

The Florida Bibliophile

December 2018 • Volume 35, No. 4



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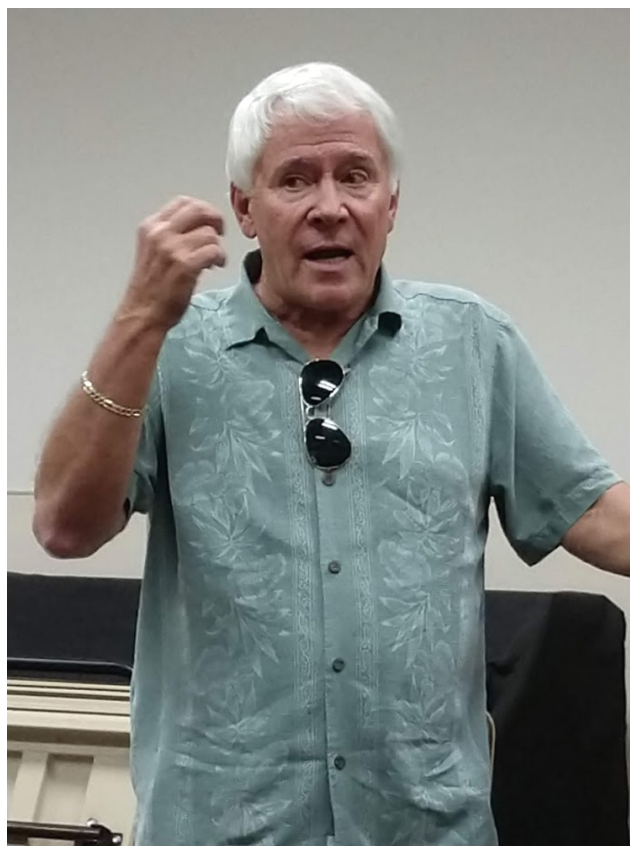
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Deadline for the January newsletter is Thursday, January 3, 2019. See page 20 for details.

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](#).



Don Bruns gave an engaging presentation about his career as an award-winning mystery writer, a singer, and a comedian.



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, November 18, 2018

President Jerry Morris called the meeting to order and introduced our speaker, Sarasota author Don Bruns. Don's sixteen published novels include a series of Caribbean mysteries beginning with the novel *Jamaica Blue*; a second series of novels involving two twenty-four-year-old private detectives in Miami, which have been praised for their humor, their compelling story lines, and their characters; and Don's newest series, the Quentin Archer mysteries, which involve a New Orleans homicide detective and a voodoo practitioner who team up to solve crime in the Big Easy. His most recent Quentin Archer book, *No Second Chances*, was ranked #27 on Amazon when it came out last February. CBS has purchased an option for a possible Quentin Archer television series.

In addition to being a best-selling author, Don has been a musician and a stand-up comic. He has played on the Playboy Circuit and warmed up Las Vegas audiences for Ray Charles, Phyllis Diller, the Platters, and Ricky Nelson.



Don Bruns sings the tragic – and extremely brief – ballad of a hanged man.

After the introduction, Don, often with his guitar in hand, regaled the audience with a series of revealing anecdotes regarding his eventful life, his career as an author, and his travails in Hollywood in the world of movies and television.

Don's Caribbean series of books, the Mick Sever series, is set in locations

such as Jamaica, St. Barts, Barbados, the Bahamas, and South Beach. In each case, he wanted "the location to be a character." Accordingly, he went to each location to do research – which he noted included going to parties and sampling the night life (!), as "part of the job." A reviewer of the first book in this series, *Jamaica Blue*, noted that "I can taste the beer and wine" when your characters drink

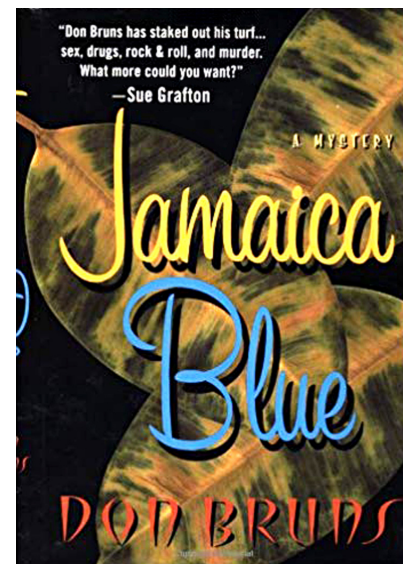
them.

In the course of his Caribbean visits, Don encountered interesting characters and heard surprising stories which made their way into his books. As he recounted, a bouncer at a club in St. Barts once assured him that there never had been a murder in St. Barts. Finding this difficult to believe, Don checked with the police and then with drug enforcement authorities, receiving the same answer: "no murders on St. Barts." Later he found the real story.

Like many Caribbean islands, St. Barts has nothing to export. The only source of income is from tourists, and there is a concern that any news of murders might discourage tourists. Therefore, any murder, no matter how blatant, is officially considered an "accident." Don incorporated this bit of "local color" into *St. Barts Breakdown*!

Don told us about a taxi driver in the Bahamas, an ex-cop, who told him a story about hanging as the punishment for murder. Drawing upon this discussion, Don wrote a song about an early 1900s hanging of a guy who killed his girlfriend – he picked up his guitar (which naturally had a "crime scene" tape guitar strap!) and sang the song for us, showing that he retained the musical skills he had developed as a young man.

Don often gets ideas for his novels from real life, but in the course of his career, he often had to come up with creative ideas on the spot. For example, when he was an entertainer and comic, he would sometimes visit the Playboy mansion in Los Angeles. During these visits, he got to know Hugh Hefner's



Don's first book, *Jamaica Blue*, was also the first in his Caribbean series, featuring Mick Sever, a writer. Sever's interest in rock and roll draws him into a murder mystery. Publisher's Weekly praised the book's "extensive knowledge of the rock world" and its "clever and logical solution to the crimes."

Minutes, continued

secretary. Years later, knowing that Don was now a mystery writer, she called him about a possible movie project. Hugh Hefner wanted to make a movie trading on the celebrity of the Playboy facility, perhaps “Murder at the Playboy Mansion,” and was working with Henson Productions, the entertainment company founded by the puppeteer Jim Henson, to pursue this project. What could Don propose? Obviously, this was an exciting opportunity, but Henson and Hefner wanted Don in California in just two days to make a movie pitch. Everything had to be done very quickly.

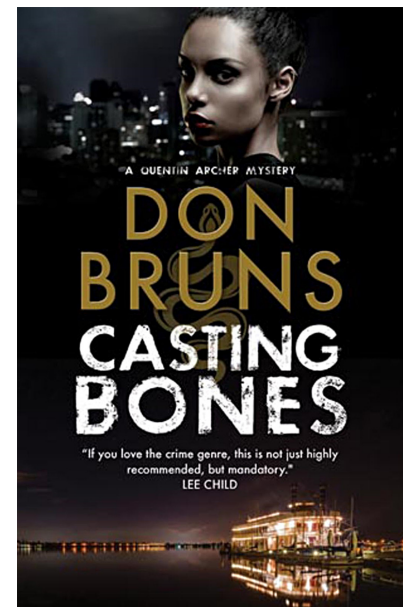
Don gathered his thoughts and was at the Henson studio in L.A. two days later to make his presentation. The studio itself had a history that resonated with Don’s roots as an entertainer. It was originally the location where Charlie Chaplin’s world-famous movies were made. Over intervening years, it had become a headquarters for A&M Records and had also been the production site for many television shows. When Don was there, a large Kermit the Frog statue, with top hat and cane, greeted visitors. At this first meeting, the studio person told Don that they had decided not to do the Playboy movie, but they were looking for new ideas – what could Don come up with in 2.5 hours! Out of almost nothing, Don came up with an idea that seemed to excite the producer— a space-age garage band idea mixing music and comedy, with Vlad, a drummer with six hands, and the group playing clubs on inhabited artificial satellites. There would be possible real band and book tie-ins. Don sent in a fleshed-out pitch to the producer just two days later, and then he waited for a response. And waited. And waited. Finally, three months later, Don contacted the studio, and was told that three days after their first (and only) meeting, the guy he had been talking with had been fired!

Don’s Hollywood exploits did not end there. Two years later, he received a phone call from Los Angeles asking what ideas he might have for a humorous television series. Don had written a series of comic mysteries – the “Stuff” series – about two twenty-four-year-old Miami private detectives, Skip

and James, who stumble their way to success, which seemed to be a good fit. Two weeks later, he received a second phone call saying they couldn’t use that idea, as apparently Skip and James didn’t like cops, and that was at the time a “no no.” Once again, he was asked the question, what else do you have, and once again, the caller expected an immediate answer. At the time, there were a number of popular television shows on the air, such as Castle

and Psych, that involved helpers working with the police. Moment by moment, thought by thought, Don ad-libbed a new idea over the phone. How about a cop in Detroit who discovers a drug ring in the police department and has to leave town? What if he goes to New Orleans? What if he meets and gets the assistance of a young attractive female voodoo practitioner, the daughter of a demented voodoo queen? And once again, an excited producer asked him for a quick write-up. This time Don sent in his write-up in a week – and was told that his L.A. caller had gone to work for a reality TV show and there was now no interest in his project!

This time, Don kept and used the idea for a novel, *Casting Bones*. His agent wasn’t able to get a publisher interested in the manuscript, so Don turned instead to another medium that he could personally address, social media. He spent 45 minutes a day on Twitter and, over time, built a large following (he now has 115,000 followers). One of his followers was Kate Wild Grant from Severn Publishers (a British publisher). She emailed him and requested the draft; just two weeks later he had a contract for three books, the Quentin Archer series. Subsequently, he received a phone call from a CBS-related production company, the one that



Casting Bones, the first book in Bruns' Quentin Archer series, was born out of a Hollywood opportunity that vanished. After Casting Bones was published, another opportunity arose: CBS optioned the novel to consider developing it into a television series. Stay tuned!

Minutes, continued

had considered but declined the “Stuff” series, but loved the Archer series and signed an option for potentially broadcasting it.

This is how things come to be in the world of Don Bruns, with a mixture of invention, persistence, and serendipity!

Don closed his presentation demonstrating his versatility as an entertainer by singing two songs. One of the songs celebrates a piano player in old Key West as a story teller – but, in fact, through his own presentation, Don demonstrated that he himself is a master story teller.

In a spirited Q&A session, Don told two more stories about his life and how he became a successful novelist. The first story concerned his first manuscript. Like many other would-be writers, he went to a writer’s conference to meet people and establish contacts. This time, he won an auction to have an experienced and well-known writer, Sue Grafton, review his manuscript. Her first response to him was “Have you ever read a book?” Don was, of course, crushed, but later she renewed the contact and said her first response was to get his attention and that he was a hell of a writer, but needed to learn “the rules,” avoid classic mistakes, and get control of his material. Later, he sent her



Don Bruns (right) plays lead guitar for the band Sands of Tyme, as featured in the Bowling Green State University campus newspaper in 1967. The drummer is Don’s friend Mike Duling. At the left are the other members of the group, Kenneth Linden and Douglas Martin.

the manuscript for *Jamaica Blue*, the first of his Caribbean mysteries, and she puffed it at a writer’s conference, publicly saying that someone should publish this book by a new writer. A representative of St. Martin’s Press in the audience immediately followed up, urged Don to get an agent and shortly afterwards agreed to publish his book.

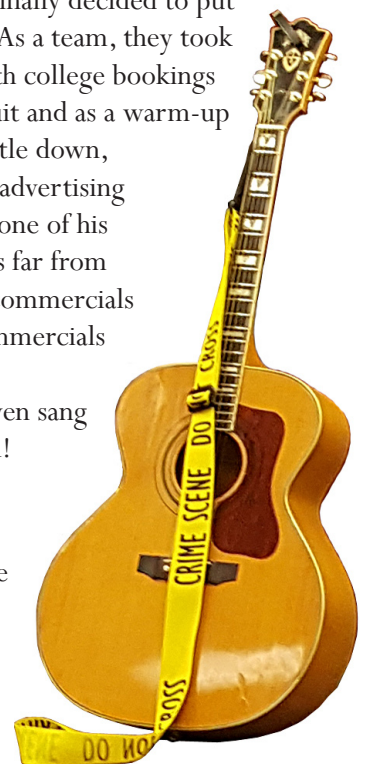
His second story went back to his days in college at Bowling Green State University. He and a friend named Mike were in a rock and roll band. They would often joke around, sometimes combining music and comedy, and they finally decided to put together a 15-20 minute act. As a team, they took their act on the road, first with college bookings and later on the Playboy circuit and as a warm-up act. When it came time to settle down, he spent 30 years running an advertising agency, with MacDonald’s as one of his clients. Even then, his life was far from run-of-the-mill: his kids did commercials for Baldwin Piano, he did commercials with personal voice-overs for political campaigns, and he even sang in a MacDonald’s commercial!

At the end of the meeting, Lee Harrer announced that the Largo Library bookmobile was up and running with prominently displayed FBS identity.

Gary Simons, Secretary



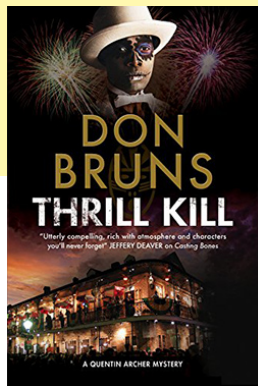
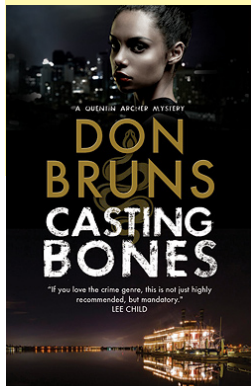
MacDonald’s gave Don’s advertising agency a contract to test-marketing a new chili dish in the Ohio area – where many MacDonald’s and Wendy’s products are tested. When audience members said they had never heard of MacDonald’s chili, Don adopted a wry grin and said “Now, you know why.” The test market did not go well enough for Macdonald’s to add chili to its menu... in the U.S. This photo comes from the promotional material for MacDonald’s chili when it was introduced in Austria in 2013. However, a quick check of the website for MacDonald’s Austria revealed no chili.



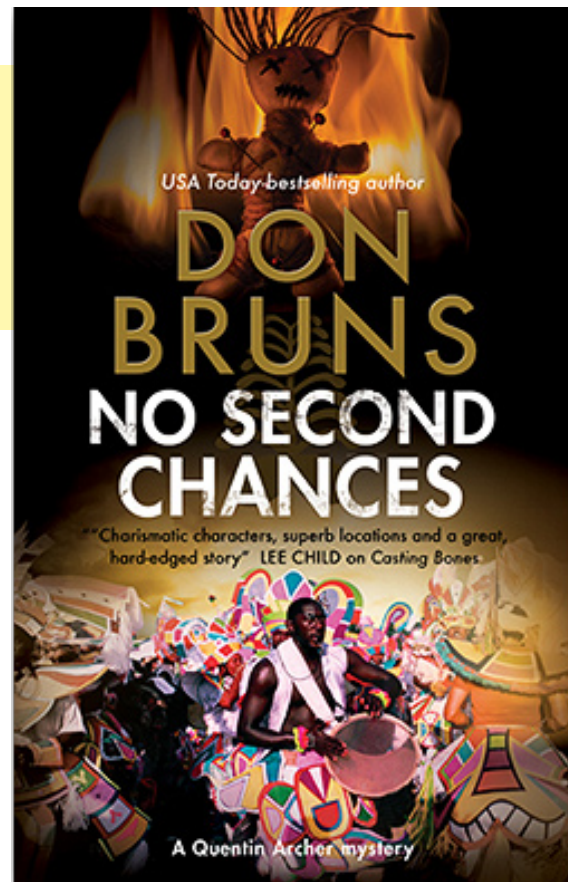
Minutes, continued

Bruns' Books...

The Quentin Archer Series



The **Quentin Archer** series is Don's latest. The lead character, Quentin Archer, is a former police officer from Detroit. When a New Orleans judge is killed, Archer is asked to investigate, and he is introduced to the exotic world of New Orleans, including Solange Cordray, a voodoo practitioner. In *Casting Bones*, they begin their work together, solving crimes in the Big Easy.



Ripped from the Headlines? A Review of *No Second Chances*

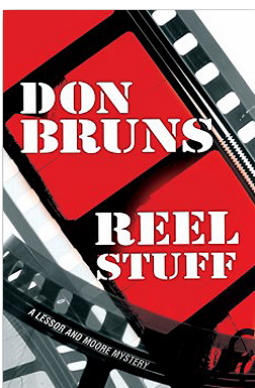
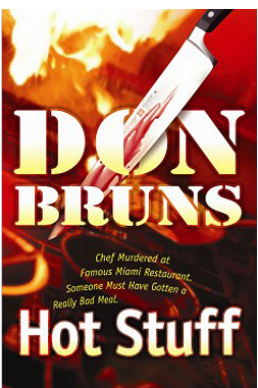
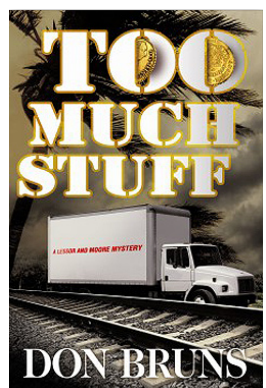
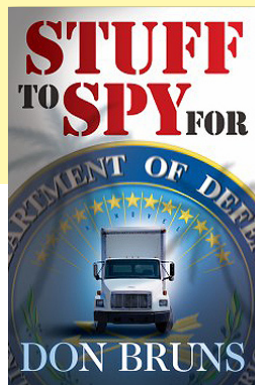
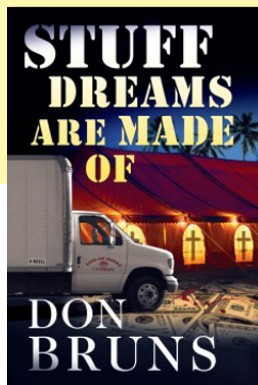
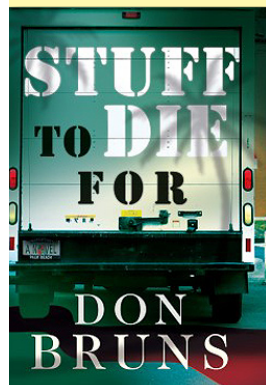
The stunning execution of a white New Orleans cop turns out to have roots in a 25-year-old crime.

Officer Johnny Leroy was a decorated veteran of the NOPD with a stellar record and few known enemies—certainly no one who'd be aggrieved enough, or bold enough, to shoot him as he sat behind the wheel of his parked cruiser. Although Detective Quentin Archer and every officer the force can spare spend countless hours poring through Leroy's quarter-century of arrest records, their progress is slow. Nor do the initial efforts of voodoo priestess Solange Cordray, who's worked with Archer before (*Thrill Kill*, 2017, etc.), yield more than hints toward the solution. Bruns, however, makes no secret of the killer's identity or motive. He's Joseph Brion, and, as he announces to Leroy just before he pulls the trigger, he's acting

on behalf of his father, André. When Old Joe Washington, an unarmed black man, is shot in an apparently unrelated incident as he flees the scene of a convenience store robbery, the Big Easy turns mighty uneasy, and raucous crowds carrying signs saying "Black Lives Matter" and "Police the Police" demand justice even as they turn up the heat on Archer's investigation. In a city that clears a measly 27 percent of its homicides, the odds are against Archer. But dogged questioning, led largely by the increasingly detailed visions of Solange, sets the NOPD on Brion's trail, and a dragnet closes slowly around the man who lives only to spark the large-scale riots that his thirst for vengeance demands. Even if there seems no room left for the unexpected, Bruns still has one last surprise up his sleeve. — *Kirkus Review*

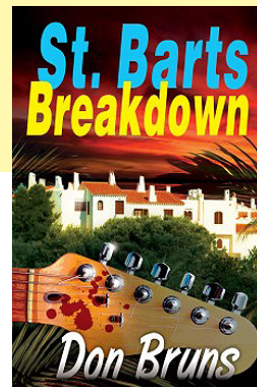
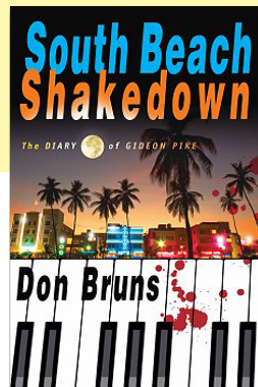
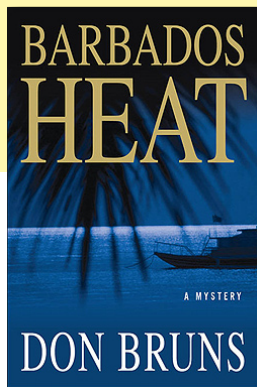
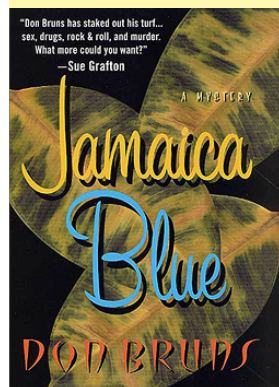
Minutes, concluded

The Stuff Series



The **Stuff** series features best friends James Lessor and Skip Moore. In their mid 20s, the duo isn't exactly dynamic, but they are dogged, stumbling their way to solving crimes in Miami. It all begins when they make an investment in their future by starting a moving company. What could go wrong?

The Caribbean Series



The **Caribbean** series was Don's first foray into mystery writing. Don did extensive research on location to give these books their authenticity. The lead character is Mick Sever, a journalist who specializes in the rock world. (Bruns' own experiences as a working musician inform the character.) Sever's trip to Jamaica to cover an up-and-coming hip-hop/reggae group leads him into the middle of a series of murders.



Largo Bookmobile Launches



After months of planning and fund-raising, the Largo Public Library Bookmobile is now a reality. The bookmobile is a response to conversations that the Largo library conducted in which residents told staff that increased outreach services were needed. Library staff noted that Largo has one of the largest senior citizen populations in Pinellas County as well as several low-performing schools. It was also found that the number

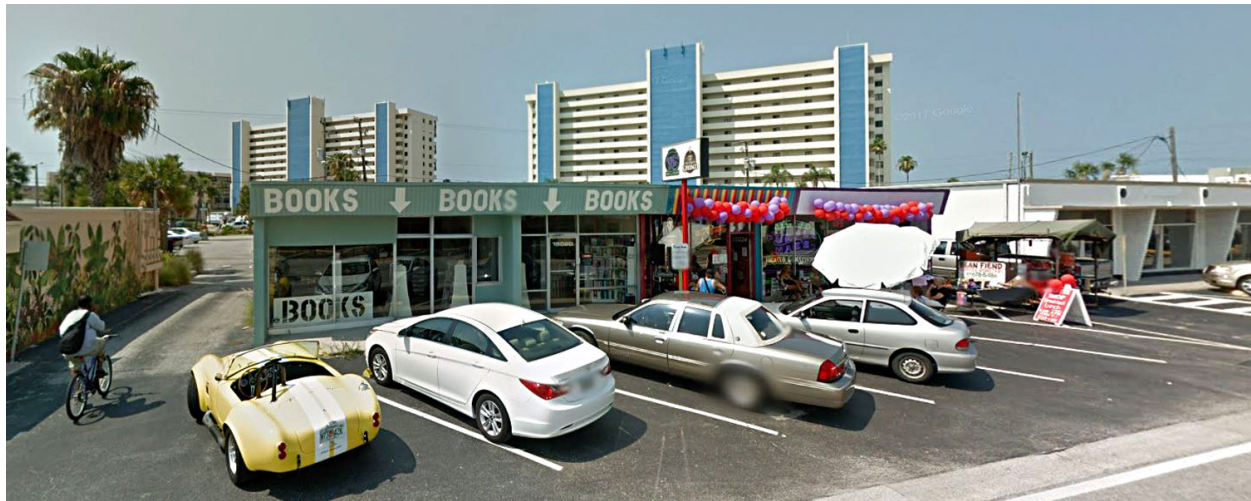
of library cards holders drops significantly in areas furthest from the building. Also, transportation in Largo can be difficult and costly. These factors led many to believe a bookmobile is the best option to bring the benefits of reading and access to information to the people throughout the area served by the Library, especially home-bound seniors and at-risk children and teens.

To achieve these goals, library staff will be partnering with other Largo organizations to ensure literacy for all. Continuing support is needed; see the [Largo library website](#).

Above: The new Largo Public Library Bookmobile. Below left: The interior of the bookmobile has space to manage several patrons. In practice, shelves can be moved out of the van to create a "pop-up" library. Below right: The back panel of the bookmobile displays the logos of several community organizations that helped sponsor the bookmobile. A generous contribution by FBS member Lee Harrer resulted in display of FBS identity on the bookmobile and on an engraved brick in the front walk of the Largo Public Library.



FBS Field Trip to DoraLynn Books



After the November 2018 meeting, FBS members were invited by Sean Donnelly, an owner of DoraLynn Books in Madeira Beach, to a wine and cheese event at the shop. DoraLynn Books is about ten minutes south of Seminole Community Library, site of the November meeting. Sean held a similar event for FBS last November, when a number of members discovered genial hosts in



Sean and his partner Harry Nash and an excellent collection of books. (For more information about the founding of DoraLynn Books, see *The Florida Bibliophile* for December 2017.)

About 10 FBS members attended the event, enjoying the refreshments, chatting with Sean and Harry, and browsing the books. Most of us picked a book or two, or three... As an additional enticement, Sean offers FBS members a 10% discount. Be sure to stop by sometime!

We had generally agreed to go somewhere for a late lunch/early dinner. After checking out with our prizes, we met at the Conch Republic Grill and Raw Bar, a few minutes north of DoraLynn Books on Gulf Boulevard.

Conch Republic Grill and Raw Bar is a highly rated



slice of Key West in Redington Beach. Divers, sharks, etc. suspended from the ceiling in the main dining room put diners well underwater. We arrived around five and found many delicious options on an extensive menu. There was plenty of parking and tables when we arrived, but little when we left as the evening crowd came in. After an excellent meal, we departed for points north, east, and south.



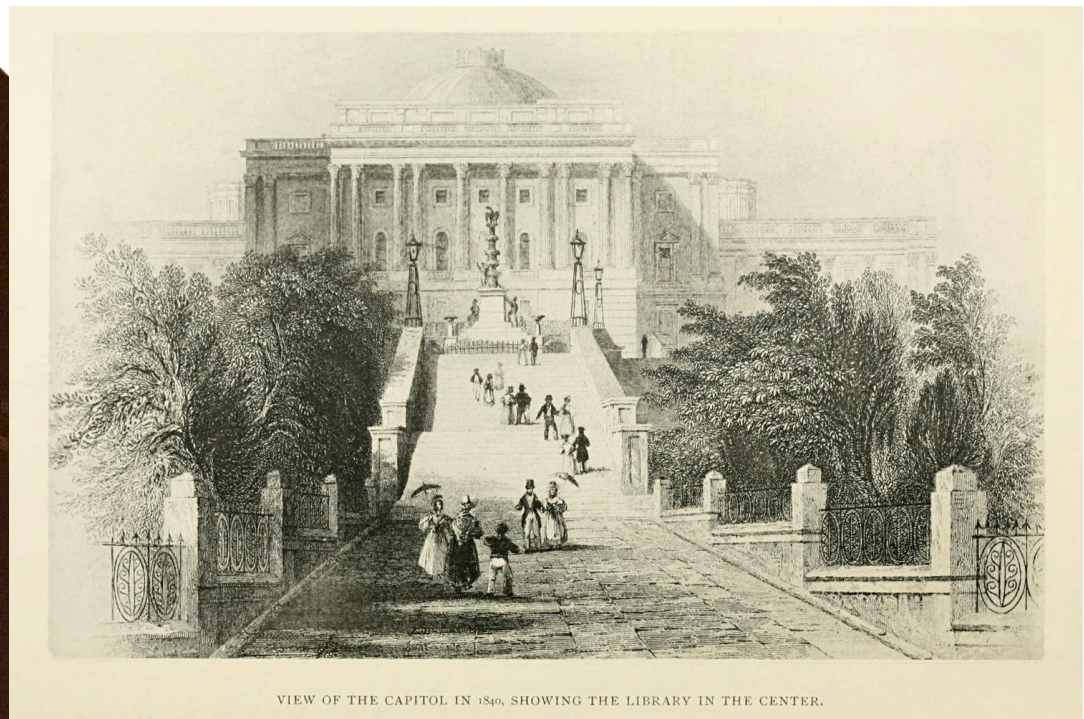
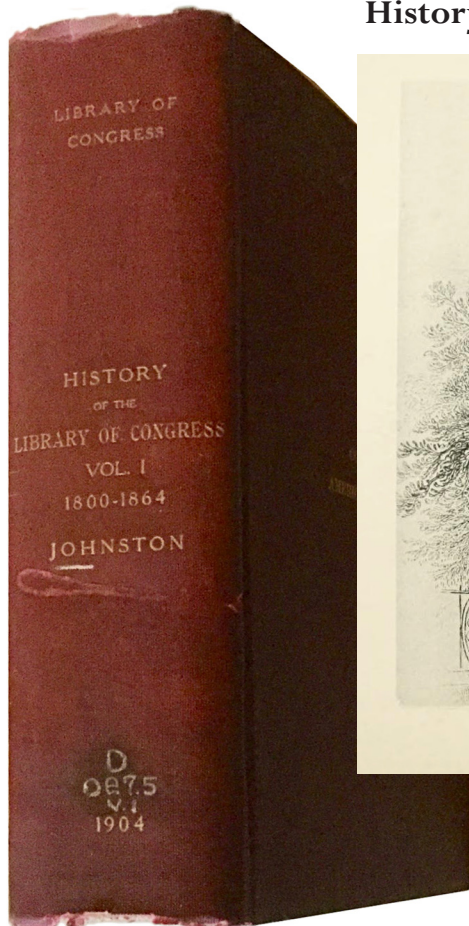
Field Trip, continued

A Sampling of Books Acquired on Our Field Trip

Jerry Morris

Among others, Jerry collects in an area called Books about Books. His visit to DoraLynn yielded several new books for his collection.

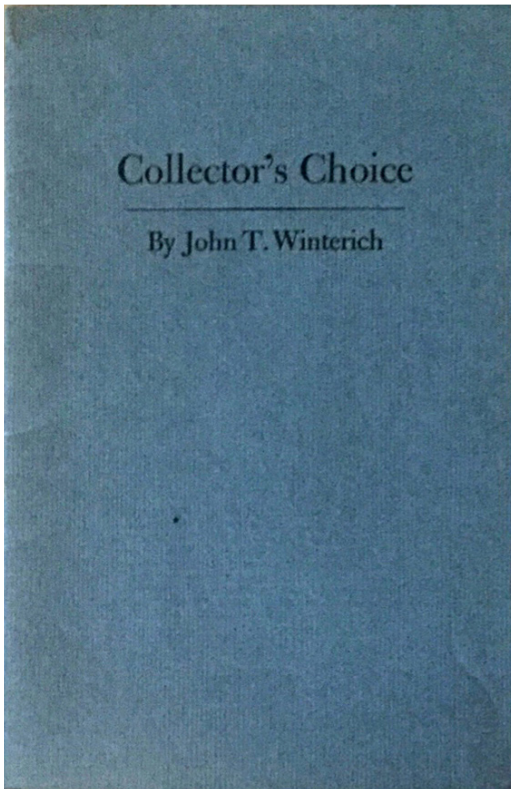
History of the Library of Congress, Volume 1, 1800-1864



Frontispiece of Johnston's *History of the Library of Congress*, Vol. 1. The caption reads "View of the Capitol in 1840, Showing the Library in the Center." At the time, the Capitol housed the Library of Congress, the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Supreme Court. Watch a [history of the Capitol](#) from the Architect of the Capitol.

...in July 1900, Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress from 1899 to 1939, hired William Dawson Johnston, a former history instructor at Brown University, as the first assistant in the Division of Bibliography. His assignments included editing a series titled *Contributions to American Library History*. The first volume, *History of the Library of Congress, Volume 1, 1800-1864*, Johnston's own history of the Library, appeared in 1904. He planned three volumes, with the second volume covering 1864 to 1900 and the third the history of other federal libraries. The first volume, the only one published, reproduced "all documents of importance

which relate to the history of the national library" (some complete, some excerpted), and the product to some critics to be "a collection of documents strung together on a rather thin thread of narrative." But Johnston's history also contained, as he noted, "many picturesque incidents, many antiquarian details, many expressions of contemporary opinion, which in the history of another library might be of merely local interest." (from Jane Aikin, "Histories of the Library of Congress," *Libraries & the Cultural Record*, Vol. 45, No. 1, Historical Essays in Honor of John Y. Cole (2010), pp. 5-24).

*Field Trip, continued***Jerry Morris, continued****Collector's Choice: An Address Given at the Grolier Club, April 27, 1954**

John T. Winterich, New York: Greenberg Publishers, 1928. 211 pp.

In an obituary, the New York Times described John Winterich as “a leading American bibliophile and an authority on book collecting.” Winterich held a number of important positions in publishing. He was well known. He was a contributing editor for *Saturday Review* for more than 20 years and had worked with numerous other publications, including *Stars and Stripes*, for which he was among the first members of its editorial staff, the *New Yorker*, *The Colophon*, and others. Winterich also wrote numerous books about books including *Early American Books and Printing*, *A Primer of Book Collecting*, and *The Grolier Club: An Informal History*. *Collector's Choice* was released in 1928, a follow-up to *A Primer of Book Collecting*. It contains the title essay and several others, and it is famously appended with Winterich’s “Bibliocatechism,” a series of questions for bibliophiles. Try these taken from a review in the *Hartford Courant*: “Why was Danny Deever hanged?”, “Name two famous 19th-century novels that contain exactly 100 chapters each?”, or “Name one English and one American banker who achieved literary standing as poets?”

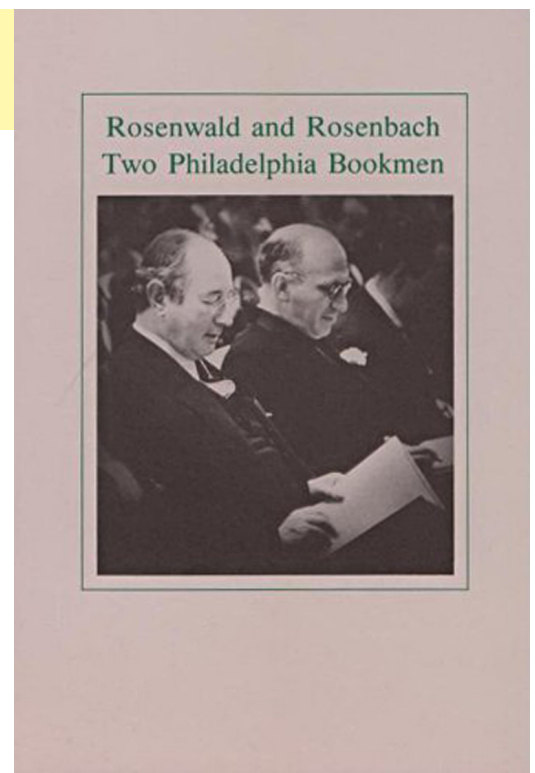
To learn more about Winterich, read Jerry’s very fine blog post, [“John T. Winterich: The Man, His Books, and His Other Literary Endeavors.”](#)

Rosenwald and Rosenbach: Two Philadelphia Bookmen

by Kathleen T. Hunt, Seymour Adelman, and Edith Goodkind Rosenwald.
Philadelphia, PA: Rosenbach Museum & Library, (1983). 72 pp.

A. S. W. Rosenbach was a pre-eminent book dealer for the first half of the 20th century. Together with his older brother, Philip, he ran the Rosenbach Company, which was instrumental in building collections at the Widener Library at Harvard, The Huntington Library, and the Folger Shakespeare Library. Rosenbach assembled thousands of rare books and manuscripts, beyond the work he did for eminent institutions. His and Philip’s personal collections form the 400,000 books in the Rosenbach Museum and Library, now part of Philadelphia’s municipal library system, but operated independently.

Rosenwald and Rosenbach is the catalogue of an exhibition at the Rosenbach Museum from the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection at the Library of Congress. With Rosenbach’s help, Rosenwald created one of the greatest collections of illustrated books and prints in private hands in the world. Rosenwald amassed substantial fortune through his father’s and then his own leadership of Sears, Roebuck, and Co. Lessing and his father Philip were generous philanthropists, using millions of dollars to establish educational and other funds. In 1952, Lessing donated the Giant Bible of Mainz to the Library of Congress on the book’s 500th anniversary. He bequeathed his entire book collection to the Library of Congress and his art collection to the National Gallery of Art.



*Field Trip, continued***Linda Morris****Danish Emigrant Ballads and Songs**

by Rochelle Wright PhD and Robert L. Wright

Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois Univ. Press, (1983). 312 pp.

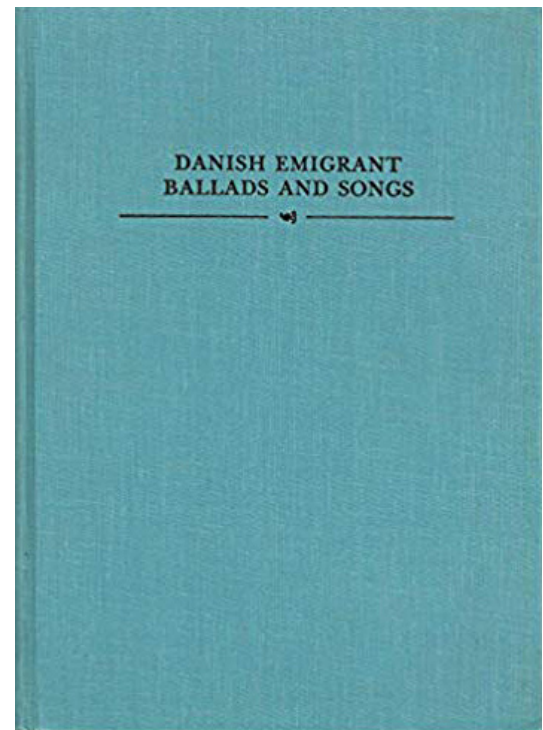
Linda Morris's family is from Denmark. Linda maintains ties there and visited Denmark in 2016. This book is now part of her collection of books about Denmark and the Danish-American experience.

Danish Emigrant Ballads and Songs is not focused specifically on the ballads sung by emigrants, but collects street ballads whose theme was some aspect of emigration, such as disasters at sea, the anguish of separated lovers, or the promise of America. Many such ballads were sold in Denmark's streets or sold door-to-door. It's interesting to consider this use of music as a way emigrants prepared themselves for the journey of a lifetime.

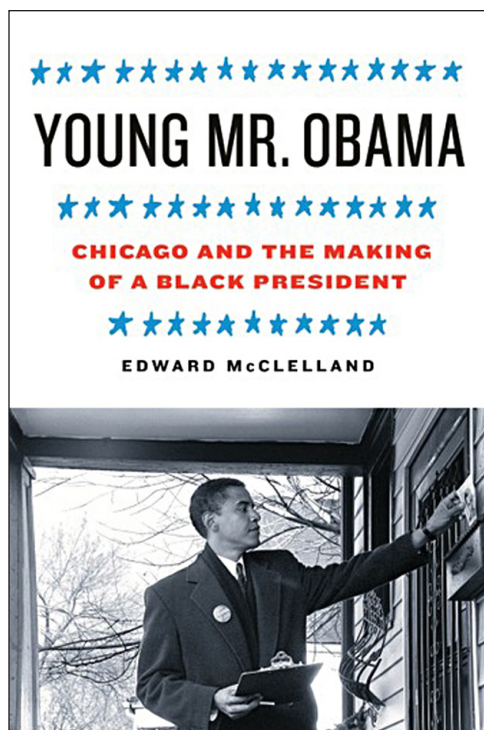
Most of the 116 street ballads collected by Wright and Wright were from oral tradition, and most unpublished, but they recovered many of the melodies for these songs, making the book useful to musicians. The songs are presented in Danish and English and are accompanied by explanatory notes.

Ballad topics cover many conditions and events in Denmark that triggered emigration; prevailing attitudes toward America; the perils of the ocean voyage; life in the New World; and homesickness and longing. There are songs about the California gold rush, the Danish Mormon converts' experiences in Utah, and the exile of Danish Socialist leaders to America.

Sources: Amazon.com; American Studies in Scandinavia, Vol. 17, No. 2 (1985)



Danish Emigrant Ballads and Songs is the fourth volume of a planned series of seven, "Songs of the Westward Migration," begun by Robert L. Wright in 1957. [I was able to identify only two other volumes: *Irish Emigrant Ballads* and *Swedish Emigrant Ballads*. —Ed.]

**Young Mr. Obama: Chicago and the Making of a Black President**

by Edward McClelland. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Press, (2010). 288 pp.

Linda is very active in politics in Pasco County. She has several books on former president Barack Obama.

Young Mr. Obama traces Obama's arrival as a community organizer self-conscious about his exoticness and his rise to the top of Chicago politics in his 2004 primary campaign for the Senate. For some readers, there may be too many details about Chicago politics, but the book charts closely Obama's rapid rise to high office. Along the way, he had significant setbacks, for example a 1999 loss to congressman and former Black Panther Bobby Rush. McClelland is "refreshingly unsparing" about Obama's inner struggles and his missteps. McClelland's work as a journalist for an alternative weekly newspaper, the *Chicago Reader*, put him on the Obama story during that campaign, long before Obama emerged on the national scene.

The Christian Science Monitor views *Young Mr. Obama* as a perfect follow-up to David Remnick's *The Bridge*, which brings Obama's story through earlier years into the Chicago arena that he chose to begin his political life.

Sources: Publishers Weekly; edwardmcclelland.com; Wikipedia

Field Trip, continued

Joan Sackheim

The Wind in the Willows

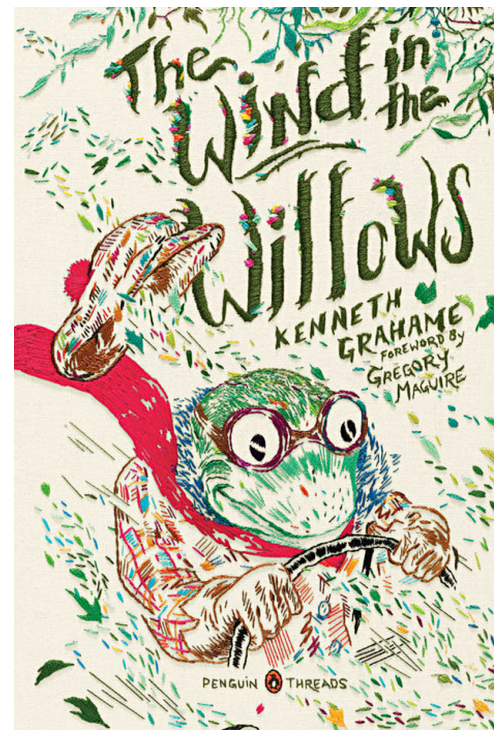
by Kenneth Grahame

The Wind in the Willows was published in 1908. Since then, it has been in continuous publication and enjoyed by millions of children and adults. In 1908, Grahame, 49, had retired from his position as Secretary of the Bank of England, second only to the Governor of the Bank. He then moved with his wife and child to Berkshire, where he had grown up with his grandmother. His mother had died when he was five, and his alcoholic father was unable to care for Kenneth and his three siblings.

Grahame began writing early, publishing small stories. In the 1890s, he published *The Golden Age* (1895) and *Dream Days* (1898). In 1899, Grahame and Elspeth married, and in 1900, Alastair, their only child, was borne. At night, Grahame would tell Alastair bedtime stories, and in them, the *Wind in the Willows* was being born. Alastair, who was born blind in one eye and with a number of health issues, was a challenging child who Grahame transformed into one of the four main characters in the book, Mr. Toad. Years later, Grahame would reveal in a dedication that model for another character, Ratty, was the famous English man of letters, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, whose *Oxford Book of Poetry* was a standard of English curriculum for many years.

Grahame's evocative books lent themselves to illustration and adaptation. *The Wind in the Willows* spawned a number of works for stage and screen. Editions of the book have been illustrated by Ernest Shepard, Arthur Rackham, and Maxfield Parrish, among others.

Joan's interest in the book was sparked because she is the moderator of a book club, and charged with presenting *The Wind in the Willows*. She claims that finding the book at DoraLynn Books reminded her



A recent edition (and not necessarily the one Joan bought) of *The Wind in the Willows*, from Penguin, illustrated by Seattle artist Rachell Sumpter, whose extensive portfolio includes McSweeney's, Random House, Penguin Books, and others.



From left to right, Mole, Toad, Rat, and Mole are pictured in an illustration by E. H. Shepard, which first appeared in the 1931 edition.

not to accept these assignments in the future! She has an idea that members of the book club should decide which of the four main characters in the book they most resemble: sensible and generous Mole; sociable and responsible Rat; flighty but caring Toad, the youngest; or stoic and solitary Badger, the oldest. She wonders: which one are you?

Sources: Wikipedia; Bibliodyssey blog; Amazon.com

Field Trip, concluded

Charles Brown

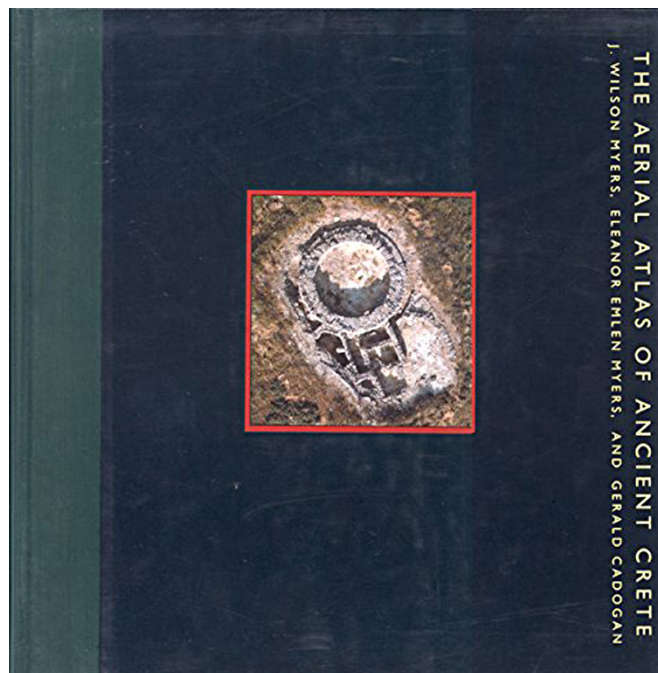
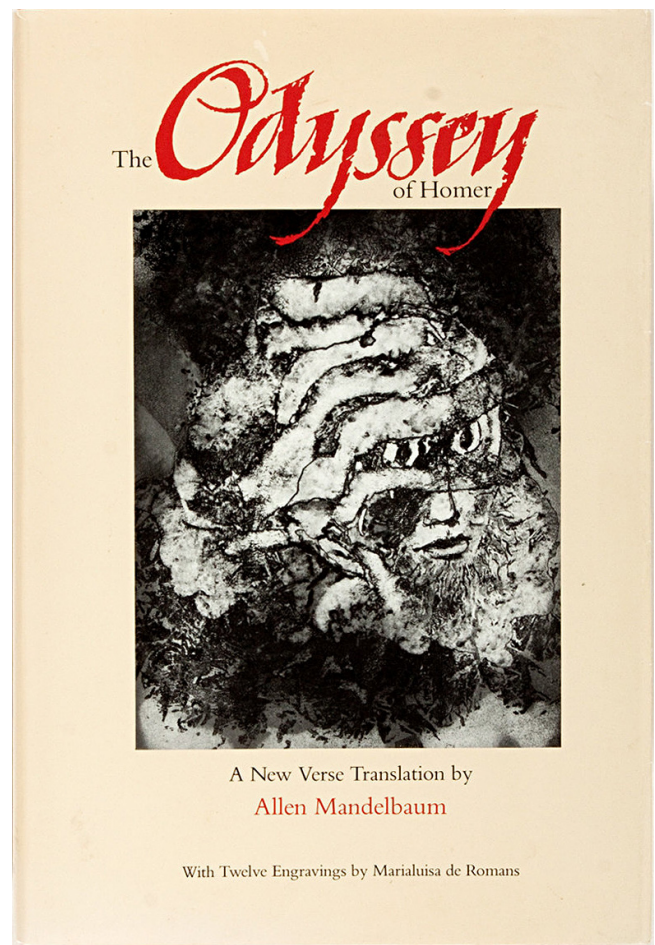
The Odyssey of Homer

A New Verse Translation by Allen Mandelbaum,
with Twelve Engravings by Marialuisa de Romans
Berkeley, CA: Univ. of California Press (1990). 526 pp.

Allen Mandelbaum (1926-2011) was a classics professor at the City University of New York in 1971 when his translation of Virgil's *Aeneid*, the founding epic of Rome, was published. It received the National Book Award for Translation and was the beginning of a series of highly respected translations, including Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The *Odyssey*, like several other of his translations, was published by the University of California in an oversized edition with illustrations, in this case, by the Italian artist Marialuisa de Romans. De Romans also illustrated Mandelbaum's 1986 translation volume *Ovid in Sicily* and his long poem *The Savantasse of Montparnasse*.

This book adds to Charles' collection of epic poetry.

Sources: ABE Books; Verba Picta website; Wikipedia



The Aerial Atlas of Ancient Crete

by J. Wilson Myers, Eleanor E. Myers, Gerald Cadogan
Berkeley, CA: Univ. of California Press (1992). 348 pp.

If you grew up in a home with a subscription to *National Geographic*, you'll understand why Charles bought this book. The authors used twin cameras carried by a 34-foot blimp to take remarkable images of 44 sites, emphasizing Bronze Age (Minoan) sites, but including later sites, up to the Roman period. Each of the aerial photographs is clarified by a drawn plan and a detailed description of the site, including its significance, relationship to the local topography and geology, and excavation history. The descriptions were prepared by the international community of Cretan archaeologists under the guidance of regional specialist Gerald Cadogan. The book is considered an important contribution to the academic archeology, but this beautifully made book is also accessible to the armchair archeologist.



Symbols from the Linear A script, an as-yet undeciphered script of the Minoan civilization.

Sources: J. Field Archaeology, Vol. 20, No. 3 (1993); Amazon.com; Wikipedia

San Francisco's Letterform Archive: Taking the Next Step

The name William Addison Dwiggins may not be immediately recognizable, but his design work probably is. Like many designers, you don't know the name, but you know the look. Dwiggins (1880-1956) was an important American graphic designer – he may in fact have coined the term in 1922 – who worked in typeface design, calligraphy, and book design. He was a colleague of Frederic Goudy, whose name may be more familiar.

Dwiggins' work is featured in a stunning 2017 book, the first published by the [Letterform Archive](#), which has taken up the mission of archiving and making available design that features letterforms. Their current collection of 45,000 objects includes cuneiform tablets, books, broadsides, metal and wooden type, paper sculpture – virtually anything that has letterforms on it.

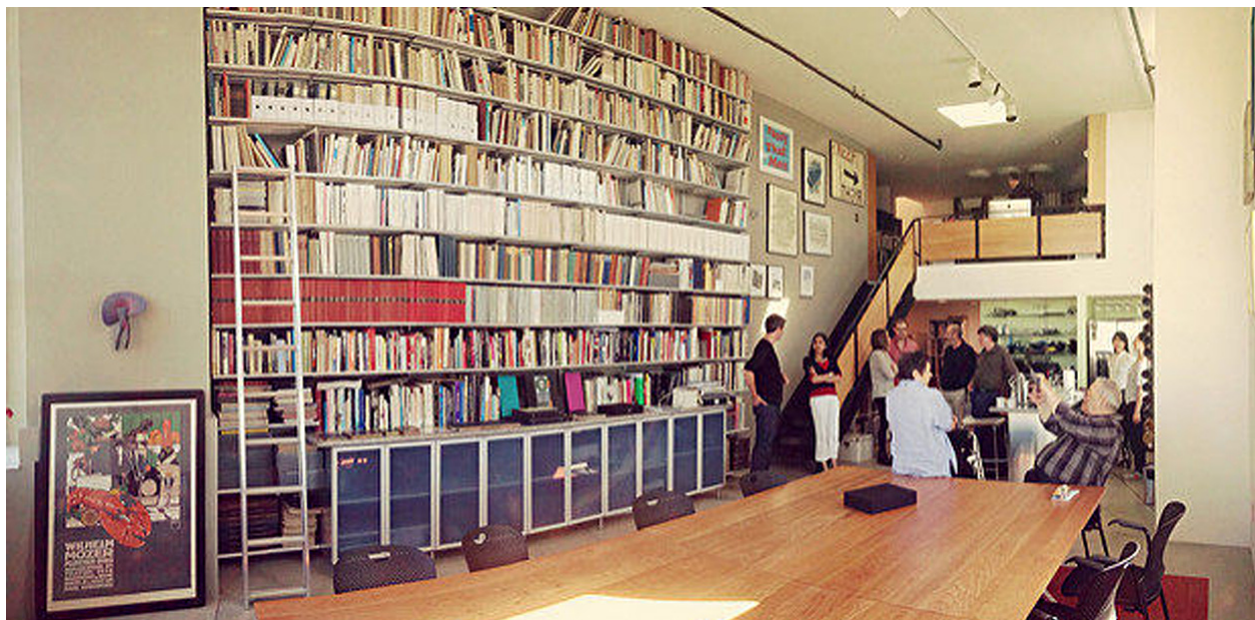
The Letterform Archive abbreviates itself as LfA and describes itself as a nonprofit center for inspiration, education, publishing, and community. LfA was founded in 2014 by Rob Saunders, a collector of the letter arts for over 40 years, as a place to share his private collection with the public – the doors opened to the public in February 2015. Since then, LfA has acquired other significant collections, for example, work by the Dutch publisher Jan Tholenaar, materials from Emigre Graphics, and

of course, the work of William Addison Dwiggins. Again, these important designers may not be household names.

LfA has the goal of making good letterform design and use more accessible. The LfA website says that the archive has received over 5,000 visitors: "Some come with specific research ideas in mind, while others are simply looking for inspiration. Invariably, thanks to the breadth and accessibility of the collection, they stumble on something."

In addition to welcoming and assisting visitors, LfA sponsors public events, lectures by visiting artists, and courses and workshops in type design, calligraphy, and typography.

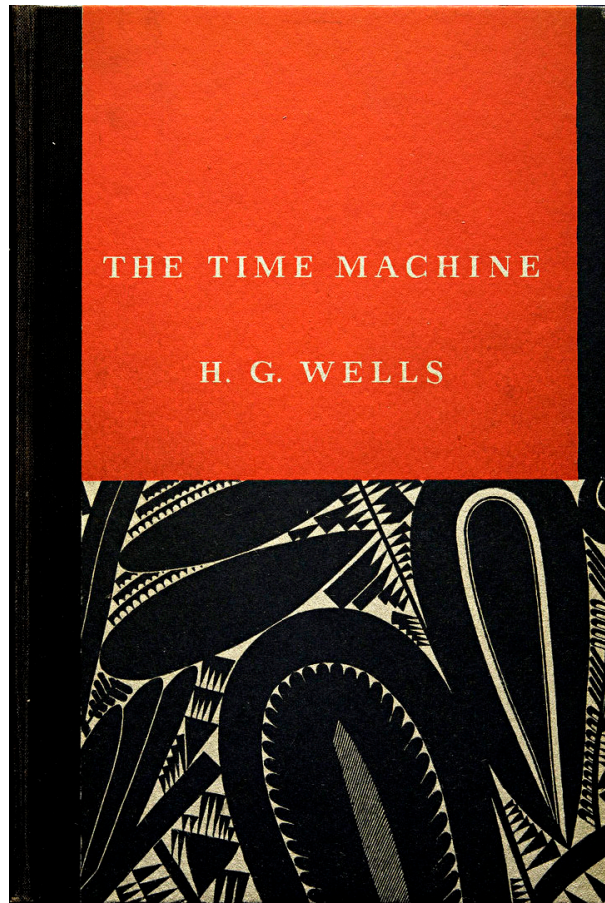
Now, LfA is taking the next step, extending its reach by creating digital access to the archive. Using state-of-the-art equipment and standards, LfA has been digitizing the collection to make it available through their website. They have introduced a membership program that, for a very modest cost, gives members access to the online archive, recordings of the Salon Series in which LfA staff focus on a thematic selection of works, and discounts on evening classes, publication preorders, and other merchandise in the LfA shop. Charter memberships for the beta version are available now, before the official launch in 2019, and have additional rewards.



A wall full of periodicals related to type dominates one of the meeting rooms at the Letterform Archive.

*Letterform Archive, concluded***A Dwiggins Sampler**

from the Letterform Archive

**Metro | Metro****No. 1**

Aa Gg Ww

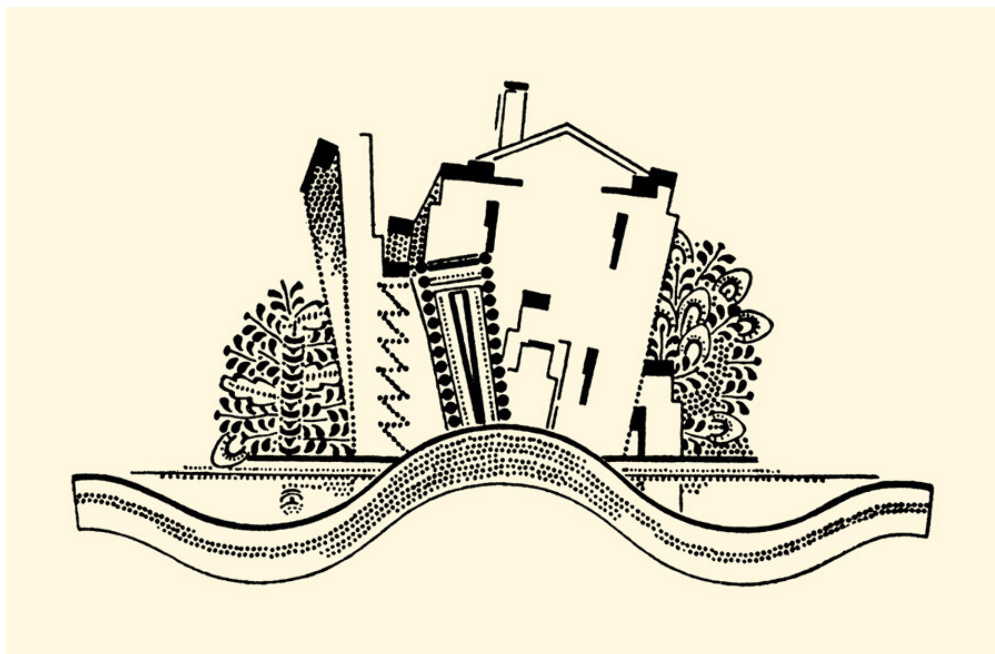
No. 2

Aa Gg Ww

assess & evaluate**a b c d e f g h i j k l m****n o p q r s t u v w x y z****0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9**

Above: *Metro* is one of Dwiggins' better-known typefaces. It was released by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company in 1929. Several variations were offered. *Metro* was Dwiggins' response to popular geometric typefaces like *Futura*, still widely used. *Metro*, which did not achieve the popularity of *Futura*, was tweaked to resemble the more successful font. The original version of *Metro* has been reintroduced in recent years, in line with an increased appreciation for type design and the integrity of historic faces.

Left: Dwiggins designed this limited edition of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine* for Random House in 1931. The cover is illustrated with a graphic system that Dwiggins developed.



Left: An illustration by Dwiggins for "The Fall of the House of Usher" in *Tales by Poe* (Lakeside Press, 1930).

Dwiggins was perhaps more responsible than any other designer for the marked improvement in book design in the 1920s and 1930s.

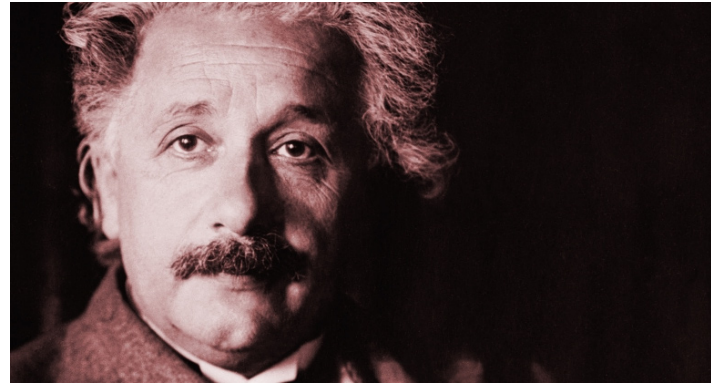


Einstein's 'God Letter' Sells for \$2.9 million

On 4 December, Christie's will bring to auction one of the most famous letters by one of the 20th century's most famous thinkers. Albert Einstein's celebrated "God letter," addressed to the philosopher Eric Gutkind, fuses Einstein's thoughts on religion, his Jewish identity and his own search for meaning in life and remains as a definitive statement in the on-going debate between religion and science. (Christie's website)

And auction they did. The letter was expected to draw more than \$1 million, perhaps as much as \$1.5 million, but after four "vigorous" minutes involving collectors from all over the world bidding in the room, over the phone, and online, an undisclosed buyer had paid a world record price for an Einstein letter: \$2.9 million. The letter sold in 2008 for \$404,000 and was offered for sale for \$3 million in 2012, but with no takers. A pair of Einstein notes from 1922 in which he gives some "pointers on happiness" sold for \$1.5 million in October 2017, possibly signaling a rising market for Einstein letters. (In case you're wondering, Guinness says that the highest price paid at auction for any letter was in 2013: \$6 million, for a 7-page 1953 letter in which Francis Crick outlined for his son Michael the discovery of DNA.)

Einstein's letter was written in 1954 to religious philosopher Eric Gutkind in response to Gutkind's book *Choose Life: The Biblical Call to Revolt* (1952). Coming a few years after the Holocaust and fewer since the founding of modern Israel, Gutkind's book takes a strong apologetic stance toward the Old Testament and toward the role of Jews in the world. The "revolt" of the title is a call to find true religion, of which the Bible is the source and to which the Jewish faith the surest path. Gutkind was responding to what he saw as the cowardice of religion in the face of great evil and wished to restore religion to its proper role as means of assuring human dignity and the ascent of the human race. Einstein's friend, the Dutch mathematician and philosopher L. E. J. Brouwer, had asked him many times to read Gutkind's book. Einstein



resisted, perhaps as an act of discretion.

Describing the letter as a "definitive statement" in a larger sense seems hyperbolic, but it is a clear and potentially controversial statement by one of the most famous personalities of the 20th century.

Perhaps these are the most often quoted lines from the letter:

The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still purely primitive, legends which are nevertheless pretty childish.

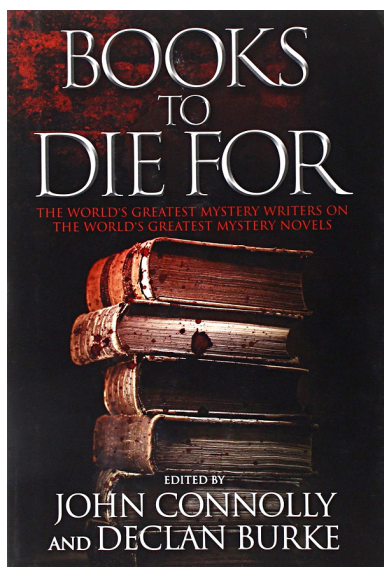
Some take this as an attack on religion or an atheistic stand, but it conforms to Einstein's expressed views. He did not believe in a personal god, but in a pantheistic god, as expressed in the work of Spinoza. He denied that he was an atheist, admitting at most to agnosticism. He labeled himself "a religious nonbeliever," a position widely held today by an increasing number of Americans, according to Pew Research. Einstein also stated that he did not believe in life after death, adding "one life is enough for me."

A sixth grader named Phyllis wrote Einstein once to ask if scientists pray. In his gentle response, he tells Phyllis that as a scientist he believes that what happens in the world is the result of physical forces, but that our knowledge of these forces is not complete. There is room for wonder, both in questioning and amazement at the world around us. In that way, he found common ground for science and religion while marking their boundaries.

Books in Brief

Books to Die For: The World's Greatest Mystery Writers on the World's Greatest Mystery Novels


John Connolly and Declan Burke, editors
Atria/Emily Bestler Book
560 pp., 2012



The 120 entries in this book are arranged chronologically, from Edgar Allan Poe in 1892 to Mark Gimenez in 2008. *Books to Die For* covers every name you've heard of in mystery and probably a few you have not.

If a trip to your local bookstore's mystery aisle tends to produce more mystery, this book may help. In each essay, an accomplished mystery

writer focuses on a specific work by another mystery writer that they find particularly excellent. Here's a sample: Rita Mae Brown on Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*; Mark Billingham on Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*; Adrian McKinty on Patricia Highsmith's *Strangers on a Train*; Joseph Wambaugh on Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*; Elmore Leonard on George V. Higgins' *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*; Eddie Muller (host of the Turner Classic Movies's show *Noir Alley*) on William P. McGivern's *The Big Heat*.

Since the modern detective story was created by Poe, its popularity has grown steadily into a genre being written and enjoyed around the world. The authors explain part of this enduring appeal: "Even in the vision of the darkest of mystery writers, it provides us with a glimpse of the world as it might be, a world in which good men and women do not stand idly by and allow the worst aspects of human nature to triumph without opposition. It can touch upon all these facets while still entertaining the reader." 

Crime Fiction: A Very Short Introduction

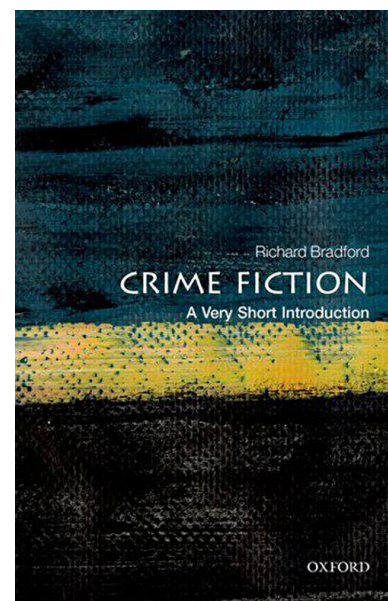
Richard Bradford
Oxford University Press
144 pp., 2015

In this *Very Short Introduction*, Professor Richard Bradford takes a look at crime fiction.

The modern detective novel has its origins in three stories by Edgar Allan Poe, but Bradford takes us deeper, into the roots of this genre in works as varied and perhaps remote as Sophocles, Herodotus, and Shakespeare. Bradford explores the history of the genre, by considering the various definitions of "crime fiction" and looking at how it has developed over time. Discussing the popularity of crime fiction worldwide and its various styles; the role that gender plays within the genre; spy fiction, and legal dramas and thrillers; he explores how the crime novel was shaped by the work of British and American authors in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Highlighting the works of notorious authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Raymond Chandler – to name but a few – he considers the role of the crime novel in modern popular culture and asks whether we can, and whether we should, consider crime fiction serious "literature".

Oxford introduced the *Very Short Introduction* series in 1995 with Mary Beard's *Classics*. Since then, it has grown to include over 600 books on every imaginable subject.



Upcoming Events

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.

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



January 2019



Filmmaking in Florida: 1908- 1933 – Lisa Bradberry

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

January 13, 2019, 1:30 pm

FBS member Lisa Bradberry is a Tampa Bay native and a graduate of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. She is a lifelong movie buff with a special interest in movies made in Florida during the silent film era to the early talkies. As a film scholar, Lisa has received research credits or acknowledgements in a number of books and has been interviewed on television programs such as *Pinellas Past*, *Inside Pinellas*, and *Florida Crossroads*. Lisa's presentation will cover the history of film companies that traveled from the northern and Midwest states to Florida to make silent films during the winter months and actors such as Theda Bara, Rudolph Valentino, Oliver Hardy, and W. C. Fields, who starred in films in Florida early in their careers before becoming famous. Her presentation also covers the role Florida played in early talking feature films.



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>

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>)

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 10-13, 2019

37th Annual Key West Literary Seminar

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

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/)

January 26-February 3, 2019

30th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org/)

F E B R U A R Y

February 7-8, 2019

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Feb. 7, 7 PM, New College Cook Library

Feb. 8, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room

Book of the month: *Renoir's Dancer: The Secret Life of Suzanne Valadon*, by Catherine Hewitt

February 14-16, 2019

Amelia Island Book Festival

Amelia Island, FL

(www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/)

February 14-17, 2019

Savannah Book Festival

Savannah, GA (www.savannahbookfestival.org/)

February 28-March 3, 2019

Coastal Magic Convention

Daytona Beach, FL (coastalmagicconvention.com/)

M A R C H

No 2019 date yet.

BookMania! (est. 1994)

Jensen Beach, FL

(<https://discovermartin.com/event/bookmania-2018/>)

No 2019 date yet.

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

The Largest One-Day Reading Festival in Florida

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

No 2019 date yet.

Punta Gorda Literary Fair

Punta Gorda, FL

(no website)

March 7-8, 2019

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Mar. 7, 7 PM, New College Cook Library

Mar. 8, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room

Book of the month: *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*, by Ross King

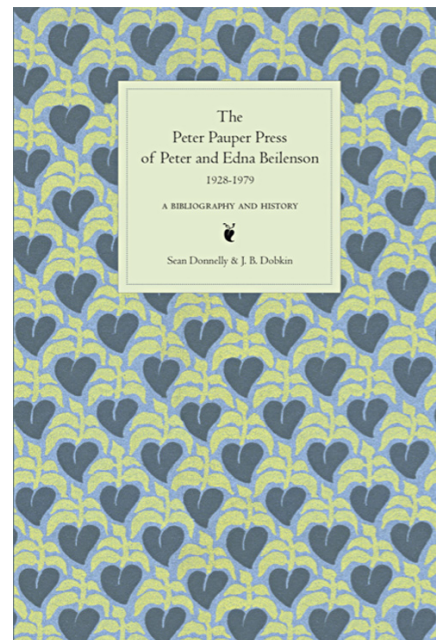


A Correction

On page 5 of The Florida Bibliophile for October, we wrote “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.”

Mr. Harrer tells us that the Peter Pauper collection was donated by FBS Past President Jay Dobkin. That collection, now held by the Tampa


Book Arts Studio, is “one of the most complete anywhere.” This collection was the principal basis of the standard reference book on the Peter Pauper Press – *The Peter Pauper Press of Peter and Edna Beilenson, 1928-1978*. This book was written by Sean Donnelly and Jay Dobkin and published by the University of Tampa Press in 2013. Pictured right, the book is covered in patterned paper with a square paper label as were many books printed by the Peter Pauper Press.



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
Kim Mooney, Greater Largo Library Foundation
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Joan Sackheim
Gary Simons
Ben Wiley
Barry Zack, Sarasota Authors Connection

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

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 spoke 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 signed 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 • Dark and Stormy



Or, if I'm honest, anything but! November 18 was a beautiful fall day in Largo – so hard to believe that some of our remote members already have snow on the ground! (Come see us!) And our November meeting was like a progressive party.

Don Bruns' presentation was a treat. He's quite an entertainer, between his comedy, his music, and his storytelling. He's also down-to-earth and very candid. He's honest – as many working writers are – about the work that it takes, first to write, and second to get yourself and your writing out there. Writers obviously need plenty of solitary time, but overall, it's very social work. And it helps when you are as sociable as Don.

Only one complaint: He should have brought more books! We snapped them up.

We've been hearing about the Largo Bookmobile for quite a while, and it was a great pleasure to know that it is now a reality. Many thanks to Lee for his generosity to the Largo Library Foundation, one of many book-

related organizations that have been recipients of his gracious giving.

Our trip to DoraLynn Books – well, I already have a reputation for being the last one out the door, and this trip was no exception. Sean and Harry are great hosts, and their bookstore is filled with great books.

And then we rounded out the day with food, conversation, and laughter at the Conch Republic Grille – nice discovery (I think we have Linda and her facility with a cellphone to thank for that excellent selection). And even though we meet once a month and have a chance to chat a bit before or after the meeting, it's great to have some extended time to share a meal, talk about things that come up in a more relaxed setting, and get to know each other better.

It's good to be a bibliophile!

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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The Florida Bibliophile is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983. It is published monthly from September to May. Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to: Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net. www.floridabibliophilesociety.org © 2018 Florida Bibliophile Society

Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor.

The Florida Bibliophile Society is a 501c3 organization. All contributions to FBS are tax deductible.