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FBA/ABF NEWS/SWEN

BY CYNTHIA KIRK

Ernest Ackermann and Karen Hartman are now contributing a bi-weekly column to the Web site for The Free-Lance Star in Fredericksburg, MD.

Well, it's been a long time since the last report. But more time, more news.

Not a single day-to say nothing of six months!-passes in idleness or lack of accomplishment at FBA/ABF Content.

The really big news is that just before press time, FBA/ABF won its very first Bookbuilders West award—for the cover and text design of Ernest Ackermann and Karen Hartman's Searching and Researching on the Internet and the World Wide Web, Second Edition. Tom Sumner, FBA's Director of Production and Editorial, was in San Francisco to receive the award, along with Production Editor Stephanie Welch and Graphic Designer Ian Shadburne. No trophy this time, guys, but you do get a beautifully-produced commemorative book honoring the award for all time.

Continuing with Ackermann and Hartman news, Ernie and Karen are now contributing a bi-weekly column to the Web site for The Free-Lance Star in Fredericksburg, VA. Along with contra dancing with his lovely wife Lynn, this is Ernie's sabbatical project. And good sport that she is, Karen chips in to give her co-author a hand. Check it out—http://fredericksburg.com/opinion/Local_Columnists/HowDoIFind/HowDoIFind.html. Their last two columns have focused on virtual libraries and search engines.

Carolyn Gillay and Patricia Sullivan's Windows 2000 Professional has recently been published by FBA. This makes for more than a baker's dozen of titles that Carolyn has published with FBA since the company's start 15 years ago.

Founder and President Jim Leisy has been a good am-

bassador for the company in recent months. He traveled to Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the invitation of Malloy Lithographing, for a summer think tank called “Future Search.” The gathering convened publishers, manufacturers, distributors, and journalists from all over to consider the developing formats and digital distribution of books. Fellow participants included Paul Hilts of Publishers Weekly; Steven Piersanti, President of Berrett-Koehler; and representatives from John Wiley & Sons, O'Reilly & Associates, and Ingram.

A few months later, Jim traveled to the Frankfurt Book Fair. This year FBA/ABF had its own booth; it was positioned right next to good friend and colleague Bill Pollock and his company No Starch Press. This second trip to Frankfurt, site of the biggest international rights market in the world, was invaluable in terms of solidifying and extending relationships—such as that forged last year with Macmillan UK—that lead to greater dissemination of FBA/ABF product in world markets.

Jim is also in the final stages of preparing an edited volume of up-to-the-minute articles on the digitization of our culture. DigiTopia includes contributions from several members of the extended FBA family, including Lisa Cannon, Steven Tuttle, Brad Hansen, Paul Hilts, and Ernest Ackermann and Karen Hartman. The book has already generated brisk interest in serial rights sales. Look for it in spring 2001.

And so it goes, as FBA/ABF seeks readers-and writers-of its books in every appropriate market, North, East, West, South/South, West, East, North.