

# The New York Times

Friday, April 4, 2008

## Art in Review

By HOLLAND COTTER and KAREN ROSENBERG

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/04/arts/design/04gall.html?ref=design>

### NEW YORK ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

*Park Avenue Armory*

*Park Avenue at 67th Street*

*Through Sunday*

Wandering the aisles of the annual Antiquarian Book Fair, at the Park Avenue Armory, is like being a fly on the wall at the ultimate dinner party. Two hundred dealers are exhibiting rare books, manuscripts, first editions and ephemera related to a host of authors, artists and historical figures.

Bibliotopus has first editions of Voltaire's "Candide" and Kerouac's "On the Road." At David Brass Rare Books a copy of Dickens's "Pictures From Italy" bears the author's misspelled inscription "To Hans Christian Anderson." Also at Brass, a letter from [Lewis Carroll](#) to a friend mentions his search for a little girl to model for photographs.

Bits of gossip are mixed in with the polite literary conversation. Among the legal guides and treatises at the Lawbook Exchange are several 18th-century books illustrated with scenes related to famous adultery trials. These titillating objects were the celebrity tabloids of the day.

A set of [Virginia Woolf](#)'s appointment books, at Peter Harrington Antiquarian Bookseller, includes several palm-size journals handmade by Woolf. After flipping through them and noting entries like "lunch with [John Maynard Keynes](#)," you may be tempted to ditch your BlackBerry.

The female members of the Bloomsbury group might have appreciated a set of contemporary artist's books by Tamar Stone, at Priscilla Juvelis. Cloth pages are laced in the style of a corset and printed with vintage advertisements that promote the health benefits of controlling undergarments.

Many older rarities can be paged through and pored over: 17th-century wall maps, at Martayan Lan; letters from [Mozart](#) and [Beethoven](#), at La Scala Autographs; a Delacroix-illustrated version of "Faust," at Ursus; even fragments from the Dead Sea Scrolls, at Michael R. Thompson Bookseller. On Sunday the fair will sponsor "Discovery Day," during which ticketed guests can bring up to five of their own treasures for appraisal. **KAREN ROSENBERG**

*The fair is open noon to 8 p.m. Friday, noon to 7 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday; \$20, \$30 two-day pass, \$45 run-of-show pass; (212) 777-5218; [sanfordsmith.com](http://sanfordsmith.com).*