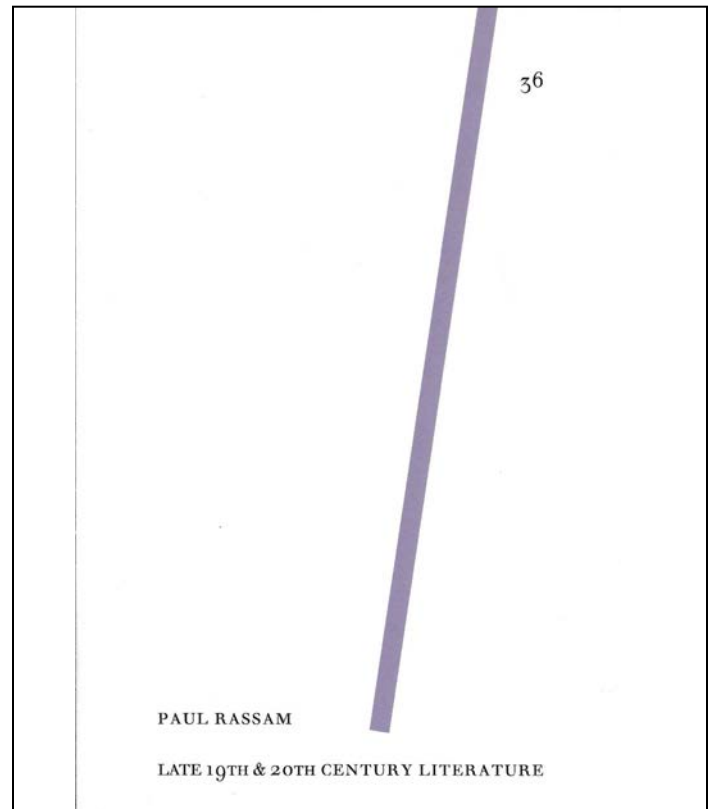


Originating in the collection of Ellery Yale Wood and a gem of its kind, Jarndyce CCLVII, 'The CATalogue', 270 items, is devoted – 'a new departure' – to cats. Puss in Boots runs to 28 items, Louis Wain 11, Old Possum 2. Ruth Pitter, alas, nil.

Claude Cox (books@claudecox.co.uk), 211, 266 items, was a welcome return to printed catalogues after a two-year gap. Cox's catalogues have a distinct flavour, bookish and familiar, with a leaning towards the local and a loyalty to the private press, and pleasing provenances in such wise collectors as Iain Bain, John Blatchly, Ruari McLean and Brian North Lee. In this latest are to be found Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (first UK edition, 1917), £450, in the copy of Arthur Lett-Haines, sometime partner of Cedric Morris in the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing at Dedham and then at Benton End, near Hadleigh, and, at the same price, Eliot's *Collected Poems 1909–1935* (1936) with a typed letter signed from the author, 29 March 1940, declining a speaking engagement. 'An enterprising first year Oxford undergraduate,' the cataloguer writes, 'my father [i.e. Claude Cox], had invited the great man to speak to the Wadham Literary Society.'

Harold Acton asked Gertrude Stein to speak to 'The Ordinary', a literary society at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1926. **Paul Rassam** (paul@paulrassam.com), 36, 'Late 19th & 20th Century Literature', 150 items, opens with an invitation card inscribed by Acton for the event, £300. 'It was very exciting,' Stein remembered. 'One of the men [Maurice Bowra] was so moved that he confided to me

as we went out that the lecture had been his greatest experience since he had read Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*.'



Rassam's notes abound in learning and relish. He identifies a 'previously unrecorded' first book by Cecil Day-Lewis, *The Power of Music* [Sherborne?, c1925], £1,750. Other high spots are Walter Pater's first book, *Studies in the History of the Renaissance* (second edition, 1877, retitled *The Renaissance: studies in art and poetry*), inscribed by the 24-year-old, newly graduated Oscar Wilde to, apparently, Lady Olive Guinness (the super-rich future Lady Ardilaun), £7,500; Robert Byron's *The Road to Oxiana* (1937), inscribed to 'Mr. & Mrs. Hoyland', stars of a rackets episode on the road to Isfahan, £3,500; Kingsley Amis's *Lucky Jim* (1953), with the ownership inscription of its dedicatee's girlfriend Monica Jones, much betrayed by Philip Larkin in the making of the

novel, £2,500; Ted Hughes's *Wodwo* (1967), inscribed to Henry Williamson, 'Only an owl knows the worth of an owl', £1,750; and, also £1,750, the dedication copy of Barbara Pym's *The Sweet Dove Died* (1978), to 'her last great love', Richard Roberts.

Rare Books & Manuscripts

mostly recent acquisitions

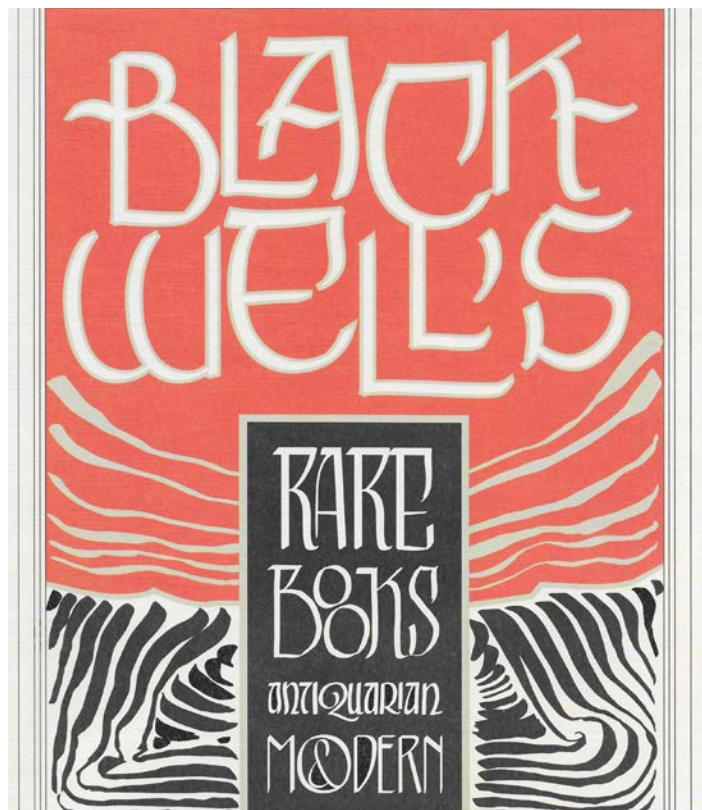


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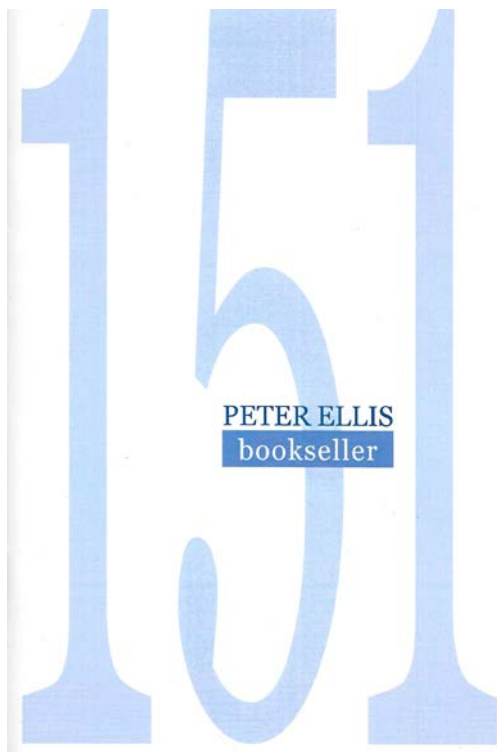
Scholarly and wide-ranging, **Christopher Edwards** (chr.edwards@btinternet.com), 85, 'Rare Books & Manuscripts: mostly recent acquisitions', 90 items, offered the Kallierges Pindar, 'the most important Pindar edition ever', Rome, 1515, £6,000, a 'very fine' begging letter from Christopher Smart to Sir John Hussey Delaval Bt, 26 April 1770, £8,500, a curious collection of Welsh poetry, Rhys Jones's *Gorchestion beirdd Cymru* (1773), to which Samuel Johnson and the Thrales were subscribers, £350, and a collection in his own copies of the works of Charles Richard Cammell (1890–1968), poet and biographer of Aleister Crowley, £650.

Blackwell's Rare Books (rarebooks@blackwell.co.uk), B200, 90 items, boasted two enticing albums, one of watercolours, 1823–53, elaborately bound for Georgiana, Duchess of Bedford (at least one of the sketches perhaps by her lover Edwin Landseer), £7,500, another from the 1890s, in more distressed condition, gathering the work in ink or pencil of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's youngest brother, Octavius Moulton-Barrett, and his son Charles, £2,500; and the original corrected typescript of Michael Bond's *Paddington Goes to Town* (1968), £8,000. The same dealer's B199, 'Modern First Editions', 100 items, had three letters from Millicent Fawcett to Maurice H. Richmond, President of the Oxford Union, 1908, agreeing to address the society – the first woman speaker in its history, £1,000, Philip Larkin's copy, bought at Blackwell's and with his strange hexagram bookplate, of Austin Clarke's 1936 *Collected Poems*, £200, and C.S. Lewis and E.M.W. Tillyard's *The*

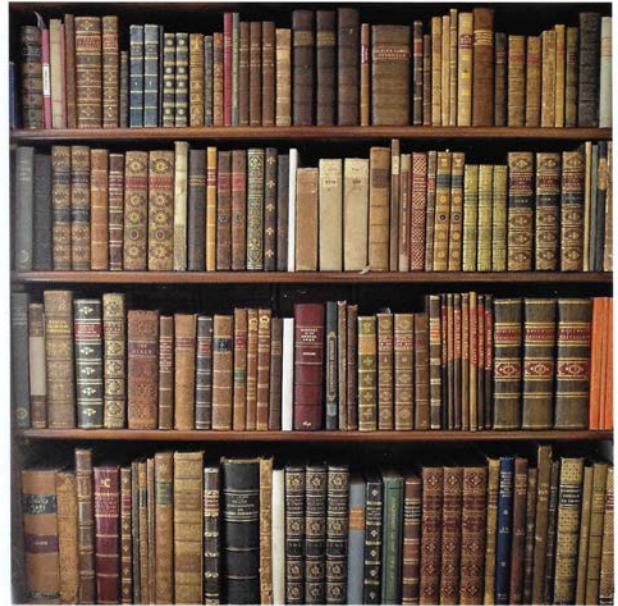


Personal Heresy (1939) in the copy of the Oxford philosopher Basil Mitchell, Lewis's successor as President of the Socratic Club, £220.

In the six months since the last Catalogue Review **Peter Ellis** (peterellisbooks@hotmail.co.uk) likewise issued two catalogues: 151, 443 items, had Harold Nicolson's biographies *Swinburne* (1926) and *Sainte-Beuve* (1957, the dedication copy), both inscribed to Raymond Mortimer, £1,250 and £1,750, Patrick Hamilton's 1954 play *The Man Upstairs* inscribed to his first wife and with a letter to the author from the BBC, £2,750, and Roy Fuller's *New Poems* (second impression, 1969), inscribed and with a good letter to Edward Upward about *The Rotten Elements*, £65; 152, 447 items, included the dedication copy of the diarist 'Chips' Channon's *The Ludwigs of Bavaria* (1933) to Lady Diana Cooper, £1,850, and a 'bright' but not brilliant copy of Philip Larkin's *XX Poems* (1951), £8,750.



FOREST BOOKS



MISCELLANY THIRTEEN

William Cowan (wcowanbooks@aol.com), 69, had Katherine Mansfield's first collection of stories, *In a German Pension* (second impression, 1912), in the copy of her second cousin Evelyn Payne, £800, and a signed copy of Tennessee Williams's *Baby Doll* (1957), £750.

Forest Books (bib@forestbooks.co.uk), Miscellany 13, 'A Catalogue of Rare and Curious Books, Pamphlets & Printed Ephemera on a wide variety of subjects', 199 items, featured a complete run for the 19th century of *The Builder*, 77 volumes, 1843–99, £9,775, and an album of late-19th-century photographs of Knole and other Kent houses, deriving from the Verney family and probably by Charles Essenhigh Corke, £475.

Bennett & Kerr (bennettkerr@aol.com) issued two thick catalogues, 227, 'Elfric to Wyclif: the library of the late Anne Hudson (1938–2021), Professor of Medieval English at Oxford University', 1,768 items, and 228, 'Middle Ages & Renaissance: including books on Carolingian history', 1,140 items.

Julian Nangle (julian@nanglerarebooks.co.uk) has moved house (and shop) again – from Weymouth back to Dorchester. His 124, 237 items, had complete sets of *Coterie*, 1919–21, £750, and *New Coterie*, 1925–7, £250, and Douglas Cleverdon's edition of Siegfried Sassoon's *Vigils* (1934) with a letter from Cleverdon to James Stevens Cox, 13 September 1976, about Thomas Hardy, £750.

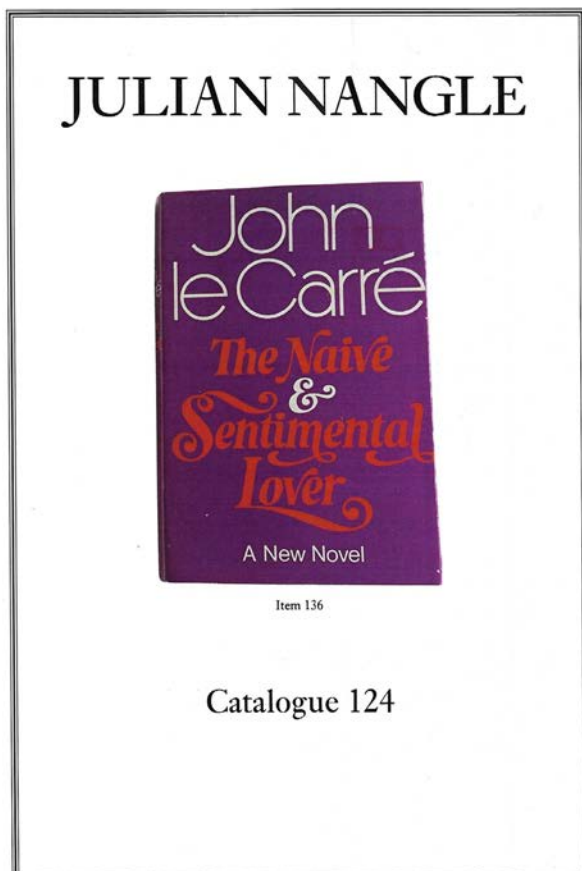
Ash Rare Books (books@ashrare.com), 124, 90 items, produced a pretty association copy

in Frank Harris's *Oscar Wilde: his life and confessions* (1916), two volumes in recent green morocco, inscribed by Harris to the dancer Maud Allan, star of Wilde's sensational 1918 *Salome*, £1,250.

Please post catalogues for review to:

James Fergusson
39 Melrose Gardens
London W6 7RN

jamesfergusson@btinternet.com



ILAB Congress 2022



Early September 2022 saw booksellers and bibliophiles from around the world arrive in Oxford to participate in the 44th ILAB Congress. Established in 1948, the ILAB Congress takes place every two years, and gathers attendees in different cultural locations worldwide to learn about the literary and bibliographic heritage of the host nation. With a rich history of printing and publishing, and a renowned landscape of libraries, bookshops, private collections, and academic expertise, Oxford was a perfect destination for this bookish sojourn.

Taking in some of the city's most famous vistas and volumes, the six-day programme made the most of Oxford's extraordinary history as a place of learning and the printed word, with visits to the Ashmolean and Natural History museums, as well as a tour of the Bodleian Library and various college libraries. The Congress was brought to a close with a symposium held at the Bodleian's Weston Library, the subject of which was "Libraries, Booksellers, and Collectors: New Ways of Cooperation". Also on the agenda was the presentation of the 18th Breslauer Prize for Bibliography, won by Jack Baldwin for his catalogue of the substantial collection of 15th Century printed books in Glasgow libraries and museums.

The ILAB Congress symposium is always a wonderful insight into the practical functioning of the contemporary rare book world, with topics such as the relationships between booksellers, collectors, and

institutions, and accessibility and digitisation proving fruitful areas of discussion. Security and transportation in post-Brexit Europe were also addressed, with representatives from the Metropolitan Police speaking about the investigation into the well-publicised thefts of rare books from a west London warehouse in 2017.

*In 2022, the ABA sponsored **Rhys Gentle**, bookseller with Robert Frew, to attend Congress. He shares his experiences of his time in Oxford.*



What a wonderful week it was going to be: wending our way south-westward as the new King's dulcets wafted through the airwaves, we sallied forth from the York Book Fair towards the ILAB Congress at Oxford before having to quickly scurry back to London in time to exhibit at Firsts. The English countryside, which had been so badly parched just weeks before, had finally taken on a verdant sheen, and we were feeling faintly optimistic about the prospect of sleeping in a converted prison. Fabulous treasures lay before us: medieval libraries furnished with finely illuminated incunables (no high heels allowed), original manuscripts penned by literature's leading lights (Austen, Kafka, Pope), a first edition of Frankenstein which some bloke had once used as an ashtray, and the

earliest extant book in English (oddly two codexes claimed this title), not to mention Paul Getty's astonishing library at Wormsley, which left me in a state of such giddy bewilderment that I could hardly speak for several minutes afterwards. The schedule was rigorous in a good way and, weary of foot and glutted with our daily doses of hearty bookish fare, it was always a welcome change of pace at the end of each day to seek refuge in the good natured company which surrounded us. Dinner was always excellent, as was the wine, as were the settings (boathouse, Balliol, bougie boozier), and we delighted in seeing booksellers being brought together from at least three corners of the globe over glasses of good claret. The city of dreaming spires played an admirable supporting role in all of this, injecting its winsome fairytale charm to even the most mundane of interactions, only to be eclipsed by an almost comically English excursion into the heartland of Buckinghamshire aboard a vintage double-decker bus which would send its precious cargo hurtling skywards at the merest suggestion of a bump in the road. The climactic ceilidh was a real triumph in which twisting ranks of bibulous bibliophiles were sent careening into one another like atoms in a tastefully-lit particle accelerator. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to the ABA for generously providing me with a scholarship to see so much, to meet so many, and to have such fun – Amsterdam awaits in 2023!

York Antiquarian Book Seminar 2022



The 2022 edition of the York Antiquarian Book Seminar was the largest to date, with 38 students in attendance. Topics covered ranged from how to identify fakes and forgeries to how to correctly package rare books. Now in its 9th year, YABS has grown in popularity since its launch in 2014, gaining new voices to share their experiences with fledgeling booksellers. We look forward to the discussions and perspectives the 2023 Seminar will bring.

*A report by **Euphemia Franklin** of Maggs Bros., a 2022 YABS student*

“Buy books, sell books; buy books, sell books” and “Bookselling: it’s a hustle” are two particularly memorable soundbites from the 2022 York Antiquarian Book Seminar (YABS). Led by the formidable faculty – Simon Beattie, Deborah Coltham, Adam Douglas, Stephen Foster, Jonathan Kearns, Sophie Schneideman and Anthony Smithson – and beautifully organised by the ABA’s Riley Grant, YABS offered a rigorous three-and-a-half days of bookselling training and discussion. Each day started promptly at 8:30am and conversation continued well into the evenings, in some of York’s 450+ pubs... The itinerary included a visit to a letterpress workshop, a local bookshop crawl and a series of fascinating talks from each of the faculty members and external speakers, who generously shared their experience, knowledge and advice (see opening quotes).

Last year’s was the biggest cohort yet, and I was delighted to be one of nearly forty participants from a variety of book-related backgrounds, including sole traders, librarians, academics, and others currently working for established firms. Many of us keep in touch and carry on the discussions ignited at YABS on topics such as handling sensitive material, the increasing role of social media and issues of social representation in the trade. I would recommend YABS to anyone looking to enter the world of rare books or expand their knowledge of it, and I am excited to see how the seminar grows.

London Rare Book School 2022

Each year, London's Institute of English Studies runs a series of intensive courses on a variety of book-related subjects. The ABA Educational Trust offers a bursary to send one student to the LRBS summer school each year and, in 2022, this was offered to **Clare Byers**, a PhD Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She shares her experiences of the course, and the fascinating topics explored.

Curiosity: A Commodity in Natural History, or Not?



Clare Byers at London's Natural History Museum

Curiosity connects readers and authors; especially as scientific inquiry engages authors to produce illustrated natural histories. This year, the London Rare Book School (LRBS) offered a first-time course: Art and Science - The Art of Natural History Illustration, co-taught by Henrietta McBurney and Roger Gaskell. Throughout the week, we continually returned to the concept of curiosity. The study positioned readers to gaze closely at unfamiliar species of plants and animals while the author honed their scientific approach. Our week visiting the rare book collections at Senate House Library, the Linnaean Society (LS) and the Natural History Museum (NHM) encouraged me to think

more deeply about the ways in which authors leverage curiosity to entice readers.

Coming together with doctoral students from the UK, seasoned book and art history scholars, independent book dealers, and librarians facilitated a wonderful frisson of thought-provoking discussion that will aid in thinking about my own research. My dissertation focuses on the construction of credibility for authors of books written about natural history of New France in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. What follows is a meditation on the concept of curiosity in the period I study based on some of the beautiful, rare books we were able to consider in depth at LRBS.

Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* provided a unique example to consider curiosity in the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Our group read the work of Catesby and his contemporaries, viewing his letter to Carl Linnaeus at the Linnaean Society library, Catesby's book proposals at the Natural History Museum's library as well as getting the chance to compare multiple copies of his *Natural History of Carolina* side by side. Catesby stood out from among his peers because of his hands-on approach to book production and his decision to publish the book via subscription. Yet, like many contemporaries, Catesby valued curiosity and leveraged its power to attract readers.

Catesby's book proposal offered an uncolored option for one guinea, or a colored option "for the satisfaction of the CURIOS" for two guineas. In this period, offering a more expensive version on finer paper might lead one to conclude that Catesby flattered his potential subscribers with the term curious. In essence, the question is: did Catesby commodify curiosity?

Henrietta McBurney's recently published monograph, *Illuminating Natural History: The Art and Science of Mark Catesby* speaks to this issue. As one of our course instructors, I had the opportunity to speak with her about the new book to investigate these matters further.

When I asked McBurney about any potential commercial drive or obligation to patrons within Catesby's work, she explained that Catesby's project was not motivated by the usual factors. She explained that time is a central factor to consider in Catesby's case. By taking twenty years to produce the work, he came to know his audience. Catesby produced only an estimated 166 copies of the *Natural History* during his life because he produced them in direct response to subscriptions, and the full publication took twenty years to complete. Further, his efforts to assemble an elite readership spoke to his goals for the project rather than any ambitions to wealth or recognition. Catesby desired to convey the scale and rich details (including color) of the North American regions about which he wrote which necessitated a large format. He learned to etch himself, so the engravings were his own work. Twenty years also offered a sufficient time to gain credibility on his own merit rather than through the influence of others. In many ways, the *Natural History of Carolina* spoke for itself, and more readers subscribed the further the project progressed.

McBurney mentioned during our discussion of her book that someone recently asked her how much Catesby published with only a genuine intellectual curiosity versus as an agent of empire. From our discussion it became clear that if any early-eighteenth-century traveler truly published for the same of curiosity alone, it was Mark Catesby.

As a counterpoint, Hans Sloane's *Voyage to Jamaica*, another book we viewed, represented a culminating publication that Sloane used to bolster his position in the Royal Society. Sloane was an agent of empire. He traveled as a physician to the governor and sought to learn about flora and fauna, but also to investigate opportunities for new (and profitable) drugs for a European market. While Sloane also mentioned that he sought curiosities in Jamaica in the preface, the project was not natural science for its own sake. Sloane's many other stakeholders suggest this is likely not the case.

Although Sloane penned the text, he did not draw or etch the illustrations himself, unlike Catesby. Sloane gathered samples and took notes, but Everard Kick and Reverent Garrett Moore rendered the initial botanical drawings. The drawings were later etched by Michael Vander Gucht or John Savage for the book.

Sloane was beholden to the Duke of Albemarle as his patron while in Jamaica, the efforts of notable persons like the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, John Ray, Dr. Henry Compton, Sir Arthur Rawdon, and others. Sloane eventually rose to the post of President of the Royal College of Physicians by 1719 and succeeded Sir Isaac Newton as President of the Royal Society in 1727. Whereas Catesby's curiosity was without complications, Sloane's was more pointedly commodified and leveraged to

bolster his own credibility in society.

I think McBurney said it best when she called curiosity “a slippery term.” It had several uses depending on the goals of the person writing, and it was a term that evolved. Yet, in the publication of natural histories, it is a term that is indelibly linked to credibility whether it was a genuine curiosity as in the case of Catesby, or a term used to help flatter an audience or market a book.

The ABA Christmas Party 2022

In December 2022, amongst the twinkly lights of Bedford Square, we were delighted to come together with friends and colleagues to celebrate the festive season at our annual Christmas party. Graciously hosted by Maggs Bros., the party was the largest social gathering the ABA has been able to host in some years, with over 100 guests in attend-



ance. Acting as centrepiece for the evening was the incredible gingerbread Maggs Bros. townhouse specially commissioned for the Christmas period. It was a joy to gather so many members and friends of the trade under one roof for this convivial occasion and we hope to host many more like it.

43rd Annual Conference on Booktrade History

The subject of the 43rd edition of this staple in the London rare book trade calendar was ‘Family Business: Generational continuity in the book trade since the fifteenth century’. Family dynasties have helped to define the European book trade over the past five centuries. In the early modern period, domestic housing provided the setting for generations of family members to assume crucial roles in the organisation and practices of the book trades. External family relationships also created networks which permeated the fabric of the trade, coalescing in such institutions as the Stationers’ Company of London. The 2022 conference explored the importance of generational continuity and patterns of inheritance in the context of book production.



Firsts: London's Rare Book Fair 2022 | Post-Fair Report

The 65th edition of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association's premier event Firsts: London's Rare Book Fair took place at Saatchi Gallery, Chelsea, 15–18 September 2022. The visual identity for 2022 was very strong, with updated distinctive brand assets and a clearly defined theme 'Banned Books.' Following last year's positive debut at the Saatchi Gallery, the clearly communicated theme provided a significant hook for press and media to engage with the Fair. It allowed exhibitors the opportunity to curate their stands in more dynamic ways, and share items with accessible and interesting stories. This resulted in audience excitement benefitting sales.

The second year at the Saatchi Gallery continued to demonstrate the huge benefits that a central London location, within easy access of many target demographics, can bring to the event. The venue also provides a sense of prestige and relevance to the Fair for press and audience engagement. Exhibitors appreciate the modern, bright and large-capacity spaces.

Through targeted local advertising and active PR coverage, pre-fair online sales increased 108%, while total sales increased 107% on 2021.

Friday ticket sales increased 72%, and weekend visitors were up 6%. Despite the unfortunate circumstances of the Queen's funeral impacting the weekend's visitor outlook, Firsts London demonstrated modest growth in footfall and significant growth in sales.

KEY FIGURES

	2022	2021	2019	2018
Venue	Saatchi	Saatchi	Battersea	Battersea
Exhibitors	118	82	145	173
Footfall				
Thursday	520	489		1,173
Friday	678	903	1,114	901
Saturday	2,009	1,700	1,500	902
Sunday	1,448	1,550	958	
Total	4,655	4,642	3,572	2,976

EXHIBITOR TAKE

	2022	2021	2019	2019
Exhibitors	118	82	145	173
<i>Domestic/International</i>	76/42	67/15	96/49	104/69
Total Take	£7,096,807	£3,073,259	£2,810,214	£3,193,746
<i>Total Returns</i>	116	79	130	149
Average	£ 61,179.37	£37,479	£21,617	£21,435
Median	£18,300	£18,000	£12,645	£8,340

The full Firsts London 2021 Post-Fair Report can be requested to view by emailing the Company Secretary at secretary@aba.org.uk.



UPCOMING RARE BOOK FAIRS & EVENTS

ABA FAIRS & EVENTS

FIRSTS ONLINE

23–26 February 2023

firsts-online.com

FIRSTS LONDON

18–21 May 2023

Location: Saatchi Gallery

Chelsea, London, UK

firstslondon.com

CHELSEA ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

03–04 November 2023

Location: Chelsea Old Town Hall

Chelsea, London, UK

chelseabookfair.com

FIRSTS ONLINE

December 2023 (dates TBC)

firsts-online.com

TRADE FAIRS & EVENTS

THE CALIFORNIA ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR (ABAA)

10–12 February 2023

Location: Pasadena Convention Centre,
Pasadena, CA

cabookfair.com

VENICE ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR (ALAI)

10–12 February 2023

Location: Palazzo Pisani Revedin Cultural Cen-
tr, Venice

alai.it

STOCKHOLM ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

11–12 March 2023

Svenska Antikvariatforeningen

Location: Royal Academy of Art, Stockholm

svaf.se/eng/fairs.html

NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR (ABAA)

27–30 April 2023

Location: Park Avenue Armory, New York

nyantiquarianbookfair.com/

STUTT GART RARE BOOK FAIR

16–18 June 2023

Forum am Schlosspark, Ludwigsburg

antiquariatsmesse-stuttgart.de

Please refer to fair and association websites regularly for the latest information on fair dates and news regarding any changes or cancellations.

EDINBURGH BOOK FAIR

2023

*Friday 24th March
12pm - 7pm
Saturday 25th March
10am - 4pm*

**Radisson Blu Hotel
High Street**

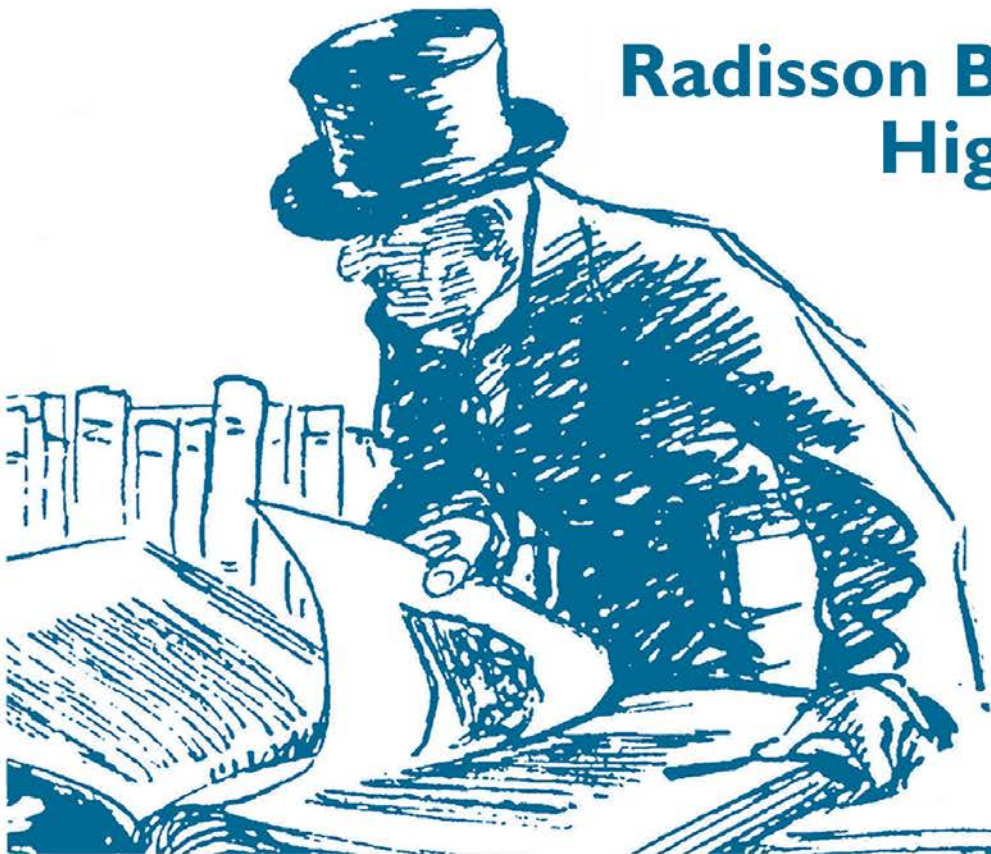


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Organised Jointly

**RARE
BOOKS
EDINBURGH**
2023

Part of the Rare Books Edinburgh festival, dedicated to rare & collectable books and book history. For more information and the full programme, visit
rarebooksedinburgh.com



ON THE SAME PAGE



BECOME A FRIEND OF THE
ANTIQUARIAN BOOKSELLERS'
ASSOCIATION TODAY

Friends Of The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association

We believe our trade's future is better when we work together, so our Friends initiative is open to private individuals and book trade professionals, whether you're a collector, librarian, binder, printer or illustrator. If you work with our members or have a passion for books, it's a great way to support, learn from or help promote the rare book trade. As a Friend of the ABA you can support the historic trade we all value so much.

Benefits of joining include:

Complimentary preview tickets to book fairs

Invitation to ABA events and functions (such as the Christmas party, Educational Trust dinners, library tours)

The ABA e-newsletter

Advance notice of the Annual Conference on Book Trade History

Exclusive Friends of the ABA badge

For more information and the join as a Friend of the ABA please visit

aba.org.uk

MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

3 AUGUST 2022 AT 14:00 [*VIA ZOOM]

In Attendance: Pom Harrington (President), Deborah Coltham (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Stephen Foster, James Hallgate, Thomas Heneage, Tom Lintern-Mole, Laura Massey, Sophie Schneideman, Bernard Shapero, Roger Treglown

Apologies: Ed Maggs, Ed Lake

Also in Attendance: Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington, Barry Hughes, Paul Mills, Sara Trevisan, Angus O'Neill

OPEN MEETING

Welcome by the President to Members attending the "open meeting"

PH welcomed Sara Trevisan, Paul Mills and Barry Hughes.

Working Relationships with Rare Books Libraries and the ABA

ST reported that the event for Rare Book Librarians would take place at Firsts London 2023. CILIP were organising a conference in September, which Jess Starr and Ed Lake would be presenting at. RG would be sending the attendees preview tickets for Firsts.

ST had been in touch with Meg Ford and Liam Sims around events with the bibliographical society, which was still work in progress, and had been writing to librarians with whom the

previous library liaison had been in touch. One of these, Andrew Pettigree at St. Andrews, indicated they would be starting an events programme commencing in September.

PH thanked ST for her work on this, especially as she had to start from scratch.

TLM mentioned the RBMS showcase which was a very worthwhile event, and suggested looking into a co-run event, perhaps getting involved with the book trade history conference. ST had been looking at the RBMS event and agreed this was a good starting point for a joint project; the only issue seemed to be a reluctance in the UK to engage directly with the ABA, though this could be budget related. ST was considering putting together some advice on fundraising to address this, but TLM pointed out that he had noticed that the newer generation of rare book librarians were buying significantly more expensive items than before. DCo was reassured by this and was supportive of the initiatives mentioned. TH mentioned that he used to exhibit at the American art libraries conference, which was always successful; however, he had not been able to replicate this in the UK, though he stopped exhibiting there in the late 90s. PH was reassured that there seemed to be a new generation who should be engaged with. SS agreed.

Minutes of the ABA Council Meeting held on 19 May 2022

The minutes were approved.

Report of the President

PH reported on the recent trip to Oxford with the ILAB Congress organising committee to view the hotel and venues, which was all looking very promising. He then went to the bookbinder's prize at the Bodleian Libraries and the opening of the Darwin exhibition in Cambridge. He also had a meeting about the Friends of the ABA initiative.

Financial Report

DCr reported that the financial situation was reasonably positive, though some of the projections were being affected by inflation, and fair costs might be a little inflated.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that she had been focused on ILAB Congress and Firsts and was hoping to launch the Friends of the ABA initiative at Firsts. 14 YABS scholarships were also being issued, allowing more people to attend, and applications would be opening for the book trade history conference shortly.

Marketing and Newsletter Report

BH was concentrating on Firsts, with a full advertising schedule launching on the 5 September, on the travel network, in the papers and online. Print artwork had been sent ahead of schedule, and digital artwork was being finalised for a couple of publications.

At the time of the meeting, about 25% was being spent online, and 75% physical and print advertising. The partnership with the ATG was progressing well and their ads would be going out in the coming weeks.

The PR partnership with Flint had resulted in 3 confirmed media partners expressing interest in covering the fair, and the press release and preview invites had gone out recently.

The social media schedule would kick off later this week, alongside the first newsletter announcing the theme and distributing online tickets; this would then go live on all platforms and the website, and the digital assets for all exhibitors would also be uploaded shortly.

LM asked if BH had seen a drop in engagement with the algorithm shift from images to videos, BH confirmed this was the case and was working on more engaging content. BS asked if some of the younger member or members of staff could be encouraged to produce TikTok content.

Firsts 2022: 15-18 September 2022

PH reported that the ground and first floor were sold out with only 4-5 spaces remaining to be sold on the 2nd floor. Exhibitors were returning, and some new dealers were joining, including Sam Fogg. There had been some issues with the new Events manager at Saatchi but nothing insurmountable. Posters would be going up on 30 underground stations one street sign at Sloane Square.

ILAB Congress 2022

DCr reported there had been a meeting of the organising committee earlier that day. Things were progressing and they were finalising the attendees and managing inflation pressures on catering.

Export and Legislation

DCr had received complaints about ACE requiring proof of legal import into the UK for items sold for export, as this was potentially a matter to be challenged officially. DCr would wait for an initial response from ACE before pursuing this further. TH had had the same experience with items purchased in France. DCr pointed out that some EU countries did not insist on issuing an EU export licence, as they felt the national licence was enough, but felt this was worth challenging. TLM asked if it was worth lobbying for the import thresholds to be increased, but DCr had attended the last meeting where this was discussed but there was not a lot of negotiation room there.

Membership Benefits

BS reported that he was liaising with the British Library, though things were moving slowly. He suggested using the rare books room for an upcoming event. RG had heard from members who had used the Rare Book Hub, and feedback from the bulletin had been positive.

Committees and other ABA activities

Book Collecting Prizes

DCo and LM had received some submissions.

Digital Committee

TLM informed council that a meeting would be taking place the following day.

Library

PH had not received any requests, but RT had spoken to a few interested people. PH asked BH to update the contact details on

the website to Peter Harrington and raise the profile of the library's availability on the ABA website. PH, RG and BH would look into this.

Charities

RG and DCR reported that activity was increasing with the Educational Trust, linked to YABS, and there were discussions around working with the Society of Antiquaries and Scholars Guild to provide support in the future.

YABS

SS reported that she and Adam Douglas would be working on a 3D version of Carter's, which could then be used for other dealers and interested parties.

Agenda Items proposed by Members of Council and/or Membership

Member Addresses Listed Publicly

RG had received a complaint that a member had not been printing their address on their catalogues, though there was an email address and a phone number. LM did not feel it was necessary to give the public home address details, DCo agreed and had set up a PO Box for this same reason. PH did not feel this was something the ABA should be enforcing.

Dates for 2022 Meetings

29 September - Zoom

8 December - In Person & Christmas Party

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:20.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

29 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 14:30

[*VIA ZOOM]

In Attendance: Pom Harrington (President), Deborah Coltham (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Stephen Foster, James Hallgate, Ed Lake, Tom Lintern-Mole, Ed Maggs Laura Massey, Sophie Schneideman, Bernard Shapero, Roger Treglown

Apologies: Thomas Heneage, Angus O'Neill

Also in attendance: Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington, Barry Hughes

OPEN MEETING

Welcome by the President to Members attending the "open meeting"

In Memoriam

Rob Shepherd
Michèle Kohler
Andrew Edmunds

The council held a minute of silence.

Minutes of the ABA Council Meeting held on 3 August 2022

The minutes were approved.
Proposed by DCr, seconded by TLM

Report of the President

PH reported that the last month had been a particularly busy time with the ILAB Presidents meeting, Congress and Firsts London. PH had attended the President's

Meeting, which was held in person. The meeting was very well structured and covered a lot of ground. They discussed Education in the Book Trade and YABS, which had been a success. Anthony Smithson had been successful in piquing the interest of the other countries; the Germans and Italians ran their own programs, and liked what they heard about the UK program, but the French did not have anything. The overall outcome was positive promotion for the ABA and for RG taking over the administration of the program, as well as continuing to grow it.

Fundraising was also discussed, with the Americans having had success raising funds for CABS, which set a great example.

The second portion of the meeting was dedicated to fairs and the coordination of the international fair calendar. The French would conduct three online events, the Germans would host one and the Americans would be dropping their combined physical and online fairs. PH encouraged the ILAB Presidents to put together a supported ILAB online fair, with a target date of July 2023 for a single flagship event. Local associations would receive a proportion of exhibitor fees.

ALAI would be interested in hosting another edition of Firsts Online, and the ILAB levy would be raised to EUR 35 per affiliate.

PH noted a common problem with bureaucracy, echoed by the Germans and the Italians, and the EU and National licenses were discussed. PH would speak with DCr about this and would issue a statement

about what was required and what was being experienced.

Financial Report

DCr presented the financial report and informed Council of a £105k surplus created through Firsts and Congress, which was the best financial performance for 10 years.

RT proposed a vote of thanks to DCr, Simon Beattie and RG.

TLM asked about the future financial strategy.

DCr felt that a reserve of £250,000 would be sufficient and would aim towards that. RT asked if funding could be put aside for a handbook, DCr felt online listings was the way forward here; TLM supported this as handbooks went out of date very quickly. PH suggested putting together something more than just a handbook, and that this could be funded by sponsorship, but on a 5-year basis rather than annual as this was so much work. DCr would prefer to spend funds on a more intuitive website to save work updating member details. DCo asked if a pdf version might also be possible, DCr suggested bringing in a "print to pdf" button for those that preferred a downloadable directory.

PH noted in relation to the cash flow summary that the rental fees for the Saatchi gallery had also already been paid in part.

Book Fairs

Firsts 2022: 15-18 September 2022

PH reported on the fair and noted that feedback overall had been very strong. The

report was not ready yet, but attendance was up slightly, though slightly impacted by the Queen's Funeral. The averaged sales for 2021 had been £3.1million and for 2022 it was over £7 million.

PH noted that Saatchi were operating under the rules of Cadogan Estates, and there had been complaints of "visual pollution" during fair set up. Moving out via the front entrance was possible on the Sunday given the exceptional circumstances of the Queen's funeral.

Going forward, hand carrying might have to be stopped altogether, but the organisers were looking at finding another solution, possibly a drop-off location with consolidated delivery to the main venue.

SF noted the consolidated delivery had been successful for moving in, but it would still be difficult to move out. There were no exceptions, not even for really big exhibitors at Saatchi such as the Rolling Stones or Tiffany. TLM reported that his shipping costs were lower than expected but understood that people would likely still want the option to hand deliver.

PH noted that the lobby space could be used for other exhibitions, and they now had some film footage which could be used for other purposes too.

EL noted the series of tweets about structural racism at book fairs as well as observations relating to the female experience at book fairs and brought this to Council as something that could be looked at more generally. PH

felt there were not enough applicants from POC for roles within the trade, and this should be addressed. Holding the fair at Saatchi made attendance more multicultural. SS felt that exhibitors should certainly address the selection and labelling of items more than anything. PH would send the twitter links on to Council following the meeting.

RT was concerned about the possible success of vertical book fairs, as there had been complaints of a lack of visitors on the upper floors. PH felt this was better than in past year, and that feedback overall was better at Saatchi than other locations. The organisers would keep working on getting more traffic up to the second floor. DCr pointed out that there were not as many exhibitors on the upper floors which made it less appealing but pointed out that the stands on the second floor were very reasonably priced. PH would continue to discuss this with the Firsts committee. TLM noted that having the talks starting on the top floor worked really well, and he had heard positive feedback from top floor exhibitors.

PH was confident that more dealers would return next year as there would be no clash with York or some of the European fairs, but there were a significant number of dealers who had not returned to exhibiting after covid, which presented a challenge.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that work over the next few months would be focused on YABS, the Book Trade History Conference and Firsts Online. Applications for Firsts 2023 would be

launched at the end of November.

Marketing and Newsletter Report

BH was finalising the Firsts report and waiting on performance statistics on some of the media. He felt they had made the most of the marketing budget and had achieved results in attracting new visitors. There had been features in the press, with a particular highlight being the piece in the Financial Times, ads on TFL and in the local area, and he was pleased with the PR campaign which had been run by Flint, having reached 23 countries. A continuing challenge was getting high quality and varied content from exhibitors. He felt having photographers on the ground to capture images of the diversity of fair visitors would go a long way towards changing the perception of the fair, and PR partners could help too, but ultimately Saatchi was the perfect venue for attracting a broader audience. He suggested looking more closely at the events being run during the fair and how these were promoted.

PH noted that more tickets were sold on the Friday than in previous years, which showed that the marketing was working.

ILAB Congress 2022

DCr reported that ILAB Congress had gone well. The event was sold out and there were some lessons learned for future events.

DCr made a note of thanks to the Committee, RG and the House Captains. BS added his thanks. DCr also thanked Bruce Marshall, Maggs and the other key sponsors.

PH thanked DCr and RG and reported that

he had received extremely positive feedback across the board.

Book Security

There were 2 scams which RG had circulated, but no reported thefts.

Export and Legislation

DCr mentioned an issue with the Export Licensing Unit (ELU) licenses for books leaving some countries, though The Arts Council England want ELUs to be issued in every case. PH suggested sending out a statement with ILAB to raise awareness of this, and send this to local associations as well, especially as some dealers in other countries were also auctioneers.

Committees and other ABA activities

Book Collecting Prizes

DCo reported that the panel met at York and had awarded a joint prize, with the total prize amount increased to mean the winners would receive £500 each and the libraries would receive £250 as well.

Digital Committee

TLM reported on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and benchmarks that would be put together for the website. There had also been a branding discussion about consolidating the ABA and Firsts accounts, especially on social media where there were a few different accounts.

Friends of the ABA

RG had started to do some promotion for this at Firsts. There had not been a lot of uptakes

but promotion would continue, and there would be a further launch in the new year.

Library

PH reported that the library was currently stored in boxes in Fulham but once renovations were complete, a long-term accessible solution would be found.

Library Liaison

Sara Trevisan had attended the CILIP Conference and would be looking at events for Firsts 2023.

Social Events

RT was planning a Past Presidents Dinner in London on the 9 December 2022 and asked RG to send an email; RG said she would send him the distribution list.

RG confirmed the Christmas Party would be held at Maggs on the 8 December, following the Council meeting at the ABA offices.

BAMF

RG reported that there would be a plenary meeting on the 8 October.

BADA

RG would meet with their new Director and look at potential collaborations. BADA had been very supportive of Firsts.

PBFA

TLM went to the PBFA AGM and felt a great deal of goodwill between the associations. The new PBFA Chairman was also an ABA member which would help relations. There were discussions on modernizing the

Edinburgh fair. RT asked when the 2023 fair would be; RG replied this would be on the 24 and 25 March. Miranda Pratt would be the new ILEC Fair manager.

Educational Trust

RG informed council that she had closed the Educational Trust bank accounts.

YABS

SS confirmed that the schedule would be finalized shortly and asked if anyone had any copies suitable for creating a 3D Carter, bringing to life the items listed in John Carter's ABC for Booksellers, as this worked especially well at CABS. The number of participants was reaching the maximum number.

Agenda Items proposed by Members of Council and/or Membership

Firsts complaint

PH and RG had received a complaint that the take sheets at Firsts were numbered. Some of the ground floor sheets were handed out in sequential order, meaning that certain sheets and responses were no longer considered anonymous. This did not occur on the first or second floor. The sheets and numbers were coloured according to floors to assist in compiling sales figures per floor. The council agreed that it was an accidental administrative oversight.

Dates for 2022 Meeting

8 December in Person at the ABA Office, followed by the Christmas Party at Maggs.

Dates for 2023 Meetings

26 January

22 March

31 May - Morning Meeting

27 July

28 Sept

7 Dec

TH had suggested morning meetings for those meetings held on zoom, SS supported this for reasons of confidentiality. The committee were undecided about introducing morning meetings, but a trial run would take place in 2023, between 9:30-12:00.

Any Other Business

RT asked if Membership needed to be discussed, PH and RG confirmed this would be discussed in the December meeting.

BH mentioned he had spoken to Flint PR about the post-fair press release, but they did not feel it was necessary to send this to the wider press, rather they would send it to trade press. PH would look at this and approve.

RG informed Council she would be on leave the following week.

There was no other business, and the meeting was concluded just before 16:50.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

8 DECEMBER 2022 AT 14:30 AT 21 JOHN STREET, LONDON WC1N 2BF

In Attendance: Pom Harrington (President), Deborah Coltham (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Stephen Foster, James Hallgate, Thomas Heneage, Ed Lake, Tom Lintern-Mole, Laura Massey, Sophie Schneideman, Bernard Shapero, Roger Treglown

Apologies: Ed Maggs Angus O'Neill

Also in attendance: Rachel Chanter, Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington

OPEN MEETING

Welcome by the President to Members attending the "open meeting"

PH welcomed Rachel Chanter (RC) to the meeting.

Report of the President

PH reported that the Management Committee had met and appointed RC. There had been a Firsts Committee meeting in November, with a plan in place for 2023. The committee were still developing a theme, but application prices had been set and launched. 22 applications had been received at the time of the meeting.

Financial Report

DCr reported that the financial report was positive, with a profit of £63,000 from ILAB Congress. The Firsts London profit was

approximately £125,000.

Three of the four most profitable years for the association in the last decade had been in the last three years.

DCr intended to create a reserve of £250,000. It would cover a year's worth of expenses and potential prepayments.

DCr noted that because of the increase in income, there had been a request from HMRC for a VAT inspection, which DCr, RG and Sarah Keefe were working on.

PH noted that historically, £30,000-£40,000 was the maximum amount remaining in the ABA bank account, but Rob Shepherd had also worked hard to increase the reserves. DCr reported that the Benevolent Fund had seen a near 7% decrease in investments, though calls on the fund were low.

PH noted that Firsts Sponsorship Agreement with Biblio incorporated the ABA website build. He felt that a renegotiation of money and website work would be in order, as the agreement had ended with the 2022 fair.

Action: RG to add a line item for income for the ILAB fair, costs for the ABA Library, and look at the Saatchi venue rental amount.

Book Fairs

Edinburgh: 24-25 March 2023

RG reported that there were 4 spots left.

Firsts 2023: 18-21 May 2023

PH reported a firsts committee took place in

November, with a post fair discussion and plans for 2023. The post fair sales report was a spectacular success, with footfall slightly down due to the Queen's funeral.

PH noted that the proximately to New York would likely have a negative impact on Firsts.

Chelsea 2023: 3-4 November 2023

RG reported that the dates were back to normal with the November dates, though Boston would take place in October.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that since the previous meeting, her focus had been on YABS, ABA Friends, working with RC and launching applications for Firsts. She would work with RC on Edinburgh promotion. The YABS committee had met, but dates for 2023 had not been confirmed.

RG asked members of council if there would be interest in an ABA Trade Email List. The council felt there would be.

RG would be starting the annual report for the 2023 AGM.

Action: RG to set up the email and establish rules.

Marketing and Newsletter Report

RC introduced herself to council and noted her 6.5 years of employment at Peter Harrington. In her initial days in the post, she had started a promotional schedule for Firsts 2023, Social media content plan and was working on her collaboration with the PR firm, Flint. She aimed to feature new exhibitors on social media.

For the ABA itself, RC could develop a content calendar for social media, fairs, talks seminars, YABS, IES, spotlighting members, time for

outreach and approach, visiting bookshops to generate content.

RC and RG would be working on Friends of the ABA during 2023.

RC asked council for funds towards a new Camera. Council agreed that new work phones would be more effective and confirmed that RG could proceed with purchasing those.

Book Security

As EM was absent from the meeting, PH spoke on his behalf. PH reported that a customer of Peter Harrington had 22 books stolen from their home. Some had turned up at various auction houses, some via ABA members.

PH emphasised that speed of response was crucial to the impact in locating the stolen items.

Export and Legislation

DCo reported that as an importer, members would need to sign up for the customs declaration service. It would be a simple process with EORI, UTR and date of birth and VAT number, if registered.

DCo had been receiving more and more complaints about those importing books to code them as HS Code 9706, which is the code for antiques. Members should be using HS code 4901. Attempts were being made to separate out rare books. There was a strong argument to use 4901, with books, antiques and modern consistently considered with 0% rated status.

Committees and other ABA activities

BAME

EL and LM reported that they had been having ongoing discussions with PH and Matthew Wills. It was clear that the industry was not diverse and discussed how to progress with further diversity in the trade. The committee would like a space within the trade where everyone felt comfortable and welcome.

The council discussed rules and guidelines for sensitive materials which should be incorporated into the ABA guidelines for members.

EL did not feel that a committee was required. LM felt that point people did need to be in place, to keep the momentum going.

The council agreed that 2-3 people would sit down and write guidance. PH felt that this was the priority.

Action: Terms and conditions of membership and bookfair to be drafted for members to adhere to.

The council discussed using YABS and Bookfair to attract a more diverse participation in the trade.

Book Collecting Prizes

DCo noted that the 5 years agreement had come to an end and asked for another 5-year agreement at £1,000 per year. More could be made of the prize, particularly with efforts from RG and RC.

Digital Committee

TLM noted that a committee meeting would take place in early 2023 and Online Fairs

would be wrapped into Digital Committee.

Friends of the ABA

RG reported that further development plans were underway for 2023. RG and RC would work on initiatives including promotion for tours, bookmarks, pins and gift memberships for members.

Library

PH reported that he had been housing the library. It would need to move from the current site due to renovation works. Once the renovation was complete, the library could have a permanent home.

Daniel De Simone has asked that Breslauer books be sent to London, providing a location for them to host their meeting, and lower postage costs.

Library Liaison

TLM noted that Sara Trevisan met with Lucy Evans and Liam Sims from Cambridge. They had discussed how the book trade and CILIP may be able to co-operate more on supporting the latter's events.

Social Events

TH suggested organising another dinner to Benefit for The Educational Trust. Dates would be confirmed.

Trade Liaisons

PBFA

TLM noted that there were plans for a Bath fair in July 2024.

YABS

SS reported that it was positive, massive

success, with large student numbers. The committee were working to polish it up after Giles Bird's report. The committee would be looking into sponsorship and further financial support. The course would help diversity in the long term with the breadth of the students. There was massive enthusiasm from everyone involved.

JH and TLM offered scholarships for 2023.

Meeting Dates for 2023

26 January - 14:30 - Zoom

22 March - 14:30 - In person at the ABA Office, followed by the AGM

31 May - Trial Morning Meeting - 9:30 - Zoom

27 July - Time TBC - Zoom

28 Sept - Time TBC - Zoom

7 Dec - 14:30 - In Person at the ABA Office, followed by Christmas Party

Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17:10.

UPCOMING ABA COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meeting	26 January 2023 (Zoom)
AGM and Council meeting	22 March 2023 (ABA office)
Council meeting	31 May 2023 (Zoom)
Council meeting	27 July 2023 (Zoom)
Council meeting	27 July (Zoom)
Council meeting	28 September (Zoom)
Council meeting and ABA Christmas party	7 December (ABA office)

FIRSTS

LONDON'S RARE BOOK FAIR

Saatchi Gallery
18–21 May 2023

COMING SOON...

THURSDAY 18 MAY
FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY 21 MAY

(PREVIEW) 5–9pm
11am–8pm
11am–6pm
11am–5pm

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£50 Thursday
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