



The Bookplate Buzz



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The Bookplate Buzz: Volume 2, Number 4

Peeking Under the Covers

We hope that everyone in our network remains cool and healthy in the midst of incomparable heat waves, droughts, wildfires, melting glaciers, sea levels rising, hurricanes, tornadoes, not to mention the coronavirus pandemic! **Yet we are still moving forward with plans for the Global Ex Libris Congress and Centennial Celebration from Sunday, September 11 - Sunday, September 18, 2022.**

Several of our members have discovered the benefits of donating bookplates to the ASBC&D and sponsoring our activities. Our part in the **Tribute to George Steiner Bookplate Competition** was sponsored by ASBC&D member Peter Block and the **Ira Block Foundation, Inc.** of Cincinnati, Ohio. For further information about making an important donation to your society, please write.

Earlier this year, we formed the 501(c)(3) "**Bookplates By The Bay**" (BBTB). As a recognized publicly supported non-profit organization we can accept tax-deductible donations to "sponsor" events at the congress such as mounting of exhibitions, receptions, tours, publications, and/or lectures. Donors have the option to sponsor events at our congress and support a noble cause! In addition, we will enjoy increased participation with smaller registration fees for everyone. We conveniently accept Visa, MasterCard and most major credit cards via PayPal. For specific wire transfer details to **Bookplates By The Bay** bank, please write to: info@bookplate2022.org.

The Waterfront Hotel is at Jack London Square on San Francisco Bay. Our congress participants can easily WALK to good restaurants, pubs, jazz & blues music within one block. There are California vineyards represented at Jack London Square and daily wine tastings as close as 30 meters from the hotel. The 30-minute boat ride into the city will be reminiscent of Venice! You will also discover that there are outdoor spaces for exchanges all around Jack London Square. Most of all, you will be inspired by the important book arts movement that is underway in San Francisco.

Waterfront Hotel, 10 Washington Street, Oakland, CA, USA 94607; Front Desk: 510.836.3800; Reservations: 888.842.5333; Website: www.waterfronthoteloakland.com; Starting rate for FISAE participants is \$169.00 USD per night. Email: waterfrontplaza@hyatt.com.

It is possible for congress participants to leave after 4 days, although we will continue with cultural tours of the region and exchanges. To accommodate everyone we will host a gala banquet on the 3rd or 4th night.

For those who want to attend but cannot travel: We are introducing an innovative website that will offer city & museum tours, exhibitions, lectures, local Jazz & Blues music, printmaking workshops, and an Exchange Hall. You will receive a bulletin when the site is ready for viewing. Our new congress site is <https://bookplate2022.org>. Links are available on <https://bookplate.org>.

This last issue of the BUZZ for 2021 presents the final installment of **Excerpts from the Autobiography of Ernest Morgan (1905-2000)**. In the future, we plan to publish an illustrated edition of the dynamic Ernest Morgan and the Antioch Bookplate Company.

For members who are interested, some back issues of the *Chronicle* are still available.

Thank you for your support! James P. Keenan, Director

American Artists of the Bookplate: Lili Cassel Wronker (1924-2018)

James P. Keenan

"The combination of designing personal symbols and letterforms for people who love books and book collecting, as I do, is one of my favorite graphic design jobs, extremely rewarding!"

Lili Cassel Wronker (1924–2018) was a well-known calligrapher and illustrator. She was a participant in Cambridge Bookplate's editions of *American Artists of the Bookplate*.

Born in Germany, Lili Cassel spent her childhood in Berlin until 1938 when she attended the Stoalety Rough School in Haslemere, Surrey, England. This was a private school for Jewish refugee children from Germany. Two years later she immigrated to New York City with her sister and parents. An aspiring young artist she pursued her interests in the arts through her education at Washington Irving High School in Manhattan. She went on to the Art Students League in New York City and the Brooklyn Museum Art School. Given her passion for creative hand lettering she studied with Master Calligraphers William Metzger, Arnold Bank, and Donald Jackson.

Her early experiences in the graphic arts included working in the art department of *Time* magazine to designing book jackets and illustrating books for the World Publishing Company. One of her first projects was illustrating "The Rainbow Mother Goose," named in the top 50 books of the year by the American Institute of Graphic Arts in 1947. She spent the rest of her career as a freelance calligrapher, illustrator, and book artist.

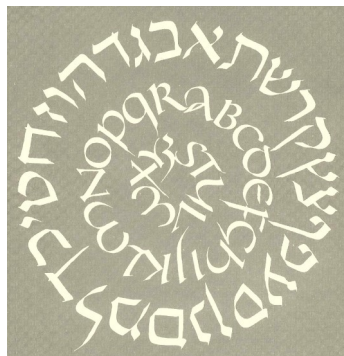
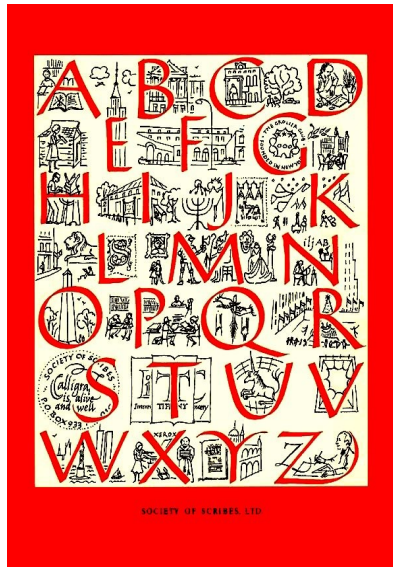
In addition to freelancing for publishers, she also taught calligraphy at several institutions, including the New School of Social Research, Brooklyn Museum School, Queens College and St. John's University along with other locations in New York, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.



Lili Wronker's love of Judaism found artistic expression in her Hebrew calligraphy, which appeared in fine art books and magazines.

Lili met Erich Wronker (1921-1997) who worked as a printer for the United Nations and they married in 1952. They were proprietors of the Ron Press, a private press in Queens. There they had two printing presses and took on various printing projects including bookplates! In designing bookplates she used the techniques of pen & ink and letterpress printing. She was careful to express the subject through studies of the symbols and letterforms involved, then combining them all into a design.

She was a founding member of the Society of Scribes, American Printing History Association, and the Harry Friedman Society of Judaica Collectors in New York. Her graphic works have been exhibited worldwide. Her own work, as well as that of other calligraphers from her collection, can be found in Special Collections at the San Francisco Public Library.



A Tribute to George Steiner

James P. Keenan

It was September 10th, 2018 and our international congress of bookplate artists and collectors had just ended in Prague. On my way back to the States, I stopped off in Paris. I was sitting in a little café one block from the Père Lachaise Cemetery when Marco Sonzogni's proposal arrived in my email. Marco introduced himself as a scholar of translation studies at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He went on to say that he wanted to turn his attention to bookplate art as an intersemiotic translation and was wondering if our society would be willing to help him run a case study -- a bookplate design competition.

The timing was perfect! Bookplate competitions help to stimulate the interest in this 575-year-old graphic art form among artists and printmakers everywhere. This was especially important with our global bookplate congress coming up in San Francisco during September 2022! We needed a sponsor and Marco's idea for this project provided that solution.

Dr. Sonzogni's idea was to develop a bookplate for George Steiner (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Steiner). What an honor for our society to run the competition for this distinguished man of letters. We initiated The George Steiner Bookplate Competition in 2019, but suddenly our website was severely compromised and we were forced to shut down. Ten months passed before our site was up and partially running again. At this point, it was necessary to extend the competition deadline. Sadly, George Steiner passed away on February 3rd, 2020. Our bookplate competition became "A Tribute to George Steiner."

Over the past 40+ years I have organized a few competitions and one resulted in a traveling exhibition that toured major libraries throughout the USA for 9 years. This time we had the advantages (and challenges) of promoting the competition through our social and professional networking pages. On several platforms, our society has a following of 20,000+ artists, printmakers, librarians, bibliophiles, and art collectors.



#1 - Gianna Alexopoulou,
X1, Greece



ASBC&D Centennial Celebration and FISAE XXXIX Global Congress

Jack London Square * San Francisco Bay * September 11-18, 2022

Announcing the San Francisco Bay Area's

"Open" Ex Libris Bookplate Design Competition & Exhibition

<https://bookplate2022.org> ~ info@bookplate2022.org

American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers (ASBC&D) and Fédération
Internationale des Sociétés d'Amateurs d'Ex Libris

Cash Awards funded by the Keith Wingrove Memorial Trust, Melbourne, Australia

Logo calligraphy by Joke van den Brandt



#2 - Marina Terauds, C3,
Michigan, USA

We received entries created by 70 artists representing 27 nations. There were over 300 total original print entries. We are planning the development of online galleries and an in-person exhibition at the American Bookbinders Museum during our world congress in San Francisco (<https://bookbindersmuseum.org>). Victoria University will present an in-person and online exhibition too. A limited-edition book will be launched in February 2022 that includes artwork by the top 20 finalists. This edition will be published by Victoria University & the ASBC&D.

The 20 finalists were selected by our online jury of five. Marco enlisted Dr. Sydney Shep, Reader in Book History and Printer at Wai-te-ata Press at Victoria University, and Dr. Rovena Troqe, Lecturer in Translation and Semiotics at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. I enlisted Olli Ylönen, the Executive Secretary of FISAE in Helsinki, Finland. Our lists of top 20 finalists were presented to Deborah and Daniel Steiner who selected the 3 winners.

We look forward to future bookplate projects with Marco Sonzogni and Victoria University. For many years we have emphasized the importance of organizing bookplate competitions. When exhibited, collectors will be inspired to commission the artists to make new bookplates. This guarantees the future for the art of the bookplate. In addition, it fulfills our goals of building world friendships and camaraderie through the exchange of books and art.

The ASBC&Ds **Tribute to George Steiner Bookplate Competition** was sponsored, in part, by Peter Block and the **Ira Block Foundation, Inc.** in Cincinnati, Ohio.

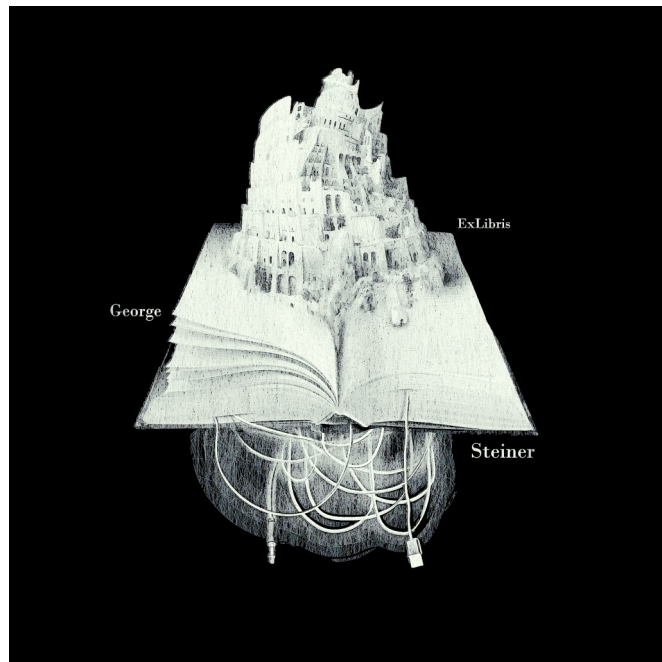
The Steiner Family picked the top 3 entries and their explanations follow:

- 1) **Gianna Alexopoulou** - "is classical and a bit old-fashioned, but elegant and our father would I think have liked it most".
- 2) **Marina Terauds** - "is original and speaks to the idea of a voyager among books which feels right".
- 3) **Lentii Gryniuk** - "is arresting, references Babel as do others – but in a strong way, and is just interesting."

They also commended the ex libris by **K. M. Bak** of Poland as "the most startling design solutions – I would almost want to suggest trying an alternative background colour but I suspect black was chosen deliberately. We don't think our father would have chosen it, but he would have admired the design concepts."



#3 - Lentii Gryniuk, C4, Ukraine



K. M. Bak, CGD, Poland - Opus 1661 and 1662

Who were the artists included in the Top 20? You've already seen many examples in the "Sneak Previews" column of this newsletter. More examples will be presented in future issues of the BUZZ.

Top 20 Participants

ASBC&D/FISAE Votes

- 1) Deborah Chapman, Canada
- 2) Igor Kashinskiy, USA
- 3) Nurgul Arikan, Turkey
- 4) Marina Terauds, USA
- 5) K. M. Bak, Poland
- 6) Pawel Delekta, Poland
- 7) Sandro Chinellato, Italy
- 8) Anna Wajda, Poland
- 9) Galina Pavlova, Bulgaria
- 10) Sonia Mottier, France
- 11) Yuri Borovitskiy, Russia
- 12) Ivo Mosele, Italy
- 13) Luigi Casalino, Italy
- 14) Olga Tereshenko, Belarus
- 15) Sergey Kirnitskiy, Ukraine
- 16) Sjoerd Tegelaers, Netherlands
- 17) Maria Maddalena, Italy
- 18) Emilio Carrasco Guttierrez, Mexico
- 19) Ruslan Agirba, Ukraine
- 20) Victor Manuel Ramos Colliere, Mexico

Victoria University Votes

- 1) Anna Wajda, Poland
- 2) Deborah Chapman, Canada
- 3) Emilio Carrasco, Mexico
- 4) Galina Pavlova, Bulgaria
- 5) Igor Kashinskiy, USA
- 6) Ivo Mosele, Italy
- 7) Luigi Casalino, Italy
- 8) Maria Maddalena Tuccelli, Italy
- 9) Nurgul Arikan, Turkey
- 10) Olga Tereshchenko, Belarus
- 11) Pawel Delekta, Poland
- 12) Ruslan Agirba, Ukraine
- 13) Sandro Chinellato, Italy
- 14) Sergey Kirnitskiy, Ukraine
- 15) Sjoerd Tegelaers, Netherlands
- 16) Sonia Mottier, France
- 17) Victor Manuel Ramos Colliere, Mexico
- 18) Yuri Borovitskiy, Russia
- 19) Marina Terauds, USA
- 20) K. M. Bak, Poland



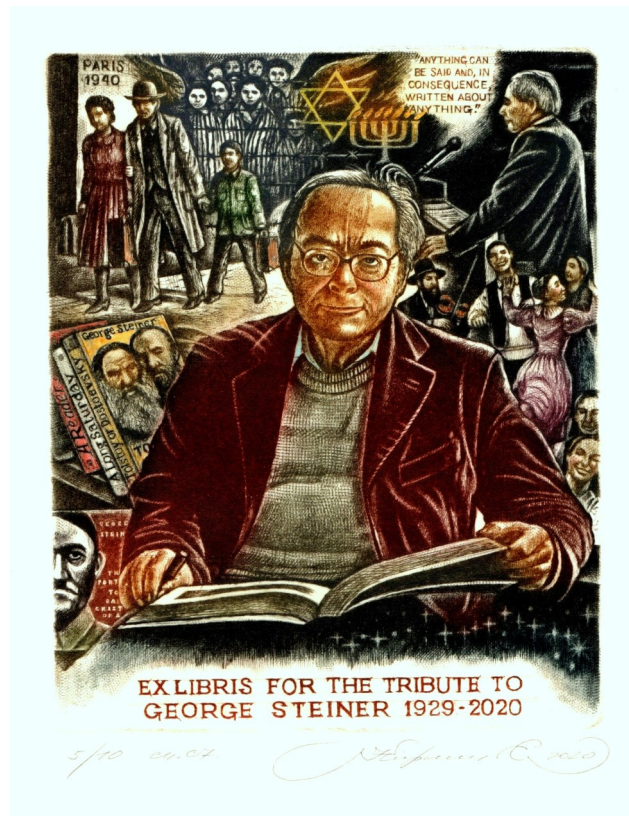
The Color Etchings of Sergey Kirnitskiy (b. 1974)

James P. Keenan

Sergey Kirnitskiy was one of the top 20 finalists in the George Steiner competition. He was born in the City of Vinnitsa, Ukraine. Sergey studied art throughout his childhood years and went on to study Drama and Cinema at the Odessa Art College. He also worked designing sets for the stage.

In 1995 Sergey met David Bekker who is a popular ex libris artist today. He studied with Bekker in his workshop in the Ukraine. There he was introduced to engraved ex libris. He learned various etching techniques including drypoint and mezzotint printmaking. In 1998 he began working with bookplate collectors and developing their ideas. He accepted many invitations to participate in global competitions and exhibitions.

In 2009 Sergey presented a solo exhibition at Shanghai Fuxianzhai Ex Libris Museum, China. Since then he has enjoyed a productive relationship with the museum resulting in many ex libris commissions for Chinese and European collectors.



Kirnitskiy's portrait for our "Tribute to George Steiner" is a C4 + C7 color etching.

The American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers
invites you to our Centennial Celebration and World Congress!

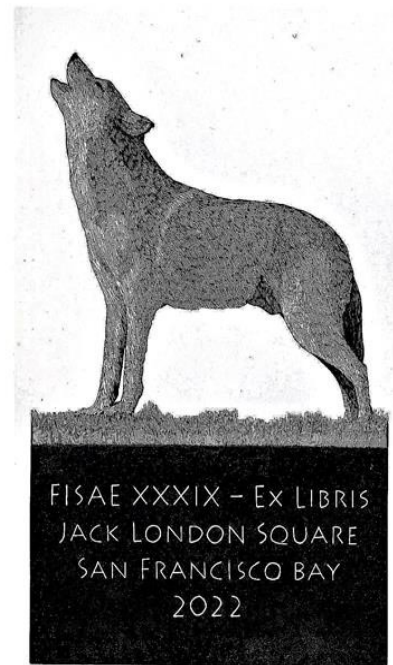
September 11th-18th, 2022

Jack London Square on San Francisco Bay, Oakland, California

Bookplates By The Bay will provide both in-person & online lectures, exhibitions, workshops, studio tours, San Francisco city & museum tours, local American Jazz & Blues from Jack London Square, an Exchange Hall, and much more. We are building a new website for bookplate enthusiasts who want to attend our World Congress, but cannot travel.

Save the Dates! Our Celebration is your unique opportunity to meet with artists, collectors, and booklovers from around the world. The San Francisco Bay Area offers the most important book arts movement in the USA. **Visit us at:** <https://bookplate2022.org>

Please write for more information: info@bookplate2022.org



Wood engraving by Richard Wagener



Always Looking for Bookplate Collections!

Do you have a box of bookplates gathering dust in your attic? Unearthed a small collection built by a family member? These may be loose, mounted, or in a scrapbook. Perhaps you have a file drawer with a surplus of duplicates. Or simply a change in your collecting interests. It may come as a surprise, but we receive notes about discoveries like this regularly. The ASBC&D has a keen interest in building an important collection to share with future generations.

We recently received several hundred antique bookplates kept in an old shoe box! Wherever you may find them, let us know. Need an appraisal? Enjoy the benefits of tax relief through donation. We purchase, exchange, and accept charitable donations of bookplates, books on the subject, and any related material.

Your donated collection will serve to advance the public's awareness of the art form. Since the ASBC&D initiated this campaign, we have received more than 30 collections -- several you will see on display at our World Congress and Centennial Celebration in San Francisco 2022!

The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to further the art and study of bookplates.

Inquiries invited. Please write to: info@bookplate.org ~~~~ Please visit us at: <https://bookplate.org>

Wood engraving by Valentin Le Campion (1903-1952) Russian-French

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Excerpts from the Autobiography of Ernest Morgan: Part 18

Ernest Morgan (1905-2000)

This story continues a series of excerpts from the autobiography of Ernest Morgan (1905-2000). Parts 1-10 appeared in our Ex Libris Chronicle magazine. Morgan was the founder of the Antioch Bookplate Company in Yellow Springs, Ohio, 1926. His autobiography was written in 1991.

My Family Lowers the Boom

But I was getting older and my family felt that my travels were crowding things a bit. They persuaded me to reduce my territory a state or two at a time, but my sales kept growing. Finally my territory was reduced to a narrow strip of North Carolina and Tennessee, about 200 miles long - and then eliminated entirely. My faithful Travelall, with 288,000 miles on it, was sold to a friend for \$500.

At the end of my travels a celebration was held at the Arthur Morgan School. A special song was written and sung by staff member Mary Dart, a parody on the "Little Buttercup" song from Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pinafore*. The original song begins, "I'm called Little Buttercup, dear Little Buttercup". The parody follows:

LITTLE BOOKPLATE REP

I'm called little bookplate rep
Dear little bookplate rep
Though I could never tell why
But still I'm called bookplate rep
Poor little bookplate rep
Sweet little bookplate rep!

I've calendars witty in colors so pretty
With March, July, August, and May
I've bookmarks, come pick 'em,
And bookplates with stickum,
Oh won't you come buy some today?

When I want something yummy
To fill up my tummy
And my energy's starting to sink
I use carob exalted, and milk--soy and malted,
To mix up my high octane drink.

So buy of your bookplate rep
Dear little bookplate rep
Dealers should never be shy
So buy of your bookplate rep
Poor little bookplate rep
Come, of your bookplate rep, buy!

When I see the sunsetting
And tired I'm getting
A friendly gas station I'll find.
It's cheaper by far if I sleep in the car
So I ask, "Can I park 'round behind?"

When snoopers come snooping
And troopers come trooping
And thieves creep around in the night.
I haven't a rifle or any such trifle
For a weapon I just use my light.

So buy of your bookplate rep
Dear little bookplate rep
Dealers should never be shy
So buy of your bookplate rep
Poor little bookplate rep
Come, of your bookplate rep, buy!

