

# The Florida Bibliophile

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Patti Wilson Byars interrupts reading a passage from her book, *Separate Fountains*, to share a sidelight on the story.

## IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE?

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 November Meeting

November 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m.  
Seminole Community Library

President Charles Brown called to order the meeting of eighteen members at 1:41 p.m. and discussed the continued success of the book raffle.

The book raffle is held at the end of each meeting. Members are invited to bring one or more books to place in the raffle and share their literary tastes with other FBS members. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each, and all proceeds help fund FBS events, member benefits, and guest speakers.

Carl Nudi requested volunteers for assistance with archiving materials at the University of Tampa. A committee will be assembled shortly after Christmas and a time/date will be announced.

Any member that needs to pay dues should contact Linda Morris, treasurer, at [linjer25@gmail.com](mailto:linjer25@gmail.com).

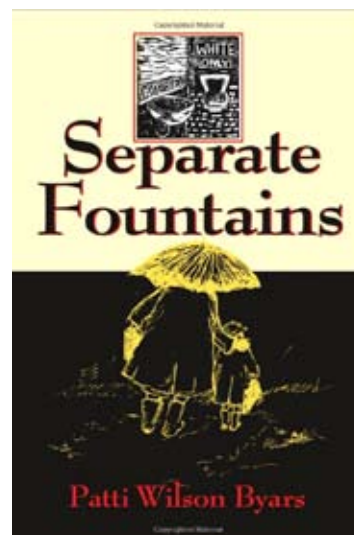
President Charles Brown announced the possibility of making the Seminole Community Library the permanent location for FBS meetings. The facility has ample parking, seating, and access to presentation technology. However, Brown asked members to be on the lookout for a similar location in the Tampa area. If a suitable location can be found, it would be preferable to continue alternating between Tampa and Seminole.

FBS member Neil Williamson was then invited by Brown to introduce November's guest speaker, Patti Wilson Byars, author of *Separate Fountains*. Byars attended the University of Georgia when Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes, the University's

first two African-American students, were admitted. Based on her childhood experiences and her time at the University of Georgia, Byars has actively promoted tolerance and understanding with her book and as an educator. To date, many teachers have used *Separate Fountains* as a means to help students grasp the significance of the 1940s and 1950s in the South and how lives are shaped by historical events. In further support of her educational aspirations, the proceeds from sales of *Separate Fountains* go to a scholarship fund for childhood education at the Florida State University College of Education, where Byars taught for many years.

Patti Wilson Byars was born in the small town of Jonesboro, Georgia, and was raised there during the 1940s and 1950s. *Separate Fountains* is based on Byars' life experiences during that time. While segregation forms the backdrop of the events of the book, Byars stressed that her book is primarily a story of love, of family, of respect within the community, and of humanity's ability to come together during times of danger and strife.

The book began as a series of long conversations Byars had with her mother, who retold memories from Byars' childhood. Byars was inspired to recreate



her story, told from the perspective of a fictional stand-in: twelve-year-old Katie Jane. This curious and rambunctious young girl was fortunate to have parents that respected everyone and treated every race with kindness, even when confronted by strong opposition within their community.

Byars read excerpts from her book in her soft Georgia accent, often pausing to illuminate the text with explanations and weave in recollections. For example, she explained how her father taught her, from a young age, ways to distinguish members of the Ku Klux Klan. In an time when neighbors kept dark and dangerous secrets, people had to be aware of their surroundings. Under her father's instructions, Byars learned to recognize the details of men's shoes because shoes were the one identifiable feature visible under the long white Klan robes. Using this and other means, her father developed an understanding of which of his neighbors was in the Klan.

Though it is a story about Jonesboro, Georgia, *Separate Fountains* was launched in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1998. Byars told the story of greeting one man at an early book signing. He asked her if she knew who he was, and she had to say no. He introduced himself as the former governor of Florida, Reubin Askew. He told Byars how much her book had moved him, what an accurate portrayal it was of its time, and that every American schoolchild should read it. In addition to sharing her fascinating personal history, Patti Wilson Byars communicated a unique perspective on history and shared that to overcome hatred and prejudice, members of a community must come together and promote tolerance and understanding.

As a token of appreciate for the outstanding presentation provided by Byars, president Charles Brown presented our guest with Rival Recipes: The Traditional Rivalry between Florida and Georgia, Taken from the Gridiron to the Griddle, to which was added a special bookplate commemorating Byars' presentation to FBS.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

This session was recorded by Shanna Goodwin, secretary for the Florida Bibliophile Society.

Recorder: Shanna Goodwin, Secretary. 

### *For more information...*

For more information on Patti Wilson Byars and her book, *Separate Fountains*, view her website at

<http://www.pattiwilsonbyars.com/book.htm>.

*Separate Fountains* may be purchased at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, booksamillion.com, and other online booksellers.

Contribute to the Patti Wilson Byars "Separate Fountains" Endowed Scholarship (F02051) — A donation form and contact information may be found at

<https://one.fsu.edu/foundation/donate/college/education/donation-form>



### **This Month's Contributors**

Many thanks to those who contributed to this month's newsletter!

(FBS members unless otherwise noted.)

Cal Branche  
 Jim Brogan, editor, *The Microbiliophile*  
 Joan Knoertzer  
 Jerry Morris  
 Carl Mario Nudi  
 Elenora Sabin  
 Neil Williamson

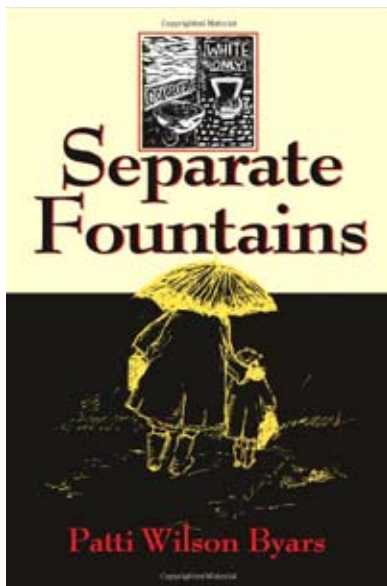
Have an idea for an article for The Florida Bibliophile? Contact Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto:cmbrown@atlantic.net), to submit or for assistance in preparing your article.



## Two Novels, One Theme

by Elenora Sabin

At the most recent FBS meeting on November 15, the featured speaker was Patti Wilson Byars, author of *Separate Fountains*, a novelized memoir of growing up in Jonesboro, Georgia, in the 1940s and of the racial divide that characterized that era in the deep South. I was especially interested in the topic because I had recently read the novel *The Secret of Magic*, by Deborah Johnson, set in that same era in Revere, Mississippi, and also dealing with the racial divide and the rampant prejudice against and mistreatment of blacks. I was interested in comparing and contrasting the two novels, one written by a black woman, the other by a white, both using fictional stories to illuminate the true, dark history of race relations in that troubled time.



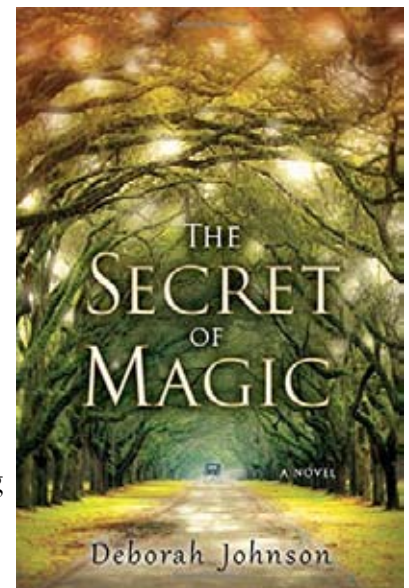
In her presentation to us, Patti Wilson Byars explained that her book began as a memoir, a recounting of her childhood in a town where the Ku Klux Klan saw to it that segregation was rigidly enforced and blacks were denied all rights. At the suggestion of her publisher, Byars turned her account into a novel, using fictitious names and obscuring

or revising events. We see the events from the viewpoint of the precocious twelve-year-old Katie Jane Taylor, child of loving parents who teach their daughter and her younger brother to judge people not by the color of their skin but by their character. Ardella, the black woman whom their father hires to care for his children and his invalid wife becomes a dearly loved and highly regarded family member. Katie Jane is the protector of her brother Josh and also his companion in mischief. Although the family has little money, the children never think of themselves as poor. In many ways, they enjoy an

idyllic childhood, but the threat of Klan violence forms an ominous undertone throughout their carefree days, and the idyll is shattered when the Klan threatens the brother of their beloved Ardella, and their father puts their family in danger when he acts to protect Ardella's brother and the other residents of "Colored Town." The novel presents an accurate portrayal of what it was like to grow up in a time when "separate fountains" were a symbol of the degradation heaped on a people forced to confront Whites Only signs forbidding them to eat, use restrooms, swim in public swimming pools, sit in waiting rooms, even enter hospitals, all reserved for whites, solely because their skin was a different color. The novel emphasizes the forbearance and patient endurance with which blacks suffered these indignities.

While *The Secret of Magic* does reference historical events and personages, it is the work of a skilled novelist, a literary work of beautiful prose, and perhaps the more chilling for that. It captures a starkly realistic picture of the sharp divide between blacks and whites, viewed through the eyes of a young black woman living in New York. A recent graduate of Columbia University Law School,

Regina Robichaud waits for the results of the bar exam she took two weeks ago while working as a clerk in the law office of Thurgood Marshall. In that capacity, she opens and reads a letter that arrives for Marshall, asking him to come to Revere, Mississippi, to investigate the death of a young black soldier just returned from fighting in WWII after being honorably discharged with the rank of lieutenant. About an hour away from home he is taken off the bus he's riding, tortured, and thrown into a river,



*Two Novels, One Theme, concluded*

from which his body is pulled two weeks later. The letter has been sent by a woman whose name Regina recognizes as the author of a children's book titled *The Secret of Magic*, a book she had read as a child and that had deeply impressed her for its depiction of the friendship between three children, two white and one black, and of an old black man who "knew about the land . . . . He had hold of its secrets and its magic." Knowing that Thurgood Marshall is too busy with his responsibilities as head of the Legal Defense Fund, she begs for permission to go in his place. Reluctantly, he grants permission but gives her a firm time limit of two weeks to try to resolve the case.

She believes she is prepared for what she might encounter as a black woman in a small southern town but suffers cultural shock and disillusionment when she arrives and finds that her law degree and position with Thurgood Marshall are meaningless in Revere, Mississippi, where she is treated as just another "colored girl." Again we see, this time from a black perspective, the callous disregard for human rights, the turning of a blind eye toward abuses perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan. Regina soon discovers that everyone knows who killed the young soldier, but he will never be convicted because he is a white man, the son of a prominent citizen, and the victim is a "nigger."

Both these novels use the term "nigger" throughout, reflecting but never condoning the usage of the time. On the contrary, both books show how the term is a symbol of disrespect, a means of putting blacks "in their place." Both novels lay bare the stark contrast between white privilege and black deprivation. Both demonstrate vividly the way even well intentioned whites accepted the status quo and failed to rise to the defense of mistreated blacks.

*Separate Fountains*, however, while it in no way minimizing the brutality of the Ku Klux Klan, presents in a more positive light the actions of white people of good will who, however clandestinely, did work to better the conditions in which blacks were forced to live. *The Secret of Magic* better portrays

the extent to which whites went to conceal feelings of sympathy and understanding toward blacks lest they be targeted as "nigger lovers" and ostracized by white society. It is unremitting in its depiction of "upstanding citizens" caught in a web of self-deception and fear of what punishment might fall on them if the victims of years of mistreatment because of their race should gain the rights so long withheld and, with them, the power to turn on their oppressors.

In conclusion, both these novels together give a chilling look at a shameful period of our history. Taken together, they shine spotlights from different angles to illuminate the racial problems that were rife then and still haunt us today. ¶



### John D. MacDonald Centenary Events in Sarasota, 2016

John Dann MacDonald was born on July 24, 1916, in Sharon, PA, but after a number of relocations, including college, marriage, and World War II, he and his wife Dorothy settled in Florida, the setting for much of his most popular work.

It was during the war, when he served in Ceylon, Burma, and China, that MacDonald wrote his first short story, intending it only for his wife. Dorothy, however, submitted it for publication, and after a couple of tries, it was accepted. When he returned to the States, he began to write in earnest, eventually producing 78 books and hundreds of short stories. When he died in 1986, more than 75 million copies of his books were in print. As the Florida Department of State Web page devoted to MacDonald states:

MacDonald's career achievements as an American mystery writer remain

*MacDonald Centenary, concluded*

unparalleled. Dozens of his most celebrated works featured Florida's culture and environment, most notably his series of 21 "Travis McGee" novels which profoundly influenced an elite corps of environmentally conscious writers in Florida and elsewhere.

FBS member Cal Branche is an avid collector of MacDonald's work and a specialist in MacDonald's life (FBS presentation in February 2015). He is part of the committee which is planning a series of events in Sarasota for the JDM centenary in 2016, beginning in January and culminating in a community-wide birthday celebration in July. Currently planned events include

- A series of newspaper articles written by various authors on the subject "John D. and Me."
- Library programs revolving around JDM books.
- A JDM film fest: titles to be announced
- Sarasota County Book One: One Community will promote reading of JDM's books.
- July 23, 2016 — Community-wide Birthday Celebration

Updates to this information will appear on Cal's JDM website "JDM Homepage" ([jdmhomepage.org](http://jdmhomepage.org)). ➡



## Upcoming Events

### December 2015

#### FBS Holiday Party

Sunday, December 20, 2015, 1:30 p.m.

Home of Joan Sackheim

2000 Serpentine Cir. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

All FBS members are invited to the FBS Holiday Party. FBS member Joan Sackheim is graciously opening her home, once again, to host this time to enjoy the company of your fellow bibliophiles as well as wonderful food and drink!

In the holiday spirit of the event, we will have a book exchange, so please put a book or two that you would like to donate.

### January 2016

#### Pennsylvania Dutch?

#### No! No! Dutch Dutch!

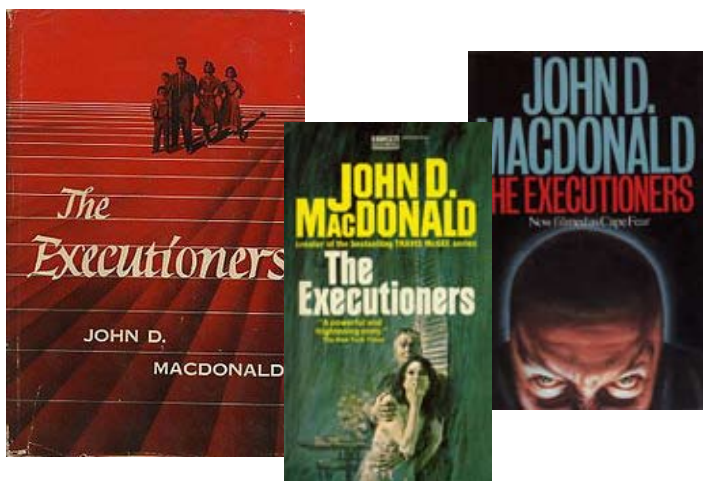
Sunday, January 17, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Seminole Community Library

9200 113<sup>th</sup> Street N, Seminole, FL

Public Event

FBS member Friedrich Thiel — "Fritz"— 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.



Three editions of one of John D. MacDonald's most famous novels, *The Executioners*, filmed twice with the title, *Cape Fear*. Right: First hardback edition. Middle and left: paperback editions.



## Welcome to Our Newest Member!



**Tom Blanton**

Long a resident of Deerfield Beach, Tom now spends more time in the Tampa area — probably because of his beautiful twin grandchildren! Tom's infectious smile is a clue

to his enthusiasm for life in general and definitely for his special collecting area, ornithology. Tom has a special interest in Alexander Wilson (1766–1813), Scottish-born American poet, ornithologist, naturalist, and illustrator, often called the “father of American ornithology.” Wilson identified 26 new birds in the Eastern U.S., more than anyone else in the 19th century, including his more well-known colleague, John James Audubon (1785–1851).

From 1808 to 1814, Wilson published *American Ornithology; or, the Natural History of the Birds of the United States: Illustrated with Plates Engraved and Colored from Original drawings taken from Nature*, which he wrote and illustrated. For financial reasons, this first edition was printed on poor quality paper. Due to its popularity, however, a second, much improved edition was printed in 1829. 📌



Left, top to bottom: Summer Red Bird (male), Yellow-Breasted Chat, Maryland Yellow Throat.

Right, top to bottom: Indigo Bird, American Redstart, Summer Red Bird (female). From Wilson, *American Ornithology*, 1808.



## FBS Archiving Committee Seeking Volunteers

Over its 30+ year history, the Florida Bibliophile Society has amassed boxes and boxes of records and papers dealing with its operation and history.

One of FBS's charter members, Lee Harrer, has arranged with the University of Tampa Press and Tampa Book Arts Studio to become the depository for the FBS papers.

With former president and treasurer Carl Mario Nudi taking the lead, the Society is looking for members to help in organizing and archiving these records.

FBS thanks former newsletter editor Sue Tihansky and member Shannon Shane for their offers to help, but at least two other members are needed to make the job easier.

We will be meeting at the Tampa Book Arts Studio to start the project early in the new year.

If you are interested in helping, contact Carl at [carlnudi@netscape.net](mailto:carlnudi@netscape.net). 📌

## An Evening with Rebecca Rego Barry

Charles Brown

On November 23, the Florida Bibliophile Society hosted a dinner with Rebecca Rego Barry, editor of



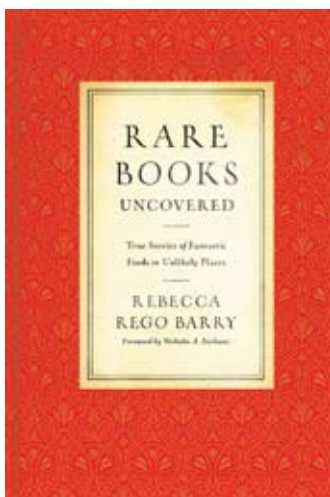
Rebecca Rego Barry

*Fine Books and Collections* magazine and author of *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*. We met at Chili's in New Port Richey, not far from Rebecca's parents' home, where she and her family were visiting

for a few days. At that time, *Rare Books Uncovered* was scheduled for release on December 1, so the FBS event was a sort of pre-release party.

We met at 7 in the private room at Chili's. There were many introductions as Rebecca and her father Ed Rego met FBS members. FBS vice president Jerry Morris had invited former member Mary Brady to join us. FBS members may remember Mary and her husband Don, a printer of miniature books. It was a pleasure to have her there and a chance to honor her as well.

Eventually, we settled down to consider the menu. We ordered and continued chatting over chips and salsa. I sat with Rebecca, her father, and new member Tom Blanton. Between two editors, an avid collector, and a printer (Ed Rego is a printer — what a happy discovery!), there was much shop talk. Rebecca told stories about working with Simon and Schuster, only to discover that new book publishing was not for her. Her husband's career was shifting at the same time. He had graduated in film but discovered a talent as a voice actor. Tom told us how he became interested in ornithology and, of course, about his new grandchildren! Ed and I swapped print shop stories. We laughed about an entire print run of a book that



had to be destroyed due to flawed varnish. The happy chatter around the room told me that others were enjoying the evening and their companions as much as I was.

After dinner, we presented Rebecca with gifts. Jerry gave her a book of medical procedure, which he had discovered is a particular interest of hers. It was an attractive book, and scanning the pages, it looked quite interesting. We also presented Rebecca with a special keepsake: a commemorative bookplate



Mary Brady  
Linda Morris

in a navy blue folder decorated with a picture of Rebecca's book and the FBS logo. Rebecca was very gracious in her thanks for the evening and these tokens of appreciation. She set up the box of books that had been expedited to her for the occasion, settled into a chair, and invited us, one at a time, to sit across from her as she inscribed books. Keepsakes were given to all attendees. Jerry purchased a copy of *Rare Books Uncovered* for Mary as a memento of a special connection: chapter 35 features Jerry's story of acquiring some of "mother books" on which Don's miniatures were based. In turn, Mary had a gift of her own for Rebecca: a copy of one of Don's miniature books, *Why the Chimes Rang*, which bears a dedication to Mary.



Don Brady's miniature of MacDonald's *Why the Chimes Rang*

Around 9:30, the books were signed, and we said our goodbyes. Many thanks to Rebecca and her father for giving us such a delightful evening. And a special word of thanks to Jerry Morris for organizing this wonderful event. 📌



Rick Stroman      Jerry Morris, standing



Jeanne and Gary Simons      Irene Pavese and Lee Harrer



## Miniature Book Ornaments: Part I — A Holiday Tradition Is Born

by Joan Knoertzer

Ten years ago, while decorating a seven-foot Christmas tree, I realized my cats were enjoying the experience much more than I was. They climbed in the branches. They slept in the Dickens village. They even “played” with the ornaments — which were in shreds. I stopped decorating there and then.

Then one day, when going through my miniature books, I noticed several with a small loop of gold string attached. A light went on, and my interest in decorating a tree was renewed as I pictured miniature books dripping from the branches. I went out to find the perfect tree and came home with a six-foot-tall, skinny, plastic tree-in-a-pot. I put it on a stand and started decorating.

Searching through my collection, I realized I had about 30 of these miniatures, meant for hanging, but never hung. Some were up to four inches tall, and some one inch. Some were about the holidays, some not. Some had stories; some had one or two pages of drawings. Some related to literary characters, and some were people or objects from

stories. But they all had a small loop of gold string or a small metal eyelet for a string attachment and were obviously meant to be hanging ornaments. Then I realized that if I were to make my skinny tree fat with miniatures, I needed more ornaments.

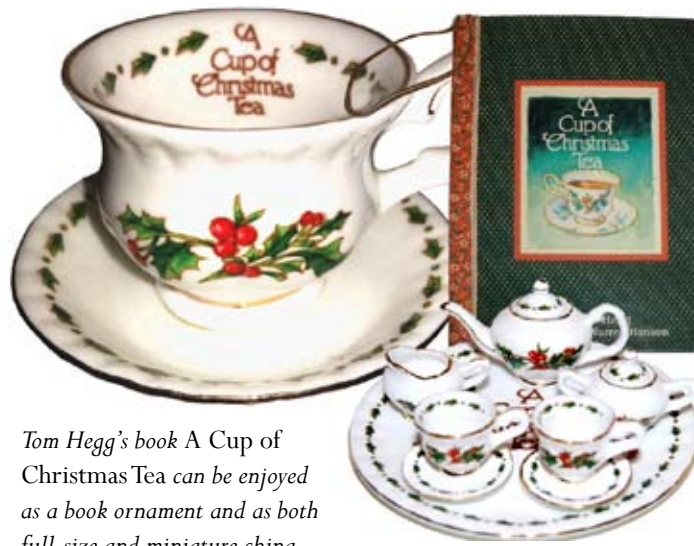
Luckily, I live one hour from Frankenmuth, Michigan, home to Bronner’s Christmas Village, with its three football fields of decorations. They buy/sell everything related to the holidays... any holiday. Since all of my ornaments were commercially made, I knew they could help add to my collection.

I started decorating with my original collection. In the 1980s, Hershey Foods Corporation made three recipe books: *Hershey’s Chocolate Memories: Sweet Treats Since 1895*; *Hershey’s Chocolate Memories: Beverages and Sauces*; and *Hershey’s Chocolate Memories: Cakes and*

*Frostings*. Kurt S. Adler in New York City also produced a series: *A Treasury of Christmas Carols* (1978), *Christmas Teddy Bears* (1984), *The History of Santa Claus* (undated). Disney marketed *Mickey Mouse Magazine*, *Mickey Mouse Presents Santa’s Workshop*, and *Donald Duck Has a Close Shave*, all through Adler. Merrimack Publishing makes Flipix miniatures (flip books) *The Christmas Lion* (1986) and *I Love You* (undated). In 1992, *Santa’s Workshop* was published by Price Stern Sloan of Los Angeles.

*A Cup of Christmas Tea* (1982) by Tom Hegg has branched off into miniature tea sets, dishes, and demitasse spoons. Waldman House Press, Minneapolis, MN, produces this book and related objects. *Favorite Nursery Rhymes* by Benson (Taiwan) has nine poems with color drawings. Unknown publishers with no dates or clue as to origin are familiar to us all: *The Christmas Angel*, *Christmas Legend*, *Jolly St. Nick*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Twas The Night Before Christmas*, and *Christmas Angel* fall into this category.

Hallmark produces several storybooks as ornaments. “Winnie the Pooh” is a series of twelve miniature book dioramas in plastic. “Where The Wild Things Are,” “Dr. Seuss’s How The Grinch Stole Christmas,” “Spider Man,” “Captain America Avengers,”



Tom Hegg’s book *A Cup of Christmas Tea* can be enjoyed as a book ornament and as both full-size and miniature china.

A miniature book is less than 3 inches tall (4 inches for some collectors).

A micro-miniature book is less than 1 inch tall.

*Miniature Book Ornaments: Part I, concluded*

“Happiness Is Peanuts,” “To The Moon and Back,” and “Curious George” are all open miniature books with the characters seeming to grow out of the pages. These are offered with various editions in a

series, usually one part of the story per year.



At Bronner's, I bought plastic and glass miniature book ornaments. Some were personalized by Bronner's with my name: “Christmas Recipes,” “Book Club Ornament,” “Bird Watching” (a bird perched on three books), “Teachers AP” (computer on books), “Bear with Book,” “Yes, Virginia” (letter to and response from Santa), “Stack of Books,” and a Kurt S.

Adler “Reader X3GL” (reproduction of a Kindle with a reading list of holiday books on it). When I heard about Adler's one-inch real Bible with string attached, I placed my order!



Now my tree is full. All of the above plus Dorothy's red slipper, Tommy the Tugboat, some reproductions of scenes of the holidays, music, bookmarks... it is delightful to see. All in miniature. My guests always comment, and now, I leave it up all year! Why not! Life is a celebration, and now that I have discovered what those little gold strings are for... I am celebrating! 🎉

## Miniature Book Ornaments: Part II — A Holiday Tradition Continues

by Joan Knoertzer

In addition to my membership in the Florida Bibliophile Society, I have been an active member of the Miniature Book Society (MBS) for many years. Naturally, my interest in miniatures has extended into many areas, and decorating the Christmas tree is one of them.

Four years ago, I wrote about my Christmas tree — which is filled with miniature books made as ornaments — for the MBS newsletter, *Microbibliophile* (Vol. XXX, No. 7, November 2011, p. 18-19). In those four years, I have continued to add to my slim tree and made it even fatter with these ornaments.

All of my miniature book ornaments are commercially made, and often, they do not have dates or markings and are hard to trace. But several original “publishers” continue to produce book ornaments. For example, Kurt Adler, which produces many Christmas decorations, has released a number of miniature books with seasonal or

childhood themes. I found Adler's “Wizard of Oz”, complete with illustrations by Denslow.

Of course, it would be easy enough to make your own ornaments from miniature books by adding a gold string. I had thought to decorate a tree with just my *microminiatures*. But I decided to stick with the larger book ornaments, which are sized between 2 and 4 inches.

Disney continues to supply characters with books, and Mickey and Minnie Mouse are a fun addition. Dr. Seuss characters are expanding as the Cat in the Hat is found sitting on his book, as well as reading it. *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, *Hop on Pop*,

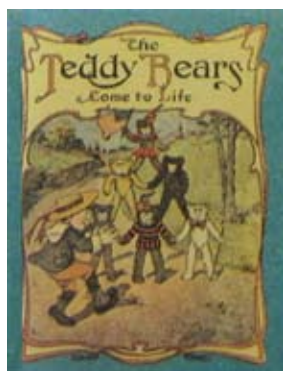


*Miniature Book Ornaments: Part II, concluded*

*Green Eggs and Ham*, and *The Sneetches and Other Stories* are all colorful, and have eye-catching book characters popping out of a page of their books. The “Grinch” has four different poses, and “Red Fox” has two. Maurice Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are* has many more characters in the series, all wonderful, scary and cleverly positioned on their pages. Even “Curious George” has two ornaments.

Many ornaments are made overseas. R.O.C. in Taiwan

has a series of seven books with beautiful color illustrations: *Teddy Bears Come to Life*, *Merry Christmas ABC*, Kris Kringle, *A Christmas Carol* (Dickens), *Jolly St. Nick*, *Around the World with Santa Claus*, and *The Night Before Christmas*. A German titled gardening book in terra cotta, has “Gaveneer” printed on the cover. Sadie Field’s Production, Ltd, London has made several books for Little Simon (Simon and Schuster Children’s Publishing Division in New York) under David Hawcock Books and has a series of pop-up



ornament books written in 1995 by Penny Ives: *Snow Angel*, *Painted Cherub*, *Musical Cherubs*, and *Golden Angel*. And Silver Thimble Books (1983) Bondestat Printers, Eastbourne, Sussex, made *The Christmas Day In the Workhouse* by George R. Sims.

Several dioramas have appeared on my tree. Many have pieces of sheet

music in the background with scenes from the songs portrayed in 3-D figures: “Silent Night,” “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” “Joy To the World,” “Frosty the Snowman,” “Jolly St. Nick,” and “Good Children Are St. Nick’s Favorites.” Story books also have some dioramas: “Mother Goose” and “Humpty Dumpty.” “Silent Night,” and “Behold Unto You a King Is

Born.” All have movable parts.

Three of my story books have no titles, but they do have nice short stories about Christmas, Santa, and winter, with colorful front and back covers and end papers in Christmas designs. Four of my additions are “readers,” that is the characters have books around them or in their hands:



Santa in a rocking chair, young girl in a rocking chair, two bears before a fireplace, and a toy soldier. I have also found a metal book replica from Baldwin brass company, “Home For the Holidays” (2005), and a Hallmark series “Mama and Baby Bear Reading Holiday Stories” (1994). Plus, an ornament with string attached by Flipix: “Kitty Cucumber Goes Fishing.” The White House Historical Association (wonderful catalog) has a brass book which opens Honoring Abraham Lincoln: “Portrait of a President” (1999). The Library of Congress also issues an ornament each year and I have several in the series, but many are not shaped into books.

Christmas stores, such as Bronner’s in Frankenmuth, Michigan, are a must for me to visit. My miniature Bible ornament is from this Christmas Village. I even added a “Scrabble Board with Christmas Words” all linking on the board, a “Passport” book” and I can’t resist a personalized Clear Bulb Ornament into which I slip little strips of paper with titles of my favorite miniatures. I almost bought a bigger tree; if you come to The Library Bed and Breakfast in Ann Arbor — and I hope you will someday — you will see I am running out of room. However, as a twelve-year-old guest suggested, “You can just start hanging things from the ceiling!” From the mouths of babes — by the time I do my next update, I may do exactly that. Happy Holidays!!!!





## Book Trade

*Book store visits, Observations about the changing book trade*

### Whitney's Bookshelf • Tonopah NV

Neil Williamson

Tonopah, Nevada, is the county seat of Nye county on highway 95, about halfway between Reno and Las Vegas. It was the site of one of the richest silver strikes in Nevada history, resulting in the creation of what was at one time a boom town. It now has a population of approximately 2,500 persons.

I first stumbled upon this gem in 2011 after leaving Burning Man on my way to Las Vegas. As is often the case, the highway through town is also Main Street. It was a Sunday afternoon, and while driving through, I spotted this charming bookstore right on Main Street; AND it was open!

Upon entering, I was instantly smitten with the selection and layout of the shop. The owner, Larry Whitney, informed me that he opened the store after retiring in 2008, stocking it originally from his personal collection and adding to it substantially since then.

Most hardcovers are priced at \$2.50 while others are priced individually. There are sections for almost any interest, and the sections are clearly labeled.

There is an "old book" section in the rear, and a room containing books listed with ABE online bookseller.

The total inventory is approximately 100,000 books, with something for everyone.

While I was shopping, there was a steady flow of



locals, including many students. Mr. Whitney explained that he stocks a significant paperback inventory as well as hardbacks, and students often shop for school-related purposes.

I, of course, left with quite a pile and look forward to visiting with Mr. Whitney any time I'm in Tonopah.

Whitney's Bookshelf is open seven days a week and is a definite asset not only to Tonopah but also to the surrounding area. 📖

### 2nd and Charles • Gainesville FL

Charles Brown

There have been some significant bookstore closures in the Gainesville area in the past few years. In 2010, Gainesville's largest independent, Goerings Book Store, closed its doors after almost 40 years. In January 2014, the local Barnes and Noble closed. In June 2014, Brisky Books of Micanopy, the largest used and antiquarian book dealer, closed after 25 years in business. I have many books purchased from these stores, and the passing of each one was like losing a friend. In a literal sense, personnel in each shop had become friends over the years.

So in August 2015, when word began circulating that Books-a-Million was closing one of its two stores in Gainesville, it was saddening, if not unexpected as book stores find their way through



*Book Trade, concluded*

the transition brought on by reduced recreational reading rates, online shopping, and electronic books.

However, when the closing was announced in the newspaper, it turned out that a new book store was opening in the same location. This was later clarified as a new Books-a-Million operation called 2nd and Charles, which specializes in used books, comics, cds, dvds, and vinyl.

The Gainesville location of 2nd and Charles is the first one in Florida and one of about 25 nationwide. While the setup has the feel of a Books-a-Million, there are significant differences. First, there is no cafe, the desitnation aspect is provided by a gaming area in the center of the store. There are two 50-inch televisions with comfortable sofas facing them. Six to eight people could enjoy this area, and during my recent trip to 2nd and Charles, both gaming areas were occupied and interest seemed active.

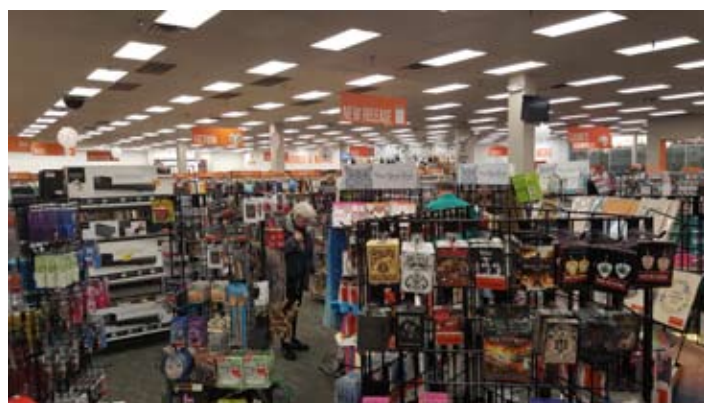
About half the store is books, the great majority of which are used and budget priced, plenty from two to five dollars. The range of titles is quite broad. This part and much of the store are supplied by a buy-back area that occupies the part of the store taken up by the cafe in the previous Books-a-Million. Bulk remaindered books are not part of the operation.

One six-foot section of shelves was labeled "Rare". The selection of 100 or more books included early Harry Potter books in dust jackets for \$50.00 each,

1960s Childcraft, book club editions of James Bond, a couple of unusual Oz books, Hugh Lofting, etc. There were some more serious and older books; one book that looked like it had been bound in the mid 19th century.

The remainder of the store, about two thirds, is devoted to comics, cds, dvds, vinyl, musical instruments, and video game media. The customers in these areas ranged from teenagers to seniors.

As in Books-a-Million, there are plenty of toys and tie-ins — Star Wars, Star Trek, Lego, Minecraft, etc. Many are new, but there are many discounted items as well. With the new Star Wars movie due to be released in days, the variety of movie tie-in merchandise is amazing. 2nd and Charles had a plenty of toys and clothing. After an hour or more of browsing, I was in a slight shopping stupor in the checkout line, which is lined with candy and small, impulse items. There, I became mesmerized by a box of Jelly Bellies dominated by a glowing portrait of Darth Vader, full-color printing on a metallic package. 🍬



## Innovative Technique Solves a Medieval Mystery

University of York

Thousands of the Bibles, small enough to conveniently carry, were made in the 13th century, in France, England, Italy and Spain. But the origin of the very thin parchment — often called ‘uterine vellum’ — that was crucial to the making smaller books has been a source of longstanding controversy.

The Latin term *abortivum* in many sources led some scholars to suggest that the skin of fetal calves was the source of the vellum. Others disagree, suggesting that livestock herds would have been depleted to produce the amount of vellum used. It had even been argued that rabbit or squirrel may have been used. Some medieval sources suggest that hides must have been split by hand through use of a lost technology.

Now, a multi-disciplinary team of researchers, led by Dr Sarah Fiddymment and Professor Matthew Collins of the BioArCh research facility in the Department of Archaeology at the University of York, have developed a simple and objective technique using standard conservation treatments to identify the animal origin of parchment.

The non-invasive method is based on peptide mass fingerprinting but extracts protein from the parchment surface simply by using electrostatic charge generated by gentle rubbing a PVC eraser on the membrane surface.

Scientists and scholars from France, Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, the U.S., and the U.K analysed 72 pocket Bibles originating in France, England, and Italy and 293 other 13th c. samples. Sample thickness ranged from 0.03–0.28mm.

No evidence for the use of unexpected animals was found; however, more than one mammal species in could occur a single manuscript, consistent with the local availability of hides.



Dr. Fiddymment said: “Our results suggest that ultrafine vellum does not necessarily derive from the use of abortive or newborn animals with ultra-thin skin, but could equally reflect a production process that allowed the skins of maturing animals of several species to be rendered into vellum of equal quality and fineness.”

This work used triboelectric extraction of protein from parchment for the first time. The method is non-invasive and requires no specialist equipment or storage. With no need to transport the artefacts, researchers can sample

when and where possible and analyse when required.

Alexander Devine, of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, said: “The bibles produced on a vast scale throughout the 13th century established the contents and appearance of the Christian Bible familiar to us today. Their importance and influence stem directly from their format as portable one-volume books, made possible by the innovative combination of strategies of miniaturization and compression achieved through the use of extremely thin parchment.”

Professor Collins added: “Without the eraser technique, we could not have extracted proteins from so many parchment samples. Further, with no evidence of unexpected species, ... we believe that ‘uterine vellum’ was often an achievement of technological production using available resources.”

Using the research findings, parchment conservator Jiri Vnoucek, a co-author on the paper, created parchment like ‘uterine vellum’ from old skins. He said: “It is more a question of using the right parchment-making technology than using uterine skin. Skins from younger animals are of course optimal for production of thin parchment, but I can imagine that every skin was collected, nothing wasted.”



## Rare Biblical Papyrus Found on eBay

Sources: [University of Texas website](#) and [The New York Times, November 21, 2015](#)

Many manuscripts, up to hundreds of years old, are offered on eBay — a testimony to the vitality of this area of collecting. The site introduces its Books and Manuscripts section with these words: “Embellish your shelves and tabletops with decorative antique books and manuscripts “.

Among the decorative and embellishing objects, there appeared an interesting piece of parchment with a modest starting price of \$99. Affordable.

Affordable, indeed. Dr. Geoffrey Smith, assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Texas, Austin, recognized the credit-card-sized

papyrus as a fragment from an exceedingly rare early Christian manuscript. Smith felt that such an important object should not be allowed to sell. He feared that it would “just disappear into a private collection,” where scholars might never know about it or have access to it. When Smith contacted the seller, urging him to halt the online auction and let him study the fragment, the seller was agreeable.

Smith dates the fragment to A.D. 250–350. It contains about six lines of the Gospel of John on the front of the papyrus (the preferred writing side, on which the fibers run horizontally); on the back is another Christian text, highly fragmented and, as yet, unidentified. This arrangement suggests to scholars that the manuscript was for personal, not liturgical, use. Also unusual, both sides of the fragment appear to be written by the same hand. Other scholars have supported Smith’s conclusion. The Institute for New Testament Textual Research in Münster, Germany, found Smith’s analysis defensible; based on his fulfillment of their strict criteria, the Institute gave the fragment Gregory-Aland designation P134, a registration code for the oldest surviving traces of Christian scripture. If Smith is correct, this is the only known Greek New Testament papyrus from an

unused scroll rather than a codex, the emerging book technology that early Christians preferred, compared to their contemporaries.

“The fact that this one came to light on the Internet speaks to the reality for all of us who deal with manuscripts and antiquities,” Dr. Smith said. “We’re

all trying to come to terms with these things we study, our prized scholarly possessions, are now coming up for sale online.”

“History doesn’t belong to one person,” said Brice C. Jones, a papyrus expert who tracks online sales, and who wrote about the eBay listing on [his blog](#) the

same day Dr. Smith noticed it, inadvertently sending bids shooting up.

“Collectively, globally, it’s ours,” said Dr. Jones, who also contacted the seller. “It needs to be available for research, to be put on display.”

Many scholars refuse to study manuscripts that may have left their country of origin illegally, and some refuse to study material in private collections, on the grounds it helps drive the market.

That market is certainly robust. A third-century fragment of Romans on vellum sold at Sotheby’s for nearly \$500,000. The seller of the John papyrus, meanwhile, was “harassed by collectors offering him absurd amounts of money,” Dr. Smith said, declining to cite a specific figure.

Dr. Smith said that ownership appeared to comply with the Unesco convention, which declares that cultural property legally acquired before 1970 cannot be subject to repatriation claims (which applies to virtually all papyri come from Egypt.)

That pipeline of new material, he said, had slowed in more recent years, increasing pressure on scholars to be open to less traditional sources. 🔪



*This papyrus fragment, near actual size, was discovered among the papers of Harold R. Willoughby, a professor of early Christianity at the University of Chicago who died in 1962.*

## Florida Book Events Calendar

Know about any events of interest to book lovers? Send corrections and additions to Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto:cmbrown@atlantic.net)

### LIBRARY BOOK SALES

For the numerous library book sales around the state, visit Florida Library Book Sales:  
<http://www.booksalefinder.com/FL.html#X676>.

### FLORIDA BOOK EVENTS

#### J A N U A R Y

[no 2016 date yet]

**BookMania!** Jensen Beach  
([www.libraryfoundationmc.org/BookMania-2015-.html](http://www.libraryfoundationmc.org/BookMania-2015-.html))

January 7-10, 2016

**Key West Literary Seminar** (est. 1982)  
([www.kwls.org/](http://www.kwls.org/))

January 16-23, 2016

**Writers in Paradise Conference**, St. Petersburg, Florida  
([writersinparadise.eckerd.edu/](http://writersinparadise.eckerd.edu/))

January 2016 to July 2016

**John D. MacDonald Centenary Events**  
([jdmhomepage.org/](http://jdmhomepage.org/))

January 29, 2016

**ZORA! — Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities**, Eatonville  
([zorafestival.org/](http://zorafestival.org/))

#### F E B R U A R Y

February 11-14, 2016

**Savannah Book Festival**, Savannah, GA  
([www.savannahbookfestival.org/](http://www.savannahbookfestival.org/))

February 18-20, 2016

**Amelia Island Book Festival**, Fernandina Beach  
([www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/](http://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/))

February 19-21, 2016

**Jacksonville Friends of the Library Warehouse Book Sale**  
([fjpl.info/?page\\_id=240](http://fjpl.info/?page_id=240))

February 25-28, 2016

**Sleuthfest**, annual conference for mystery, suspense, and thriller writers, Deerfield Beach, Florida  
([sleuthfest.com/](http://sleuthfest.com/))

#### M A R C H

[no 2016 date yet]

**Literary Feast**, Fort Lauderdale  
([www.bplfoundation.org/literary-feast](http://www.bplfoundation.org/literary-feast))

**The Florida Book Festival**, Orlando, FL  
([floridabookfestival.com/](http://floridabookfestival.com/))

March 11-13, 2016

**Florida Antiquarian Book Fair** (est. 1981)  
([floridabooksellers.com/bookfair.html](http://floridabooksellers.com/bookfair.html))

March 19, 2016

**Southwest Florida Reading Festival**  
([www.readfest.org/](http://www.readfest.org/))

March 25, 2016

**Tampa Writers Conference**, Tampa, FL  
([floridawritingworkshops.com/](http://floridawritingworkshops.com/))

March 26, 2016

**Fort Lauderdale Conference for Writers**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
([floridawritingworkshops.com/](http://floridawritingworkshops.com/))

#### A P R I L

[no 2016 date yet]

**Ocala Storytelling Festival**, Arola

**Children's BookFest**, Fort Lauderdale, FL

**University of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels**, Gainesville, FL (est. 2002)  
([www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml](http://www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml))

April 16, 2016

**Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival**, Tampa (est. 1980)  
([tampastory.org/category/2016-festival/](http://tampastory.org/category/2016-festival/))

*Florida Book Events Calendar, concluded*

April 16-20, 2016

**Friends of the Library Book Sale,**  
Gainesville (est. 1954)  
([folacld.org/](http://folacld.org/))

**M A Y**

May 20-22, 2016

**Jacksonville Friends of the Library  
Warehouse Book Sale**  
([fjpl.info/?page\\_id=240](http://fjpl.info/?page_id=240))

**J U N E**

[no events found]

**J U L Y**

July 23, 2016

**John D. MacDonald Centenary Birthday  
Celebration**  
([www.jdmhomepage.org](http://www.jdmhomepage.org))

**A U G U S T**

[no events found]

**S E P T E M B E R**

Sept 23-25 2015

**Valencia College's Winter Park Writers  
Festival**  
([winterparkwritersfestival.weebly.com/](http://winterparkwritersfestival.weebly.com/))

Sept 26 2015

**Florida Heritage Book Festival and  
Writers Conference**  
([fhbookfest.com/](http://fhbookfest.com/))

**O C T O B E R**

[no 2016 date yet]

**Florida Writer's Conference**  
([floridawriters.net/conferences/florida-writers-conference/](http://floridawriters.net/conferences/florida-writers-conference/))

**N O V E M B E R**

[no 2016 date yet]

**Festival of Reading, St. Petersburg**  
([www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/index.page](http://www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/index.page))

Nov 5-8 2015

**Sanibel Island Writers Conference**  
([www.fgcu.edu/siwc/](http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc/))

Nov 15-22, 2015

**Miami Book Fair**  
([miamibookfair.com/](http://miamibookfair.com/))

**D E C E M B E R**

[no 2016 date yet]

**INK Miami**  
([www.inkartfair.com/about.html](http://www.inkartfair.com/about.html))





## 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** spoke 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** joined members of the Florida Bibliophile Society for dinner and a pre-release book signing. Barry is editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine. Her book, *Rare Books Uncovered: True Stories of Fantastic Finds in Unlikely Places*, was published by Voyageur Press on December 1, 2015. It has been likened to "Antiques Roadshow," but devoted entirely to antiquarian books and manuscripts. Barry interviewed more than fifty collectors, booksellers, librarians, and other "finders" about their best book find. Among her interviewees, FBS's own Jerry Morris. A special keepsake was given to all attendees.

**December 20 • FBS Holiday Party.** The holiday gala you don't want to miss! At the home of Joan Sackheim. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

**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)

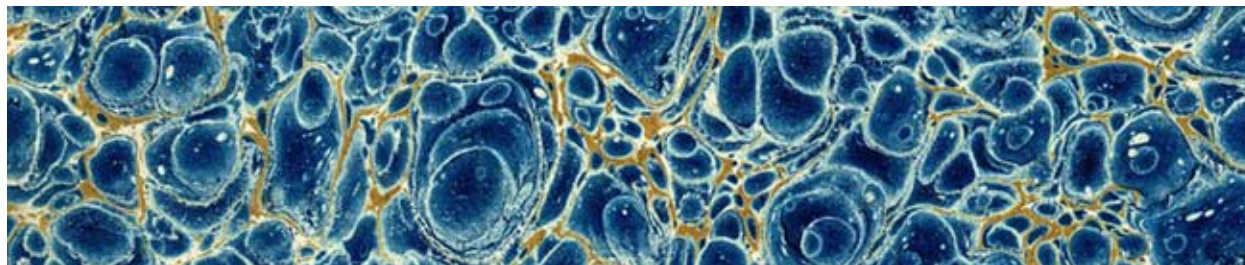
**February 21 • BonSue Brandvik** will speak on the history (and demise) of the Belleview Biltmore Hotel and her novels set in the hotel and featuring its ghosts. Built by Henry Plant and constructed of Florida pine, the Belleview Biltmore was believed to be the largest occupied wood structure in the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

**March 20 • "Member's Choice,"** one week after the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, will be a day to share recent acquisitions.

**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.** Will be held at the Tampa Bay History Center.

## Endpaper • The Work of Collectors



At our dinner with author and editor Rebecca Rego Barry, there was an interesting discussion about the trend, beginning in the 1990s, for libraries to microfilm or digitize newspapers, magazines, and books and then “deaccess” them — a genteel word for selling, giving away, or destroying objects in a collection, which were often donated with the belief that a library or museum would preserve treasured and valuable objects, perhaps the lifetime work of a collector. The difference between the *Mona Lisa* and a high quality digital scan of it may be obvious, but the last remaining complete run of a 19th century newspaper may be harder to defend. Libraries have limited space and resources, a challenge increased by the conservation needs of documents printed after the introduction of wood pulp paper in the mid 19th century. Making paper from wood pulp instead of clothing fibers (think “rag-and-bone man”) introduced acidic content that, over time, leads to discoloring and disintegration of paper.

Digital access via Internet, for example, to the ancient for researchers or the pages of obscure newspapers for the genealogist is invaluable. Nevertheless, there is a value in the physical printed object, especially compared to inadequate and incomplete digital copies (a case made eloquently by Nicholson Baker in the book *Double Fold*).

Book collectors are often on the front lines of bringing together and preserving our printed past. Collectors play a vital role in discovering connections, assembling collections, and documenting; they add to the value of what they collect. Through FBS, collectors support each other, provide a wealth of experience and insight, and generally share the fun of collecting. If sometimes we feel a little out of step with the culture, don’t worry — they’ll catch up!

See you at the book store!

— Charles

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**FBS Notes** is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983.

It is published monthly from September to May.

Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to:

Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto:cmbrown@atlantic.net).

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[www.floridabibliophilesociety.org](http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org)

Annual membership dues are \$50 U.S. per household.

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