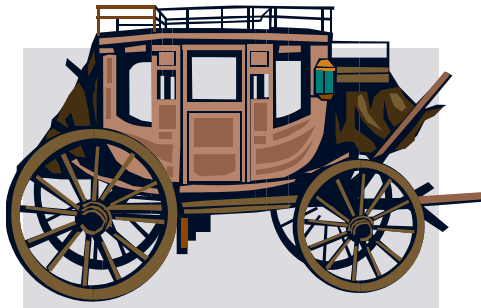


RECOLLECTIONS



JACK D. KITCHENHOUSE

Boy Scout
Magician
Hobo
Oil Industry Publicist
Publisher (Stage Coach Press)
UNM Press Editor
Historian of New Mexico
Rare Book Dealer

Chapter 15 – Antiquarian Bookman

By
**JACK DEVERIE
RITTENHOUSE**
(1912 –1991)
Albuquerque, New Mexico

From his unpublished materials and
Annual Christmas newsletters
1975 through 1987

Composited, Illustrated, and Edited By Harry Briley

Revised 9/1/2022

Copyright © 2021-2022 Harry Briley Living Trust
PO Box 2913, Livermore, California 94551-2913
brileyh@comcast.net

Master Structure

Each chapter is a stand-alone document with a separate table of contents. These mostly chronological memoirs in three sections start by recollections that set the stage for the topical chapters that follow.

Chapters:

1. Life in the Mid-West Twenties
 2. Boy Scouts
 3. College Years
 4. Magician

5. Settling Down on Highway 66
 6. Wander Year
 7. A Year in the California State Guard
 8. Advertising
 9. Books and I
 10. Stagecoach Press

- 11. Albuquerque Roots**
 - 12. UNM Press**
 - 13. Historian**
 - 14. Bookman in London/Paris 1977**
 - 15. Antiquarian Bookman**
 - 16. The West is Wider than You Think**
 - 17. Bookman in Spain 1989**

18. Closing Shop

Contents

CHAPTER 15. ANTIQUARIAN BOOKMAN.....	9
Background.....	9
Alternate Plan B.....	10
Initial Collections.....	11
William Wallace	11
Jesse Perry, Jr.....	11
Bert Fireman but not quite Barry Goldwater	12
A.B.Guthrie, Jr.....	12
Catalog Sales.....	13
Business Trips.....	15
Paso por Aqui Award - 1982	16
Turning Seventy Five - 1987	20
Book Talk Index - 1996.....	24

Figures

Figure 1 - Calling Card	13
Figure 2 – NMSU <i>Paso Por Aqui</i> Award – 11/1982.....	16
Figure 3 - Demonstrating Typesetting on 75th Birthday (S. Blair 11/1987)	20
Figure 4 – Home among Reference Books.....	21

CHAPTER 15. ANTIQUARIAN BOOKMAN

Background

[Jack's final two hand-typed chapters were the Bookman trips to London/Paris (1977) and Spain (1986). This posthumous chapter uses notes from Charlotte and Jack's annual Christmas newsletters, and Jack's published articles in the ABB.]

The chapter *Bookman in London/Paris 1977* focuses on being an Antiquarian Bookman, some of which was published in the trade magazine *Antiquarian Bookman* (issue of 9/17/1984 in which a copy is in the Briley home). That article has not been examined for how close it matches the completely revised, expanded, and illustrated London/Paris chapter.

In the chapter *Bookman in Spain 1986*, Jack wrote, "*The details of our book-hunting [in Spain] are described in a separate account written for a New Mexico Book League [NMBL] bulletin [called **Book Talk**].*" While that memoir chapter was completely revised, expanded, illustrated, and republished, this remark explains the omission of trade-specific insights about Spain.]

Alternate Plan B

Charlotte and I went to Europe: 1977 to London and Paris, 1983 to London, 1985 to London and Amsterdam, [and 1989 to Spain]. Those were hard-working business trips, attending book fairs, and visiting shops all day long. We still saw many tourist sights.

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Jack: I manage to make any vacation trip like that pay for itself with the books I pick up. That is the story of my life in the book business.

I do very good business with libraries. This is partly because working at the University, I knew librarians, their problems, their methods of work, their red tape, paperwork, budgets, and all of the stuff that they have to do. They would like to do it differently. I knew [their world] so I was able to deal with them.

Why didn't I do this in 1950 out there in California? I do not think I could have. What I learned in those twenty years enabled me to do this. If I had started twenty years beforehand, I would have starved. I would not have known what I knew after being into it for twenty years.

For many years, I thought of what I might do if fired or forced to leave. I called these thoughts "Alternate Plan B" in my mind, and I usually had some idea of what I would do in such an instance.

New circumstances moved me in the direction of book selling. I was now only three years from mandatory retirement. I accumulated a fine library of basic reference books and bibliographies, which I needed in my work at UNM Press but were essential for any good rare book dealer. Their total cost would equal at least the price of a new pickup truck, which is little enough for an expenditure on business equipment, but still substantial.

A death of a collector in 1975 brought a change in my work to some extent.

Initial Collections

William Wallace

An old friend, William S. Wallace, some years before retired as librarian at New Mexico Highlands University (Las Vegas, NM) and started to deal in old and rare books. By 1975, he was living in Albuquerque, was in bad health from a heart condition, and told by his doctor to move to a lower altitude.

Low in energy, Bill asked that I dispose of his small but good stock of books on shares and a written agreement was made. Each week, he brought over several boxes of books.

One Sunday, he brought over the last cartons of books, went home, had a [heart] attack, and died on July 26. I had to appraise the collection and the total came to nearly twice what Bill expected it to be. This put me in the position of becoming a rare-book dealer on the side. By year's end, I paid about \$4,000 to Bill's widow.

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Jack: William S. Wallace, had been head librarian at New Mexico Highlands [University] Rogers library, special collections, for about twenty years. He retired and was involved with Calvin Horn (Horn and Wallace book publishing). Horn was a businessman with a knowledge of history.

After Bill retired, he went into a little mail order rare book business, buying, selling.

Jesse Perry, Jr

In 1977, an old acquaintance, Jesse L Perry, Jr. in Nashville, came down with serious emphysema and moved into a condominium. He thought he might need to quit the business and asked me to sell his large collection of Western books on 50/50 shares.

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Another fellow in the east hoped to retire to Santa Fe and become a gentleman bookseller. He wanted a nice office, raw paneling, a sign that he was open three days a week for two hours, and go up there, talk to people, take their money, and sell them a book. He came down with terrible emphysema and could not live at that altitude. So he called me and said, "Will you handle my collection on consignment?" His name was Jess L. Perry, Jr. So I got his very fine collection. He was no DeGolyer. He did not have any really rare stuff. But he had things that even out here [in New Mexico] you may not find more than once a year.

The house began to look more like a bookman's place. About 800 books arrived, more shelves built, and the books began to sell right away. In preparation for full-time book operations, I installed a telephone-answering device.

Bert Fireman but not quite Barry Goldwater

In August 1983, I drove to Phoenix to visit Senator Barry Goldwater, who was considering selling part of his personal library of Arizona books. I bid \$17,000, but Goldwater said it was not enough and said he would have the entire collection appraised and probably would give it to an Arizona university library, which would allow him a greater gain through tax deductions

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

One book collector in Nashville whom I knew had a marvelous collection of books about New Mexico and Arizona, which he wanted to sell. He was a wealthy man, reasonably so, not a millionaire, but a reasonably wealthy man, active in Republican politics and a friend of [Barry] Goldwater.

This guy is Mr. Republican from Tennessee, talking to Goldwater "I think I might put together a collection of books." Goldwater said, "Well, what you need is to have somebody to guide you, I got a fellow who works with me, name of Bert Fireman, who is kind of an ex-newspaperman."

Bert headed the Goldwater set-up in Arizona, with two parallel pioneer organizations: the Arizona Historical Society and the Arizona Pioneers Foundation. The Historical Society is in Tucson and funded by State money. The Pioneer's Foundation is in Phoenix. Their library is now at Arizona State University high up in the tower, and Bert was the head of the Foundation. This was kind of Goldwater's baby.

Bert would do anything Goldwater said. Goldwater said, "I've got this fellow over here collecting books. Send him some lists occasionally of things he ought to have." So he received good guidance in books he should have.

A.B.Guthrie, Jr

By 1983 year's end, I paid off all of the amounts involved in the consignment sale of the library of A. B. Guthrie, Jr.

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

*[In 1979], A.B.Guthrie, who wrote **The Big Sky** and **The Way West** said, "I'm 78. I am not writing any more books on the Mountain Men or the Oregon Trail. I just do not want these books, and want to dispose of them [properly] while I still have some control. Otherwise they'd just get dumped after I'm dead."*

So I flew up [to Montana], made a deal, and got his collection. They were not all that rare, and often in terrible condition because he bought reading copies, you see, and the bindings [were likewise in poor shape].

Catalog Sales

By 1977, my rare-book collection grew. A large fireproof cabinet was bought to hold the more valuable items, as there were more than 100 items worth \$100 to \$1200 each in the stock.

Thus, at the time of retirement on June 30, 1978, I had a good stock. I still had my old Stagecoach Press mailing list, plus new names added now and then, and was ready to go.

I retired and immediately issued my first catalog since 1968. From that point on, my life followed a simple, pleasant course. I write a catalog, type invoices, and wrap packages. I work as much or as little as I like. If I want to take a nap or spend time with a visitor, I do so.

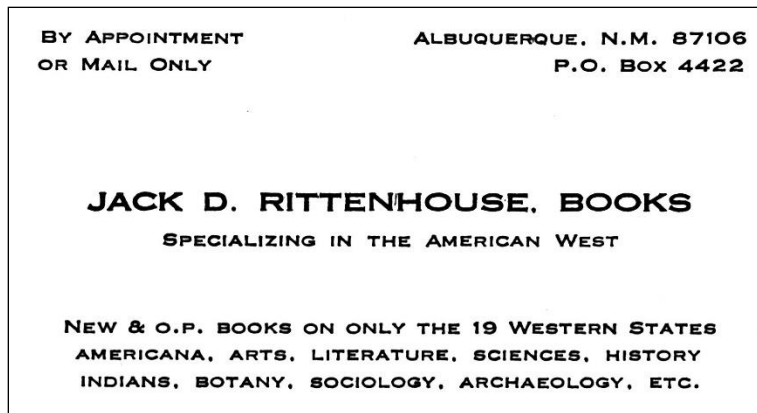


Figure 1 - Calling Card

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Jack: By that time, we decided I knew western books better than I ever did before, and I have got this fine collection of bibliographies to work from. I knew how to do catalogs, because I had done direct mail in advertising.

Charlotte: Actually, he slid into it a little more than that. In order to get rid of these books, he put out a couple of [early] catalogs and they succeeded.

Jack: I got good money at UNM Press and even at retirement, I was making as much as a young professor when first hired, in the history department at least. So I was surprised when I retired, that at the end of the first year, I was making more money than I ever made at UNM Press, more than I ever made I guess in my life. It wasn't all that much, but it was more than [all jobs before].

I met a lot of authors such as Jack Schaeffer in my work, often corresponding to see if they've got an old book that we can reprint in our UNM paperback series.

I had two or three very fine collections on consignment, and by that time, at 65, our house was mostly paid for, so little left that we could pay it off at any time.

Chapter 15 – Antiquarian Bookman

[We issued the following numbered catalogs after my retirement from UNM.]

- 1979 - #46 and #47
- 1980 - #48 and #49
- 1981 - #50, #51, and #52
- 1982 - #53, #54, and #55
- 1983 - #56, #57, and #58
- 1984 - #59, #60, and #61
- [1985 - #62, #63, and #64]
- [1986 - #65, #66, and #67]
- 1987 - #68, #69, #70, #71, and #72

The only published writing I did in 1979 was a series of four book reviews for the *Albuquerque Independent*. Locally [in Albuquerque], I spoke to

- a Boy Scout troop
- the state association of church librarians
- the Western Literature Association

In 1980, we bought a collection of about 520 books from the widow of the late Dr. Hendryson, with several good items. We bought a copy of the first printing (1882) of Pat Garrett's book on Billy the Kid. We sold it for \$3,000 to a collector in El Paso.

We bought only two collections in 1981, one lot of books on the fur trade from Laura Lefkovsky and a larger collection on the Southwest from Manuel Servin, a retired UNM professor. In February, I wrote three chapters on Southwestern books for a volume the New Mexico Book League published in 1982.

In 1982, at age 70. I wrote an article for *A-B Bookman's Weekly*, issue of October 18, on how to compile a Western bibliography.

In 1983, I bought a good collection of books on the cattle industry from Jerry Williams at Los Alamos for \$10,000. In Austin, I sold a set of books to a collector and bought two choice items at the Jenkins Company, as well as leaving some books at the Adolphus bindery to be mended.

In 1984, I attended a New York City book auction at the Swann Gallery and bought heavily in Western Americana first editions. Jacob Chernofsky (editor of A-B) visited us in August. In October, A-B Bookman's Weekly published my article on experiences in selling Western books.

1987 was the best year yet for total receipts and was up 29% over 1986. This was chiefly due to much harder work and [five separate] catalogs.

Business Trips

[After newly retired in 1978, my antiquarian book travels started in earnest in 1979.]

- Lamy, where I spoke to a group of *Prentice-Hall* publishers' sales executives;
- Santa Fe, when I spoke to the *Rocky Mountain Publishers Association* on aspects of regional publishing
- Roy, NM, to talk with a printer about doing our catalogs
- Scottsdale and Tucson hunting rare books
- Silver City, where I made a talk at *Western New Mexico University* on how to do research for the historical novel
- Austin to seek rare books
- Los Angeles and up to San Francisco on the same errand
- San Antonio for a rare books librarian's conference
- Flagstaff to confer with rare books librarian, Bill Mullane, at *Northern Arizona University*

In 1980,

- Roswell, to run my book display at a state library convention
- Portales, to deliver some books to *Eastern New Mexico University*
- Deming and Silver City, to look at some books

In 1981,

- We ran a display at the *New Mexico Library Association* in Albuquerque

In 1982,

- Albuquerque, as speaker on book design at national convention of church librarians
- Phoenix to display books at the *Southwestern Library Association*. I was on a panel of antiquarian booksellers and introduced as "the dean of Southwestern bookmen."

In 1984,

- Los Angeles same day flights to attend a book fair and back home
- Phoenix (Tempo) to pick up duplicate books at the university library there

Trips in 1987 for book purchases and book business:

- Chicago
- New Mexico State University (twice)
- San Francisco, to book fairs and an auction

Paso por Aqui Award - 1982

Down at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, there is an organization known as the *Rio Grande Historical Collections*, a group of friends who support the university's archives.

On 11/30/1982, they gave me the *Paso Por Aqui* [Pass by Here] award and labeled me as "New Mexico's leading bookman." That was perhaps the most satisfactory award I ever received, although I would deny the adjective, the award was given by a committee of peers, given to only one person a year, and not every year at that. This was given "*for outstanding contributions toward the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Mexico.*"

It was not a competition and only four others received previously to William Keleher, Fabiola Cabeza de Baca, Eve Ball, and Gen. Hugh Milton.

The award consisted of a certificate and beautiful plaque. The plaque had the usual brass plate inscribed, but placed on the back of the plaque. The front was beautiful wo enameling on metal, in many colors, representing El Morro Rock, on which early explorers carved their names.

The award was a complete surprise, quite unexpected, and not the result of any poll or contest, just a selective award that I value as possibly the highest I ever received. The news release called me "the most knowledgeable bookman in New Mexico."

I could not explain why it was given to me. Then, I realized that it was not for any single thing I did, but for all the smaller tasks over twenty years: the Stagecoach Press books, my writings, the organizations in which I worked, and so on. It was as though I was laying one brick at a time and suddenly looked back and saw that indeed I built some long road without knowing it.



Figure 2 – NMSU Paso Por Aqui Award – 11/1982
[The Briley home has displayed this award since 2012.]

[On 8/28/1991, the month that Jack died, Austin Hoover (Archivist for the Rio Grande Historical Collections) sent Charlotte the following typed transcript from that [1982] meeting. Dwight Myers typed this transcript of his comments when he presented the award (minimally edited).]

Jack Vowell:

”You know, the people who write and who promote history in New Mexico have been honored by this organization [RGHC] with a special award, which we call Paso Por Aqui. This award is not given every year or at any specific time. It is given when it is felt individuals merit this kind of recognition. Today we are presenting a Paso Por Aqui Award, but I want to remind you of those few previous recipients.

They are:

- Eve Ball, who studied and wrote on the Mescalero Apaches and their history and culture
- Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Gilbert who, for many years, was a home economics extension person in New Mexico and the author of *We Fed Them Cactus*
- Will Keleher, whose research and publication centered on the territorial history of New Mexico, notably the Lincoln County War
- General Hugh Milton who, for years, championed history and was the moving force to have Fort Selden declared a State Monument. General Milton wrote on local history, including Fort Selden, Mangus Coloradus, and the Mesilla Civil Colony Grant.

General Milton received the Award last year [1981] and asked me to read you this letter:

"To my associates:

At the last meeting of this Board, you presented me the Paso Por Aqui Award. I was so astonished that through the intervening months, I have felt that I did not adequately express my heartfelt appreciation. To say that I was honored is to show feebleness of words. It was a recognition beyond all deserving. It is now, and always will be, a cherished possession. The plaque is a masterpiece symbolic of the Rio Grande, the mountains lifting man's thoughts above the mundane; the sun giving the challenge to life; and the desert flowers, whose bloom bespeaks the reward of struggle.

With appreciation and deep thanks I remain, Hugh M. Milton."

This plaque is symbolic of Inscription Rock [El Morro Rock] and of the fact that we recognize that we will remember those who have passed by here. Today, to make the presentation, I call upon a member of our Awards Committee.”

Dwight Myers:

“It is always a particular honor to speak to friends about a close friend, and that is the honor I have today. I want to tell a story of this septuagenarian. It has been a story of books and book loving for the last seventy years.

On Jack Rittenhouse's third birthday, he received a copy of *Little Black Sambo* while visiting his great-grandmother's farm near Reed City, Michigan. Phenomenal to me, he not only recalls the title, but can describe the physical appearance. Obviously, his ability for retaining information, both obscure and obvious, was inborn, as no one has perfected this gift as well as this man.

He even recalls that on his ninth birthday he received a gift edition of a book of poems called *Water Babies*. Do you remember that book? It was written by Kingsley, he thinks, he is not too sure of that. It was given to him by a waitress named Blanche at the hotel he [lived] in. How do you remember that kind of thing unless you are a dedicated bibliophile? He also recalls that in his ninth year he discovered the riches of the public library in Constantine, Michigan. That library was only open two evenings and for two hours at that. He would go in, sit those two hours, read as much as he could and take out the two allotted books. Since his home was a hotel, the librarian had to be a bit trusting.

His first real job working with books came in his second year in high school when he became a library page. He can still recall the books on economics under the east window - the true making of a bibliographer. During his senior year, he worked at the public library. In his last year in college, he began his career as a reporter for the *Terre Haute News*. Here he did his first printing: that of bookplates on an old platen press. By offering to do a column free, as long as the column was on books, he got a job at the *Journal Gazette*, the morning paper in Fort Wayne.

This he did for four years until the New York City bug and the big-city, big-time bug bit him, both at the same time. He jumped a freight train to get there. He arrived in June 1935 taking a job as a barker in front of the Gaiety Burlesque House on Times Square. You got to eat.

He began writing letters of application to the big publishing houses, and finally got a reply from *Alfred A. Knopf*, who offered him the munificent sum of \$15 a week as a mail clerk, but he was in book business. At age 23, he gave up his dream of becoming the editor of the greatest novel ever written and decided upon the advertising department, which fascinated him even more. He began working for *Hillman-Curl* in New York City, designing and mailing promotional pieces. Various positions in advertising, catalog production, and freelance writing followed. He continued to do his [books] column for the paper back home, but out of New York City.

His own publishing career began when he sank his last \$750 dollars into a book he wrote from first-hand knowledge, *The Guidebook to Highway 66*, published in 1946 when he lived in Los Angeles. I think it is rather interesting that a picture of a stagecoach is printed on the front, which certainly was a portent of things to come for Jack. His second book, which he sold for \$3.75 at half the list price, now commands over \$75 if you can even find [that first press run] on the antiquarian market. Jack moved to Houston and *Stagecoach Press* finally got into full swing.

The *Stagecoach Press* - and I am not sure how many books he published; he could tell me right quickly - but they are all very identifiable to you collectors and bibliomaniacs. Some of them have the address of Houston and some have the address of Santa Fe. They are right famous and have become real collector's items. Some people try to specialize in getting all of Jack's books from the *Stagecoach Press* - quite difficult these days.

Smarts finally hit him in 1962 when he left Houston and moved to Santa Fe, and the job that is perhaps best known among us, and now we start to know a little more about Jack because we begin to know him personally. He became director of the *Museum of New Mexico Press* in Santa Fe, and continued the famous *Stagecoach Press* publications, doing most printing himself.

He added further to his credits with the book *Maverick Tales* published by the Winchester Press, also a Jack Rittenhouse item. However, the one that we know the most, probably the most famous, is *The Santa Fe Trail: A Historical Bibliography* published by the *University of New Mexico Press*, and which is the book most often referred to by collectors having anything to do with books on the Santa Fe Trail.

UNM Press was the reason for Jack's move to Albuquerque. He became general manager of UNM Press and the editor of all their western books. He started the very illustrious Zia Book Reprint paperback series. The attempt there was to reprint the great classics in fiction that had to do with the Southwest. A Montana book snuck in there and a few others, but basically the Southwest. During the 1970s, he was a sometime visiting professor of library science at UNM, the cofounder of the New Mexico Book League, and the recipient of fifty awards having to do with his involvement and love for books.

On his "retirement," and that's in quotes, from UNM Press, he went full time in his firm that is rightfully called: *Jack Rittenhouse, Bookseller*. He operates out of his home. He deals only in areas of specific interest to Westerners, Southwestern in particular. He has dealt with books valued over \$7000 but will be glad to find that \$5 paperback reprint of a classic for a customer.

He has been continually involved in every aspect of books in New Mexico and to list them is to recite everything that is. He often refers to Lawrence Clark Powell as the greatest evangelist of Southwestern books. Jack is, without question, the greatest and most patient teacher to the novice and the specialist alike regarding the world of Southwestern books. Above all, both Charlotte and Jack are my best friends in the world of books.

Therefore, the *Rio Grande Historical Collections' Paso Por Aqui Award* is presented 'con razon' [with reason] to Jack D. Rittenhouse for outstanding contributions toward the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Mexico.

This inscription on El Morro recognizes one who not only passed by but who cherished the lore of the land and gathered it with love and pride for the enlightenment of later travelers in time. Congratulations to you."

Jack Rittenhouse:

"Well I am completely astonished and very grateful. I knew there was some sort of recognition coming but, I thought they were merely going to express appreciation to all those who have served as a director in the past years of this organization.

I had no idea it would be of the scope of this sort of presentation. I feel humble about it because anything I have done was very selfish because I enjoyed doing it. If any of my puritanical forbearers look down upon me now and see this fellow getting an award for leading a very happy life.... It is entirely contrary to all their teachings and yet I hope that each of you will get an award for leading a very happy life. Thank you."

Turning Seventy Five - 1987

In [11/1987], I shall be seventy-five. As far as I know, I shall follow this rare book path for many more years. Sometimes I wondered why I had not started such a fine occupation many years earlier. Yet I now see that I would not be doing so well at it were it not for what I learned in those years in advertising, at the Stagecoach Press, and above all during the [important] years at the UNM Press.



Figure 3 - Demonstrating Typesetting on 75th Birthday (S. Blair 11/1987)

Sometimes I liken my stream of experiences to a bucket of water spilled on a mountaintop. It starts its course downward toward a river, trickling this way and that as it meets obstacles or opportunities, flowing this way and that all the way, sometimes appearing to take an entirely new course yet always moving inexorably in a direction that is to itself unknown yet inevitable, until it finds its ultimate and true direction.

The thing I like best about the rare book business is not cajoling some customer into buying a thousand dollar book, which happens once or twice a year, but the constant flow of new ideas and new challenges. Almost every week there comes some new rarity about which I previously knew little or nothing. The problem of identifying it, finding out about its origins and meanings; is a new education each time.

To understand the story about the five volume set of Wilkes' voyages in the Pacific, I had to read an entire book that someone wrote about the Wilkes volumes. What a fascinating story! The older I get, the more I realize what a small fraction I possess of the vast knowledge available.

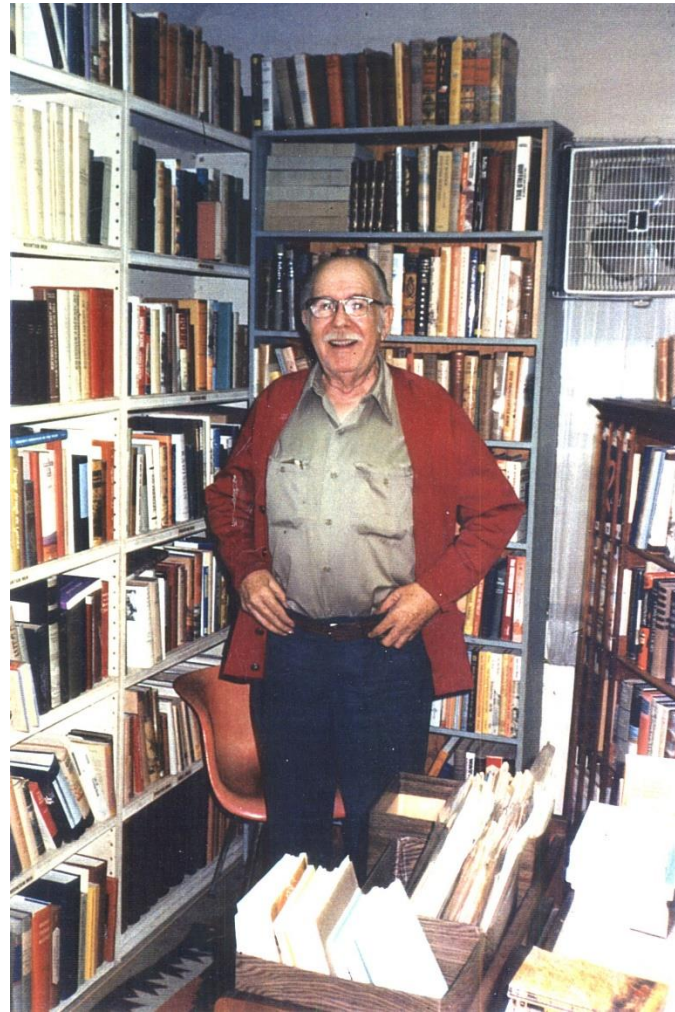


Figure 4 – Home among Reference Books

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Jack: I was living in Sierra Madre, a suburb of Los Angeles. Charlotte and I were just talking this morning, the most civilized community in which I ever lived. They understood a home craftsman. Albuquerque does not. Houston could be a little better. But of the restrictions here when you work out of your home, I cannot hire anybody, you see. Sierra Madre would let you hire one person.

I cannot hire anybody here, either for temporary work, or if I were sick or disabled or something, I'd just shut down. You can make no sales on the premises. I do not know how that affects artists. People come to an artist's home. You cannot make a living through any sales in your home. So I don't run in the Yellow Pages, I run no ads, have no sign. But book collectors will really find you.

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

David: What is the ratio of your client base, between institutions and private collectors?

Jack: Because I turn in State sales tax reports, I tabulate all these figures and generally, it runs fifty per cent of dollar volume to individuals, forty percent to libraries, and ten per cent to other dealers

You do not pay tax on out-of-state sales. You do not pay tax on library sales even within New Mexico. Arizona somehow has a sales tax that the libraries work around somehow. I do not charge [tax to the library nor remit tax to Arizona]. It is in the paperwork there somehow.

David: That is interesting that ten per cent to other dealers is the smallest part.

Jack: Well, my prices are higher, but I have the books. Usually they cannot buy from me and re-sell because my prices are so close to the top of the line that you cannot add much [of a profit margin]. My prices are generally not negotiable. I have to give a ten percent discount to another dealer.

David: How far afield do you have to go to find the books now? Do you travel? That 1989 trip to Spain, is that an exception?

Jack: No, we try to go every other year. We have gone to Paris once [in 1977], London about four times, then out to other towns around, and to Amsterdam [in 1985].

Charlotte: We had a very good trip to Amsterdam. Good book connections...

Jack: Not only on out-of-print books, but also on new books and some things published by A.Asher and Company, which is Nico Israel's [1919-2002] company. I carry that three-volume reprint of Ramusio.

Asher Rare Books in Amsterdam (edited)

Steiner continued as a bookseller while in hiding during WW II, under cover of the non-Jewish firm Praamsma. In 1947, Steiner with Liebstaedter revived A.Asher & Co. After Liebstaedter died in 1968, Steiner reorganized as a partnership with his son Julius. Health then forced a sale in 1970 to Nico Israel (1919-2002). Nico had his own shop in Amsterdam since 1950.

Julius Steiner continued to manage the Asher branch. They continued two series of catalogues, those under Asher for natural history, and those under Nico Israel for fine books, maps, and atlases. When Nico Israel retired in 1995, he sold to Machiel Roos the stock and reference libraries of both Nico Israel and Asher.
asherbooks.com/about.html

"Interview with a Bookman," by David Farmer. Unpublished transcript, 1989.

Jack: I am studying and working on bibliography all the time. It's the research on this that fascinates me more than anything else does.

David: I visited Michael Heaston, who spends an incredible amount of time going back through the catalogs and the bibliographies. He says, "This is the only way to do what I do well, to know it. You only know it by spending the time."

Charlotte: Jack came back from one trip with a book that he had never heard of on how cattle were once shipped. The Plimsoll line [painted] on ships, [the load limit] line, came about because they would horribly overload with cattle which sometimes sank [at sea] and the cattle drowned. Well, this book should be owned. Jack put it in a catalogue and priced it at \$150. The next day, I swear it was the next day; Reese's catalogue arrived with the same book for \$145.

Book Talk Index - 1996

During 1982, I served as president of the *New Mexico Book League* [NMBL], an honorary post, as Dwight Myers, its secretary, handled all work. [NMBL published (after 1996) an Index of all their *Book Talk* articles. The following excerpts shows my contributions.]

Book Talk Index, page 212, NMBL (after 1996)

=====

Rittenhouse, Charlotte, long-time NMBL treasurer, Nov. 1984: 2; Jan. 1996: 7

Rittenhouse, Jack D., July 1986: 9; July 1987: 4; June 1989: 12; June 1990: 5; Nov. 1990: 4; Nov. 1991: 12

Articles by Jack:

- "Are You Considering Publishing on Your Own?" Nov. 1978: 1-2
- "The Book in New Mexico," Feb. 1982: 1-2
- +2+ "A Bookman's Trip to Spain," June 1989: 1-6 [much summarized]
- "The Bookseller, The Library, and the Collector," Sep. 1976: 1-2
- +2+ "Early Southwest Imprints: Carl Hertzog," Mar. 1975: 3
- +2+ "Early Southwest Imprints: Estancia News," June 1974: 2
- +2+ "Early Southwest Imprints: St. Michaels Press," Aug. 1974: 4
- +2+ "Early Southwest Imprints: The Bandar Log Press," Oct. 1974: 2-3
- "Foundations for Castles in the Air," Mar. 1992: 1-4
- "New Mexico Bibliographies: A Guide to 157 Guides Dealing Wholly or Chiefly with New Mexico," Apr. 1986: 1-10
- +1+ "A New Mexico Book Collection, Part 1," June 1977: 1-3
- +1+ "A New Mexico Book Collection, Part 2," Aug. 1977: 1-3
- +1+ "A New Mexico Book Collection, Part 3," Nov. 1977: 2-4
- +1+ "A New Mexico Book Collection, Part 4," Jan. 1978: 1-3
- "Princely Publishing," Jan. 1988: 3
- "Some Notes of the Value or Worth of a Used or Rare Book," Nov. 1987: 4-5
- "Southwest Imprints: Alan Swallow," Dec. 1974: 3
- "Southwest Imprints: New Mexico's First Printing Press, Part 1," May 1975: 2,4
- "Southwest Imprints: New Mexico's First Printing Press, Part 2," Aug. 1975: 4
- "Southwest Imprints: Writers' Editions," Dec. 1975: 3-4; Feb. 1976: 3-4
- "True Tales of Publishing in the Rocky Mountain West," Jan. 1993: 3-5
- +2+ "Vignettes from Rocky Mountain Publishing Ventures," Jan. 1990: 1-5
- "Yesterday's Imprints of the Southwest: Laguna Mission Press," Apr. 1974: 2

Jack's obituary, Sep. 1991: 6

The Santa Fe Trail: A Historical Bibliography, mentioned, June 1977: 2 UNM Press and, Jan. 1974: 2; Mar. 1988: 3

=====

Chapter 15 – Antiquarian Bookman

Essays so marked above as +1+ were republished in a combined form within the 10-year anniversary book *“In Celebration of the Book: Literary New Mexico”*, Dwight and Carol Myers, Editors, NMBL and The Lightning Tree, 1982. This was a sleeved limited edition of 500 copies. [Copy 11 signed by the eight individuals involved in the physical production of this handcrafted volume is in the Briley home.]

I contributed these articles to that tenth anniversary volume:

- “A Sorcerer’s Apprentice in the Land of Enchantment”, p.3-22
- “New Mexico’s First Printer an Seven Who Followed”, p.52-81
- “A New Mexico Book Collection”, p.124-135 (from Book Talk as noted)
- “Three Books That Had Greatest Impact on Me.”, p.202-203

Essays so marked above as +2+ were republished within a 25-year anniversary book *“Literary New Mexico: Essays from Book Talk”*, Dwight and Carol Myers, Editors, NMBL and Ancient Cities Press, 1998. While Dwight fully defined this second anniversary collection, he died in 9/1995. Ancient Cities Press assured Carol of its publication in 1998. This was a sleeved limited edition of 300 copies. [Copy 7 signed by Carol Myers is in the Briley home.]

[Dwight and Carol selected three of Jack’s articles to republish in this volume:]

- "Early Southwest Imprints", p.1-8
- "A Bookman's Trip to Spain", p. 64-72
- “Vignettes from Rocky Mountain Publishing Ventures", p.73-85

====

Complete this section covering events after 1968 relating to books, such as (but not limited to):

- I was a lecturer at a seminar on publishing at the American Association for State and Local History at Nashville, Tennessee.
- Conception of the "Zia Series" at UNM Press
- Compiling the Santa Fe Trail bibliography.
- work with Northern Arizona University.
- the card file.
- The Guthrie collection,
- Jack Schaefer's books.