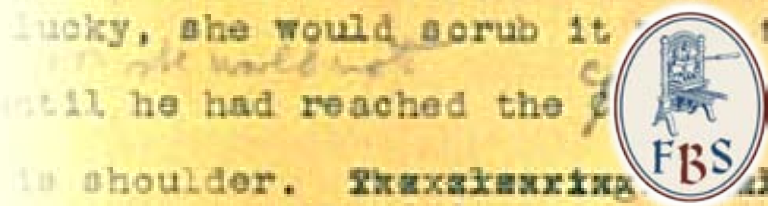


FBS NOTES

November 2015 • Volume 32, No. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the October Meeting page 2

UF Archivist Flo Turcotte presents a brief biography of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and discusses her upcoming book about Rawlings

Upcoming Events — November page 4

Nov. 15 Public Event: Patti Wilson Byars presents her book, *Separate Fountains*

Nov. 23 Member Event: Rebecca Rego Barry presents her book, *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*

New and Returning Members page 5

Cal and Nola Branche
Shanna Goodwin
Rob McCabe
Gary and Jean Simons

Books Read ♦ Books Bought ♦ Books Discovered Member Contributions page 6

Mills College Book Arts Program page 8 *Threatened*

In Search of Dr. Syntax page 9

FBS Archiving Project Needs Your Help! page 12

2015-2016 Season Complete Schedule page 13

Endpaper page 14



Flo Turcotte, ready to begin her October presentation.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FBS dues are \$50 per year per household, due in September. We will accept dues until our member list is updated on December 31. Don't miss out on a fascinating year of books and fellow book lovers! If you have not sent your dues for the 2015-2016 season, please send them to treasurer Linda Morris as soon as possible: 13013 Willoughby Lane, Bayonet Point, FL 34667.



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the October Meeting

October 18, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Seminole Community College Library

President Charles Brown called to order the meeting of twenty-seven members at 1:50 p.m. and introduced the guest speaker for the October meeting, Flo Turcotte, University of Florida archivist and curator of the papers of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Brown then opened the floor to Art Walker, who brought an album of photographs depicting previous FBS meetings and the original newsletter from the first meeting (originally composed by Lee Harrer). Walker also shared a poster board with pictures of the library aboard the Queen Mary II cruise ship.

Brown then invited Evelyn Finklea to introduce Flo Turcotte and the subject of her research, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Turcotte is a past president of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society and is currently on the board of trustees for that organization. Turcotte studies the manuscripts of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, as well as personal letters and correspondences.

Flo Turcotte then began her presentation on Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Rawlings was born on August 8, 1896, in Washington, D.C. At the early age of twelve, Rawlings exhibited a talent for writing when one of her short stories was published in the *Washington Post*. Rawlings later attended college at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where she met her first husband, Charles Rawlings. After moving to Rochester, NY, with her husband, Rawlings became unsettled and, in 1928, they both took a vacation to Jacksonville, FL. This visit to the Sunshine State proved to be a monumental event in Rawlings' life and career: she and her husband sold everything to purchase a dilapidated orange grove in November of 1928. The harsh climates, shaky economy, and the intensive workload of farm life did not afford Rawlings much time to write. However, Rawlings was able to record her impressions of the countryside and sold her first story in 1930.



Flo Turcotte and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings arrive at Seminole Community Library

Rawlings later became a protégé of Maxwell Perkins (famous editor known for associations with Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Thomas Wolfe).

In 1931, Rawlings temporarily lived with a family in an area known by locals as “the Scrub,” also known as Ocala National Forest. This experience would later serve as a basis for some of her more famous books, such as *The Yearling* (1938) and *Cross Creek* (1942). *The Yearling* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1939. This book was printed in many languages and special small editions were produced for servicemen to keep in their pockets. Grateful soldiers overseas wrote letters to Rawlings thanking her for the recitation of memories of their beloved homes.

A film was also made based on *The Yearling*, and Turcotte provided a facsimile of a map of “the Scrub” with annotations in Rawlings’s handwriting. Rawlings used this map and her descriptions to instruct MGM on how to recreate specific scenes and settings from her book.

In 1950, Rawlings dedicated a new wing to the University of Florida George A. Smathers Libraries, and a collection of Rawlings’ works is now housed

in this location. Rawlings died in 1953 and is buried in Antioch Cemetery, near Island Grove, FL.

Turcotte showed images of Rawlings' manuscript of *The Yearling*, each page preserved in a mylar sleeve and bound in several volumes; a project funded by the Mahoney family in honor of their son. Opportunities for donations for special projects are also available, and anyone interested was instructed to contact Flo Turcotte at the University of Florida Smathers Library for more information. The floor was then opened for questions.

The presentation was then directed towards the subject of Flo Turcotte's research, which includes Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' personal experiences and relationship with alcohol, specifically the moonshine industry during prohibition.

While the history of Florida's participation in rum running is extensively discussed, Turcotte noticed little to no mention of the impact of moonshining on Florida's history and its importance to Rawlings' literary career. Rawlings' experience with this underground culture is highlighted in her first novel, *South Moon Under*, which Turcotte explains is a fictional rendition of Rawlings' real experiences with people who produced corn liquor in the Scrub. The term "Cracker" is used to describe a rustic but proud group of people who participated in illegal production of liquor in order to support their families. Rawlings was instantly taken by the "rugged hand to mouth experience" and was taught how to shine by two families living in the Scrub.

The presentation was then concluded and information on tours of Rawlings' house and collection of her writings was provided. President Charles Brown then presented Flo Turcotte with a copy of *A Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Reader* (Florida Endowment for the Humanities, 1989).

E. Rose Sabin announced the publication of three of new books: *Grandy's Grand Inventions* (a fantasy novel geared towards children, grades 3-4), *To the Far Side of the Forest* (a fantasy novel for teens), and *Were House* (a fantasy novel for adults and young adults).

President Charles Brown reminded members that

membership fees are due and can be submitted to Linda Morris. Linda then gave a brief treasurer's report, indicating an account was opened at BB&T for the organization. Brown also announced that a membership with FBS includes an automatic membership with the Fellowship of American Bibliophile Societies, which comes with a semiannual newsletter.

The next FBS meeting will be on November 15th at 1:30 p.m. in the Seminole Community Library. Our guest speaker will be Patti Wilson Byars, who will be presenting her book *Separate Fountains*, which centers on the socio-political atmosphere of Jonesboro, GA, in the 1940s and 1950s during the Civil Rights Movement.

Also in November is a special FBS event on the 23rd, featuring a dinner with author Rebecca Rego Barry who is editor of *Fine Books and Collections* magazine. Barry's new book, *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*, is scheduled for publication in December. A copy of her book can be requested for signing at the dinner for \$25.00. Members who wish to attend must notify Jerry Morris to reserve a place. The dinner will take place at the Chili's in New Port Richey.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

For more information...

A Guide to the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers at the Univ. of Florida Smathers Library
<http://www.library.ufl.edu/spec/manuscript/rawlings/rawlings.htm>

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Digital Collection at the Univ. of Florida Smathers Library
<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/mkr>

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society
<http://rawlingssociety.org/>

Upcoming Events — November

Sunday, November 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m.
Seminole Community Library
9200 SW 113th North, Seminole, FL

Public Event

Local author Patti Wilson Byars will talk about her book *Separate Fountains*, which tells about growing up in the 1940s and 1950s Jonesboro, Georgia. *Separate Fountains* is a compelling picture of life in a small southern town wrestling with the post-war period, with its traditions, and with the Ku Klux Klan.

Both our vice president, Jerry Morris, and treasurer, Linda Morris, have read *Separate Fountains* and found it fascinating. Reviews on bookseller websites are equally complimentary.

A flyer for this event is appended to *FBS Notes*. Please print some and post them wherever people interested in books and especially this period in Southern history can see them.



Patti Byars poses with her book, *Separate Fountains*

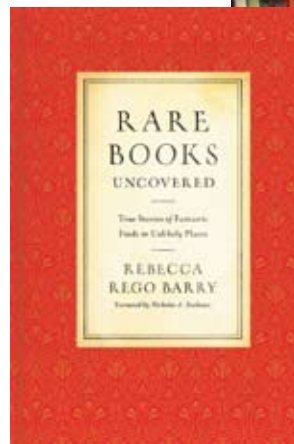
Monday, November 23, 2015, 7 p.m.
Chili's
US Highway 19, 9600 Embassy Blvd,
Port Richey, FL

Member Event

Rebecca Rego Barry is editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine. Her new book, *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*, is scheduled for publication by Voyageur Press in December 2015. Barry describes the book: "It has been likened to 'Antiques Roadshow,' with a focus entirely on antiquarian books and manuscripts."

Barry interviewed more than fifty collectors, booksellers, librarians, and other "finders" — including FBSVP Jerry Morris — about their best book find, such as a first edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in a Philadelphia flea market and a million-dollar document forgotten in an attic.

Members, please join us for dinner and Barry's presentation. Contact Jerry Morris (moibibliomaniac@gmail.com) to reserve your seat.



Rebecca Barry and her new book, *Rare Books Uncovered*.

FBS Welcomes New and Returning Members!



Cal and Nola Branche

Cal and Nola are not strangers to FBS. Many of you will recall Cal's interesting presentation last

year about John D. Macdonald. Cal has an extensive website dedicated to Macdonald. Nola and Cal have also worked with the University of Florida Libraries to organize their collection of Macdonald's papers. (It's a small world: our October speaker, Flo Turcotte, is the UF librarian that Cal is working with.)

Check out Cal's website:

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

Shanna Goodwin

Shanna is a graduate student in the master of fine arts program at the University of Tampa. In her bachelor of fine arts program at Georgia Southern University, she emphasized 19th century European painting, 20th century European and American art, and contemporary art. In her current work, she is specializing in Middle Eastern art and architecture in the pre-modern period, with a focus on 15th-17th century Ottoman manuscripts. Her collection includes a facsimile of the *Book of Optics* by Ibn al-Haytham, known in the West as Alhazen (965– c. 1040 AD), and a single leaf, depicting the lineage of Constantine, from the *Liber Chronicarum*, an early illustrated book which attempted to document the history of the world, from the Creation to 1493.

Shanna will be graduating this December with a masters in art. She has just been appointed adjunct professor for Ancient Near Eastern art and for Medieval art! Despite her busy schedule, Shanna serves as this year's FBS secretary.



Rob McCabe

Rob is also no stranger to FBS. He has visited FBS meetings a few times in the last year and has been a member in years past. Rob has wide-ranging interests that support his work as an author and a poet. Rob has a background in theater and has performed extensively as a storyteller. Two of Rob's screenplays, *Fixated* and *Absolution*, were filmed and presented this year at the Suncoast Film Festival in St. Petersburg. He is currently working on a master in fine arts degree at the University of Tampa.

Learn more about Rob:

<http://www.robmccabe.com/>



Gary and Jean Simons

Gary is adjunct faculty at the University of South Florida. He started his professional life as a chemist and had a very successful career in and out of academia. In more recent years he returned to college to earn a doctorate in English literature. His dissertation was on Thackeray. At USF, he has taught British literature 1780-1900, communications for engineers, American literature 1860-1912, and more.

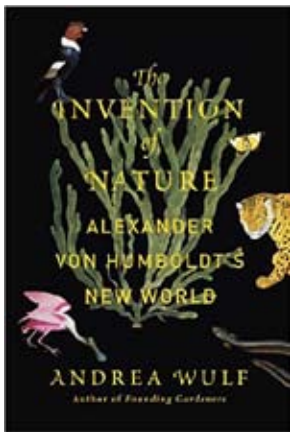
Jean, who also holds a Ph.D. in chemistry, started her career as a university professor and environmental consultant. She later earned a law degree and specialized in appellate cases in private practice and for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Gary and Jean are working together on a biography of the author Catherine Gore (1798-1861), one of the foremost of the "silver fork" writers of England's Regency era.



Books Read ♦ Books Bought ♦ Books Discovered

John Heppner • Gainesville FL

Dr. John Heppner, respected curator of microlepidoptera, McGuire Center for Lepidoptera & Biodiversity, Florida Museum of Natural



History, University of Florida, Gainesville, and Executive Director emeritus, Association for Tropical Lepidoptera, has been traveling in Korea and Viet Nam for new moth and butterfly species. He's just now reading the new biography of Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859), *The Invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf. He also is preparing for publication several new scientific

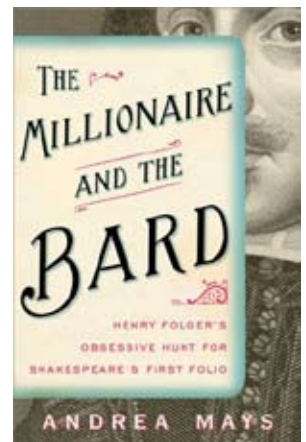
papers on his travels. In his recent visit to Maureen Mulvihill's (historic) home in Laurel Park, Sarasota, he purchased several volumes at Parker's Books, Sarasota, for his extensive library. Two special finds: a reprint of Captain William Dampier's 1699 expedition report on his trip to New Guinea, *Voyages and Discoveries*; and a fine volume on the 17th-century English sea explorer, Sir Henry Hudson. Hudson's famous ship, on his third expedition, was the Half-Moon; and during that voyage, he discovered what is now called the Hudson River, NY, and Hudson Bay, NY. John always looks forward to seeing FBS members in St. Petersburg at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair.



Ephelia's orange tip (*Anthocharis cardamines britannica*)

Rovena Hillsman • Pensacola FL

Rovena has just finished reading *The Millionaire and the Bard* by Andrea Mays. The *New York Times* review described it as a love story, and Rovena confirms that it is just that. It is the story of the making of the First Folio of Shakespeare's plays in the 1600s and the obsession for this book (and all things Shakespeare) that would develop in a millionaire from the turn of the 20th century, Henry Folger. Folger's name is now on the well-known Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., which contains the world's largest collection of the printed works of the Bard – a gift to the American people of Henry and his wife Emily. Folger's acquisitions of land and machinations ensured that his museum-library would stand near the Library of Congress – it took all the survival and management skills he had learned and used in the business world. Emily was an equal partner all the way, and she followed through after his death to ensure the management of his bequests and the realization of their dream.



This is Mays first book, and Rovena describes it as an amazing book for both the research and the writing. She was fascinated by the description of wheeling and dealing in the Golden Age of book collecting. (Don't all of us dream of collecting at that level?) She says that when she finished reading *The Millionaire and the Bard*, she felt she had just read a Daniel Silva thriller.

On another note, Rovena recommends watching Umberto Eco's YouTube videos. She has long collected his books.

Books Read ♦ Books Bought ♦ Books Discovered, continued**Jerry Morris • Bayonet Point FL**

For a princely sum, Jerry recently bought an unpublished book, *The First R and Related Enjoyments* by the bookman and author, John T. Winterich (1897-1970), from Yesterday's Gallery and Babylon Revisited Rare Books (East Woodstock, CT). The "book" consists of 197 pages of typescript sheets and printed articles, almost all of which were heavily annotated in Winterich's hand. Since the 1950s, the 197 sheets have been stored in the manuscript box of Winterich's Madison Ave. literary agent, Curtin Brown, Ltd. The "book" contains 22 articles, all but three of which were first printed in periodicals from the 1930s to the 1950s, and then revised for publication in book form: *The American Mercury*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Antiquarian Bookman*, *The Colophon*, *The Dolphin*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, and more. Tune in to Jerry's My Sentimental Library blog for more revelations about this "book bought."

John Tracy Winterich was managing editor of the newspaper of the U.S. armed services, *Stars & Stripes*. Winterich wrote over 275 articles published in over 150 journals, and a prominent American bibliophile in the first half of the twentieth century. In the 1930s, he was editor of *The Colophon* (1929-1950), a magazine about fine printing produced by printers. He was a contributor to the innovative New York newspaper *PM*.

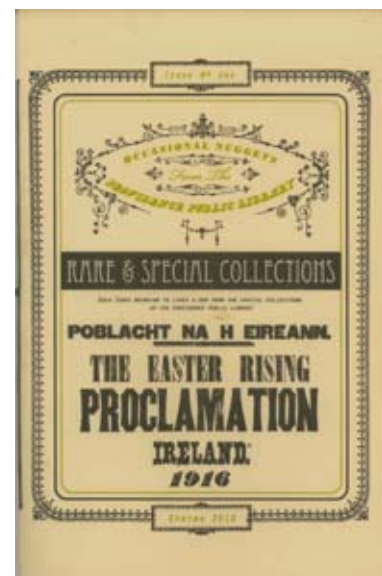
**Maureen E. Mulvihill • Sarasota FL**

Dr. Maureen E. Mulvihill published an illustrated review essay on rare English and European emblem-books (*Appositions*, August 2015; 5 images; [online](#)). The essay mentions her on-site visit to The Ringling Art Library, Sarasota, where she examined thirteen 17th-century emblem-books, some bearing (provenance) bookplates and book



labels of collectors John Ringling, founder of the Ringling Museum, and Robert Hoe, first president of the Grolier Club, NYC. In October, she conducted a Skype interview with Yeats writer Declan Foley (Sligo, IR; Melbourne, AU) on the occasion of his new book, *Yeats 150* (Dublin: Lilliput

Press; [online ad](#)); her interview will be printed in the *Irish Literary Supplement*, Spring 2016, and hosted online by the Yeats Society of New York. Dr. Mulvihill added to her collection of rarities *The Easter Rising Proclamation* (Dublin, 1916), being a fine press pamphlet (No. 12 of 200 copies; Spring 2010, 15 pp, illustrated cover, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2"), a gift from Philip Weimerskirch, curator emeritus, Special Colls., Providence Public Library, RI. The respected Irish Collection at Providence includes an original copy of the historic 1916 Proclamation ([online summary](#), p. 9, with image). Maureen will be featured in *Fine Books & Collections* magazine (Fall, 2016).



Books Read ♦ Books Bought ♦ Books Discovered, concluded

Hal Youmans • Riverview FL

After making over 50 presentations at War of 1812 symposia or events over the past five years and writing more than 25 monographs on the war, Hal has embarked on a book-length effort an obscure War of 1812 general officer, Joseph G. Swift, first graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He worked



After 35 Years, Mills College Book Arts Program Threatened

Mills College established its [Book Arts program](#) in 1980 and offers the only master of fine arts in Book Arts and Creative Writing in the U.S. Students received word on October 20 that the program may be closed within weeks.

Despite its unique position, the many student testimonials, and the accomplishments of its graduates, Mills College administrators confirmed to KQED of San Francisco that the program is being considered for elimination in the near future. Mills' provost described the move as part of a routine re-evaluation of the college's curriculum: "We are taking this opportunity to transform our core curriculum and offer innovative and flexible programs to prepare our students for the 21st century."

Art department chair Kathleen Walkup stated that the Book Arts program is "experiencing full classes and robust enrollment. She speculated that one reason for the possible closure is that the program is led by non-tenured faculty, making it easy to dismiss the staff and shutter the doors.

Students and alumni have set up a petition at [Change.org](#) and a blog "[Save Mills Book Art](#)". Both sites contain many moving statements by students and alumni in art and other pursuits about what the program has meant to them. As an alumnus who graduated in economics states: "Today's technology makes the Book Art programs even more imperative. We must not forget how important books and pieces of paper have helped advance our human knowledge and tools."



for or consulted with every U.S. president between Washington and Lincoln. He died at age 82 and is touted by some as the "Father of American Civil Engineering"

Hal's "adventure" was a septuagenarian's assault on Manhattan Island. It was not easy getting non-resident research credentials at the New York Public Library (NYPL) or racing Hurricane Joaquin up the east coast or negotiating urban New Jersey and New York, even using mass transit, or dragging a skittish brother to Times Square and beyond. But once at the NYPL, the staff was fully cooperative. With advance notice, their eleven unique holdings on Hal's subject were laid out and waiting. Copying key material was difficult due to the quality of the originals (rather than library rules). They have invited me back for another assault in the spring when my first draft is complete.

After stops at the 9/11 Museum and Castle Clinton (built in 1810 and repaired by Smith in 1814), Hal went

on to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There, the library manuscript and archives staff, the Protocol Office, and the History faculty each aided in giving access to the volumes of material relating to Swift's student days, his career, his tenure as the superintendent, and the records of his sons and grandsons who were also USMA graduates. He'll return there in the spring, too.

The "adventure" gives lie to the myth that we are often too old to start new projects. Hal's War of 1812 library is now approaching 6,000 items, and he's negotiating with several universities and foundations regarding its disposition.

In Search of Dr. Syntax: A 19th Century Publishing Phenomenon

by Charles Brown

Of the many illustrators of Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), the original illustrations by John Tenniel (1820-1914) for *Alice* remain the most closely identified with the imaginative Victorian text. When *Alice* was published, Carroll was not widely known, but John Tenniel was famous as cartoonist for *Punch*, the prominent satire and humor magazine of England, and for his role in creating a native English style (branding Britishness, 19th century style) when Britain was eager to distinguish its



Alice has a decision to make. She should grab that key.

art from other European powers. Tenniel worked in what we now think of as the classic illustrator role: he was presented with Carroll's text (and Carroll's naïve illustrations) and asked to produce a series of images which were carefully reviewed by Carroll. Together, in 1865, they produced an international publishing sensation, as famous, highly regarded, and recognizable today as it was 150 years ago.

The combination of imaginative text and evocative image made the book more marketable and more memorable. Quotations, characters, and metaphors from *Alice* are part of our shared culture. *Alice* is published regularly around the world with the original Tenniel illustrations, as well as continually motivating new versions and reworkings in print, film, and on stage.

Before *Alice*, the nineteenth century had produced other writer/illustrator teams of similar fame in their time, if not as instantly recognizable. For example, Charles Dickens worked with many illustrators, Robert Seymour being the first. Seymour was a popular artist of his day, and Dickens was asked by Seymour's publishers, Chapman and Hall, to produce text to accompany illustrations produced by Seymour. This was the more common formula in the early 19th century, based on the



An illustration for Charles Dickens' Pickwick Papers by Phiz (pseudonym of Hablot Knight Browne, 1815-1882)

popularity of prints and the proven success of illustration-driven work. Later, Dickens convinced Chapman and Hall to reverse this logic and let the text drive the production of illustrations. The product was *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, published as a serialized novel in 1836-1837.

The *Pickwick Papers* showcased Dickens' gift for comic characters and spawned merchandise, bootleg copies, tie-ins, and state productions. Such merchandizing extensions of the text were modeled on a cultural and publishing phenomenon created earlier in the nineteenth century by another writer/illustrator pair whose work had similar success and influence, but whose names – William Combe (1742-1823) and Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) – are largely unknown today, as is the hero of their popular adventures, Dr. Syntax, a lowly country preacher engaged to teach Latin to disinterested boys.

Combe and Rowlandson were well established in their respective fields. Combe had become known as author of *The Diaboliad* (1776), a sharp-witted political satire in verse. However, his identity was known only to publishers; during his life, not one piece of Combe's extensive output was published under his name. He was more widely known for his extravagance. Calling himself Count Combe, his lifestyle was based largely on an inheritance and on his work as one of the most prolific hack writers of

Brown: In Search of Dr. Syntax, continued

his era. His life was full of colorful contrasts: friend to Laurence Sterne yet forger of his letters; highly paid yet constantly in debt; editor of *The Times* yet residing often in King's Bench debtor's prison.

Rowlandson was talented but had not found fame as a painter, and he was hobbled by a gambling habit. His life had a trajectory similar to Combe's: an early inheritance allowed him to live the high life at such a pace that his funds were soon exhausted, and he found himself in poverty. At a friend's suggestion, he began creating caricatures for the booming art print trade (à la William Hogarth, 1697-1764) and found success, largely in connection with the publisher Rudolphe Ackermann.

Ackermann (1764-1834), like the British royalty of his era, had come from Germany, where he had trained as a carriage maker. In his early years, Ackermann took these skills to Paris. It was there, during preparation of a catalog of designs offered by the company he worked for, that Ackermann became interested in book production. He emigrated to London and began his career in publishing, capitalizing on the popularity of hand-colored prints. Ackermann was among the first to recognize the potential of color printing, which in his day, meant aquatints hand-colored after printing. Over 40 years, Ackermann produced hundreds of illustrated books, two important serials, and many fine prints. Many of these featured the work of Thomas Rowlandson.



*A view of Penrith Castle published in William Gilpin's book *Observations*, relative chiefly to picturesque beauty, made in the year 1772, on several parts of England; particularly the mountains, and lakes of Cumberland, and Westmoreland (1786).*

Rowlandson offered Ackermann a set of drawings featuring a tall, gangly clergyman and teacher who leaves his both financially and emotionally unrewarding duties as husband and pastor in search of the Picturesque. These drawings satirized the work of William Gilpin (1724-1804), another cleric, who toured England extensively, making notes and sketches, looking for those places from which the view suited his strict ideals of pictorial representation, which he called the "picturesque." Gilpin's manuscript circulated widely beginning in the 1760s and was eventually published; his work and the work of his followers created a fashion for finding and cataloging those vantage points from which views of natural features such as mountains or lakes formed their most perfect compositions, according to the artistic principles of that time. Devotees of the picturesque would then seek out these carefully identified "beauty spots" – Gilpin or other author in hand – from which to make sketches and paintings, thus reformulating the English countryside as a series of idealized views. Sketching the picturesque became a popular hobby, leading to the publication of books and maps specifically intended to guide the sketcher. As a keen observer of the fashion of her times, sketching and the search for the picturesque appear in the works of Jane Austen (1775-1817), who was familiar with the work of Gilpin, Rowlandson, and Combe.



Dr. Syntax, astride his horse, Grizzle, sketches the lake picturesque.

Brown: In Search of Dr. Syntax, continued

Fashionable past-times of the gentry – and of gentry want-to-bes – were perfect subjects for the satirical prints that Rowlandson and Ackermann were well known for. Ackermann decided to serialize the images in his well respected *Poetical Magazine*, and he approached William Combe to write accompanying text. Combe, who had taken up residence in what had been his debtor's prison and who was always in need of money, readily agreed. Combe's narrative filled out the characters suggested by Rowlandson's images – a quirky and quixotic country clergyman and schoolteacher, who, tired of teaching out of books, decides that the way to his fortune lies in creating his own illustrated book of travels – in one stroke, satirizing Gilpin, Ackermann, Rowlandson, and himself! But in this picaresque parody, the hero, Dr. Syntax, and his faithful mount Grizzle make more misadventures than they do sketches. The titles of Rowlandson's prints tell the story: "Dr. Syntax bound to a tree by highwaymen"; "Dr. Syntax pursued by a bull"; "Dr. Syntax mistakes a gentleman's house for an inn"; "Dr. Syntax loses his money at the race-ground at York"; and so on. Despite Dr. Syntax's provincialism, he is jovial and sometimes wise – a

pleasant companion for Grizzle and for the reader.

Syntax, which first appeared in 1809 as "The Schoolmaster's Tour" in *Poetical Magazine* and ran to many installments, was an immediate success.

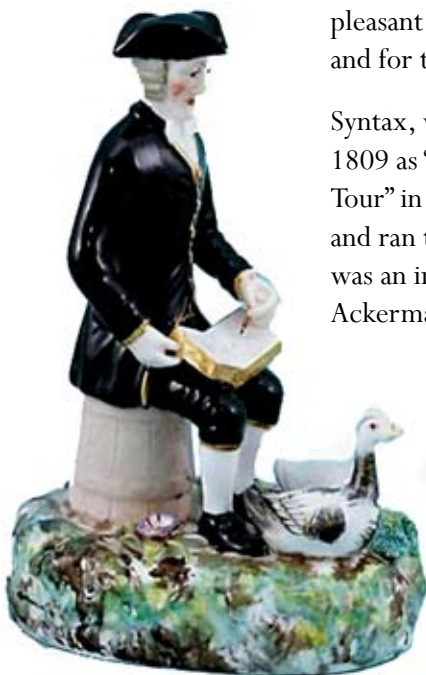
Ackermann published the series as a book, *Dr. Syntax in Search of the Picturesque*, in 1812; it was reissued four times in the first year. The work was so popular that Rowlandson and Combe created two sequels, *Dr. Syntax in Search of Consolation*

(1820) and *Dr. Syntax in Search of a Wife* (1821), and a spinoff which was not highly regarded, *The History of Johnny Quae Genus, the Little Foundling of the Late Doctor Syntax* (1822). The first three books were collected in an omnibus edition. Though it was satire, Syntax itself was parodied and imitated in works such as *Doctor Syntax in Paris* or *A Tour in Search of the Grotesque* (1820), *The Tour of Doctor Syntax through London* or *The Pleasures and Miseries of the Metropolis* (1820), *Tour of Dr. Prosody in Search of the Antique* (1821), *The Adventures of Doctor Comicus, or The Frolicks of Fortune, A Comic Satirical Poem for the Squeamish and the Queer*, and *The Life of Napoleon, a Hudibrastic Poem in Fifteen Cantos By Doctor Syntax*.

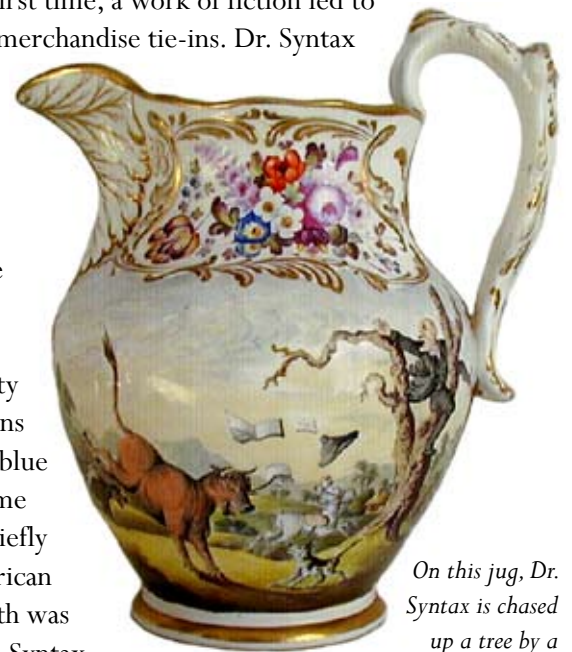
Prints of images in the book were very popular, and for the first time, a work of fiction led to widespread merchandise tie-ins. Dr. Syntax appeared on

porcelain plates and cups and as statuettes. Staffordshire produced a series of perhaps thirty Syntax designs in its classic blue Harvest Home pattern – chiefly for the American market. Cloth was printed with Syntax patterns. The name was borrowed for hats, wigs, and coats, and notably by a very successful thoroughbred horse. People read Syntax, talked about Syntax, displayed and ate from Syntax, and wore Syntax.

Fifty years later, Combe's name was largely forgotten; an 1883 article about Combe was entitled



Dr. Syntax statuette, unknown manufacture.



On this jug, Dr. Syntax is chased up a tree by a bull.

Brown: In Search of Dr. Syntax ,concluded

“A Forgotten Satirist.” Yet, Dr. Syntax was still a familiar figure – in the late 1880s, *Punch*, knowing its readers would understand the reference, featured a piece starring Dr. Syntax. Rowlandson fared better. He produced many book illustrations and prints which have remained collectable to this day.

The Syntax creative team is credited today with advancing the relationship between image and text and directly influencing the work of Rodolphe Töpffer (1799-1846). Töpffer’s production was private and intended only for his friends, but one friend, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, persuaded him to publish. Töpffer’s gentle satires of 19th century society – told in series of captioned drawings – were immediately popular. Töpffer is now widely regarded as the originator of the captioned cartoon sequence, which led to the comic strip, the comic book, the animated film, the graphic novel, and manga. In that sense, perhaps Dr. Syntax’s mission to make his fame and fortune with a book was achieved after all.



William Combe in 1793 in a drawing by George Dance the Younger. This is the only extant image of Combe.



FBS Archiving Project Needs Your Help!

by CarloMario Nudi

FBS president Charles Brown has asked me to head up a committee to archive the Florida Bibliophile Society papers.

Last year, I got a commitment from the University of Tampa to be the depository for FBS archives with the provision that FBS provide funds for the acid-free folders and boxes, and sorted and inventoried the papers. The membership approved these arrangements.

Now, we’re getting to a point where we need to begin this valuable work, and I would like to have a few members help.

It would take a commitment of one or two days a months, maybe two-three hours a day, organizing and inventorying the six or seven boxes of papers that I and other FBS members and officers have accumulated over the more than 30 years of the society’s existence.

When this is complete, we can begin to write an official history of the Florida Bibliophile Society and maybe publish it. This would be something for FBS to discuss in the future.

So if you would like to participate of this project, please email me at carlnudi@netscape.net and Charles at cmbrown@atlantic.net.

Florida Bibliophile Society, 2015-2016 Season



September 20 • Kick-off meeting – New officers were introduced; the year’s events were presented; organizational issues were discussed.

October 18 • Florence M. Turcotte, Literary Manuscripts Archivist and curator, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Papers, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville, spoke about Rawlings life and the topic of her forthcoming book, *Rawlings and the moonshine culture she found when she moved to Florida in 1928*.

November 15 • Patti Wilson Byars will talk about her book *Separate Fountains*, which tells about growing up in the 1940s and 1950s in Jonesboro, Georgia. *Separate Fountains* is a compelling picture of life in a small southern town wrestling with the post-war period, with its traditions, and with the Ku Klux Klan. (Seminole Community Library, Seminole FL)

November 23 • Rebecca Rego Barry is editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine and a book to be published by Voyageur Press in December 2015, *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*. Barry describes the book: “It has been likened to “Antiques Roadshow,” with a focus entirely on antiquarian books and manuscripts. I interviewed more than fifty collectors, booksellers, librarians, and other “finders” about their best book find: A first edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in a Philadelphia flea market just last year? You betcha! A million-dollar document forgotten in an attic? Yes!”

This will be a special evening event with dinner and our guest speaker. The event will be held on Monday, November 23 at 7 p.m. at Chili’s in New Port Richey (9600 US-19, New Port Richey). It’s across the street from the Gulfview Square Mall. Contact Jerry Morris to reserve a space.

December 20 • FBS Holiday Party. The holiday gala you don’t want to miss! At the home of Joan Sackheim.

January 17 • Friedrich “Fritz” Thiel’s distinguished academic career in German literature has garnered many honors both in the U.S. and Germany. Thiel is the author of many works and an avid book collector. Thiel will speak about the Dutch language and its relationship to German and English vocabularies. This presentation was well received at the Rowfant Club of Cleveland. (Seminole Community Library, Seminole FL)

February 21 • BonSue Brandvik will speak on the history (and demise) of the Belleview Biltmore Hotel and her novels set in the hotel and featuring its ghosts. Built by Henry Plant and constructed of Florida pine, the Belleview Biltmore was believed to be the largest occupied wood structure in the world (plenty of room for ghosts!) and the last wooden grand Victorian hotel in Florida.

March 20 • Paul Ruxin, owner of one of the most complete private collections of Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and their contemporaries, is a renowned expert on these authors and their period.

April 15-17 • FBS members and guests will have an “away” event, traveling to Gainesville for its semiannual **Friends of the Library Book Sale**, the largest of its kind in Florida, offering over 500,000 books in every imaginable category. Most books on the main floor are priced at \$4.00 and less. There is one room, “Collector’s Corner,” in which rarer and more collectible books are offered.

May 15 • Annual Florida Bibliophile Society Banquet. Location to be determined.

Endpaper • E pluribus librum



My first visit to the Florida Bibliophile Society was a year and half ago. The presenter was Patricia Pistner, and she spoke about her first-class collection of miniature books, a number of which she had brought for us to view up close. I was sold on FBS right there. But it was more than the excellent presentation. I was so impressed with the warmth of the people I met and with their range of interests and occupations. I spoke with many of them about their interests, and I found a great deal of knowledge about books from every aspect. Some were antiquarian book dealers or collectors; some were avid readers and therefore collectors of their favorite authors; others were academics. But what everybody brought to that meeting was a love of books.

I've had that experience all over again preparing this newsletter. I've exchanged emails with FBS members near and far. Their courtesy and helpfulness make this work a pleasure. And then, of course, there are the range of interests and the knowledge exhibited in these pages.

I hope all members of FBS will take time during the year to contribute to this newsletter — your newsletter. It's a place where you can share your enthusiasm about a new book, a great read, or a book adventure with people who really do want to hear about it. Some of you will feel comfortable writing more extensively, and some may prefer a briefer contribution. There's room for both. What we all have in common is our love of books.

See you at the book store!

— Charles

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