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The Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty, 1954-2004

With “Children’s Books in Bygone Baltimore”
an Essay and Catalogue by Linda F. Lapidés

Edited by Donald Farren and August A. Imholtz, Jr.

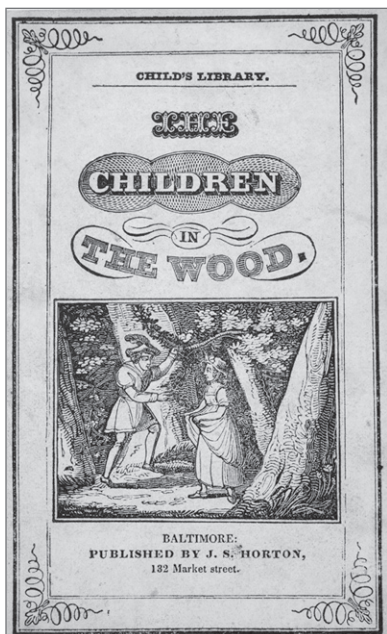
With this volume, the Baltimore Bibliophiles celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding, demonstrating the flourishing of bibliophily in Baltimore and the vigor of the organization. Included in the book are an account and catalogue of early children’s books in Baltimore by Linda F. Lapidés. A separate section presents the organization’s historical record.

The book contains historical accounts of the club, an interview with P. William Filby—recurrent speaker at meetings of the club and the only person to serve twice non-consecutively as president, an interview with newspaperman and longtime member James H. Bready, lists of members, meetings, and publications, the constitution of the club, and a list of the subscribers to the publication of the book.

The section “Children’s Books in Bygone Baltimore,” occupying two-thirds of the book, documents the collecting of children’s books in Baltimore. An essay by Lapidés entitled “For Amusement and Instruction” is the first sustained account of books published for and read by children in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Baltimore. It is accompanied by a fully annotated narrative catalogue of 135 items in the distinguished collection of Baltimore children’s books that Lapidés and her husband, Julian L. Lapidés, have assembled. The essay includes a bibliographical record of the development of the collection, and the catalogue is provided with indexes of authors and associated persons, of titles, and of printers, publishers, and booksellers.

This book is a contribution both to the history of bibliophile organizations in the United States and to scholarship on early children’s books in America. It contains 16 black-and-white photographs of children’s books in the catalogue, 3 portrait photographs of principal members of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, Dorothy E. Miner, Elizabeth Baer, and P. William Filby, and—as a color frontispiece—the illustration of Baltimore’s Washington Monument that appears on the cover of a copybook published ca. 1840 in Baltimore. It is limited to an edition of 300 copies.

Linda F. Lapidés, life-long resident of Baltimore, is a former librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and longtime collector of children’s books published in and associated with Baltimore. Donald Farren is a retired librarian and author of a new introduction to the Oak Knoll Press reprint of Geoffrey Ashall Glaister’s *Encyclopedia of the Book* (1996, 2001). August A. Imholtz, Jr., was president of the Baltimore Bibliophiles, 2006–2008.



“WHAT BETTER WAY to celebrate the Baltimore Bibliophiles’ fiftieth anniversary than by the publication of this illuminating record of the books through which successive generations of Baltimoreans first discovered the printed (and illustrated) word, and were thereby drawn into the web of American culture’s collective hopes and dreams. Linda Lapidés’ love of the books, and of the city that gave rise to them, is matched by her keen appreciation of children’s literature’s consequential role as a carrier of culture. This pioneering work of bibliographical scholarship harvests knowledge and insights gleaned from a lifetime of collecting the children’s books published in Baltimore from colonial times onward.”

— Leonard S. Marcus, children’s book historian and critic

Distributed for The Baltimore Bibliophiles

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Children’s Books in Bygone Baltimore
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by LINDA F. LAPIDÉS

Edited by DONALD FARREN
and AUGUST A. IMHOLTZ, JR.

The Baltimore Bibliophiles
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