

# Rocky Mountain Antiquarian Booksellers Association

## CODE OF ETHICS

Approve and adopted by the membership on September 15, 1992

### PREAMBLE

RMABA was founded to encourage and promote interest in books and related materials, to establish and maintain professional and ethical standards and to foster friendly relations among the membership and the community at large.

RMABA recognizes that members are obligated to operate their businesses in accordance with local, state, and federal laws. Members share a responsibility of furthering mutual trust and respect between the trade and the public by conducting their businesses, both buying and selling, with fairness, integrity and common sense.

The privilege of membership in RMABA carries with it the responsibility of maintaining and furthering the objectives of the organization. Toward this end the following ethical standards are provided:

1. RMABA members shall be responsible for the accurate description of all material offered for sale. All significant defects, restorations, and sophistication should be clearly noted and made know to those to whom the material is offered or sold. Unless both parties agree otherwise, a full refund will be made available to the purchaser for any misrepresented material.
2. A RMABA member shall be responsible for passing on to the buyer clear title to all material sold and shall not knowingly purchase, hold or attempt to resell stolen materials. All members shall make reasonable efforts to ascertain that materials offered to the member are the property of the seller.

A RMABA member shall make every effort to prevent the theft of books and related materials. A member shall cooperate with law enforcement authorities and the RMABA officers in efforts to recover and return stolen materials, and apprehend and prosecute those responsible for the theft, including, but not limited to, providing names of the persons involved.

3. A RMABA member shall vouch for the authenticity of all materials offered for sale, and shall make every effort to establish their true nature. Should it be determined that material offered as authentic is not authentic or is questionable, that material shall be returned for a full refund, or other mutually agreeable arrangement. Materials proven to be not authentic, or of a disputed or undetermined nature, shall not be offered for sale unless all facts concerning it are disclosed in writing.
4. Terms and conditions of the sale should be clearly and explicitly stated in all catalogs and in offers, and it should be made clear at the time of the offer whether or not the material is being offered subject to prior sale. A member buying material should pay in full for material within thirty days of the invoice unless other arrangements are made. Terms of

the sale should be clearly defined between seller and buyer at the time of the sale and payment made in accordance with those terms. Terms may be renegotiated by mutual consent.

5. Responsibility for damage in transit shall rest with the sender. Members should see to the careful and appropriate handling, packaging and shipping of material in order to assure that it arrives in the same condition as when purchased.
6. A RMABA member should have all material offered for sale clearly marked with the selling price. Material not for sale, or in the process of being cataloged should be appropriately segregated.
7. A RMABA member offering appraisal services shall be responsible for knowing current appraisal regulations as stipulated by the IRS. A member shall conduct an appraisal in strict compliance with those regulations.
8. A RMABA member shall neither approach nor solicit customers in any other bookseller's shop, booth, or place of business without the introduction or consent of the proprietor.
9. A RMABA member shall not offer material owned by another bookseller without the commitment to purchase or the owner's permission.
10. The bookseller shall cause no harm to his fellow booksellers through malicious gossip or other action that may hurt another business reputation.
11. In buying books from the public, a member will treat the seller fairly, taking into consideration the bookseller's knowledge of the material offered and its likely marketability.

It is essential for the reputation of RMABA that complaints or disputes involving members are resolved in a manner befitting the objectives of the organization. Claims against disputes among members will be made in writing to the CHAIR of the RMABA Ethics Committee. Members will abide by the decisions of the RMABA Ethics Committee and Officers. Violations of the RMABA Code of Ethics may be grounds for disciplinary action by the organization.