

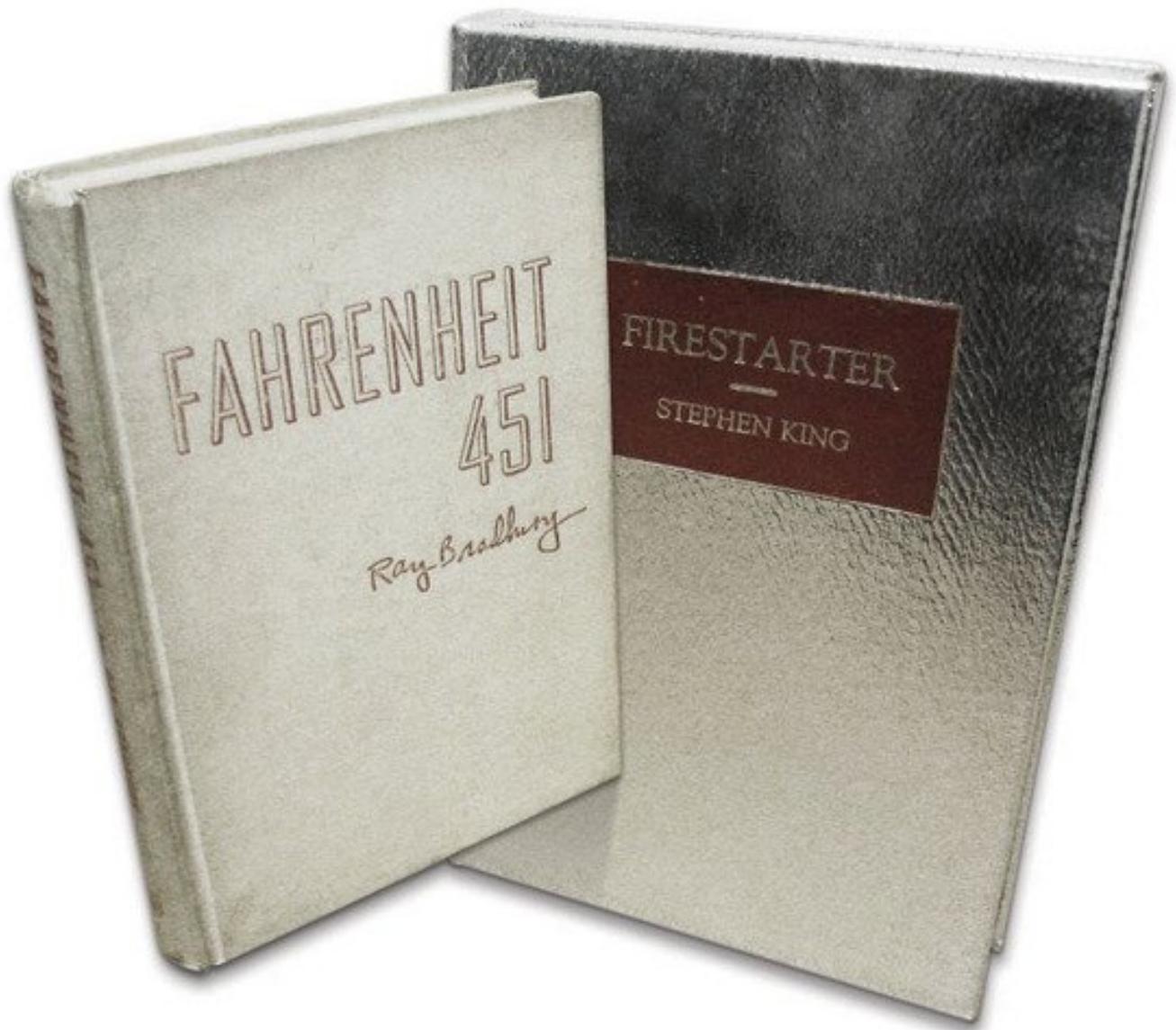
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[Culture](#), [Design](#) | BY ROSECRANS BALDWIN January 18, 2010 1:32 pm [7](#)
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Who says literature can't be hot? The Fine Books Company of Rochester, Mich., is selling [“The Complete Science Fiction Asbestos Collection.”](#) a set of fireproofed, autographed first editions of Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451” and Stephen King’s “Firestarter.” The books are bound in a silvery, asbestos material, and going for the minor sum of \$31,810. For those with money to burn, apparently.

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1.

- Asbestos the Hidden Killer
- UK

Asbestos.. the hidden killer, destroyer of families, communities, love, life, hope, aspirations and future.

we are a training provider company in the uk to the asbestos removal industry, our legacy of asbestos exposure is horrific, south africa's legacy is disgraceful and a uk guilt. Canada continues to mine and export and only lack of political will stops it because of money! I replied to Fine Books after being mailed the response from the publisher which if the USA had the same legislation and regulation imposed as the UK he would have been taken to task and view as illegal.. My reply to the above statement reads..

Thanks for that David, very interesting view Phantasia Press has, I would have thought any attorney specializing in asbestos related diseases would be fully aware that it generally takes anything from 10 - 20 – 30 - 40 plus years to develop, so Mr. King may well be in line for a nasty surprise in the future, if indeed he reads his own books, which I doubt! & I hope the plastic bag for containment is double bagged at the correct guage and sealed- swan necked. It is also well documented that even the slightest exposure to asbestos can lead to asbestos related diseases even mesothelioma, teachers here in the UK are dying from putting pins into drawing boards that released miniscule asbestos fibre dust.

I appreciate you getting back to me and as for the meteorite if it's anything like the industrial legacy of asbestos in this region of the UK then it's already hit! Walk a mile

in our work forces shoes, take a closer look at Co-Durham and Teesside! Alex Berman's statement is not only patronizing it is untrue! (see footnote)

Check out our HSE hidden killer campaign <http://www.hse.gov.uk...> take the test, see where it is in your home, (have you drilled into AIB unprotected?) watch the videos and read the stories of ordinary people exposed to asbestos in many various ways with no knowledge of the danger they were in. mesothelioma is on average 18months from diagnosis to death and there is no cure, it is extraordinarily painful and debilitating, an estimated 90000 people worldwide die every year from asbestos exposure. 90000! They die from the greed and disregard of industry and the lack of political will to stop mining and exporting, why? It's a Cash Cow!

I really do appreciate your response, which not only made me guffaw, it has drove me to work even harder to support more vigorously the agencies and lobbying groups across the world including the USA to ban asbestos, bring in legislation and regulations to stop commercial enterprise profiting from asbestos related products, removal, works and awareness. I do hope none of your purchasers sue for asbestos exposure in the future, Asbestos, is the hidden killer.....

Mark Winter. Just a footnote, in the UK there are prohibition regulations which make it illegal to buy, sell or import any product containing asbestos, the WHO (World Health Organisation) has classified "ALL" asbestos serpentine and amphibole as category One carcinogens, the fibres are incredibly bio persistent in other words like "one more cigarette" the fibres from these book covers are one more nail potentially in an exposed individuals coffin lid.

I urge your readers to check out the hidden killer campaign link, tour the house, take the knowledge test, asbestos has been killing human kind for an age and more, yes it is a brilliant product, but deadly to humans. If you smoke, you choose to, knowing the consequences if you are exposed to asbestos, very often you havent made that choice and nor do you know the dangers or how to work safely or remove asbestos containing materials....

Asbestos destroys families, communities take a look at its legacy

<http://www.hse.gov.uk...>

<http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org>

<http://www.labournet.net...>

I hope the US governing powers will eventually bring such a great country in line with many others who have banned Asbestos and enforce strict regulations to protect the work forces that work on or remove ACM's.

How can you read a book in a plastic bag? why would you? same as why put a bullet in a gun?

Support lobbying groups for the banning of asbestos ADAO

<http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/>

and <http://murray.senate.gov/asbestos>

an estimated 90,000 people die world wide a year, it really is time to stop this.

Thank you for reading, now go change it!

- o [Feb. 3, 2010 at 3:49 p.m.](#)

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2.

- o Phantasia Press

- o West Bloomfield Michigan

I am the publisher of Phantasia Press. The concerns about the danger of the asbestos binding on our lettered edition of FIRESTARTER are unfounded. I am also an attorney and have been involved in asberstos exposure cases for decades. As a result I have become quite familiar with the dangers of asbestos exposure. Therefore, we were careful to use only material in the binding of this book which would pose absolutely no risk of harm to anyone, now or in the future...Please notice the picture of the asbestos FIRESTARTER edition. It is bright silver....THE MATERIAL IS AN ALUMINUM COATED ASBESTOS...The asbestos is essentially "trapped" in the aluminum. This material had been tested, and approved for use in numerous commertial products. The only exposure to asbestos which can cause harm is the inhalation of tiny asbestos fibers...This "dust" or friable asbestos is released into the air and absorbed by the lungs, causeing asbestosis....The Bradbury FARENHEIT 451, on the other hand DOES NOT have a protective coating and the asbestos is thus exposed. I have had this book, and seen others. Due to their age, the binding material is becoming dry and does emit dust...I would keep this book in a plastic bag. But such small amounts of asbestos dust certainly do not cause any harm. Those who have suffered from illness due to asbestos exposure, had many years of such exposure on a daily basis at their workplace.....the fact that FARENHEIT 451 (pubshished in 1953) was produced in an edition of only 200 copies, and our edition of FIRESTARTER has only 26 copies bound in this material, does not call for widespread panic...If anyone should be concerned, it would be Stephen King, who has 3 copies of the book....Since they were produced in 1980, I have not hear that Mr. King's health has been in any way affected by exposure. But perhaps you should contact him to make certain that his lungs have not been damaged. Alex Berman. West Bloomfield, Michigan.

- o [Jan. 25, 2010 at 12:17 p.m.](#)

- o Recommended2

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3.

- Dr. Richard Lemen
- Canton, GA

I would recommend that the New York Times and other responsible media cease promotion of the selling of materials containing toxic substances. The recent story on the two books Fahrenheit 451 and Firestarter, having covers made of asbestos is such an example. When over 90,000 plus people, throughout the world, continue to die each year of an asbestos-related disease; promotion of products containing their toxic killer should be banned as should the use of asbestos itself. The New York Times motto is "all the news that's fit to print" well this is an example of a story "not fit to print." Signed: Richard A. Lemen, Assistant Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service (ret.)

- [Jan. 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.](#)
- Recommended3
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4.

- Arthur Frank
- Philadelphia,PA

Asbestos is a carcinogen and well documented to cause death and disease worldwide. To use this material in such a cavalier fashion is quite inappropriate. While it may be legal to sell cancer causing agents(ie. cigarettes),in workplaces warning signs are required when asbestos is present, as well as for cigarettes. Where are the warnings about the carcinogenic nature of these book covers posted?Those of us concerned about the health and well-being of the population, workers and others, find this a use of a cancer causing agent that has little practical value or little social utility most disturbing.

- [Jan. 22, 2010 at 10:33 a.m.](#)
- Recommended3
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5.

- Laurie Kazan-Allen
- London, England

If this is a joke, it is in very bad taste. Asbestos is banned or restricted in most developed countries because of its lethal nature. Exposure to asbestos has caused debilitating and fatal diseases wherever it has been used; international agencies estimate the global asbestos death toll to be in excess of 90,000 a year. Asbestos is no joking matter.

Employees of the Fine Books Company of Rochester would be well advised to register their exposure to the asbestos contained in these volumes with a lawyer; they should, in addition, seek legal advice about the consequences of the exposures they might have had to the fatal fiber during their employment at this company.

It is worth noting that asbestos products such as those used in these books have traditionally not only been shown to have amongst the highest concentration of fibers of any product but also to be the most friable – that means capable of liberating the deadly fibers.

For more information about asbestos and the consequences of its use see the following websites:

www.ibasecretariat.org

<http://www.lkaz.demon.co.uk>

Signed: Laurie Kazan-Allen, Coordinator of the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat and Editor of the British Asbestos Newsletter

- [Jan. 21, 2010 at 10:36 a.m.](#)
- Recommended3
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6.

- FERNANDA GIANNASI
- SAO PAULO, SP, BRAZIL

It is unacceptable that an advertisement such as this has appeared in the New York Times. Asbestos in all forms and types is a recognized human carcinogen. To run a piece like this - even in fun – about a potentially lethal product is a criminal act that should be halted immediately by the health, labor and environment authorities in the US. The fact that this is a rare book which is unlikely to be handled by the general public is irrelevant.

I appeal to Americans tasked with the protection of consumer and workers' health to act immediately to forbid this publisher to continue to promote, sell and make misleading propaganda about the anti-fire properties of these books. The correct destination for these volumes is a toxic waste dump site or landfill.

Signed: Fernanda Giannasi. Civil, Occupational and Environmental Safety and Health Engineer acting as a Brazilian Labour Inspector for 27 years. Manager of the Asbestos State Program at the Labour Department in São Paulo state, Brazil.

- o [Jan. 21, 2010 at 10:34 a.m.](#)
- o Recommended3
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7.

- o Steven Kazan
- o Oakland CA

This product is a health hazard and the publisher should be ashamed! Whoever fabricated this book was exposed to a known and highly potent carcinogen, as was anyone who has handled it to date. These books should be sealed in impermeable plastic or lucite, and kept under lock and key. Anyone who handles them absent such encapsulation should wear appropriate air-fed respiratory protection if they value their life and health.

Mr Baldwin may think this article is funny, or cute, and the ironic nature of the books' subject matter in light of the cover materials may seem rather droll, even though it is a bit obvious. But this is not a fitting subject for humor- every year, asbestos still kills ten thousand Americans, and countless more thousands around the world; it is no laughing matter.

Representing these victims is my life's work; I don't want or need the NY Times to promote more cases for my firm. if readers want to learn more about the subject, please visit www.worldasbestosreport.org for information about the global nature of

this catastrophic problem.

Readers who

- [Jan. 20, 2010 at 2:42 p.m.](#)
- Recommended3
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