

(1) Ladies and gentlemen:

First, I would like to thank Mr. Theo Vermeulen and the Royal Library of The Hague for letting me take part in this meeting on behalf of ILAB.

In my presentation I will briefly explain what the ILAB is, which our basic function is and how the institutions can collaborate with us when they suffer from theft of old books and documents.

The ILAB was founded in 1947 by a group of antiquarian booksellers from England, France, Denmark, Sweden and Holland.

(2) The first conference took place in Netherlands at Amsterdam in 1947

(3)

ILAB Committee (2012). The ILAB is ruled by a general committee and currently at the head of it is our president Mr. Tom Congalton from the USA.

The ILAB organizes an international congress every two years . President and Committee members use to be in office for one or two terms of two years each.

(4)

Nowadays the ILAB is formed by 22 national associations that include approximately 1850 antiquarians booksellers in the five continents.

The presidents of the national associations meet annually to exchange ideas, solve problems and implement strategies that benefit our commercial activity.

Every national association has a structure formed by a Committee with a president, vice-president, committee members, treasurer and members.

Each national association has an autonomous functioning but always under the coverage of ILAB with its rights and obligations.

All booksellers' Associations that are part of ILAB accept the code of ethics and good practice that must govern the relationships among booksellers and these with clients.

(5) National associations organize an ILAB's international network of fairs all over the world, the most important being: New York, London, Los Angeles/St Francisco, Paris, Stuttgart etc.

(6) The new ILAB website was launched in January 2010.

<i>38.000 visitors every month</i>

<i>130.000 page views.</i>

<i>Website report -23 September 2012-Lucerne</i>

(7)

ILAB's web page is divided in several parts: A book search, tabs that include: history, congresses, regulations, Ilab-Breslauer prize, etc.

(8)

It is very important the database of stolen books that we have created since 2010: (www.stolen-book.org.

This database has a public part and another part with exclusive access only for the booksellers.

(9)

At our fairs and events, which are usually attended by a large amount of people, very low numbers of books stolen are reported in situ.

There is something very clear: the aim of stealing a book, document or old map is its sale and economical benefit.

Thefts done by order unlike the fine art market, are very rare in the world of antiquarian books and sooner or later the material removed are put back in circulation through auctions or in direct sale to a bookseller either by the thief or by a mediator.

However, thefts are more frequently common in our establishments and this was the reason why it brought us to create our service of alert via e-mail a few years ago where a bookseller can report the theft of a book in his establishment.

A bookseller who has suffered a theft can send an e-mail with the details of the stolen stuff to the following email address: security@ilab.org.

This e-mail is processed by our publishers and in a brief lapse of time is forwarded to all the booksellers members of ILAB in the whole world including files, photos and an index card to help identify the book, document or map in a much easier way.

(10) *This database is for books reported stolen after 15th June 2010. Books reported before this date are, for technical reasons, listed with minimal detail.*

(11) One of the most visited sections according to the statistics that I can show you in this presentation which is stolen books

(12). The map shows location of visitors **(13)** News and returning visitors , *news in blue, returning in green*

(14). In the home section appears news of stolen books and solved cases.

(15) There are details that are omitted in the part of the public access such as:

- 1.-the place of the theft and its circumstances;
- 2.- the suspect description who committed the theft
- 3.-the police reference number.

But the rest of information can be seen in the part of public access on the website.

(16)

An institution that wants to consult the private section of the database can contact a known bookseller member of ILAB or the national association of his country.

Finally if an institution wants to have a temporary access to this part of the web, they can contact the ILAB's Security Chairman who will notify then our web-masters to allow you the access.

(17)

Our policy is reliability and discretion, because we are the first ones interested in guaranteeing the origin of the material which is the base of our commercial activity and keeping the confidence of our clientèle both as particular as institutional that are the base of lasting relationships.

We know that when a theft is detected, institutions inform their people in charge and security forces who will put in function their line of enquiry and of action.

(18)

Discretion facing to the public opinion is in some cases obligatory.

Therefore, you can easily understand that our cooperation is guaranteed and also that our interest to solve these problems and to help catch those responsible is loyal and sincere.

As I have mentioned before, our policy is discretion.

That is why we are conscious that if the theft is a question of singular pieces or important quantities of books this could draw the public attention on our activity and in some way put in doubt our good name and the integrity of our profession.

(19)

From now on I believe that a cooperation between institutional libraries and ILAB cannot bring anything else but benefits in the chapter of locating stolen pieces.

Obviously this collaboration will need some practice and experience, but I sincerely believe that eventually the advantages will be greater and this collaboration will be positive in this matter.

(20)

If the theft takes place in an institution as you are represented by here in this room, maybe we will not be able to help you in the prevention of this theft; but I believe we can do a lot to collaborate in the location of these items and facilitate their recovery.

You will always have us on your side in this matter.

I would like to finish my intervention by thanking Mr. Vermeulen once again for his welcoming and hoping that we can establish our channels of collaboration with a view to the future.

(21) Thank you.