

The Florida Bibliophile

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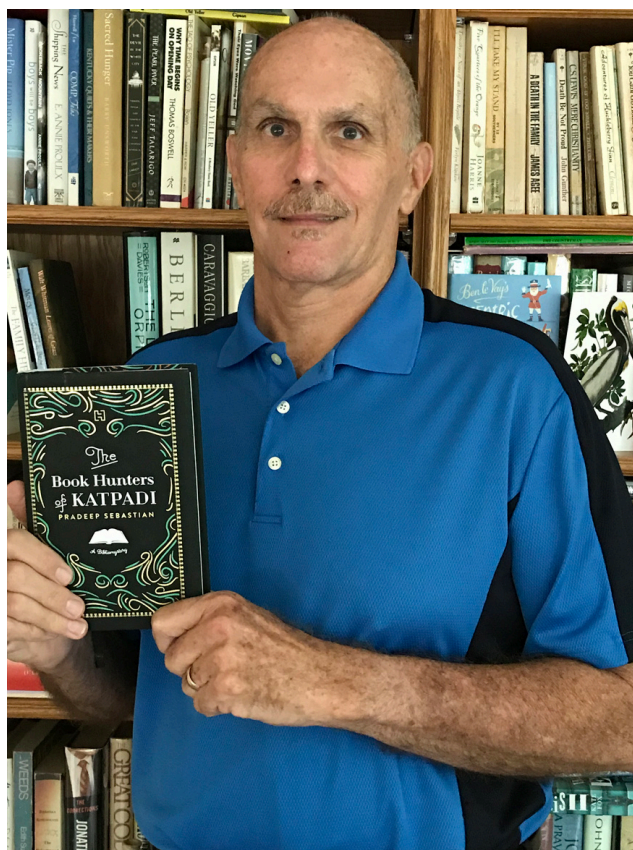


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Deadline for the December newsletter is
Thursday, November 29, 2018.
See page 21 for details.

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 Fall 2018 FABS Journal [here](#).



Ben Wiley displays *The Book Hunters of Katapadi*, his speaker's gift, presented to him after a most enjoyable talk.



ANNUAL DUES for the 2018-2019 FBS Season are due by December 31, 2018!

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 21, 2018

President Jerry Morris began the meeting

by going over the speaker schedule for the rest of the 2018-2019 season: Don Bruns, an award-winning novelist from Sarasota, will be the November speaker; our annual holiday party will be in December; FBS member and film scholar Lisa Bradberry will give a presentation on the early film industry in Florida in January; Wilson Blount, a civil rights pioneer, will be the guest speaker in February; FBS Vice President Charles Brown will present “The Simplicissimus Story” – about a character in a series of novels written in the 1600s; in March, FBS member Edward Cifelli will give a presentation on his recent book, *Longfellow in Love: Passion and Tragedy in the Life of the Poet*, in April; and our May banquet will feature a presentation by circus historian Larry Kellogg. Jerry also commented on the recent successful visit by several FBS members to the Alachua County Book Sale, and suggested that we should conduct additional optional side trips over the next several months.

Next, Jerry introduced our speaker, Ben Wiley. Ben is an FBS member, a retired professor of film and literature at St. Petersburg College, an active volunteer at the Largo Library bookstore, and the movie critic for the Tampa Bay magazine *Creative Loafing*. Jerry introduced Ben via a series of comments regarding Ben posted by his former students on the “Rate My Professor” website, which included expressions such as “a killer sense of humor,” “great class and exceptional instructor,” “easy to approach and very animated,” “kind, witty, and bright,” “brings a spark to the class,” and “you just never know.” After hearing Ben’s sparkling presentation all who were in attendance would probably fully subscribe to these comments!

With an eye to the classic 1964 film *Dr. Strangelove*, Ben entitled his presentation “Thumbs Up, Down, and Sideways: Film Reviewing for *Creative Loafing* Tampa, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb.” He began by reminding us that *Creative Loafing* is available both online and as a free tabloid. The magazine is progressive and has a “hipster” ambience – we were encouraged to take

a look online or examine some free copies he brought with him.

Although the main part of Ben’s talk was about film reviewing, Ben began his presentation by talking about a column called “BookStories” which he writes for *Creative Loafing* and which is based on his experiences as

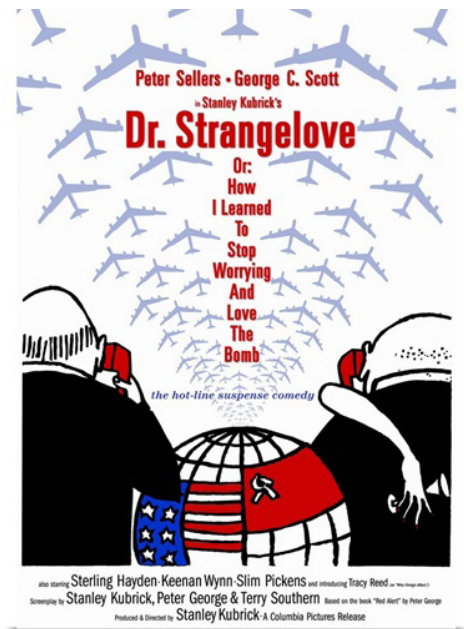
a volunteer at the Largo Library bookstore. Some of these stories, highlighted for us through a series



Ed Hacking, 100 and counting

of pictorial vignettes, brought out the human aspects of his obvious love of books and book people. Ben talked about Ed Hacking – a 100-year-old who worked in Washington during the Roosevelt administration – and who now comes to the Largo library to read the *Sunday New York Times*. Ben mused on missing the smell and feel of the old card catalogs that used to be essential elements of all libraries. He showed a picture of a small boy holding, yet dwarfed behind, a big book, a copy of Thomas Wolfe’s *A Man in Full*.

Ben talked at some length about the enduring appeal



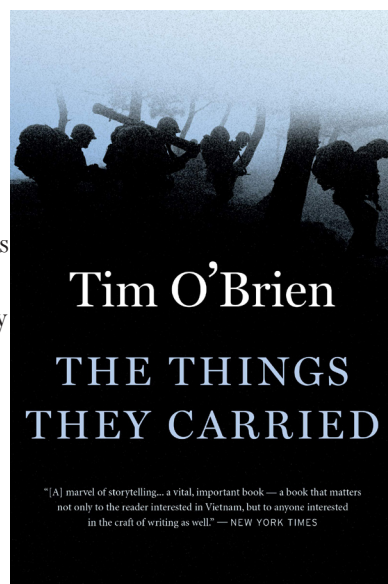
Minutes, continued

of romance novels — with their exotic sexualized book covers. He noted that there are over 100,000 members of Romance Writers of America, and that there are over 1.5 billion dollars of romance novel sales each year. Of course these book covers



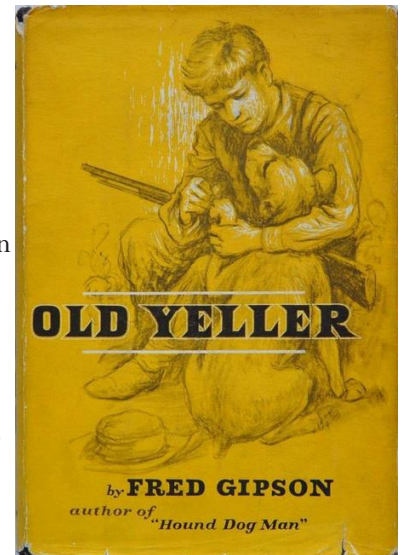
are variously intended to appeal to men and to women. One of Ben's "BookStories" columns covered his interview with Burton Hughes, a shirtless model whose buff physique is displayed on some 300 book covers! In a similar vein, Ben noted that women's red lips on book covers also sell books, and he showed us a picture of a representative book cover to bring home his point.

Ben spoke about some of his particular concerns about books and bookselling, and some of the books that, over the years, particularly moved him. He told us a story about a Vietnam vet who used the term "P38" (GI slang for a can opener!) to authenticate others who claimed to have served in Vietnam — and tied that to praise of *The Things They Carried*, a powerful Vietnam War novel. One of Ben's columns was about *Huckleberry Finn*, a novel that, in his view, is inappropriately often banned. Further, Ben commented that restrictions on books



and other items sent to inmates are often ridiculous, for example, *Where's Waldo?* presumably on the theory that it might stimulate attempted escapes.

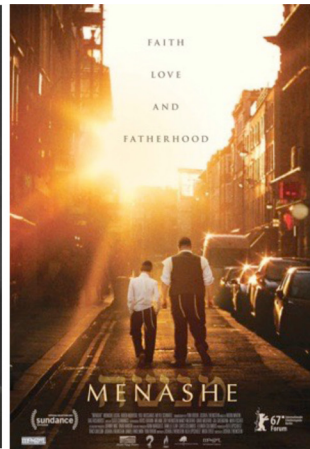
Ben closed this portion of his talk by talking about his experience with the novel *Old Yeller*, how he still chokes up talking about it, how he read it as a child and cried about it in church, and how he now regards it as a conversion experience regarding the power of writing and how the narrative arc can work in a novel.



Moving on to his film reviews for *Creative Loafing*, Ben noted that he is often able to interview film directors and insert their comments into his reviews. As a matter of course, he goes to previews in the press section, reads press kits, does background research on the Internet Movie Database (IMBD) website, and often reads the book for those movies based on books.

As a professor, Ben often taught courses on film. A favorite teaching example was the classic 1941 movie *Citizen Kane*, as he could cover virtually all aspects of movie making with that single film. He recalled that when he taught that film in 1991, he had a particularly difficult student — but 25 years later that same student, Cathy Salustri, now Arts and Entertainment editor of *Creative Loafing* with a mature appreciation of Ben's skills and insights, asked him to become film reviewer in 2016. He has since written about seventy film reviews.

Ben offered some reminders for would-be film reviewers. It is important to present an authentic voice and to use the vocabulary of film (with regard to things such as camera movement and placement, editing, etc.). It is okay to be opinionated, and okay to be literary, but it is important not to fall back upon plot summary. The goal is to engage and entice the reader.

Minutes, continued**Soul-sucking****Soul-searing****Soul-soaring**

Normally Ben, as most film reviewers do, is asked to rank movies on a scale from 1 to 5 stars. But he prefers a more descriptive scale:

Soul-sucking: tedious, banal, empty

Soul-searing: flawed but insightful

Soul-soaring: rich, lyrical, authentic

As an example of Soul-Sucking, Ben urged that we avoid the new life action Disney version of *Beauty and the Beast*; however, *Phantom Thread*, with Daniel Day-Lewis, was creepy and beautiful and earned the ranking of Soul-Searing; further, Ben rated the movie *Menashe*, about the conflicts faced by an orthodox Jew between faith and fatherhood, as Soul-Soaring.

Ben was able to screen a movie about a gay youth, *Love, Simon*, with students from the Gay Lesbian



Becky Albertalli with her award-winning novel, *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

Alliance at Seminole High School. The students wondered how Becky Albertalli – the writer of *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, the book the film was based on – as a straight adult woman, could write from the viewpoint of a gay adolescent. Ben was able to

interview the writer, and she responded: “I am Simon.”

Ben discussed a number of movies, including *The Lost City of Z*; *The Zookeeper’s Wife*; *Victoria and Abdul*; the 2017 remake of *Papillon*; *The Death of Stalin*; *A Quiet Passion*; *Colette*; *American Animals*; *The Student*; *I, Tonya*; *Stronger*; and *Leave No Trace*. Rather than summarize his comments regarding each of these films in these minutes, the reviews

themselves can be found and read at [Ben Wiley’s author page](#) on the *Creative Loafing* website (when you get there, scroll down).

Ben showed some excerpts from his reviews as part of his presentation. These excerpts demonstrate an extraordinary ability to capture the essence of a film and to write effectively.



As an example, Ben’s review of *The Zookeeper’s Wife* included the following:

The masterful cinematography is by Andrij Parekh, who has the camera linger on iron bars, doors, walls, close-ups of wire mesh and padlocks and chains. The cages for the animals become hiding places for the Jews, previously trapped in the ghetto, now caged again in order to be hidden and removed. Reinforcing this sense of entrapment are the suffocating interior shots and claustrophobic isolation in the ghetto, the camera starting in tight on the street, then pulling out and craning up to reveal the stunning walled ghetto, a fortified

Minutes, continued

city within a city, a labyrinthine rabbit warren filled with the desperate and the dying, “like rats in a cellar.”



Writing about the remake of *Papillon*, Ben noted:

This remake of *Papillon* kept me in a whimpering mess — cowed in my seat, eyes averted, breathless on my knees — for much of the film’s two-hour running time. Blades and blood dominate the prison cruelty, including self-inflicted wounds in order to escape the work crew, bowel evisceration to recover swallowed contraband, and the ever-present guillotine that decapitates saint and sinner alike.



Concerning *The Death of Stalin*, Ben wrote:

This film is about the Soviet hierarchy based on cult of personality. This film is about upper echelon government bureaucrats clueless on how to run a country. The film is about a style of leadership through belittlement, bombast, bedlam, bumbling, brawling and back-stabbing. Any similarity to present day Washington is purely intentional.

Ben’s concluding comment, superimposed on a jungle image from a film review, was that film reviewing can be a jungle too, a tangle of word, image, emotion, history, aesthetics, taste.

After a spirited question and answer session, Ben was given a ceremonial book plate and a copy of *The Book Hunters of Katpadi*.

FBS members were then invited to visit the Special Collections area in the University of Tampa Library, a few steps from our meeting room, to inspect the Christopher Morley books and Peter Pauper collection which FBS member Lee Harrer had donated to the library. These displays were featured in *The Florida Bibliophile* for October.

Gary Simons, Secretary



The 1941 theatrical release poster for *Citizen Kane*, widely regarded as one of the best — if not the best — of American films. It has been referred to as an “encyclopedia of techniques.” It is also a very American story. Based on the life of William Randolph Hearst, who in his time, tested the limits of the influence of the power afforded him by virtue of great wealth and control of what was the greatest publishing empire in the U.S. for many years.

Minutes, continued

Ben Recommends...

Wondering what to watch? Puzzling over your Netflix watch list? Ben has supplied *The Florida Bibliophile* readers with a list of highly recommended films from the last three years.*These films cover many topics and are from many countries – what they share in common is many awards and, of course, Ben’s personal recommendation – priceless!

American Animals (2018) – True story of college kids stealing antiquarian books from the library at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, in 2004. Need we say that the caper does not go as “planned.”

Beatriz at Dinner (2017) – Clash between haves and have-nots as a Mexican house cleaner, played by Salma Hayek, encounters ugly white privilege as expressed by John Lithgow.

Beirut (2018) – Espionage spy thriller, straight from newspaper headlines; takes place during the Lebanese Civil War in 1982 in the context of Middle East violence.

The Bookshop (2017) – Based on Penelope Fitzgerald’s wonderful novel of a woman who wants to open a bookshop in a provincial English town. The townspeople are fairly sure that they do not need a bookshop.

Boy Erased (2018) – Based on the true memoir of Garrard Conley, who recounts coming out as a teenager to his parents (Russell Crowe and Nicole Kidman), who shuffled him off to a conversion therapy camp.

Can You Ever Forgive Me? (2018) – True story where Melissa McCarthy plays Lee Israel, biographer turned literary forger. The collapse of Israel’s 20-year writing career drove her to begin forging the letters of famous people. She even replaced real letters in libraries with her forgeries. She made a living selling both real and forged work. Based on the book by Lee Israel.



Ben Wiley, film reviewer; The Lost City of Z, a film that Ben highly recommends, runs in the background.

Colette (2018) – Acclaimed 20th century French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette (1873-1954), known simply as Colette, broke cultural and gender barriers. Her best known work, *Gigi*, became a well-known film. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948.

The Death of Stalin (2017) – Vicious and biting satire of Stalinist Russia where upper level bureaucrats jockey for leadership after Stalin dies. Exterior shots for the movie were filmed on location in Russia. In an interview with the writer-director, Armando Iannucci, Ben asked how it was possible to clear the making of such a movie with the Russian film board. Iannucci explained that it’s all in how you explain it. After its completion, the movie was banned in Russia as “ideological warfare.”

A Fantastic Woman (2017) – Oscar for Best Foreign Language film for 2018; a transgender woman navigates the world alone after her protector-husband dies.

Film Stars Don’t Die in Liverpool (2017) – Annette Bening and Jamie Bell in a May–December romance as aging film star finds purpose; a five-handkerchief weepie, so be prepared.

Frantz (2016) – WWI film of loss and shame in France; melancholic, symbolic, beautiful.

Minutes, concluded

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society (2018) – British citizens of the Isle of Guernsey during WW2 thwart the Nazi invaders, using their book club as a subversive front. Based on the book by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

I, Tonya (2017) – A new consideration of Tonya Harding and her hardscrabble life that crossed paths interacted with cute and perky Nancy Kerrigan at the Lillehammer Winter Olympics.

The Lost City of Z (2016) – True story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who seeks an ancient civilization in the Amazon. Urged on by tantalizing stories and clues as well as desire for redemption, the quest becomes an obsession. Based on the book by David Grann.

Last Flag Flying (2017) – Vietnam vets reunite for a road trip to Arlington. Based on the book *Last Flag Flying* by Darryl Ponicsan.

Leave No Trace (2018) – A veteran with PTSD and his 15-year-old daughter go off the grid and live in the forest outside Portland, OR. Based on the book *My Abandonment*, by Peter Rock.

Love, Simon (2018) – A high schooler is outed while coming to terms with his gay sexuality. Based on the novel *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, by Becky Albertalli.

Maktub (2017) – Hebrew film; the Arabic word *maktub* means “fate.” When goofball Israeli mobsters receive a “sign,” they decide to redeem themselves by using their skill set to fulfill wishes left at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Megan Leavey (2017) – True story, true emotion of a GI, a Marine K9 trainer, and Iraqi war hero, and her dog, Rex, during two deployments in Iraq in 2005 and 2006.

Menashe (2017) – Faith and fatherhood in conflict in Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn.

Papillon (2017) – Bloody and muddy remake of the classic 1970s prison escape movie. Based on Henri Charrière’s autobiographies *Papillon* and *Banco*.

Phantom Thread (2017) – The last film of Daniel Day-Lewis, who plays a high-strung Parisian dress designer who manipulates his models into muses until they begin to manipulate him.

The Post (2017) – Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in the newspaper drama about the *Washington Post*’s publication of the Pentagon Papers.

A Quiet Passion (2016) – Lyrical and transcendent film about Emily Dickinson, her poetry, and her life.

Stronger (2017) – True story with Jake Gyllenhaal as Jeff Bauman, a man at the wrong place and wrong time during Boston Marathon bombing. Based on the memoir of the same name by Jeff Bauman and Bret Witter.

The Student (2016) – Russian film of a high school student addicted to religion. Based on Marius von Mayenburg’s play *Märtyrer*.

Victoria & Abdul (2017) – Queen Victoria meets a much younger Indian man and takes him on as her teacher and confidant. Based on the book *Victoria & Abdul* by Shrabani Basu.

The Wall (2017) – Taut, tight combat thriller about a sniper and insurgent separated by a wall; as much psychological tension as combat.

The Wife (2017) – In this fictional story, Glenn Close plays the wife of a Nobel laureate in Literature; she writes the books, and he gets the award. The trip to Stockholm to receive the award brings the wife to a crisis 40 years in the making. Based on the book by Meg Wolitzer.

The Zookeeper’s Wife (2017) – True story of a zookeeper family hiding Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto in their family zoo. Based on the book by Diane Ackerman.



Gainesville Getaway: FBS at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale



This building on Main Street in Gainesville is the permanent home of the semiannual Alachua County Friends of the Library book sale.

On a recent October morning, a Saturday, five intrepid members of the Florida Bibliophile Society gathered compass (read “GIS navigational system”) and canteen (read “various foodstuffs from fast-food and convenience establishments”) and set forth along the ancient Timucuan trail (read “I-75”) in search of El Dorado, the lost city of gold (read “Gainesville” – okay, it’s getting a little thick).



Interior view of the “Bookhouse” on Main Street.

Our intrepid crew did not find gold (well, maybe a little), but they did leave Gainesville with treasures – in the form of fascinating books acquired at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale, one of the largest of its kind, with over 500,000 books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, comic books, posters, artwork, puzzles, games, and more, offered for a five-day period, Saturday through Wednesday, each October and April. Proceeds from the sale support literacy programs in Alachua County.

In preparation for the sale, dedicated volunteers sort and price the books – most at one to two dollars and less. Even books that are priced higher are a bargain compared to used bookstore prices. Then there’s the Collector’s Corner for better books and valuable books, again at very favorable prices, often documented with a printout of the Internet offering.

Since it began in 1954, the sale has been held in various locations in Gainesville, but as it grew, finding a location that could accommodate so many objects and provide room to work with them became more difficult. When Sears left the mall on Gainesville’s north side many years ago to move to the then-new Oaks Mall on the west side, the sale was held there for a few years. When an old warehouse near the downtown area became available in 1989, the Junior League and the library district went in together and bought it, and it now serves as the permanent home of the sale.

The sale has even expanded beyond the 10,000+-square-foot warehouse to tents that are set up just for the sale in the adjacent parking lot. The tents house comics and art as well as spaces for bulk purchases and the express lanes, for patrons that are purchasing 20 items or fewer.

The sale is visited by thousands of people; parking can be hard to find on the first day. Police officers are stationed in front of the book sale building to stop traffic on Main Street to allow buyers to cross to and from parking areas east of the Bookhouse.

On the next few pages, our intrepid explorers share a few of the treasures they found.

Gainesville Getaway, continued

**Carl
Mario
Nudi**

As I was driving up Interstate 75 to the Alachua County Friends of the Library sale last month, I remember telling my traveling companions, FBS President Jerry Morris and FBS Secretary Gary Simons, that I was only going to the sale because of the great time I had on my last trip. I told them that I had no plans of purchasing any books, as my house is chock-full of books from wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. I simply don't need to add to the chaos.

Then as we got closer to the destination, I qualified my resolute declaration with, "Of course, if I find some good books on printing or typesetting, I'll have to buy them. They're so hard to come by, you have to get them whenever they're available."

We arrived, and although I was there one time before, the site of "a million books" is breathtaking. It was like a little kid in a candy store.

I rushed into the aisles fondling books as I checked out the various categories.

In the end, I came away with a heavy armful load of books, spending about \$30 for a great cause.

My finds, pictured above, from the top left and going clockwise, are:

- *German Cathedrals*; Helga Schmidt-Glassner, photographer; The Vanguard Press, 1956. (There are photos of the Dom in Mainz, which I visited in 2015.)

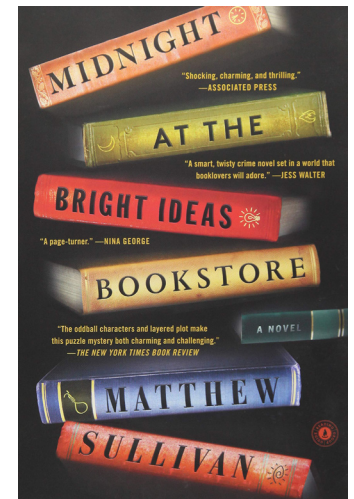
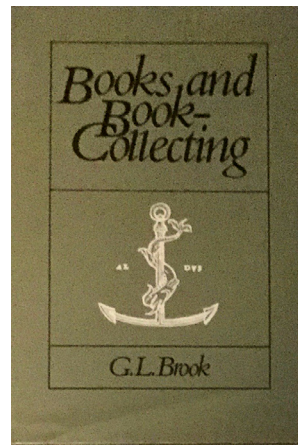
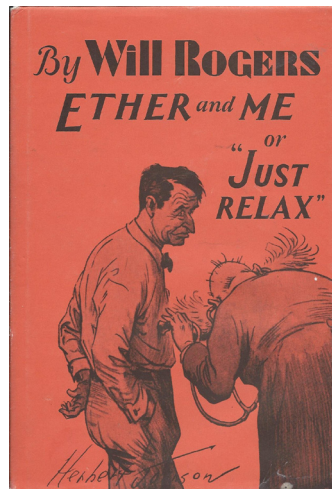


- *What is a Woman?*; William M. Graham, Elysium, Inc.; 1966. (A photo book of fine art nudes. After all, my last name is Nudi.)
- *A Friend or Two*; Wilbert D. Nesbit; P. F. Volland Company; 1915. (A gift book that I liked because of the simple color plates.)
- *Nude Work Shop*; Lucien Clergue, Secker & Warburg; 1982. (Another fine art book of nudes.)
- *USA, 1971 Special Stamp Mini-Album*; United State Postal Service; 1971. (Yes, I collect stamps, also, and besides I only paid 50 cents for this, and there's about \$2.20 worth of uncanceled stamps.)
- *The Universal Stamp Album, Fully Illustrated*; Gossman Stamp Co., Inc.; revised edition, 1965. (It's old. You have to be kind to old things.)
- *A History of Graphic Design*; Philip B. Meggs; Van Nostrand Reinhold; second edition, 1992. (How could I not buy this almost new book at this price — \$1.50.)

Well, I found room in my house for these gems, and I'm looking forward to the next FBS trip to Gainesville to spend a day with friends, enjoying what we love.

Gainesville Getaway, continued

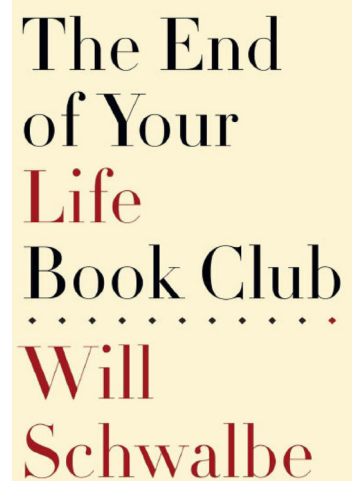
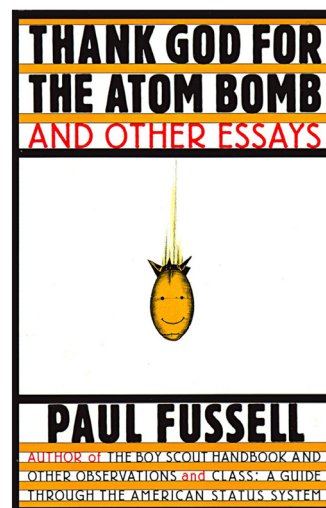
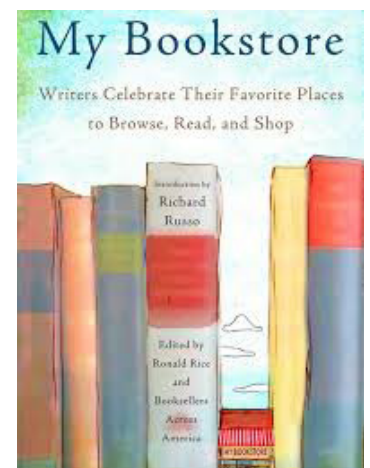
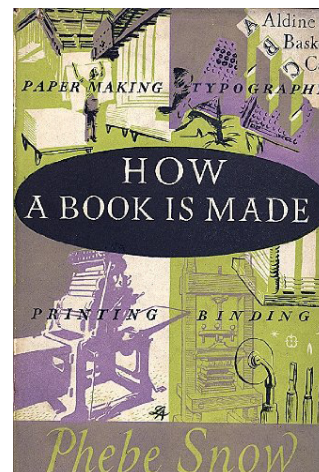
**Jerry
Morris**



- *Ether and Me; Or "Just Relax"*, by Will Rogers, Stillwater: Oklahoma State University Press, 1973.
- *Books and Book-Collecting*, by G. L. Brock, London: Deitch, 1980.
- *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore: A Novel*, by Matthew Sullivan, New York: Scribner, 2017.
- *How a Book is Made*, by Phebe Snow, London: Routledge and Paul, 1960.
- *My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places to Browse, Read, and Shop*, by Ronald Rice, New York: Black Dog and Leventhal, 2012.
- *Thank God for the Atomic Bomb and Other Essays*, by Paul Fussell, New York: Summit Books, 1988.
- *The End of Your Life Book Club*, by Will Schwalbe, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012.

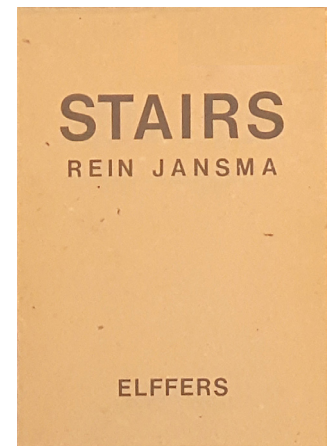
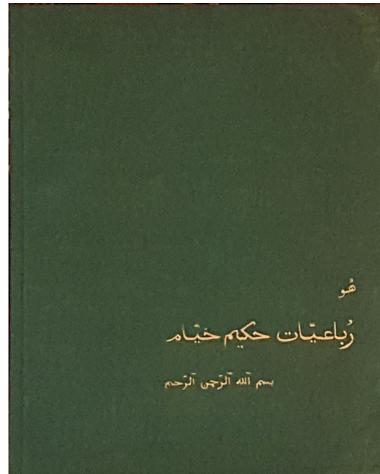
Not shown:

- *River Spirits: A Collection of Lumbee Writings*, edited by Stanley Knick, Native American Resource Center Publications, University of North Carolina at Pembroke, 2003.
- *Essays and Essayists*, edited by Sir John Henry Newbolt, London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, c1928.
- *The Uses of Diversity: A Book of Essays*, by G. K. Chesterton, London: Methuen, 1927.



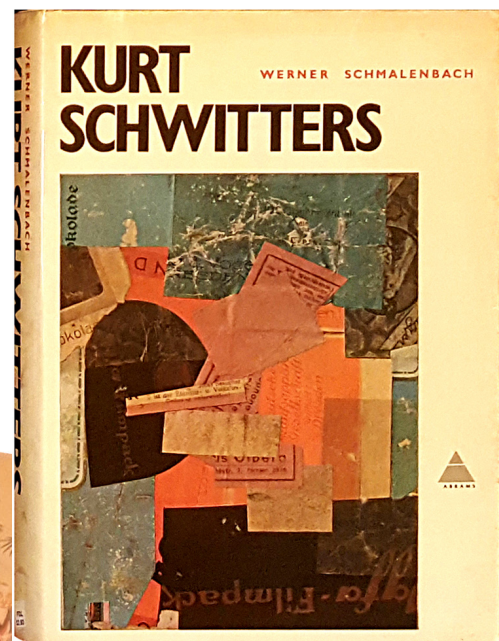
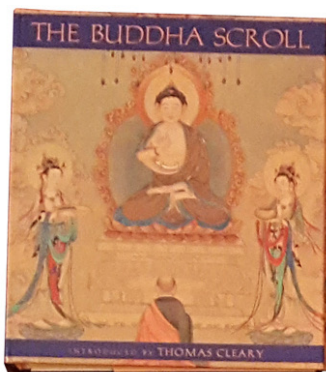
Gainesville Getaway, concluded

**Charles
Brown**



Unlike my fellow expeditionaries, I live in Gainesville and can return to the book sale for a second, even a third visit (a fourth has been known). Here are a few of the books I picked up.

- *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, in English, French, and Persian*, illustrated with 30 Persian miniatures, Greenwich, CT: New York Graphic Society, 1966. Note the gold in the stamped cover.
- *Works on Paper*, by Shin Yu Pai, Lake Worth, FL: Convivio Bookworks, 2007. No. 53 of 125, letterpress edition of the poems of Shin Yu Pai.
- *Stairs*, by Rein Jansma, New York: ARTobjects, 1982. An abstract pop-up book of stair constructions by a Dutch architect. Well used, but fun for \$2.
- *Maxfield Parrish and the American Imagists*, by Laurence S. Cutler, Judy Goffman Cutler, and the National Museum of American Illustration, Edison, NJ: The Wellfleet Press, 2004.
- *Kurt Schwitters*, by Werner Schmalenbach, New York: Abrams, 1967. A massive collection of the work of this important collagist.
- *The Buddha Scroll*, introduction by Thomas Cleary, Boston: Shambala, 1999. A 36-ft-long fold-out which reproduces an 18th-century Qing Dynasty original.



A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Book Sale

T. Rhombus McPhail

The original Perry Mason television series ran from 1957 to 1966. It is hard now to explain how popular Perry Mason and its star Raymond Burr were in those years – by 1966, Perry Mason was airing (or had been) in 58 countries, subtitled or dubbed in Chinese, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish, Greek, Malay, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish, and dubbed in Arabic, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Thai. The show was performing well in the ratings



Still shot from Raymond Burr's screentest for Perry Mason. Note carefully, Raymond Burr is on the right, playing the prosecutor Hamilton Burger. Burr tested for the prosecutor role, based on his solid career in the 1940s playing gangsters and prosecutors – equally merciless. Burr persuaded the producers to test him for the Mason role as well. As soon as Gardner saw Mason, he jumped up in excitement – Burr was the Mason Gardner had in mind. These screen tests were recently discovered in a CBS film vault, fifty years after they were made.

in its ninth year when CBS network executives made the decision to cancel the show – after having worked to persuade Burr, who had tried to leave the show after season five, to shoot a tenth season, in full color. Burr went on to the very successful Ironsides, which ran from 1967 to 1975. Perry and Raymond were reunited in a series of 30 television movies filmed from 1985 to 1995. The original TV series has run in syndication continuously for over 50 years. In 2014, *The Atlantic* surveyed Netflix users, and they listed Raymond Burr as their favorite actor. Burr's costar, Barbara Hale, came in seventh.

Of course, the success of the Perry Mason television series was built on an equally successful series of

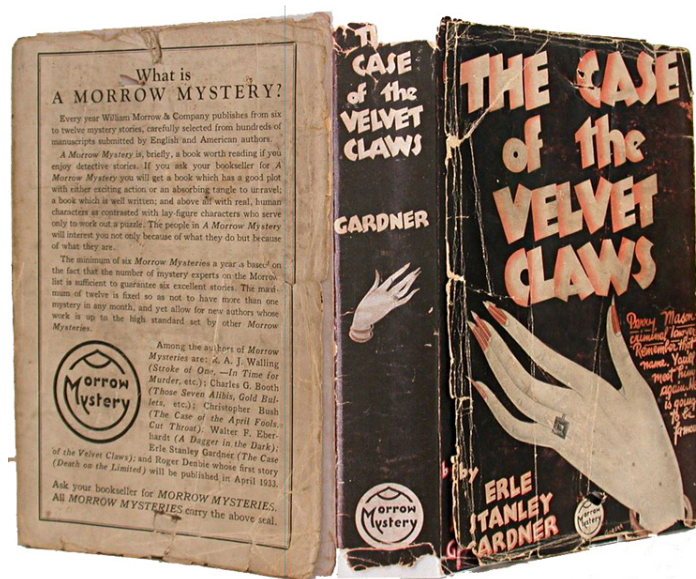
Please use this space to imagine the sound of the Perry Masson radio dramas. You may choose the voice of Bartlett Robinson, Santos Ortega, Donald Briggs, or John Larkin, all of whom played the title role during the series' run.

radio dramas which ran on CBS radio from 1943 to 1955, for a total of 3,000 episodes. With the growing popularity of television, CBS wanted to move this extremely popular radio series to the new medium.

However, that series was not Perry Mason, continuing the radio soap opera formula, it became the crime-oriented television soap opera, *The Edge of Night*, which ran from 1956 to 1975 on CBS, and then from 1975 to 1984 on ABC, for total of 7,240 episodes.

To understand why Perry Mason became *The Edge of Night*, we must take a step further back to consider Erle Stanley Gardner, who had published the first Perry Mason novel in 1933, which a quick consult of *The Whole Story: 3000 Years of Sequels and Sequences*, compiled by John E. Simkin (Thorpe, 1996; purchased at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale a number of years ago, for \$3.00), reveals was entitled *The Case of the Velvet Claws*.

The Case of the Velvet Claws was an immediate success. Gardner's publisher, William Morrow,



Funny Thing, continued

published the second and third installments in the series, *The Case of the Sulky Girl* and *The Case of the Lucky Legs*, built on that success. Gardner had found his mien.

Perry Mason was not the first crime series that Erle Stanley Gardner, himself a lawyer, had written. His first submission to a pulp magazine became an office joke and was rejected in scathing terms. By accident, the editor's internal memorandum about Gardner's manuscript was included with the rejection letter. However, its crushing and pointed criticisms helped Gardner to write better prose, and soon, he was being published regularly. Mason was certainly his most successful creation. Gardner would write 82 Perry Mason novels between 1933 and 1973.

With the success of Gardner's first books, Hollywood took notice. Between 1934 and 1937, Warner Brothers made a series of movies, producing films as quickly as Gardner was publishing novels. Several actors took the role of Perry Mason.

By the time CBS started the radio series, Gardner was accomplished at crafting novels with the Perry Mason formula. He had continued to publish in the pulps, until they disappeared in the 1950s. His writing career expanded to nonfiction, and his articles on travel, history, and forensic science appeared in top publications. He was writing one or two Perry Mason novels a year, nonfiction,

radio scripts for a number of shows — he was internationally famous. The English writer Evelyn Waugh called him America's best writer in 1949.

Returning to the radio series, which had started in 1943: it was very successful, but Gardner was frustrated by the lack of creative control. When CBS broached the idea of making Perry Mason a daytime television soap opera, Gardner rejected the idea. Without his support, CBS could not use the



John Larkin, left, as Mike Karr in *The Edge of Night*. Larkin had played Perry Mason on the radio for years before playing this thinly veiled version of Mason.

Perry Mason name, but the sponsor and the writer of the radio scripts had an idea: create a thinly veiled representation of the Mason character. They called the show *The Edge of Night* because it was presented in the late afternoon, later than any other daytime soap had aired. For 30 years, the show revolved around a lead character named Mike Karr, a lawyer and former police officer in the fictional Midwestern town of Monticello. Karr was played in succession by John Larkin, Laurence Hugo, and Forrest Compton. Dozens of actors who would go on to successful careers appeared in *The Edge of Night*, including Kate Capshaw, James Coco, Scott Glenn, Sam Groom, Earle Hyman, Lori Loughlin, Julianne Moore, Bebe Neuwirth, and John Travolta.

As soon as cancellation of the original Perry Mason show was announced, television stations began lining up to run the show in syndication.

Funny Thing, concluded...sort of

I'm thinking that it was in syndication that I watched Perry Mason in the 1960s and 1970s. Several episodes provided images that are riveted in my mind. For example, in *The Case of the Madcap Modiste* (first aired 30 April 1960), a devoted seamstress designs a cape fastened by a brooch, but the fastening process is awkward, and her plan is that the model will have to place the brooch in her mouth while she gathers the cape. The brooch is poisoned with prussic acid, which as my teenager's budding chemist's brain recorded, converts to cyanide – legendary poison – in the stomach. By this means, the seamstress hopes to eliminate a model who she believes has disrupted the home life and threatened the business and stature of the designer to whom she is so devoted. Of course, everyone thinks the poison was in the champagne, but it would have a characteristic smell – what a puzzle. Eventually, Mason & Co. figure out that it was the brooch.



In The Case of the Madcap Modiste, designer Flavia succumbs to the effects of prussic acid. If you look closely at this image, you will see the one discolored petal on this brooch. Devilish!

Another such episode was *The Case of the Bogus Books*, first broadcast on CBS on Thursday evening, September 27, 1962. The plot, briefly, is as follows:

Demure Ellen Carter works at a Joseph Kraft's antiquarian bookstore. When a rare book is found missing – a book marked \$8, but which the owner claims is worth \$7,000, he fires Ellen who is concerned she might be



Ellen Carter (Phyllis Love) has just been fired by her uncle and antiquarian book dealer, Joseph Kraft, after a valuable book is found to be missing. Her friend, Pete Norland (Adam West, later of Batman fame), consoles her by offering to wrap his guitar around Kraft's neck. She politely declines.

arrested and consults Mason. When the owner is found dead in a sealed basement room, with a lamp still burning and the radio still on (tuned to Perry Mason no doubt!) but the gas heater off, and a handful of dead flies on the window sill, Ellen is charged. Unbeknownst to demure Ellen, Kraft is using the bookstore to sell forgeries of rare books.

The locked-room mystery forms a distinctive subgenre in detective fiction. In perhaps the earliest example of this plot, dating to possibly the 6th century BCE, and preceding the invention of detective fiction itself by many hundreds of years, the Old Testament hero Daniel must expose the falsehood of an idol worship for whom priests leave “twelve great measures of fine flour, and forty sheep, and six vessels of wine” – every day – and then seal the room. Daniel challenges the king's belief in this idol. The king suggests that Daniel proves his charges – on pain of death, naturally. Daniel sprinkles ashes on the floor of the chamber, which next day, reveal to Daniel and the king the secret entrance that the priests, their wives, and children use to enter the room and remove the food, which they then eat.

Which brings me to Sunday, October 14. It was the second day of the Alachua County Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale.

TO BE CONTINUED...



FBS Outreach / What Members Are Viewing ...

**A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE PITTSBURGH TRAGEDY
SELBY LIBRARY BOOKSHOP, SARASOTA**



Selby Library Bookshop Honors the Jewish Community of Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh

A lectern-exhibit (4.5' x 2.5') constructed by Jean McElroy Kerschner, Bookshop Manager.

Display includes Jean's lovely copy of the *Talmud*, a sacred text in Book History.

Exhibit signage: *Honoring the Fallen and Wounded Jews, and First Responders, in the Pittsburgh Synagogue Massacre*. Display, 1st Floor, until 17 November 2018.

Selby Library, Downtown Sarasota, 1331 First Street. (941) 861.1100.

Photo: Special thanks to Brian Rottingen, Special Collections / Programming, Selby Library.

**Written & Designed by Maureen Esther Mulvihill, FBS Member & 2012-2015 VP.
Guest Speaker, Selby Library, April 2017 ("Old Books Still Matter").**

Bucket Brigade of Books Moves Radical London Bookstore



Hundreds of people stretched along the 500 feet of Portswood Road in Southampton, from the old location of October Books to its new home, to begin moving their stock of 20,000 books.

October Books is a “not-for-profit co-operative radical neighbourhood bookshop.” Founded in 1977 primarily as a radical bookstore, October Books has gradually expanded its clientele and its selection of merchandise. Their website lists their specialties as social issues, adoption, humanities and political issues, but they also carry popular fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books. In recent years, they have added greeting cards, organic and fair-trade foods, and green household items. It gives their slogan “More than a bookshop” an extra meaning.

Perhaps they’ve done too well. In July, they were notified of a rent increase, and a decision had to be made. The coop members announced a funding drive. Through a combination of donations and loans from the community and banks, they raised almost £500,000. It was enough to buy the former Nat West bank building at 189 Portswood Road and begin some renovations.

When they faced the issue of moving their stock of 20,000 books, they returned to the community. They put out a call for 100 volunteers to create a human chain to hand the books, two or three, at

a time from the current location to the new one. Over 200 volunteers showed up. Interested passers-by and people waiting for buses joined it. Shop owners brought tea for the volunteers. Amy Brown, one of the shop’s five part-time staff members, said, “We had elderly people, children, and everybody in between.”



This former bank building is the new home of October Books. The grand opening in the new location was Nov. 3.

Sources for this article include NPR, CNN, *The Guardian*, and October Books.

Booksellers' Boycott Targets AbeBooks' Excluding Entire Countries

It will come as no surprise to bibliophiles that AbeBooks is the grand-daddy of used and rare book sites. Established over 20 years ago, in the Internet's infancy, as the Antiquarian Book Exchange, AbeBooks revolutionized the antiquarian book trade. What may be a surprise is that AbeBooks was bought by Amazon, the Mother of All Booksellers, in 2008. AbeBooks still operates independently, but Amazon's corporate practices have had an influence.

In October, AbeBooks sent emails to booksellers in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia, and South Korea to say that it would close their accounts as of Nov. 30 and completely withdraw from those markets. AbeBooks apologized for the "inconvenience." Initially, no explanation was given, but in a statement to the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers (ILAB), AbeBooks stated that their new third-party credit card processor made handling payments from these countries too costly and complex. AbeBooks' action did not sit well with booksellers in both affected countries and elsewhere. AbeBooks' explanation seemed absurd, given Amazon's clout and connections worldwide.

By the first of November, British bookseller Simon Beattie called on international antiquarian booksellers to join him in a temporary strike. Within a few days, 427 booksellers from 25 countries had agreed to sign off from AbeBooks or "go on vacation," temporarily ceasing sales without actually deleting the seller's account. France's national antiquarian book association, *Le Syndicat national de la Librairie Ancienne et Moderne* (SLAM), told all of its members to join the boycott. The boycott effectively removed 3.5 million books from the 50 million offered by AbeBooks.

The exclusion means loss of business for virtually all booksellers; however, for the excluded countries, the effect will be severe if not devastating. Booksellers cite AbeBooks decision as an example of an increasing distance between corporate interests and the small businesses that built the enterprise to begin with and

how far Amazon has come from the days when it sold only books.

There are other outlets for antiquarian books, such as Biblio or Alibris, or for used books in general, such as Barnes and Noble or Powell's, but Amazon and AbeBooks maintain a commanding position in the online market.

In a few days, as the Case of the Boycotting Booksellers expanded to more than 500, AbeBooks was forced to change their plans.

Antiques Trade Gazette reported on November 7:

In an email to members, ILAB president Sally Burdon said: "AbeBooks CEO Arkady Vitrouk has apologised for the behaviour of AbeBooks in announcing that they would withdraw their services to our colleagues in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Russia and South Korea.

"He then went on to absolutely assure us that none of the booksellers, neither ILAB members or others will have to stop trading on Abe. They will now also continue to allow the booksellers in other countries, Poland for example, where there is no ILAB-affiliated association, to trade as well."

Burdon and ILAB vice president Fabrizio Govi with ILAB executive secretary Angelika Elstner met with CEO of AbeBooks Arkady Vitrouk and colleague Udo Göllman today and have released the news of the u-turn following the meeting.

Burdon added: "The root of the problem is Abe's enforced shift to a new payment system as their current payment system closes at the end of the year."

ILAB president Sue Burdon wrote to ILAB members:

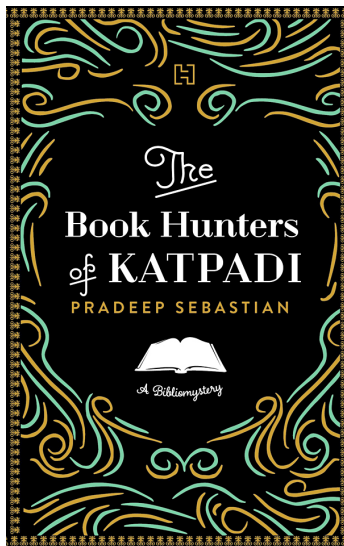
During the meeting, there was none of the corporate-speak that the statements issued earlier contained. They did not avoid questions, rush us, or in any way try to defend their actions. All questions were answered carefully, and they were prepared to answer all of the questions we put to them.



The Book Hunters of Katapadi: A Bibliomystery

Reviewed by Jerry Morris

It is sometimes difficult to switch from writing nonfiction to writing fiction. One is based upon fact, and the other is based on one's imagination. Pradeep Sebastian has succeeded in writing nonfiction. He is the author of *The Groaning Shelf & Other Instances of Book Love*, a series of essays about book collecting that was published by Hachette



India in 2010. He is a literary columnist for *The Hindu* and writes articles about book collecting for other periodicals as well, including *Businessworld* (India). Now, Pradeep Sebastian has succeeded in writing fiction.

In one of his nonfiction articles, Pradeep mentions working in an antiquarian bookshop prior to becoming a teacher. He has used these past experiences to write a life-like bibliomystery, *The*

Book Hunters of Katapadi. I say “life-like” because the characters in this book are veritable clones of people you and I have met in the real book world. Neela, the knowledgeable bookseller and proprietor of the bookstore, Biblio, instructs her assistant, Kayal, on the wiles and ways of bookselling. Come hell or high water, Nallathambi Whitehead, the Sir Richard Francis Burton collector, wants to be recognized as the foremost Burton collector in the whole wide world. But Whitehead has an adversary, ‘Arcot’ Manovalan Templar, owner of Heritage Auctions, the only book auction house in India. Templar thrives on acquiring choice items for his auction house before Whitehead has the opportunity to purchase them directly from their former owners. Both men came from Katapadi, about 138 kilometers west of Chennai, and thus the title, *The Book Hunters of Katapadi*.

Biblio is located in Chennai in south India, on the Coromandel Coast, off the Bay of Bengal, and most of the action takes place in Chennai. Kayal, however, is dispatched by train to Ooty, over 500 kilometers away, in the Blue Mountains, to see a man about a

fragment reportedly from a notorious manuscript by Burton.

But I’m getting ahead of myself! The story begins with a priest who accuses Biblio of trafficking in stolen books! And the books prove to be originally from the 300-year-old library of one of the world’s greatest book collectors.

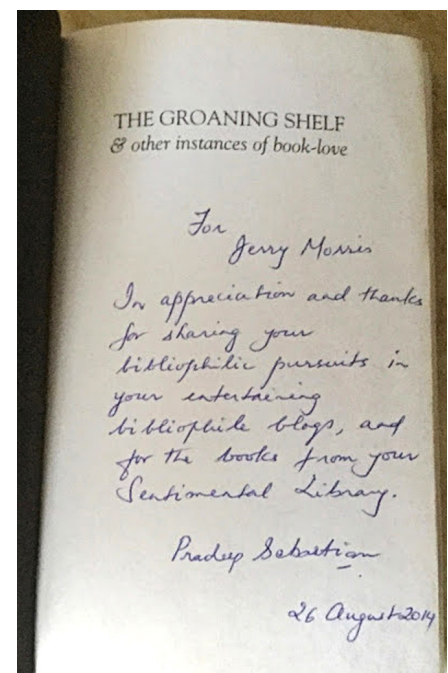
But I’m getting ahead of myself again. You’ll just have to read the book to find out whose library I’m hinting about...

Pradeep Sebastian wrote *The Book Hunters of Katapadi* for the bibliophiles of India. But bibliophily is a universal language, and American bibliophiles will readily recognize the names of bibliophiles of the past who are mentioned in this book. The American reader may even be surprised with the connection some of these bibliophiles had with India. Currently, the book is only being published in India. But the hardback is available at fairly reasonable prices from several Indian bookstores via Abebooks and Biblio. A Kindle edition is available via Amazon UK.

Pradeep asked his publisher, Hachette India, to send a copy of *The Book Hunters of Katapadi* to me because he wanted to see what I thought of it. I told him that Hachette should have its American-based Hachette Book Group publish his book in America as well. I believe that American booklovers will enjoy reading it.

My copy of *The Book Hunters of Katapadi*

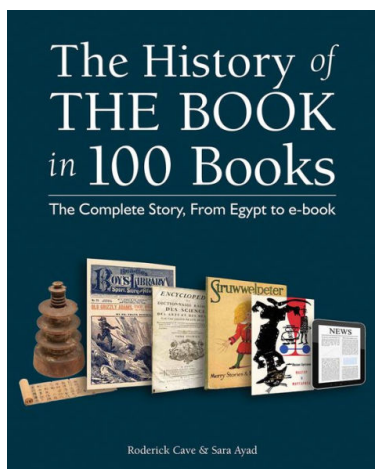
now rubs covers with a signed copy of Sebastian’s other book, *The Groaning Shelf & Other Instances of Book Love*, traded for a book or two from My Sentimental Library Collection.



Books in Brief

The History of the Book in 100 Books: The Complete Story, From Egypt to e-book


Roderick Cave and Sara Ayad
Firefly Books, Ltd
288 pp., 2017



Two formulas for book titles that one often sees are “1000 Somethings You Must Something Before You Die” and “The Something in Somethings”. Neil MacGregor’s *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, which accompanied his 100-part BBC radio series, drew on objects in the

British Museum. This may have been the book that gave the 100-things formula its momentum. It’s a useful idea as it helps to break down a subject of epic proportions, e.g., thousands of years of human history, into a absorbable chunks.

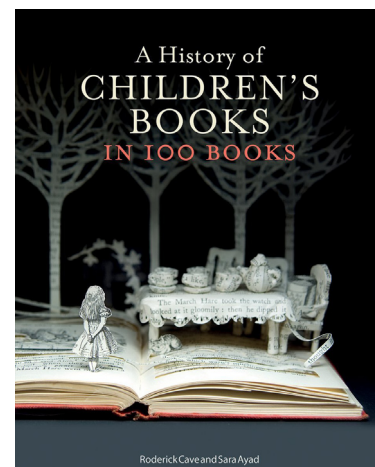
The History of the Book in 100 Books uses the same formula to tackle a similarly lengthy and complex topic. The authors, specialists together in many aspects of book history and production, begin with the earliest scripts and work forward through the great cultural periods of both West and East, North and South. The book is considered broadly in terms of systems that cultures have used to record information. The selection of books is broad, and the authors have chosen to focus on alternatives to books that already have plenty of coverage, for example, Shakespeare or the King James Bible.

The book is lavishly illustrated, but it not just a collection of fine specimens. As a history, it places books in context and emphasizes the role that books and libraries and literacy itself have played in the development of human culture. The intersection of books with technology that steadily brought books to wider audiences is also part of the story. 


A History of Children’s Books in 100 Books

Roderick Cave and Sara Ayad
Firefly Books, Ltd
272 pp., 2017

Cave and Ayad bring the 100-things formula to the history of the children’s book. As with *The History of the Book in 100 Books*, children’s books are considered across eras and cultures, beginning with ancient stories like Aesop’s fables from Greece or the Panchatantra from India. The authors discuss the range of uses of



children’s literature, from entertainment to education to indoctrination. Chapter titles and a selection of topics show that this book, while for the general reader, has enough breadth and depth to be of interest to the more serious lover of children’s books.

1. Oral traditions and pre-literacy; baby’s first book; nursery rhymes; Sumerian “lullaby” tablet.
2. Fables around the world for the young.
3. Pop-ups, picture books, alphabet books.
4. Educational books, non-fiction; adult influence; behavior; The New England Primer.
5. Child heroes; miniature books; chapter books.
6. Animal Magic; Mother Goose; Charlotte’s Web; Beatrix Potter; The Jungle Book; A. A. Milne.
7. Innocence, experience, genre books; imperialism; religion; Little Women; Black Beauty.
8. Fairies and Frighteners: Grimm Brothers; Japanese Fairy Tales; Edward Gorey; Maurice Sendak
9. New genres, adventure stories; pulp fiction; C. S. Lewis; Pippi Longstocking; H. G. Wells.
10. Wartime: Destruction of books; series; awards; Le Petit Prince; Nazi button book; Roald Dahl.
- 11 Comics; new media; Manga; survival manuals; cartoons; advertising; political correctness; awards. 

Upcoming Events

November 2018



No Second Chances – Don Bruns

Seminole Community Library
9200 113th St. N.
Seminole, FL

November 18, 2018, 1:30 pm

Sarasota author Don Bruns will talk about his career as a writer and his three mystery series. His Caribbean series began with the novel, *Jamaica Blue*, which was championed by author Sue Grafton. His second series, the Stuff series, involves two twenty-four-year-old private detectives in Miami. The books have been praised for their humor, their compelling story lines and the characters. A starred review in Booklist compared the novels to Mark Twain's Huck Finn. Bruns's newest series, the Quentin Archer mysteries, involves a New Orleans homicide detective and a voodoo practitioner who team up to solve crime in the Big Easy. *No Second Chances* is the title of his latest novel in the series. Don will be available to sign books after the presentation.



December 2018



Florida Bibliophile Society Holiday Party

December 16, 2018

Planning is underway for our annual FBS holiday party, to be held at the home of Joan Sackheim. Joan has graciously invited FBS members to celebrate the holiday at her home for several years, and it is always an easy-going, yet elegant, occasion.

As we have in the past, FBS will supply the holiday ham and beverages. FBS members are asked to bring a holiday specialty. To attend, please contact president Jerry Morris, moibibliomaniac@gmail.com, to sign up and give us an idea of what you are bringing. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

Do plan to join us! A chilled bottle of prosecco will be waiting to greet you!



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>

N O V E M B E R

November 8-11, 2018

13th Annual Sanibel Island Writers Conference

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

November 1-15, 2018

JCA 21ST Jewish Book Festival

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

November 15-16, 2018

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Nov. 15, 7 PM, New College Cook Library

Nov. 16, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room

Book of the month: *In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modernist Art*, by Sue Roe

November 17, 2018, 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 11-18, 2018

Miami Book Fair International

Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, FL

(www.miamibookfair.com/)

D E C E M B E R

December 5-9, 2018

INK Miami

(www.inkartfair.com)

December 5-7, 2018

Cracker Storytelling Festival

Homeland, FL

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

December 6-9, 2018

Art | Basel, Miami

(<https://www.artbasel.com/miami-beach>)

SARASOTA AUTHORS CONNECTION

presents

MaryAnn Burchell

**“What You Should Know about Amazon
and Facebook Ads for Your Book”**



The November 2018 SAC meeting will feature **MaryAnn Burchell**. MaryAnn's new book, *The Ultimate Guide to Writing and Publishing Your Book*, is a result of her 25 years of experience in writing and marketing books.

May 16, 2018, 6 PM

Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd, Sarasota, FL

December 13-14, 2018

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Dec. 13, 7 PM, New College Cook Library

Dec. 14, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room

Book of the month: *Whistler's Mother: Portrait of an Extraordinary Life*, by Daniel E. Sutherland

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 9

January 10-11, 2019

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Jan. 10, 7 PM, New College Cook Library

Jan. 11, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room

Book of the month: *Broad Strokes: Fifteen Women Who Made Art and History (In That Order)*, by Bridget Quinn

January 18-20, 2019

Paradise City Comic Con

Miami, FL (<http://paradisecitycomiccon.com/>)

January 16-26, 2019

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)

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





ROLL CREDITS

This Month's Writers and Contributors

Many thanks to those who contributed words, pictures, and ideas to this month's newsletter!

David Hall
Lee Harrer
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Gary Simons
Ben Wiley
Barry Zack

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 lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, 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 our 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, 2018-2019 Season



David Hall

September 16 • FBS member Gary Simons gave a presentation on English Literary Annuals. These 19th century annuals were often lavish productions with stories, poems, and illustrations. Gary's collection includes over 200 annuals. Gary is a professor of literature at USF and editor of the Curran Index, a Victorian Research website.

October 21 • FBS member Ben Wiley gave a presentation on his work as a movie critic. Ben is a retired professor of film and literature at St. Petersburg College whose movie reviews appear regularly in the Tampa magazine *Creative Loafing*. Ben also writes a column, BookStories, in which he reflects on books which have influenced him.

November 18 • Sarasota author Don Bruns is a novelist, songwriter, musician, and advertising executive. Don will talk about his career as a writer and his three successful mystery series: the Quentin Archer Series based in New Orleans; The Stuff Series based in Miami; and the Caribbean Series based in the Caribbean. Don will sign books after his presentation.

December 16 • Holiday Party at Joan Sackheim's House. FBS provides the ham, and members bring side dishes and desserts. Always a heart-warming occasion.

January 13 • FBS member Lisa Bradberry is an expert on the film industry in Florida whose research has appeared in a number of books. Movies were made in Florida, then known as the "Hollywood of the East," beginning in 1907. Lisa will give a presentation on the silent film and early talkie industry in Florida.


February 17 • Wilson Blount, who participated in the Selma-to-Montgomery Civil Rights March along

with John Lewis and many others in 1965, will be our guest speaker for Black History Month. Wilson was a junior at Tuskegee University at the time of the march. Upon graduation, he entered the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd lieutenant. He left active duty in 1978, entered civil service at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and joined the Air Force Reserve. He retired as a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve in 1999, and from Civil Service in 2000. He is co-founder of the Gen. Lloyd W. Newton Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen at Kirkland Air force Base, New Mexico.

March 10 • FBS member Charles Brown will give a presentation entitled "The Simplicissimus Story: A Bestseller of the 17th Century." Simplicissimus was created after the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), one of the deadliest wars in history. The bumbling soldier Simplicissimus was an immediate success, spawning books, calendars, and other works, as well as giving German literature an enduring and unforgettable character.

April 14 • FBS member Ed Cifelli will give a presentation on his new book, *Longfellow in Love*, published August 2018. Ed will sign copies of his book after his presentation.

April 26-28 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. FBS hosts a table at the entrance to the Book Fair. We answer questions and hold parcels. On Sunday, we offer book evaluations. Participating members receive free entrance to the Book Fair.

May 19 • Larry Kellogg, Circus Historian, will be the keynote speaker for the banquet. Larry is based in Florida and is a specialist in circus memorabilia and circus history. The circus has been an important part of Florida and U.S. history for over 200 years. 

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

Endpaper • A Story of Stories



October was a terrific month for books... and film! Though FBS focuses on books, it's exciting to see how stories, both fiction and nonfiction, work their way through the many media available today at the click of a mouse or the rubbery squish of the clicker (shouldn't the mouse squeak and the clicker click?).

Perry Mason is a good example. Every day on televisions around the world, people watch crime dramas. Told from the vantage point of the detectives, victims, lawyers, police, or anyone else in the chain of events, the genre generates thousands of books, films, television episodes, and related media every year.

This vast worldwide industry of stories began with Edgar Allan Poe and the publication of three stories, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" in 1841, "The Mystery of Marie Rog  t" (1842–3), and "The Purloined Letter" (1844). Each is an exercise in what Poe called ratiocination. In each story, the protagonist works from what is known about the crime plus evidence gathered at the crime scene to deduce who

has committed the crime. It may sound all too familiar now, but at the time it was a thrilling innovation.

Over 150 years later – with Holmes, Marple, Poirot, Maigret, Spade, Mason, and hundreds more – we still cannot get enough of this type of entertainment.

When we read or watch a mystery, we may be puzzled until the Great Revelation, or we might have it figured out in the first five pages/minutes. In either case, we are participating in a vast enterprise that has been growing and changing since 1841. Our favorite mysteries lined up on a shelf and the pleasure of collecting them and reading them are all part of that participation. Sure, you can get it all digital these days, and e-books definitely have a valuable role to play. But – and I'm preaching to the choir here – there's just something about those books. The paper, the binding, the beautiful type and design, and of course, the stories.

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

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