



The Bookplate Buzz



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BUILDING WORLD FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH THE "EXCHANGE" OF ART

Peeking Under the Covers Volume 7, Number 2

GREETINGS Friends of Ex Libris!

Your participation and contributions from all corners of the globe make our society truly unique. I'm particularly interested in your expertise on antique bookplates, and we hope to learn from you. Your articles and bookplate experiences enrich our society, making it more diverse. We welcome your stories!

In this issue, we spotlight the handsome wood-engraved bookplates by Richard Wagener from California. A delicious story by Mrs. Anke Polenz from the Deutsche Exlibris Gesellschaft (DEG). Her story shows several designs used in kitchen libraries for cooking arts. From Lew Jaffe's collection, we share bookplates owned by bibliophiles aboard the ill-fated Titanic.



Bookplate engraving by Richard Wagener (see page 2)

Opportunity Knocks! You don't want to miss out on the XLI FISAE Congress in Varna, Bulgaria from September 1-6, 2026. Simple to travel to Varna - you'll discover this meeting unites book artists, bibliophiles, bookplate aficionados, and art collectors from all over the world - a superb central location for the event. This is where you can commission and exchange ex libris! Pages 20-23.

I eagerly await your feedback, as it is essential for our society's growth. The *Bookplate Buzz* is **your** newsletter; the content comes from our members. Is there anything you'd like to see more or less of? Which aspects of the newsletter do you enjoy most?

Don't hesitate to reach out - I'm always eager to hear from you! CHEERS!! James P. Keenan

PLEASE WRITE TODAY: info@bookplate.org. We welcome your snail mail too!

What's in this Issue?
Volume 7, Number 2

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James P. Keenan

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The XLI FISAE Bookplate Congress in
Varna, Bulgaria

Book Store: Congress Materials 2022

<https://bookplate.org>

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Richard Wagener's Wood Engraved Bookplates (b. 1944)

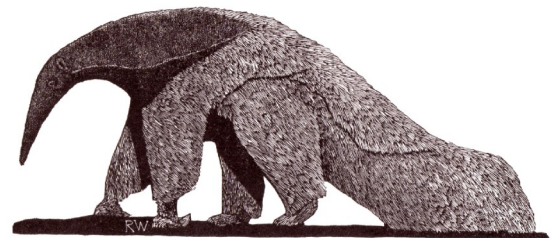
James P. Keenan

The idea of a bookplate occurred to me since my wife and I have collected many books. My experiences making books and meeting people in the book arts added to the interest.

To give some background, Richard Wagener currently lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. He spent almost his entire life in Southern California, frequently traveling to the high desert and the Sierra Nevada. He studied biology as an undergraduate at the University of San Diego, initially intending to pursue oceanography. Later, as his interest in art grew, he formally studied abstract painting at the Center College of Design in Los Angeles and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree.



Building on this artistic foundation, wood engraving captured Wagener's imagination in 1979 and has remained the core of his work ever since. Later, he established his own imprint, Mixolydian Editions, publishing several fine engraved works—such as *Cracked Sidewalks*, *California in Relief*, and *Mountains & Religion*—after focusing on wood engraving.



EX LIBRIS  JAMES M. GOODE
Esse Quam Videri

DUMMICK 201

FISAE CONGRESS XXVIII



EX LIBRIS BOSTON 2000

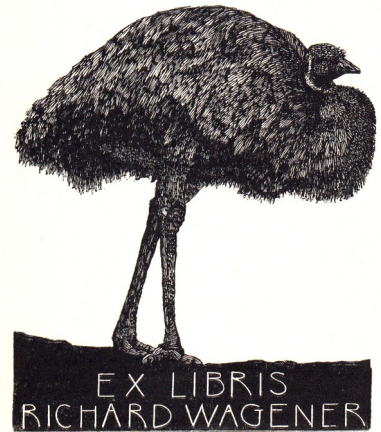
My connection with Richard began in the 1980s, after I first saw his work in Sandra Kirschenbaum’s *Fine Print: The Review for the Arts of the Book*. Beginning in 1979, he engraved numerous bookplates for friends, family, and clients. In 1996, he participated in our edition of *American Artists of the Bookplate* (Cambridge Bookplate).

Richard’s talents continue to play a significant role in our society’s activities. For example, his image of the Old Church was chosen as our logo for the XXVIII FISAE International Ex Libris Congress, held in Boston in 2000—it was the first worldwide ex libris congress to be held in the Americas. Years later, his image of a howling wolf was used as the logo for the XXXIX FISAE Ex Libris Congress, which convened in San Francisco in 2022.

Richard Wagener welcomes commissions. Please feel free to contact: info@bookplate.org OR richardwagener@richardwagener.com

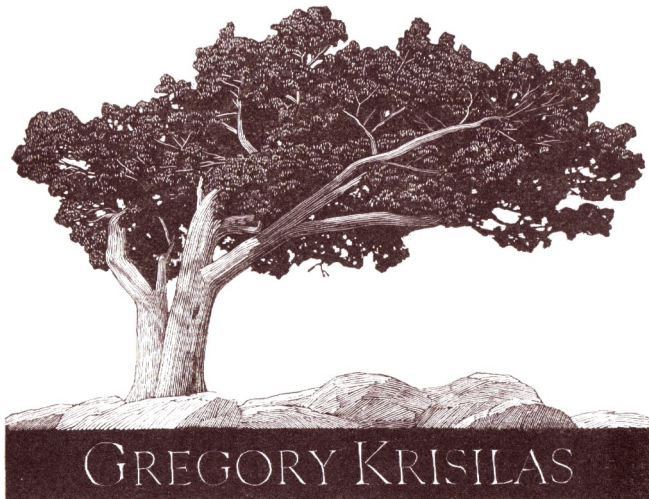


EX LIBRIS JAMES P. KEENAN 1994

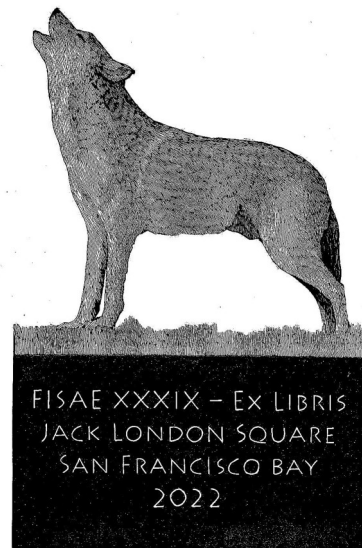


EX LIBRIS RICHARD WAGENER

R. Wagener 1992



GREGORY KRISILAS



FISAE XXXIX – EX LIBRIS
JACK LONDON SQUARE
SAN FRANCISCO BAY
2022

KuK – Kitchen and Comedy

Mrs. Anke Polenz

First published in the 2018 Year Book of the Deutsche Exlibris Gesellschaft (DEG)



Fig. 1 - Nurgül Arikan: logo for this essay, 2017, CGD

When the editor of the DEG yearbooks, Ulrike Ladnar, asked me to write something on this topic, I found it difficult to imagine what I could contribute. However, as often happens, I started to think about it, to search for suitable bookplates, and, of course, to delve into memories of my past professional life – managing a vocational school, including one for the hospitality industry. Added to this is my passion for cooking and entertaining. The owner of the bookplate shown below takes a more "practical" approach.

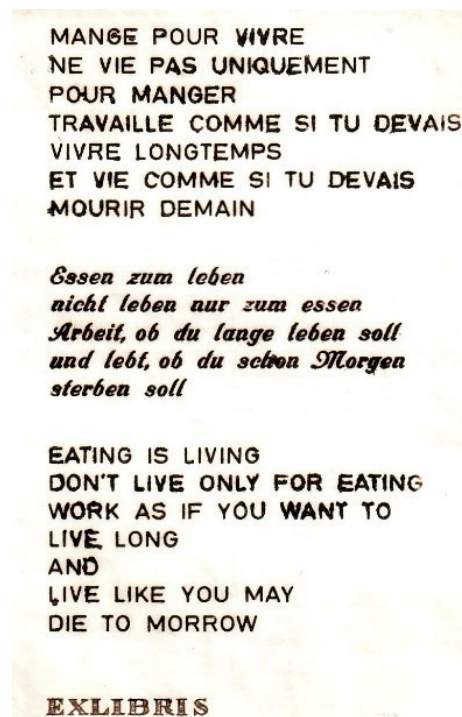


Fig. 2 - Oskar Thorsen: Bookplate, n.d. (1982), machine engraving.



Leboroni 96

Fig. 3 - Maria Elisa Leboroni: Bookplate for Hayashi Shigeru, 1996, woodcut, 58 x 80 mm

From the very beginning, it was clear to me that the bookplates should be combined with practical recipes. And to avoid simply quoting from my cookbooks, I listened attentively to our tour guide during our days in Sicily, who offered many original recipes. You will find some of them here and be surprised that an article in the yearbook can have such a distinctive "style." If you don't like this approach, you should stop reading here and perhaps simply enjoy the illustrated bookplates.

Italy – unfortunately without Sicily in this bookplate – has a wealth of food products to offer, as can be seen in the bookplate by Maria Elisa Leboroni.

KuK is well known as "imperial-royal," and these adjectives naturally fit into (almost) every kitchen, not just in haute cuisine. Before an "imperial-royal" result appears on the plate, a considerable amount of preparation is required. A glance at the cookbook/recipe book makes choosing a meal easier. In this bookplate, Kay Voigtmann has encouraged the owner to exchange her sheet music for a cookbook.

Mise en place (French for "putting everything in its proper place") is an indispensable prerequisite for a stress-free workflow.

The herbs to be used are clearly labeled so that thyme isn't mistaken for basil, the salt and pepper shakers are ready, and the knife has already been used, perhaps for dicing garlic.



Fig. 4 - Kay Voigtmann: Ex libris for Heidi Thoms, 2006, serial unique print, 130 x 150 mm



The necessary work attire, such as a head covering and apron, is being worn. This workstation can also be used for preparing the subsequent appetizer. The spoon, with its suggested "Augsburg thread" pattern, indicates that a little tasting is also part of the preparation process.

Fig. 5 - Karl-Georg Hirsch: *Ex-libris for Georg Meußgeier*, wood engraving, 1996, 174 x 46 mm

The bookplate shown is from the book: Karl-Georg Hirsch: *Courtly Retinue. A Series of Bookplates 1999* ¹

ANTIPASTI – CAPONATA (Eggplant Mix)

Caponata

1 kg eggplants, cut into 1 cm cubes and sprinkled with coarse sea salt, let stand for at least 1 hour.

150 ml extra virgin olive oil – heat in a pan and add the eggplants.

4 stalks of celery, cut into 2 cm pieces, blanched, add 1 large onion, sliced, sauté with the eggplants

500 g strained tomatoes, pour over everything and cook for about 15 minutes. 100 ml white wine – add Plenty of fresh basil, chopped, sprinkle over everything, reserving a few leaves for garnish

1 1/2 tbsp capers - add

20 green and 20 black olives, pitted – add Sugar – to taste

Mix everything well and season to taste, refrigerate overnight and serve the next day sprinkled with ² tbsp chopped, roasted almonds and garnished with basil leaves.

In a tightly sealed container, Caponata can be stored in the refrigerator for 2-3 days. This has the great advantage.

In this bookplate, you can see the "metamorphosis" of the egg into the eggplant.³



Fig. 6 - Krzysztof Marek Bąk: *Ex libris for the DEG*, 2017, CGD. 150 x 150 mm – 2 variations

¹ The illustrated bookplate is taken from the book: Karl-Georg Hirsch: **Hofstaat: Eine Exlibrisfolge** (Court Retinue: A Bookplate Series), 1999.

² tbsp = tablespoons

³ The eggplant or aubergine – in Austria the plant is called Melanzani – is a subtropical plant species belonging to the genus *Solanum* within the nightshade family.

In Sicily/Italy, it is customary to serve the "primi piatti" as a follow-up course. Pasta in any form is popular. Pasta broccoli con salsa de pomodore (Broccoli pasta with tomato sauce). Cauliflower can also be used instead of broccoli.



Fig. 7 - Nurgül Arıkan: Bookplate for Mario de Filippis, 2016, CGD, 60 x 90 mm.

Cook 500g of broccoli in salted water until al dente (firm to the bite), reserve the water, and add more salt.

Cook 400g of spaghetti until al dente and drain. Briefly sauté the broccoli in a pan with extra virgin olive oil and chopped garlic.

Mix the broccoli with the spaghetti and 250g of ricotta. Sprinkle with toasted pine nuts and drizzle with olive oil.

Tomato sauce: Sauté diced garlic and onions in olive oil, add plenty of fresh tomatoes, and simmer gently.

Top up with tomato puree (convenience). Season with salt and pepper. Add rosemary and thyme and simmer for 1-2 hours.

Pasta cu l'Aulivi (Spaghetti with Olives)

500g tomatoes, fresh or canned, peeled.

Place in a pot and simmer for 15 minutes.

Add 3 chopped garlic cloves.

Add 75ml olive oil and 180g chopped black olives.

Add 1 chili pepper (remove seeds and membranes) and fresh oregano, and simmer briefly.

Season with salt (preferably fleur de sel).

Cook spaghetti in salted water and add to the tomato mixture, combine everything, and serve.

(Pasta water should always be water and salt in a ratio of 1 (l) : 7 (g)

To combine the above recipe, a tablespoon is not absolutely necessary.

Mixing the ingredients for the above recipe doesn't necessarily require an elephant.



Fig. 8 - Balan: Bookplate for Mario de Filippis, 1984, 107 x 156 mm.



Fig. 9 - Utz Benkel: Ex-libris
for Jule Zöll

If you want to eat the pasta dishes as a main course, adding eggs, for example in the form of fried eggs, is a good option. However, this is only possible if there are no dogs or cats running around in the kitchen.

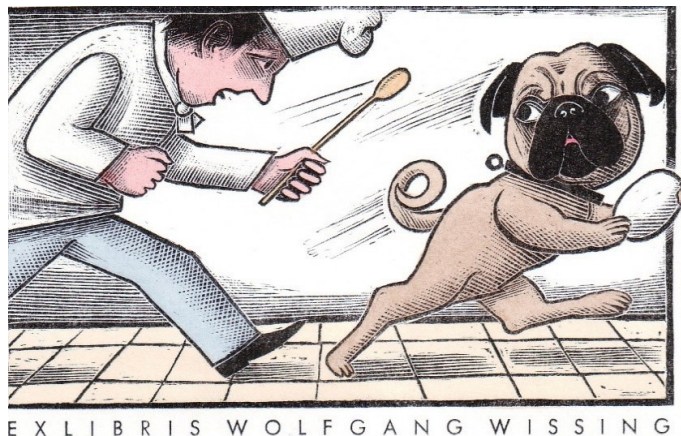


Fig. 10 - Egbert Herfurth: Ex-libris for Wolfgang
Wissing, 2011, plastic engraving (C8), 120 x 70 mm

Second Course - Sicilian White Cabbage Salad with Shrimp

Finely shred 1 small white cabbage and knead vigorously with 8 tbsp white wine vinegar, salt, pepper, 1 tbsp sugar, and cayenne pepper.

Add fresh or dried oregano, thyme, and horseradish, and 7 tbsp extra virgin olive oil. Wash, peel, and pat dry 250g shrimp.

Sauté 2 chopped cloves of garlic in a little oil together with the shrimp. Add salt, pepper, a little lemon juice, and 1/2 bunch of scallions cut into rings, as well as 2 tbsp crème fraîche.

Mix everything with the cabbage and serve.

The bookplate shows, through the depicted glasses, how finely the cabbage is to be shredded.



Fig. 11 - Vladimir Vereshchagin: Bookplate for
Anita Thys, 2008, Etching, 120 x 150 mm



Fig. 12 - Wojciech Jakubowski: Bookplate for Jana Błonski, undated, 55 x 63 mm

Whether this is the most efficient method for peeling shrimp is debatable. But it is certainly the most erotic and at the same time a nice change of pace in the kitchen, because work is rarely done in the kitchen in the way the cook shown here is working.

Fig. 13 - Bodo Klös: Bookplate for Klaus Renner, 2015, etching, 72 x 136 mm



Fig. 14 - H. Schmid: Bookplate for Mario de Filippis, n.d. Woodcut?, 53 x 90 mm



The recipe mentioned above is, of course, not sufficient as a main course. The addition – a roast of lamb, pork, or goat – is shown in the following bookplate. This raises the question of how the roast is supposed to be carved with three meat forks.

Fig. 15 Dolatowsky?: Bookplate for Mario de Filippis, 1981, letterpress?, 50 x 75 mm

If the sardines for the casserole below were delivered in this way, this form of delivery would be a tribute to the many Asian visitors.



Fig. 16 - Krzysztof Marek Bąk: Bookplate for Anke Polenz, 2017, CGD, 150 x 150 mm

Anciova a catanisa – Anchovy casserole from Catania

Remove the heads and entrails from 800g of cleaned sardines, cut open the belly and lay them flat. Remove the backbones, rinse, and pat dry.

Grease a casserole dish with olive oil and arrange half of the sardines in it like spokes of a wheel. Season with salt and pepper, and distribute thin slices of half a lemon on top. Scatter 10 halved green olives and 1 tablespoon of pine nuts over them and drizzle with 2 tablespoons of oil.

Then, spread the second half of the sardines over the dish, along with lemon slices and olives, and season with salt and pepper. Pour 100ml of white wine over everything and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake in the oven at 180°C for 15 minutes. Remove from the oven, drizzle with the juice of one orange, and bake for another 10 minutes. Serve with slices of fresh oranges.



In a menu, the dessert should not be missing. Whether it can be served so simply, straight from the cookbook, is questionable. The bookplate is intended as a compliment to the owner, who is an excellent cook.

Fig. 17 - Krzysztof Marek Bąk: Exlibris for Dr. Agnieszka Fluda-Krokos, 2015, CGD, 150 x 150 mm

Dolci – Desserts

Pignolata "snow-capped peaks" – a pastry

Put 250g of flour and a pinch of salt into a mixing bowl. Separate 2 of the 3 eggs (set aside the egg whites). Add the egg yolks and the whole egg together with 125g of soft butter to the flour, add 1 tablespoon of brandy and knead everything together.

Divide the dough into 4-5 rolls and cut them into slices to create "cube-shaped" pieces. Place these on a greased baking sheet and bake at 180°C (convection 160°C) for about 15 minutes until golden brown.

Mix 400g of powdered sugar with 4 teaspoons of lemon juice and coat the pieces with it. Glue about 15 pieces together with the remaining icing to form a mountain and refrigerate for several hours. Then serve with sweet wine or Limoncello.

Limoncello



Fig. 18 - Valousek: *Ex libris* for Ch. Valoušek, n.d., Wood engraving?, 90 x 190 mm

Let the peel of 10 organic lemons steep in 1 liter of pure alcohol for 2-3 weeks.

After this time, dissolve 800g of sugar in 1 liter of water. Mix both together and taste. Do not add any lemon juice!

When tasting, however, one should think of Nietzsche:
 "Through alcohol... one reverts to the stages of culture that one had already overcome."
 from: from: Friedrich Nietzsche:
 "Posthumous Fragments" 1887/88

Of course, a coffee must be served alongside a digestif like Limoncello.

Does the restaurant professional perhaps fear that the coffee won't be well-received?

Companies have already issued the slogan: "We don't employ waiters, but rather taste ambassadors."



Fig. 19 - Frank Ivo van Damme: for Mario de Filippis. Undated, Wood engraving 75 x 130 mm

When everything has been prepared, the kitchen probably looks like this, and the motto applies:
 "The kitchen is self-cleaning, meaning everyone who cooks in it cleans it and the equipment themselves."

After a successful meal, guests/visitors/family can be satisfied and sit at the table enjoying themselves as happily as the last graphic in this article shows.



Fig. 20 Robert Baramov: free graphic, 2016, etching, 230 x 160 mm, received from Hugo Viaene

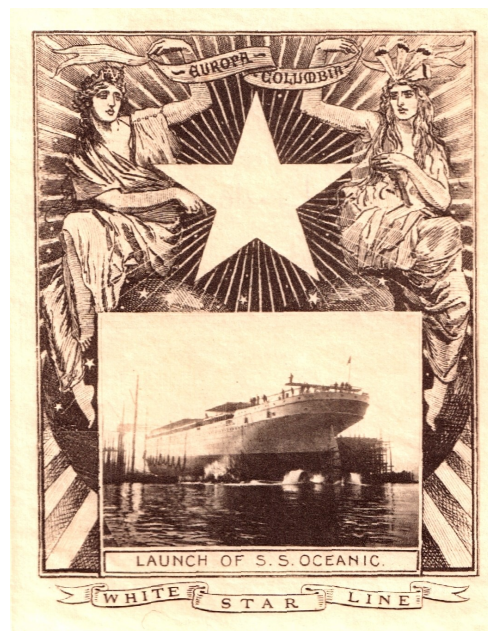
Bibliophiles Aboard the Titanic

James P. Keenan

Special Thanks to Lew Jaffe for use of the bookplates from his collection

Benjamin Guggenheim, accompanied by his valet, emerged onto the main deck in formal evening wear, stating, "**We are dressed in our best and are prepared to go down like gentlemen.**"

The Titanic of the White Star Line was sailing from Southampton, England, to New York City. She was the largest and most luxurious passenger ship of her time and was considered unsinkable. The name Titanic derives from the Titans of Greek mythology. On April 10, 1912, the "unsinkable" RMS Titanic embarked on its first maiden voyage. After sideswiping an iceberg during its voyage, the luxury steamship sank in the early morning of April 15, 1912, off the coast of Newfoundland in the North Atlantic. Of the 2,240 passengers and crew on board, more than 1,500 lost their lives in the disaster. Because of this major tragedy, the Titanic became the most well-known ship in the world.



"From the start, my mother had a premonition. She knew there was something to fear, and she felt strongly that calling a ship unsinkable was flying in the face of God..." Eva Hart, Titanic Survivor

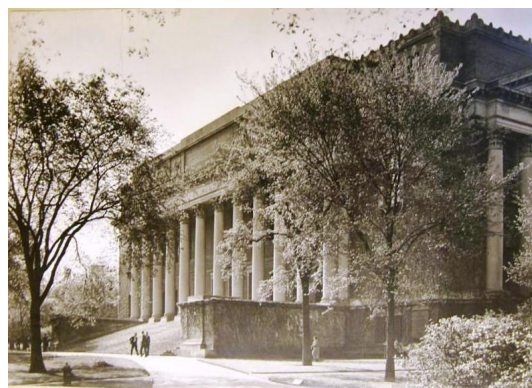
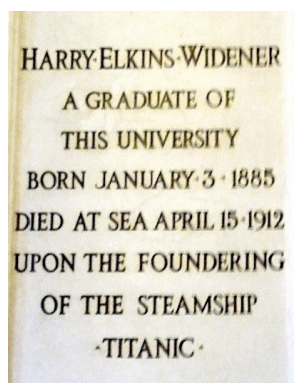


Harry Elkins Widener (1885–1912): Widener was the most prominent bibliophile on the Titanic; he was a 27-year-old collector who perished. A Philadelphia native and Harvard graduate, Widener had amassed a 3,000-volume rare book collection. He was returning from London, where he acquired a rare 1598 edition of Francis Bacon's essays.

Widener's wealthy family was active in the tobacco industry, and he had become interested in book collecting while a student.



Following his death, Widener's mother, Eleanor Elkins Widener, donated his collection to Harvard University and funded the construction of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, which opened June 24th, 1915.



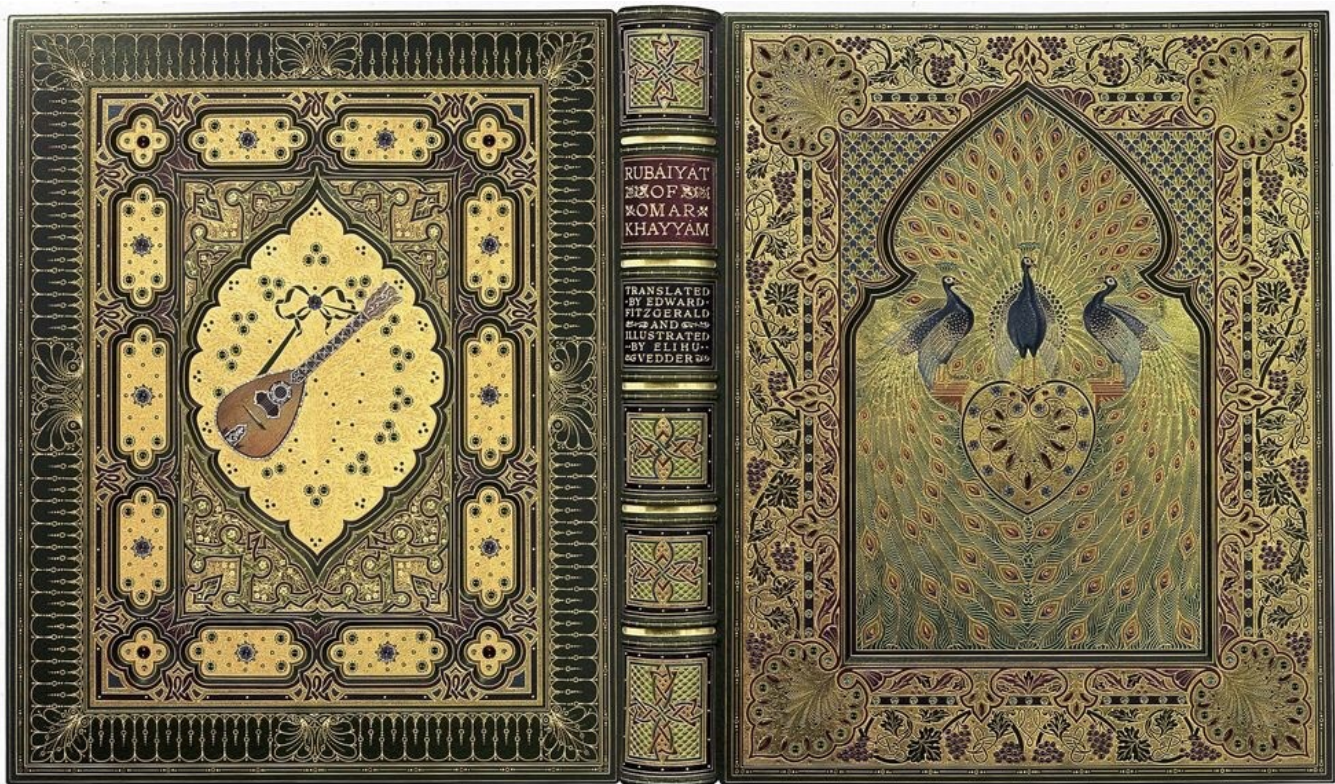
The **Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library**, housing some 3.5 million books, is the centerpiece of the Harvard Library system. It honors 1907 Harvard College graduate and book collector Harry Elkins Widener, and was built by his mother Eleanor Elkins Widener soon after his death in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.



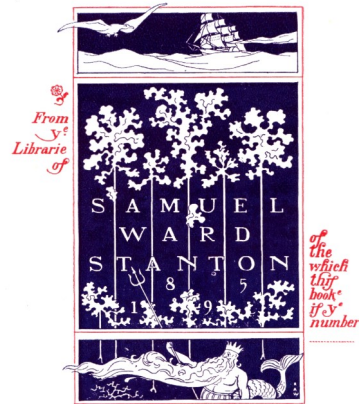
Archibald Willingham Butt (1865-1912): Major Archibald Willingham DeGraffenreid Clarendon Butt was born into a prominent Augusta, Georgia, family. Butt began a career in journalism that took him to Washington, D.C., where he became the secretary of the Mexican Embassy.

In 1898, Butt left Mexico to enter the United States Army during the Spanish-American War and decided to make the military a second career. He served in the Philippines and then in Cuba before becoming military aide to President Theodore Roosevelt. He then became a military aide to President William Howard Taft. In 1912, he took six weeks' leave from the White House and sailed for Europe, returning to Washington on the *Titanic*.

A lavish, specially bound copy of *The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám* by the bookbinding firm of Sangorski and Sutcliffe was among the precious items onboard the ship. The book, embellished with over 1,000 jewels, 5,000 leather inlays, and 100 square feet of gold leaf, took Sangorski and Sutcliffe two years to make.



Samuel Ward Stanton (1870-1912): Stanton was an artist and muralist who specialized in illustrating steamships. In 1895, his works were published in *American Steam Vessels*. He was known as the foremost authority on the history of steam shipping. At the time of his death, he was preparing a history of American steamboats, the most comprehensive in existence.



In early 1912, Stanton had been visiting the *Académie Julian* in Paris and the *Alhambra* in Granada, Spain. The sketches he produced were intended to decorate the interior of the new Hudson River steamboat, the *Knickerbocker*, which was under construction. He had also made mural paintings for the steamer *Rose Standish*, among other river steamers. These sketches, including a series of *Alhambra* scenes, were lost at sea.

William Augustus Spencer: Spencer was a wealthy collector known for fine bindings and rare books. After his death at 57, his collection was received by the New York Public Library. Spencer was especially noted for his French bindings and his patronage of prominent contemporary bookbinders, insisting on perfection from all whose work he acquired. Most of these volumes were bound on Spencer's request, and include at least one binding designed by him. They represent the work of some of the finest French binders of his time, including Canape, Capé, Chambolle-Duru, Gruel, Joly, Lortic, Mercier and Marius Michel.

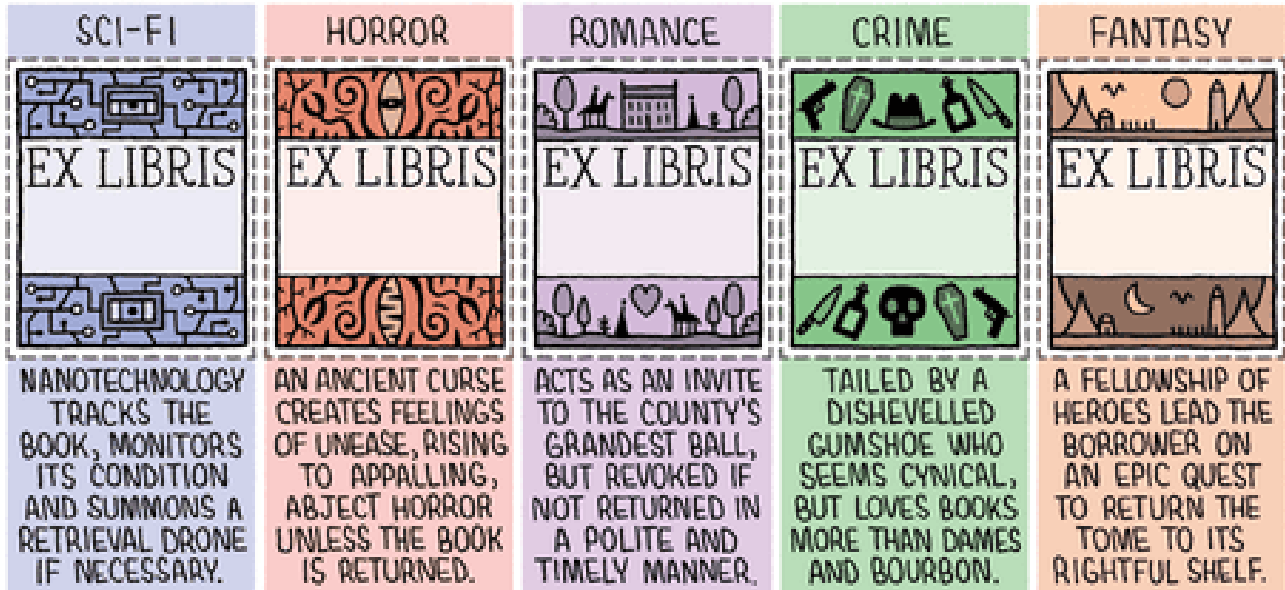
In keeping with his legacy, his library was donated in its entirety to the New York Public Library in 1913, accompanied by an endowment to purchase "the finest illustrated books that can be procured, of any country and in any language, bound in handsome bindings containing the original designs, drawings or paintings made by the illustrator."

William Crothers Dulles: Like fellow Philadelphian Harry Widener, William Crothers Dulles was a prominent book collector who died on the Titanic while returning from a book-buying trip to England. A 39-year-old Yale and University of Pennsylvania Law School graduate, he collected equine books and art, storing them in a fortified bunker at his Tophill Farm, a horse-breeding operation in Goshen, New York. After his death, the Dulles library of sporting and colored plate books went to auction in New York and can be seen in the Reference Library at Yale University.

Tom Gauld on a bookplate for every genre

As seen in the Guardian, Wednesday, 11 March 2026

FIVE CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP BOOKPLATES



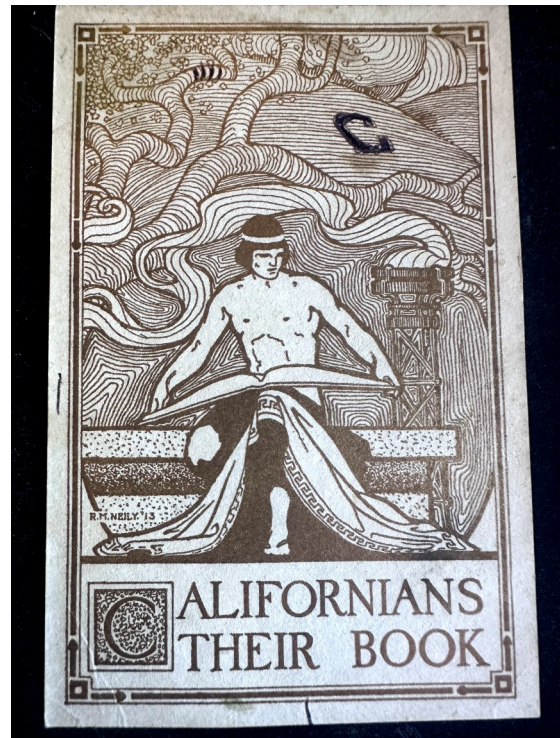
TOM GAULD

A few weeks ago we received an inquiry from a collector about the bookplate pictured here. I'd like to learn more about it. Have you seen this before?

This vintage bookplate was designed by artist Roy MacGregor Neily in 1913.

- **Design Subject:** The artwork features a seated figure with a book, styled in the Arts and Crafts aesthetic prevalent in Berkeley, California, at that time.
- **Significance:** It contains the text "CALIFORNIANS THEIR BOOK" and includes the initials "R.M. NEILY '13".

info@bookplate.org



What does the future hold for the ASBC&D?

What if James P. Keenan lives forever, refuses to retire, and continues his solo control of the Society?! Then we would never be able to partake in the fun of helping him write, produce, and mail the Society's publications.

This is not at all reasonable, so we must step in today and wrest some control of the ASBC&D away from him. Rumor has it that he is now considering orchestrating fundraising, traveling exhibitions, our website, social networking, conferences, and building the Society's bookplate collection as well. Clearly, this cannot be tolerated!

Some of us have organized to begin taking some of the fun away from him, and we will be distributing this to various members who have been recognized for their notable skills and achievements. Expect a communication from us in the immediate future. If you are eager and don't want to wait, then please contact us today.

There is an important & exciting place for you in the ASBC&D—join us as we shape the Society's future together!

Thank you for your ongoing support! Please write to me, Chris Kent: info@bookplate.org

Reprinted from The Ex Libris Chronicle, Volume 14, Numbers 1 & 2



Rockwell Kent (1882-1971)

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 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.

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

Opportunity Knocks! Join us at the International FISAE Ex Libris Congress, held September 1-6, 2026 in Varna, Bulgaria. Expand your horizons and meet artists and collectors from around the world. This is where you can commission the finest artists to design a personal ex libris. Make new friends in a delightful environment.

Enjoy exhibitions, receptions, talks, and regional tours – a once-in-a-lifetime experience! JK



Right now the congress fees are still at lower prices. Take advantage of them while you still can!

Time period	Registration and payment deadline	Congress participant fee	Accompanying person fee	Exchange table fee
Wise Decision	01.01. – 30.04.2026	175 EUR	125 EUR	45 EUR
Regular Price	01.05. – 31.08.2026	190 EUR	150 EUR	50 EUR
Last Minute	Prices on site in Varna	220 EUR	160 EUR	60 EUR

Congress participant fee includes access to all festival events, congress materials with gift package, closing gala dinner, two free guided tours (Museum and Gallery Tour and Varna Sightseeing Tour)

Accompanying person fee includes access to all festival events, closing gala dinner, two free guided tours (Museums and Galleries Tour and Varna Sightseeing Tour)

BANK DETAILS

You can pay your participation fee via bank transfer. See all necessary information below:

Beneficiary name	Jordan Petkov Art Foundation
Beneficiary address	Han Krum Str.8, Varna 9000, Bulgaria
Bank name	First Investment Bank
Bank address	111 P Tsarigradsko Shoe Blvd., 1784 Sofia, Bulgaria
IBAN (bank account)	BG80FINV91501217625524
BIC / SWIFT	FINVBGSF

IMPORTANT: Please note the following text in the reason for payment on the bank statement: **FISAE CONGRESS FEE PAYMENT FOR [NAME OF PARTICIPANT].**

CANCELLATION POLICY

Every participant can cancel his participation **until 01 August 2026**. All the sums will be reduced with a 10% fee, due to the bank taxes and expenses already paid by the organizer and refunded after that. **After 01st of August no cancellation or refund of participation fee will be possible.**

● **FIRST DAY: 1 September, Tuesday**

Welcome to Varna - arrival of participants	
10:00 – 18:00	Registration of participants and information desk in the foyer of congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore
10:00 – 18:00	Exchange of exlibris in congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore
18:00 – 19:00	Official opening of the congress and welcome drink. Presentation of the exhibition “Selected works of the International Exlibris Competition Varna” - congress hall “Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore.
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner at Godzilla restaurant * **

● **SECOND DAY: 2 September, Wednesday**

Getting settled	
08:00 – 10:00	Happy hour breakfast for congress delegates in Patisserie-Café Endorfino *
09:00 – 18:00	Exchange of exlibris in congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore
10:00 – 18:00	Registration of participants and information desk in the foyer of congress hall „Bulgaria”, Chernomore Hotel
15:30 – 17:30	Free Varna sightseeing tour
18:30 – 19:30	Opening of the exhibition of FISAE International Exlibris Competition at Graffit Gallery

● **THIRD DAY: 3 September, Thursday**

Let's explore	
08:00 – 10:00	Happy hour breakfast for congress delegates in Patisserie-Café Endorfino *
09:00 – 18:00	Exchange of exlibris in congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore
10:00 – 18:00	Registration of participants and information desk in the foyer of congress hall „Bulgaria”, Chernomore Hotel
15:00 – 18:00	Free Museum guided tour (3 museums)
18:30 – 19:30	Opening of the exhibition “Exlibris collection of the Ruse Library “Lyuben Karavelov” at LARGO Gallery

● **FOURTH DAY: 4 September, Friday**

Visit our two best cultural institutions	
08:00 – 10:00	Happy hour breakfast for congress delegates in Patisserie-Café Endorfino *
09:00 – 18:00	Exchange of exlibris in congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomore
10:00 – 18:00	Registration of participants and information desk in the foyer of congress hall „Bulgaria”, Chernomore Hotel

● FOURTH DAY continued - 4 September, Friday

10:00 – 12:00	Visiting the Archaeological museum Varna (<i>ticket price 5 EUR</i>)
16:00 – 17:30	Demonstration of hand-made paper casting by the Bulgarian artist Rumen Nechev, congress hall „Bulgaria”, Chernomorec Hotel
18:00 – 19:00	Visiting the exhibition with selected artworks from the International Print Biennial Varna at the City Art Gallery “Boris Georgiev”
21:00 – 23:00	Friday drinks at beach bar Menthol **

10:00 – 12:00	Visiting the Archaeological museum Varna (<i>ticket price 5 EUR</i>)
16:00 – 17:30	Demonstration of hand-made paper casting by the Bulgarian artist Rumen Nechev, congress hall „Bulgaria”, Chernomorec Hotel
18:00 – 19:00	Visiting the exhibition with selected artworks from the International Print Biennial Varna at the City Art Gallery “Boris Georgiev”
21:00 – 23:00	Friday drinks at beach bar Menthol **

● FIFTH DAY: 5 September, Saturday

<i>Last whole day in Varna</i>	
08:00 – 10:00	Happy hour breakfast for congress delegates in Patisserie-Café Endorfino *
09:00 – 18:00	Exchange of exlibris in congress hall „Bulgaria”, hotel Chernomorec
11:00 – 12:30	FISAE delegate meeting
19:00 – 21:00	Closing Gala dinner

● LAST DAY: 6 September, Sunday

<i>Bye-bye, Varna</i>	
08:00 – 10:00	Happy hour breakfast for congress delegates in Patisserie-Café Endorfino *
9:00 – 17:00	Trip to city Balchik and Aladzha monastery (<i>paid</i>)
18:00	Congress closing

** Please note that dinners and drinks marked with a “**” are not included in the price of the congress fee, therefore each person would have to pay for what they consume.

SEATING IS LIMITED, PLEASE RESERVE YOUR SEAT

* Each FISAE delegate will receive a special discount from our partners, Godzila Restaurant and Patisserie-Café Endorfino, valid throughout the congress period

41 FISAE INTERNATIONAL EXLIBRIS COMPETITION

It is a long-standing tradition of the FISAE Congress to include an International Exlibris Competition as part of its accompanying programme. This year, the Jordan Petkov Art Foundation, which has extensive experience in organising exlibris competitions, will be responsible for accepting and managing applications for participation in the FISAE Exlibris Competition. The submitted artworks will be exhibited in a large gallery hall at Gallery Graffit in Varna throughout the duration of the Congress. Participants in the competition will have the opportunity to receive various prizes provided by the organiser, sponsors, and partners.

[CLICK HERE TO READ ABOUT HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMPETITION](#)

Deadline for receiving artworks at the Organizer's address – 1 July 2026.

For countries outside of the European Union: entries must be sent **before 1 May 2026** (according to the date of the post stamp of the sender)

For countries in the European Union: entries must be sent **before 1 June 2026** (according to the date of the post stamp of the sender)

Nowadays, there are many ways to stay tuned about whatever interests you. You can follow FISAE's [Facebook page HERE](#), as well as the designated [Instagram page HERE](#) for exlibris events and initiatives in Varna.

But nothing beats getting notifications in real time. Join our [WhatsApp](#) and [Telegram](#) channels for instant updates and all the latest news about the Congress - right at your fingertips.

In any case, all and everything about the 41 FISAE congress is available on the Organizers website: <http://www.jordanpetkov.foundation/en>



From our team at the Jordan Petkov Art Fondation:

We look forward to meeting you this September at the 41 FISAE Congress in Varna, Bulgaria!

Contact us:

<http://www.jordanpetkov.foundation/en>
contact@jordanpetkov.foundation
fisae.info@gmail.com

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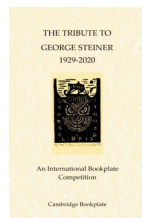
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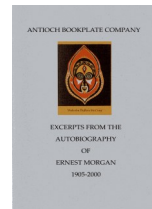


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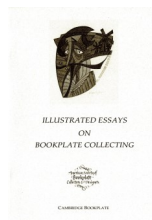
- *Ex Libris: The Art of Contemporary World Bookplates*. Cambridge Bookplate, 2022 (979-8-9860741-3-9). Description: This exhibition opened at the **American Bookbinders Museum**, San Francisco in 2022. 59 ppgs, 146 artists representing 33 countries in this juried exhibition catalogue. Includes contact information for all of the artists. For a limited time the exhibition opening invitation is also included. Archival quality papers, full color, saddle-stitched, 5.5" x 8.5". \$20.00 + \$10.00 USD for First Class postage & handling within the USA.



- *Tribute to George Steiner. An International Bookplate Competition*. Cambridge Bookplate, 2022 (979-8-9860741-1-15). Description: This exhibition opened at the **Book Club of California**, San Francisco in 2022. 58 ppgs. The top 30 artists representing 27 nations in this juried exhibition catalogue. Includes contact information for all of the artists. For a limited time the exhibition opening invitation is also included. Archival quality papers, full color, saddle-stitched, 5.5" x 8.5". \$20.00 + \$10.00 USD for First Class postage & handling within the USA.



- *Antioch Bookplate Company. Excerpts from the Autobiography of Ernest Morgan 1905-2000*. Cambridge Bookplate, 2022 (979-8-9860741-2-2). Description: This is the autobiography of the dynamic man who built the **Antioch Bookplate Company**. Many illustrations including bookplate designs by Rockwell Kent, Raymond DaBoll, and Lynd Ward. 70 ppgs. Archival quality papers, full color, saddle-stitched, 5.5" x 8.5" \$20.00 + \$10.00 USD for First Class postage & handling within the USA.



- *Illustrated Essays on Bookplate Collecting*. Revised edition. Cambridge Bookplate, 2022 (979-8-9860741-0-8). Description: This revised illustrated edition includes seven excellent essays on bookplate collecting including Armorial Ex Libris, The Press Motif, Wine Motifs, and Don Quixote. 76 ppgs. Archival quality papers, saddle-stitched. 5.5" x 8.5". \$20.00 + \$10.00 USD for First Class postage & handling within the USA.



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