

The Florida Bibliophile

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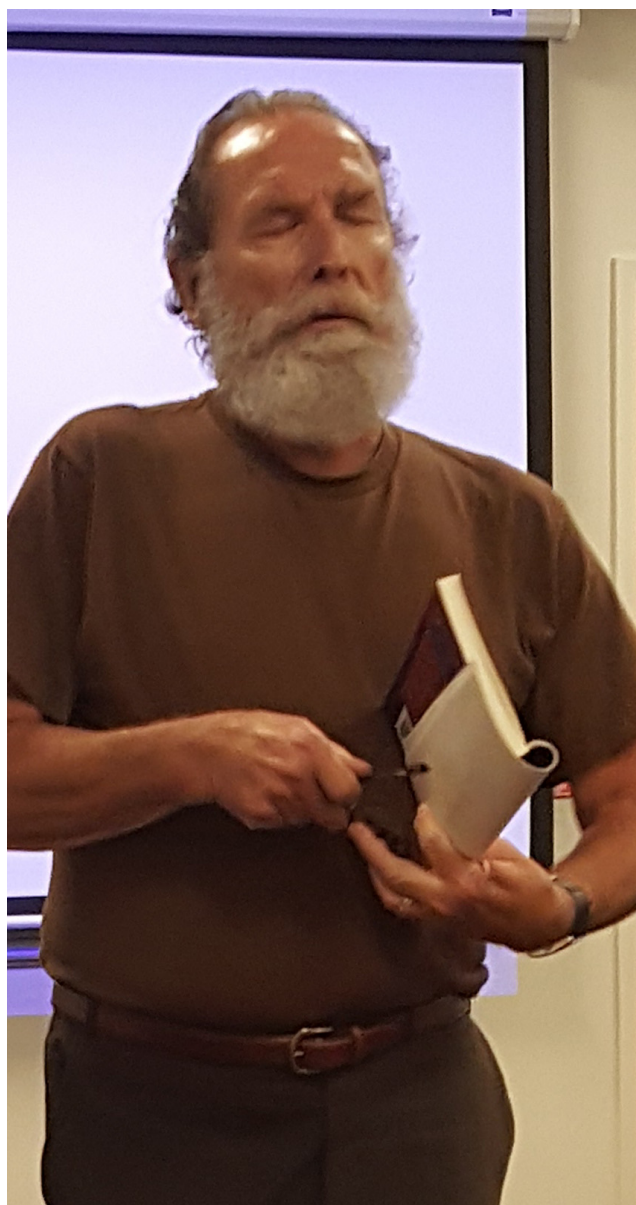
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Deadline for the September newsletter is
August 31, 2017.

See page 28 for details.

Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FABS newsletter is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the latest FABS newsletter [here](#).



Peter Hargitai closes his eyes to concentrate as he recites a poem by the 20th century Hungarian poet Attila József from a book of József's poems, *Perched on Nothing's Branch*, translated by Hargitai.



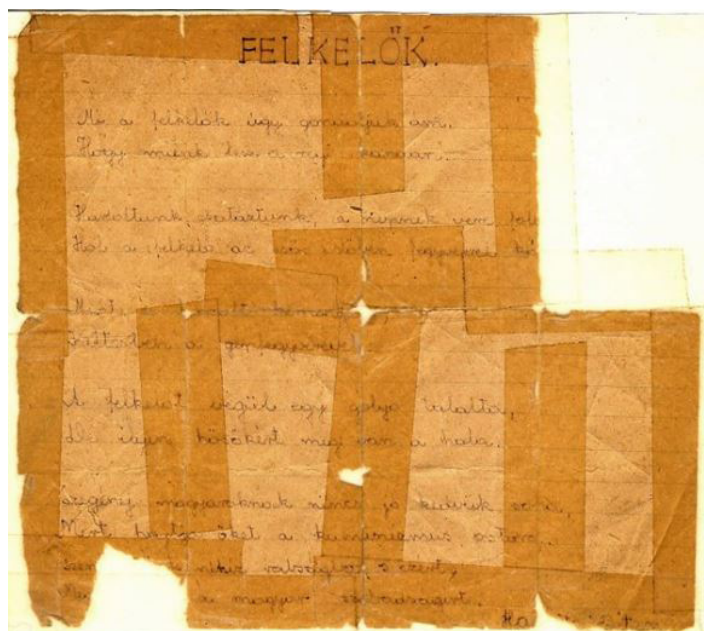
Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the Florida Bibliophile Society April Meeting

April 30, 2017

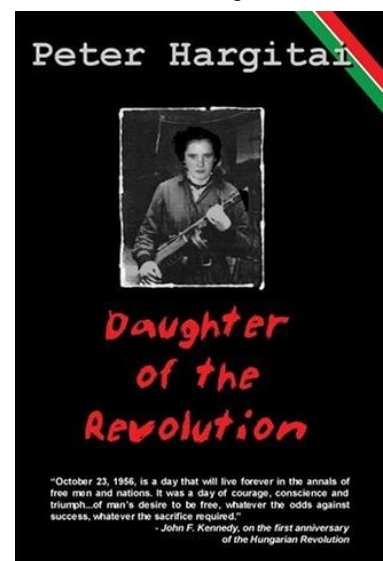
Charles Brown called the meeting to order about 1:45, and introduced our speaker, Peter Hargitai, an FBS member and poet, and the first Poet Laureate of Gulfport, Florida. Peter escaped from Hungary during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. In his introduction, Charles noted that Hungary had played a prominent role in the history of book collecting, in that Matthias Corvinus (1443-1490), King of Hungary in the late 1400s, was a renowned collector of medieval manuscripts. Picking up the ball, Peter noted that Matthias had the largest library in the world after that of the Vatican, that Matthias's Hungarian heritage had been drilled into Peter when he was a child, and that perhaps had led to his life-long obsession with books!

Peter is an award-winning poet, novelist, and



Peter, age 9, wrote the poem "Felkelők" ("Rebels"), before he left Hungary. The carefully preserved poem has traveled with Peter to the present day.

translator of Hungarian literature. Living in Budapest in 1956 as a small child, he wrote his first poem, "Felkelők" ("Rebels"), as a tribute to the Hungarian fighters. That year, he witnessed the 12-day October uprising that was the first attempt to reject Communism in Hungary. The bloody suppression of that effort reverberated across Europe. That epic fight for Hungarian freedom has lingered in Peter's blood. In 2006, celebrating the 50th anniversary of that revolution, Peter wrote *Daughter of the Revolution* (iUniverse, 2006), paying tribute to the many young girls who fought the Russian soldiers. The



book views the revolution from the perspective of his then fourteen-year-old cousin, Izabella Barna. Izabella's mother was shot to death in the street, which turned Izabella into a warrior! Peter has recently been involved with the development of a



Matthias Corvinus in the fifteenth century *Chronica Hungarorum* (Brno, 1488; Augsburg, 1488) by Johannes de Thurocz (in Hungarian, Thuróczy János). The *Chronica* was the most important history of Hungary produced in the fifteenth century. The 1488 Augsburg edition may be [viewed online](#).

April Minutes, continued

documentary film based on his book; he began his presentation by showing an extended (10 minute) trailer from that film, which clearly stirred the audience.

Part of the documentary was some old footage from 1956 which shows Peter in the streets – as Peter put it, “in the middle of history,” as a nine-year-old! Peter’s goal with the documentary was to advocate the building of bridges between peoples. He expressed concern, however, that in the current Hungarian political climate, the film might fare better in foreign film festivals such as Karlovy Vary’s than at home.

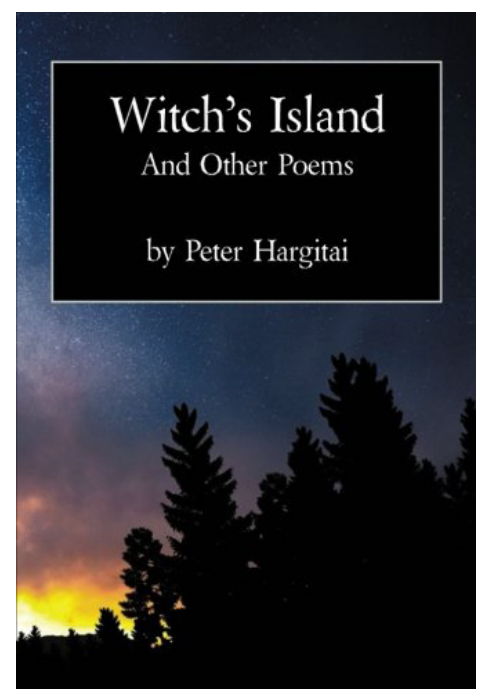
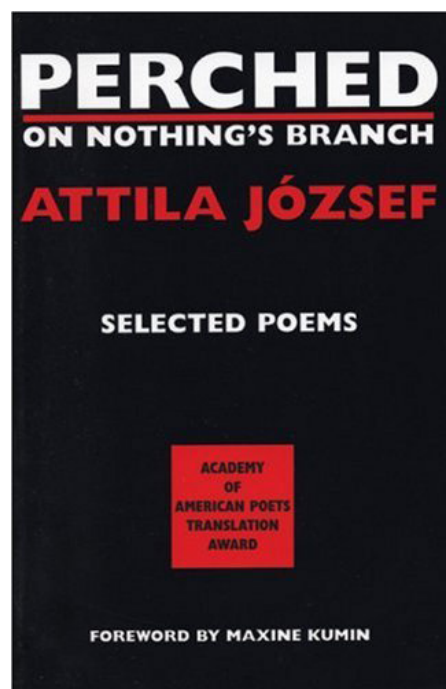
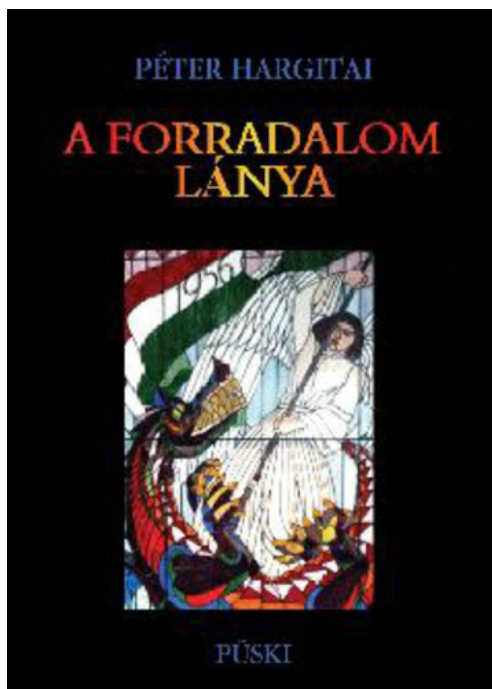
Peter’s family escaped to the United States where they settled in an extended Hungarian community in Cleveland. There he pursued his education and began his literary career, and there he met his wife of now 52 years, Dianne, who came with Peter to the FBS meeting. Peter proudly announced to the group (in his flawless English) that Dianne had taught him English when he was a teenager.

In 1978, Peter left Cleveland and moved to Florida, where he has held teaching positions at the

University of Miami and at Florida International University. In essence, Peter wished to move beyond a Hungarian expatriate community to live in a broader American society. However, as he stopped speaking Hungarian every day, he feared he would start to lose that language. To retain his Hungarian, he started translating Hungarian poets, particularly Attila József, who himself had been an expatriate Hungarian in Paris, who knew Thomas Mann, and had been a patient of Sigmund Freud. József had been abandoned by his mother and had lived in an orphanage. As Peter stated, József’s poetry only expressed two emotions: “anger and being pissed!”

Peter expressively recited or read several of József’s poems to the group, including “Stones,” which expresses a broken society from the perspective of stones in the street which want to be built into cities. József’s poetry can be regarded as socialist poetry in its attacks on the inequities of early twentieth-century European capitalism.

Indeed, Peter – who grew up under Stalinism, and wanted to be a Soviet hero when he was a child – had his own socialist views as a young man. He



A selection from the numerous books Peter has written. Left: The Hungarian edition of Daughter of the Revolution. Center: A selection of poems by Attila József, translated by Peter Hargitai. Right: Peter’s most recent book of his own poetry.

April Minutes, concluded

repeated the adage that young men who were not socialists had no heart, but older men who stayed with socialism had no brains.

Peter read three of his own poems: “A Broken Hungarian Love Song,” “Mother’s Visit Number 29,” and “Mother’s a Racist.” These emotional and earthy poems vividly explore issues of family, racism, and sexuality.

Peter self-deprecatingly and humorously summarized what has, in fact, been a very distinguished career. He noted that when he gave poetry readings in Cleveland, he typically had three listeners – two of whom were homeless and one of which was his professor! He writes both prose and poetry – his poet friends consider him to be a writer of prose, and his novelist friends think of him as a poet! He noted that he delights in developing covers for his books, and sometimes develops the covers first before writing the book! He showed the group some of his many possible covers for a prospective book, “Slaves to Paradise,” in which he is “swimming to be in the mainstream,” – and then noted that even over many months he had written virtually nothing of the text!

Peter delighted in the freedom which the Internet age has given authors to publish almost for nothing and to continue to revise works indefinitely. In this way, every work becomes a palimpsest, subject to continual change. He decried the fact that traditional publication is so New-York-centric. He opined that there is little money for poets in the digital age, but in his own case, at least, he writes and publishes out of a need to do so, out of a love of words. He argued that he, like other poets, has an urge to try to be extraordinary, and, perhaps like Icarus, risks flying too close to the sun. He encouraged the group to write and publish if they wished to without regard to reviews as a matter of personal fulfillment. As a former student of Isaac Bashevis Singer, he repeated Singer’s maxim that all you have to do be a writer is to write.



Peter Hargitai walks the streets of Budapest with the crew filming Daughter of the Revolution.

At the end of his talk, Peter was presented with two books, one of which was a book of Hungarian songs. When challenged by the audience to sing, he unabashedly began a song which he obviously knew by heart as he was able to continue the song after he closed the book. His exuberance and indomitable spirit was manifest.

In a short business meeting after the presentation, Linda Morris reminded everyone of the need to submit their money for the upcoming banquet. The Society will bear half the costs so the charges to individuals will only be \$15.

Charles Brown brought up the issue of officers for next year, and it was agreed by acclamation that Jerry Morris would serve as President (and continue to arrange speakers), that Charles Brown would serve as Vice-President (and continue to produce and edit the monthly newsletter), that Linda Morris would continue as Treasurer, and that Gary Simons would continue as Secretary. Jaya Nair, one of our outstanding college members, will assist Gary.

Recorded by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

Daughter of the Revolution: Making the Documentary

The following stills are taken from the three-and-a-half-minute trailer for the documentary *Daughter of the Revolution*.

The documentary *Daughter of the Revolution* is based on the book by Peter Hargitai. Peter was in Hungary in late October 1956 when the uprising began, but he was only nine. For the book, he chose to tell the story of a 14-year-old girl, whose parents were killed during the uprising and who became consumed with revenge. This also allowed Peter to focus on the vital role played in the Hungarian uprising and resistance by women and girls.

Peter returned to Hungary for the filming of the documentary. Here, walking through the streets with his son, also named Peter, remembers the days before the revolution. In a few steps, they will be in front of the entrance to the apartment where he and his family lived at the time.

Peter explains that even in America, he lived in a Hungarian world: “life consisted of Hungarian Boy Scouts, Hungarian church, Hungarian butcher, Hungarian bakery.” In this world, if one was not Hungarian, one did not count. He left this world, and in the process, “lost his nationality.” But he discovered a larger world and his bonds with all people. He “found his humanity.”



Daughter of the Revolution, continued

Peter enters one his old school buildings. It was from an art class in these buildings that he heard the shouts, “*Szabadság! Szabadság! Szabadság!*” – “Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!” The 1956 Revolution was the first insurrection behind the Iron Curtain since it had been established after World War II.



It began as a student revolt in Budapest in which thousands participated. Students used loudspeakers to broadcast their demands and entered the radio building, attempting to use its facilities to spread the word. The secret police inside the radio building murdered the student emissaries and shot indiscriminantly into the crowd, killing many; during the night armed demonstrators broke through the gate and occupied the building. Word spread quickly, and unrest erupted across Budapest and then across Hungary.



Peter's cousin, Izabella (who Peter based the novel's lead character on) saw her mother die as the result of a volley of gunfire. These days, we would say the events of that day “radicalized” her, and from that time she became part of the revolution: “The machine gun hanging from my neck is the closest thing to my heart.”

The documentary tells this story through Peter's recollections, through archival photos and footage, and compellingly, with animation, creating a jarring combination of a fantasy medium with the horror of real events.



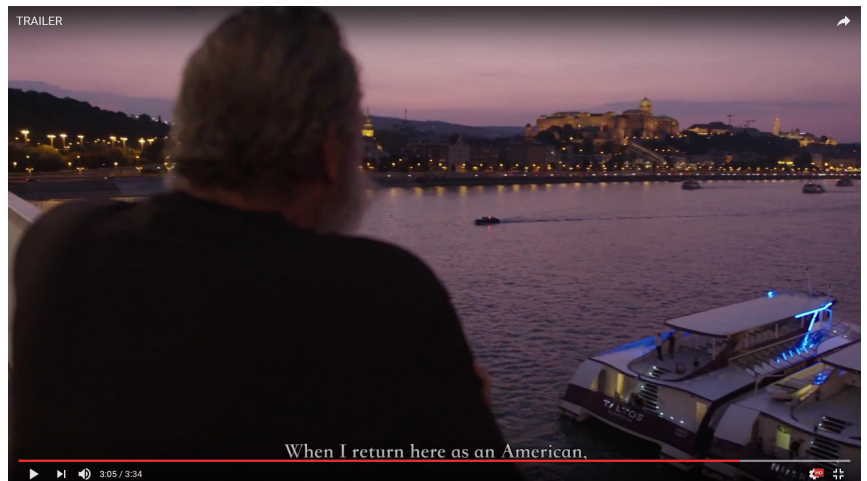
Daughter of the Revolution, concluded

Peter and composer Toth János Rudolf, who had set Peter's poem "Monument" to music, reflect on the revolution. They discuss the tragedy of a conflict that pitted one Hungarian against another. They also discuss the role that women and girls played in the revolution – a vital role they agree is underappreciated in the history books. Behind them is a statue entitled "Glory to the boys of Budapest," dedicated to the children that participated in the 1956 insurrection.



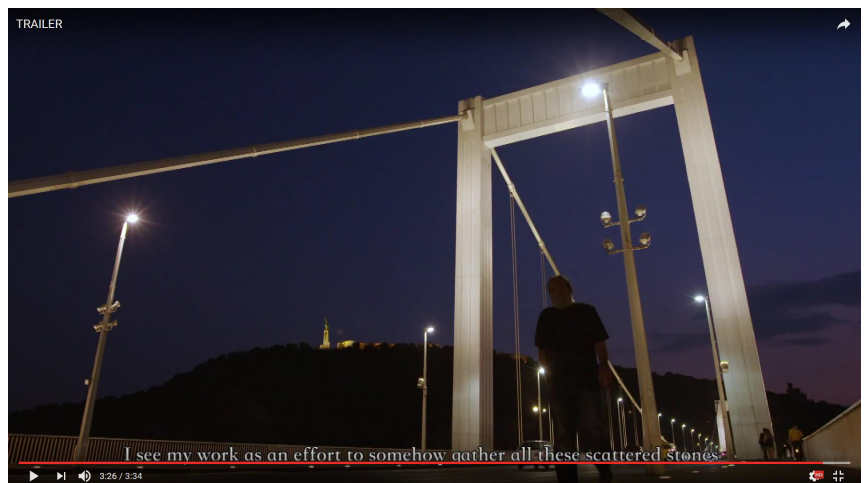
From the Elizabeth Bridge in Budapest, Peter looks across the Danube at dusk. In the background is the great Buda Castle, which dates to the 1300s. The kings of Hungary lived in palaces on Castle Hill beginning in 1265.

Peter reflects on the people of Hungary, scattered around the world, but also "scattered" in their homeland. He views his work as a way of bringing these "scattered stones" back together.



A crucial part of bringing Hungarians back together is to remind them of their collective past, a continuous history of over a thousand years.

As night falls, Peter leaves the Elizabeth bridge. In the background, brightly lit on Gellért Hill, with a view of all of Budapest, is the Szabadság-szobor, the Freedom Statue.



Peter Hargitai and József Attila: A Selection of Poems

FELKELŐK

Peter Hargitai (9 éves korig)

Mi felkelők úgy gondoljuk ám,
Hogy miénk lesz a régi Kánaán.

Harcoltunk, csatáztunk, a népnek vére folyt,
Hol a felkelő az esős időben fegyverrel kóborolt.

Ment és harcolt keményen,
Kettesben a gépfegyverével.

A felkelőt végül egy golyó találta,
De ilyen hősökert megvan a hála.

Szegény magyaroknak nincs jó kedvük soha,
Mert hajtja őket a kommunizmus ostora.

Szenvedtünk nehéz rabságba, s ezért,
Meghaltunk a magyar szadabságért.

REBELS

Peter Hargitai (age 9)

We rebels think we can make a stand
To win back our promised Canaan.

We battled, our blood overflowed.
But gun in hand, one kept on in the rain.

And she fought long and hard,
Her machine gun closest to her heart.

But a bullet pierced her chest
And she died a martyr's glorious death.

Poor Hungarians, hopelessly oppressed,
Scourged by communist tyranny,

Suffering in wretched slavery
And willing to die Hungarian liberty.



Poems of Hargitai and Attila, continued

**EMLÉKMŰ
EGY PESTI LÁNYNAK**
50 évvel később

Peter Hargitai (59 éves korig)

Itt
fekszel,
önmagad szobra,
tizennégy évesen,
géppisztolyod
szívedre fagyva,
emlékmű
halálnak s feltámadásnak.
Ott fekszel,
a Szeplőtelen Fogantatás temploma mellett,
szitává löve,
verrel befröcskölve, becsapott ártatlanság.
Magyar iskoláslányból
harcossá lettél,
társaiddal együtt lelket te leheltél
a Forradalomba.
Szabadságharcos,
akiért senki sem harcol.
Kis testét
nincs, ki eltemesse,
beszórták mésszel,
belepte a hó s az idő,
nemlátó babaszemével mered,
s ront szovjet tankra,
zsarnokságra.
Ott fekszel, ereklye
a csontkupac tetején,
torz geometriába dermeszt a fagy,
egy nép bátorságának emlékműve vagy.
Mit az emberi embertelenség maga után hagy.

**A MONUMENT
TO A GIRL OF BUDAPEST**
50 years later

Peter Hargitai (age 59)

You
lie there,
a statue unto yourself,
a girl of fourteen,
a submachine gun
frozen to your heart,
a monument
to death and resurrection.
You lie there,
by the church of the Immaculate Conception,
riddled with bullets,
sprayed with blood, all innocence deceived.
Hungarian schoolgirl turned
woman warrior,
it is you, and the likes of you,
the Revolution conceived.
Freedom fighter,
with no one to fight for her.
A small body,
with nobody to bury her,
sprinkled with lime,
covered by snow, by time,
unseeing doll's eyes raging
against Soviet armor,
against tyranny.
You lie there, a relic
on a hill of bone,
frozen in grotesque geometry,
a monument to a people's bravery.
A monument to man's inhumanity.

In Hungarian, the third person singular pronoun "ő" is without gender



Poems of Hargitai and Attila, continued

GULFPORT MORNING

with homage to G.M. Hopkins

Peter Hargitai (age 69)

I found this morning my dominion,
My new kingdom of joy awash
In the beatific foam of the tide,
My golden dawn's new minion.

Poems come to me here
On the wings of seagulls
Sun-dappled as the apple juice
My wife sets on our table.

Life is afresh in the golden halo
Of our special time together,
Here and everywhere about us:
In the whisper of sun-drenched
Palm fronds and white sails,

On my holy bike ride
To the Gulfport Library,
My brain abuzz with dear,
Foolish little things
I will try catching in flight
In my quest for my holy grail
At my desk. On my old laptop.

I work here among books
On magical solitary mornings.
Their silence my sanctuary,
Their solace brooding over me
With warm breasts
And with — ah — bright wings.



Poems of Hargitai and Attila, continued

BRUEGEL'S ICARUS, FOR INSTANCE

Peter Hargitai

He makes a go of it after all,
After all God-made things:
Spontaneous flows
Of clouds and canyons grand,
Soaring in the grand delusion
Toward art with a capital A.
Destined to fall,
His pale legs and withered ass
Unnoticed as he goes plonk

Into blue-green oblivion.

No, our poet does not live on,
At least not on the page.

His shall be a life of doldrums
In schoolroom after schoolroom,
Trying to purge himself
Of his Slabovian accent
To sound like James Mason
And sit cross-legged
Like a cultured European
Who shall play obsessively
With a maverick curl
By his ear. Stroke his beard
And stoke his pipe.
Drive only imported cars
And drink only imported beer.

He shall be more than a man.
He shall be androgynous.
He shall be a genius.
He shall deride any man
Whose legs make a V
When he sits. He shall resist
The stereotypical phallus.
The All-American notion of the dick.

And he shall measure everyone
By their proximity to the sun.
He shall take his students
On field trips to Lethe,
So their hearts may know melancholy,
So their words may be extravagant.
He himself plans to be extravagant
And when he dances his dance of death
He shall trip and fall, withered ass and all
As in Brueghel's Icarus, for instance.



*Poems of Hargitai and Attila, continued***KÖVEK***Gyurinak és Istvának*

József Attila (1905-1937)

Öreg kövek, ne haragudjatok,
Ha taposlak, hiszen tinálatok
Nagyobb és mozgóbb taposó vagyok.

Szólok hozzátok, vén testvéreim,
Mozgóbb, nagyobb taposó tapos engem
S nem szól, csak jár az emberköveken,
Nem szól, nem szól, vagy jelekben beszél
És tán ti vagytok súlyos szavai?
Ó, némák, meg nem értek titeket sem!

Miért van kő, ha nem lesz épületté?

Hát nem segít a jaj s az allelúja?
Se hit? se malter? se Krisztushabarc?
Széthullt az ember millió darabra,
Mint esőben a vályogkalyiba.
És hol van az erős, terméskő-ember,
Kit nem tapos fájóra semmi láb?
Ó, borzalmas így: útfelen heverni,
Ha bennünket nem épít városokká
Gránithalmokba semmi építő.
Hiszen kölyökkorában az időnek
Egymást-karoló barlanghegyek voltunk,
Hol béke és szeretet lakott.

Széjjeltördelt a bölcsesség s a bomba,
Szétbomlasztott a gejzirlábu vér
S nyomoruságos könnyekbe merülve
Száz megváltó agy forr már, mint a mész,

Hogy értelmes várossá magasodjunk,
Mert most minden s egyetlen értelmünk
Az úton heverő kövek fájdalma,
Mely porban és piszokban taposódva
Templomtorony kupolájába vágyik!

1924

STONES*for Gyuri and István*

Attila József (1905-1937)

Do not be angry with me
Ancient stones because I trample you,
Moving, I have trod on others, heavier than you.

I call you old brethren,
Something heavier tramples me under
Walking on headstones, on silent haunches,
It doesn't speak, except through omens,
O mut ones, is it you?
And are these your heavy words I can't understand!

Why are there stones and no buildings?

Doesn't *Oh!* of halleluia help?
Or Faith? or mortar for Christ's sake?
We fell, scattered into a million pieces
Like adobe in the rain.
And where's the strong, rock-solid man
Who knows of no pain?
O it's unbearable like this: Lying in the street,
And no one will build us into cities
Or granite mountains, though when young
We were lapping hills
Where peace and brotherhood lived.

Insolence and bombs broke us apart:
Dissolved by geyser-footed blood,
And sunk into miserable tears,
A hundred succoring brains smolder, like lime,

That we may grow into sunlit cities,
Because our only concern now is the stones
Lying in the street,
Trampled in the mire and dust,
Longing to be a temple's towering dome!

Poems of Hargitai and Attila, continued

TISZTA SZÍVVEL

József Attila (1905-1937)

Nincsen apám, se anyám,
se istenem, se hazám,
se bölcsőm, se szemfedőm,
se csókom, se szeretőm.

Harmadnapja nem eszek,
se sokat, se keveset.
Húsz esztendőm hatalom,
húsz esztendőm eladom.

Hogyha nem kell senkinek,
hát az ördög veszi meg.
Tiszta szívvel betörök,
ha kell, embert is ölök.

Elfognak és felkötnék,
áldott földdel elfödnek
s halált hozó fű terem
gyönyörűszép szívemen.

1925

WITH ALL MY HEART

Attila József (1905-1937)

I have no father, I have no mother,
I have no God, I have no land,
I have no cradle or a cover,
no kiss, no lover's hand.

Three days I haven't eaten,
not too much and not too well,
all I have is twenty years,
twenty years of hell
I'd gladly sell.

If no one wants them,
then maybe the devil will.
I'd be thrilled to rob and steal
and kill and kill and kill.

They'll catch me and they'll
hang me, and cover me up with
blessed earth, and death-eating
grass will start growing from my
lovely heart.

This poem resulted in Attila's expulsion from the Franz Joseph University.



Treasures We Found at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair

Contributed by Florida Bibliophile Society Members

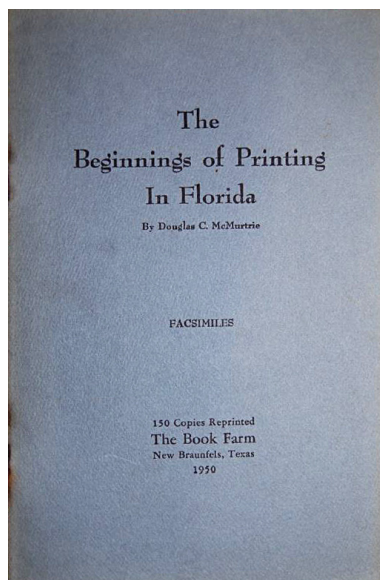
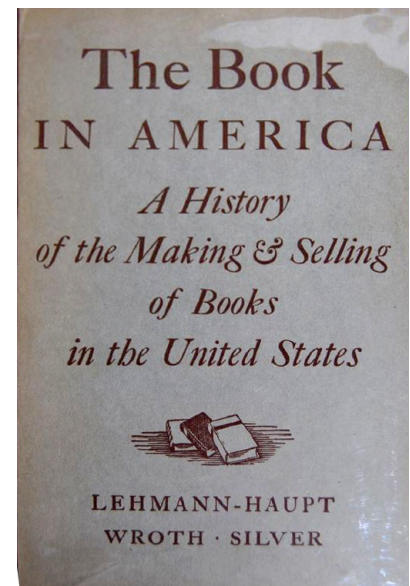


David Hall – One of my side interests is railroading. So I was delighted to find *A Journey into Florida Railroad History* (pictured) at the Antiquarian Book Fair.

Tom Touchton – I collect Florida maps, prints, views and books and also buy various types of historical artifacts and memorabilia that I give to the Tampa Bay History Center (TBHC) for its archives and collections. At the recent Antiquarian Book Fair in St. Pete, I bought a total of 20 items from three different dealers which I have since donated to TBHC. My wife bought an additional three items for herself. We consider this book fair very satisfying for these purposes and are always glad to encounter dealers, collectors and friends whom we have known for many years.”

Carl Nudi – I picked up two books, and I wasn’t planning on buying any.

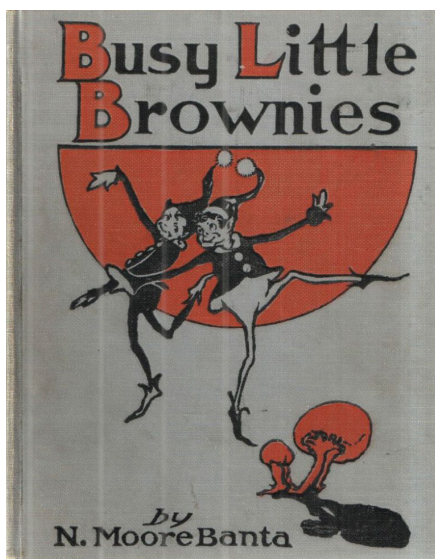
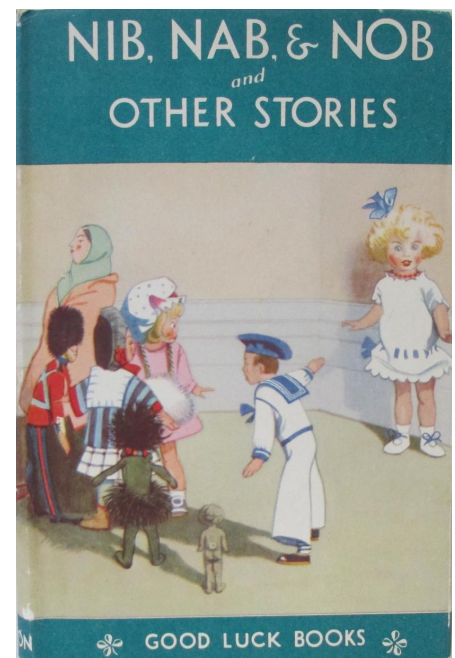
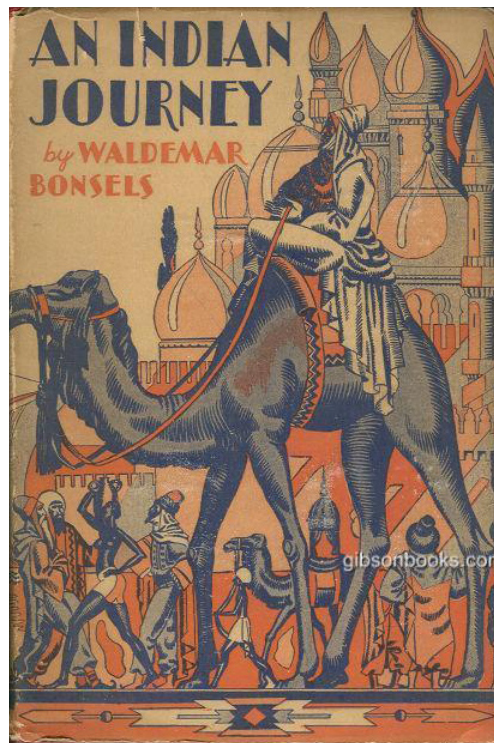
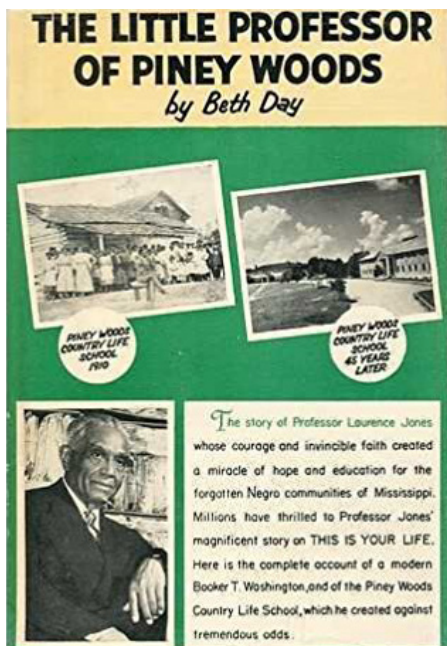
The first was *The Book in America*, by Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, a 1952 second printing of the 1939 first edition. It was an impulse buy because I was talking to Cathy Graham, owner of Copperfish Books in Punta Gorda, about how I was just in her town and walked past her shop but didn’t go in because the friends I was with knew of my “condition” and held me back.



But during the conversation with Cathy, I just happened to mention that I collected books on printing, and she pointed out four she had brought to the show. I had to look at them, and my will was broken. Twenty-eight dollars later, I was the happy owner of the book. Now,

I have to find time to actually read it. The other book was brought to me by another dealer – and I don’t even know his name – because he knew I was interested in printing. Of course, my demonstration of a printing press in the booth next to his for the Tampa Book Arts Studio may have been a giveaway.

Twenty dollars later, I am now the proud owner of a pamphlet titled, *The Beginnings of Printing in Florida*. Again, I need to find time to read it. I really enjoyed the book fair again this year, even though I’m \$48 poorer.

Treasures, continued

Neil Williamson — Here are some of books acquired at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair this year.

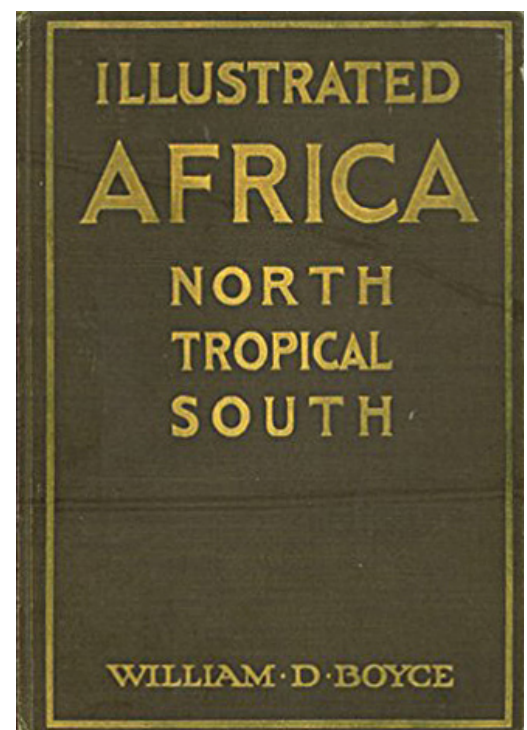
The Little Professor of Piney Woods is an account of the founding of a school for disadvantaged black children established in 1909 in Mississippi. It is currently the largest African American boarding school in the country.

An Indian Journey is the account of Waldemar Bonsel's travels in India over a yearlong journey published in 1928. It has a small bookshop sticker on the inside front cover from The Little Book Shop in Montgomery Alabama.

Nib, Nab & Nob is a delightful illustrated children's book containing, among others, the story of "Little Black Sambo." It contains a small bookshop sticker from Mitchell's English Book Store in Buenos Aires, Argentina. If only this book could talk.

Busy Little Brownies is another children's book that intrigues me. It is profusely illustrated by a woman named Dorothy Dulin, but the Brownies appear identical to those of Palmer Cox. Strange and deserving of research.

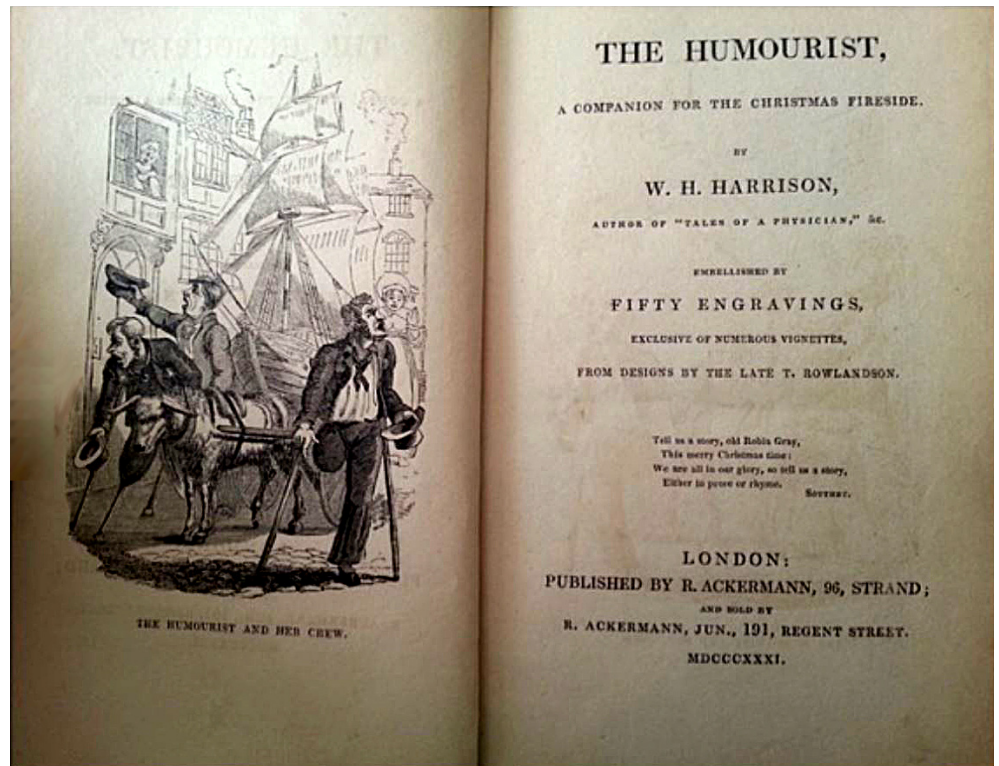
Illustrated Africa contains a plethora of photographs of vanished African people, places, and culture. It also contains a tipped in inscription and signature by the author.



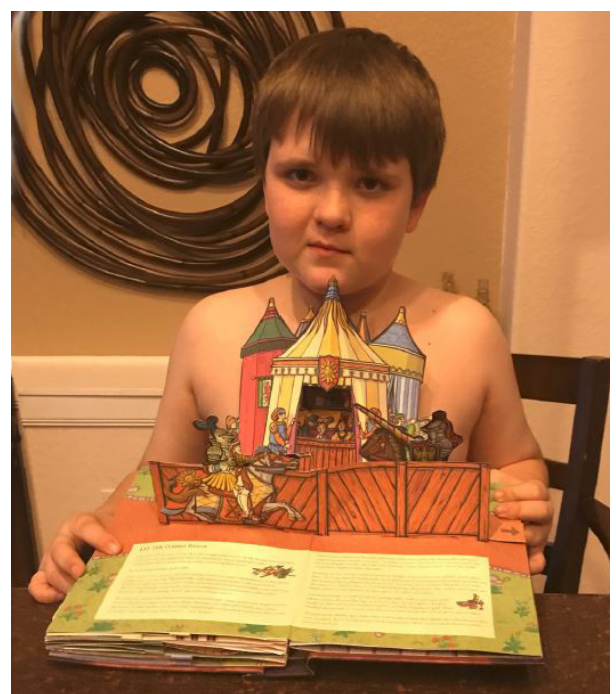
Treasures, continued

Gary Simons — As a teacher of English Literature, and as a collector, I am particularly interested in British books published between 1825 and 1850. My particular favorites are the novels of high society, known as “Silver Fork” novels, written by Catherine Gore and others, and the elaborately-bound Christmas season gift books known as the annuals, which contained many steel engravings as well as light prose and verse. At the recent Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, to my surprise, I found a reasonably priced copy of *The Humourist*, an 1831 annual which I was delighted to add to my collection. I also collect biographies of nineteenth-century British

literary figures. I have multiple biographies of all the big names — Dickens, Thackeray, Keats, Tennyson, Browning, Eliot, Hardy, etc. — as well as many biographies of the lesser lights. At the fair, I found a very inexpensive (\$5) biography of the poet Christina Rossetti. I knew I already had a few biographies of her, but checking with my online Library Thing app — which I learned about from Jerry Morris — I was able to determine I didn’t have this one and snarfed up the bargain!



Jerry Morris — I took my Grandson Dylan with me to the book fair. And he found a book on castles for his Pop-Up Book Collection, *Castle: Medieval Days and Knights*.



Treasures, concluded

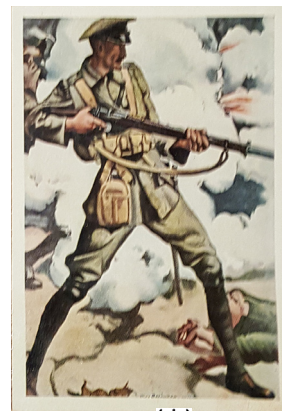
Charles Brown – The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is a great place to see books you won't see anywhere else. I am interested in albums of various kinds, and the book at the right is a wonderful example. It is a fat album which meticulously documents a trip taken in 1936-7 to England. The album maker traveled on the Queen Mary and toured England extensively. The album includes many photographs, concert programs, menus, postcards, and other ephemera. The motivation for the trip was coronation of George VI.



Below is a book created by well-known outsider artist Howard Finster. Finster's primary, and very prolific, output was paintings crowded with religious messages; therefore, the title of the book, *Howard Finster's Vision of 1982*. The book was published by Finster from a hand-drawn original for sale at his outsider creation, Paradise Gardens, in Summerville, GA,



Above is a German book from the 1930s, *Der Weltkrieg* (*The World War*), published by the *Cigaretten-Bilderdienst* – the Cigarette Picture Service – in Dresden. This book is a history of the War to End All Wars with spaces provided for cigarette cards that illustrate the text. The book appears to contain a complete collection of the 270 cards. At the right is card 256, one of a series of the cards that illustrates the combatants; this one is entitled “The Englander.”



Report on the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts

by Elenora Sabin

As I do every March, I recently attended the 38th annual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts at the Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel (March 22-26, 2017). And what a book lover and collector's delight this one was! The conference book room is under a new director after the sudden and unexpected death of the former director just prior to last year's conference. The new director is in the process of reorganizing the bookroom to reduce the inventory, a necessity due to lack of storage space between conferences. (The former director stored a great number of books in his home.) To accomplish this reduction, the hall outside the bookroom was lined with five or six long tables full of FREE books. Some of the books were older paperbacks but many were hardcover books or trade paperbacks in brand new condition, surplus stock that had never sold. Of course that hall was always filled with people browsing those tables and reaping the bounty. The conference lasted four days, Wednesday through Saturday, and new books were added to those tables every day. In addition, on Thursday and Friday there were luncheons and on Saturday evening an awards banquet, and for those three meals at every table each place setting held two free brand new books, including one each by the conference's two author guests of honor. In addition to all this bounty, the bookroom offered for sale books by most of the 88 attending authors. I believe I showed admirable restraint in coming home with only 26



Elenora (left) and Ellen Daltow, ICFA 37, 2016; photo by Bill Clemente

books, many signed by the authors, and only four of which I purchased, in addition I brought two books to give to a friend, so my total "take" was 28 books.

This year's conference theme was Fantastic Epics. The two author guests of honor both write epic fantasy. Unfortunately one of them, N. K. Jemison, was unable to attend because of the death of her mother, which occurred just before the conference. I had been looking forward to meeting her because she is a Hugo Award winner, and I had only recently read her marvelous *Inheritance Trilogy*, as my introduction to her work. I found it an astounding work, spellbinding, very original in concept and execution, and a book I know I will want to read again and again. Despite her absence, I learned a great deal about her and her work by attending four conference sessions dedicated to her novels. All the sessions interested me, but three papers particularly stood out: "Seeing is Believing, but Faith Needs More: Jemisin's *Fantasy Gods and Magic*" by Kaleigh Wyrick, "Afro-Futurism, as of Late: Butler, Okorofo, Jemisin, and Shawl" by Isiah Lavender III, and "Polyamory in Fantasy: Rewriting Sexuality in N. K. Jemisin's *The Fifth Season*," by Amandine Fauchaux. The paper by Lavender fascinated me especially, as it pointed out how the works of those four African-American authors draw on African history, religion, myths, and current events to create a

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

The purpose of IAFA is to promote and recognize achievement in the study of the fantastic, mainly through the organization and management of an annual academic conference, the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA). IAFA also publishes the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, which is a peer-reviewed journal for scholarship within the field of the fantastic. The news blog on the [IAFA website](http://www.iafa.org) publishes information relevant to the IAFA membership.



Report on the ICFA, concluded

body of Afro-futuristic literature, a category that arose after World War II and has become a globe-spanning phenomenon.

And finally, the address by Guest Scholar Edward James titled “Epics in Three Parts” traced the development of epic literature from its beginning as verse, the term originating with Aristotle and characterized not by length but by being heroic in nature, to present day. He defined epic literature in general as “a narrative that focuses on the lives of its characters and their significance to their community or to the entire world.” To clarify his meaning, he gave some examples. By his definition, he said, the *Iliad* is an epic, but the *Odyssey* is not; *War and Peace* is an epic, while *Anna Karenina* is not. Moving on specifically to epic fantasy,

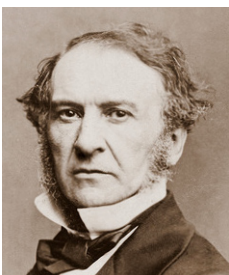
he gave its characteristics, among which are that its plot derives from a threat to civilization, most are set in pseudo-medieval worlds, though some are set in the industrial age, and prophecy commonly plays a role in them. Interestingly, he stated that the most popular epic fantasy trilogies are coming from Australian women. He could offer no explanation for this.

All in all, the conference was a wonderful experience, and as icing on the cake, among the photos from the 2016 conference was this one of me with Ellen Datlow, a prominent editor in the field of speculative fiction.



A Popular If Not Populist Library

contributed by David Hall



William Gladstone, one of Britain's most consequential prime ministers, served four separate terms as British prime minister between 1868 and 1894.

Britain's Liberal mid-nineteenth-century prime minister William Gladstone is the only British leader to have established his own library. The original library opened in 1889 to house Gladstone's 32,000 books. Though he turned 80 that year, he helped move the books the quarter mile from his grand country mansion, Hawarden Castle, to the new library—in wheelbarrows!

The early twentieth-century Gothic-style replacement library now holds more than 200,000 books, journals, and periodicals, concentrating on history, literature, and theology. Gladstone's personal papers are also there, including his marriage proposal. One sentence in it runs to 141 words, with 18 clauses or subclauses.

Access to the library is free. The facility includes 26 modern bedrooms, with reduced prices for authors, clergy, and students, and there is often a writer in residence. The remoteness of this library, in Hawarden in northern Wales, has not limited its popularity. “Reading room visitors increased by 25 percent to



Gladstone's Library, known until 2010 as St Deiniol's Library. In a diary entry for Dec. 23, 1895, Gladstone described the library's founding: “I have this day constituted my trust at St Deiniol's. The cost of the work has been I think £41 to £42000, including some charges of maintenance to Dec. 31. 95. May God of His mercy prosper it.”

50 percent in each of the first three months of 2017 over last year, and there was an overall 29 percent increase in overnight stays by scholars, writers and others in the same period,” according to Stephen Castle in “A Secluded Refuge Where Tolerance Is Prized, but Don't Dare Loll About,” in *The New York Times* article of May 2, 2017, from which this article was adapted.

[Gladstone Library website](#)

[Aerial tour](#) of the library and its surroundings

[Timelapse views](#) of library exterior and interior

[U.S. Friends of the Gladstone Library](#)



HELLO, VIRGINIA!

2017 Florida Antiquarian Book Fair Welcomes Rare Book School, Charlottesville

RARE BOOK SCHOOL was originally formed and founded in 1983 at Columbia University, NYC, by Terry Belanger. It fast became a respected global learning laboratory for librarians, scholars, teachers, and students. Its courses from respected specialists in book history, bibliography, printing, scholarly editing, paleography, and special collections, are now essential training. In 1992, the School relocated to the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, where it continues to flourish under the direction of Michael F. Suarez, S.J. The Florida Bibliophile Society (“FBS”) welcomed Rare Book School to the 2017 Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. Below is Maureen E. Mulvihill’s chat with Jeremy Dibbell, Rare Book School Communications/ Outreach Director.

FBS: So! Here comes Charlottesville, Virginia, Booth 64, to Florida’s 2017 Antiquarian Book Fair. What took you so long?

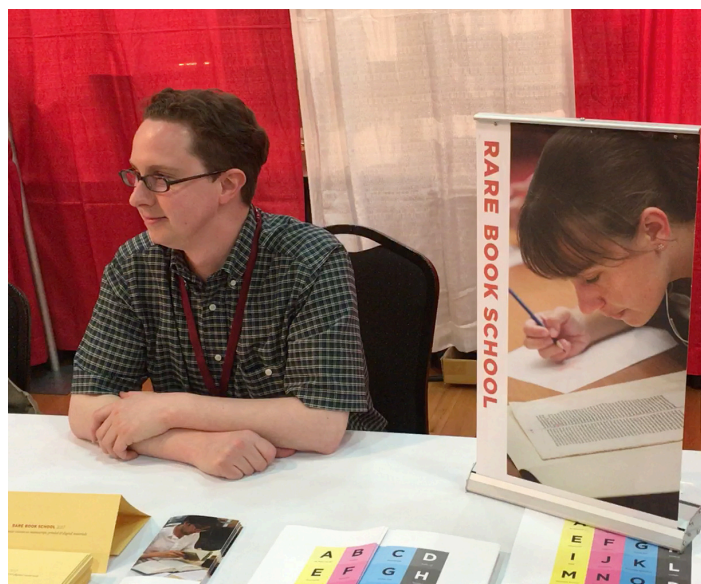
Jeremy Dibbell: Great question, Dr. Mulvihill! Over the last several years, Rare Book School (“RBS”) has been increasing outreach at book fairs ~ in Boston, NY, Seattle, Richmond, D.C., California, and now Florida. And it’s book communities like the Florida Bibliophile Society which caught our eye.

FBS: What were your goals as a first-ever exhibitor at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair?

JD: At the Fair, RBS aimed to connect with RBS friends and alumni, and to reach new audiences. One of my favorite things at book fairs is to watch someone see the sign at our table, mouth the words “Rare Book School?”, and then show me a big smile and come over to see what we’re all about. I’m a conduit in these settings, getting prospective students fired up over course offerings and the School’s mission. Book fairs are such fun ~ new faces, booksellers in nearby booths

FBS: Speak to RBS’s Florida demographic. (Florida Bibliophile Society includes two collectors who’ve studied at RBS ~ Patricia Pistner, and myself in the ‘80s.)

JD: Fairly consistently, we’ve had



Jeremy Dibbell, Communications / Outreach Director
Rare Book School, Charlottesville, Virginia

Photo, T. Allan Smith / Florida Antiquarian Book Fair

between 10 and 15 students from Florida each year ~ librarians, book collectors, booksellers. Florida is a presence, but we’d love to have more students from the Sunshine State (Floridians note: Virginia summers are often cooler than yours!).

FBS: Does the ‘new’ RBS model in Virginia hold particular appeal for Florida book people? Anything state-specific?

JD: Our courses are broadly applicable to bibliophiles everywhere, wherever they happen to live. This is what draws students to our course offerings. We are proud to have had, in 2016, ten countries, globally, and 42 states

across the USA. RBS now offers courses in Charlottesville and in satellite locations ~ Lilly Library, Bloomington, IN; Yale University, New Haven, CT; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Library of Congress in DC. We’re thrilled by all of this.

FBS: How do fee-paying students in your program actually use RBS training? And does RBS award a degree, or a certificate of program completion?

JD: RBS courses provide practical knowledge that students can use in



Original RBS Logo (1980s),
inspired by 17thC Dutch watermark
From the interviewer’s (original) RBS printer’s apron

Rare Book School, concluded

their immediate activities with ‘the book’. Each RBS course is designed so that people from a broad range of backgrounds and skill levels spend the week together in the classroom ~ and have opportunities to meet students in other classes. Making these connections, building this community, is critical to RBS’s identity. Look at this: Our courses put together, in the same room, booksellers and collectors, academics and librarians, bibliographers and editors ... what a mix! One of our classes from 2013 has even been having annual reunions every year at the Boston Book Fair. Our courses are non-credit / non-degree, but we do confer a Certificate of Proficiency (five courses over eight years).

FBS: With its enviable access to Jefferson’s Monticello, how does Virginia’s RBS use its setting?

JD: Charlottesville and the University of Virginia (“UVA”) are an excellent homebase for RBS. We put the rich resources of UVA’s special collections library to much use during our courses (62 visits in 2016), and we are blessed to have nearby the Virginia Arts of the Book Center, UVA’s printing facility, and other such

sites which our courses can visit. Many classes enjoy field trips to D.C., to visit the Library of Congress and various Smithsonian libraries. And we are happy to have a good range of used and antiquarian bookshops in town ~ why, each Thursday during RBS sessions, Charlottesville’s booksellers stay open late to welcome RBS students.

FBS: After three days pushing your brand in southwest Florida, what was achieved?

JD: The visit exceeded my wildest expectations! I very nearly ran out of my freebies (brochures, flyers, buttons); and I signed up more people for our mailing list than I’ve done at any previous book fair. It was encouraging to see a robust, varied turnout at the fair, all weekend long, and to meet many interesting and interested people. So, hearty thanks to the Florida Bibliophile Society for this cordial intersection and the good questions here! May we all meet again in 2018.

Interview condensed and lightly edited by Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS VP, 2012-15. Our thanks to Charles M. Brown, newsletter editor & FBS president, for layout.



— Rare Book School at Work —



Current RBS logo



ANNE FRANK HONORED IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Exhibition of 56 backlit panels (manuscripts, photographs, artifacts)

Selby Public Library, 1331 First Street, Downtown Sarasota

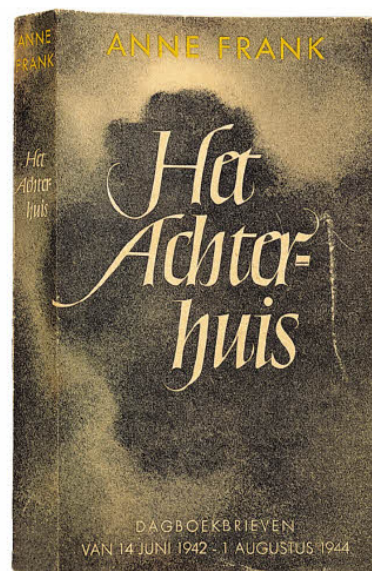
April 19 – May 26, 2017



Anne Frank: A History for Today (installation detail)

ON LOAN from the **Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect, NYC**, this interactive, multimedia exhibition tells the story of Anne Frank against the background of the Holocaust and World War II. A traveling show developed by the **Anne Frank House of Amsterdam**, the show is free to the public and sponsored by **The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee**, in collaboration with **Sarasota County Libraries & Historical Resources; Sarasota County schools; and Embracing Our Differences**. Enriching this experience, the Anne Frank Center for Mutual Respect has designed educator workshops and supplementary materials, as well as docent training, for area students, educators and community volunteers. And on May 19, 2017, 2:00PM, Gelbart Auditorium, Selby Public Library will host historian [Elana Passman](#) (Earlham College, Indiana), speaking on “[Life Outside Anne Frank’s Secret Annex](#)”; [RSVP](#). See facing page for additional images from Selby’s Anne Frank show. We thank the following for their contribution to this newspiece: [Pieter Kohnstam](#), author/Holocaust survivor, architect of Selby’s “Frank” show; Orna Nissan, Kim Mullins, Karen Alfaro, Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee; Cliff Roles, photographer, Sarasota.

Contact: [Orna Nissan](#) <onissan@jfedrsq.org> / Tel. 941.552.6305.



The Diary of Anne Frank, first published in 1947 in Dutch as *Het Achterhuis: Dagboekbrieven van 14 Juni 1942–1 Augustus 1944* (*The Annex: Diary Notes from 14 June 1942–1 August 1944*).

Contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member & Former V.P. (2012–2015)

Guest Speaker, “[Old Books Still Matter](#),” Selby Public Library, April 11, 2017

Anne Frank, concluded

Images from the Anne Frank Show

Selby Public Library, Sarasota. April 17 - May 27, 2017



LIMITED ENGAGEMENT

Anne Frank
A HISTORY FOR TODAY

This exhibit, which has been shown in more than 40 countries, tells the story of Anne Frank against the background of the Holocaust and World War II. Selby Public Library will host the exhibit. All who visit the exhibit will gain a better understanding of the Holocaust, World War II, and the impact these events have on today's society.

APRIL 17 - MAY 27, 2017
SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

"What is done cannot be undone, but one can prevent it from happening again." — ANNE FRANK

INTERESTED? Contact Orna Nissan at ornanissan@jfedrsq.org or 941.552.6305

The Jewish Federation
Klingenstein Jewish Center | 580 McIntosh Road, Sarasota, FL | jfedrsq.org



FLORIDA WELCOMES INNOVATIVE ART & DESIGN LIBRARY, A NEW ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARK

The Dr. Alfred R. Goldstein Library (46,000 sq. ft., 3 floors)
Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota, Florida
Sweet Sparkman Architects, Sarasota / Shepley Bullfinch, Boston
Willis Smith Construction, Sarasota (19 local companies)



A Major Attraction: The Brizdle-Schoenberg Special Collections Center

~ rare & special books on art & design / mixed-format materials ~

RINGLING'S NEW GOLDSTEIN LIBRARY is a state-of-the-art resource seeking to transform the experience of using library collections & services. Architecturally stunning (a \$20M project), the library is an active physical and digital destination on the Ringling College campus ~ a hub of exciting intersections for library users of all levels of training & research interests. Because of its many fine collections in all mediums, the new Goldstein Library will attract talented students, faculty, artists, tourists, and visiting specialists from the States and beyond. The Florida Bibliophile Society extends hearty congratulations to **Ringling College President, Larry Thompson**, and the many trustees and donors, architects and builders, librarians, administrators, and (yea!) students, who made this vision a reality.

Sources / Photo Credit: Harold Bubil, "[New Hot Spot for Design](#)," *Herald-Tribune*, May 7, 2017. See also Ringling College's [webpage](#). Article contributed by **Maureen E. Mulvihill**, Laurel Park, Sarasota, FBS Member & Former V.P. (2012-2015). Organizer, *Rarities from the Schoenberg Collection*, April 2015, Florida Bibliophile Society event, University of Tampa Library <[poster](#)>.

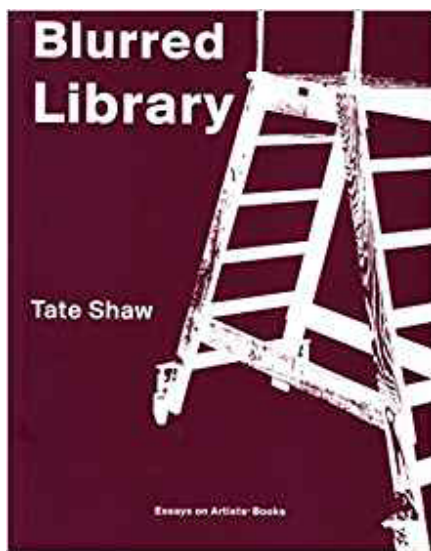


Books in Brief

Blurred Library: Essays on Artists' Books

Tate Shaw
Cuneiform Press
208 pp., 2017

Despite the fact that the field of artists' books has grown steadily since the mid-sixties, the discourse has been largely under-theorized. *Blurred Library: Essays on Artists' Books*, is a stunning



collection of the most revered essays by Tate Shaw, the Director of Visual Studies Workshop. For years, Shaw's contributions to the field of artists' books as a theorist, artist, writer, historian, and teacher have been celebrated internationally, but have largely gone undocumented, until now. Shaw's versatility as a scholar and artist

allow him to take a holistic approach to his subject that is historical, conceptual, anecdotal, contemplative, and engaging. *Blurred Library* is an indispensable contribution to the field of artists' books, essential reading for emerging and seasoned artists and scholars alike. Lavishly illustrated throughout by photographer Doug Manchec.

Tate Shaw is the Director of Visual Studies Workshop (VSW), Rochester, NY, a nonprofit organization supporting artists' books, photography, and the media arts. He is also an Assistant Professor at The College at Brockport, SUNY where he directs the Master of Fine Arts program in Visual Studies at VSW. Shaw makes artists' books, writes essays, organizes symposia on books, and is co-publisher of the small imprint Preacher's Biscuit Books.

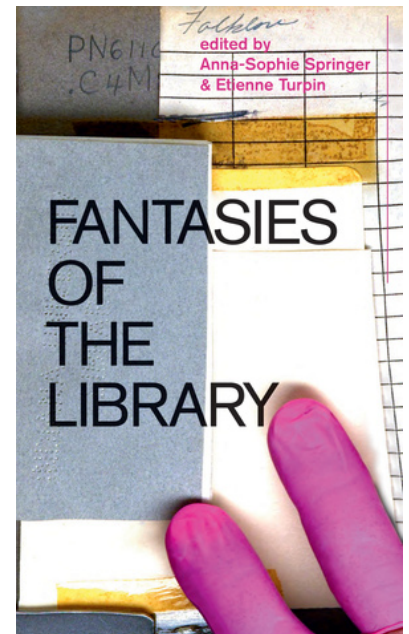
— Cuneiform Press

Fantasies of the Library

Anna-Sophie Springer
and Etienne Turpin
MIT Press
160 pp., 2016

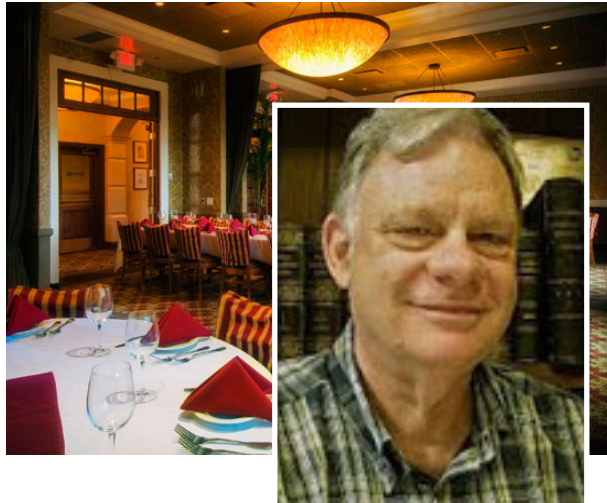
Fantasies of the Library lets readers experience the library anew. The book imagines, and enacts, the library as both keeper of books and curator of ideas—as a platform of the future. One essay occupies the right-hand page of a two-page spread while interviews scrolls independently on the left. Bibliophilic artworks intersect both throughout the book-as-exhibition. A photo essay, “Reading Rooms Reading Machines” further interrupts the book in order to display images of libraries (old and new, real and imagined), and readers (human and machine) and features work by artists including Kader Atta, Wafaa Bilal, Mark Dion, Rodney Graham, Katie Paterson, Veronika Spierenburg, and others.

The book includes an essay on the institutional ordering principles of book collections; a conversation with the proprietors of San Francisco's Prelinger Library in; reflections on the role of cultural memory and the archive; and a dialogue with a new media theorist about experiments at the intersection of curatorial practice and open source ebooks. The reader emerges from this book-as-exhibition with the growing conviction that the library is not only a curatorial space but a bibliological imaginary, ripe for the exploration of consequential paginated affairs. The physicality of the book – and this book – “resists the digital,” argues coeditor Turpin, “but not in a nostalgic way.” – MIT Press



Upcoming Events

May 2017



FBS Annual Banquet Brio Tuscan Grille International Plaza 2223 N. Westshore Blvd, Tampa, FL May 21, 2017

Guest speaker:

Mike Slicker

Owner, Lighthouse Books, St. Petersburg, FL

The FBS Annual Banquet will be a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the 2016-2017 season and its fascinating presentations and events. Our guest speaker will be Mike Slicker, who just celebrated 40 years in business in Lighthouse Books, his St. Petersburg bookstore. We will also hear from Emma Gregory, winner of FBS's first Harter Student Book Collecting Award – Emma will read her award-winning essay. And of course there will be a silent auction, great food, good friends – reserve a seat for this event today! Contact FBS treasurer Linda Morris to reserve a seat — linjer25@gmail.com.

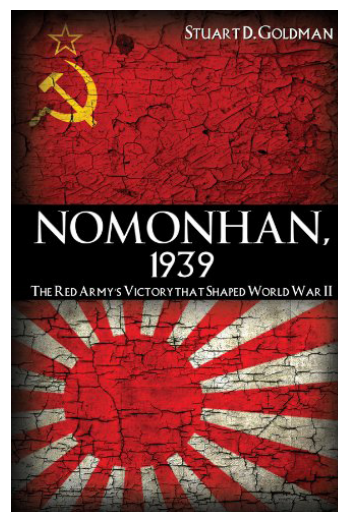
[Google Maps location](#) for Brio Tuscan Grille.

Preview of the FBS 2017-2018 Season

Planning for the Florida Bibliophile Society 2017-2018 season is already underway. We are working on a number of opportunities, including authors, academics, and book artists, in addition to our holiday dinner, annual banquet, next year's Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, maybe another Gainesville Getaway, and more.

Coming October 2017

For the October 2017 meeting in Tampa, we have confirmed Dr. Stuart D. Goldman. He is a scholar in residence at the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER). From 1979 to 2009, he was the senior specialist in Russian and Eurasian political and military affairs at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. He is the author of the 2012 book, *Nomonhan 1939: The Red Army's Victory That Shaped World War II*. Nomonhan



was the site of a little-known battle between Russia and Japan that influenced the outbreak of World War II. Goldman will discuss his book, and we will have the opportunity to ask him questions on current affairs pertaining to Russia.



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>

2 0 1 7

MAY

May 16, 2017, Tuesday

Sarasota Authors' Connection

Guest Speakers: Maryann Burchel and Jane Crick
(https://authors.files.wordpress.com/2015/12/sac_newsletter_may_2017.pdf)

May 27, 2017, Saturday, 6 p.m.

Little Haiti Book Festival

212 NE 59th Terrace, Miami, United States

(<https://www.miamibookfair.com/event/little-haiti-book-festival/2017-05-27/>)

JUNE

May 31–June 3, 2017

Fellowship of American Bibliophilic

Societies 2016 Rare Book and Manuscript

Tour, Host: The Book Club of Texas, Dallas, TX
(<http://www.fabsocieties.org/meeting.html>)

JULY

(no 2017 date yet)

South Florida Book Festival

Fort Lauderdale, FL

July 2017, continued

July 27-30, 2017

Florida Supercon

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL (<http://floridasupercon.com/>)

AUGUST

August 11-13, 2017

Wizard World Comic Con

Orlando FL

(<http://wizardworld.com/comiccon/orlando>)

SEPTEMBER

September 15-17, 2017

Florida Heritage Book Festival

St. Augustine, FL

(<http://fhbookfest.com/>)

OCTOBER

Dates unconfirmed

David A. Stein JCA Jewish Book Festival

Berrin Family Jewish Book Festival & Women's Day Luncheon 2017

October 19-22, 2017

Florida Writer's Conference

Altamonte Springs, FL

(<https://floridawriters.net/>)

October 21-25, 2017

Alachua Co. Friends of the Library Book Sale

Gainesville, FL

(<http://folaclld.org/>)

NOVEMBER

November 2-5, 2017

12th Annual Sanibel Island Writers Conference

Sanibel Island, FL

(<http://www.fgcu.edu/siwc/>)

Florida Bibliophile Society welcomes our newest members!

At the recent Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, FBS gained several new members. Welcome to FBS, and we look forward to seeing you at a regular meeting in the near future!

Alexandra Brown

Alexandra a student and a collector from Tampa who is currently focusing on the works of Ray Bradbury.

Thorne Donnelly

Thorne is the owner of Liberty Book Store in Palm Beach Gardens. The book store started as a corner enterprise in an office of Liberty Taz Service, but expanded to take over the entire space – that's a beautiful bibliophile story.

Luke Hargitai

Luke is the grandson of FBS member Peter Hargitai. Even at his tender age, he describes himself as an avid reader. Go Luke!

Ben R. Wiley

Ben is a resident of Largo with many book-related interest. He describes himself as a reader with an interest in library literacy program, book clubs, 21st century fiction, and Booker Prize winners.



Köszönöm

"Thank you" in Hungarian

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.

David Hall

Peter Hargitai

Jerry Morris

Linda Morris

Maureen Mulvihill

Carl Nudi

Elenora Sabin

Gary Simons

Neil Williamson

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.



Join FBS!

If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book collectors. You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group. You will find contact emails on the last page of this newsletter.



Membership is \$50. per year. You can find a membership form on our website. It will give you the address to which to send your filled-out form and payment.

Joining FBS also makes you a member of the national organization, the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.

Write for Your Newsletter!



Your input and content are needed. FBS is about participation, about discoveries, about passionate interests, and sometimes the deliciously obscure. Why not write about it!?



Florida Bibliophile Society, 2016-2017 Season



September 25 • Gary Simons – FBS member Gary Simons spoke about the novelist Catherine Gore (1799-1861), a writer in the Silver Fork genre, a category of Regency fiction featuring the lives of the English upper class and aristocracy.

October 16 • Elenora Sabin – Elenora has published numerous novels, some through commercial publisher Tor, private presses, WiDo and Double Dragon, and now self-publishing using Amazon's Create Space. Elenora talked about the advantages and disadvantages of each. She shared many tips that budding authors need to know about preparing a book for publication.

October 22-26 • Gainesville Getaway – The Alachua County Friends of the Library hosts a semiannual five-day sale featuring 500,000+ books and media ranging from rare and collectible books to vintage vinyl and recent magazines. A group of us met at the sale and then enjoyed lunch at the Harn Museum of Art. A day of book treasures and fun!

November 20 • Chris Sherman, Dining Editor of *Florida Trend Magazine*

December 20 • FBS Holiday Party – Our holiday gala was held at the home of Joan Sackheim. A glittering occasion in Joan's lovely home.

January 15 • Terry Seymour – Terry talked about his new book, over six years in the making: *Boswell's Books: Four Generations of Collecting and Collectors* (Oak Knoll, 2016; 556 pp.). Terry explained James Boswell's books, but those of Boswell's father, grandfather, and his two sons.

February 19 • Carl Nudi, FBS member and printer extraordinaire, spoke about the history of the book and demonstrated the presses at the Tampa Book Arts Studio. A great introduction to the history and practice of how books are made.

March 19 • Laura Westley, author of *WarVirgin: My Journey of Repression, Temptation and Liberation* (2016) – With irreverent comedy and affecting insight, Laura's book tells the story of a conservative idealist and West Point graduate confronting the truth about life and herself on the battleground of Iraq of all places.

April 21-23 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair – FBS regularly hosts a table staffed by FBS members at the entrance to the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. FBS members assist fair visitors with information and by checking bags and packages. And participating members receive free admission to the fair.

April 30 • Peter Hargitai, poet, novelist, translator – For National Poetry Month, FBS member Peter Hargitai will read and discuss his work. The recipient of many honors on both sides of the Atlantic, Peter has published numerous books of poetry and fiction. A native of Hungary, Peter has also introduced the work of several Hungarian authors to English readers. And he sings!

May 21 • FBS Annual Banquet – We close out the year with a luncheon banquet. It worked out so well last year that we're planning to return to Brio Tuscan Grille Restaurant. Our speaker will be Mike Slicker, proprietor of Lighthouse Books, celebrating his 40th year as a bookseller.

Endpaper • Looking Back, Looking Ahead



It's hard to believe that we have already reached the end of the FBS 2016-2017 season. We've had some wonderful, informative, inspirational speakers and events. Maybe we need a break to take it all in!

At the same time that many people are wringing their hands about the fate of books and book culture, more books are being published every year. The opportunities for authors to publish and distribute their work have never been more plentiful. And colleges and universities continue to establish new book arts and book history programs. Add to those the Internet and the opportunity it provides for the discovery (and acquisition!) of new books, and it's a great time to be a book collector. FBS has an important role to play by creating a forum where collectors, readers, and writers can consider the evolving Culture of the Book.

This month also concludes my two-year term as president of FBS. It's been a delight and a pleasure to work with so many dedicated members and consummate book people. I'd like to extend very special appreciation to my fellow officers. Jerry Morris has been the brains of the

operation, enthusiastically planning one fascinating event after another, as well as many other contributions. As treasurer, Linda Morris's careful accounting has allowed FBS to take on exciting new ventures. Gary Simons as secretary has crafted excellent minutes of our meetings – it's easy to think of the minutes as a minor function, but the minutes of our meetings are the ongoing history of FBS – an absolutely vital function of the Society. Our officers and executive board give FBS quite a brain trust. I encourage all FBS members to take their turn serving on committees or as officers. It's great fun, very rewarding, and an educational experience, to boot! (See the minutes in this issue for the new officer line-up.)

I'm pleased to say that with your generosity, guidance, and participation, we've accomplished quite a bit in two years, gaining new members, establishing the Harrer Award, putting FBS on a solid financial footing, and having a great time together!

See you at the bookstore... and at FBS!

— Charles

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