



## **Pirckheimer Society**

Founded in 1956 in East-Berlin, the Pirckheimer Society is the youngest and most active German bibliophilic society. Among their founding fathers one can find influential »book people« like Wieland Herzfelde, Arnold Zweig and Werner Klemke, who also designed the emblematic logo of the society. The society's traditional focus is on book art, graphic prints and ex-libris. The society publishes a magazine four times a year: Marginalia – Magazine for Bibliophilia and Book Art. It is currently the only regularly published bibliophilic magazine in Germany.

The community of Pirckheimer annually meets in different places, always where local members reside who plan the programme and like to present their »city« and »their« books. The stimulating weekend program often comprises lectures, excursions and limited run graphic prints and books from an artist from the region where the meeting takes place. Most recent meetings convened in Munich (2016), in Meißen/ Staucha (2015 ), Bamberg (2014), Gera/Greiz (2013) or Ingolstadt/Eichstätt (2012). »Nowhere have I been so warmly and unreservedly received as by the Pirckheimer society,« says a long-term member, which was initially only a marginal reader of the magazine. Members of the Pirckheimer Society receive the Marginalia journal for free. The marginalia appear four times a year with an eight-page typographic supplement, in loose sequence also accompanied by a original artwork of a well-known artist. The society unites more than 400 members and the magazine counts 800 subscribers.

It was also the Marginalia that offered a meeting ground for book enthusiasts in East and West during the years of the German division, when membership in the Pirckheimer Society for Germans in the west was not yet possible. Based on this high regard on both sides of the wall, the Pirckheimers from 1990 onwards quickly established themselves throughout all of Germany. Today, the Pirckheimer Society has numerous regional groups and friendly initiatives from the Baltic Sea to Lake Constance, from river Oder to the Rhine.

From the tradition of the humanist and bibliophile Willibald Pirckheimer, a modern society has emerged, which has removed the »white gloves« from book collecting and strives to preserve the book, its illustration and graphic craftsmanship, from incunabula to graphic novels. Long live the book.