

The Florida Bibliophile

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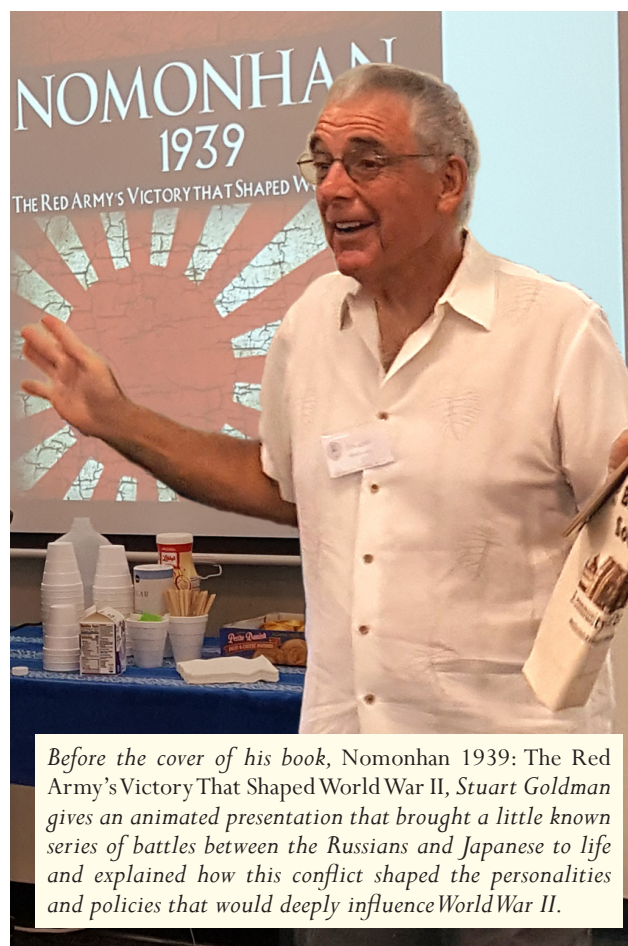
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December 1, 2017.
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Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FABS newsletter is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the Fall 2017 FABS newsletter [here](#).



ANNUAL DUES for the 2017-2018 FBS Season are due by December 31, 2017!

Membership is \$50 U.S. per household per year. Send inquiries and payments to treasurer Linda Morris at 13013 Willoughby Lane, Bayonet Point, FL 34667. Dues may also be paid using our new PayPal account: floridabibliophiles@gmail.com.



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the Florida Bibliophile Society Meeting, October 15, 2017

President Jerry Morris brought the meeting to order at 1:45 PM and introduced our speaker, Dr. Stuart Goldman, a historian and author. Dr. Goldman received his B.A. from Brooklyn College, his M.A. from Colgate University, his Ph.D. from Georgetown University, and an M.S. from the National War College. His dissertation at Georgetown University in 1970 was entitled *The Forgotten War, the Soviet Union and Japan, 1937-1939*.

From 1971 to 1978, he taught history, first at Wilson College and then at Penn State. For the next 30 years, he was a specialist in Russian and Eurasian political and military affairs at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress. (The CRS is the “think tank” for Congress). Since 2009, our guest speaker has been the scholar in residence at the National Council for Eurasian and East European

Research. In 2012, the Naval Institute Press published the hardback edition of our guest speaker’s book, *Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army’s Victory that Shaped World War II*. And on this very day, October 15, 2013, the Naval Institute Press published the paperback edition of his book.

Dr. Goldman began by explaining that his presentation would have two parts: first, he would discuss a major battle

between the Soviet Union and Japan that took place in 1939; second, he would talk about the geopolitical consequences of that battle.

Although few are now familiar with this 1939 engagement, as Dr. Goldman noted, it was a “big time fight,” involving over 200,000 men and over 1,000 tanks, that only ended after the USSR and Germany signed a non-aggression pact. The roots of the conflict went back to 1931 when Japan, in the first phase of its long war with China, conquered the Chinese province of Manchuria and set up the puppet state of Manchukuo. As part of this conquest, Japan acquired a 3,000-mile

border with Mongolia – which was controlled by the Soviets – and with the USSR itself. Parts of this border were in the desert and were vaguely defined; perhaps the border was a nearby river, or perhaps it was some miles to the east in the desert.

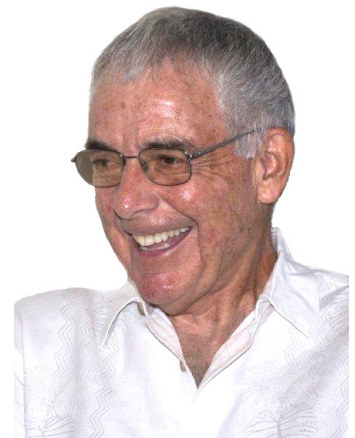
In the late 1930s, small raiding parties of perhaps 30-40 men would cross the disputed border in an area called

Nomonhan. Perhaps overreacting to these irritating, but not truly significant, raids, an aggressive officer named Manasobu Tsuji, a major in the New Kantung Army (the Japanese army responsible for defending Manchukuo), drew up an order which allowed Japanese troops to enter Soviet territory and to lure or trap Soviet troops. Tsuji’s higher-ups approved this order, which went into effect on April 28, 1939.

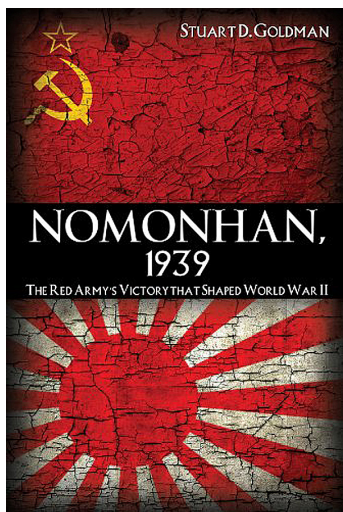
As a result, when cross-border incursions occurred in May, the Japanese sent 2,000 men to block the bridge over the river to trap the raiding Mongolians. However, unknown to the Japanese, the Soviets had sent troops to the border area to reinforce the Mongolians. When the Japanese made the tactical error of dividing their forces, the Soviets were able to block the larger Japanese unit and wipe out a smaller 200-man Japanese detachment.

This initial engagement sent shock waves through both the USSR and Japan. The USSR sent Commander Georgy Zhukov (who later became the commanding general of Soviet forces in World War II) to the region with considerable reinforcements. Further, Zhukov received 300 tanks and armored cars. The disputed area was flat, thus suitable for the mass use of tanks.

On the Japanese side, Major Tsuji – completely unaware of the size of the rapid Soviet build-up – decided to divide his forces. His plan was to cross the river and send 25,000 men, including the only Japanese tank brigade, into undisputed Mongolian territory, and



Dr. Stuart Goldman



October Minutes, continued

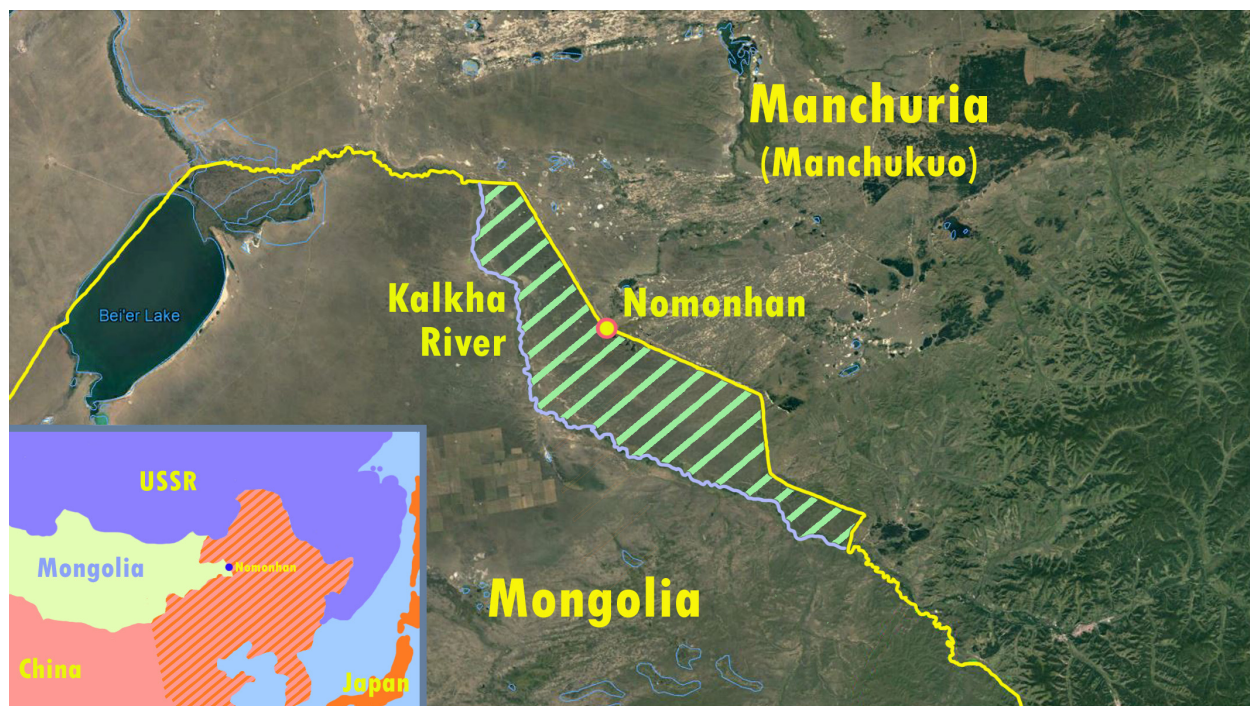
entrap the border-defending Soviets from behind.

The battle started on July 1, and the Japanese troops, outnumbered, outgunned, and split on both sides of the river, were forced to retreat. However, fighting continued into August as the Japanese dug into entrenched positions. Given the extremely cold climate of this part of interior Asia, both sides realized that autumn and winter were coming. Although the closest railhead to the battle front was 400 miles away in Mongolia, the Russians organized a massive truck shuttle to bring in more reinforcements. The Japanese, however, were only able to observe the trucks in daylight saw a steady stream of trucks heading East to the railhead after they had unloaded men and material. They believed the Soviets were retreating.

Zhukov, an advocate of mass tank warfare, conceived a battle strategy involving double envelopment with armor to destroy the Japanese – the same strategy he would later use effectively against Germany in World War II. But he needed permission from Stalin to launch the attack. And at this strategic focal point,

events in Europe were influencing events in Asia. On August 20, Hitler contacted Stalin and suggested a non-aggression pact between Germany and the USSR. With this treaty in view, Stalin knew he would not have to simultaneously fight on two fronts, against Germany in the West and against Japan in the East. Accordingly, he gave Zhukov permission to launch his planned attack – which became a battle of annihilation against the Japanese during August 20-30.

To appreciate the impact and consequences of the battle of Nomonhan, Dr. Goldman explained the situation in Europe in 1938 and 1939. In 1938, in the now infamous Munich Agreement, England and France arranged to cede German portions of Czechoslovakia to the Germans in exchange for Hitler's assurances that there would be no further aggressions. In this agreement, England and France effectively abandoned Czechoslovakia to the Germans. Since Germany and Japan were prospective allies, the USSR felt itself isolated and endangered. It ran the risk of being attacked simultaneously by Germany and Japan and



In the map above, the area disputed by the U.S.S.R. and Japan is shown with crosshatching. The Japanese asserted that the correct border was the Kalkha River (blue line at the left of the disputed area). For the Russians, the border was a line that ran through the desert to the east of the disputed area (yellow line). Nonomhan is a small town on the Kalkha River. The inset in the lower left shows the general location of the larger map.

October Minutes, continued

This archival photo shows Soviet soldiers following a tank in the field near the Khalkhaya River. Lessons learned at Nonomhan had a great influence on Soviet tank warfare and tank design.

having to face both enemies alone. Additionally, a Soviet spy in Tokyo, a German national named Richard Sorge, had told Stalin that the Japanese were seeking an anti-Soviet alliance with Germany. The Munich Agreement convinced Stalin that the English and French might sacrifice Russia as well – further motivation to seek his own arrangement with Hitler when the time came.

In March of 1939, however, disregarding his Munich commitments, Hitler seized all of Czechoslovakia. For England and France, this was a game changer. They now realized that Hitler could not be appeased, and they pledged to defend Poland, which appeared to be Hitler's next target. This placed Stalin in a much better strategic position as he was now courted by both sides. England very publically tried to create an alliance with the USSR to present a unified front against Germany. Germany, more quietly, sought a back-channel alliance with the USSR to aid in the conquest of Poland and isolate England and France.

Stalin decided to take the German option, and the foreign ministers of the USSR and Germany signed what became known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Non-Aggression Pact. Presumably, Stalin realized that he could let England and France fight the Germans in the West while he fought the Japanese in the East. With the threat of a two-front war on the back burner, Stalin unleashed Zhukov against Japan on August 20. Less than two weeks later, on September 1, Germany

invaded Poland. England and France declared war on Germany on September 3. In the meantime, Zhukov was at least temporarily eliminating the Japanese threat to the USSR. On September 15, the battle over, a truce was signed at Nonomhan. Only then, when the fighting in the East was over, did the Soviets honor their commitment to Hitler to join the war against Poland.

Nonomhan had further far-ranging strategic implications. Moving more deeply into World War II, in June of 1941, Germany invaded the USSR. In the opening months, the unprepared USSR suffered staggering human and territorial losses, and Dr. Goldman stated that the conventional wisdom was that Russia would fall. Germany encouraged Japan to invade the USSR's Far East to complete the destruction of the USSR.

But Japan also faced a major strategic decision. Trying to restrain Japan's territorial ambitions, President Roosevelt had slapped an oil embargo on Japan. Oil is, of course, essential for any war machine. Japan knew that Dutch East Indies (now the nation of Indonesia) had oil. Japan knew if it went after that oil, it would have to fight the U.S. At that time, the U.S. was a much stronger industrial nation than Japan; surely America would win a long war. The only way for the Japanese to possibly defeat the U.S. would be to attack the U.S. first and destroy its Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor.

October Minutes, continued

Nomonhan plays an interesting role at this decision point. The Japanese army wanted to fight Russia; the Japanese navy wanted to go after oil and fight America. The increasingly influential Tsuji, presumably reflecting on the disastrous conflict at Nomonhan, supported the navy position, saying the Soviets were too strong. Dr. Goldman speculated that if Nomonhan hadn't happened, perhaps Japan would have made a different strategic choice. Perhaps the Japanese would have attacked the USSR at its weakest hour; perhaps Russia would have crumbled under the simultaneous attacks of Germany and Japan.

Further, Zhukov effectively won his spurs at the battle of Nomohan. Without that battle, he might not have risen to supreme command of the Red Army, and without his leadership and strategy, the Russo-German conflict might have turned out quite differently.

In the late fall and early winter of 1941, the German army approached the doorstep of Moscow. Russian defenders were exhausted. However, relying on his spy in Tokyo, Stalin knew that Japan would strike south instead of attacking the USSR. With that assurance, Stalin was able to safely transfer Soviet far eastern forces to Moscow, where on December 6, they launched a successful counter-offensive against the Germans and kept Moscow in Russian hands. Without the freedom

to bring all Russian forces to bear in the fight with Germany, Moscow may well have fallen and the course of World War II might have been very different.

On December 7, the Japanese, having decided not to attack the "too strong" Soviets, attacked Pearl Harbor bringing the U.S. into the war. And, in what can only be considered a fit of madness, on December 10, Hitler declared war on the U.S., arguably thereby assuring Germany's eventual defeat in Europe. That was the week that doomed the Axis.

Thus, Dr. Goldman concluded, the now little known battle of Nomonhan influenced essential strategic decisions of World War II and perhaps changed the course of history.

In a spirited question-and-answer session, Dr. Goldman assessed Stalin's beliefs and actions in the early days of World War II. The discussion turned to modern Russia. Dr. Goldman noted the potential long-term vulnerability of a Russia facing serious population decline, with a resource-rich but people-poor Siberia, next to a booming and growing, but resource-limited, China.

Gary Simons

Secretary

Soviet soldiers examine a Japanese tank captured at the Battle of Nomonhan. Japanese tanks were insubstantial in comparison with Soviet tanks and in comparison to the weaponry they encountered.



October Minutes, concluded

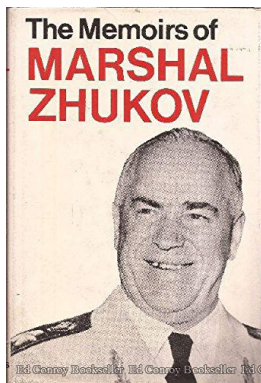
Georgi Konstantinovich Zhukov

December 1, 1896
June 18, 1974

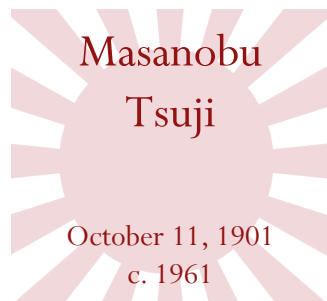
Born into poverty, Zhukov's military career began as a conscript of the Imperial Army in World War I. He was honored twice and promoted. After the 1918 revolution, Zhukov joined the Communist Party

and fought in the Civil War, 1918–1921. He rose to the rank of Commander of the First Mongolian Soviet Army Group, demonstrating a brilliant command of tactics and of using new technologies in the Battle of Nomonhan, or as the Russians call it, the Battle of the Khalkha Gol. Tactics developed in that battle would later help Zhukov defeat the Germans at Moscow and Stalingrad. Soviet use of tanks at Khalkha Gol led to

significant improvements, producing the tank that many regard as the most successful all-purpose tank of World War II. After the war, Zhukov became the commander of the Soviet Occupation Zone in Germany. He was a benevolent leader, requesting extra supplies of food to assist the Germans in the aftermath of the war. Despite the incredible Russian death toll at the hands of the Germans and the historic enmity between Russia and Germany, Zhukov gave strict orders to all his subordinates: "Hate Nazism but respect the German people." Zhukov's fortunes rose and fell with the many political intrigues and leadership changes in Moscow over the next two decades. In 1967, he suffered a serious stroke, the beginning of a series of heart ailments that would eventually claim his life in 1974.



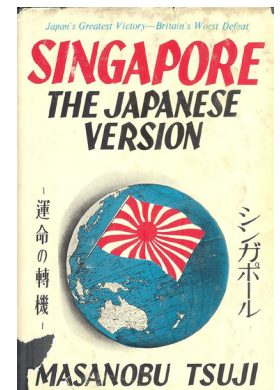
Zhukov published his memoirs in the late 1960s. This volume appeared in English in 1971. According to Zhukov biographer Geoffrey Roberts, author of *Stalin's General: The Life of Georgy Zhukov*, this edition was the product of Zhukov and the Soviet censors, but post-Soviet editions restored much expurgated material.



Masanobu Tsuiji

October 11, 1901
c. 1961

Tsuji was born to a poor family in Ishikawa prefecture. His earliest interests were in teaching, but the sight of army officers in uniform convinced him to pursue a military career. His first attempts to enter a military academy failed, but in 1920, he completed training at Nagoya, receiving a silver watch from then crown prince Hirohito. He served in the Ishikawa regiment, eventually being promoted, and in 1928, completing the Army College. Japan invaded China in 1931, and Tsuji served various posts in China during most of that decade, including Nomonhan. During World War II, he led troops in Malaya, Burma, and Guadalcanal. Intensely nationalistic and militaristic, Tsuji has been described as "fanatical in battle" and "ruthless" and as an officer for whom the ends always justified the means, no matter the losses on either side. His brutal treatment of prisoners and systematic executions of civilians earned accusations of war crimes, but he was never prosecuted. After the war, he went into hiding in Thailand, served in Chinese intelligence, and eventually returned to Japan – once he was sure he was safe from prosecution. He even served two terms in the Japanese Diet. In 1961, Tsuji went to Laos, perhaps to aid in the civil war there. He was never heard from again. In 1968, he was officially declared dead.



Tsuji wrote a number of books in the years after World War II, including this account of the Japanese victory in Malaya, of which Tsuji was the mastermind. He also wrote of his experiences while on the run in China after the war, supposedly dressed as a Buddhist monk. Tsuji's writings often emphasize his brilliance at the expense of all



Florida Book Treasures: The Elling O. Eide Center for Research



The Elling Eide Center for Research
8000 South Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34231

In 1984, the Anvil Press of Lexington, Kentucky, produced 150 copies of *Poems by Li Po* in a black, cloth-covered slipcase, 11.5 inches tall and 9 inches wide, holding two volumes. The main volume contains 50 poems by the T'ang poet Li Po (701-762 CE) on 75 pages, including a translator's note and finding lists. The text is set in American Uncial (Victor Hammer, 1943) and printed on handmade paper, in red and black ink on one side only, deckle edges all around, bound as a portfolio. The second volume contains a phonograph record, *Tunes from the T'ang*, transcribed and arranged by Laurence Picken and performed on modern Western instruments by the Jesus College Chinese Band, Cambridge, UK.

The poems in *Poems by Li Po* were translated into English by Elling Oliver Eide (1935-2012), a scholar of literature of the T'ang Dynasty (618-907 CE). In fact, Eide oversaw all aspects of the exquisite production of this book, expressing his love of Li Po's poetry and his own approach to life. In the journal *T'ang Studies*, these translations were praised as "among the best translations of T'ang poetry ever put into English" and a testimony to Eide's "meticulous translation practice." Eide's scholarship, character, generosity, and collegiality were equally admired in the memorials published in *T'ang Studies*.



*Elling Eide Center, continued***The Making of Elling Eide**

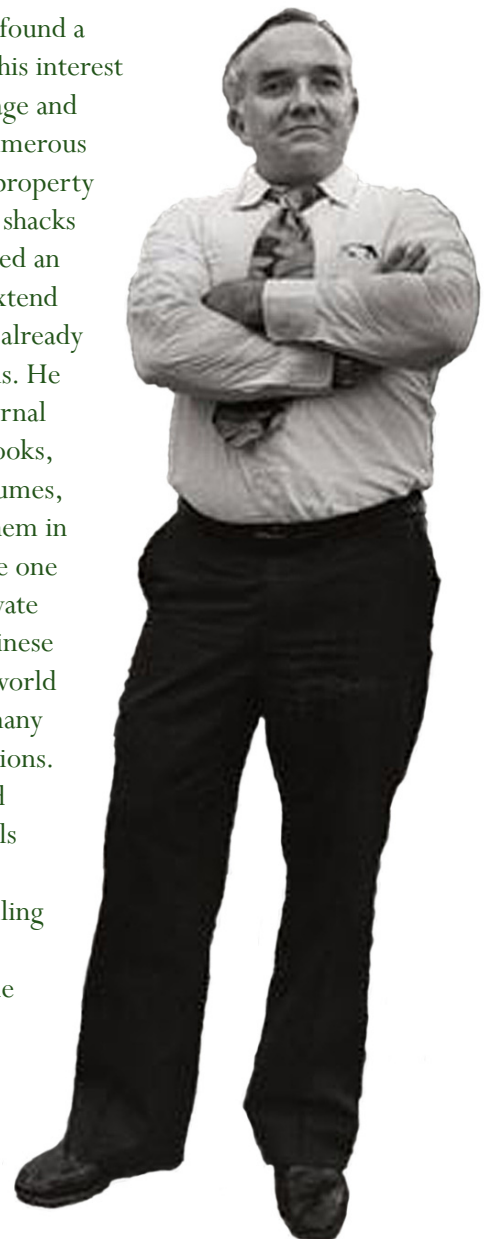
Graduating Harvard in 1957, summa sum laude in Far Eastern Languages (and apparently an expert unicycle rider), Eide entered the Marine Corps – he was posted to China. He returned to Harvard in 1965 as a fellow, where he remained until he accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Illinois, his birth state. He was a founding member of the Tang Society in 1981 and was highly regarded throughout his profession. He was on a track of steady academic achievement. And then came 1935.

In 1935, Eide's grandfather, Oliver Mitchell, purchased a tract of land in southwest Florida – \$12,000 for 92 acres on Sarasota Bay, opposite lower Siesta Key. In 1931, Oliver's wife of 35 years, Cora, had died, and in 1932, he had retired from his surgical practice. Reportedly seeking relief from his asthma, Oliver bought the Sarasota property and moved a home from a nearby lot onto it. It was a wild and lush tract of land that would exert a powerful influence on his family for many years. Within a short time, he “summoned” his daughter, Grace, and her husband Ivar Eide, both physicians, to Florida to care for him. In the late 1950s, Oliver, in failing health, returned to Chicago to live with a son. He died there in 1958, but his daughter remained in Florida with her husband and son.

Elling Eide, named for his Norwegian grandfather, had been born in 1935 in Chicago, but from a very early age, he was raised on the family's Florida property. He attended Sarasota High School before leaving for Harvard, the Marines, and Illinois. In the 1960s, Elling's parents inherited the Sarasota property, but by 1972, then in their late 70s, they were unable to care for the property, which fell into increasing disrepair. They called on Elling, and he took a two-year leave from his position at the University of Illinois and went to Florida to clean up the property and its buildings and build a suitable retirement home for his parents.

However, the two-year project was more involved than he had estimated, his parents' health was beginning to fail, and the Internal Revenue Service had begun an audit. Elling's life was being absorbed, if not derailed, and he became increasingly depressed. Elling's father died in 1978, and his mother in 1983. Now, in his late 40s and out of academia for over 10 years, the prospect of rebuilding his career was daunting, if even practical.

Nevertheless, he found a way to return to his interest in Chinese language and literature. The numerous buildings on the property – from houses to sheds – provided an opportunity to extend his various – and already large – collections. He bought entire journal runs and many books, up to 75,000 volumes, over 50,000 of them in Chinese, to create one of the largest private collections of Chinese literature in the world and larger than many university collections. The uncatalogued books and journals were boxed and stacked to the ceiling in the buildings, which Elling made sure were air conditioned to prevent moisture and mold. All the while, he continued



Elling Eide Center, continued

The ceiling of a conference room in the Eide Center is the setting for Persian mural executed in 1850, during the Qajar period (1785-1925). The manuscript had been stored on the Eide property rolled up in a PVC pipe. It received months of painstaking restoration before installation in the center.

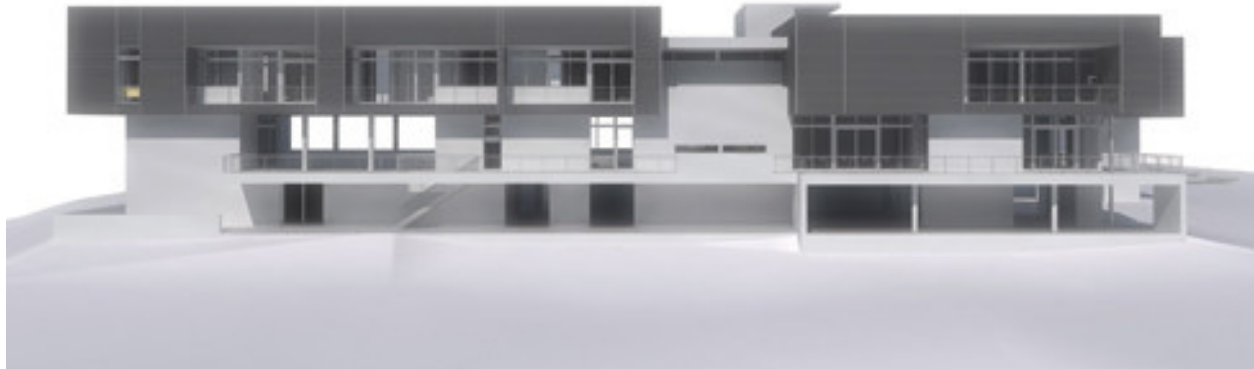
his engagement with the Tang studies community, generously supporting events that he rarely attended, simply to sweeten these activities and to confer on them some of the elegance of the Tang dynasty he imagined. At the same time that he was ensuring his colleagues dined on fine food, he was wearing out his wardrobe and driving a dilapidated Volkswagen bus.

By contrast with the respect and appreciation felt in the Tang studies community, Elling's expertise in Chinese language and literature were virtually unknown to Sarasota residents. Instead, he was known as an eccentric and for his frequent appearances before the city commission seeking permission to rezone a part of his property. Elling wished to sell 20 of the 92 acres he owned, but new environmental rules in Florida presented a barrier to such a sale for many years. Elling's neighbors had cashed in before the new regulations, which became a source of resentment. Elling pursued the issue for years until, finally, he was permitted to sell the 20 acres to a developer. Fortunately, this permission coincided with the peak of the real estate market in 2005, and Elling realized a million dollars an acre. He immediately contacted an architect to design the

library that he had dreamed of for many years and that would house his collection and serve scholars throughout the world.

Construction began in 2011. In that same year, Elling suffered a series of strokes, and yet another member of the clan was called upon. An only child with numerous aunts and uncles and therefore cousins, Elling invited a devoted cousin, Harold Mitchell, to come down to Sarasota. Harold assisted Elling through what would be his final year; Elling died in 2012. During that last year, Elling could no longer see, but he could hear the construction of his new library.

Though in 2012 the building was in the beginning stages, the groundwork had already been laid in the formation of the Elling Eide Center as a charitable foundation with a board of trustees, many drawn from Elling's respectful colleagues. Harold Mitchell, with his background in underwriting and financial management, became president of the Elling Eide Center and saw the construction through to its completion.

*Elling Eide Center, continued***The Making of the Elling Eide Center**

This computer rendering of the Guy Peterson's design for the Elling Eide Center reflects the modernist approach for which Peterson is known from many buildings, both residential and commercial, especially in the Sarasota area. Peterson describes his approach: "...when I design buildings, it's not an additive process. I strip away all the superfluous details until I'm left with the bare essence. That's the idea, but it's very abstract."

The Elling Eide Center for Research is a beautiful modernist building designed by award-winning Florida architect Guy Peterson. The Center for Research opened its doors in fall 2016. The facility comprises about 14,000 square feet and houses over 70,000 volumes, including 300 periodical titles in Chinese, Japanese, and Western languages, as well as other antiquities, artworks, and other materials that Elling collected. There are rare books in the collection that date to the 13th century. An endowment and revenue from other Eide real estate ensures the maintenance of the Center and the development of the collection. The collections are all set above the flood plain with first floor facilities dedicated to parking and gatherings.

The Center is not open to the public; it is intended for the use of scholars, like the Library of Congress, those wishing to use the Center's resources must apply and be accepted. The Center expects that "The Library will be primarily used for scholars doing work in the fields of Chinese studies; Inner Asian studies; Sino-Iranian contacts before the year 1000 AD; and for the study of Chinese lexicography."

The library stands not far from the bay on the remaining 72 acres of the Eide estate, itself an impressive feature of the facility. Elling's grandfather and later Elling were plant collectors and brought rare species together on the property. The estate is one of the largest undeveloped waterfront properties in Sarasota county; much of it remains just as Oliver Mitchell found it in 1935. The house Eide, and his grandfather before him, lived in is now an administrative office. Other original buildings also remain on the property, but their fate has not been decided.

Despite Eide's efforts to preserve his collection, not all of it survived in satisfactory condition. Some materials had insect damage and would infect other items if simply brought into the library. Conservation of these materials is an expensive process, and decisions have to be made about what is worth treating. Some items were simply too decayed or too damaged.

Elling's collection included more than Chinese-related materials. As archivists worked through the buildings and boxes, they found paintings by

Elling Eide Center, concluded

John Singer Sargent and Gustav Klimt, according to Cindy Peterson, the Center's COO, who has been working with the collection. Peterson began working with Eide soon after she earned her master's degree in library science in 2007. She took a few years to manage the architectural archives at the University of Florida in Gainesville, but came back to Sarasota to resume work on the Eide collection.

She and husband Guy knew Elling for many years and had many discussions with him about his dream. Cindy said that Elling collected things that he loved, such as Edison wax phonograph cylinders, original movie posters, and thousands of pieces from the Columbian Exposition (Chicago, 1893). Peterson found "this stuff... under beds, in drawers, behind doors, in boxes – in all states of disarray, and dirty, and spread out over multiple buildings."

In November 2016, the Center hosted its first conference for the Tang Studies Society. The conference, "Making Connections: Contemporary Approaches to the Tang Dynasty, In Honor of the Opening of the Elling O. Eide Library," was organized by the Tang Studies Society with the support of the Elling O. Eide Foundation and the Numata Program in Buddhist Studies at the University of Calgary. The conference had three goals: (1) to bring together a wide range of scholars of the Tang to present papers in different disciplines, emphasizing new, emerging questions, and interdisciplinary approaches; (2) to connect scholars of the Tang from different generations, from senior scholars to graduate students; and (3) to introduce the Eide Library and the Elling O. Eide Charitable Foundation to those scholars, showcasing the facility and its collection as an important new scholarly resource.

Opening remarks at the conference were made by the president of the Tang Studies Society, Anna M. Shields, and the editor of *Tang Studies*, Nicholas Williams. Presenters represented institutions large and small, from Cambridge University, Peking



Harold Mitchell in one of the galleries of Elling Eide Center.

University, and Princeton to Kalamazoo College, Shippensburg University, and Denison University. Topics presented included the influence of the Tang Dynasty beyond its borders, new perspectives on tang dynasty political history, prose in the Tang, and others.

Harold Mitchell greeted scholars from around the world as they arrived at the Center for the opening reception. Throughout the conference, as they filled the conference room and wandered the hallways, studying the displays, and filling the Center with their conversations, Mitchell says that was when the full impact of his years of effort and his cousin's decades of passion hit him. "Here were professors from the top universities from all over the world, coming here to see the Elling Eide Center. It just washed over me. I thought I knew him. But through this, with every page I turned, I saw another side of him — his intimate thoughts filling in all the gaps. I walked away from this with a closer connection to my cousin, and to me, that makes it all worthwhile."



The Road to Shu Is Hard

Chinese original by Li Po

Translation by Elling O. Eide

A-eee! Shee-yew! Sheeeeee! So dangerous! So high!
The road to Shu is hard, harder than climbing the sky.

Silkworm Thicket and Fishing Duck
Founded their kingdom in the depths of time,
But then for forty-eight thousand years,
No settlers' smoke reached the Qin frontier
Yet west on Taibo Mountain, take a bird road there,
You could cross directly to the peaks of Emei's brow
When earth collapsed and the mountain crashed,
the muscled warriors died.

It was after that when the ladders to heaven
were linked together with timber and stone

Up above is
the towering pillar where six dragons turn the sun

Down below on
the twisting river colliding waves dash into the turns
The flight of a yellow crane cannot cross it;

Gibbons and monkeys climb in despair.

Green Mud Ridge — coiling, winding —
Nine turns in a hundred steps, round pinnacle and snag

Touch the Triad, pass the Well Stars,
look up to gasp and groan.

Press a hand to calm your chest,
sit down for a lingering sigh.

I wonder as you travel west, when will you return?
I fear that a road so cragged and high is impossible to climb
All I see is a mournful bird that cries in an ancient tree,

And cocks that fly in pursuit of hens,
circling through the forest.

Yet again I hear the cuckoo call in the moonlit night —
sorrow upon the desolate mountain.

The road to Shu is hard, harder than climbing the sky
Whenever one shall hear this, it wilts his youth away.
Peak after peak missing the sky by not so much as a foot.
Withered pines hang upside-down clinging to vertical walls.

Flying chutes and raging current,
how they snarl and storm!

Pelted cliffs and spinning stones,
ten thousand chasms thunderous roar!

The perils — this is the way they are.

And woe to that man on a road so far —
Oh why, and for what, would he travel here?

Sword Gallery looms above with soaring crags and spines;
One man at the pass,

Ten thousand men are barred

And if the guards are not our people,
They can change into jackals and wolves.

In the morning avoid fierce tigers.

In the evening avoid long snakes

They sharpen teeth for sucking blood;

The dead are strewn like hemp

Let them talk of pleasure in Brocade City,

The better thing is hurrying home.

The road to Shu is hard, harder than climbing the sky.

Edging back, I gaze to the west, long and deep my sighs.

Alicia Little and the Campaign to End Foot-binding

A mong the fascinating objects that Elling Eide collected is a group of tiny shoes made for Chinese women who had undergone the cosmetic procedure of foot-binding. “Cosmetic” because it was impolite for a woman’s feet to be seen beneath a long dress.

Eide bought the shoes at at Christie’s in 2008, part of a collection of shoes and other memorabilia of Mrs. Archibald (Alicia) Little (1845-1926), an author of “romance” novels who lived in China in the 1800s and who campaigned for women’s rights in general and ending foot-binding in particular. The emperor had banned the practice in the mid 1600s, but without effect. Chinese reformer efforts the 1800s met with mixed results.

Alicia Bewicke was a successful author when, in 1885 at 41 years old, she married Archibald Little during one of his visits to England from his successful, even pioneering, business efforts in China. Alicia had published several novels, labeled “romances,” but which examined the status of women with a strong political point of view. Archibald returned to China with Alicia in 1887, settling in Chongqing, in Szechuan province, then China’s far west, and strategically located on China’s longest river, the Yangtze. There, Alicia saw a society where women were tightly controlled. During some of her travels in the country, she dressed as a man to avoid trouble, but it did not always help.

When Alicia became familiar with foot-binding, she was horrified. The process, which shortens the foot, required bending the small toes down and back, sometimes breaking them, and then compressing the foot front-to-back with bindings. This began when girls were around 6, distorting the gait, resulting in unsteady, swaying steps. The bandages were tightened daily, with additional blows to the toes, if needed. A girl might not be able to walk or might suffer other health consequences, including gangrene and septicemia. In Little’s time, the Chinese told her that as many as one in ten girls died from foot-binding.

In 1895, Little and ten other European women formed the Society for the Suppression of Foot-binding (Tien

Tsu Hui) and actively campaigned to end it. She detailed the practice in books, postcards, and talks that she gave widely throughout China. She was persuasive. The pain and debilitation of foot-binding was obvious to Chinese parents, and some also resented the time and expense required to achieve such dubious goals. Alicia approached



Alicia and Archibald Little
(National Portrait Gallery, UK)

her subject not as a matter of emancipation, but of the health and productivity of women. Broad acceptance was needed to make sure that women with unbound feet would be acceptable marriage partners. Through Alicia’s “vivacious, witty, and sensible speaking style,” the Society for the Suppression of Foot-binding gained members around China, especially in the south. The society encouraged men and parents not to contract marriages with bound-footed women and provided dowries for women with natural feet.

Alicia’s efforts were paralleled by, and a support to, the native Foot Emancipation Society, established by Kang Youwei and Qu Eliang in Canton in 1885, but suppressed by public opposition. Youwei revived the society in 1887, inviting his female relatives to unbind their feet. In the 1890s, the movement against binding was gaining wide acceptance. In 1912, the newly established Republic of China banned foot-binding, but the practice persisted in remote areas until the Communists took over in 1949 and enforced the prohibition. The ban remains in force to this day.

The Littles returned to England for good in 1906, settling in Cornwall. Archibald died in 1908, Alicia continued writing and campaigning.

Alicia Little, continued

My Diary in a Chinese Farm was published by Kelly and Walsh, Ltd., of Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Yokohama in 1895. Alicia describes the basis of the book in the "Introductory Words," below. This decorative cover, which extends to the back of the book, was published in an edition of 500.

We were living in the far West of China, 1800 miles from the sea, 500 miles beyond the reach of steamers, and against its becoming too hot in Chungking, a large city, the commercial Capital of Szechuan, all shut in by walls, and so full of houses as not have an available breathing space left empty, we had rented a hill side on which to build ourselves a Summer cottage. But the Magistrate had stopped our building on the pretext that the country people were so much opposed to foreigners he dared not sanction our living amongst them; then made a great favor of having persuaded a certain farmer to have us as tenants, and suggested that, if we went out to him for three months, perhas gradually the people might become accustomed to us.

It was very hot in the daytime and all day long I was shut up in the one Farm house sittingroom, so I started a Diary for much the same reason probably, that I have often observed people do so on a Sea Voyage....



The Little's country house as reproduced in My Diary in a Chinese Farm was set in the mountains overlooking the Tangtze River.



Typical "lotus" shoe for a bound feet. Bound feet were referred to as lotus feet, and the shoes designed for them were called lotus shoes. The ideal length of the bound foot was 3 Chinese inches (4 English inches). the shape of the shoe suggests the shape of the foot inside: toes turned under and back and the arch forced up to pull the front of the foot back.

Alicia Little, concluded

Alice Little nee Bewicke Bibliography with Notes

“Alicia Bewicke’s novels vary in complexity of plot and characterisation, but they are rarely the predictable tales of life and love that might be expected from a Victorian lady novelist. Often witty or sarcastic, they sometimes contain a surprisingly dark edge. Her works always neatly sidestep melodrama, offering instead romances that do not have a happy ending, tragedy that is all the more effective for being understated, and amusingly barbed commentaries on upper-class English social life. Many of the stories take place in foreign settings...” – *Reading Around Asia* (Sep. 2013; website)

“Mrs. Little’s writings set her apart from other travel writers [of her time]. She focused more on everyday life in China than the history of the influential and famous or geographical and cultural facts.” – Liang Yongyi, *China under Victorian Women Travel Writers’ Pen* (c. 2010)

- **Flirts and Flirts: or, A Season at Ryde** (1868) – “sharply criticized the socialization of Victorian daughters and their quest for a proper marriage”
- **One Foot on Shore: A Novel** (1869)
- **Love me for My Love** (1869)
- **Last of the Jerninghames** (1873)
- **Lonely Carlotta: “a crimson bud of a rose”** (1874)
- **Onwards! But Whither?: A Life Study** (1875)
- **Margery Travers** (1878)
- **Miss Standish, and By the Bay of Naples** (1883)
- **Mother Darling** (1885) – a young woman loses her children when her husband absconds with his mistress. The novel ends with a plea for reforming the laws concerning the rights of married women
- **Fairy Foxes, a Chinese Legend** ([1895])
- **A Marriage in China** (1896) – Little explores women’s work and aims barbs at expatriates ignorant of their host country. She examines attitudes towards race, especially regarding children of mixed birth, and the cruelty of the Eurasian schools in separating children from their mothers. Only the most sincere missionaries escape her criticism, and even she doubts they are actually doing any good.
- **My Diary in a Chinese Farm** (1896)
- **Intimate China** (1899) – This book helped end the mutilation of Chinese girls – probably her proudest achievement. Memoir, travelogue, and crusade, the book is a mixture, with sections like ‘Superstitions’ and ‘Hindrances and Annoyances’ next to trips to Tibet and up the Yangtze. The last third is devoted to politics. Little’s endeared, but realistic, picture of the Chinese spares no details, describing complications arising from foot-binding, a practice she found abhorrent and against which she actively campaigned. Lavishly illustrated with maps and photographs.
- **Out in China!** (1902) – The story involves the wrong woman being sent from Britain to marry a man in China. The story ends with the wedding party being murdered by Boxers.
- **Li Hung-Chang: His Life and Times** (1903) – Li Hung-Chang (1823–1901) was powerful in late 19th century Chinese politics, influencing Chinese foreign policy and relations and overseeing China’s development of western-style industrialism until his dramatic fall after China’s defeat in the 1894 Sino-Japanese War. Based on newspaper and eyewitness accounts and interviews with contemporaries, describing his rise after the Taiping Rebellion in 1851.
- **Guide to Peking: with Maps of Peking and Country round Peking** (1904)
- **A Millionaire’s Courtship** (1906)
- **Across Yunnan: A Journey of Surprises** (1908) on behalf of her late husband; “Originally published as a series of letters, Archibald Little’s record of his journey across Southwest China was one of the first accounts of the Yunnan Province to appear in English. Published posthumously in 1910, Little’s book also describes the building of a railway through the region and includes several illustrations.”
- **The Land of the Blue Gown** (1912) – This book paints a marvellously descriptive account of her travels to Beijing and remoter parts, and describes her views on the culture, scenery, customs, religion, and much more. The book is extensively illustrated and includes a chapter on Little’s ‘anti-foot-binding tour’.



Emma Gregory's "Adventuress" Summer Sailing the San Juan Islands

FBS member Emma Gregory had a rather adventurous summer sailing on the schooner Adventuress around the San Juan Islands near Washington. Here's a snippet of her boat log.

Our boat navigated carefully into the stone box of Seattle's lock system. An oversized crew was onboard, along with a pantheon of friends of the boat and other guests. Festival flags fluttered a hundred feet above us, swooping down from the masts. The Adventuress was in perfect form, the wood sparkling and clean, the crew snappy and ready to go at their posts. All 138 feet of the boat had been meticulously prepared for our place at the front of The Locks Centennial Boat Parade, standing in for the SS Roosevelt, which had led the inaugural parade in 1917.

We were to lead the rest of the parade boats from Puget Sound to Lake Union, passing through the lock system to rise up to the water level of the lake. Once we reached Lake Union we would spiral around a massive fireboat during a display of its fire hoses, and then take our place at the dock of the Museum of History and Industry. We would rest there for a few days before sailing up to the San Juan Islands, marking the official start of our season.



The Adventuress at anchor off the Washington coast.

The water in the Locks started to rise, slowly bringing us up to the lake's level. Spiny lump sucker fish darted between the algae-slicked stone walls and the hull of our boat, scooting around the white fender I held between us and the rocks. A huge roar started as we crested the wall, rising into the light and bringing us



Climbing the rigging of the Adventuress' main mast. It's a long way up.

Gregory, concluded

to eye-level with a massive crowd who had gathered for us. My parents and little sister had managed to get a spot only a few feet ahead of me, cheering and taking pictures with the rest of the crowd. Everybody was there because they were in love with the boat, or knew somebody else who was; people who had been onboard as kids in a summer program, past crew, even people who had only seen her in passing. She had a way of grabbing anyone and everyone around her and drawing them in, binding them into the family of everyone who had been touched by her in some way.

That swell of togetherness, of belonging, was palpable onboard. There was applause from our guests as we made it safely out of the locks. Everyone settled into a summery meal, complete with tiny flagged toothpicks in the sandwiches and striped paper straws in sparkling orange drinks. A fleet of wooden boats fell in behind us, honking their horns and ringing their bells, flying their festival flags proudly. The Virginia V was right behind us, letting out huge, fantastical clouds of steam with every blast of their horn, and a tiny boat, all wood except for a smoke stacked engine sitting right in the center, scooted around us. People waved from bridges, from houseboats, and from the embankments of the canal as we glided towards the Lake. The crew settled easily into their new home, relishing the sense of place that came with being a part of the boat.

We had no idea what adventures would follow us for the next month: the beauty of the San Juan Islands, the fear after our mate told us a ghost story before setting us out on our first solo night watches, the ethereal swarm of millions of pale moon jellyfish that would pass by us for hours as we sailed into Massacre Bay under a pink sky. There would be countless moments of music, both spontaneous and planned, a night where wildfires turned the moon a deep wine-red and blew a hot breeze through the chilly night, and a pod of orcas that were to disappear from our view before turning up only a couple dozen feet away from us, having passed right under our boat. There would be nights where bioluminescent plankton lit up the water, where gray, foot-long polychaete worms would writhe around the hull of the boat, where pale, floating seals seen by starlight would be mistaken as bodies for singular, heart-stopping moments. More than anything else though there were meals when we would sit down together, exhausted after a long day of sailing, and eat the most amazing food, all of it fresh and cooked right there onboard, while our captain would tell us, "Wood is porous. This boat has one hundred years of memories, one hundred years of family kept inside it. Wood is porous." And we would all close our eyes and lean against the walls, breathing in all the years that had come before us.



The crew of the Adventuress poses for a group photo.

Books (and Film) in Brief

Magical Manuscripts in Early Modern Europe The Clandestine Trade In Illegal Book Collections

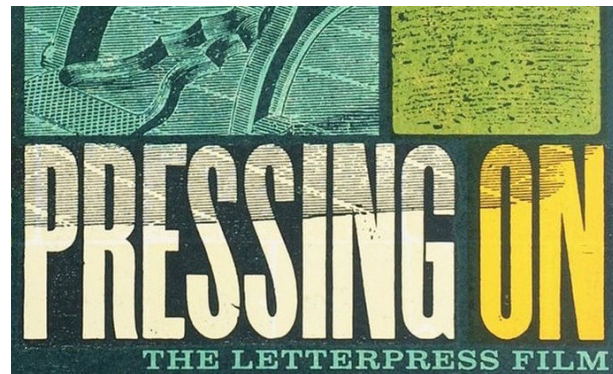
Daniel Bellingradt and Bernd-Christian Otto
Palgrave Macmillan

166 pp., 2017

Published in Palgrave's "New Directions in Book History" series, the book presents the story of a unique collection of 140 manuscripts of 'learned magic' that was sold for a fantastic sum within the clandestine channels of the German book trade in the early

eighteenth century. The book will interpret this collection from two angles – as an artefact of the early modern book market as well as the longue-durée tradition of Western learned magic –, thus taking a new stance towards scribal texts that are often regarded as eccentric, peripheral, or marginal. The study is structured by the apparent exceptionality, scarcity,

and illegality of the collection, and provides chapters on clandestine activities in European book markets, questions of censorship regimes and efficiency, the use of manuscripts in an age of print, and the history of learned magic in early modern Europe. As the collection has survived till this day in Leipzig University Library, the book provides a critical edition of the 1710 selling catalogue, which includes a brief content analysis of all extant manuscripts. The study will be of interest to scholars and students from a variety of fields, such as early modern book history, the history of magic, cultural history, the sociology of religion, or the study of Western esotericism. An [annotated list](#) of the manuscripts consulted is freely available.



Pressing On: The Letterpress Film

Andrew p. Quinn and Erin Beckloff, directors
Kevin Grazioli, producer

Joseph Vella, director of photography
90 min., 2017

At 6 pm on Thursday, November 14, the Grolier Club will present the New York premier of *Pressing On: The Letterpress Film*. The event will take place at the Grolier Club, 47 East 60th Street, New York, NY. It is free and open to the public.

From the [Pressing On website](#):

"The modern world was born on a printing press. Once essential to communication, the 500-year-old process is now in danger of being lost as its caretakers age. From self-proclaimed basement hoarders to the famed Hatch Show Print, *Pressing On: The Letterpress Film* explores the question: why has letterpress survived in a digital age?"

Pressing On began as with a [Kickstarter campaign](#) in 2015. The \$65,000 goal was met and exceeded by 951 backers. Seventy-two hours of interviews with 17 letterpress practitioners were reduced to a 4-hour initial cut, which was refined down to a 90-minute documentary. The film was premiered in Nashville, hosted by The Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum and [Hatch Show Print](#) (est. 1879); the latter was a participant in the film.





Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair, November 10-12, 2017

Boston Book Print and Ephemera Fair, November 11, 2017, 8am–4 pm

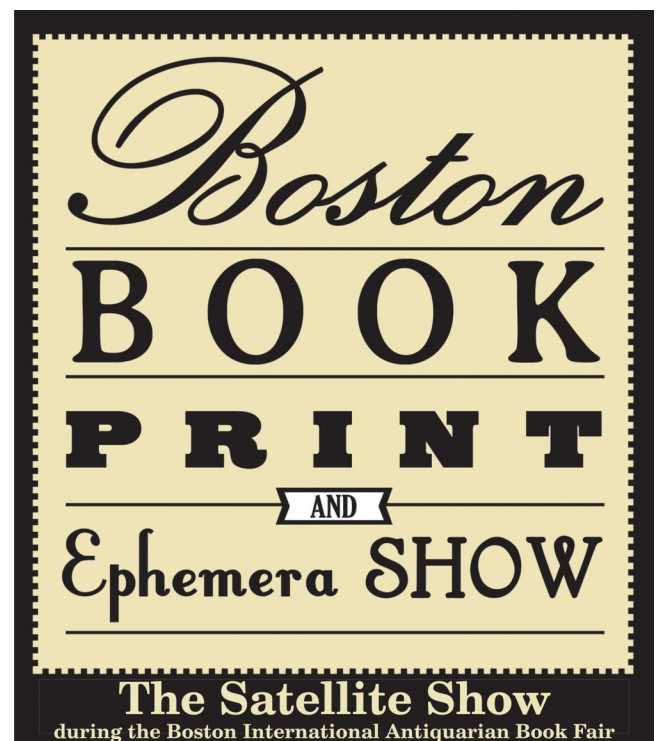
During the weekend of November 10-12, Boston will be full of books, even more than usual. The 41st annual Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair returns to Boston's Hynes Convention Center. One of the oldest and most respected antiquarian book shows in the country, the event offers the top selection of items that are available on the international literary market. The offerings are wide and diverse from over 120 dealers from the United States, Argentina, Australia, Denmark, England, Germany, France, The Netherlands, Russia, and Spain who will exhibit and sell rare, collectible and antiquarian books, illuminated manuscripts, autographs, maps, atlases, modern first editions, photographs, and fine and decorative prints. Panel discussions, book bindings demos, and guest speakers all weekend. Among the special events that will be held during the fair are:

The Ticknor Society Collectors' Roundtable – Collectors talking about their own personal collections

Of Books and Wild Beasts: Thoreau's Wilderness Library – Christine Nelson of Morgan Library & Museum celebrates the Thoreau bicentenary by exploring his lifelong journal and his fantasy library reachable "only after adventures in the wilderness, amid wild beasts & wild men."

Ricky Jay: Magicians, Cheaters, Remarkable Characters – Ricky Jay, the renowned sleight-of-hand artist, author, and actor speaks about his esteemed collection of books and images of magicians, cheaters & remarkable characters.

Bookbinding with Peter Geraty – Owner of Praxis Bindery, Peter Geraty has focused on conservation, fine binding, and editions and presentation materials for publishers and artists.



On Saturday, November 11, the Boston Book Print and Ephemera Show will be held at Back Bay Events Center. Though it calls itself "The Satellite Show", this is no side show. A ten-minute walk from the Antiquarian Book Fair, many beautiful and exotic items will be for sale. The Satellite Show runs from 8 am to 4 pm on Saturday only.

For more information, click on either image above. ➔

Upcoming Events

November 2017



The Great Florida Bibliophile Society Book Swap Meet

**Seminole Community Library
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
November 19, 2017, 1:30 pm**

A festival for booklovers! It's always a treat to learn what our fellow booklovers are up to, and therefore, the **Great Florida Bibliophile Society Book Swap Meet** begins with FBS members sharing (briefly) about their collections, a recent purchase, a special book, etc. We will also put the "swap" in Swap Meet, as members are invited to bring books to share, swap, sell, or give away – one booklover's shelf-full of "I don't know what to do with that" is another's "I've been looking for that book for I don't know how long." We will also be treated to a short film about Salvador Dali starring our very own "Joan of Art" Sackheim, who has been a docent at the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg for a number of years.



December 2017



Florida Bibliophile Society Holiday Party

December 17, 2017, 1:30 pm

Again, this year, FBS member Joan Sackheim has invited members of the society to celebrate the holiday season together at her home in St. Petersburg.

Traditionally, FBS supplies a holiday ham and beverages, and members bring their specialties to share. During the hectic holiday season, this get-together has been a relaxing time to slow down, enjoy some delicious food (we have excellent cooks in FBS!), and have time to talk and even pull crackers and share some jokes.

More details coming in December.



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 and library-operated bookstores, visit

Florida Library Book Sales:

<http://www.booksalefinder.com/FL.html>

2017

NOVEMBER

November 2-5, 2017

12th Annual Sanibel Island Writers Conference

Sanibel Island, FL (www.fgcu.edu/siwc/)

November 2-15, 2017

JCA 21ST Jewish Book Festival

Jacksonville, FL (jcjax.org/jcafest/#bookfest)

November 11, 2017, 10 am – 5 pm

Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading

USF St. Petersburg

140 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg

(www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/)

November 12-19, 2017

Miami Book Fair International

Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, FL

(www.miamibookfair.com/)

2018

JANUARY

January 13-20, 2018

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)

St. Petersburg, FL (writersinparadise.eckerd.edu/)

January 20-28, 2018

29th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org/)

January 11-14, 2018

36th Annual Key West Literary Seminar

Key West, FL (www.kwls.org/)

FEBRUARY

TBA

Charlotte Harbor Book Festival

Punta Gorda, FL

February 15-17, 2018

Amelia Island Book Festival

Amelia Island, FL

(www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/)

February 15-18, 2018

Savannah Book Festival

Savannah, GA (www.savannahbookfestival.org/)

February 22-25, 2018

Coastal Magic Convention

Daytona Beach, FL (coastalmagicconvention.com/)

MARCH

March 1-4, 2018

SleuthFest – Annual conference for mystery, suspense, and thriller writers

Boca Raton, FL

(<http://www.sleuthfest.com/>)

March 3, 2018, 10 am – 4 pm

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

Fort Myers Regional Library Campus

Fort Myers, FL (www.readfest.org/)

March 23-24, 2018

7th Annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival

Venice, FL (<http://venicebookfair.com/>)

APRIL

April 6-8, 2018

University of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels (est. 2002)

Gainesville, FL (http://www.english.ufl.edu/comics/cfps/2018_cfp.shtml)

April 20-22, 2018

Florida Antiquarian Book Fair

St. Petersburg, FL

(floridabooksellers.com/bookfair.html)



Victor Hammer, Typographer

The typeface American Uncial which Elling Eide chose for *The Poems of Li Po* and which appears below (Thank You!) and in the titles on page 12 was designed by Victor Hammer (1882-1967). Hammer was born in Vienna, Austria, and trained there as an apprentice architect and later at the Academy of Fine Arts. He produced his first type design, Hammer Uncial, in 1921 as an exercise in expressing modern languages in antique letterforms; uncials were common from the 4th to 9th centuries and became the basis of modern capital letters. Hammer was skilled in many arts, including painting and sculpture. He was also a skilled engraver and calligrapher. Hammer was a professor in Vienna in 1939 when war broke out. He fled to the United States, finding a teaching position at Wells College in Aurora, NY. It was there that he designed American Uncial, the best known of his typefaces. In 1948, he moved to Lexington, Kentucky and became artist in residence at Transylvania University there. He designed the seals of both the city of Louisville, Kentucky, and the University of Louisville, the latter still in use.



Metal engraving cut by Victor Hammer

Thank You!

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.

Emma Gregory
Stuart Goodman
Gary Simons
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen Mulvihill

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, 2017-2018 Season



David Hall

September 17 • Michael VanPutte – *Walking Wounded: Inside the U. S. Cyberwar Machine* – President Barack Obama called cyber warfare “The most serious threat to our national security.” Dr. Michael VanPutte, a cyberwarfare expert and decorated combat veteran, explains the threat and how U.S. policy has contributed to the threat.

October 15 • Stuart D. Goldman – *Nomonhan, 1939: The Red Army’s Victory That Shaped World War II* – Nomonhan is a little known battle in a series of conflicts between Russia and Japan that had critical implications for World War II. Dr. Goldman will set the scene and explain the importance.

November 19 • The Great Florida Bibliophile Society Book Swap Meet – A festival for booklovers! Members will be invited to briefly share about their collection, a recent purchase, etc. Bring books to swap or sell.

December 17 • FBS Holiday Party – FBS member Joan Sackheim has again offered her lovely home as the perfect setting for our holiday celebration. A great opportunity to spend some relaxed time with fellow FBS members.

January 21 • Charles Brown – *Beyond the Book: Artist’s Books and Graphics Novels* – Our FBS vice president and newsletter editor is also an exhibited book artist with an interest in the unique book creations of artists. Charles will discuss the book as a medium for art both in unique productions and in the increasingly popular and critically important area of graphic novels.

February 18 • Matthew Knight, Assistant Director of Special Collections, University of South Florida – Matt will give a presentation and take FBS members on a guided tour of USF’s special collections. Matt’s special areas of focus are the Dion Bouicault Theatre Collection, the Alvin P. Yorkunas Collection, all LGBT collections, and the Anglo-Irish Literature collection. It promises to be a very special introduction to USF’s Special Collections.

March 18 • TBA

April 20-22 • 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 15 • FBS Celebrates National Poetry Month with Poet Lola Haskins – Widely published and author of 14 collections of poetry, Lola will read from her latest collection, *How Small, Confronting Morning*, poems about inland Florida. Originally, from California, Lola was on the computer science faculty at the University of Florida for many years. She now divides her time between Gainesville, Florida, and Skipton, Yorkshire, UK.

May 20 • FBS Annual Banquet – Dell deChant, Chair of Religious Studies, University of South Florida, will be the keynote speaker at our season’s-end banquet at Brio Tuscan Grille. Dell will enlighten us on the religions of the world, their major distinctions, and how they interact in a pluralistic culture.



All meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon unless otherwise announced.

Endpaper • The Florida Effect



One reason we have so many interesting speakers, such as Michael VanPutte and Stuart Goldman, at FBS — and by the way, members too! — is what we might call the Florida Effect. A lot of interesting people end up here, whether for business, education, or retirement. Florida attracts a wonderfully diverse group of people.

I was especially struck by this while working on the story about the Elling O. Eide Center for Research. His grandfather's decision to move to southwest Florida in the mid 1930s to live on his tract of primeval Florida, and Elling growing up on this hundred-acre wood. It reminded me of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' experiences and the Florida stories she drew out of them. Some of these things could happen anywhere, but somehow, the swamps, the palm trees, the moss, the alligators — everything is framed with tropical mystery.

Perhaps a less remote version of Robert Louis Stevenson perhaps, complete with treasure chests, of which the Eide collection(s) is one. This world-class scholar known only to his community as the crank in

the beat-up VW bus that kept arguing with the city commission about his property. All the time, amassing one of the great collections of Chinese literature. Rare Persian murals rolled up in PVC pipes (thank goodness for restorers!), ancient texts stuffed in boxes and piled up in sheds. The kind of character that fuels a lot of Florida fiction.

Plenty of book collectors can relate to the quandary Eide faced of where to put it all and what would happen to it. And yet they are driven on by one of the most compelling joys of book collecting: making connections. It's what happens when a story about a Chinese library leads to a story about a Victorian woman novelist to a story about the campaign to end foot-binding. . . And before you know it you're searching Amazon or ABE or Google Books. And it's all out there, just waiting for the next door to open and another adventure to begin.

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor.