

Code of Business Practices for MABA Members

The Maine Antiquarian Booksellers' Association expects all members to act in an ethical manner in the buying and selling of books.

1. All items exhibited in shops, booths or areas open to the public should be for sale at the prices marked. Items not for sale should be clearly identified as such, and should be segregated from items for sale.
2. The seller should insure that all defects in a book offered for sale are clearly set forth. All significant defects, restorations, and sophistications should be clearly noted and made known to those to whom the material is offered or sold. Books found to be defective within a reasonable time should be returnable for a full refund. If a book is to be mailed to the buyer, postage is normally paid by the buyer, unless other arrangements are made at the time of purchase.
3. When books are mailed, the risks of damage or loss in transport are the responsibility of the seller, who should insure the shipment as seen fit. These costs may be charged to the buyer.
4. If the material is offered on consignment or approval, the buyer is responsible for transport both ways.
5. Any order placed by a dealer is, unless otherwise stated, an unconditional purchase, subject to return only if the material is not as described, or is otherwise defective. Ordering an item subject to a customer's approval constitutes a consignment, and should be understood as such by both consignor and consignee.
6. Members of MABA are expected to allow other MABA members to buy from their stock, and to extend to the buying MABA member a reciprocal trade discount.
7. In all case, but especially with regard to "fine" books, Members shall take all reasonable actions to ensure clear title to books they acquire and offer to sale.
8. If a bookseller purchases in good faith a book subsequently determined to have been stolen from another dealer, the book should be returned to the legitimate owner.
9. If a bookseller purchases a book not properly de-accessioned from a library or institution, that bookseller shall make reasonable efforts to determine if it is stolen property.
10. No bookseller should pervert a bidding procedure for that bookseller's own unique advantage. This would include offering a specific amount or a certain percentage over the "highest bid." There are times when a sealed bid sale may become an auction, but the distinction is that no bookseller should initiate the unethical bid which alters the rules for that bookseller only and puts other bidders at a disadvantage.
11. It is not appropriate to approach or solicit customers in another dealer's shop or booth without an introduction or consent of the shop owner.
12. Booksellers with open shops, or exhibitors at book fairs, are encouraged to prominently display and make freely available a quantity of MABA directories.

Signature

Date