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The Bookplate Society

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VISIT WEBSITE: www.bookplatesociety.org

Bookplates are of wide appeal because they overlap with a range of other interests. Also known as ex-libris, they have since the sixteenth century been placed in books to declare ownership. Many artists have designed bookplates, and some famous people used them. Personal bookplates are still commissioned and collected.

The Bookplate Society (Regd. Charity No. 295678 England & Wales) is a not-for-profit international society of collectors, bibliophiles, artists, and others promoting bookplate study. Founded in 1972, it is the direct descendant of the world’s first such organisation, the Ex Libris Society, 1891-1908. Our purpose is to encourage the production, use, collecting, and study of bookplates. We achieve this through our publications, lectures, visits to collections, members’ auctions, social meetings, and exhibitions. We focus on British & Irish bookplates, but membership is worldwide. Some of our members are bookplate artists, and we maintain a list of British designers who are currently willing to accept commissions. Most of our subscribers are not bookplate collectors at all, but have diverse interests in the kindred fields noted at the head of the page overleaf, and they find the range of bookplate design, technique and history fascinating.

Membership benefits: The annual subscription entitles members to the following:
- The Bookplate Journal (ISSN 0264-3693) is a 72-page high quality journal published in April and October each year. Substantial articles cover well-researched essays, bookplates of individuals and families, checklists of artists (contemporary and historical), collectors and collecting, notes & queries, book reviews, etc.
- The Bookplate Society Newsletter (ISSN 0309-7935) appears twice a year in New Year and August. It gives news of meetings, auction lists, membership changes, sales and wants, and items of interest not covered in the journal.
- A book is normally issued every two years. For 2016-2018 a large 3-year book concerns the bookplates and biographies of alumni of St John’s College, Cambridge. For 2020 the 2-year book is on bookplates of British persons who were famous in their time.
- The Society holds three bookplate auctions each year. These provide a great opportunity for acquiring bookplates, ancient and modern. Members living outside the UK participate keenly by post and email.
- A fourth meeting in each year may be a visit to a collection, a talk or social event.
- From time to time the Society holds public exhibitions. We plan to arrange one in 2020 to coincide with issue of the book Famous in Their Time and with the International Exlibris Congress being hosted by the Society at Churchill College, Cambridge, August 2020.

Anyone can join the Society - you are most welcome. An online membership application form and much more information will be found at www.bookplatesociety.org. UK residents pay £40 annually; others £52 (see website for methods of payment).

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