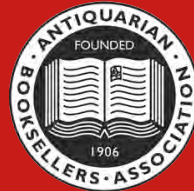


Antiquarian Booksellers' Association

Newsletter

Issue 413 Spring 2021



'We've moved a few things around. Travel books are in the Fantasy section, Politics is in Sci-Fi, and Epidemiology is in Self-Help. Good luck.'

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Vice-President Deborah Coltham
Treasurer Daniel Crouch
Immediate Past President
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Michael Graves-Johnston,
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Contents

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

- 1** Interview with Pom Harrington, the ABA's new President
- 3** Interview with Deborah Coltham, the ABA's new Vice-President
- 7** Shapero and Janrdyce announce new appointments
- 8** Elizabeth Fairman, Honorary Member
- 9** In Memoriam of recently passed members
- 15** Interview with new ABA member, Quagga Rare Books and Prints
- 18** ABA Book Fairs and Industry Fairs

REGULAR FEATURES

- 19** Titans of the Trade #21, Sara Trevisan of Blackwell's Rare Books
- 21** Catalogue Review by James Fergusson

ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

- 30** ABA - Committee Positions Vacant
- 31** ABA AGM 2020-2021
- 35** March 25th 2021
- 37** January 21st 2021
- 43** December 3rd 2020
- 47** September 20th 2020

firsts
ONLINE
RARE BOOK FAIR
20 - 25 MAY 2021

POM HARRINGTON

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ABA'S NEW PRESIDENT

We sat down with Pom Harrington (owner of Peter Harrington Ltd), the ABA's newly elected President following the Association's Annual General Meeting held in March. Already a well-known name in the industry, we wanted to know how he would be approaching his new role.

Congratulations on your new appointment to President of the ABA. Over the years, you have held several roles on Council, how are you feeling taking on this new role in 2021?

Having been involved at various levels over the years, it is a nice and proud moment for me. Originally, I started on the Chelsea Book Fair in the mid 90's and became more involved from there. The last year has been a challenging time for the ABA, but thinking optimistically, I think there are some really exciting things around the corner and I am looking forward to leading the ABA into this new period.

Are there aspects of the role that you are looking forward to the most? Any challenges you are keen to tackle?

One aspect of working for the ABA I've really enjoyed and benefited from is meeting other dealers that I wouldn't ordinarily meet. In the short time I have been in charge, I have already had interesting conversations with dealers I wouldn't have otherwise have contact with.

For the year ahead, we (the ABA) have



The Financial Times ©Tori Ferenc

several new book fairs (online and physical) to oversee. A special one day, trade only fair in York, the Transatlantic Book Fair in July with the ABAA and of course Firsts London at Saatchi in October. As Chairman of Firsts, we asked what dealers wanted for a book fair and the answer was a prime central London location. With Saatchi, we got it. A truly world class venue in a superb area. Following a couple necessary postponements, we really are looking forward to putting a premier book fair. The challenge is making sure all these components occur successfully both in attendance and financially for the ABA.

How has the trade changed or evolved during your time in the ABA?

First and foremost, the internet. The influence of the web cannot be overstated. It has swept through and those that have adapted to the...

changes are the ones that have thrived. The effects of the pandemic have accelerated the influence.

Second is the influence of the auction houses. They have gone from trade supplier to trade competitor. More and more they are striking out for the private buyer and sale. The larger auction houses are now becoming more and more retail shops. Watch out for "buy it now" and other private purchase opportunities from these houses. Coming soon.

Having been part of council for many years, as well as having been raised in a prominent bookselling family, do you have a philosophy for the Presidency?

Listen to ideas. We need new ideas all the time. There are many opportunities for us as a trade, but to get anything going requires a forum that allows this to happen. We have a lot of talented book sellers in our trade, and I will be inviting as many as possible to get involved with various committees and projects that are coming up. By bringing in more now, you increase the talent pool for future councils.

Many of our members have had a challenging year due to the global pandemic, do you have any recommendations or words of advice for our dealers as they transition out of the lockdowns and adjust to the 'new normal'?

Watch out for your Overheads, most have been quite spoiled by the reduction. They will come back. Also I think a bit of patience.

Might take a while to get some of our old regulars back to the shops.

If you had not become an antiquarian bookseller, what profession would you have chosen to pursue?

No idea. I only really got involved because I had nowhere else to go. If you asked me as a teenager what I wanted to do, the only thing I was certain about was not being a bookseller. However after working a few months for my dad and uncle, I really got my teeth stuck into it.

Have there been particular ABA members over the years that have inspired you or impacted you positively?

I always admired the way Hilton Baynton Coward lead. He was kind to me as a youngster. In the US, Lou Weinstein was also tremendously supportive and very inspirational. The whole Heritage Bookshop model was a marvel to behold and one I aspired to.

Once the UK is out of lockdown, is there one particular restaurant or venue in London that you are eager to visit?

Dinner with my son and friends followed by a Chelsea Game. Been too long...

Learn more about Pom and his team at www.peterharrington.co.uk.

DEBORAH COLTHAM

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ABA'S NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

We sat down with Deborah Coltham (owner of Deborah Coltham Rare Books), the ABA's newly elected Vice-President following the Association's Annual General Meeting held in March.

Congratulations on your new appointment to Vice-President of the ABA. Over the years, you have held several roles on Council, how are you feeling taking on this new role in 2021?

Thank you! It is such an honour to be taking over the role, and I am really looking forward to the next couple of years with a mixture of both excitement and a little trepidation! I was so proud to join the ABA back in November 2009 and I have benefitted enormously from the opportunities that it has afforded me. It feels right to give something back, and I am looking forward to working on behalf of existing members, whilst at the same time remaining as Membership Secretary and looking to encourage new members into the Association. I am only one cog in a larger wheel, however. We have so far managed to navigate one of the most challenging years in the Associations' history, thanks to the considerable experience, business acumen, and negotiating skills of the recent Officers, working along-side the excellent office team, with help from Council members, together with a number of other ABA members who work behind the scenes, but nevertheless provide considerable time, help and support whenever called upon. It is very much a team effort.



Are there aspects of the role that you are looking forward to the most? Any challenges you are keen to tackle?

I love meeting and talking to people, but life as a sole trader, working from home, can sometimes be quite isolating: never more so than during the last year. Being a specialist dealer inevitably draws one towards colleagues in similar fields, but through being a part of Council, I have really enjoyed getting to know members who deal in different fields to me. We may all be booksellers, but no two businesses are run alike! I am very much looking forward to seeing our new venue, the Saatchi Gallery, for Firsts London in October, and the ILAB Congress next year in Oxford will provide a wonderful chance for all of us to socialise with International colleagues. I know from talking to others that they provide great opportunities to meet and forge life-long...

friendships. The team organising the Oxford Congress are planning a fascinating schedule of events and tours: it will be a fantastic few days and I encourage everyone to sign up when they can.

In terms of challenges, it would be quite nice not to have to tackle too many and that the next few years will be plain sailing for the Association! In reality, however, coping with the uncertainties of the ongoing health crisis will continue to be the main priority for much of the year I suspect, although for the time being the picture is looking more promising.

Longer term, I think it is important that the Association keeps pace with changes to how people work and run their businesses. Whilst a few people have recently opened physical independent shops, the trend seems to be more and more towards sole traders starting up online. There are clearly a number of new, serious booksellers emerging, but who may not necessarily cross paths with existing ABA members to then be introduced to the Association. We need to find ways to reach out to this wealth of potential new talent, without in anyway compromising the high standards expected of our members. In terms of gender equality – I think we are on the right path. In terms of cultural diversity, however, we still have a long way to go to try and make the Association, and indeed the book trade and book collecting as a whole, more accessible. That is going to be a challenge, but one positive effect of the pandemic is that clearly a whole new generation of book collectors have emerged, feeling comfortable and confident to buy online. We need to

continue to work at making physical fairs and book buying encounters less intimidating and more welcoming.

How has the trade changed or evolved during your time in the ABA?

The internet was in its infancy when I started at P & C in 1994, but it has always been a part of my working life, although it has grown exponentially, and since I joined the ABA, the ease with which one can now buy and sell online improves almost daily. You only have to look at how quickly Virtual Fairs have developed and adapted over the past year, as proof of this. Think how different the situation would have been had the pandemic hit, say, 10 years ago. Those with online presences, I am sure, have probably fared slightly better, than those who rely largely on face to face sales. The ease with which someone can create their own website has hastened the move towards sole trading, and I know many people sell successfully on Instagram and Twitter. Who knows what new platforms will emerge in the coming years. Not that I am tolling the death knell for physical shops – far from it! From my time on the YABS faculty, it is clear that people do still aspire to own and run a physical bookshop, and so many of our members already run highly successful operations, of all shapes and sizes. One of the challenges for every ABA Council is to keep an eye to the future, listen to what the Members want, and respond in ways to try and best help them. Nice rhetoric, and easier said than done I know! However, we have a wealth of experience and entrepreneurial talent both on Council and amongst our...

members at large – I am sure that as an Association we will continue to adapt and evolve, as we have been doing successfully since 1906!

Many of our members have had a challenging year due to the global pandemic, do you have any recommendations or words of advice for our dealers as they transition out of the lockdowns and adjust to the 'new normal'?

It has been an incredibly difficult year, not only with the pandemic, but the reality of Brexit and the challenges that that has posed since January. Thanks again go to Daniel for his excellent guide notes which have helped so many of us this winter. I am sure many feel anxious about quite what the future holds, as I do. I know those running shops have had a particularly hard time, and have had to constantly adapt and change over the year. I think many have taken the opportunity of updating and upgrading websites – but again if you have not quite got around to this, now would be the time.

I would encourage people to take advantage of the online fairs if they have not already done so. I have certainly picked up new customers who would never have found the book by wandering up and down an aisle. They will continue in some form for the foreseeable future, probably running in tandem with physical fairs. Remember you can also send pdf catalogues to Riley, to then send out to the wider trade, if you are finding it less easy to get catalogues printed and sent out at the moment.

I would like to hope that members have taken advantage of all the government schemes available to them, the various Bounce Back Loans etc. Some new grants are being offered, and indeed HMRC announced only recently the SME Brexit Support Fund, to help pay for practical support with adjusting to new customs and tax rules. On the suggestion of another colleague, I joined the Federation of Small Businesses, and have attended a couple of online zoom seminars which have been quite useful. A number of these are open to non-members, however.

Most importantly, perhaps, but do reach out to colleagues and other members. It is sometimes easy to sit and brood, especially when working as a sole trader, but a reassuring chat can be a real boost, even if it may not help with cash flow worries! At the risk of sounding like a No. 10 briefing, 'hang in there!' We will get back to fairs, we will get back to meeting up again for a good chin-wag, and there is certainly an appetite for book buying.

If you had not become an antiquarian bookseller, what profession would you have chosen to pursue?

My Dad was a WWII submariner, and most of my child-hood was spent dreaming about joining the Navy. Until they decided that women could actually go to sea, that is: as I am not a big fan of water and hate swimming, so that rather put paid to that idea! Though my Dad was not a great swimmer either. As he once remarked to me, the ability to swim when being depth-charged in the mid-Atlantic was...

not considered to be a high priority! I would love to have been a professional musician and still enjoy a good warble. Singing with my choir is what I have missed the most during this past year.

Have there been particular ABA members over the years that have inspired you or impacted you positively?

Almost too many to mention! I was very lucky to have started out at P & C, and was helped enormously by everyone there, and still count them amongst close friends today. A number of people took me under their wing when I started out, and I owe them a big debt of thanks. There are so many very clever people in the book trade, who work quietly under the radar, but who really are at the top of their fields. Every-day I wish I was more like them!

As a woman in bookselling, do you feel like the industry is making progress in being more inclusive?

Definitely. As I have spoken about before I was lucky, if unusual, in that when I started at P & C in 1994, three of my immediate bosses were women. I confess that it was a few years before I really became aware that there was an imbalance. My role models were all strong, successful dealers, who happened to be women: they were expert dealers first and foremost, who were respected by their customers for their knowledge. It was only more recently that I came to appreciate and understand that other colleagues have had very different experiences, many of which have not been positive. It may have caused some chuntering from the galleries, but the

Women Networking Initiative helped to move the dial in the right direction, and it is so great to see the increasing number of women owned businesses, as well as an increasing number of female employees. Dare I say it, but we still need to see a few more female directors, and recent applications for ABA membership have still been predominantly male... Hopefully that will even up over the next few years.

Do you have any words of advice or encouragement for women trying to get into the rare book business?

In many ways now is the perfect time to be setting up – and indeed from talking to Anthony Smithson, the majority of prospective YABS students this year are women which is great! Some of the best dealers over recent years have been, and still are, women, quietly getting on with running businesses, often juggling family responsibilities at the same time. Not that male colleagues don't have similar dual responsibilities and challenges it must be said. There are some great role-models who I know would be happy to offer support and advice. It is a shame that this is still something of an issue, but if my being a more public face of the Association helps in any way then that is great. What would be ideal, though, is if in the not too distant future, all that will matter is whether as a dealer, you are trusted, have integrity, know your material, treat your customers and colleagues with respect, and basically have the right books that sell: nothing else should matter.

Learn more about Deborah Coltham at www.dcrb.co.uk.

JARNDYCE ANNOUNCES ED NASSAU LAKE AS PARTNER

Ed has worked in the family firm for fifteen years and demonstrated that he is a knowledgeable bookseller who has greatly enhanced the business, and is also committed for the long term to take Jarndyce into a second generation.

Commenting on his role, Ed says "It is a privilege for me to join the partnership of a business created by my father with Christopher Johnson in 1969 - and since the late 1970s developed by both my parents working together - which has grown, with the hard work and love from all those who have been involved with us, to become one of the leading companies in its field. I look forward to continuing to develop the business, working with our fantastic team, and helping to shape a rare book trade to reflect our changing society.



In particular, it has given me great pleasure to establish Jarndyce at international book fairs, to enhance the design of our catalogues, to oversee the growth of the Jarndyce team and to guide the partnership to a greater presence on-line, while remaining committed to our core catalogue business." www.jarndyce.co.uk.

SHAPERO RARE BOOKS LAUNCH NEW ISLAMIC DEPARTMENT LED BY ROXANA KASHANI

Shapero Rare Books has launched a new Near East and Islamic department. Under the specialist eye of Roxana Kashani, the new Islamic department will feature fine and rare works spanning the broad and varied expanse of this collecting area, from Arabic, Ottoman, Persian and Indian worlds.

Kashani has worked in rare books and manuscripts for over a decade and now brings her expertise in Middle Eastern and Indian printed books, manuscripts and miniatures to Shapero. The books sourced by the department will include works from the Ottoman Empire, Ethiopia and India.



On her appointment, Kashani says, *After ten years in the auction world I'm delighted to be joining Shapero Rare Books. I'm looking forward to expanding Shapero's collections of remarkable antiquarian and rare books from the Arabic, Ottoman, Persian and Indian worlds, as well as working within my own particular field of interest, manuscripts from the Near East.* www.shapero.com.

ELISABETH FAIRMAN | HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Elisabeth Fairman, Chief Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts, has retired from the Yale Center for British Art on January 30, 2021, concluding a career that spans nearly four decades. Fairman was recently nominated and appointed Honorary Membership with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association.

Fairman joined the Center as the Catalogue Librarian in 1982, and later, after expanding her curatorial duties, held the positions of Associate Curator for Rare Books (1991), Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts (1998), and Senior Curator of Rare Books and Manuscripts (2008). During her tenure, the department's holdings have grown to encompass approximately 35,000 volumes dating from the fifteenth century to the present, representing a broad range of material relating to the visual arts and cultural life in the United Kingdom and the former British Empire.



*Eileen Hogan (left) discussing her work with Elisabeth Fairman (right) in the artist's London studio
(Credit: Sarah Davidowitz)*

Speaking on her time at the Centre, Fairman says "My time has been the best possible experience, start to finish. I couldn't have asked for better colleagues—especially during this strange year while we've all been working remotely," said Fairman. "One of my great joys was working with contemporary artists and introducing their work to students and our visitors. I've also greatly appreciated the opportunity to acquire some wonderful objects for the collections that I hope will be of interest to a wide audience for years to come. I am very grateful to so many of the hardworking and dedicated rare book and manuscript dealers of the ABA who introduced me to some amazing things. It has been a privilege to work with them."

Fairman supervised the implementation of a robust cataloguing program that has allowed access to the department's collections. She regularly writes and teaches from the collections, assisting students, faculty, scholars, and researchers from all over the world. In her time at the Center, Fairman curated over thirty exhibitions on a wide and diverse range of subjects.

Fairman received her MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her BA from Earlham College. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and the Linnean Society, both in London, as well as a Fellow of Davenport College; she is a member of the Print Council of America and the Elizabethan Club of Yale University. She was formerly cochair of the Adrian Van Sinderen Book Collecting Prize, established in 1957 to encourage Yale undergraduates to collect books, and to read for pleasure and education.

*In Memoriam***PETER KAY***Written by David Brass*

One of my oldest and dearest friends, Peter Kay, died the morning of January 27th 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in London. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Peter's daughter Emma, and her children Nico and Raphael, Peter's son Nick and his wife Cheryl and children Steven & Michael, and also to Jit's son Darwin.

Peter Kay started his career in the world of books at Sotheran's around 1956, having done his national service in the RAF. Peter joined the firm of E. Joseph in 1958 - that was when as an eleven-year-old I first met him when visiting my Grandfather Jack and Great Uncle Sam at 48a Charing Cross Road. From the age of thirteen I spent most Saturday's at 48a assisting Peter, Harry Green, Chris Kohler (from 1961) and others whose names I cannot remember. Jack (1893-1973) and Sam (1895-1985) would be in the adjoining 'rare book room' at 13 Great Newport St. Chris Kohler left to start his own business around 1966 and Harry Green died suddenly in 1968. Peter was a member of the Bibliomites (the association for bookseller's assistants) and became their



President in 1965. His Presidential Dinner and Dance, at the Cora Hotel, was reported by Keith Fletcher in the form of a pastiche Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha and published in The Clique, 3, April 1965. Peter was a regular player at the annual Bibliomites vs. Governors (owners) cricket match which was

held annually at the lovely little 'hamlet' of Elstead in Surrey.

In later years he co-umpired the match with his great friend Michael Holman.

After Harry died Peter was now the shop manager – and his knowledge of 'the out-of-print' book was unsurpassed.

He was one of the greatest bookseller's 'assistants' that ever graced our trade, he was also a great teacher – explaining why a book was in demand for which I will be eternally grateful. Peter and I worked for Jack & Sam – from the late sixties through 1977 we were both 'on the road' attending several country auctions every week, that is where we both really 'cut our teeth'. We were both constantly in the company of the greatest booksellers of those times – immortal names - Jack & Sam Joseph, Bernard Simpson, Charlie Traylen, Frank Hammond, Dudley Massey, Bert Marley, John Watson, Charles Harris Jr., Ben Marks, Mark Cohen, Frank Doel, Bill Fletcher, Clifford...

& John Maggs, Martin Orskey, Anthony Rota, Raymond & Richard Sawyer, Michael Holman, David Loman, Thomas Thorp, John Simpson, Ben Weinreb, Harold Storey, Dusty Miller, and Bob Forster (please forgive any omissions and remember that in those days there was no internet – our ever expanding knowledge was all in our heads...) Clive Moss joined the firm around 1977 and it was that year I made my first buying trip to the USA... 48a was now a well-run ship with Peter and Clive at the helm whilst I was able to concentrate on the 13 Great Newport Street 'Rare Book Room'.

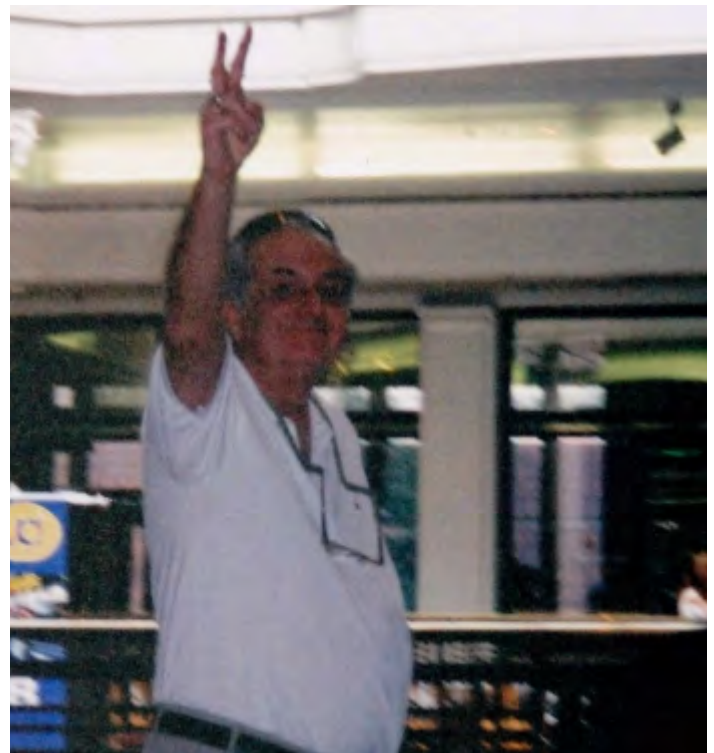
In 1982 we made the move to a 2000 square feet third floor showroom and offices on the corner of Vere Street and Oxford Street, W1. We were then joined by Pamela Douglas of Quaritch (complete with their entire stock of fine press books etc.) and in 1986 by Richard Sawyer (1945?– 2012). I remember so well Peter holding lunchtime 'daily court' in the Vere Street kitchen where he and Clive would be joined by his mates – Michael Holman and David Loman. In 1993 my family and I moved to California after a long court battle (another story) and Peter was in charge of the 'new' E. Joseph until the court ruling of 1993 was overturned in 1995. At that time Peter was for the first time in over 35 years out of a job... but only for about a week...Heritage Bookshop in

LA of which I was the Vice President took him on as our UK representative handling all the auctions and our UK clients.



Peter semi-retired in 2004 and I left Heritage to start my own business – still using Peter to handle all our UK business. Peter was the older brother that I never had... one of the kindest and most generous men I have

ever known. Peter and his first wife Betty had two children – Nick b. 1967 and Emma b. 1972. Betty died suddenly at a very young age in 1980. A few years later Peter met his second wife Gaysorn (Jit) and in 1987 they were married, and Peter moved from his house in Kenton to Jit's house in Queens Park. *end.*



REG REMINGTON | 1931-2021*Written by Clive Farahar*

When I joined Francis Edwards Ltd. in 1969, Reg Remington was the Manager of the Voyages and Travel Department, situated on the 2nd floor of the purpose-built bookshop in Marylebone High Street. From him I received my introduction and education into the Rare Book World. The Arts of collating every book that came in, the strict house style of cataloguing, the use of bibliography.

When I arrived Reg and Herbert Edwards were working on the Cecil King Collection of Africana, which was a baptism of fire for me. Cataloguing was mostly handwritten on slips, occasionally typewritten for the more modern among us, and information retrieval in the days before the internet required consulting bibliographies, looking through old catalogues, and trips to the British Library and other such institutions. Reg was a kind and generous teacher, and it wasn't too long before my cataloguing, and handwriting, were considered good enough to send off to the printers.

For Reg, life at Francis Edwards Ltd. had started back in the late 1950's, and he used to tell stories of playing cricket with paper balls during the lunch hour in the basement with fellow employees Frank Westwood, later of Petersfield Bookshop, and John Mackenzie, later J.W. Mackenzie Cricket Books in Ewell. When I left the firm in 1972 to join Colin Franklin in Culham, Reg, by then a Director of



the firm, was very supportive promising help and advice. Later on when I had started my own business down in Bath I used to drop in for tea and occasionally, sell a book or two, sometimes buy, and chat about sales and sightings of rarities.

Reg was always very polite, almost deferential to customers, but was also an exceptionally firm and hard bargainer. I suspect this may have been the Herbert Edwards training who from my memory, was a hardliner in most book matters and on his Cornish Nationalist sympathies in particular. Quentin Keynes the sometime Explorer and Roxburgh Club member, was a frequent customer, and one who needed much attention. Reg told of the day when he was invited to lunch in Primrose Hill to view Keynes's Collection. The collection was extraordinary, and for lunch Quentin opened a tin of beans. Wilfred Thesiger on his infrequent visits to London would drop in dressed in a pin striped suit with bowler hat and furled umbrella. I remember his rigid...

formality inquiring from me the junior if Mr. Herbert or Reg were available, with Reg and Herbert sitting just yards from my desk.

Reg left Francis Edwards Ltd. in 1980 to join in business with his son Philip. They opened a shop in Cecil Court specialising of course in Voyages and Travels. I found that I had a natural resistance to see a profit on any price Reg put on a book. Growing up with his prices seemed to me to represent the last, the highest, the best in that field. However there was one notable purchase I made from them, a South American Album of Humming Birds and pressed flowers. This, I felt was a sufficiently bizarre and not mainstream for Reg.

My last memories of Reg was at an International Fair at Battersea, and although bright and smiling, standing for long periods, endless lookers and not enough old friends to talk with, was getting him down. I reminded him of his envy of Arnold Muirhead from St. Albans a retired teacher who became a bookseller 40 years ago. He would come and buy civil war period pamphlets from Reg, and say that he loved nothing more than cataloguing in his garden. At the time it seemed an ideal way of living, but 40 years on I could see that even that notion had gone for Reg. He is a much missed teacher and friend.

REG REMINGTON

Written by David Brass

I am sad to report the passing of my friend Reginald 'Reg' Charles Remington (1931-2021) who died peacefully in hospital after a very short illness on Friday, 2nd April.

Reg began his career in 1951 when he was taken on as a trainee by one of the oldest and most famous antiquarian bookshops - Francis Edwards Booksellers at 83 Marylebone High Street, London, W1. Reg started as a packer (just like I did) and rose through the ranks to become the assistant to Herbert Edwards, then Francis Edwards' successor as head of the voyages and travel department. When the Edwards family, after well over a century in business, chose to sell the business in 1979, Reg decided to leave and open his own firm with his son Philip.

The new business was run from the family home in Barnet, Hertfordshire and Reg and Philip issued their first catalogue in 1979. Reg was meticulous about detail and every description and reference had to be checked over and over until he was totally satisfied, only then was the catalogue sent to the printer. It gave Reg and Philip a great thrill when they received their first order.

In 1980, they were accepted as members to the ABA, and started to exhibit at book fairs. Reg and his wife Mary attended their first fair in Edinburgh, Scotland. It was a very social event which they both enjoyed immensely. Mary was a lovely lady – full of 'bubbly'...

humour – an absolute pleasure to be with. In 1982 they exhibited at their first London Book Fair at the Europa Hotel. After that they exhibited at every London Fair to date, including the Park Lane Hotel, Grosvenor Hotel, Olympia and Battersea. Reg did attend the earlier New York Book Fairs but as time went on it was Philip who exhibited at the overseas book fairs including New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Reg and Mary would always attend the bi-annual ILAB conference, and all the wonderful trips and festivities organized by the host country. Reg and Mary were always at the ABA events including the annual Christmas Party and the annual Cricket Match at Elstead in Surrey where Reg would often stand in as one of the umpires.

In 1983 Reg and Philip decided to rent an office overlooking Cecil Court, at Suite 33, 26 Charing Cross Road, London WC2, which suited their needs and where they had a central London base for clients to visit. A couple of years later they made their next move – this time to an actual shop at 14 Cecil Court. Shops in Cecil Court were at a premium and they were very grateful to Bill and Keith Fletcher, for informing them that the shop was becoming available for rent. This new 'open' shop proved very successful for Reg and Philip and gave them access to new as well as their established clients. The next move was in 1988 when they purchased from Edith Finer the lease of the larger Frognaal Book Shop premises also in Cecil Court. In 2002, because of rent increases and business rate increases they closed the shop and

moved to St. Albans in Hertfordshire.

In 2002 Reg decided to retire mainly due to the ill health of Mary, but he was always on hand for cataloguing and attending UK book fairs. During his lifetime he worked on and published sixty unique catalogues relating to voyages and travels.

I first met Reg in the late 1960s when I was just beginning my career – as a packer at our family firm of E. Joseph in Charing Cross Road. I fondly remember him as a true gentleman, very private but always with a kind word and a smile for anyone. Books were his life and his knowledge of voyage and travel books was unsurpassed, he met many collectors and colleagues during his life time who became his friends for life.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Philip, his sisters Kim and Tracy and all of their families.



ANDREW CUMMING*Written by Charles Russell*

Andrew Cumming was among the first successful antiquarian book dealers to step into the shoes of the post-war greats such as Charles Traylen and Frank Hammond. Starting in 1965 as a 13-year-old boy, he scoured the junk shops and in 1969 issued his first catalogue of detective fiction. In 1976 he took over the lease of Colin Page's original shop in Lewes.

A determined, hardworking, and handsome young man, he devoted his life entirely to his wife Yasmine and to the rare book trade. He built his business in the traditional way – working his way through the hierarchy in the trade as it then existed. The small shop in Lewes High Street was a success, with bigger dealers allowed into the book room at home. Andrew made house calls, spent time on the road, became active at local auctions and slowly graduated into the bigger London

auctions, a career ladder most pre-internet dealers will recognise. Along the way he earned money, stock, contacts, private clients, and respect.

In 1989 he bought a large building in Lewes High Street where the business has traded ever since, housing an impressive, ever-changing stock in many different fields and at many different price levels in an array of back rooms.

His shop was soon one of the prime antiquarian bookshops in the south of England, rivalled only by Colin Page owned by John Loska in Brighton. The two shops enjoyed a close relationship for many years and Brighton and Lewes became the natural first port of call for all collectors and dealers in the area.

Among the unusual collections he and I bought together in the early 1980s was the library at Vaila Hall, a large mock gothic Victorian pile on a tiny island off the Shetlands. The whole library shipped precariously back in a small dinghy. We also found a large collection of original Hiroshige Japanese prints in a tea chest at a Christie's house sale and later sold them individually at Christies King Street. He also handled the library of the late Malcolm Muggeridge.

A canny dealer with a dry sense of humour, Andrew loved dealing, time and again cramming a massive array of stock into his basement, which he actually managed to sell in total on two occasions. Despite suffering from myotonic dystrophy for many years he refused to retire even in failing health and remained at the helm until the very end. He will be remembered and missed by many. *end.*



QUAGGA RARE BOOKS AND PRINTS

AN INTERVIEW WITH SIMON CURTIS OF QUAGGA RARE BOOKS AND PRINTS,
ONE OF THE ABA'S NEWEST MEMBERS

Quagga has been established in Cape Town for the past 25 years, has the company changed or transformed over this period?

I guess our origins were more as a repository of found objects than as a bookshop. A sort of curiosity cabinet, art installation. Travels northwards into Namibia, Zambia, Tanzania and the islands of Pemba and Zanzibar resulted in a conglomerate of artefacts, art and books.

When we opened in 1990 apartheid was crumbling. Nelson Mandela was released from prison in that year. We were opening up to Africa north of us and many expats who had left for political or expedient reasons were returning. These were dynamic times and when we had our first free elections we moved into boom times. We had a great demand for geo-political and other African material.

Today the Rainbow Nation euphoria has faded. Our national coffers have been plundered and everything looks different. Fortunately, despite being on the outer-most tip of Africa we

are still regularly surprised by the unusual and interesting material that turns up - and of course thank goodness for our online platforms - something we didn't have in those early years.

As a father and son run business, are there different qualities do you and your father bring to its management?

My father George has a wealth of knowledge and experience that I have been able to draw from. It has been wonderful for me to have him as a mentor. However his complete aversion to the daily tasks of running a small business has left plenty of gaps for me to fill. George has run the business on instinct for many years...



and I've brought a more formalised approach. Including the online side of things.

Do you have different interests in specialisms then your father?

I think our interests are fundamentally very... similar. My father has a fantastic eye and sees beauty in the unusual and where others often don't. This allowed him to go on buying trips to places like Namibia, Zambia and Zanzibar finding unusual items, not only books.

The pandemic has been challenging for many businesses, how have you managed to adapt during the past year as an antique and rare book seller?

As our in-store sales have declined, our online sales have increased. Although business has been good on both fronts throughout the pandemic, our biggest challenge has been shipping. Being on the Southern tip of Africa, our books have to travel a long way. Fewer flights and exorbitant fees from airlines have meant that we have had many orders cancelled. Particularly for our lower priced books.

Our members often have a range of international clients and collectors, do you often have locals that are interested in collecting books or curiosities from your shop?

We have many local clients. Be they serious collectors or casual visitors to our shop in busy Kalk Bay. Even the president of South Africa who is a great reader and lover of maps

is a regular visitor... at least he was before covid.

As one of our most southern-based members, does your location in SA impact on international work/trade/buying or selling?

As long established dealers we are in the unique position of being offered the most interesting and unusual material. Cape Town is a good source, having been a way station for trade to the East. The departure point for the vast fortunes made on the diamond and gold-fields. On the flip side we can't exhibit at all the fairs around the world so the advent of virtual books fairs has been great for us.

Many booksellers offer valuations or opportunities for the public to sell their items to dealers, have you come across one or two remarkable items from the Cape Town (or wider SA) public that have really caught your eye?

About 10 years ago I was asked to come and view a collection of books by the deceased owner's niece. On arriving at the house I found a wonderful collection of maritime and 18th century travel along with a very good collection on Spiritualism. The niece told me that her uncle had recently died. He was very attached to his books and had not wanted to part with them. Since he was now gone she saw fit to sell everything. There were some fantastic items in this creepy old house that had been owned by her uncle who had a firm belief in the supernatural. I left a fair offer with her for a good number of books. She needed...

to check with the family and promised to get back to me in a couple of days. Two weeks passed and there was no word so I phoned... her again. An unfamiliar voice answered and told me that the lady I was looking for was not available as she had been killed in a car crash two weeks prior. I did not pursue the collection nor hear what became of it. But I can't help wondering if the old uncle didn't have something to do with her death and if I'd have suffered the same fate had my purchase been successful.

Do you have any particular bookish memories from your childhood (and or your father as well)? Were there specific books you were introduced to as a child that helped develop your interest in rare books?

I remember visiting country auctions with my dad as a kid and being fascinated by all manner of things. Also dragging a trailer around Cape Town behind his massive mustard coloured Valiant station wagon. We'd set the trailer up at Greenmarket Square in central Cape Town on weekends. There was a fantastic market there in the 1980's. Reading Orwell's Bookshop Memories followed by The ABC for Book Collectors by John Carter gave me a good start.

Moving into the next 10-20 years, how do you see Quagga growing or evolving in the rare book industry?

Hopefully we will continue to find interesting things to buy and hopefully the South African government won't put us out of business.

Being able to sell online and having an increasing number of people willing to purchase online has helped tremendously. We need to stay abreast of new developments in the online space. As publishing becomes more expensive, books will become scarcer. We need to view the book as an object and sell it as such. I do hope that we will not be forced into becoming an online only business as it is through our shop that we meet fascinating people and are offered wonderful things.

Has there ever been an item(s) that you have come across and regretted not purchasing?

Far too many unfortunately. The pair of large Canaletto oils that came up at a small auction house in Cape Town and were knocked down for about £400 as copies stung a bit. On the whole we have been incredibly fortunate in being able to acquire some truly wonderful things over the years.

Quagga Rare Books and Prints was accepted into ABA membership in January 2021. Learn more about Simon, his father George and their business at quaggabooks.co.za.

UPCOMING RARE BOOK FAIRS

ABA FAIRS

FIRSTS ONLINE

20-25 May 2021

www.firstslondon.com

THE YORK TRADE FAIR

1st July 2021

Location: York Race Course

Open to ABA and PBFA members

THE TRANSATLANTIC BOOK FAIR

22-27 July 2021

Online Fair

www.transatlanticbookfair.com

FIRSTS LONDON

21-24 October 2021

Location: Saatchi Gallery

www.firstslondon.com

FIRSTS ONLINE

2-7 December 2021

www.firstslondon.com

INDUSTRY FAIRS

PBFA ONLINE FAIRS

On the 29th every month

www.pbfa.org

THE NEW YORK ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

9-12 September 2021

Location: Park Avenue Armory, NYC

www.nyantiquarianbookfair.com

SALON DU LIVRE RARE

24-26 September 2021

Location: Grand Palais Éphémère, Paris

www.salondulivrerare.paris

SLAM E-Rendez-Vous (*Online*)

3-5 of every month

amorlibrorum.fr

AMSTERDAM INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR (NVvA)

1-3 October 2021

Location: Amsterdam Marriott Hotel

amsterdambookfair.net

*** Please refer to fair and association websites regularly for the latest information on fair dates and news regarding covid restrictions.*

FIRSTS ONLINE - REPORT

Since the last newsletter, the ABA has organised and completed another two Firsts Online fairs, as well as three other online fairs under the banner of Firsts Canada, Firsts Italia and The Daaf. The fair numbers have been growing steadily, with web visitor numbers reaching 10,000 users and a total of approximately 160,000 page views. Firsts Online has become an asset for the ABA and has helped members and colleagues alike through a challenging 14 months.

Titans of the Trade #21: Sara Trevisan

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1. How and why did you come into the book trade?

In 2017, when I was an academic researcher in early modern studies, I randomly came across Christopher Sokol's ad for a freelance book cataloguer, on the web. To my amazement, it required all the academic and linguistic skills I had. I just applied, instinctively. Before the interview, I spent two days reading his catalogues, whilst googling 'vellum', 'raised bands' and 'signatures', as I knew absolutely nothing about bibliography. I was hired, and instantly fell in love with old books. After a year and a half, I set up my own business as a self-employed cataloguer, selling a few books on the side. I worked for dealers, auction houses and a private collector. In 2020, I was hired as full-time antiquarian bookseller at Blackwell's Rare Books.

2. What's been your go-to TV binge during the pandemic lockdowns?

I binge-watched Inspector Montalbano, massive

in my native Italy and well-known in the UK. I also like the English comic series Count Arthur Strong.

3. Which authors or books first impressed themselves on you?

Among the novels I loved most were those by Pearl S. Buck. I ended up collecting the Mondadori editions, published in the 1930-50s, of the first authorised translations into Italian.

4. Who is around your table for your fantasy dinner party?

Paul McCartney, Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry.

5. How do you see book fairs working in the future?

I think that things will eventually go back to the way they used to be. Books and fairs have gone hand in hand since the 15th century, despite regular disruptions in history. We booksellers, and collectors generally, want to browse, leaf through, hunt for trouvailles

on top and bottom shelves. The serendipity... we all crave just cannot happen on the web, though at the moment that's all we have. We certainly have a couple of years ahead still, in which all big events will remain a bit 'experimental', depending on the number of cases, travel restrictions, etc. We'll just have to be patient and play it by ear.

6. What's your favourite holiday destination (and why)?

Italy, definitely, to see my family and friends.

7. What's your best advice for youngsters wanting to join our trade?

Read a lot about books, and dealers' catalogues; study bibliography and learn to catalogue with care; get experience working with material of all kinds and prices; visit fairs; and read a lot about anything you're interested in. The greater your knowledge, the easier it becomes to spot interesting items. If you end up working for more than one bookseller, pay attention to their business models – how they do things – and learn all the lessons you can from their experience and stories.

8. What was the first record / cd you bought?

A tape (!) of Paul McCartney's Paul is Live (1993). (I've always been a keen Beatles fan and collector...)

9. if you have an area of book speciality, what is it?

I love (and specialise in) pre-1700 books and manuscripts, continental and British, on any subject, as well as early bindings.

10. What's your favourite bar / restaurant / hotel (answer all three if you like)?

Favourite bar/restaurant: Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club.

11. Has working from home during Lockdown worked well or badly for you?

It worked OK for the administrative and book-hunting side of it, though we live in a tiny flat. I went occasionally to Oxford to bring back books to catalogue or to collate a new purchase. But, without the books and colleagues, it was quite depressing.

12. What dish have you most enjoyed preparing during the Lockdown?

We experimented a lot, from Indian to Italian.

13. What sort of book do you have most success with businesswise?

I've had most success with early books and manuscripts on unusual subjects or with fascinating provenance and annotations. I like to 'hunt' in obscure places or find gems hidden in plain sight. The seemingly nondescript scarce item which conceals a great story to research is my favourite find. In general, I endeavour to offer books and manuscripts that are interesting as both texts and objects.

14. Your favourite movie?

Lords of Dogtown (2005), on skateboarding in California in the 1970s.

15. What aspect of the book trade irks you most?

The misuse (and abuse) of the word 'rare'

in descriptions. And that millisecond of... excitement I experience before I find out I may be the only person left who doesn't yet own a copy.

16. What blogs or social media do you favour?

Facebook and a bit of Instagram and LinkedIn.

17. What UK bookfairs have you enjoyed most in the past?

I like all kinds of fairs. I've enjoyed the Chelsea fair and Firsts, but also York and many provincial PBFA fairs, where unexpected interesting items may turn up anywhere. I am also a regular, devoted visitor to the Sunday Bloomsbury Fair, in London.

18. Bieber or Styles?

Styles, all the way.

19. What aspect of your education have you found most useful in our trade?

My knowledge of classical, Romance, Germanic and Slavonic languages. Plus the fact that I studied English Literature at university, which has given me the necessary knowledge to buy and sell British material, as well. Finally, my research skills.

20. When did you last cry?

I only cry whenever I get an export license approved in Italy in less than three months – so never.

Catalogue Review by James Fergusson

Maggs Bros, that genial firm (enquiries@maggs.com), like to celebrate, and even in the midst of lockdown, with their managing director deep in Co Kerry gazing at the MacGillicuddy Reeks, they rose with aplomb to a Catalogue 1500. Gold and lush and generous, it comprises only 20 items, but they represent the firm's staff as much as its stock. Interspersed with glamorous photographs of Maggs' premises in Curzon Street and Bedford Square and a magnification of the first page of their first catalogue, issued in 1870 from Church Street, Paddington Green (the first item was 'A TREATISE of Use and Custom, large paper, printed by J.L., 4to, half vellum, scarce and curious, London, 1638', 4s 6d), is a

selection by each member of staff of 'a book which is important and significant to them' – and they have to say why.

Jonathan Reilly enjoys the questions begged by an incomplete *editio princeps* of Plutarch's *Lives*, 1470, £40,000. Hazel Tubman relishes the difficulties of a battered 1504 Aldine, £3,000. Titus Boeder chooses a papal silver medal commemorating the arrival in Rome in 1585 of the first 'Japanese Embassy', £6,500. Robert Harding was pleased to identify 'in a matter of seconds' the 'first original artists' pattern-book produced in England', 1586, £24,000. Chris Stork was drawn to John Houghton's *A Collection of Letters for the Improvement of Husbandry & Trade* (1681–3)

'annotated by a dog', £8,000. Paul Quarrie examines two printings from the same year, 1741, of the rather fruity ('mildly erotic') French novel *La Sopha*, and is excited by unnoticed textual differences, £5,000.

Steve Cain (packing department) weighs up Dumont d'Urville's enormous *Voyage au Pole*

Sud: atlas hydrographique (1847), £12,500. Mark Tewfik, sent to work with Voyages, is struck by 14 anonymous watercolours from 1858 telling the story of 'Rev. Obstinate Pious Weekly vs. the Feejee Islanders', in which the wretched missionary is butchered by a potential convert, £8,500. Alice Rowell is intrigued by a copy of *The Water-Babies* decorated by George Henry Haydon, £500. Ed Maggs regards the Mosada portrait of W.B. Yeats by his father as

'the *ne plus ultra*', £50,000. Sam Cotterell picks a manuscript account, c1889, of a preaching tour in Kafiristan ('sold').

Bonny Beaumont finds a scarce book on Russian bear hunting, 1900, catalogued by her father, £1,250. Hugh Bett admires the 'sublime composition' of a Frank Hurley Antarctic print, £42,500. Ivo Karaivanov (in-house photographer) is challenged by the glass negatives of a Lowell Thomas archive, £3,500. Augustus Harding chooses a Spanish Civil War poster advertising a novel by Upton Sinclair, £375. Benjamin Maggs notices

a chapter from *The Wind in the Willows* issued in 1926 by the Notary Binders from his ancestor's Church Street address, £500. Fuchsia Voremburg plumps for a fat archive on the Yeti, £1,250. Theo Miles had inside knowledge to recognize Paul McCartney as the designer of Indica wrapping paper, 1965, £2,500. Joe McCann first saw R.S.

Thomas's *Pietà*, inscribed 'To my Mother with love', in Peter Jolliffe's house in Eynsham, £1,250. And Julian Cobb (accounts) opens a biography of Richard Burton and finds it has been signed by the subject himself – and Elizabeth Taylor, £450.

Ed Maggs, eulogising his Yeats drawing, says, 'I've also chosen this picture because I would like to sell it! Not just because it's valuable, but because booksellers have a slightly



perverse way of displaying our love, by selling it.' Maggs's 1511 (yes, they had already overtaken themselves) was more conventional, a Christmas catalogue, 132 items, love displayed in descriptions of a happy variety of books, manuscripts, drawing, broadsides, Hardy family Christmas cards, a Philip Hagreen calendar and even a Darton 'pocket tablet.' I was interested by 'the first authorised stage adaptation' of *The Hobbit* made by the 23-year-old Humphrey Carpenter for performance at New College School, Oxford, 14–17 October 1967 – Maggs offered a programme signed by Tolkien, who attended

on the last night, £8,500 – but I coveted MacDonald Gill's *The Wonderground Map of London Town* (1924, second state), £2,950.

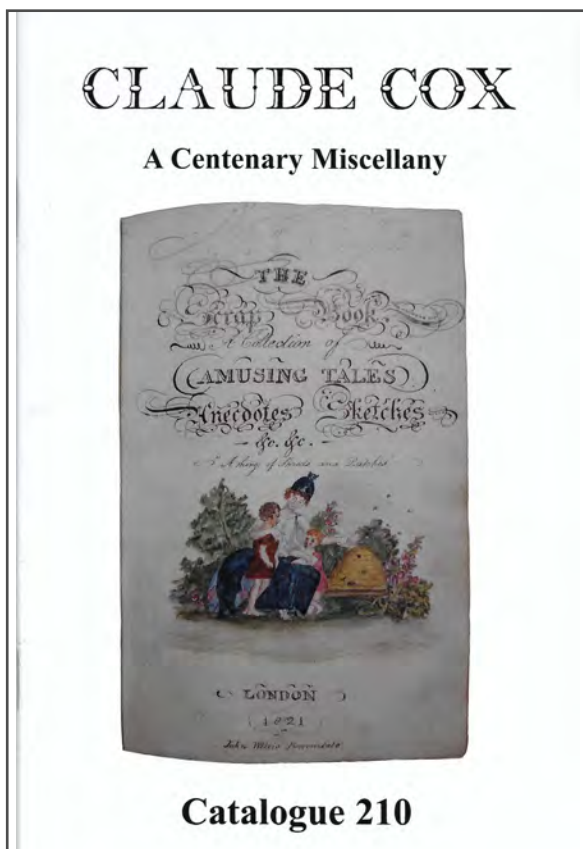
Claude Cox (books@claudecox.co.uk), 210, 'Christmas 2020 – A Centenary Miscellany', 239 items, celebrated the anniversary of the business's founder, Claude William Cox (1920–2006), friend and pupil of Arnold Muirhead. Tony Cox, his son and successor, contributes a short autobiographical introduction. Less frequent than they were, the Cox catalogues are serious and discriminating, with a penchant for printing and the arts of the book. The loyalty of Cox customers is reflected in how often books revert – catalogue 210 has books deriving from John Porter, Pickering collector, and more from Iain Bain, to whose library 209 was devoted. Seven original wood-blocks engraved for Edmund Evans for works by Kate Greenaway, 'several unpublished',

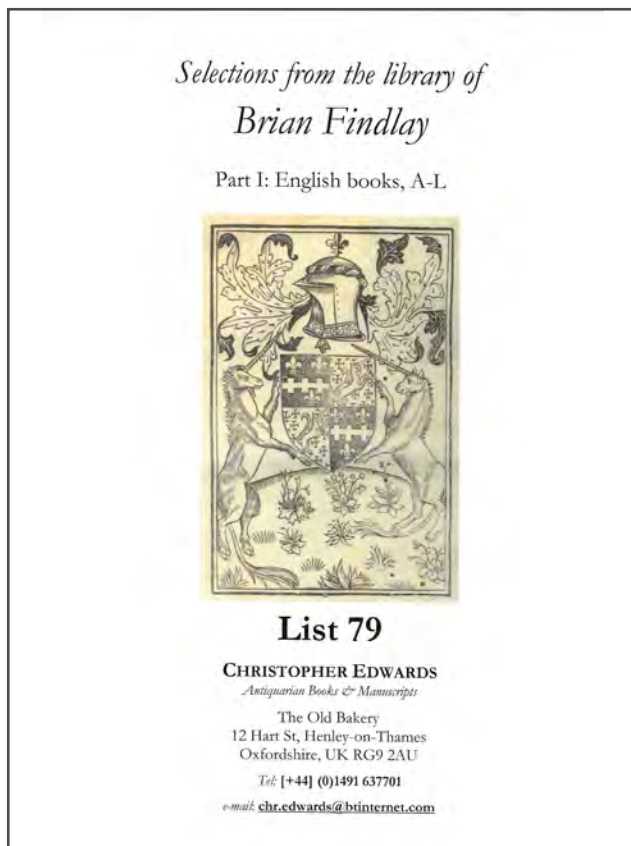
are priced at £1,750 (Bain, the Bewick expert, was a keen printer); Hugh Miller's first book, *Poems, written in the leisure hour of a journeyman mason* (1829, with a tantalizingly opaque inscription; Bain's family derived from Cromarty, Miller's birthplace), at £320.

In the eight months that have passed since the last Catalogue Review – an eternity of lockdowns – some booksellers have brought forth multiple catalogues. Between the Covers has managed five, Peter Ellis four.

Christopher Edwards (chr.edwards@btinternet.com), master of provenance, curated a heavily researched three. His 78, 'Rare Books and Manuscripts, mostly new acquisitions', 113 items, offered Lorenzo Lippi's posthumous and pseudonymous *Poema di Perlone Zioli* (Florence, 1688) with the bookplates of David Garrick and his nephew Carrington Garrick, £850, the anonymous *Poems on Several Occasions* (Manchester, 1733), the first book, Edwards convincingly argues, to which Samuel Johnson subscribed, ex Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, £4,500, and Sir John Barrow's *The Life of Richard Earl Howe* (1838) with the close, extensive and often critical notes of Howe's naval colleague Sir Edward Codrington, £1,500.

The same dealer's 79, 187 items, was 'Selections from the Library of Brian Findlay, part i: English books, A–L', sold on behalf of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (for the Parker Library), Magdalen College, Oxford (for the chapel and choir), and Walsingham College, Norfolk. Canon Brian Findlay (1942–2020), sometime Chaplain of Magdalen, was

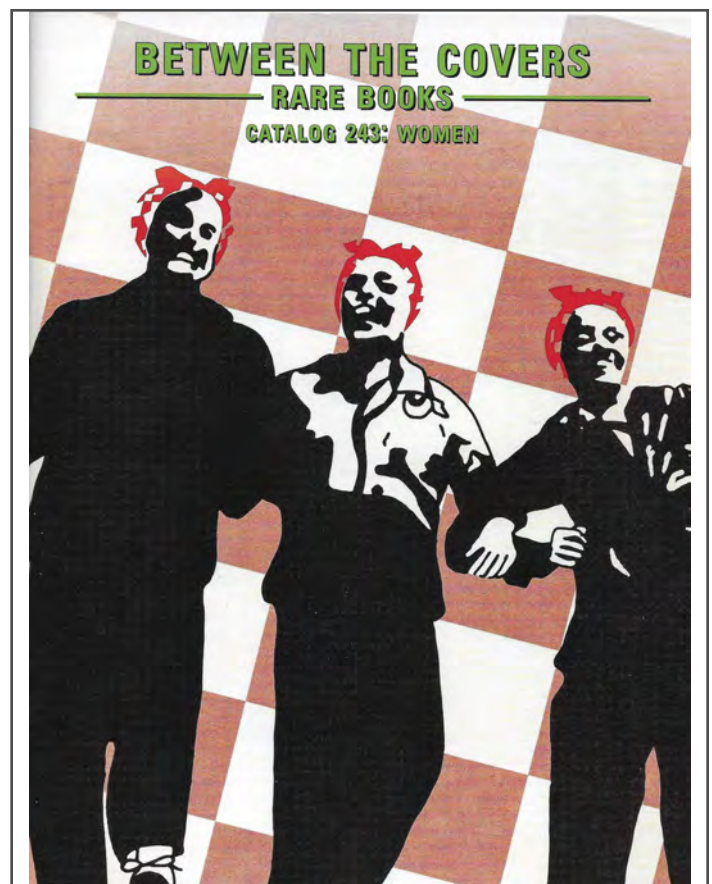




a 'reticent' collector, writes Edwards. 'Brian's library was his great joy, and a passion, and it eventually outgrew the house [that he retired to in the Lake District], so that he had to buy a small cottage nearby, which became the overflow library. In the cottage, there was no need for creature comforts: every room was given over to the modern books, perhaps twenty thousand of them (nobody knew the true figure), reflecting his many tastes, bibliographical, historical, theological and musical.' The antiquarian books remained in his house – including, here catalogued, a translation of Cicero's *Tusculanae disputationes* by John Dolman, *Those Fyve Questions* (1561), £3,000, with the ownership signature of Richard Stonley – 'Shakespeare's first customer', whose diary records his purchase, on 12 June 1593, of *Venus and Adonis*, 'the very first record of any book by Shakespeare having been purchased'.

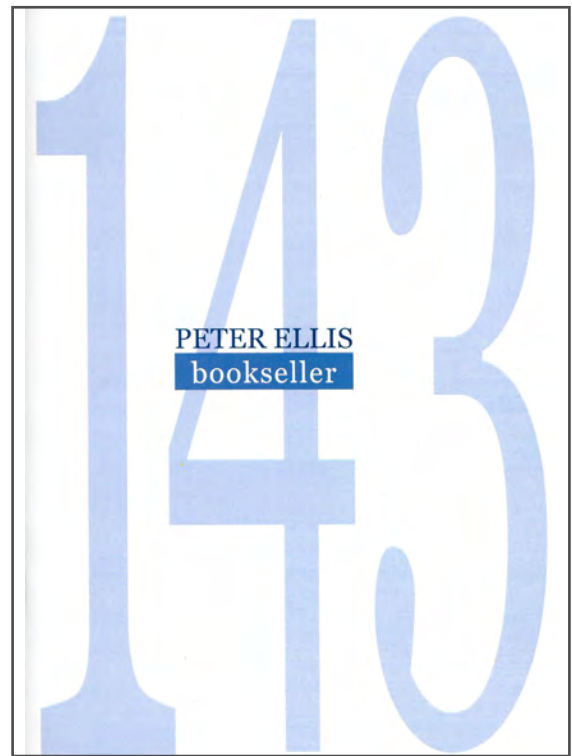
Edwards's third catalogue, 80, 'English Books & Manuscripts: a selection from stock', 89 items, has 'The first copy sold', so inscribed by its purchaser, the naturalist/pharmacologist Samuel Frederick Gray, of Byron's *English Bards, and Scotch Reviewers* (1809), £500, as well as an attractive anonymous 'Sketch of Miss [Maria] Edgeworth – when at an Evening party at Clifton in 1817', £950.

The quarto catalogues of **Between the Covers** (mail@betweenthecovers.com) are bold and immersive. 240, 'Americana', 65 items, has a collection of ephemera from Countess Vivi Crespi relating to the funeral of President John F. Kennedy, \$3,200, 242, 'Winter Miscellany', 164 items, Graham Greene's *The Little Steamroller*, illustrated by Edward Ardizzone (1974), with a presentation inscription to



Yvonne Cloetta ('... to teach little Alexandra English') illustrated by the author – Cloetta's granddaughter installed in a playpen, \$5,000, 243, 'Women', 89 items, an archive of Charlotte Zolotow, children's book publisher at Harper's, 40 linear feet of material, c1930–2013, \$250,000, and 244, 'African-Americana', 99 items, four gramophone records from the Klu Klux Klan's own 'KKK' label, \$1,000; while 'Archives & Manuscripts 25', 30 items, includes a 413-volume collection of American book bindings, 1791–1900, \$85,000.

Peter Ellis (peterellisbooks@hotmail.co.uk) is inexhaustible, mining rich seams. His latest catalogues are 140, 462 items; 141, 474 items; 142, 454 items; and 143, 471 items. 141 has Christopher Fry's much-used T.S. Eliot's *Collected Poems* 1909–1935 (1936) inscribed for him by the author, £6,750, for which Ellis adduces Fry's reminiscence to Michael Billington – 'I first met Eliot in 1939, and I remember asking him what I could do in wartime that didn't mean shooting people. He suggested fire service, but I told him that I had no head for heights. Eliot said, "You must specialise in basements." ' (Fry funk'd the fire service, and went instead into 'Nancy Elsie', NCLC, the Non-Combatant Labour Corps, alongside Derek Stanford and Ian Hamilton Finlay.) 142 has John Buchan writing in January 1928 to the American historian Samuel Eliot Morison about being a Member of Parliament, 'I am a Member of our funny little Congress nowadays, and to my surprise it more or less listens when I talk. It is an amusing place to go after a busy day's work' – the letter, with other matter, in an inscribed copy of *John Buchan by His Wife and Friends*

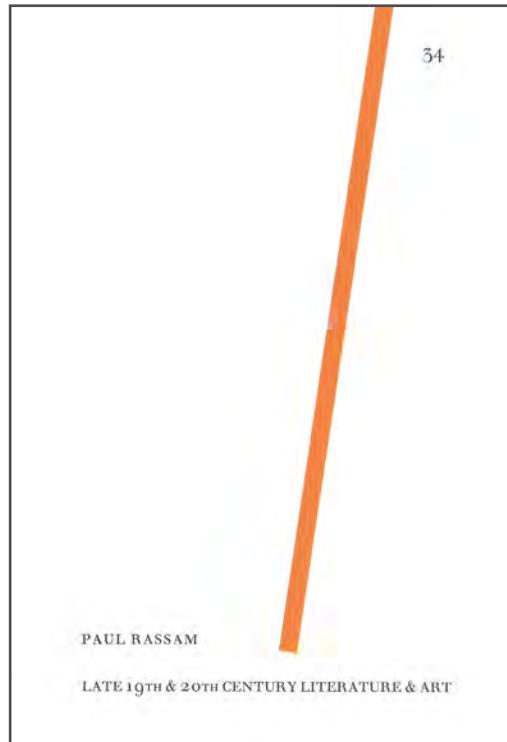


(1947), £350 – and a complete run of *Horizon*, less the French issue, £450; 143 a complete set of *Poetry London* and *Poetry London–New York*, £1,500, and *Lord of the Flies*, 'Fine in very near fine dustwrapper', £12,500.

Paul Rassam (paul@paulrassam.com), 34, 'Late 19th & 20th Century Literature & Art', 135 items, is, as usual, a feast of associations. Here are W.N.P. Barbellion's *The Journal of a Disappointed Man* (1919), inscribed, 'B.F. Cummings [i.e. himself, in his real name] from W.N.P.B.', £1,250, Julian Maclaren-Ross's first book, *The Stuff to Give the Troops* (1944), inscribed to Cyril Connolly, £1,750, Elizabeth Rothenstein's *Stanley Spencer* (1945) inscribed by the subject to his absentee second wife, Patricia Preece (why? wonders Rassam, in a splendidly discursive note), £1,250, and 10 letters from Gerald Brenan to Janetta Parladé, 1967–81, with much about his controversial 1974 memoir *Personal Record*, £1,500. The plum of the catalogue, described

over almost 12 pages, is a Hope Mirrlees archive, 53 letters, some of them sensational, to the American academic Suzanne Henig, 1972–4, with numerous other manuscripts including a fascinating memoir, photocopies, photographs etc., and a 90-minute tape cassette of Mirrlees reading *Paris* and other poems, £15,000. Mirrlees writes in her memoir of Jane Harrison, of Virginia Woolf, of 'Tom' Eliot. Does he read aloud to you, asked Arthur Waley? Yes, said Mirrlees, every evening: 'at the moment he is reading me *The Swiss Family Robinson*'.

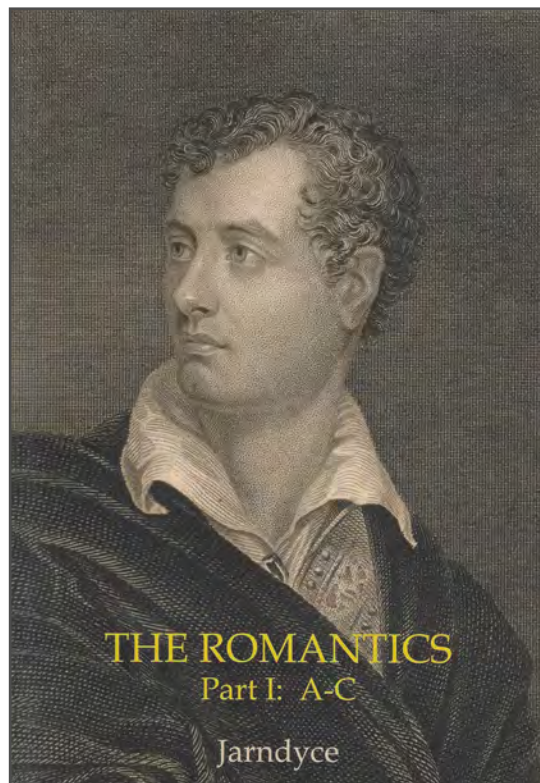
Eliot stayed used to stay with Mirrlees and her mother for weekends at Shamley Green in Surrey during the Second World War. He read Hope 'all the Sherlock Holmes books, *Pickwick*, *Tom Sawyer* etc. While he was staying with us he wrote *Dry Salvages* & *East Coker*. He read them aloud to an audience consisting of my mother who loved poetry but not modern poetry, my aunt Constance who hated poetry, me & three barking dogs.'



Jarndyce (books@jarndyce.co.uk), CCXLVI, 'The Romantics: Part I, A–C, Byron, Clare, Coleridge, &c' (catalogue by Joshua Clayton and Jessica Starr), 581 items, was particularly strong in Byron, who scored 319 against Clare's 25, and Coleridge's 77. Unusual items included Lady Byron's visiting card ('Lady Noel Byron'), £480, the 'strictly private' *Lady Noel Byron and the Leighs: some authentic records . . .* (1887), £3,800, and a watercolour by William Hilton after his oil portrait of

Clare, £15,000. Jarndyce's CCXLI, 'Pantomimes, Extravanzas & Burlesques', 547 items, including much material from the collection of Henry Hoppe, was the last catalogue produced for the firm by Helen Smith, who

died in 2018, and some of whose own reference collection is appended; the catalogue was completed by Ed Nassau Lake.

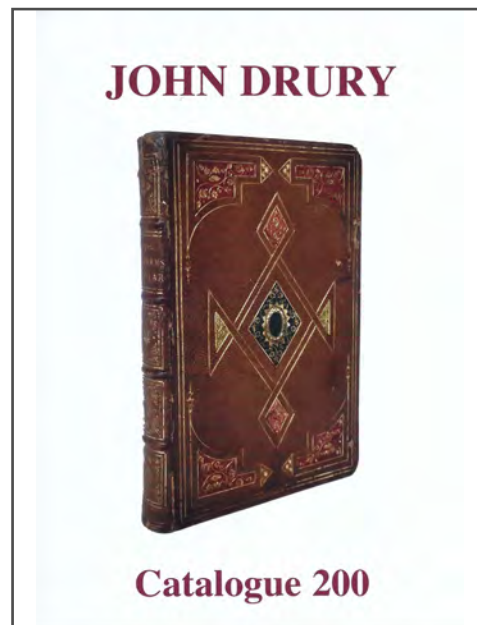


John Drury (mail@johndruryrarebooks.com) attained the milestone of 200 catalogues. The zesty 200th, 125 items, had the usual run of 'books, pamphlets, broadsides & manuscripts on a wide range of subjects but broadly in the fields of political economy and the

human and social sciences', from John Physiophilus's *Specimen of the Natural History of the Various Orders of Monks, after the Manner of the Linnæan System* (1783), the first edition in English of the quite vicious *Monachologia* of Ignaz Edler von Born, an ex-Jesuit, and a wonderful engraving from 1797, *The Sunday School Children of Colchester, at their anniversary dinner*

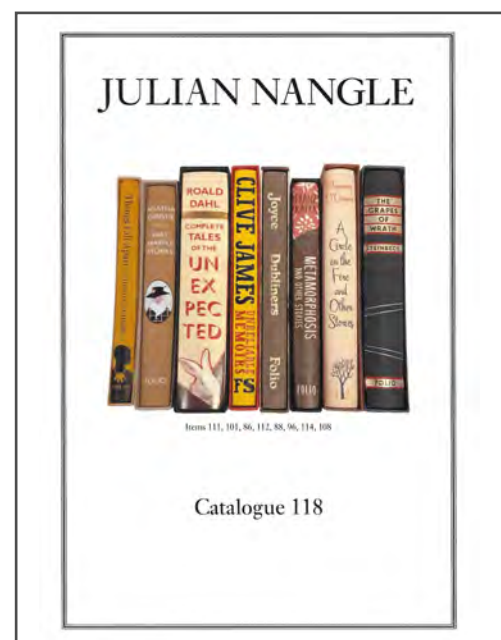
in the Castle Bailey (a scene not unlike a modern Buckingham Palace garden party), to a statement of by-laws by the Royal Burgh of Selkirk, 1820, forbidding the beating of carpets outside after nine in the morning, 'under the penalty of one shilling', and 'slides' in the street in times of frost, penalty 'two shillings and sixpence, or imprisonment' – each £250. Two more catalogues, tilling similar soil, followed, 201 and 202, each 120 items.

Julian Nangle (julian@nanglerarebooks.co.uk) is the philosopher poet of English antiquarian booksellers. His catalogues – this season, 117, 168 items; 118, 304 items; 119, 184 items – are dependable, affordable, readable, always interesting, and preceded by personal notes that count the costs of life as, too, they scout for signs of hope. Nangle calculates the economics of opening his Dorchester shop (in the days when he could do so, he reckoned he was making £50 a week), comments on the US presidential election (whatever else he feels about lockdown, he was 'electrically energised politically'), considers his own



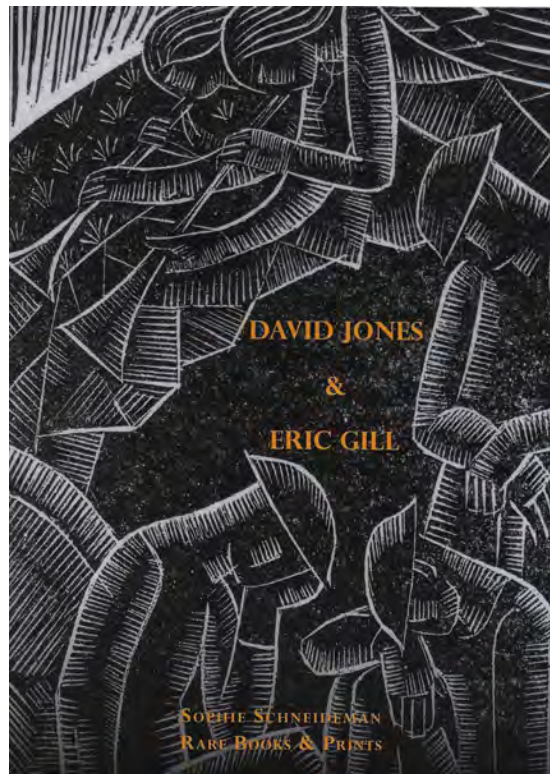
mortality, reflects on his bookselling past. For £875 (or, two catalogues later, less a prospectus, £750) he offers Siegfried Sassoon's *Vigils*, privately printed for Douglas Cleverdon in 1934, with a good letter from Cleverdon to James Stevens Cox, 1976, remembering asking Thomas Hardy in Glastonbury (c1924, 'It was 'blustering weather' – the only weather I was told at the time, in which Hardy

would go out') to sign a copy of *The Famous Tragedy of the Queen of Cornwall*; in turn he remembers being shown by Cleverdon, a near neighbour in Islington in the 1970s, his own copy of *Vigils*. Cleverdon, he says, was 'enormously encouraging and supportive of the young upstart who'd popped up on his patch'. The older upstart, removed to the centre of Hardy country, now ruminates: 'I regard a bookshop as a canvas I have painted, an artwork I retouch almost daily. It is an...



ongoing creative expression, not really a business at all.'

'Homo Faber, Homo Sapiens: David Jones (1895–1974) & Eric Gill (1882–1940), prints, books, lettering & original artwork' from **Sophie Schneideman** (sophie@ssrbooks.com), 100 items, was a very pretty catalogue. In an early, touched-up pen-and-ink alphabet by Gill, June 1914, Schneideman sees 'the beginnings of Perpetua', £8,500. Gill's *Emblems Engraved on Wood*, one of 15 copies only printed by Gill and Douglas Pepler at Ditchling, 1915, is £10,000, Edward Johnston's complete set of *The Game* (St Dominic's Press, 1916–23), with extra insertions, is £7,000, two coloured wood-engravings inscribed by Gill to Jones, *The Flight of St. Perpetua* and *The Triumph of St. Perpetua* (both 1928), are each £1,600, a pencilled Easter inscription from Jones to Gill, 1931 ('RESVREXIT SICVT DIXIT. ALLELVIA'), is £850, and a series of blocks for Gill's *Twenty-Five Nudes* (1938) £2,900. **Blackwell's Rare Books** (rarebooks@blackwells.co.uk), PP9, 'Private Press



& Illustrated Books', 218 items, notably strong in the Birmingham School of Printing, found an 'unrecorded' St Dominic's Press item in a Second Debenture from the Spoil Bank Association, one of the smartest business documents one might ever expect to see, this copy signed by Gill, the SBA's Director, £150.

Christopher Saunders Books (info@cricket-books.com), 'Corridor

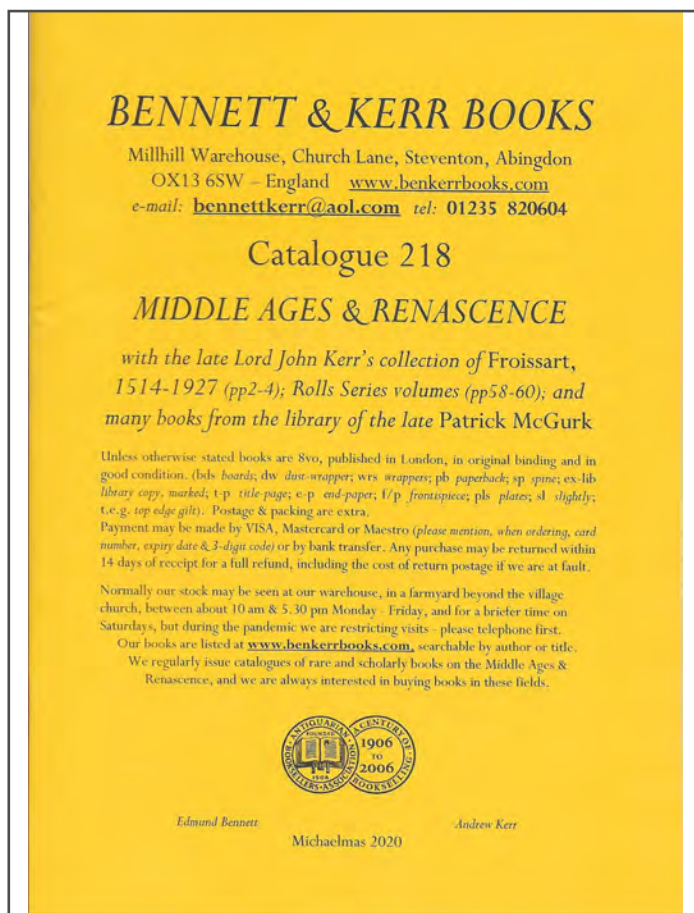
of Uncertainty', was a 204-page, 717-item hymn to the summer game, featuring W.G. Grace's own copy of 'King Willow's' 'W.G.' *Up to Date: the doings of W.G. Grace from 1887 to 1895 inclusive* (1896), £1,500, T.

Broadbent Trowsdale's *The Cricketers' Autograph Birthday Book* (1906) in the copy of a sometime Lancashire player, Peter Higson, with 730 cricketers' signatures, £13,000, Brian Johnston's *Rain Stopped Play* (1979) inscribed to Christopher Martin-Jenkins ('To Jenkers . . . From . . . Johnners') and signed by Henry Blofeld, Bill Frindall and the rest of the *Test Match Special* team, £50, and some 150 volumes of *Wisden*.

Corridor of Uncertainty



Christopher Saunders Books



Bennett & Kerr (bennettkerr@aol.com) issued three catalogues, 217–19, 'Middle Ages & Renaissance', 580, 942 and 699 items, 218 including Lord John Kerr's Froissart collection (the earliest item from the Lothian library at Newbattle) and books from the library of Patrick McGurk (1928–2017), sometime Reader in Medieval History at Birkbeck, 219 more books from the library of E.G. Stanley. **Honey & Wax** (info@honeyandwaxbooks.com), 9, enticingly presented as ever, 56 items, had a complete set of Kate Greenaway almanacks, that for 1889 inscribed both by her and by John Drinkwater, \$8,500, and a complete run of 53 Boni Paper Books and Bonibooks, 1929–31, Charles Boni's pioneer paperbacks, predating both Albatross and Penguin, together with the publisher's custom display case, \$4,200.

Among other catalogues received were: **H. Baron** (musicwall@hotmail.co.uk), 185, 'Beethoven, Stravinsky', 249 items; **Alastor Rare Books**, 37–8, 160 and 175 items, engagingly various; **Tindley & Everett** (tindleyandeverett@outlook.com), 68, 'First Editions', 201 items, including some nice Betjeman; **Ash Rare Books** (books@ashrare.com), 120, 52, a pleasing miscellany; **Blackwell's Rare Books** (above), B197, 'Antiquarian & Modern', 240 items, a nice general catalogue complicated (for this reader) by strange, coloured sectional stripes; and **William Cowan** (william.833cowan@btinternet.com), 137 items, including two letters from Arthur Ransome, 1960–1, to Wren Howard, chairman of Jonathan Cape, about misprints, *Swallowdale* and the obstinacy of Swedish publishers, £400 – with Howard's Six-20 Kodak Model B camera, said to have been a gift from Ransome, thrown in.

Please post catalogues for review to:

James Fergusson
39 Melrose Gardens
London W6 7RN
jamesfergusson@btinternet.com

ABA | COMMITTEE POSITIONS VACANT

The ABA are seeking volunteers from the membership to fill two key committee positions, working closely with The ABA council.

LIBRARY LIAISON

The Library Liaison would take initiative to communicate with key libraries and institutions to create an ongoing dialogue with the ABA. They would work to promote the ABA, it's members and events.

BOOK SECURITY ASSISTANT

The Book Security Assistant would help Book Security Chair, Ed Maggs in forming relationships with UK libraries to encourage institutions to utilise the newly developed ILAB Missing Books Register, which is set to launch this summer.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact the ABA office for further information.

MINUTES OF THE ABA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2021 AT 17:00 [*VIA ZOOM]

President: The President, Roger Treglown (Roger J Treglown) in the Chair.

Officers: The Vice-President, Pom Harrington (Peter Harrington), The Hon. Treasurer, Daniel Crouch (Daniel Crouch Rare Books), Immediate Past-President Angus O'Neill (Omega Bookshop).

Members of Council: Jenny Allsworth (Jenny Allsworth Rare Books), Simon Beattie (Simon Beattie Ltd), Deborah Coltham (Deborah Coltham Rare Books), Michael Graves-Johnston (Michael Graves-Johnston), James Hallgate (Lucius Books), Tom Lintern-Mole (Antiquates Ltd), Edward Maggs (Maggs Bros), Sophie Schneideman (Sophie Schneideman Rare Books and Prints), Bernard Shapero (Shapero Rare Books).

Past Presidents: Adrian Harrington (Adrian Harrington Rare Books), Peter Miller.

Full Members, Associate Members and Friends: Adam Douglas (Peter Harrington), Nicky Dunne (Heywood Hill), Christopher Edwards (Christopher Edwards), Angelika Elstner (ILAB), Simon Finch (Voewood Rare Books), Jonathan Fishburn (Jonathan Fishburn Rare Books), Alice Ford-Smith (Jarndyce), Barbara Grigor-Taylor (Cavendish Rare Books), Pierre-Yves Guillemet (PY Rare Books), Thomas Heneage (Thomas Heneage

Art Books), Laura Massey (Alembic Rare Books), Nick McBurney (NG McBurney), Paul Mills (Clarke's Africana & Rare Books), John Morten (E.J. Morten), Janette Ray (Janette Ray Booksellers), Susanne Schulz-Falster (Susanne Schulz-Falster), Rob Shepherd (Sangorski & Sutcliffe), Ian Smith (Peter Harrington), Anthony Smithson (Keel Row Books), Lindsey Stewart (Stewart & Skeels), Sara Trevisan (Blackwell's), Ann Marie Wall (Hinck & Wall).

Honorary Solicitor: James Freemantle.

ABA Office: Riley Grant (Secretary), Elise Bousquet (Marketing).

Apologies: Alex Alec-Smith, Keith Fletcher, Stephen Luck, Andrew McGeachin, Jonathan Potter.

The President welcomed the 40 attendees (of whom 36 were voting members) and thanked them for attending. He asked that cross table conversation we kept to a minimum, as the meeting would be conducted online. He noted that the meeting was quorate.

In Memoriam

The meeting held a moment of silence for those who had passed away in the previous year: Alfredo Breitfeld, Colin Franklin, Helen Hardy, Robin Summers, Tony Swann.

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 to be approved

The president called for a proposer and seconder for the 2020 AGM minutes.

With Pom Harrington as proposer and Jonathan Fishburn as seconder, the minutes were unanimously accepted.

Receipt and Adoption of the Annual Report for the year 2020-2021:

President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Officers, Council, Sub-Committees, Patrons, Benevolent Fund Trustees: Benevolent Fund, Educational Trust Trustees: Educational Trust, Honorary Members, Staff, Membership, Book Fairs, Book Collecting Prizes, Export of Books and Manuscripts, Trade Liaison (BAMF, PBFA), Reference Library, Management, Marketing and Newsletter, Press Office, Security, Standards, Website, Branches.

There were no questions or other matters arising.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for the 2020-2021 Annual Report. With Tom Lintern-Mole as proposer and Adrian Harrington as seconder, the report was unanimously accepted.

Financial Reports for the year 2020

The Treasurer's Report and the Association's Accounts were presented by the Honorary Treasurer, Daniel Crouch.

DCr noted that he wanted to take the opportunity to thank RG for her perseverance during the year, as it had not been straight forward. He also extended thanks to the ABA Bookkeeper Sarah Keefe. He extended thanks to BADA for their generosity during the year and to members for their kind donations. DCr reported that the Association needed to work

on creating financial reserves, to avoid the difficulties of the last year. He urged prudence and savings within the ABA and looked to continue a gradual increase in subscriptions, in line with inflation, rather than intermittent increases.

RS noted that prior to 2019, the ABA finances had been steady and during his ten years as treasurer, the reserves had risen to £165,000. It would have been impossible to predict the impact of BREXIT or Covid-19 would have on successive book fairs and the reserves. RS added that the ABA subscription was a substantial amount for some ABA members, particularly those who were not VAT registered. He felt the Association could be broader in their approach to creating further finances, rather than financing through members subscription rates.

DCr and PH confirmed that there was no criticism intended.

JM asked if the officers and council had discussed further ways of increasing income. DCr reported that the new venue for Firsts London would create a larger income, as would the continuation of Firsts Online. He asked that members share ideas for further income streams.

With Tom Lintern-Mole as proposer and Adrian Harrington as seconder, the reports were unanimously accepted.

Benevolent Fund

The meeting noted the reappointment of

Daniel Crouch, Adrian Harrington and Peter Miller (Chairman).

The meeting received and noted the Benevolent Fund Accounts and Report for the year 2020.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for the Benevolent Fund Accounts and Report. With Tom Lintern-Mole as proposer and Adrian Harrington as seconder, the report was unanimously accepted.

PM also asked for the reconfirmation of the Benevolent Fund's Fund Managers, Waverton, to be re-appointed.

With Daniel Crouch as proposer and Pom Harrington as seconder, the this was unanimously accepted.

Educational Trust

The meeting noted the appointment of the following as Trustees of the Educational Trust: Simon Beattie, Leo Cadogan, Justin Croft, Daniel Crouch, Adam Douglas (Chairman), Anthony Smithson.

The meeting received and noted the Educational Trust Accounts and Report for the year 2020.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for Educational Trust Accounts and Report. With Tom Lintern-Mole as proposer and Adrian Harrington as seconder, the report was unanimously accepted.

Election of Officers:

The following were nominated by Council in accordance with Article 24 to serve as the Officers of the Association for 2021-2022:

President: **Pom Harrington** (Peter Harrington)

Vice-President: **Deborah Coltham** (Deborah Coltham Rare Books)

Treasurer: **Daniel Crouch** (Daniel Crouch Rare Books)

No other nominations have been received and the Officers are therefore to be elected unopposed.

Outgoing President RT handed over the Chain of Office to Incoming President, PH. PH noted that RT had held the position of presidency during a difficult time for the Association.

PH reported that the Association was coming to the end of a difficult time, with a great deal to look forward to in the coming months. Firsts London moving to Saatchi Gallery presented a great opportunity, and he looked forward to welcoming everyone. Saatchi would allow for an event to run safely. With the move to October, the Chelsea and Edinburgh fairs would unfortunately be cancelled for 2021. They would return in 2022. As a result of the last year, the Association discovered and developed the successful online platform, Firsts Online. The platform has gone from strength to strength, with other ILAB associations licensing copies to host their own editions of Firsts Online. PH noted that TLM would be taking over the Firsts Online committee.

PH reported that it had become clear that while online book fairs were accessible worldwide, the majority of the audience was comprised from domestic visitors. With that in mind, the ABA would be partnering with the ABAA to create The Transatlantic Book Fair to cover a broad spectrum of countries and time zones, using the Biblio platform. This was scheduled for the end of July, when the calendar was empty.

PH noted that there had been ongoing requests for a trade fair, and that plans were underway for an event in early July. More information would be available soon.

The ABA would be organising the ILAB Congress for May 2022 in Oxford (UK), with Firsts London immediately after.

PH reported that RG and EB had continued to work from home, increasing communication with members and developing the Association's presence on social media. The ABA's website had been live for seven months, and PH encouraged members to engage with the site and provide content to RG and EB.

PH thanked DCr for his work on the finances and noted that the Association had a good budget for 2021.

Election of Members of Council:

One third of the elected Members of Council are required to retire in rotation each year under Article 34 of the Association. Three of the four retiring Members of Council were offering themselves for re-election in accordance with Article 34 and there were

two further candidates. There were four places vacant. The candidates were:

Simon Beattie - Standing Re-election in accordance with Article 34
(Simon Beattie Ltd)

James Hallgate - Standing Re-election in accordance with Article 34
(Lucius Books)

Thomas Heneage - Proposed by Rob Shepherd, Seconded by Angus O'Neill
(Thomas Heneage Art Books)

Ed Maggs - Standing Re-election in accordance with Article 34
(Maggs Bros Ltd)

No other nominations had been received and the Candidates were therefore to be elected unopposed. PH welcomed TH to Council.

Appointment of Accountants: Cloke & Co. were re-appointed as Accountants for the coming year.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for the appointment of Accounts. Daniel Crouch as proposer and Peter Miller as seconder, the appointment was made.

Appointment of Solicitors: Lee, Bolton Monier-Williams were re-appointed as Solicitors for the coming year.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for the appointment of Solicitors.

With Tom Lintern-Mole as proposer and Roger Treglown as seconder, the appointment was made.

Appointment of Honorary Solicitor: James Freemantle appointed as Honorary Solicitor for the coming year.

PH noted that David Cooper had held the position, was stepping down and the Association welcomed James Freemantle.

JF introduced himself as a collector of private press and fine press books. He noted that he wrote books on the subject, while being the Chairman of the Private Libraries Association. He also ran his own letter press, The St. James Park Press, while working as a partner at BDP Pitmans.

The President called for a proposer and seconder for the appointment of Honorary Solicitor. With James Hallgate as proposer and Daniel Crouch as seconder, the appointment was made.

The President asked if there was **Any other business**.

AMW asked if the trade fair would be open to ILAB dealers. RG noted that it was an ABA initiative, that would be extended to the PBFA.

BG asked if the Association would recommence with the printed newsletter. RG noted that it would potentially return in 2022 but would remain digital for the time being.

RT noted that the future of the ABA was in very good hands with PH.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:45.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021 AT 14:30 [*VIA ZOOM]

In Attendance

Roger Treglown (President), Pom Harrington (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Jenny Allsworth, Simon Beattie, Deborah Coltham, Michael Graves-Johnston, James Hallgate, Tom Lintern-Mole, Ed Maggs, Angus O'Neill, Bernard Shapero.

Also in Attendance: Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington.

Apologies: Sophie Schneideman.

OPEN MEETING

RT welcomed Elise Bousquet, Pierre-Yves Guillemet, Paul Mills, and Nick McBurney to the meeting.

In Memoriam

Peter Kay
Janette Rosing

Council held a moment of silence to pay their

respects.

Minutes of the ABA Council Meeting held on 21 January 2021

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Report of the President

RT reported that he had been censured by the Standards Committee, after self-referral. The Committee deemed the matter was closed, and RT had nothing further to say on the matter.

Financial Report

DCr reported that there had been minimal change from the previous meeting, and the Association would be running a tight budget for the remainder of the year. If Firsts were to go ahead in October, this would make the second half of the year more comfortable though with a possibly reduced profit. If Firsts did not happen in October, the Association would make it through the year, though with some difficulty.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that recent months and future months would be busy. There had been various versions of Firsts Online, there was a licensing agreement for an online art fair, the trade fair was being developed and a co organised fair with the ABAA would take place in the summer. She would be assisting with running YABS followed by the first edition of Firsts London at Saatchi Gallery.

Marketing Report

EB reported that recent months had been busy with online fairs. EB would be preparing the ABA newsletter, which would come out after easter. Following that, it would be preparations for Firsts Online and planning for Firsts London later in the year. She was currently drafting guidelines for social media and looking to diversify the social media output.

Book Fairs

Firsts London - 21-24 October 2021

PH reported that after conversations with Saatchi, the May dates had been moved to October. Saatchi maintained that with the current government advice, they would be open in May, but were willing to postpone to October due to restrictions on international travel. Should there be issues in October, the event payments would be rolled over to May 2022. PH reported that applications would be launched in early June.

ILAB

Congress 2022

DCr reported that there had been a planning meeting earlier that week. Planning was difficult with many colleges and restaurants closed, but plans were underway with more to be announced shortly. SB reported that he would be touring Waddesdon the following month.

PH enquired about the financial implications of the hotel contract. DCr confirmed it would be a sliding scale. He noted that there would

be exclusive use of most of the hotel, rather than the entire building.

Missing Books Register

AON reported that there had been ongoing issues with the ILAB servers due to a large fire. There would be progress on the register in the coming months.

Committees and other ABA activities

ABE

PH reported that as a result of Brexit, there were no longer restrictions for trading in Germany.

Charities

Educational Trust

DCr reported that the ABA would be taking on the administration of YABS under the control of the trust.

Export and Legislation

DCr reported that he would be issuing updated guidance for the membership, with VAT rates changing. There were certain forms that did not allocate space for EORI numbers and other similar situations. He urged everyone to label their packages with their EORI numbers. He would be circulating updated guidance for members shortly.

PH reported that DHL were working well, with a fixed fee to handle customs charges, rather than based on a % of the goods.

Dates of Next Meetings

27 May 2021

29 July 2021 - Potential in-person meeting 30 June 2021 in York

23 September 2021 - SLAM Fair conflict

2 December 2021 - Christmas Party

Any Other Business

RT reported that this would be his final council meeting as President and thanked the council for their support over the last 12 months.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:15.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2021 AT 14:30 [*VIA ZOOM]

In Attendance: Roger Treglown (President), Pom Harrington (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Jenny Allsworth, Simon Beattie, Deborah Coltham, Michael Graves-Johnston, James Hallgate, Tom Lintern-Mole, Ed Maggs, Angus O'Neill, Bernard Shapero, Sophie Schneideman.

Also in Attendance: Riley Grant

OPEN MEETING

RT welcomed Elise Bousquet, Nigel Garwood, Pierre-Yves Guillemet, Paul Mills and Sara Trevisan to the open meeting.

Report of the President

RT reported that there had been a meeting of the management committee earlier that week due to concerns over the status of Firsts in May and the impact the event would have on the Association's finances.

Financial Report

DCr reported that the association's cashflow was concerning, as there was little to cut without impacting the core services of the association, which he was reluctant to do. He reported that there were three scenarios:

1. Firsts goes ahead in May and makes a profit
2. Firsts is postponed to the second half of the year perhaps in tandem with PBFA at Chelsea Old Town Hall
3. No fair in 2021 but to come back in 2022 with a large-scale event in conjunction with ILAB Congress.

Within scenario 3, there would be a tight cashflow, nearly running out of money in July, as the benevolent fund currently owed the association £32,000. There had been more requests from the fund than in previous years. The fund's capital sum was approximately £500,000, with the interest on that sum providing capital for the fund. DCr was hesitant to withdraw any funds from the capital sum. There would be a meeting of the benevolent fund the following week, where the fund manager would provide further information on the fund's performance. The current shortfall of the fund could be remedied by member's donations or revenue from Firsts.

DCr urged the council and Firsts committee to consider the postponement of Firsts, as similar events such as TEFAF and Masterpiece had already been cancelled or moved to later in the year. He felt that from a financial perspective, it would be preferable to plan and host a spectacular event in 2022, then to host a half event in May or October. He supported moving ahead with planning, without the association incurring any financial outlays. PH and DCr disagreed on the possibility of hosting an event in May, but both felt there would be benefits in canvassing the membership and ILAB for their interest.

FAIRS

Firsts 2021: PH reported that there had been a meeting with Saatchi, the notes of which had been distributed to the council in advance of the meeting. Saatchi reported that they expected to be in Tier 2 and open to the public by the middle of April. They had two events confirmed in May, an art fair and Firsts.

PH expressed concerns over delaying the launch of an event and leaving insufficient time to launch and put together the event, should it be possible to go ahead. PH stressed that there was a contract in place and set dates in February and early March for when a decision about the event would be made. Saatchi had confirmed that they would make a final decision in early March. Relations with Saatchi continued to be positive, and they were amenable to talking about all possibilities. PH noted that there would likely be a lack of American exhibitors, but that Europeans participate. The event would likely

be reduced and could run with 80 exhibitors. PH noted that he and RG had concerns over logistics, and the idea of running an event at 75% capacity could act as a first run, in preparation for May 2022. Failing this, there would be the option to postpone. September was becoming increasingly full, but the ideal dates in October would be 7-10 October. The following week would be Frieze and the week preceding would be too close to SLAM.

BS reported that he would support an event running in May, if there was some profitability, it would be worth the effort. If it was not an option, linking with the PBFA later in the year would be a positive use of both venues. TLM felt that any event would be a benefit to members, as many felt they had not received value for their subscription payment. JH added that many were ready to participate in a fair, and if one could be run profitably in May, it should go ahead. DCr reiterated that the association did not have the money to gamble on an event that likely would not happen. There was room in the event budget for cuts and reductions, particularly in relation to hire length and number of floors but the association could not lose a penny.

PH would speak with Saatchi again to reconfirm the deadline for making a decision. In two weeks, he and RG would present a revised budget with revised stand costs and canvas for levels of interest amongst ILAB dealers. Assuming the event could happen, it would be confirmed in March, with larger deposits required. There would be a decision deadline, and a dialogue would remain open with Saatchi. If the event could not proceed,

alternative dates would be confirmed in October. There would be no financial outlay until closer to the time, and the marketing schedule would be primarily digital and local. If there was a viable fair, it would go ahead.

Chelsea 5-6 November 2021: PH felt that if Firsts were to be postponed to October, it would be difficult to host Chelsea shortly after. He also felt it would be inappropriate to offer the PBFA the Chelsea slot. RT noted he was hesitant to share with the PBFA as well. AON noted that social distancing within Chelsea would be difficult and that Saatchi was an excellent venue in the same area. PH noted that November carried its own risks and the closer to the summer, the better.

Edinburgh 2021: RG reported that the event would be tentatively rescheduled to October, with dates to be confirmed.

Bristol 2021: TLM reported that Bristol would be cancelled for 2021 as the new owner of the venue could not be contacted.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that the ABA subscriptions had been distributed at the beginning of January, which had been met with a good response. DCr added that the uptake on subscription donations had gone down for 2021, with fewer donations to the benevolent fund. RG noted that there had been a £3,000 donation to the benevolent fund that would make up for the shortfall. RG would be distributing the AGM notice the following week and putting together the Annual Report. The AGM would be held on zoom again. The annual accounts for the

association, benevolent fund and educational trust would be done in the coming weeks, and RG, Sarah Keefe and the accountants would be confirming those. RG reported ongoing issues with HSBC and noted that she and DCr had discussed looking for another bank. RG was working with PH on Firsts for May and a potentially postponed event. In February and March there would be three editions of Firsts Online, with Firsts Canada and Firsts Italia being developed. Earlier in the week there had been an ILAB Congress planning meeting.

Marketing Report

EB reported that as plans for Firsts were to be confirmed, her focus would be developing content for the newsletter, website and various social media platforms. She intended to create more consistent content based on members and institutional partners. Given the lack of in person events, she would be working on engaging with the members through online platforms.

ILAB

Congress 2022

DCr reported that there had been a planning meeting earlier that week. Subsequently, college tours had been secured by SB. It was proving difficult to confirm restaurants and hotels, while still operational, had many furloughed staff. DCr felt that plans were progressing as much as possible.

Missing Books Register

AON reported that background work had begun, with questions being sent to a solicitor in Brussels. The register would not be live

immediately, as ILAB were prioritising their own website before that of the register. They intended to launch in the spring or summer, depending on progress.

Books as an Investment

PH reported that the subject of books as investment had been an ongoing issue, particularly as publications often approached the ABA and members for comment on the subject. The mandate of the ABA outlined that there could not be discussion of books as investment tools, but PH felt this was disingenuous, particularly for those selling books at the high end of the market. He felt the association and its members should be able to discuss books as investments based on their past performance and draft guidance for members.

AON reported that this stance went back to the 1970s with not promoting books as investment vehicles. He felt that it was a reasonable position, as books did not have intrinsic value beyond what was placed on them but felt it would be helpful for the mindset to evolve.

DCr felt that this was misworded, as citing a previous achieved price confirmed a financial performance, which would be extrapolated to assume a future value.

PH confirmed that the current wording outlined that "Members must not promote antiquarian and rare books, or allied materials, as investment vehicles in themselves, or as part of investment schemes." PH asked to develop this stance further to include what could be said about books and investment.

EM reported that he would disagree strongly with any liberalisation of these rules. Adding an element of speculation could compromise the market. He noted that books were wonderful things to spend money on, but to cite previous or potentially future performance was dangerous for a buyer. TLM suggested looking to redraft the terms with legal clarification. BS reported being asked about book investments regularly by press. He would confirm that books hold a value but are not an investment tool. He would not want to discourage those who wanted to buy a book, particularly at the higher end. Those buyers seek out some form of security in that purchase.

EB enquired about the possibility of drafting a statement that could be confirmed by legal advice and then shared when press enquiries were made. AON would be wary of making any public statements, instead suggested responding with caution and highlighting the importance of a varied portfolio, as with any financial investment. SS suggested using the expression "classic store of value", which could mean a myriad of things, and could be the safest expression of value. RT noted that this would result in an alteration of the ABA rule book. He asked PH to draft his thoughts for further discussion. PH felt that this would not result in a rulebook change, instead asked that a stance be drafted for RG and EB to distribute, when press enquiries were made as they should not portray books as a bad investment.

Export and Legislation

DCr reported that RG had circulated a document "Guidance for Booksellers" with information on the regulations for import and export with VAT rates. DCr would be amassing the questions and common experiences of sellers for further clarification. He noted that there could be the possibility for consolidated shipping to Ireland, which had zero rated books. They could then be sent on to mainland Europe. DCr was researching brokerages and associated fees.

EM noted that the threshold for business within Ireland was £35,000 and once that was reached, the dealer would be required to register within that country. The rate was £100,000 for Germany. DCr noted that it was not the responsibility of the vendor to adhere to import VAT regulations, it was the responsibility of the importer. DCr confirmed this with HMRC who stated that the dealer was obliged to register if they conducted that level of business, but it is the importers obligation. The intention of the law and the practice of the law differ. DCr felt that the EU would initiate some form of harmonised sales tax, as would likely occur in the USA eventually.

Export Licenses

DCr reported that the threshold for books and maps had been increased to £65,000 based on the last provable cost, rather than based on the sale price. DCr noted that there had also been a change of forms.

EU licenses that had been applied for before Brexit apply within the EU, but no longer apply within the UK. The license would work if items

were being moved within EU countries, but a new license would be required to move the item out of the UK after six months.

Committees and other ABA activities

ABA Newsletter

RG reported that the next ABA newsletter would be distributed in early April after the AGM. EB had been working on new content ideas and would reach out to members.

ABA Website

RG reported that the ABA website was functioning and had been working with Biblio to make small changes. EB had been adding content and members had been updating their profiles and adding catalogues. BS asked RG to reiterate the website and dealers' profile are editable.

Book Trade Liaisons

PBFA

TLM was attempting to organize a PBFA meeting and reported that they were looking for a new member of the committee. The PBFA were having ongoing discussions regarding their ILEC fair.

BAMF

AON reported that background work had begun, with questions being sent to a solicitor in Brussels. The register would not be live immediately, as ILAB were prioritising their own website before that of the register. They intended to launch in the spring or summer, depending on progress.

BADA

DCr confirmed that BADA had agreed to the rent proposal for 2021 of half rent for the first half of the year.

Charities

Benevolent Fund

DCr reported that there would be a meeting of the trustees and Waverton the following week. DCr hoped for good news in the final quarter and awaited the annual report.

Educational Fund

DCr reported there would be a meeting of the Educational Trust the following week.

Dates of Next Meetings

25 March 2021 - AGM

27 May 2021

29 July 2021

23 September 2021 - SLAM Fair conflict

2 December 2021 - Christmas Party

Any Other Business

RT reported that he had received a complimentary email and phone call praising the assistance he had received from RG, stating that she was very helpful, pleasant and charming.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 17:01.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2020 AT 14:30 [**VIA ZOOM*]

In Attendance: Roger Treglown (President), Pom Harrington (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Jenny Allsworth, Simon Beattie, Deborah Coltham, Michael Graves-Johnston, James Hallgate, Tom Lintern-Mole, Ed Maggs, Angus O'Neill, Bernard Shapero, Sophie Schneideman

Also in Attendance: Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington

OPEN MEETING

The President welcomed Elise Bousquet, Nick McBurney and Paul Mills to the open meeting.

Report of the President

RT reported that the last meeting of the council had been 24 September. The ILAB presidents meeting had occurred on 1 October, with a number of items discussed. The meeting minutes would be circulated by ILAB in the near future. There had been two management committee meetings since the last council meeting, which were focused primarily on book fairs and remuneration of ABA staff. An ABA member had contacted RT to report an American University that had not settled an invoice for an extended period of time. This had been passed on to the ABAA, and Brad Johnson would be contacting the institution.

Financial Report

DCr presented the accounts to the council, noting that it had not been a good year financially for the association, but it would end with a small surplus thanks to the kindness of BADA, ABAA, some furlough and generosity of members. The surplus would be needed to get through 2021. There was little visibility for 2021 and DCr had put together a variety of scenarios. With bookfairs not confirmed in the first half of 2021, there would be the possibility of the association not having any fair income. There had been discussions about forgoing the ABA office in Bloomsbury as a means of reducing overheads, but the management committee had agreed to maintain it, as the savings were not substantial enough and maintaining the office would preserve institutional memory, provide both meeting and storage space. There had been pay rises approved for RG and EB, bringing them in line with what their predecessors. This had been approved by the management committee.

As there was the potential for financial difficulty, particularly in the cashflow of July 2021, DCr noted that there were government schemes and loans the association could apply for, though this would mean altering the structure of the association, as it currently did not have the facility or eligibility to take on debt. DCr felt the association should utilise the government's furlough scheme for employees who are not working in an office or generating revenue. In the months that Firsts Online had occurred, RG would not be furloughed. EB and RG could be furloughed for January 2021.

The ABA Benevolent Fund had been called upon more than in previous years and would be called upon again in 2021. At the time of the meeting, the Benevolent Fund owed the ABA £32,570, which would normally be settled at the end of the year. The Benevolent Fund capital sum was approximately £500,000. DCr vocalised preference for carrying on without seeking repayment from the Benevolent Fund, as maintaining the fund's capital sum was a priority.

DCr presented a cashflow that assumed the that Firsts would not occur, staff would be furloughed when possible, rent would be negotiated with BADA for the first five months of the year to allow for 50% rent reduction. BADA would have their council meeting on 3 December and would inform DCr of their decision. This scenario also assumed that Chelsea and Edinburgh fairs would go ahead in the second half of 2021, producing some income. This scenario would result in a balance of approximately £43,000 in July 2021, without the Benevolent Fund repaying its current balance, the association would have minimal funds. If this did occur, the association could seek repayment from the capital sum of the Benevolent Fund. There would be sponsorship for ILAB Congress, which could also be used for cashflow in the worst-case scenario.

If Firsts did occur, there would be a six-figure profit from the event, particularly with the removal of the shell scheme. If there was a socially distanced Firsts, that figure would reduce slightly. PH noted that payments for

Saatchi had been made for 2021, which would be returned or transferred to 2022 if the event was unviable.

Firsts London produced £80,463 in deposits for 2020. Firsts Online had been profitable for the association, though Firsts Online February 2021 would be complimentary for ABA members.

DCr proposed the possibility of hosting Firsts in November, which would alleviate financial issues in the second half of the year. A decision on the feasibility of Firsts 2021 would be made in February 2021, which would likely result in a socially distant and reduced capacity event. This would have an impact on the overall profitability of the event.

Overall expenditure was greatly reduced in 2020, which would continue into 2021. The newsletter would remain digital for 2021.

EM enquired about the possibility of virtual book fairs continuing, when in persona fairs had resumed. DCr confirmed that there had been discussion of running virtual book fairs in tandem with in person fairs, adding income and inclusivity. The interest would be determined when fairs returned. PH noted that online fairs were a low-cost model and could be run for one day but more regularly. They would be a benefit to members that would bring attention to businesses.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that she had been working on Firsts Online developments, with the recent edition closing the previous day. Plans were

underway for Firsts Online February Edition, and there would be a Firsts Online committee meeting the following week. Plans for Firsts 2021 were underway, with tentative floorplans, stand and extras pricing confirmed and launch plans underway. There had been issues with bookshelf storage, and RG hoped that Stabilo would take on this responsibility. In the coming weeks RG would be confirming the annual subscription invoices and working with SK to distribute those to the membership. RG had circulated plans and goals for 2021 to the management committee.

Marketing Report

EB had circulated a marketing report in advance of the meeting. She noted that many of her efforts had been focused on Firsts Online and growing the various ABA and Firsts social media audiences. 2021 marketing would be heavily dependent on budget, with a focus on digital. The Firsts Online report would be distributed the following week. RG and EB had discussed plans for 2021, which would focus on connection with institutions and improving the ABA website.

Book Fairs

Firsts 2021: 20-23 May 2021: PH reported that information had been gathered for Firsts 2021, with Stabilo confirmed at the contractors. There would be savings made due to the lack of shell scheme. Freeman had initially stored the Firsts bookshelves and gave one week's notice to have it removed. Catering would be confirmed later, with more confidence and commitment. PH would be

meeting with Brewin Dolphin to discuss sponsorship. The marketing budget would be substantially increased from previous years, and the committee felt there was need to find new customers through increased marketing and the new venue. PH hoped to work with Sir Quentin Blake for some of the bookfair marketing and asked BS for further information. BS noted would follow up.

Edinburgh: 26-27 March 2021: RG confirmed that the event was still scheduled for March though new information had been made available.

Chelsea: 5-6 November 2021: RT felt that Chelsea would likely go ahead in 2021. DCr noted that there would be the possibility of moving Firsts to November, in place of Chelsea. The council expressed some concern over the possibility of losing the venue for 2022. If Firsts were to occur in November, Chelsea Old Town Hall could be utilised in some capacity.

ILAB

Congress 2022

DCr had recently shared a promotional video for the ILAB Presidents meeting, outlining the itinerary. DCr screened the video for the council.

Missing Books Register

AON reported that the register would be running soon, with Biblio building the website. AON was preparing a list of specifications to be communicated to the developers and some

policy decisions were yet to be made.

Committees and other ABA activities

ABA Branches

Dco reported that the South East branch had a zoom, with a small selection of members. There was enthusiasm for a follow-up event in advance of Christmas.

ABA Newsletter

RG reported that the most recent issue of the newsletter was distributed in November. EB had restructured the design of the newsletter. RG asked that members continue to provide content.

ABA Website

RG reported that the website would be a priority for 2021. There would be further work done to improve it.

Book Collecting Prizes

Dco reported that she had circulated news of deferring the prize for 2020, and hoped to present it in 2021 at Saatchi, if possible. Many of the young collectors are amassing serious collections and would benefit from the prize.

BAMF

AON reported that BAMF's focus had been Brexit and Covid-19, and working through contingency planning.

PBFA

TLM reported that the committee had not met and there was discussion on who would replace Philip Morris on the committee.

Charities

Benevolent Fund

AH noted that DCr had covered the state of the fund earlier in the meeting, and that Waverton would be distributing their report in January.

Export and Legislation

DCr had received numerous enquiries from members on potential changes, but there were many unknowns in advance of Brexit. There had been complaints made on the Export License online form system, but the Arts Council had no intention of updating the process before January 2021. PH had asked about individuals with large exports above certain thresholds that resulted in countries requiring registration for VAT within those countries. DCr believed that books would remain zero rated. DCr hoped for further clarity in the coming weeks.

Dates of Next Meetings

21 January 2021

25 March 2021 - AGM - Dependant on Edinburgh

27 May 2021 - Dependant on ILEC Fair Dates

29 July 2021

23 September 2021 - Dependant on SLAM

2 December 2021 - Christmas Party

Other Business

RG reported that the ABA office would be close on 17 December, reopening on 5 January 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:43.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 14:30 [**VIA ZOOM*]

In Attendance: Roger Treglown (President), Pom Harrington (Vice President), Daniel Crouch (Treasurer), Jenny Allsworth, Simon Beattie, Deborah Coltham, Michael Graves-Johnston, James Hallgate, Tom Lintern-Mole, Ed Maggs, Angus O'Neill, Bernard Shapero, Sophie Schneideman.

Also in Attendance: Riley Grant, Adrian Harrington.

OPEN MEETING

The President welcomed Elise Bousquet, Nigel Garwood and Paul Mills to the open meeting.

In Memoriam

The President reported the death of Tony Swann.

Council held a moment of silence to pay their respects.

Report of the President

RT reported that several events had transpired since the previous council meeting. Valerie Jackson-Harris had phoned RT to discuss her dislike of the name "Firsts". RT confirmed that the name would not be changed and would remain as Firsts for the foreseeable future. RT had written to the Executives of the National Trust, which had been reprinted in the ATG. At the time of the meeting, RT had not received a response. RT reported that Graham York

had resigned as a member of council and the standards committee due to personal reasons. SB had taken on the role of standards committee chairman and JH had been co-opted onto the council as a replacement for GY. RT had spoken to Derek Walker in relation to the Edinburgh Book Fair, who had been in touch with RG. RG reported that due to the reintroduction of regulations, the fair would not go ahead in November. The cancellation would be made public in the coming days, while Derek negotiated with the hotel. RT reported AON's uncontested election to the ILAB Comm had to be ratified by the ILAB Committee at a recent meeting. There were two vacancies and two nominations.

Financial Report

DCr presented the management accounts, which demonstrated a projected balance of £23,196 at the end of 2020. The association would maintain a positive balance for the first time in three years, as a result of generous donations, a reduction in OCLC subscription fees and an extensive rent-free period. Preliminary budget figures had been set for 2021. Firsts online had reduced the fair losses for 2020. Other book fair costs would be postponed to 2021. Staff salaries would return to normal for the duration of the year. DCr had added a £12,000 budget for Firsts Online website development. The association's cashflow predicted a balance of £83,314 at the end of 2020. With Firsts application deposits, there would be approximately £160,000 in cash at the end of January 2021. DCr reported that the benevolent fund owed the association funds, but this would be rolled over into 2021, as it was agreed not to withdraw money from

the investments held by Waverton.

Marketing Report

EB reported that her efforts had been spent on Firsts Online, producing a marketing document for Firsts 2021 and speaking with Biblio about improving the ABA website. EB had distributed the Firsts Online marketing report to council, outlining statistics and feedback. EB had released a press release announcing the move to Saatchi and would begin active marketing in January 2021. The unique selling point of 2021 would be the venue change and surrounding area. DCr added that Phillip Pullman had tentatively agreed to open Firsts. RG noted that The London Library had been confirmed as the charity partner for 2021, and there were plans for a press event at the library in the weeks preceding the fair. SB enquired about the average time spent on the Firsts website, as outlined in EB's report. The average website visiting time was high in comparison to general websites, though slightly lower than Getman's site, as they had twice the books. Most website visits occurred in the opening hours. EB had been in touch with the participants of Rare Books London to encourage some collaboration and activity on the website for 2021.

Relationship with Libraries

TLM felt that more should be done to align with libraries and librarians and that he and SS would be presenting developed ideas at the December council meeting. PH noted that there had been efforts made for First 2019 to encourage librarians to attend, but it was difficult with ongoing budget restrictions.

DCo added that Anke Timmerman had made efforts to encourage their attendance with limited uptake. EB noted that she would be updating the association's list of libraries and institutions and would continue to utilise that for future events.

Report of the Secretary

RG reported that the office had been busy with Firsts Online, preparations for Firsts 2021, the next newsletter, ABA website, membership and management committee. There were plans in place to restructure the subscription system and implement direct debits.

Firsts 2021

PH reported that there had been a committee meeting earlier that week and a site visit at the beginning of September. Application details were being confirmed, and the launch would be in the coming weeks. EM enquired about social distancing requirements. PH said that if 1metre social distancing regulations were still in place, there would be capacity issues, bringing the capacity to 500 people, including exhibitors. Exhibitor staff numbers would need to be minimal.

ILAB Congress 2022

DCr reported that he and SB had been working on a video for the ILAB President's meeting on the 1 October. DCr had been reconfirming bookings made in advance of Covid, particularly in relation to the hotel. The colleges and libraries were still not fully operational, so plans were not progressing. PH added that the ABAA were conscious of congress in 2022 and were tailoring their fair

schedule to ensure no overlap. DCr would be sending the promotional video to Sally Burdon directly, and would endeavour to share a copy with RT in advance of the meeting.

Missing Books Registrar

OGJ reported that the registrar would be built shortly, and that ILAB was working through the legal requirements. It would discourage any future thefts.

ABA Newsletter

EB and RG were waiting on submissions and would have a draft for early October.

ABA Social Events

RG confirmed with council that there would not be an in-person Christmas party for 2020. SS suggested opening a zoom meeting for members to attend to socialise. DCo suggested a charitable element and would circulate ideas.

Book Collecting Prizes

DCo confirmed that the prizes would be on hold for 2020, and would be judged in early 2021 with a view to award the prize at Firsts in May.

BTHC

RG reported that there had been attempts made to host the conference online, but it had been agreed to postpone to 2021.

PBFA

TLM reported that with the passing of Phillip Morris, they had lost a member of the liaison committee. There had been some feedback about the difference in dates for the London

fairs in 2021. The events would occur on different weekends.

Benevolent Fund

DCr reported that there had been an increased use of the benevolent fund for 2020, with the fund owing the ABA repayments. DCr recommended that the ABA maintain the benevolent fund debt for the time being, instead of withdrawing any funds from the investment fund.

Export and Legislation

DCr had received many complaints regarding the online system implement for export licenses. He had spoken with DCMS, but they had no intention of altering the system.

Diversity Initiative

DCo felt a committee could be formed to investigate the associations diversity stance.

Dates for 2021

21st January 2021

25th March 2021 – AGM

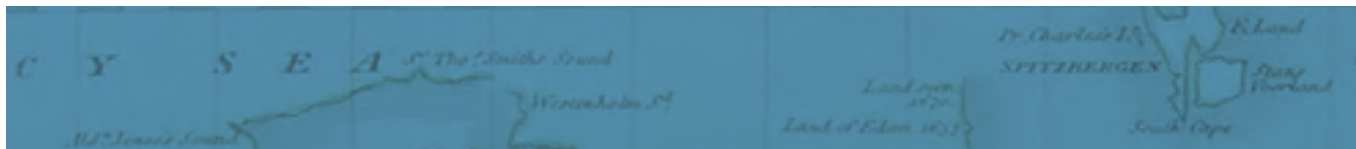
27th May 2021 – Dependant on ILEC Fair Dates

29th July 2021

23rd September 2021 – Dependant on YABS dates

2nd December 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16:40.



THE

TRANSATLANTIC BOOK FAIR

22-27 JULY 2021

The Transatlantic Book Fair is a collaboration between The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (ABA) and The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), bringing together rare book dealers and colleagues from across the two continents. The online book fair will feature items from members of the ABA, the ABAA and ILAB associations.

www.transatlanticbookfair.com

