

Update

First Shipment Arrives in Afghanistan

As this Update goes to press, Sabre's first ocean-freight container shipment has arrived in Afghanistan. More than 9,000 new books were sent to benefit schools, universities and medical facilities. The donation contained a broad variety of subjects and levels: children's elementary, secondary and high-school materials, English language and literature, medicine, science and computer science, management and business, and reference books including dictionaries, encyclopedias and atlases.

These books were selected by local organizations in Afghanistan and are being distributed by The Project for Economic Reform and Development in Central Asia (PERDCA), which recently opened an office in Mazar-e-Sharif. PERDCA has served as Sabre's partner in Uzbekistan since 1994 and has now established a working relationship with the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education. The 20ft container made its way initially to Tashkent via Antwerp and Novorossiysk (where it was waylaid by Russian transportation officials for almost a month). It then traveled to Mazar-e-Sharif, from where the contents are being distributed to recipients across Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul.

This shipment was funded by the proceeds of a silent auction of donated book advertising space at the June annual meeting of the American Association of University Presses (the fourth consecutive year Sabre was so honored), and by the U. S. Department of State. Sabre is currently seeking additional funding to continue and expand its Afghanistan pro-



Kevin Yamami (left) Technical Director, PERDCA and Yonus Qanooni, Education Minister, Kabul, Afghanistan.

gram. A two-year program is envisaged and would incorporate a purchase component for educational materials in local languages. Harvard Law School's Islamic Legal Studies Program and the Library of Congress have expressed interest in working with Sabre to assist in the re-stocking of libraries.

Planning for that program got underway in April, when Sabre hosted a small "brainstorming" meeting in Cambridge, attended by members of the Afghan community of New England and representatives from academic, medical, philanthropic and foreign aid circles. Members of that group have given ongoing advice and assistance to Sabre. Among them is Najim Azadzoi, an architect and planner who is an advisor to the Afghan Assistance and Coordination Authority. In July, on a return visit to his alma mater, Kabul University, he carried several boxes of new books on Islamic and western architecture as well as handbooks on engineering and construction, all donations from Sabre.



Najim Azadzoi (left) and Dr. Wahid Zia, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University.

Mr. Azadzoi met with the University Chancellor, Professor Akbar Popal, who later wrote that he was "thrilled with the intention of Sabre Foundation to help us rebuild our libraries and universities." The University's library, destroyed during the fighting and looting in Kabul, has the capacity to house over 100,000 books. Despite the lack of resources, Kabul University has enrolled over 8,000 students this year, including 1,500 female students.

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The Gulag Collection



"I remember the port in Vanino," © 2001 The Jamestown Foundation, reprinted with permission.

Sabre Foundation, in collaboration with Ukrainian partner Sabre-Svitlo, will distribute 1,400 copies of "The Gulag Collection" to libraries and other recipient institutions throughout the countries of the former Soviet Union.

This powerful book is a collection of paintings by an artist born in Ukraine, Nikolai Getman, which documents the eight years he spent at the Kolyma labor camps for "anti-Soviet behavior." Following his release in 1954, Getman worked in secret over a period of four decades to create a unique record of the Gulag experience, which has been described as a visual counterpart to the writings of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The book, published by The Jamestown Foundation, reproduces 50 of Getman's paintings with descriptive text in both Russian and English, an essay on the history of the Gulag by Robert Conquest, and a short biography of the artist.

An additional 100 copies of "The Gulag Collection" will be distributed by Sabre itself and by the Foundation's longstanding partner, the Department of Gifts and Exchanges at Columbia University Libraries. The project is funded by The William H. Donner Foundation.

Reception Launches New Book Distribution Center

After Sabre's annual meeting in Cambridge on the last day of May, directors, officers, staff and guests gathered in Lawrence, north of Boston, to celebrate the opening of Sabre's new Book Distribution Center. President Ken Bartels greeted the attendees and thanked representatives of Lawrence and Merrimack Valley organizations for their interest and support. He read out messages from Senator Edward Kennedy, who said, "I know that your hard work will be rewarded, and your plans will meet with great success," and from Congressman Michael Capuano, who "congratulate[d] everyone associated with Sabre for its continuing triumphs."

Guest speakers at the event included the executive directors of Sabre partner organizations in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ghana and Ukraine, and two long-time Sabre supporters from the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture: Jeff Spurr, Curator of Islamic Art, and Andras Riedlmayer, Bibliographer.

The reception also provided an occasion to introduce the newest member of Sabre's board of directors: Professor K. Anthony Appiah, Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, prolific author, and co-editor of the encyclopedia *Africana*.

Sabre's warehouse space has been admirably organized by supervisor Bill Hantzis and his two full-time assistants. It houses an inventory of over a million books, which turns over continually as new donations arrive and books selected by partners overseas are packed and shipped out. Sabre looks forward to expanding the scope of its operations from the new Lawrence facility.



At the opening, Tania Vitvitsky, Executive Director, Sabre Foundation, new Sabre board member, Prof. K. Anthony Appiah (middle), Princeton University, and Robert Amoako, Executive Director, Ghana Book Trust.

Economic Principals Project

During the past two decades David Warsh has made the world of economic ideas his beat. His award-winning column on the front page of the business section of *The Boston Globe* has won international recognition for its scholarly, non-doctrinaire coverage of the economics profession, and of economic thought more generally. "Economic Principals" by David Warsh is the column one reads to understand the work of the winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, the influence of the Chicago or Cambridge School, new problems in mathematical, institutional or policy-oriented economics, the rise of new knowledge-based services and industries, the intellectual ferment likely to shape policies and practices of the decades to come. By keeping a human focus on the people (the "principals") who give economic thought its practical force, Warsh makes "the dismal science" accessible and interesting.

In 2002, after a change in management at the *Globe*, Warsh took his column onto the web as *EconomicPrincipals.com*. It already has found an audience in fifty-five countries. In keeping with its use of the Internet to disintermediate the spread of information, Sabre Foundation will sponsor *Economic Principals*. In addition to Warsh's articles, the site will include a weekly newsletter of shorter items and links to other economic commentary. The aim is to make it a port of call for serious students of economic institutions, and to launch it as an independent entity within three years. Sabre welcomes financial contributions earmarked for the *Economic Principals Project*.

Ghana Conference of African Book Partners Highlights Growth of Michael Christian Program

From modest beginnings in Kenya and Ghana in the mid-1990s, Sabre book programs in Africa have expanded until they now account for more than half of all books shipped. Since 1998, African donations have honored the memory of Michael W. Christian, an early Sabre board member who was the first American lawyer admitted to the bar of the East African Federation of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

To recognize the growing importance of its African programs, and to provide a forum for the exchange of views about common perceptions, problems and opportunities, Sabre and its partner the Ghana Book Trust co-hosted a conference in Accra, Ghana, during the first week of 2002. Titled "Dialogue of African Partners: Book Programs in the New Century," the five-day meeting drew participants from eight countries. Representatives attended from current or prospective partner organizations in: Eritrea, Liberia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda, as well as representatives of Minneapolis-based Books for Africa and Ottawa-based Canadian Organization for Development through Education (CODE).

In addition to presentations from these partners, papers were also given by recipients of Sabre book donations, ranging from a university librarian to the headmaster of a boys school. The participation of several Ghanaian publishers also provided invaluable insights into how Sabre's activities can work hand in hand with local publishing initiatives. The interchange of experiences and ideas resulted in the drafting of the Accra Declaration (included with this Update), which outlines the lack of availability of affordable, high-quality educational materials in Africa and proposes a series of practical measures which Sabre and its African partners can adopt to help to ameliorate this situation.

The conference included two days of "hands-on" computer and Internet training for partners and the staff of the Ghana Book Trust at Busy Internet, a newly-built Internet and computer access facility in Accra. For a full report on the training program as well as conference papers, please see www.sabre.org/dap.html.

Sierra Leone IT and Internet Training Program



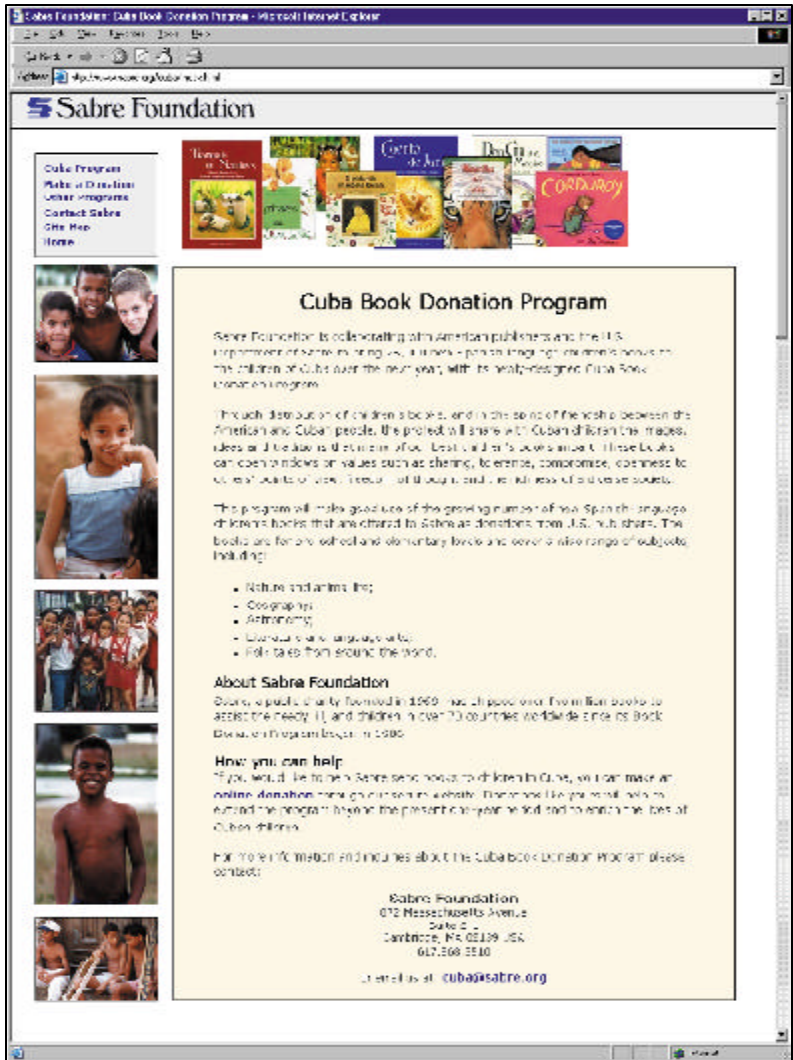
Richard Coker (left), Sierra Leone National Library, with Sallieu Turay, Executive Director, Sierra Leone Book Trust, and Tim Nikula, Sabre's IT Training Manager, Freetown, August 2002. For information about the newly-established Sierra Leone Book Trust and the training program, please visit www.sabre.org/sierraleone.

2002 Donors...So Far. Won't You Join Them?

The Achelis Foundation, NY
Edward Agro, MA
Nancy Allatt, CT
Archibald Family Foundation, MA
The Asia Foundation, CA
Josiah Lee Auspitz, MA (1)
Julian M. Babad, NV
Leonard J. & Joyce B. Baldyga, VA
James Balog, FL
Kenneth G. Bartels, CT
Philip H. Bartels & Susan Stappers
Bartels, CT
Laurence & Elizabeth Bergreen, NY
Orest & Lidia Bilous Family Foundation,
FL (2)
Zvi Bodie, MA (3)
Books For Africa, MN
David Boucher, NY (1)
California Assn. to Aid Ukraine, CA
Eugene Callahan, CT (1)
Center for Democracy & Free Enter-
prise, Czech Republic
Center for the Study of Democracy,
Bulgaria
Sarita B. Choate, MA
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Colegio Kids, NE
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Columbia University, NY
Guy B. Darst, MA
Donia Vakuf Foundation, CA
Samuel Dorrance, MD
David & Ellen Elliott Fund, CA
Elizabeth Falsey, in her honor from
Rachel Howarth & Susan Halpert,
Houghton Library, Harvard Univer-
sity, MA
Anthony Farr, United Kingdom (1)
Antony Flew, United Kingdom (1)
Fred C. Robey Family Fund, GA
Roy & Anne Freed, MA
Timothy Fuller, CO (1)
Angela W. Getchell, MA
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Sarah F. Getchell, MA
Ghana Book Trust, Ghana
Golden Family Foundation, NY
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Burton C. Gray, DC (1)
Hunter C. Gray, DC (1)
Steven Grosby, DC (1)
Jan Hajda, OR
Roman Hayda/Kathryn Sos-Hayda, TX (4)
Health Volunteers Overseas, DC
Robert & Laura Hogue, NY
Arthur M. Holst, PA
Indiana University, IN
John Jascoll, PA
John Kekes, NY (1)
Louise & Perry King, MA (3)
Maxwell & Margaret King, PA (3)
Paul Knepper, NC (1)
Anna F. Kubik, PA
Sam & Gabriella Labson, CA
Pamela Lord, NY
Graham MacDonald, Canada (1)

(continued on page 4)

NEW: Cuba Book Donation Program (www.sabre.org/cuba)



2002 Donors

(continued from page 3)

- Beatrice F. Manz, MA
- Leslie Marsh, United Kingdom (1)
- Eric McDaniel, OK (1)
- Charles Merrill, MA
- Robert Merton, MA (3)
- Michigan University, MI
- Microsoft Matching Gift Program, NJ
- Jerry Mihaychuk, OH
- Kenneth Minogue, United Kingdom (1)
- Ian Morrison, Canada (1)
- D.G. Myers, TX (1)
- Katherine Nagy, IN
- Terry & Jane Nardin, WI (1)
- Paul Nelson, VT (1)
- Nestor & Ivanka Olesnycky, NJ (4)
- Peace Corps, DC
- Princeton University Press, NJ
- Noel Reynolds, UT (1)
- Rochester Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, NY
- Rutgers University, NJ
- Sabre-Zagreb, Croatia
- Jonathan Sackler & Mary Corson, CT
- Gordon Schochet, NJ (1)
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- Robert Shapiro, DC (1)
- Laurence B. Simon, CT
- Beth J. Singer, NY
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- Renata Sos, CA (4)
- Yarema & Lydia Sos, NJ (4)
- Gilbert Stange III, MD (1)
- Peter M. Stark, SC (1)
- Carol & Christina Starobin, NY
- Daniel B. & Ellen Strickler, NY
- Tanzania Book Trust, Tanzania
- Martyn Thompson, LA (1)
- Stephen Turner, FL (1)
- Ukrainian Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, PA
- Ukrainian Studies Fund, MA
- Richard & Gail Ullman, NJ
- United States Department of State, DC
- University of Pittsburgh, PA
- University of Toronto Press, Canada
- Zeljko Urban, Brazil
- USAID Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program, DC
- Vermont Mutual Insurance Co., VT
- Tania Vitvitsky, MA (4)
- Thomas Warth, MN
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- Whitehead Foundation, NY
- The William H. Donner Foundation, NY
- Jeffrey Wills, WI
- Katherine B. Winter, MA
- Frederic & Susan Winthrop, MA
- Julie Wornan, France
- Anonymous

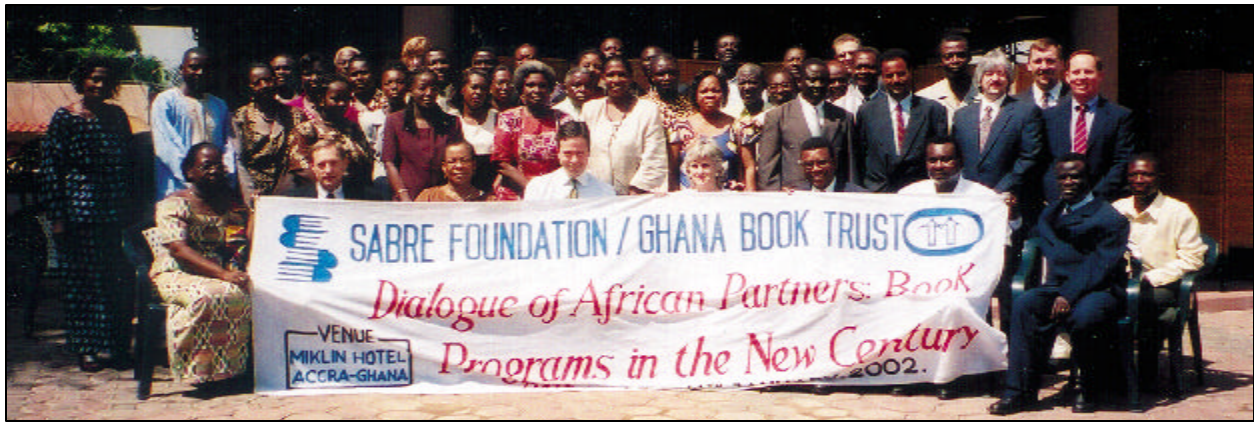
By year's end, Sabre Foundation will have shipped close to \$16 million worth of books overseas and provided Internet and computer training sessions in Ghana and Sierra Leone, all on an operating budget of less than \$800,000. For information on making a contribution, please contact Sabre at (617) 868-3510 or sabre@sabre.org. All contributions are fully tax-deductible. Sabre also accepts contributions online at www.sabre.org.

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Sabre is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and is registered as a Private Voluntary Organization with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Kenneth G. Bartels, President.

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Donations marked (1) are those earmarked for the Michael Oakeshott Association; (2) for the Stefania & Wasył Babij Memorial Fund; (3) for the Economic Principals Project; (4) donations in memory of Stephan Sos.



Accra Declaration

Cognizant of the low percentage of books in Africa and its adverse effect on the continent's various educational and human resource development programs;

Realizing that the greatest impact of Africa's book famine is felt by school-attending pupils at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels;

Considering that the book-to-student ratio of the majority of said pupils and associated staff is extremely low;

And in recognition of the escalating need for private and public institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, governments and the international donor community to collaborate for the amelioration of "Africa's book famine" through standards and sustained initiatives;

And further realizing that the good intent of said entities is in most instances marred by the donation of a substantial quantity of irrelevant and obsolete books whose usage do not impact positively on end users;

Aware that the fragmentation of the book donation program for Africa and its accompanying lack of sustainable elements at the international, national and local levels serve to exacerbate the problem;

Alluding to the fact that Africa's current socio-economic situation lends a significantly low level of support to the development of local publishing industries, textbook writing and development and library development and facilitation;

Acknowledging the acute need for beneficiaries of Africa's book donation program to improve their reading skills through reading enhancement programs, with the provision to access indigenous reading materials through financial grants;

Granted that the acquisition and application of modern information technological skills in discharging the functions of book distributors in Africa in general, and Sabre members in particular, would amount to the ultimate advantage of donors, their counterparts and beneficiaries alike;

And realizing that failure on the part of Sabre Foundation and its collaborating organizations to consolidate and accelerate their efforts in bringing redress to the myriad ills of Africa's book distribution program would extrapolate the aforementioned problems;



Tim Nikula, Sabre IT Training Manager, conducting training for conference participants at Busy Internet, a state-of-the-art Internet access facility in Accra.

It is hereby unanimously declared by representatives of Sabre Foundation, its various African partners and related book development and distribution entities assembled in Accra, Ghana, from the 5th to 11th of January 2002 under the theme: "Dialogue of African Partners: Book Programs in the New Century," that henceforth, the following be adopted and implemented accordingly:

- I. That a consortium of Sabre African members be established.
- II. That guidelines and policies intended to curb the unacceptable practice of book dumping on Africa be developed, widely circulated and applied with the ultimate aim of improving relevance and quality of books donated to Africa.
- III. That local book developers and publishing programs be encouraged. Moreover, that reading enhancement and library improvement programs be initiated and indigenous books obtained through cross subsidization.
- IV. That the capacity of Sabre African members to effectively use electronic information systems be improved through technical assistance programs under the umbrella of Sabre Foundation, preferably manifested in a medium term plan of the Sabre Association of Africa Members.
- V. That national and international resource mobilization schemes be conducted by Sabre and its African affiliates, coupled with the development and adoption of standardized program evaluation and reporting formats vis-à-vis Sabre Foundation book distribution program for Africa.
- VI. That in order to facilitate an effective individualized book distribution plan for Sabre African initiatives, a three-year book donation memorandum of understanding be adopted by Sabre and its respective African partners.

DONE THIS 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 2002, IN THE CITY OF ACCRA, REPUBLIC OF GHANA, WEST AFRICA

NOTE: (The Accra Declaration, drafted by William E. Harris, Executive Director, CREDO, Liberia, was subscribed to by Sabre Foundation and circulated to all its African partners for their endorsement).



Eric Ofie (left), Afram Publications, Ghana, Bro. Francis X. Byarugaba, Uganda Private & Integrated Schools Association and John Acquah, Ghana Book Trust.



Lane Ayres (standing), President, Books for Africa, Ken Bartels, President, Sabre Foundation and Tania Vitvitsky, Executive Director, Sabre Foundation.

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