

The Florida Bibliophile

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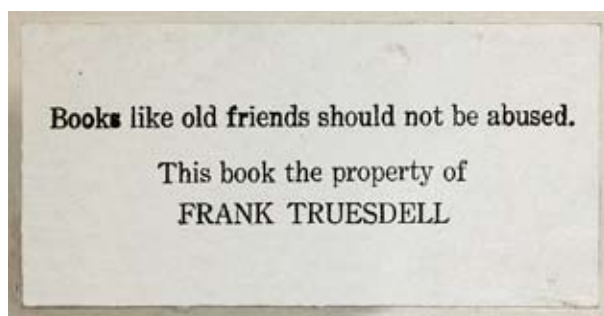
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Bibliophiles from the budding to the experienced peruse the books at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale.



Thanks, Neil!



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Report on the Florida Bibliophile Society Gainesville Getaway

April 15-17, 2016

Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale is the largest sale of its type in Florida. Twice a year, the book sale offers more than 500,000 books, movies, records, cds, and more. In April, a number of intrepid FBS members made the trip north to experience the sale with its vast range and modest prices, to explore the Gainesville area with its attractions, dining, and shopping, and to enjoy each other's company. Several members arrived Friday and made an entire weekend out of the getaway, and others came up for Saturday only.

Most of those who arrived on Friday stayed at the La Quinta Hotel. I met them while they were finishing breakfast together on Saturday morning. We sat and talked about the trip up I-75 – Sue, Joan, and Carl had been held up for an hour or more by a crash just south of Dade City – our plans for dinner, and the book sale. When I arrived to pick up Joan Sackheim for a tour of her (and my) alma mater, the University of Florida. Jerry, Linda, and Sue were headed off to find antique stores. Carl was headed directly to the book sale.



Alpha Omicron Pi sorority house on the University of Florida campus.

Joan had arranged with her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, or AOPi, to visit Saturday morning, so we went straight there. Driving through Gainesville and across campus to AOPi led to many reminiscences and comparisons of the experiences of Joan (UF '58) and myself (UF '75).



Shoppers peruse the hundreds of thousands of books for sale at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale.

At AOPi, we were greeted by Courtney. She gave us a casual tour of the first floor of the sorority, which was a well maintained and decorated balance of southern elegance and dormitory – it was beautifully maintained, especially considering the number of student who use the facility. Courtney and Joan compared experiences, and Joan told stories from her years at the house. She joined the sorority when it had begun its campaign to build the current building.



Joan poses before her senior photo at the AOPi sorority house.

Large framed displays of the sorority's graduating sisters for each year were hung in the hallways. Eventually, we found Joan's, and she was delighted to see it. She has hardly changed!

We left AOPi and began our tour of the UF campus in earnest. The university has grown amazingly over the years, and much of what is now the main campus was agricultural in the 1950s, when the university, as Florida's primary land grant institution, was the major driver of agricultural

Gainesville Getaway, continued

progress in the state. Since then the university has become a significant player in many other areas, and the building program reflects it.

We ended up at the recently expanded and renovated student union and welcome center, which wraps around and has beautiful views of a sinkhole pond. From there, we went to UF's Harn Museum of Art to have lunch in the Magnolia Cafe. We were met there by the rest of the breakfast crew, and we all shared excitedly about our morning's discoveries.

After lunch, we all headed to the book sale. Jerry encouraged me to join him in carrying the new FBS tote bag – free advertising! The sale was busy but not thronged, with a pleasant background buzz of the giant fans that cool the large space. People of every age were filling bags and boxes with books. Book sale staff were continuously refilling the shelves as they emptied. Between 4 and 4:30, the out-of-town FBSers headed back to the hotel to get a little rest and change clothes for dinner at 6.



Top: The newly renovated student union at the University wraps around an amphitheater and the union's pond.

Bottom: Entrance to the Harn Museum of Art.



Our intrepid band awaits culinary delights at Southern Charm Kitchen.

Dinner was at Southern Charm Kitchen, which offers an updated southern cuisine and some specialties you won't find many other places. We started with a couple of appetizers, including the sweet potato hush puppies. For dinner, I had the catfish with their delicious cheesy grits and garlicky green beans. Jerry boldly tried the goat, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Southern Charm has wonderful desserts, but instead, we adjourned to my house for coffee and dessert. We had a lively evening surrounded by art and books and enjoyed desserts from the Haile Village Bistro, whose owner was a pastry chef in London before crossing the herring pond. A little after ten, the crew headed back to the hotel to prepare for the next day and get some sleep.

We met for brunch the next morning at the Flying Biscuit Cafe, a very popular breakfast restaurant in Gainesville. Linda had called ahead for seating, but there was still a short wait. We enjoyed some complimentary coffee and a beautiful North Florida morning until we were called to take our table.

After a brunch ranging from the traditional to the creative, we said our good-byes. Some were headed back to the book sale, and others were ready to head south. All agreed that we had had a wonderful getaway weekend.

Reported by Charles Brown

Gainesville Getaway Diary

in a which FBS members share their recollections of their weekend in North Central Florida

Jerry Morris

I got good food, good books, and good company!

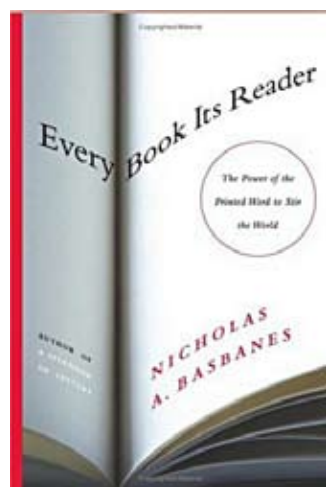
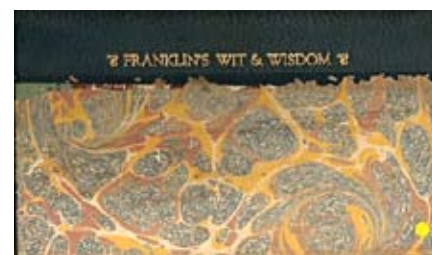
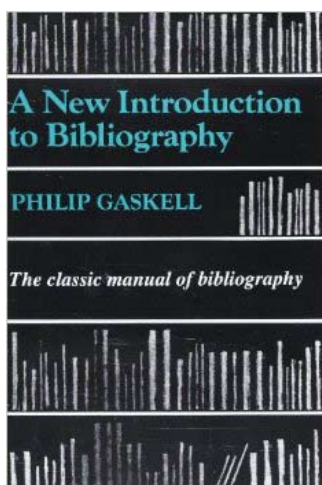
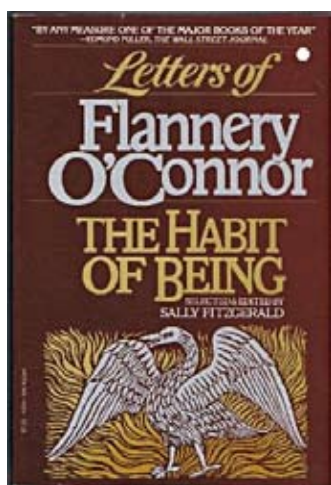
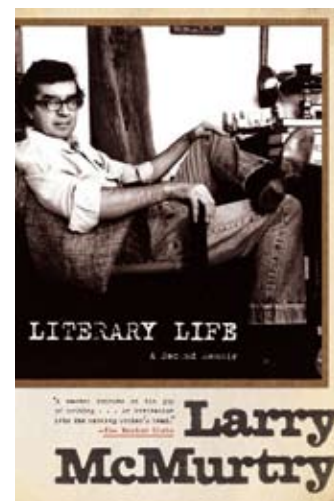
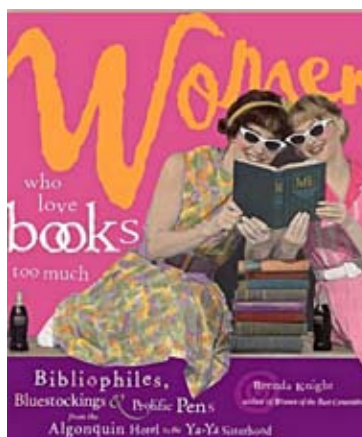
Ten Books for my library! Nine from the Library Sale.

I got The Little Black Book at the Painted Table Antique Store.

And I also got this two-tier revolving bookcase!

Can't wait to get back up to Gainesville in October!

Jerry



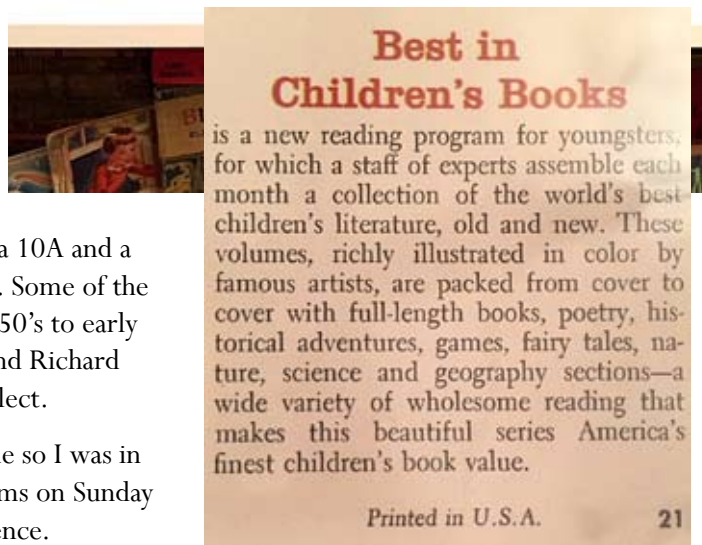
*Gainesville Getaway Diary, continued***Neil Williamson**

I had a great first time experience at the Gainesville Library book sale. Arrived around 7:30 AM to find a parking spot and a spot in line. There were probably 150 persons ahead of me in line for the 9 AM opening. I understand some of them arrived around 5:30 AM. I am not QUITE that dedicated I guess.

Upon entering, I headed towards the “Collectors Corner” as did MANY others. It was quite a madhouse there, but I did manage to pick up items to add to my collection. Specifically, I was able to pick up 10 more volumes of the series “Best in Children’s Books.” As a bonus, the ones I acquired there were in very nice condition and had the dust jackets with them.

The series numbers 1 thru 42; however, I have noticed a 10A and a 19A so there obviously are more than 42 volumes total. Some of the illustrators for this series that was published in the late 50’s to early 60’s became quite notable, in particular Andy Warhol and Richard Scarry. They are not a valuable series but are fun to collect.

I was told that the volunteers restock for the Sunday sale so I was in line Sunday an hour early as well. I picked up 5 or 6 items on Sunday morning as well so was satisfied with the entire experience.

**Carl Mario Nudi**

I spent a great weekend in Gainesville with five other Florida Bibliophile Society members, and it was one of the best book-related experiences I’ve had since joining.

The trip up was very enlightening as I drove up I-75 with Joan Sackheim and Sue Tihansky as passengers. Even though we were stuck in a one-hour traffic jam south of Dade City because of a freeway accident, I got to know so much more about Joan and Sue and their lives.

On Saturday morning, Joan was treated to a tour of her alma mater by Charles, while Sue went antique shopping with Linda and Jerry, and I headed off to get an early start at the book sale.

I spent about three hours in the morning and about

one in the afternoon and got away cheap, spending only \$37 on about 50 books and ephemera. We all met for a great lunch at the cafe at the Harn museum on campus. Good company with good food.

But I didn’t even find my best finds. Thanks to the keen book sale gleaning of Charles and Jerry, each presented me with books on printing that I overlooked.

Saturday dinner with the gang was also very enjoyable, as was the after-dinner coffee at Charles’ home. We were all surprised to find out that Charles is quite the artist. Again, I learned something new about another member.

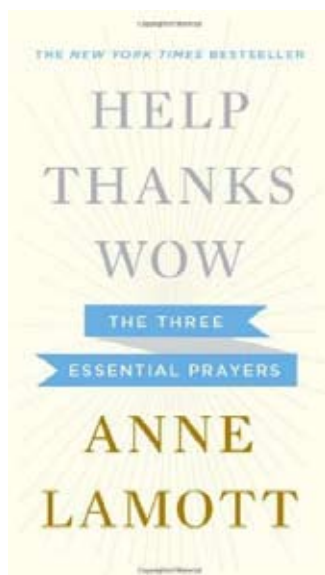
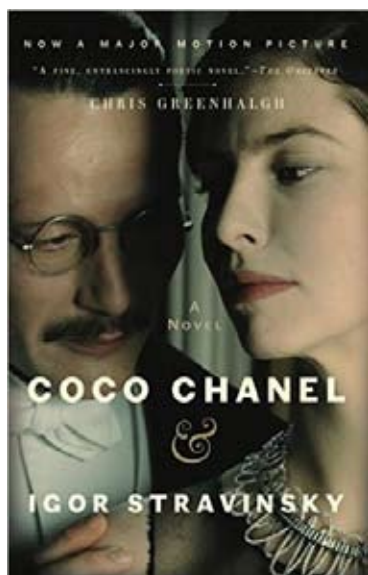
Sunday before heading home, we got together for breakfast. The conversation was less about books and more about learning something new about each other.

I can’t wait until next year.

*Gainesville Getaway Diary, continued***Joan Sackheim**

May I write an Open Thank You to Charles for being the Host with the Mostest. For me, he gave a million-dollar U of F tour which included a warm reception from my sorority sisters. Then he took me to a place of prayerful meditation* where I bought a book on some kind of Zen prayers because it fell open to a page referring to “our pit crew,” which is what I call my helpers. Next, he found me a book on Coco Chanel. She was my entire book-searching goal this weekend. This Zen place is next door to his office. Afterwards, we were well fed at charming local joints chosen by our host. On my own at the book sale, I further fulfilled my need for non-literary meaningfulness with fashion and makeup books, plus one Ibsen book because I missed Denmark on my Scandinavian trip. All in all, I give 5 stars to our weekend. Sadly I am unable to return in October as I will be touring Ireland, Scotland, and Poland at that time. (Really that’s not so sad!) Thanks for a great meet up.

“Joan of Art” Sackheim



* By coincidence, Joan and I drove by the Shambala Meditation Center, and they were having a small but interesting book sale. Ed.

Sue Tihansky

My thoughts about the very stimulating FBS trip to Gainesville.

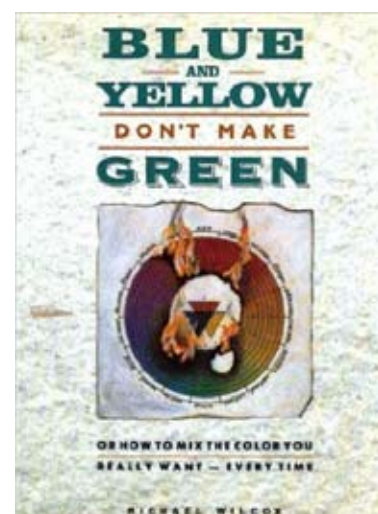
There were three wonderful memories.

One, the Book Sale...

Someone showed us a map of the sale layout at breakfast. When we got there, it was easy to find the arts section.

I immediately found a wonderful book on color *Blue and Yellow Don't Make Green* by Michael Wilcox. It gets into great detail about pigments that make up different color types of color wheels, my latest interest. That was just the beginning. I found eight more about painting in watercolor. I ended up buying all nine. The total bill was \$9.50! Jerry and Linda Morris had FBS bags

handy and rescued me with my heavy load. This was a true test of our bags! They are very well made. That bag carried all my oversized books. When I looked around, people were pulling wagons and dragging big boxes, all full of books. To get an idea of how many books were flying out the door, the



Gainesville Getaway Diary, concluded

express line was for people with 20 or less books.

The second, the Harn Museum, U of F.

After lunch, we visited the Harn Museum where we saw the Contemporary Japanese Ceramics exhibit, "Into The Fold." Here, as summed up in the catalog, a description of one of the artists, one of over forty in the exhibition, including women, and the youngest being born in 1980:

Tomimoto Kenkichi (1863-1963) was one of the leading artists who approached ceramics with new eyes during this era. He learned design in England, and upon his return, became interested in ceramic production and founded a kiln in 1915. Not born into a lineage of potters, he was considered an outsider. This allowed him to explore the complex relationships between the form, glazes, and motifs that composed a ceramic work in its totality. With his knowledge of Western concepts of art and design, Tomimoto came to define ceramic making as an 'engendering process of a three-dimensional object into space' and ceramics as objet d'art or "the ultimate abstract art form." This objet d'art prefigured that of later avant garde ceramic art movements...in the years after World War II.

The icing on the cake, number three...a visit to our president's home...

Charles invited us to come for dessert and coffee after dinner. Seems simple enough, when...POW!

When we walked in the door, we were greeted with tall dimensional constructions created out of small paper boxes made out of

stacks of cut paper.... open book pages, edges cut into designs, on tables....hanging paper pieces....

Charles is an artist! He's a very creative, imaginative book arts person who works magic with paper, found objects, and books. His home is filled with his creations. They defy description, they have to be seen. They were everywhere. Linda and I sampled every delicious dessert set before us, surrounded by these wonders of his talents.

Discovery at the end of a very inspiring day. How exciting is that!



Koike Shōko (1943–), *Shiro no Shell (White Shell)*, 2013.



Books and art have gradually taken over the dining room in Charles' home.

A Brief History of Poets Laureate, Part I

by Joan Knoerzter

What a treat it was to read about Peter Meinke in the last issue of *The Florida Bibliophile*. I was alerted to his coming in the February issue. Later that evening, I was reading Augustine Birrell's *Essays on Men, Women, and Books* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1894). There was a chapter titled "Poets Laureate," which I immediately devoured, then emailed Charles to say I would be happy to do some research and write an article for you. This has turned into a full-blown project. I have over 10,000 poetry books (but who's counting)...and I knew I had some laureates hidden away. So I will begin at the beginning in England with Birrell's first two paragraphs.



About forty years ago [c.1854] two ingenious gentlemen, Mr. Austin, of Exeter College, and Mr. Ralph, a member of the Bar, published a book containing short sketches of the lives of Poets Laureate of this realm, beginning with Ben Johnson and ending with Wordsworth, and also an essay on the title and office. It has sometimes been rudely said that Laureates came into fashion when fools and jesters went out, but the perusal of Messrs. Austin and Ralph's introductory essay, to say nothing of the most cursory examination of the table of contents of their volume, is enough to disprove the truth of this saying.

The Laureate was originally a purely University title, bestowed upon such Masters of Arts who had exhibited skill in the manufacture of Latin verses, and it had nothing to do with the civil authority or royal favour. Thus, the famous John Skelton (1460-1529) was laureated at Oxford,

and afterwards obtained permission to wear his laurel at Cambridge; but though tutor to King Henry VIII and the original corrupter of that monarch, he was never a poet laureate in the modern sense of the word; that is, he was never appointed to hold the place and quality of Poet Laureate to His Majesty. I regret this for he was a man of original genius. Campbell, writing in 1819, admits his 'vehemence and vivacity,' but pronounces his humour 'vulgar and flippant,' and his style a texture of slang phrases; but Mr. Churton Collins, in 1880, declares that Skelton reminds him more of Rabelais than any author in our language, and pronounces him one of the most versatile and essentially original poets...and he was popularly known as a Poet Laureate...



SKELTON

He continues with citing Ben Johnson as the first Laureate in the modern sense of the word. Charles I made out a patent conferring on him 100 pounds per year and a "terse" (about 27 pounds) of Canary Spanish wine. So the continuity begins with Sir William Davenant appointed in 1638 until his death in 1668. Then came John Dryden, Thomas Shadwell, Nahum Tate, Nicholas Rowe, the Rev. Laurence Eusden, Colley Cibber, William Whitehead, the Rev. Thomas Warton, Henry James Pye, Robert Southey, William Wordsworth, and Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

Along the way, the office was offered to Thomas Gray, and he refused it. Alexander Pope, being Roman Catholic, was out of the question. Collins was suited for it but died too young. Birrell quite humorously continues with his musings about why some of these were chosen. In the poem "The Battle of the Poets.", Hesiod Cook wrote:

'Eusden, a laurelled bard by fortune rais'd,
By very few been read – by fewer prais'd.'

So Birrell ends with Lord Tennyson, after whom a break in the succession was observed for four years out of respect. But in 1996, the appointments begin again with Alfred Austen, followed by Robert Bridges,

Joan Knoerzter, Florida Bibliophile Society, Miniature Book Society, Book Club of Detroit, Clements Library of Americana, Vice president of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies

A Brief History of Poets Laureate, Part I, continued

John Masefield, Cecil Day-Lewis, John Betjeman, Ted Hughes, Andrew Motion, and the current poet laureate of the United Kingdom and the first English woman to hold the title, Carol Ann Duffy, who was appointed in 2009 and who still holds the English title today.

Crossing the pond, we come to U.S. poets laureate. We started later, in 1937, but the list continuing to 1986 has 30 poets, and a further 21 poets from 1986 to 2016. (It took England 400+ years to acknowledge 20, but many times, their terms were lifetime appointments.) For the United States, the accolade has become burdensome because of the expected duties of writing and travel and many appearances, so our poets laureate average one or two years. Many states also confer the title, as have some universities, so we have too many poets laureate to cite in this article. However, it is wonderful that poetry still maintains a special and respected interest from shore to shore.



AUSLANDER

Our first poet laureate, 1937-41, was Joseph Auslander from Philadelphia, who wrote war poems (WWII); some collections were addressed to the German-occupied countries of Europe. His most famous poem was 1943's "The Unconquerables." The next poet laureate, Allen Tate from Kentucky, served 1943-44. He had written 20 books and the well-known "Ode To The Confederate Dead" (1927)

and won the Bollingen Prize for Poetry in 1956. Following Tate in 1944-45 was Robert Penn Warren, who, in addition to his poetry, wrote the novel *All the Kings Men* and two Pulitzer Prize-winning books of verse, *Promises* and *Now and Then*. He is still well known for his textbooks *Understanding Poetry* (1938) and *The Study of Poetry at the College Level*. In 1945-46, Louise Bogan from Maine was appointed as she had reviewed poetry for *The New Yorker* magazine for 38 years and wrote *Collected Poems 1923-1953*. Karl

Shapiro, 1946-47, from Baltimore, wrote a book of poems which he had sent home from WWII, *V-Letters and Other Poems*, which were written with stylistic variety and powerful imagery.

The poets laureate came from a variety of backgrounds, birth places, and talents, publishing in magazines and books. Many awards began to appear after their names. In 1947-48, Robert Lowell from Massachusetts became the father of confessional poetry. In 1947, he wrote *Lord Weary's Castle*. And in 1960, he won the National Book Award for *Life Studies*. In 1948-9, Leonie Adams from New York was appointed for her writing of



LOWELL

lyrics in the English-Romantic tradition and, in 1954, she published *Poems, A Selection*. Elizabeth Bishop from Massachusetts, 1949-50, wrote poetry based on landscape, geography, and human connections with the natural world. In 1956, she won a Pulitzer Prize for *Poems: North and South*. Conrad Aiken, 1950-52, from Georgia, won a Pulitzer Prize for *Selected Poems* published in 1930 and a 1954 National Book Award for *Collected Poems*. In 1952, William Carlos Williams from New Jersey, a doctor, poet, novelist, and essayist, brought fresh, free material with metrical rhythms based on the American speech of local New Jersey to the position. As an aside, several years later, I was teaching at National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. The composer Antonin Dvorak was in residence and wrote a piece of music based on William Carlos Williams for the choir I was conducting. I have enjoyed collecting his poetry ever since.

Randall Jarrell, Tennessee, 1956-58, wrote essays and poetic criticism and won a National Book Award in 1961 for *The Woman at the Washington Zoo*. And then came one of the best known and beloved American poets of the 20th century, Robert Frost from New Hampshire, 1958-59. He won four Pulitzer Prizes

A Brief History of Poets Laureate, Part I, concluded

and held 44 honorary degrees. He taught at the University of Michigan, which holds many of his original manuscripts in the Harlan Hatcher Special Collections Department. His descriptions of New England, its people and landscape, are quoted daily in classrooms from coast to coast. When he read, his deep, rich, sonorous tone seemed to reach down to the tips of your toes. I have several recordings which bring tears to my eyes when I hear them.

The coverage of the poets laureate is a heady subject. Following Frost

1959-61, Richard Eberhart (Minnesota)

1961-63, Louis Untermeyer (NYC)

1963-64, Howard Nemerov (NYC)

1964-65, Reed Whitmore (Connecticut)

1965-66, Stephen Spender, knighted in the 1983 Queens' birthday honors and cofounder of the influential literary magazine, *Horizon*

1966-68, James Dickey, Georgia, known for poetry and the novel/motion picture *Deliverance*

1968-70, William Jay Smith (Louisiana)

1970-71, William Stafford, Kansas

1971-73, Josephine Jacobsen, Canada-America

1973-74, Daniel Hoffman, NYC

1974-76, Stanley Kunitz, Massachusetts, who founded the Poets House in NYC and Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, MA

1976-80, William Meredith, NYC

1981-82, Maxine Kumin, Pennsylvania

1982-84, Anthony Hecht, NYC, inventor of the double dactyl, a form of limerick

1984-85: two appointees: Robert Fitzgerald and Reed Whitmore (who was reappointed to help the ailing Fitzgerald)

1985-86, Gwendolyn Brooks, Kansas, our first African-American appointee, she who a Pulitzer Prize for the 1950 book *Annie Allen*.

In 1986, the award was changed. The position previously known as United States Poet Laureate was given a new title, initiated by the Congress:

"Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, who seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry."

The first recipient of this new title for 1986-87 was Robert Penn Warren, who had served initially from 1944-45....

For the rest of that list, dear poetry buffs, you must wait for the Part II.

I will cover the many other items of interest, including the many projects these poets have initiated across the country, quotes, where they may have taught, many of their bodies of work, those who are living and what they are doing, a list of awards and the poets laureate who have received them, and some of my favorite collections of poetry from the PLs.

Stay tuned..."Rhyme is a rock on which art is to wreck."

...So when the last and dreadful hour
This crumbling pageant shall devour,
The trumpet shall be heard on high,
The dead shall live, the living die,
And Music shall untune the sky.

—John Dryden, *Major Works*

An Interview with Colette Bancroft, *Tampa Bay Times* Book Editor by Michael Kilgore

Colette Bancroft is book editor of the *Tampa Bay Times*. She joined the *Times* in 1997 and has been a news editor, general assignment features writer, and food and travel writer, as well as a frequent reviewer of books, theater, and other arts. She became book editor in 2007. Before joining the *Times*, Bancroft was a reporter and editor at the *Arizona Daily Star* in Tucson and an instructor in the English departments of the University of South Florida and the University of Arizona. Bancroft grew up in Tampa.

Michael Kilgore interviewed Colette Bancroft over lunch at Ulele.

Michael Kilgore: Your favorite meal?

Colette Bancroft: The Gouda Grouper was fabulous and so were the truffles. But as always at Ulele, the place itself is one of the best parts of the meal – the wonderful re-imagining of the historic building, the great art collection, the Tampa views.

MK: What's your earliest memory of reading?

CB: I actually remember the first words I read. I learned to read at about age 3, obsessed with books even then. I clearly remember looking at a page with a photo of two white bears standing on an iceberg, looking at the caption and seeing the words “polar bears” take form before my eyes. Magic.

MK: What books did you read as a child?

CB: My absolute favorite (mine and millions of other girls) was *Little Women*. I still have the tattered illustrated copy I got for Christmas when I was 7 or 8. Jo March has a lot to do with my grownup personality, I think. I read all the Nancy Drews and Hardy Boys, all of Walter Farley's horse books – I was almost as horse-crazy as I was book-crazy. I started reading books for adults pretty early, though. I was reading Twain and Dickens in grade school, Faulkner and Hemingway at about age 11, and (I probably shouldn't admit this) I first read *Lolita* when I was 12.

MK: Who are your top three favorite or most interesting fictional characters?

CB: Tough to pick. One, certainly, is Raymond

Chandler's iconic hard-boiled detective, Philip Marlowe, my favorite flawed hero. Back in another life, I wrote an unfinished dissertation about the seven novels he's featured in. And these days, my dog is named Marlowe. Another favorite is a recurring character in Jim Harrison's fiction, Brown Dog. He's a kind of alter ego for Harrison, who has written five comic novellas about him over a quarter-century. Brown Dog is a middle-aged guy of Chippewa-Finnish heritage who's always broke and almost always cheerful about it, a picaresque character who gets into outlandish situations, mainly because of his big heart. Third, I'd have to pick Molly Bloom. In *Ulysses*, Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus are all about the mind; Molly is all about the body. Mysterious and endlessly fascinating, she's that eternal “yes.”

MK: Do you consider yourself a reviewer or a critic? What's the difference?

CB: A reviewer, definitely. I've done critical writing, by which I mean academic criticism that analyzes and interprets a literary work. What I do for the *Times* is reviewing, which I think of as more descriptive than analytical, and as essentially a consumer service. In a piece of critical writing, you're talking to readers who have already read the book and want to understand it better. In a review, you're mainly helping readers to decide whether they want to buy (or check out) the book and read it in the first place.

MK: Is there one review you'd like to take back in retrospect?

CB: There were some reviews I wrote early in my career that were fairly harsh reviews of not very well known writers. These days I would probably choose not to write them. Now, if I write about an unknown or debut author, it's because I've found his or her work worthy of positive attention. I have no problem with reviewing a successful, well-known author harshly if I think a book isn't up to expectations, though.



An Interview with Colette Bancroft, Tampa Bay Times Book Editor, concluded

MK: With the Internet providing so many opinions on a variety of subjects, including books, has the role of a critic changed? If so, how?

CB: Professional book critics are no longer the cultural gatekeepers we used to be; people have too many other options for finding out about books. But I think professional reviewing still has an important place in the conversation — and I think that the fact that conversation has grown to be so large and robust is exciting. I always love seeing people get passionate about books.

MK: What book do you re-read most often?

CB: In my job, re-reading is just a luxury I dream about. I get about 200 new books in the mail every week. It's like standing in front of a tsunami. I'm always so conscious of the onslaught of new books demanding my attention that I almost never re-read. That's my plan for retirement: re-reading. First on the list: Chandler.

MK: What notable book have you never been able to finish?

CB: Many of Tolstoy's novels. I can read them and admire their quality and technique, but they've just never engaged me emotionally, so I've given up on several of them more than once.

MK: Do you have a favorite first line in literature?

CB: It's the one everybody cites, but it's so damn good: the first paragraph, really, of Nabokov's *Lolita*:

"Lolita, light of my life, fire of my loins. My sin, my soul. Lo-lee-ta: the tip of the tongue taking a trip of three steps down the palate to tap, at three, on the teeth. . . ."

In that one masterful paragraph, he encapsulates the whole book, its seductive style, its narrative strategy.

MK: Your most interesting interview?

CB: Many to choose from — writers tend to be pretty interesting people. One was Jim Harrison, whom I first interviewed back in the 1990s, when I worked for a newspaper in Tucson. He winters in a tiny town called Patagonia, Ariz., and I spent a day with him. He drove me all around, to a neighbor's


ranch, up in the mountains, telling stories all the while in that whiskey-filtered-through-gravel voice of his. He's such an enchanting storyteller in person that when he recounted attending a Native American ceremony where he saw a man turn into a bear, in that moment I absolutely believed it. Another was a long interview with Anne Rice in which she told me, among many other things, that as a child she never read novels, never finished one until she was in high school and still doesn't like to read them because they take too long: "I can write them faster than I can read them."

MK: Did you see the recent, admittedly "biased," *Esquire* magazine list of the 80 best novels?

CB: I did. It has tons of great books on it, although it is — unsurprisingly, given that it's *Esquire* — heavy on 20th-21st century white, male authors. I find that the best book lists are almost always interesting, and almost always wildly biased in one direction or another. They tend to reveal more about the list maker than they do about the books. I love to read them but do so with a giant grain of salt. •



Michael Kilgore with Ulele restaurant.

This interview is printed with the kind permission of Michael Kilgore, chief marketing officer for the Columbia Restaurant Group. It first appeared on the website of Ulele, a Tampa restaurant which takes inspiration from Florida's land and waters and from the Native Americans who were its original inhabitants. Hence the name Ulele, a princess of the Tocobaga tribe which lived in the bay area from the 900s to the 1500s. Visit the Intervu blog on the Ulele website for more of Mr. Kilgore's interviews over lunch with Tampa's most interesting people. —Ed. 

FBS Members Activities

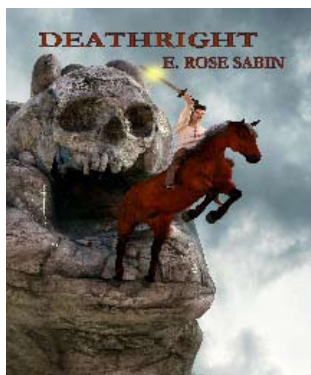


Elenora Sabin – I recently attended the 37th Annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, March 16-20. It was an excellent conference, as always, and I benefited greatly from it. The topic this year was “WonderTales,” a celebration of fairy and folk tales. I heard many fascinating

and enlightening presentations and had the privilege of giving a reading from my latest book, a mythic fantasy titled *Deathright*, sharing the reading session with two gentlemen whose work I greatly admire: James Morrow and Dennis Danvers. They are both satirists, but interestingly, all three of our readings dealt in some way with myths, although that was wholly unplanned. And of course, I came home with an armload of books. Tor Books generously places two or three free books at each place setting in our two luncheons, one luncheon for the Guest of Honor and one for the Guest Scholar and at our concluding Awards Banquet. In addition, outside our bookroom, there was a long table filled with free books, mostly advance reading copies. Authors’ readings were scheduled for every session, and following them, the authors were given the opportunity to sign their books. Authors’ signed books are also available for sale in the bookroom. What a bounty!

I also participated in Oasis 28, a science fiction and fantasy convention sponsored by the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society in April. I spoke on several panels and promoted my books.

My newest book, *Deathright*, is a mythic fantasy. Inspired by the myth of Isis and Osiris, it creates a fictional myth (is that an oxymoron?) for a fantasy world. The myth is told in the book’s prologue, and the story is built around that myth.



Thomas C. Harris, 1933–2016

We report with sadness that former FBS Vice President (2005-2006) Tom Harris passed away on April 28. Tom was vice president under Jerry Morris, and they were close friends, “Tom and Jerry.”

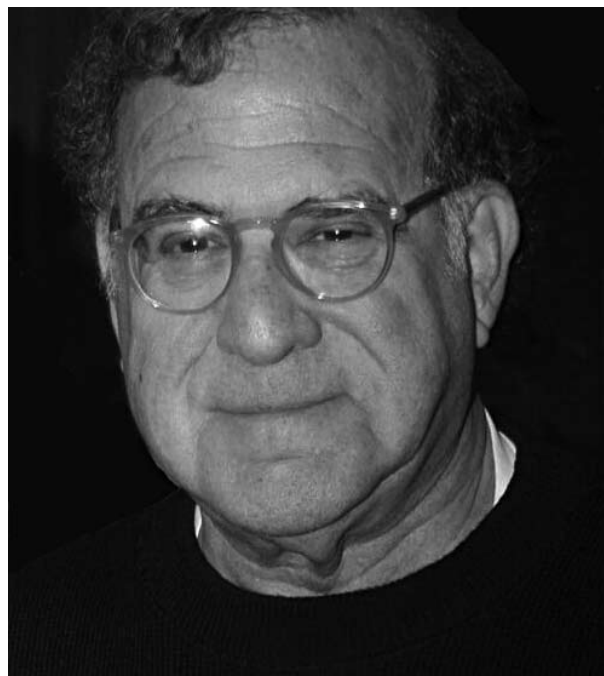


Tom and Jerry “hanging around.”

Tom was born in Los Angeles, CA, the son of George Harris and MaryAlice Dunn. Tom is survived by his wife of 49 years, Eva; children, Bernard Brady, Andrew Harris (Sally), Lisa VanHoff, Mary Rokhvadze; his beloved grandchildren, Todd and Thomas VanHoff, Ethan Harris, Eve Rokhvadze, Lisa Anne, Jeffrey and Kristen Brady, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Brian Brady. Tom was a public school teacher in Buffalo for 30 years. He founded the Friends of the Clarence Public Library and volunteered for WNED television, Clarence United Methodist Church, Crystal Beach Community Church Board, Miniature Art Society, and Palm Harbor Public Library. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and received a National Defense Service Medal. Tom had a wonderful sense of humor and deep commitment to his family and friends. He loved books, music, movies, pinochle, traveling and time at the family cabin. One final wink, Tom, with love.

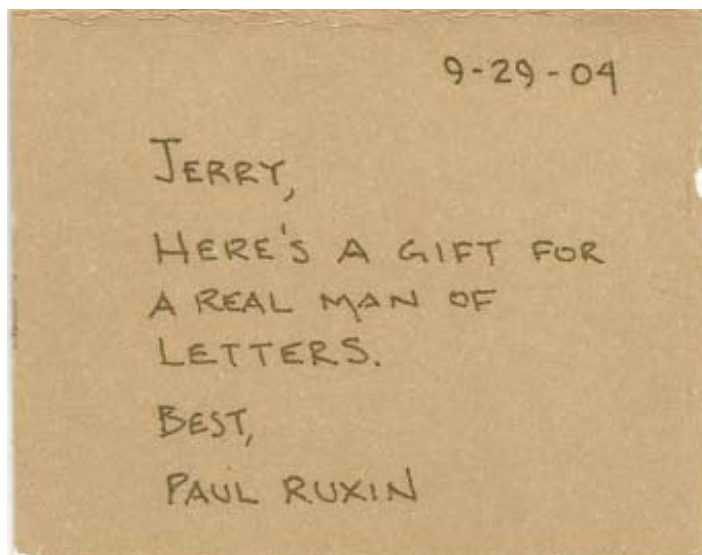
by Jerry Morris

I decided to take off from delivering the mail the following Friday and was just sitting down to have lunch when my mailman came to my door with a package for me. It was a copy of *Friday Lunch*. And inside was this gift card:



The Florida Bibliophile Society has sent a contribution of \$50 to TrevorTCR, an organization named for Paul's grandson. The San Francisco-based TrevorTCR supports a number of cultural and community efforts. All funds donated in Paul's honor will go directly to the Children and Teen department at the Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center which lovingly takes care of Paul's grandson, Trevor.

continues on the next page

My Friend Paul Ruxin, concluded

I “surprised” Paul Ruxin a few months later. One of the thirteen talks published in *Friday Lunch* was about the poet and playwright Archibald MacLeish. I had just read MacLeish’s essay “The Reorganization of the Library of Congress 1939-44,” in the 1945 Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress, and I thought Paul would enjoy reading it. I found an offprint of the article on Abebooks, ordered it, and had it sent directly to Paul Ruxin’s place of residence in Chicago.

Paul received the pamphlet, but he didn’t know who to thank! There was nothing on the invoice that identified who bought the pamphlet for him. So Paul called this friend and that friend, and yet another friend—Paul had lots of friends—but, thus far, no friend admitted to sending him the pamphlet. Finally, about two weeks later, I emailed Paul and asked if he had received the pamphlet I sent him. And Paul replied, “SO YOU’RE THE ONE!!”

Chicago was cold and windy in 2005, and Paul accepted my invitation to be the guest speaker for the March meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society. He planned on spending a week or so soaking up the warm Florida sun after he gave his talk to us. “Soft-Hearted Sam” was the title Paul had selected for his talk. A day or two before the meeting, however, Paul contacted me and said he had to change his plans. He would fly in the day before the meeting, but he had to fly back to Chicago right after the meeting was over that Sunday. And that’s what happened. Afterwards, I learned that

Paul had been in the middle of negotiating the sale of an oil company, and had to get back to Chicago to resume negotiations on Monday. To me, that says a lot about what the word “commitment” meant to Paul Ruxin.

I invited Paul to brunch at my house before the FBS meeting in March 2005. And the brunch was delicious as usual. We spent more than a few minutes beforehand in my library, mostly in front of the shelves containing the books formerly owned by Donald and Mary Hyde. Paul remarked to my wife that I was lucky to have an entire room for my books. He said that all his wife let him have was one small alcove for all of his books!

I had the opportunity to visit that “small alcove” in March 2011. I was in Chicago for the Caxton Club’s Book-Launch Party to celebrate the publication of *Other People’s Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*. Both Paul and I had contributed essays which were published in the book. As for Paul’s alcove, after seeing it, and handling some of the books on his shelves, I regarded it as a great alcove! There were books formerly owned by Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and their contemporaries—all of them looking down and out over Chicago. At thirty-eight floors up, Paul’s Great Alcove of Books was the closest I have ever been to book heaven!

I last heard from Paul on March 21st of this year. I had sent him the link to my recent blog post, “The Story of Spence’s Anecdotes.” And Paul replied, “Fascinating as usual... thanks.”

To you Paul, I say with all my heart,

“Thanks for being my friend.”



Botanical Illustration at Selby Botanical Gardens, Aug. 26 to Nov. 27**by Mischa Kirby**

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota is known world-wide for its tropical plant collections, which include nearly half of the known plant families in the world. Hidden, though, in the institution's research library and plant vaults is another secret collection rarely seen by the public – the Gardens' rare books and the preserved plant collection gathered by explorers in the field.

An exhibition of rare botanical illustrations from the 18th and 19th centuries that show plant life in exquisite color and artistic technique will be on display later this year in "Selby's Secret Garden," hosted at the Museum of Botany & the Arts in the historic Payne Mansion.

From August 26–November 27, guests will experience historic works of this highly-skilled art form used to depict detail, form, and color of a plant species. The drawings will be accompanied by complementary pressed and preserved plant specimens, which are other tools of the botanical trade. In mid-October, the Gardens' Tropical Conservatory will run a concurrent display when it is transformed into a cabinet of botanical curiosities with a distinct Victorian flair, creating a truly magical "secret garden."

"These are amazing works of art that rival any traditional art display. By showcasing these antique prints and books alongside our living plant collection, we want visitors to realize the full connection between nature and art," said Jennifer O. Rominiecki, president and CEO of Selby Gardens.

The Selby Gardens library is home to approximately 7,000 volumes, including a rare book collection dating to the late 1700s, as well as 14,000 issues of scientific journals and thousands more historical files, maps, photographs, and reference materials. The library is regarded as one of the finest botanical libraries in the southeastern United States and is frequented by visiting scholars from around the world. Within the library, the rare book collection consists of 65 titles and more than 500 bound volumes, as well as more than 2,000 loose prints, many of them hundreds of years old.



A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration

On the following pages, we present some illustrations from books that will be on display at Selby Gardens.



James Bateman (1811-1897)

The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala

London: J. Ridgway & Sons for the author, [1837]-1843. Edition of 125.

Large folio: 21 x 28.5 in; 40 hand-colored lithographic plates, one uncolored, and 38 wood engravings. The lithographs were drawn on stone by P. Gauci after illustrations by Miss S.A. Drake, Mrs. Augusta Withers, Miss Jane Edwards, Samuel Holden, and one unsigned. Two of the wood engravings are by George Cruikshank, famous for his illustrations in Dickens' novels.

Bateman was an avid collector and scholar of orchids, a pioneer of orchid culture and important horticulturist in England. He sponsored several collectors in their trips to Central America. His *Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala* was sumptuous, produced by highly accomplished and well established artists. He produced two more books on orchids, *A Second Century of Orchidaceous Plants* (1867) and *A Monograph of Odontoglossum* (1874), with the same quality but smaller in size.

A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration, continued



Robert Warner (1814-1896) and Benjamin Williams (1824-1890)

Select Orchidaceous Plants [First Series]

London: Taylor & Co. for Lovell Reeve & Co., 1862-1865.

Folio: 12 x 19 in. 40 hand-colored lithographic plates by and after W.H. Fitch and James Andrews and printed by Vincent Brooks.

Warner and Williams book was published as interest in orchids was seriously increasing. They reasoned that with so many plants reaching England, amateur growers would appreciate a way to stay current with the new varieties that were arriving. They were right, and what had been planned as one book was followed by two more. Warner was a botanist, and Williams, the son of Warner's gardener, became a botanist and accomplished orchidologist. The artist, William Hood Fitch, was regarded as the finest botanical artist of his day.

A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration, continued



John Lindley (1799-1865)

Sertum Orchidaceum: a wreath of the most beautiful Orchidaceous flowers

London: James Ridgway and Sons, 1837-1841

Large folio: 21.5 x 14 in. Hand-colored lithographic frontispiece, dedication to the Duke of Devonshire, 49 hand-colored lithographic plates by M. Gauci after Miss Drake, Descourtilz, W. Griffith, Miss M.A. Mearns, Schouten and R.H. Schomburgk. Issued in installments from 1837 to 1841.

John Lindley was an eminent botanist and orchidologist who helped establish basic knowledge of the orchid plant family. In addition to the Sertum Orchidaceum, he published three other significant works on orchids. He was instrumental in saving Kew Gardens after the death of their patron King George III, when Parliament had decided to distribute the plants and tear down the greenhouses.

William Spencer Cavendish (1790-1858), the 6th Duke of Devonshire, was an avid horticulturist and undertook several major projects, including the renovation of his estates and including the construction of a 300-foot-long conservatory, which became a model for The Crystal Palace. In 1833, Cavendish bought his first exotic orchid (*Oncidium papilio*), a significant acquisition. That was the beginning of his effort to create the foremost orchid collection in England.

A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration, continued

John Lindley (1799-1865) and Sir Joseph Paxton (1880-84)

Paxton's Flower Garden

London: Bradbury and Evans: 1850 - 1853.

3 volumes (10 were planned), Quarto: 10.1 x 7.7 in. 108 hand-colored lithographic plates by L. Constans and over 500 wood-engraved illustrations.

In his early 20s, while working for the Royal Horticultural Society at Chiswick Gardens, Paxton was befriended by William Cavendish, the 6th Duke of Devonshire and a devoted horticulturist. Cavendish hired Paxton as head gardener at Chatsworth House, the ancestral estate of the Cavendish family. In 1837, Paxton designed and supervised construction of the largest glass house in the world, a conservatory at Chatsworth House. The design and techniques used in this building would earn Paxton the role of designing the Crystal Palace. The Chatsworth conservatory was also the site of Paxton's most far-reaching creation; he cultivated a banana, which he named Cavendish, which remains the most widely cultivated and consumed banana in the Western world.

A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration, continued



Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785–1865) and John Charles Lyons (1792–1874)

A Century of Orchidaceous Plants Selected from Curtis's Botanical Magazine, descriptions by Sir William Jackson Hooker, director of Royal Gardens of Kew

Reeve, Benham, and Reeve, King William Street, Strand. 1849

Quarto: 12 x 9.5 in. 100 hand-colored lithographic plates by and after Walter Hood Fitch.

In 1841, Hooker was appointed the first full-time director of the royal gardens at Kew. He was already established as a botanist and explorer, having taken his first botanical expedition in the early 1800s. In 1827, Hooker became editor of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, a journal which described plants from around the world suitable for cultivation in Britain, with a finely drawn colored plate for each. Hooker established the herbarium at Kew and hired Fitch to prepare drawings for reference and publication. Lyons was a gardener with an extensive knowledge of horticulture, especially orchids; his *Treatise on the Management of Orchidaceous Plants, with a Catalogue of more than One Thousand Species* had been published a few years before *Century*, to which he contributed notes on cultivation.

A Portfolio of Botanical Illustration, concluded



William Curtis (1746-1799)

The Botanical Magazine; or, Flower-Garden Displayed

London: Various publishers, including 1787-present

Octavo: 9 x 6 in.

Curtis established The Botanical Magazine in 1787, making it one of the oldest scientific publications of its type. After Curtis' death in 1799, his friend John Sims took over and changed the name to Curtis's Botanical Magazine. The magazine has always been renowned for the quality and accuracy of its illustrations; many new varieties have made their first appearance in Curtis. In 1826, William Hooker became the editor in 1826, bringing the knowledge of a botanist to the enterprise and employing William Hood Fitch as illustrator. Hooker became director of the Royal Gardens at Kew in 1841, and Curtis's Botanical Magazine became formally associated with Kew, which continued to produce the magazine to the present day (Wiley-Blackwell, publisher). Hooker edited Curtis until his death in 1865; Fitch as well worked on the magazine for 40 years.

When Shakespeare was a Woman

by Charles Brown

In 1609, at age 45, Shakespeare published

SHAKE-SPEARS
SONNETS

Never before Imprinted.

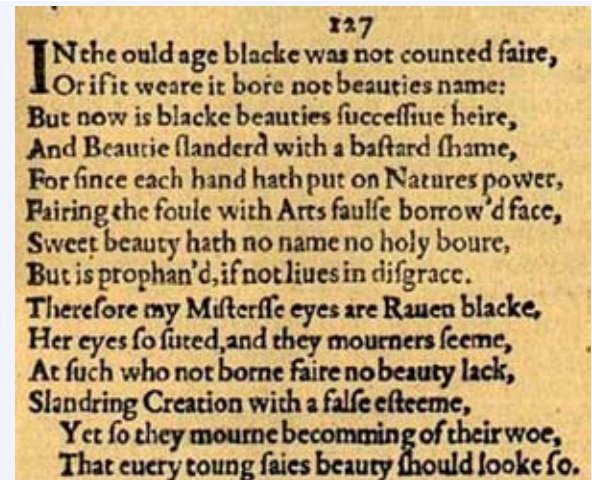
The 154 sonnets speak almost exclusively of romantic relationships and the emotions they produce, ranging from adoration to disgust, in terms sometimes sincere, sometimes sarcastic. The sonnets have become some of the most widely read and quoted poems, such as Sonnet 18, “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day,” and Sonnet 116, “Let me not to the marriage of true minds / Admit impediments.” The sentiments in these poems are pure and beautiful expressions of love.

Yet, overall, the sonnets are not simple or direct; even the conditions under which the sonnets were published are not entirely clear. It is likely they were published without Shakespeare’s approval and that would mean that the individual to whom the book is dedicated, “Mr. W.H.,” whose identity remains unknown, was not his choice.

The fact that a majority of the poems (1-126) are addressed to a young man, “So are you to my thoughts as food to life” (sonnet 75), has promoted much speculation as to whether the young man is a real person, if so, what was his identity, and what was his relationship to the poet.

The remaining sonnets (127-154) are addressed to a woman, often described by Shakespeare scholars as the “Dark Lady.” The introductory sonnet in the sequence, shown opposite, suggests that the woman was black, or at least dark by English standards. “Black” was also used sometimes for brunettes. The poems show an intense relationship between the woman and the poet and one that has a forbidden quality, exploring issues of sexuality and jealousy.

The identity of this woman, whether she was real, etc., has also been a subject of much speculation. The sonnets provide few internal clues, but the belief that the woman may have been real and that these sonnets are based on Shakespeare’s personal experience has fueled interest in identifying the woman with someone who might have known Shakespeare. Some have found a likely candidate in Emilia Lanier (Lanyer).



In the old age black was not counted fair,
Or if it were, it bore not beauty's name;
But now is black beauty's successive heir,
And beauty slandered with a bastard shame:
For since each hand hath put on Nature's power,
Fairing the foul with Art's false borrowed face,
Sweet beauty hath no name, no holy bower,
But is profaned, if not lives in disgrace.
Therefore my mistress' eyes are raven black,
Her eyes so suited, and they mourners seem
At such who, not born fair, no beauty lack,
Sland'ring creation with a false esteem:
Yet so they mourn becoming of their woe,
That every tongue says beauty should look so.

In olden times, black was not thought beautiful,
Or if it was, no one would admit it;
But now, one who rightly inherited this beauty
and beauty itself are shamed by those who have
no right:
People try to make beautiful what nature has not,
by using cosmetics.
this false beauty has replaced real beauty,
So much so, that real beauty is unrecognized and
even disparaged.
This is why my mistress' eyes are so black,
They wear the clothes of mourning
For those who were not born beautiful but are
artificially so,
Enjoying false praise that is an insult to nature.
These black eyes mourn appropriately
That false beauty is so highly praised

Sonnet 127: top, the sonnet from the first quarto, 1609, in the original the sonnet is divided between two pages; middle, the sonnet in modern type and spelling; bottom, a paraphrase of the sonnet — not the only possible one.

*When Shakespeare Was a Woman, continued***Eve's Apology**

The following is the first three stanzas of 23 that make up the "Eve's Apology" section of *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*. *

Till now your indiscretion sets vs free,
And makes our former fault much lesse appeare;
Our Mother Eue, who tasted of the Tree,
Giuing to Adam what she held most deare,
Was simply good, and had no powre to see,
The after-comming harme did not appeare:
The subtille Serpent that our Sex betraide,
Before our fall so sure a plot had laide.

That vndiscerning Ignorance perceau'd
No guile, or craft that was by him intended;
For, had she knowne of what we were bereau'd,
To his request she had not condescended.
But she (poore soule) by cunning was deceau'd,
No hurt therein her harmlesse Heart intended:
For she alleadg'd Gods word, which he denies
That they should die, but euen as Gods, be wise.

But surely Adam cannot be excus'd,
Her fault, though great, yet he was most too blame;
What Weaknesse offred Strength might haue refus'd,
Being Lord of all the greater was his shame:
Although the Serpents craft had her abus'd,
Gods holy word ought all his actions frame:
For he was Lord and King of al the earth,
Before poore Eue had either life or breath.

She was born Aemilia Bassano in 1569, five years after Shakespeare. Her father, Baptiste Bassano, was a musician in the court of Elizabeth I. Compared to Shakespeare, Bassano's life is well documented through her letters, her poetry, her medical records, her legal records, and other sources. Typical for the age, she regularly consulted an astrologer, Simon Forman (1552–1611), and his records



Emilia Lanier in a portrait by Nicolas Hilliard.

document many consultations with Bassano. Her fortunes were affected when her father died in 1576 when she was 7. He left 100 pounds as a dowry to be given her when she married or when she turned 21, whichever came first. Bassano went to live with an aunt who believed that girls and boys should be equally educated, which gave Bassano a good education and a knowledge of Latin and literature.

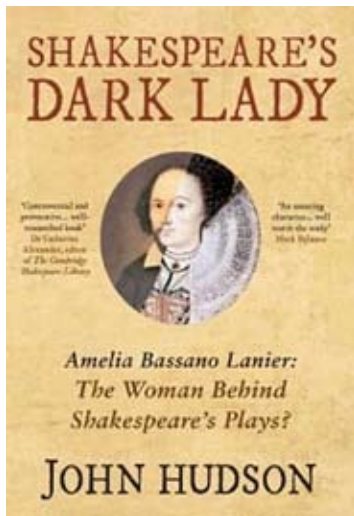
Shortly after Bassano's mother died in 1590, she became mistress to Henry Carey, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, 1st Baron Hunsdon, and 45 years older than Bassano. (Carey later became chief patron to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, Shakespeare's theater company.) Carey supported Bassano with a pension of 40 pounds a year, a comfortable sum for the time. But when she became pregnant in 1593, he gave her money, and she was married to her cousin, Andrew Lanier, a court musician. Forman's records indicate that the couple was poor and unhappy and that Bassano/Lanier had a number of miscarriages.

In 1611, Lanier published a book of poetry, *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* (Hail, God, King of the Jews). It was extremely unusual for an Elizabethan woman to publish for profit, and this was the first book of original poetry – and only the fourth book of poetry of any kind – published by an English woman.

In this work, Lanier demonstrates that she was widely read in classical authors, in contemporary poets, and feminist authors. Her sources include the then-unpublished plays of Shakespeare, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. According to Shakespeare scholar John Hudson, Lanier reveals an allegorical understanding of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that was not found until recent years.

However, Hudson has an even more amazing claim about Lanier,

* The enitriety of *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum* is available to read at the Lumniarium website, [Renaissance Editions](http://www.lumniarium.com).

When Shakespeare Was a Woman, continued

asking in a recent book *Shakespeare's Dark Lady: Amelia Bassano Lanier, The Woman Behind Shakespeare's Plays?* Hudson presents a compelling case. Lanier was obviously talented and well educated. She was intimately familiar with court matters and demonstrates a knowledge of law and music. She had traveled, including a trip to Denmark. Her style is very similar to Shakespeare's, and

her critique of Christianity parallels Shakespeare's.

Hudson has claimed that Lanier may be the author of the sonnets as well as the plays. If so, it would cast a new interpretation on both series of poems in the sonnets.

Lanier also builds on the thesis that Lanier was Jewish, and like many Jews of the time, was forced to live a nominally Christian life to be accepted in her society. Whether she was Jewish is disputed by some scholars, but there are many tantalizing suggestions that she was, and it has been called "plausible." Just as a female author would demand a reappraisal of the sonnets, Lanier's Jewish identity would change the meaning of *Salve* significantly.

Even if Shakespeare wrote his own plays(!), there is evidence for some connection between him and Lanier. More than one scholar has noted that in Shakespeare's two Venetian plays, there is an Emilia in one (*Othello*) and a Bassan(i)o in the other (*The Merchant of Venice*) – Bassanio was the name the family used when they arrived in London. More recent scholarship has identified the source of these names with the work of the Roman poet Ovid. However, there are many more connections between Lanier and the play *Othello* that have caused the Shakespeare Authorship Trust to add her to their list of leading candidates for authorship of the plays and poems attributed to William Shakespeare.

Emilia's Speech in *Othello*, Act IV, scene iii

Outraged at the hypocrisy of her husband and the light it sheds on a woman's role in Elizabethan society, Emilia delivers the following lines in what has been called the "first feminist manifesto."

But I do think it is their husbands' faults
If wives do fall: say that they slack their duties,
And pour our treasures into foreign laps,
Or else break out in peevish jealousies,
Throwing restraint upon us; or say they strike us,
Or scant our former having in despite;
Why, we have galls, and though we have some grace,
Yet have we some revenge. Let husbands know
Their wives have sense like them: they see and smell
And have their palates both for sweet and sour,
As husbands have. What is it that they do
When they change us for others? Is it sport?
I think it is: and doth affection breed it?
I think it doth: is't frailty that thus errs?
It is so too: and have not we affections,
Desires for sport, and frailty, as men have?
Then let them use us well: else let them know,
The ills we do, their ills instruct us so.

Hudson's book goes beyond its central thesis about Lanier to provide the reader with a picture of life in late Renaissance London and the British royal court, English theater, plagues, gender, religion, and intellectual life. In general, this wide-ranging and carefully reasoned book is an excellent introduction to Shakespeare studies.

After her husband's death, Lanier opened a school, but disputes with a landlord led to arrests which disqualified her as a teacher, and she lost her school in 1619. From that time until her death in 1635, there are few records. Apparently, she was able to obtain a small pension which gave her some security.

Whether she wrote all of Shakespeare's works, some of his works, or collaborated on some of them, she was a remarkable author in her own right.



Saving the Books of Timbuktu

“Timbuktu” is synonymous with mythic remoteness. But Timbuktu is a real place in the nation of Mali in West Africa. It is indeed remote at roughly a thousand miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the West, and the Gulf of Guinea to the south. It is four times as far from the Red Sea to the east. The intervening distances north, east, and west are through the Sahara Desert. Most of the land to the south is only slightly less desolate.

It is then at once surprising and strangely logical that Timbuktu was established almost 1,000 years ago as a center of commerce and a waystation on the long routes that crossed the desert. In addition to its important role in commerce, Timbuktu became a cosmopolitan cultural center, famous for educating scholars in the vast knowledge created by Islamic scientists, mathematicians, and philosophers, built in part on the preserved Greek and Roman classics. This was at a time when in Europe, these writings were virtually unknown. The Renaissance was 500 years away.

During the growth of the Songhai empire during the 1400s and 1500s, the city became an important center for the preservation of knowledge in books and for the copying and distribution of these books. This led to a lively book trade. Books were highly prized, and collections were passed down through generations. Timbuktu flourished, and its libraries



Abdel Kader Haidara peruses one of the books in his family's extraordinary collection of manuscripts.

and centers of learning became legendary. All this changed in 1591, when the Moroccan army invaded, plundered the city, and burned the libraries. Nevertheless, many cherished books were preserved, and today it is estimated that the families of Timbuktu hold several hundred thousand manuscripts, some dating back to the 1400s. It is traditional for one member of every family to pledge to preserve the family library.

So when Al Qaeda stood at Timbuktu's doorstep, the fate of the secular learning contained in Timbuktu's books looked dark. Al Qaeda had already established a reputation for “cultural cleansing.” The most visible symbol of this tactic was the demolition of the Buddhas of Bamiyan. These sculptures, carved directly into the cliffs of the Bamiyan Valley in Afghanistan, were the largest of their type. As a symbol of their determination, Al Qaeda systematically destroyed these ancient works of art as the represented false religion. These acts of destruction have been described as attacks on the very concept of cultural heritage.

Fighters from an African affiliate of Al Qaeda occupied Timbuktu in 2012, after the collapse of the relatively weak Malian army. It was then that Abdel Kader Haidara returned to Timbuktu after a business trip to find an occupied city. Knowing Al Qaeda's



Timbuktu in a 19th century engraving. The city was founded at the easternmost reach of the Niger River, where it turns sharply south.

Saving the Books of Timbuktu, continued

Haidara with a few of the metal boxes in which Timbuktu's manuscript collections were packed and hidden.
Photo: Ami Vitale/PANOS. This image accompanied a story in the Wall Street Journal.

reputation and witnessing looting, Haidara feared that the libraries of Timbuktu would soon be plundered or destroyed. His personal collection contained many treasures representative of the books of Timbuktu: “a tiny, irregularly shaped Quran from the 12th century, written on parchment made from the dried skin of a fish and glittering with illuminated blue Arabic letters and droplets of gold. His collection also boasts many secular volumes: manuscripts about astronomy, poetry, mathematics, occult sciences and medicine, such as a 254-page volume on surgery and elixirs derived from birds, lizards and plants, written in Timbuktu in 1684”.

Haidara organized a meeting of the Timbuktu library association that he had organized in 1997. His plan was to disperse the public collection into homes and to hide them. Haidara arranged for a \$12,000 grant he was due to receive from the Ford Foundation to study English at Oxford to be released to him to save the books.

They had to work quietly. The money was used to buy metal and wooden trunks, dozens per day, and they made containers out of steel drums. Their packers worked at night and used donkeys to silently carry the containers to their hiding places. It took eight months to smuggle the books out of the city, past the jihadist checkpoints.

French troops liberated Timbuktu in January 2013, about nine months after the occupation had begun. According to the librarians, out of the 400,000 books at risk, only 4,000 were destroyed by the occupiers.

Work to catalog, preserve, and digitize the books of Timbuktu is being pursued by a variety of governments, non-government organizations, and universities. The wealth of knowledge contained in these books is expected to reshape our understanding of the history of West Africa as well as the history of many other fields of knowledge. The people of Timbuktu believe the books they have so carefully preserved can be the key to a renaissance of their city and its centers of learning.



The Holy Koran with the Maghrebi script calligraphy. This copy dates back to the 15th century and was copied on fish skin.”



Hasr al-Sha'ar an Sirr al-Shi'r. Author: Alfa b. Hamad Suley b. Ahmad b. Abi Bakr b. Yusuf b. Sulayman al-Fulani from Jaloubé (a Fulani area of Macina, Mali).

Books in Brief

Founding Rules of 'Base Ball' Sell for \$3.26 Million in Auction

"Laws of Base Ball," offered online in April by SCP Auctions, which specializes in sports memorabilia, drew the highest price ever for a baseball document, \$3.26 million. The buyer was not identified. "Laws of Base Ball" is a group of 1857 documents written by Daniel "Doc" Adams (1814-1899), who was a player and then a executive for the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York.

"Laws" established some of the basics of the game such as nine-player teams, nine-inning games, and 90-foot base paths.

The laws were written when Adams presided over a gathering of 14 New York-area teams to revise the sport's rules. Adams's draft was transferred to more than a dozen separate pages in flowing script by William H. Grenelle, another Knickerbocker club official. Grenelle's version reads like a scorecard of the convention debates, with pencil marks crossing out words and recording changes to Adams's proposals. "Laws" was auctioned once before in 1999, by Sotheby's, and sold for \$12,650.

For comparison, in 2010, \$4.3 million was for James Naismith's original 13 rules of basketball. The most expensive piece of sports memorabilia is a Babe Ruth jersey from 1920 that sold for \$4.4 million in 2012.

Original story: [New York Times, April 24, 2016](#)

More information on the [SCP Auctions website](#).

Walt Whitman's "Guide to Manly Health" Rediscovered after 150 Years

Walt Whitman is one of America's greatest poets, known best for his 1855 poetry collection *Leaves of Grass*. The poems celebrate nature and humans as part of it, ranging from the spiritual to the sensual. Regarding the latter, *Leaves of Grass* was considered scandalous in its day for the directness of its sexual imagery. But at its core, *Leaves of Grass* was Whitman searching for an authentically American poetry

Whitman reworked and expanded *Leaves of Grass*

throughout his life, preparing the final "deathbed" edition in 1891, a few months before his death in 1892. At over 400 pages, the final edition was four times as long as the 1855 edition.

During those years, which encompassed the Civil War and Reconstruction, Whitman published other work, including poetry and essays. he also became interested in healthy living, and in 1858, wrote a newspaper column called "Manly-Health and Training: with Off-hand Hints toward Their Conditions." It ran for 13 installments, ending in December 1858.

This work was unknown until a graduate student at University of Houston, Zachary Turpin, began researching Whitman's pseudonyms. When he entered "Mose Velsor", he found an advertisement for a series on healthy living in the obscure newspaper The New York Atlas. Turpin located a microfilm copy of the newspaper and read the columns. He felt sure he had something. At that point, he turned to Whitman scholars, who confirmed that he had uncovered a previously unknown work by one of America's greatest authors.

Original source: [New York Times, April 29, 2016](#)

More information: [Houston Chronicle, April 29, 2016](#)

Read: [Manly-Health and Training \(PDF\)](#)

Juan Felipe Herrera Appointed to Second Term as U.S. Poet Laureate

Juan Felipe Herrera was named poet laureate of California in 2012 and U.S. poet laureate in 2015. The work of poet laureate involves appearances and travel in fulfillment of a mandate "to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry" (See Joan Knoertzer's article in this issue of *The Florida Bibliophile*.) The appointment is made annually.

In a recent ceremony at the Library of Congress, Herrera was named poet laureate for a second year.

In his first term, in addition to the appearances and readings, Herrera began a participatory poetry project called "La Familia." The project is hosted

Books in Brief, continued

at Herrera's website "La Casa de Colores." Herrera describes this 'House of Colors' as a house for all voices: "In this house, we will feed the hearth and heart of our communities with creativity and imagination. And we will stand together in times of struggle and joy."

For his second term, Herrera told the Washington Post, he's thinking about initiating "a superhero story for children" that they could help write chapter by chapter online.

Original source: [Tampa Bay Times, May 6, 2016](#)

Herrera Bio: [Poetry Foundation website](#)

New Seymour Chwast Book Protests 5,000 Years of War

In the new publishing landscape, there are new ways for authors to reach readers. For example, there is the self-publishing platform Lulu, through which authors can offer their books for free in electronic format or on a paid print-on-demand basis. Another is the fund-raising website Kickstarter, at which individual authors, publishers, or consortia of creators propose projects and offer contributors the opportunity to part of something special. Many books are published through Kickstarter, often special collaborations that produce remarkable editions.

The legendary graphic designer, illustrator, and type designer Seymour Chwast, who with Milton Glaser, Edward Sorel, and others founded Push Pin studios in the mid 1950s. Their distinctive graphic styles appeared everywhere, on posters, packaging, billboards, merchandise, illustrated books and more.

Chwast has launched a Kickstarter campaign to produce a book, *Seymour Chwast at War with War: An Illustrated Timeline of 5000 Years of Conquests, Invasions, and Terrorist Attacks*. To produce this book, Chwast is "opening the doors to his archive of new and vintage posters, prints, original drawings, and much more."

The book is an outgrowth of Chwast's lifelong "obsession" to end war, "humankind's never-ending scourge."

There are many pledge levels, ranging from \$15, for which the contributor receives

VINTAGE CHWAST PUBLICATION: "THE NOSE" - "WAR." Issue no. 15 (2007) of provocative biannual 24-page periodical that ran from 1997 to 2009, each with a theme, designed by Seymour Chwast

to \$3,500, for which one receives

"A BOOK OF BATTLES" - ORIGINAL COPY, VERY RARE 1957 PUBLICATION BY SEYMOUR CHWAST + THE BOOK. An early antiwar statement. Self-published in an edition of only 80 and featuring 9 hand-colored linocuts of famous battle scenes. 9 3/4 x 6 1/2 in., 12 spreads, French fold. Cloth-backed decorated paper boards with printed title label on front cover. Can be signed.

Includes one copy of "At War with War," signed and inscribed, with your name in the book's acknowledgments.

The project will only be funded if at least \$94,000 is pledged by Thursday, June 9, 2016, 11:59 pm EDT.

Original source: [Kickstarter](#)

Egypt, now Afghanistan, Reveal Tresses of Jewish Manuscripts

A *geniza* is a storeroom. It's an unremarkable concept, but in the geniza in the Ben Ezra synagogue in Cairo, more than 300,000 fragments of Jewish manuscripts have been found, some dating back to the 9th century. The Ben Ezra Geniza has been known since the 1700s, and many of its fragments are in libraries throughout the world. In 2011, foxes scratching in the dirt somewhere in the Afghan province of Samangan revealed a hidden cave. Inside the cave, local villagers found Jewish documents nearly 1,000 years old. The story seemed apocryphal until 2013 when the National Library of Israel announced the purchase of 29 fragments from the Afghan geniza.

Original story: [Jewniverse](#)

More information: [CBS News](#)



Upcoming Events



May 2016

FBS Annual Banquet

Brio Tuscan Grille

International Plaza

2223 N Westshore Blvd, Tampa, FL

May 15, 2016, 1:30 pm

Guest speaker:

Colette Bancroft

book editor, *Tampa Bay Times*

The FBS Annual Banquet will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the 2015-2016 season and its fascinating presentations and events. We'll have a chance to enjoy each other's company, some end-of-year traditions, and a special guest speaker in a private room at Brio Tuscan Grille. I am assured the food is excellent. Contact FBS treasurer Linda Morris to reserve a seat — linjer25@gmail.com.



This Month's Writers and Contributors

Many thanks to those who contributed words and ideas to this month's newsletter! FBS members unless otherwise noted.

Michael Kilgore, Columbia Restaurant Group

Micha Kirby, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Joan Knoertzer

Jerry Morris

Linda Morris

Maureen Mulvihill

Carl Mario Nudi

Elenora Sabin

Joan Sackheim

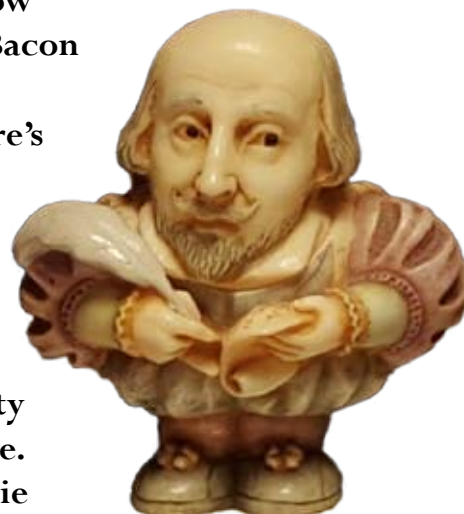
Sue Tihanksy

Neil Williamson

Barry Zack, Sarasota Authors Connection

Have an idea for an article for *The Florida Bibliophile*? Contact Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net, to submit or for assistance in preparing your article. ¶

**I don't know
if Francis Bacon
wrote
Shakespeare's
plays,
but if
he didn't,
he missed
the
opportunity
of a lifetime.
—J. M. Barrie**



Florida Book Events Calendar

Know about any events of interest to book lovers? Send corrections and additions to Charles Brown, 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

2 0 1 6

M A Y

May 16, 2016

Sarasota Authors Connection

6 pm, Fruitville Library
fjpl.info/?page_id=240)

May 20-22, 2016

Jacksonville Friends of the Library Warehouse Book Sale

fjpl.info/?page_id=240)

J U N E

June 15–19, 2016

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies 2016 Rare Book and Manuscript Tour, Host: The Book Club of California, San

Francisco, CA
<http://www.fabsocieties.org/meeting.html>)

J U L Y

July 1-4, 2016

Florida Supercon, Miami, FL

<http://floridasupercon.com/>)

July 23, 2016

John D. MacDonald Centenary Birthday Celebration

www.jdmhomepage.org)

A U G U S T

August 7-9, 2016

Tampa Bay Comic Con, Tampa, FL

<http://www.tampabaycomiccon.com/>)

Sarasota Authors Connection

The next meeting of the Sarasota Authors Connection will be held on Monday, May 16, 6 pm, at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL. May guest speaker Diane McKeever will speak on “Using Facebook to Increase Book Sales.” McKeever is a Certified Social Media specialist and has helped many people increase their sales by showcasing products on Facebook.



Diane McKeever poses with her latest book, 100 Amazing Computer Tips.

Learn more about the author members of the Sarasota Authors Connection and their most recent books at <https://authors.wordpress.com/>.



S E P T E M B E R

September 23-25, 2016

Valencia College's Winter Park Writers Festival

winterparkwritersfestival.weebly.com/)

September 24, 2016

Tallahassee Writers Conference & Book Fair, Tallahassee, FL

<https://twa.wildapricot.org/>)

September 26, 2016

Florida Heritage Book Festival and Writers Conference, St. Augustine, FL

fhbookfest.com/)

O C T O B E R

[no 2016 date yet]

36th Annual Berrin Family Jewish Book Festival & Women's Day Luncheon, Miami, FL

Florida Book Events Calendar, concluded

Florida Writer's Conference

(floridawriters.net/conferences/florida-writers-conference/)

Jewish Book Festival, Jacksonville, FL

WasabiCon, Jacksonville, FL
(<http://www.wasabicon.com/>)

October 8 – December 3, 2015

35th Annual Berrin Family Jewish Book Festival & Women's Day Luncheon, Miami, FL

(<http://www.alperjcc.org/artsculture/book-festival/>)

October 22-26, 2016

Friends of the Library Book Sale,
Gainesville (est. 1954)
(folacld.org/)

N O V E M B E R

November 5-8, 2016

Sanibel Island Writers Conference
(www.fgcu.edu/siwc/)

November 12, 2016

Festival of Reading, St. Petersburg
(www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/index.page)

November 25-27, 2016

32nd Annual Miami Book Fair International
(miamibookfair.com/)

D E C E M B E R

[no 2016 date yet]

INK Miami

modern and contemporary works on paper by
internationally renowned artists
(www.inkartfair.com/about.html)

2 0 1 7

J A N U A R Y

[no 2017 date yet]

Writers in Paradise Conference, St.
Petersburg, Florida
(writersinparadise.eckerd.edu/)

**28th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival
of the Arts and Humanities**, Eatonville
(zorafestival.org/)

January 12-15, 2017

Annual Key West Literary Seminar (est.
1982)
(www.kwls.org/)

F E B R U A R Y

(no 2017 date yet)

Amelia Island Book Festival, Fernandina
Beach, FL
(<http://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/>)

Charlotte Harbor Book Festival, Punta
Gorda, FL
(<http://charlotteharborbookfestival.weebly.com/>)

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.

February 21 • BonSue Brandvik is an author and preservationist whose life has become entwined with the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel. Its structure is mostly gone, but the hotel lives on in Brandvik's work, in which guests of the hotel face the challenges of their lives with the help of guests from the past. (Kelce-MacDonald Library, University of Tampa)

March 20 • Peter Meinke is in the second of a three-year term as Florida's Poet Laureate. Meinke has published two children's books, a monograph on poet Howard Nemerov, and eight poetry chapbooks; a bilingual collection of poems, *Maples & Orange Trees*, was published in Russia in 2005. Meinke will discuss his work and read some of his poems. Also, he will have books for sale and will be available for signing.

April 15-17 • Several FBS members traveled 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. We had great food, found great books, and enjoyed great fellowship!

May 15 • Annual Florida Bibliophile Society Banquet. Our guest speaker will be Colette Bancroft, Book Editor of the *Tampa Bay Times*. (Brio Tuscan Grille, Tampa, FL; 1:30 pm)

Endpaper • School's Out! but not forever...



Well, “we’ve gotta say goodbye, for the summer.”

We’ve had a wonderful year together and thanks are in order: first to vice president Jerry Morris for pulling off month after month of fascinating speakers and topics – he’s already lining up speakers for next year; to treasurer Linda Morris for expertly handling our finances (we’re in the black!); and to our dedicated – if overcommitted – secretary Shanna Goodwin (she volunteered for the position on her very first visit!). Thanks also to our wonderful hospitality team of Art Walker and Geraldine Hynes, who are taking a well deserved rest after years of service – our very best wishes to them! A special tip of the hat to Joan Sackheim for hosting an elegant holiday dinner – we dined off Royal Doulton and drank from Waterford crystal, surrounded by beautiful works of art – and the food wasn’t bad either! Thanks also to Maureen Mulvihill who has supported FBS in so many ways, often in the background. So many of you have contributed your time, talents, and resources – and just as important your attendance, interest, and

encouragement (Tarsha!).

I’d like to add a special thanks as well to Carl Nudi, Irene Pavese, and Sue Tihansky who have provided wisdom and guidance in so many matters this year.

And an extra special thanks to Lee Harrer, who helped found FBS in 1983 and seems to embody the spirit of Florida Bibliophile Society.

All of these individuals have given years to building and maintaining the foundation of mutual interest and mutual respect that characterizes FBS. I heartily encourage our new members to get involved and get to know them.

Now it’s time for all of us to take a break for what I hope will be a wonderful summer. Restful or exciting, stay-at-home or travel-afar – whatever your plans, be safe, stay in touch, and bring back lots of great books and the stories that go with them!

See you in September!

And at the book store! — Charles



The Florida Bibliophile 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.

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The Florida Bibliophile Society

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Treasurer: Linda Morris — linjer25@gmail.com

www.floridabibliophilesociety.org

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

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