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.
The Florida Bibliophile Society holiday party was an enjoyable afternoon of good fellowship, good food, and good fun.

As she has for several years, FBS member Joan “of Art” Sackheim invited FBS members to her home, a relaxing and elegant setting for the occasion. Joan’s friend, Carol Bastable, has been the unofficial decorator for this event for several years, and this year, her creativity shone in decorative touches throughout the house and yard, which created a festive holiday atmosphere. An inviting and beautifully laid-out banquet table set up in the dining room accommodated most of the guests, while Joan’s dining room table, removed a few steps to the Florida room, with its view of the back garden, accommodated the rest.

As guests arrived and added their specialties to the buffet, they were greeted with a sparkling prosecco cocktail or a glass of wine. Crudité and shrimp were served as appetizers. We mingled and chatted as the final preparations for our holiday dinner were completed.

The day started early for Linda Morris, who baked the ham that morning so that it would be juicy and delicious – and it was. Linda was responsible for many other behind-the-scenes preparations. This year she even supplied take-out clamshells so we could easily share out the leftovers – clever.

An assortment of delicious side dishes such as baked sweet potatoes, potatoes au gratin, Asian green beans, fluffy rolls, and a green salad filled our plates.

When we had sufficiently recovered from dinner (seconds and thirds in some cases!), we were treated to a dessert buffet of colorful Italian holiday cookies, baklava, brownies, and a delicious pecan pie. Enjoyed with a cup of coffee – perfect!

Once again, we shared Christmas crackers with their assortment of paper crowns, creative toys, and groanable jokes. This year’s crackers were an improvement over past years as the jokes were in English, Spanish, and French – now that’s classy! We worked diligently to verify the operation of a toy called “The Mystery Calculator,” and it worked every time – it’s quite ingenious.
Top: Roberta and Ed Cifelli share the table in the Florida room with Carl Nudi. Looks like Ed is not ready for his close-up.
Bottom: Irene and Jude send holiday greetings from Joan’s kitchen.
Right: Santa looks on approvingly.
Christmas crackers were invented by Tom Smith, a London confectioner, in the 1840s.

On a trip to Paris, Tom discovered Bon-Bons, sugared almonds wrapped in bright paper sealed with a twist at either end. They were wildly popular, so Tom decided to try them in London. He included a riddle to add interest, but they didn't catch on.

One night, Tom sat in front of his fire thinking how the crackling noises from the burning logs captured his attention and thought that might improve the attraction of his sweets if they made a similar noise as they were unwrapped.

He increased the size of the paper wrapper to incorporate a banger mechanism and the modern-day cracker was born.

Tom originally called them cosaques after the noise made when Cossack soldiers cracked their whips as they rode, but as rival brands diluted the market, the onomatopoeic ‘cracker’ evolved into the preferred generic term.

Crackers were originally produced for all occasions, but only the Christmas version took off. The sweets they contained were eventually dropped in favor of toys and trinkets which proved more popular.

Source: darbymade.com
Books on Film – *Mary Poppins Returns*  
by Charles Brown

Like many moviegoers who are old enough to have seen *Mary Poppins* in its original release, I had questions – and a few trepidations – about Disney’s 2018 version, *Mary Poppins Returns*. But viewing this delightful movie dispelled any concern.

The energy, performances, faithfulness to the story concept, and sheer creativity made *Mary Poppins Returns* a thoroughly enjoyable experience. During the movie, several scenes highlighted some important differences in the environment in which the 2018 movie and the 1964 version were released (there are other versions, but these two are the only ones widely seen in the U.S. – there is a 1983 Russian version which might be quite interesting).

For example, in 1964, when Mary drifts down onto Cherry Tree Lane, she was like many similar appearances of angels or others needed by mere mortals in crisis. But in 2018, the appearance of Mary, again drifting to earth with the aid of an umbrella and appearing at the door of 17 Cherry Tree Lane, resonated with the scenes in Peter Jackson’s *Lord of the Rings* and *Hobbit* movies, in which the wizard Gandalf arrives and then appears at the door. *Mary Poppins Returns* arrives in a post-Gandalf environment, in which highly imaginative and special-effects-laden sword and sorcery is a continuous presence in movie theaters and on television.

Similarly, *Mary Poppins Returns* to an England (as well as America and much of the world) that is post–Downton Abbey and post–Harry Potter. We are also well into the era dominated by Disney’s new style of animation as seen in *Frozen*, *The Beauty and the Beast*, and many other very successful animated films. Advances in computer-generated images are seen in many movies, ranging from Pixar animated films to the space sagas in *Star Wars* or *Star Trek*.

Nevertheless, *Mary Poppins Returns* remains true to its roots in the books by H. L. Travers and the 1964 movie, even, in a welcome touch, bringing back Disney’s older animation style. Given the interest in “a long time ago in England” these days, *Mary Poppins Returns* feels comfortable and faithful, with enough updating to feel like a very modern old-fashioned movie.

*Mary Poppins Returns* is also post-Amazon and post-ebook, i.e., post-“death-of-the-book.” And yet one of the biggest production numbers in the movie is virtually a hymn to books, “The Cover Is Not The Book,” music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman.

The scene develops when Mary and the children magically enter the illustration on a favorite Royal Doulton bowl of their mother’s, which they have unintentionally broken. While there, Mary conjures up the Royal Doulton Music Hall, and the lamplighter Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda) appears on stage. He asks Mary to join him; she refuses a couple of times before happily bounding up to the stage. Mary begins to sing, and Jack joins in on the chorus:

> Uncle Gutenberg was a bookworm  
> And he lived on Charing Cross  
> The memory of his volumes brings a smile  
> He would read me lots of stories  
> When he wasn’t on the sauce  
> Now I’d like to share the wisdom

Sources: *The Telegraph* (UK), *Music Notes*, *Variety*, *History vs. Hollywood*, *ST Lyrics*
Of my favourite bibliophile
He said a –

Cover is not the book
So open it up and take a look
'Cause under the cover one discovers
That the king may be a crook
Chapter titles are like signs
And if you read between the lines
You'll find your first impression was mistook
For a cover is nice
But a cover is not the book.

Mary and Jack sing and dance on a stage filled with larger-than-life volumes with titles like “The Day Out,” “Lucky Thursday,” and “The Marble Boy,” drawn from chapter titles in the Travers novels. For each verse, they visit a book which opens up like an enormous pop-up to create a backdrop for the song. As the song proceeds, they are joined by an increasing number of animated animals. For the final verse and in a nod to his extremely successful production Hamilton, the lyricists give Lin-Manuel Miranda’s character, Jack, a rap lyric, which he sings as he climbs a staircase of books, successive book-steps materializing just as he needs to step on them. The staircase of books leads from a lower level of the set to a giant pop-up on a higher level, but wait: as he nears the top, there are no more books! A half dozen animated penguins must link together across the gap so that Jack can scamper to the top and the climax of his song.

Watching this for the first time, the clever lyrics flowed quickly, and the amazing animations and dancing were mesmerizing. But the word “bibliophile” rang out as clear as a bell. I immediately thought of the millions of people who will see this movie, see its celebration of physical books, and learn a valuable new word! I am picturing a pop-up book of “The Cover Is Not The Book” in which turning each page presents a marvelous new pop-up and automatically plays a segment of the song (Kickstarter, anyone?). A “deluxe novelization” has already been released, as well as several other books that draw on the movie.

Travers (born Helen Goff, 1899) wrote eight Mary Poppins books over a four-decade period:

- *Mary Poppins* (1934)
- *Mary Poppins Comes Back* (1935)
- *Mary Poppins Opens the Door* (1943)
- *Mary Poppins in the Park* (1952)
Mary Poppins, continued

* Mary Poppins From A to Z (1962)
* Mary Poppins in the Kitchen (1975)
* Mary Poppins in Cherry Tree Lane (1982)
* Mary Poppins and the House Next Door (1988)

All the books were illustrated by Mary Shepard, daughter of E. H. Shepard, who had illustrated Winnie the Pooh. Mary was engaged to illustrate Poppins because her father was too busy.

Disney, whose daughters loved the novel, approached Travers about making a movie as early as 1938, but Travers refused. She had already refused others. She did not believe her novel could be adapted successfully to film, and she did not want an animated version—in 1938, Disney had made only short animated features and had not released any live action movies. Disney contacted Travers occasionally over the next 20 years. By the late 1950s, royalties from the five Poppins books in print were dwindling. In 1961, Disney and Travers struck a deal. Travers was given $100,000, five percent of the gross, and script approval. This did not include editing control. Travers was determined that no animation would be used in the film as she regarded it as a detraction to the serious tone of her story. However, when she saw a segment involving animation in the film as it was being made, she demanded its removal. Disney explained the situation to her—she had no right to edit the film—she was furious.

The Sherman Brothers were given the task of writing the music. They were on staff at Disney, after rising from a few successes with music for the Mouseketeers and for Annette Funicello in particular. By 1964, they had already written songs and music for a few Disney films, notably The Sword in the Stone and The Parent Trap. With Mary Poppins, they had their first smash hit. They would continue their work with Disney for years, eventually being credited with more musical movies than any other writing team in the history of film.

The Sherman Brothers were instrumental in maintaining some level of good will with Travers, who was demanding, resistant, and disapproving throughout the production. Richard Sherman reported that even years later “my stomach tightens when I talk about it.”

Travers never warmed to the genial Walt Disney or the film. She cried throughout the premiere of the movie, and to her last day, she “railed” against Disney and against the movie, which she felt had betrayed the character and produced a film that was “all fantasy and no magic.” While she was approved of the casting Julie Andrews, Travers felt that Andrews was “badly directed” and produced a too sweet and too pretty Poppins. Disney softened the Poppins character considerably. Travers’s biographer Valerie Lawson described the Mary Poppins in the books as “tart and sharp, rude, plain and vain.” The story of the making of the 1964 film and the antagonistic relationship between Travers and Disney is told in the Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks 2013 film Saving Mr. Banks.

In the end, Mary Poppins was a brilliant creation of an immensely creative team, headed by Walt Disney. The film was showered with awards and nominations—it won five Academy Awards. Its instantly memorable lyrics and catchy tunes became classics overnight. Travers became rich, but she never relented.
Mary Poppins, continued

Mary Poppins Books by P. L. Travers

P. L. Travers (1899–1996) wrote eight books in the Mary Poppins series from 1934 to 1988. Travers developed many more characters than appear in the movies, including residents of Cherry Tree Lane, the park across the street, or the house next door. In the books, the Bankses eventually have five children, compared to the two in the 1964 movie.

In each of the first three books, Mary Poppins descends from the sky to aid the Banks family at 17 Cherry Tree Lane and returns to the sky after the problems have been solved. Subsequent books tell stories that occur within the time frame of the first three books.

The exceptions are Mary Poppins from A–Z and Mary Poppins in the Kitchen.

Mary Poppins from A–Z brings together story elements from the previous books in a series of 26 vignettes such as A is for Annabel, B is for Banks, and C is for Cherry. Each entry is rich with words that begin with the featured letter.

In Mary Poppins in the Kitchen, Mary and her young charges must run the kitchen for a week. They interact with many characters from the books as they shop and cook. The book contains 30 recipes for British favorites such as apple brown betty, date bread, shepherd’s pie, and Yorkshire pudding.
Grolier Club Completes Renovations

Founded in 1884, the Grolier Club in New York City is the oldest bibliophile club in North America. Extensive renovations to the clubhouse ground floor were recently completed.

The most dramatic renovations took place in the Exhibition Hall, which had last been renovated in 1987. The “grandly proportioned” hall has been “the heart” of the Grolier Club’s current location, serving as a space for displays, a gathering space, and an auditorium.

The Grolier Club’s clubhouse on East 60th Street in Midtown Manhattan is the club’s third since its founding. It was designed for the Club in 1917 by Grolier member and well-known architect Bertram Goodhue. The club opened with an exhibition of Persian miniatures and, given the times, it loaned space to the American Fund for French Wounded to make surgical dressings for the war in Europe.

The Grolier’s nine-member design task force selected Ann Beha Architects of Boston to design and manage the renovation. Ann Beha Architects’ portfolio includes numerous libraries as well as many significant clients, including the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and Boston Symphony. Updates were needed to many of the building’s systems, including display cases, lighting, heating and cooling, accessibility, and security. Standards and best practices in all these areas have evolved considerably in the 30 years since the last renovation. Work began in February 2018 and was completed in December 2018, in time for the centenary of the Grolier Club in this location.

The first event held in the new hall was for members only: a presentation by Carla Hayden, the current Librarian of Congress. The hall reopened to the public with an exhibition celebrating a thousand years of French book arts featuring books from the Grolier Club’s own collections. French Book Arts: Manuscripts, Books, Bindings, Prints, and Documents, 12th–21st Century runs through February 2.

The name “Grolier” was chosen by Walter Jackson (1863–1923), who also used the name for his publishing house, which remains an important publisher of educational books in the U.S. (now owned by Scholastic Corporation). The name comes from a famous bibliophile, Jean Grolier de Servières (1489–1565), Viscount d’Aguisy, Treasurer General of France. Grolier was called the “Prince of Bibliophiles,” an avid book collector who focused on Latin classics and fine bindings. He was a patron of the Aldine Press, established in Venice in 1494 by Aldus Manutius. Manutius and the Aldine Press made significant contributions to the history of printing and publishing.

The motto printed in Grolier’s books, “Io. Grolierii et amicorum” – of or belonging to Jean Grolier and his friends – is often taken to mean that Grolier was a generous lender of books. His collection, believed to contain around 3,000 books, was sold and dispersed in 1675. Books from the Grolier library are highly desirable, yet only a few hundred are known, many of them in the national libraries of France and the U.K. The current exhibition at the Grolier Club features six items from the collection of Jean Grolier.

Sources: The Grolier Club, New York Times, Literary Features Syndicate, Rare Book Hub
Mystery Authors Don Bruns and Pat McKanic Headline Education Center Lecture Series

Mystery writers Don Bruns and Pat McKanic will headline the Longboat Key Education Center’s 2019 “Creating a Mystery” lecture series. Don will be featured on Jan. 9, and Pat on Jan. 16.

The authors will discuss the inspiration behind their work, their writing processes, the elements of a great thriller, building a solid narrative arc, crafting suspenseful, compelling, and engaging storylines, developing vivid, relatable, believable characters, building tension, and the importance of a satisfying ending.

Don Bruns, our FBS speaker in November 2018, is a USA Today bestselling author of 16 widely acclaimed novels, including the “Stuff” series: Stuff to Die For, Stuff to Spy For, Stuff Dreams Are Made Of; Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff, Too Much Stuff, Hot Stuff, and Reel Stuff; and the Quentin Archer and Caribbean series. The south Florida resident is also a songwriter, musician, and advertising executive (donbrunsbooks.com; Facebook: Don Bruns Author).

Pat McKanic is the author of the mystery thriller Illusions of Paradise. Set in the Caribbean, the book has earned rave reviews, and earned a Five Star review from Readers’ Favorite. The ADDY Award winning writer is a former print and broadcast journalist who has worked for newspapers in the Caribbean, The Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times Co., among others. She is the owner of Pat McKanic & Associates LLC, a diversified communications company specializing in PR, marketing, media training, and executive coaching (illusionsofparadise.net; Facebook: Illusions of Paradise @patmckanicauthor).

The lectures are Wed., Jan. 9 (Don) and Jan. 16 (Pat) at the Longboat Key Education Center, 5370 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Suite 212, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Lectures will be followed by a Q&A. Cost for the series is $40 for members; $45 for nonmembers. Seating is limited. For registration or payment information, contact info@lbkeducationcenter.org or (941) 383-8811.

Bibliography Week 2019, January 22–26 in New York City

Bibliography Week happens each January in New York when several book history groups have their annual meetings. With all these bibliophiles in town, other events are planned.

On January 24, the Grolier Club will hold its annual meeting and dinner at the Metropolitan Club.

On January 25, the Bibliographical Society of America will have its annual meeting at the Cosmopolitan Club. BSA is dedicated to the study of books and manuscripts as physical objects.

On January 26, the annual meeting of the American Printing History Association will be held at the Grolier Club. APHA encourages the study of the history of printing and related arts and crafts, including calligraphy, typefounding, typography, papermaking, bookbinding, illustration, and publishing.

In addition to these formal organizational meetings, a number of presentations and activities will be available. A special mini-antiquarian book fair, sponsored by the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, will be held in “Le Skyroom” of The French Institute/Alliance Française, across the street from the Grolier Club.

The current exhibition at the Grolier Club, French Book Arts: Manuscripts, Books, Bindings, Prints, and Documents, 12th—21st Century, will be the basis of lectures on Wednesday and Friday. A guided tour of an exhibition about Wallace Stevens and William Carlos Williams will be given at the Grolier Club on Thursday.

Other events will take place at the Center for Book Arts, the Columbia Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Brooklyn Artists’ Books & Prints Salon, and the New York Academy of Medicine.
On December 15, 2018, the citizens of Venice, Florida, welcomed the opening of the William H. Jervey Jr. Venice Public Library. The $8.8 million structure replaces the previous library which was demolished after 50 years of service due to serious mold problems. In January 2016, the Sarasota County Commission responded to the investigations of the library’s mold issue with a decision to close the library that February and begin the process of creating a new library at the same location. The library is part of the Venice Cultural Campus which includes the Venice Arts Center and Venice Community Center. The Venice Cultural Campus is a few blocks from historic downtown Venice.

William H. Jervey, Jr., is a former University of Central Florida professor who grew up in Venice and returned to it in retirement. He had been a supporter of the old library and had worked hard to save the old building. When analysis of the mold reports demonstrated that cleaning and updating the old building would be expensive, compared with the opportunities a modern library would provide, Jervey changed gears and established a $1 million endowment for support of the new library. The endowment will supply about $40,000 a year.

Building a new library became a popular and well-supported cause in the community. The award-winning firm of Sweet Sparkman Architects of Sarasota was selected to design and build the new library. Ground was broken for the new construction in October 2017.

In honor of Jervey’s many contributions to Venice, the county commission voted to name the new library in his honor.

The new library offers the people of Venice a range of additional services, including, addition open hours, larger collections of books, DVDs, magazines, and newspapers, and improved children’s area, more public access computers, and more reading areas, all within easy access to public transportation and downtown amenities.

Sources: Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Gainesville Sun, Venice Library website
What Members Are Learning About in Sarasota …

RARE TRAVEL BOOKS

“From the Ancient Pyramids to a Voyage through Italy: The Ringling Art Library’s Collection of Rare Travel Books”

Pausanias’s ‘Descriptions of Greece’
Second Century AD. Selection, 1485 transcription

A CONVERSATION WITH ELISA HANSEN,
HEAD OF LIBRARY SERVICES, RINGLING ART LIBRARY
January 22, 2019. 10:30 AM. Chao Lecture Hall, Center for Asian Art
Ringling Museum Campus, Sarasota. Discussion & Refreshments Following
Members Only, Friends of the Library Event. Tel. 941.358.3180
<https://www.ringling.org/events/friends-library-events>

From the early jottings of Pausanias to today’s blogs & guidebooks, travel literature has been a popular and necessary genre. Ringling Art Library’s Special Collections includes several rare travel books (17th-19th Century), valued by the Florida community and its visiting scholars. This event will explore fascinating journeys and the travel-writers who left history a colorful record.

Page Written & Constructed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member & 2012-2015 VP
Book History Notes

The Delong Book History Prize

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) is a global network for book historians working in a broad range of disciplines. With over 1,000 members in over 40 countries, SHARP works in concert with affiliated academic organizations around the world to support the study of book history in all its forms.

SHARP annually awards a $1,000 prize to the author of the best book on any aspect of the creation, dissemination, or uses of script or print published in the previous year. Based on a generous gift from the DeLong family in 2004, the prize was named the George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize. Previous winners include Eva Mroczek’s The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity (OUP, 2016), Kristina Lundblad’s Bound to be Modern (Oak Knoll Press, 2015), Daniel Wakelin’s Scribal Correction and Literary Craft: English Manuscripts 1375-1510 (CUP, 2014), Paula Rabinowitz’s American Pulp: How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street (Princeton Univ. Press, 2014), and David McKitterick’s Old Books, New Technologies: The Representation, Conservation and Transformation of Books since 1700 (CUP, 2013).


Applications for the 2019 prize are being accepted. The prize is awarded in the summer.

Sources: SHARPweb, Brepols Publications, Harvey Miller Publishers, Oxford Univ. Press, Johns Hopkins Univ. Press

Book History Stats

Book History is the official journal of SHARP, published annually under the auspices of Johns Hopkins’ Project MUSE. Johns Hopkins University Press has reported on the most downloaded articles from Book History.

The history of books became a self-identified discipline in the 1980s. Perhaps its emergence can be dated from an article by Robert Darnton, “What Is the History of Books?”, published in Daedalus in 1982. Darnton gives this definition:

to understand how ideas were transmitted through print and how exposure to the printed word affected the thought and behavior of mankind during the last five hundred years.

Book history is now a fairly mature discipline with a vast body of research and many practitioners. Study of the role of books touches on many other areas, and scholars often find common ground and opportunities for investigation in unusual and fascinating areas. SHARP, its annual conference, its annual journal, Book History, and its very active listserv have done much to foster development of book history.

It may not be surprising then in this environment of rapid communication and evolution that the most downloaded articles from Book History are survey articles of the state of the various disciplines that touch on book history.

At the top of the list is Elizabeth Yale’s 2015 article, “The History of Archives: The State of the Discipline,” with 1,757 downloads. According to BH editor Jonathan Rose, “This confirms not only that the article was superbly written, but also that the historiography of archives is a hot new field, and our journal hopes to publish more in that realm.” Also popular was “Silent Reading in Antiquity and the Future History of the Book” by R. W. McCutcheon, with 1,558 downloads.
Books in Brief

Typeset in the Future: Typography and Design in Science Fiction Movies
Dave Addey
Harry N. Abrams
264 pp., 2018

Typography is how texts wear makeup. Over centuries, type has helped created the look of one era after another – type is still used to create the look of bygone eras. But what about the type of the future?

In Typeset in the Future, blogger and designer Dave Addey invites sci-fi movie fans on a journey through seven genre-defining classics, discovering how they create compelling visions of the future through typography and design.

The book delves deeply into 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968), Star Trek: The Motion Picture (1979), Alien (1979), Blade Runner (1982), Total Recall (1990), WALL·E (2008), and Moon (2009), studying the design tricks and inspirations that make each film transcend mere celluloid and become a believable reality. These studies are illustrated by film stills, concept art, type specimens, and ephemera, plus original interviews with Mike Okuda (Star Trek), Paul Verhoeven (Total Recall), and Ralph Eggleston and Craig Foster (Pixar).

Typeset in the Future is an obsessively geeky study of how classic sci-fi movies draw us in to their imagined worlds—and how they have come to represent “THE FUTURE” in popular culture.

This book will not disappoint typographers, whose art is often one of subtleties, with designers working at all levels from theory to sketchpad to understand how the shape of letters will communicate – often subliminally – with readers.

Make Ink: A Forager’s Guide to Natural Inkmaking
Jason Logan
Harry N. Abrams
192 pp., 2018

Jason Logan is an urban explorer. In this interesting introduction to ink, both water and oil based, Logan guides the reader on an expedition, demonstrating how to make ink from a wide variety of natural and synthetic materials.

The preface to Make Ink is written by the writer Michael Ondaatje, best known for The English Patient, for which he won the Booker Prize in 1992. In his preface, Ondaatje describes himself as an author who still writes and corrects his manuscripts with pen and ink, and so, when he learned about Jason Logan, ink maker, he had to meet him. Ondaatje visited Logan and described Logan’s kitchen/workshop as if it were the site of some “lost medieval craft.”

While Logan collects traditional materials like black walnuts and pokeberries in pastoral settings for making inks and dyes, the book is hardly medieval. Logan also finds materials for his inks in the modern city, among discarded drywall, rust, soot, copper scraps, cigarette butts, and other debris. The book is as dedicated to the historical tradition of ink as it is to Logan’s experimental flare.

A dozen recipes for as many colors are given in the book, but the fun of the book is that these recipes are templates for making inks from local materials the reader will enjoy collecting. Ink samples, artist collaborations, a glossary of ink materials, a timeline of ink, and an extended interview of Logan conducted by Ondaatje round out the book.
Books in Brief, concluded

Printer’s Error: Irreverent Stories from Book History
J. P. Romney and Rebecca Romney
Harper
384 pp., 2017

Author J. P. Romney and rare book specialist Rebecca Romney take us from monasteries and museums to auction houses and libraries to introduce curious episodes in the history of print.

Print history, like any history, is full of strange people and goings-on. The road paved by our civilization’s best books is a long and noble one, but it is also lined with unexpected potholes and sharp turns into the unknown; for example, illustrators talking to ghosts, maps bringing countries to their knees, Shakespeare writing awful plays, and Charles Dickens branding America a nation of filthy literary thieves.

Consider that today a Gutenberg Bible is the Holy Grail of book collecting. But that wasn’t always so. James Lennox, a New York millionaire, sent an agent to bid on one at a London auction in 1847, when no one had ever paid more than £215 for a Gutenberg Bible. A bidding war ensued and Lennox was on the hook for £500! He was furious about this exorbitant price that he flatly refused to pay. Eventually, he relented – as it turns out, that was wise.

Among many other tales in Printer’s Error are the story of the man who coined the term “atlas,” the history of the “bad” versions of Shakespeare’s plays, and the fate of William Tyndale, who made the Holy Bible accessible to countless worshippers – and was also burned at the stake for heresies.

The Book Thieves: The Nazi Looting of Europe’s Libraries and the Race to Return a Literary Inheritance
Anders Rydell
Viking, 368 pp., 2017

For readers of The Monuments Men and The Hare with Amber Eyes, the story of the Nazis’ systematic pillaging of Europe’s libraries, and the small team of heroic librarians now working to return the stolen books to their rightful owners.

While the Nazi party was being condemned by much of the world for burning books, they were hard at work on an even greater literary crime. Through extensive new research that included records saved by the Monuments Men themselves, Anders Rydell tells the untold story of Nazi book theft, as he himself joins the effort to return the stolen books.

When Nazi soldiers ransacked Europe’s libraries and bookshops, large and small, the books they stole were not burned. Instead, the Nazis began to compile a library to use in an intellectual war on literature and history. The libraries of Jews, Communists, Liberal politicians, LGBT activists, Catholics, Freemasons, and many other opposition groups were appropriated for Nazi research, and used as an intellectual weapon against their owners. But when the war was over, most of the books were never returned, finding their way instead into public libraries where they remain.

Rydell set out to return one of these stolen volumes to its original owners after it was entrusted to him by the small team of librarians who have begun the monumental task of searching Berlin’s public libraries, identifying looted books, and returning them to their rightful homes.
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.

Macdonald-Kelce Library
University of Tampa
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL
February 17, 2019, 1:30 pm

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.
Florida Bibliophile • January 2019 • Volume 35, No. 5

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

JANUARY 2019

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/)

FEBRUARY

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/)

SARASOTA AUTHORS CONNECTION
presents
Ronni Miller
“Lights On! Recharge Your Creativity”

SAC welcomes author, educator, and entrepreneur Ronni Miller speaking about recharging the creative juices to accomplish writing projects. She’ll also lead the audience in exercises from her Write It Out® program which has motivated her clients for 26 years.

January 23, 2019, 6 PM
Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd, Sarasota, FL

February 28-March 3, 2019
Coastal Magic Convention
Daytona Beach, FL (coastalmagicconvention.com/)

MARCH

No 2019 date yet.
Punta Gorda Literary Fair
Punta Gorda, FL
(no website)

March 2, 2019
BookMania! (est. 1994)
Jensen Beach, FL (https://www.libraryfoundationmc.org/programs/bookmania-festival/)

March 2, 2019
Southwest Florida Reading Festival
The Largest One-Day Reading Festival in Florida
Fort Myers, FL (www.readfest.org/)

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

David Hall
Elisa Hansen, Director of Library Services, Ringling Museum of Art
Lee Harrer
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Gary Simons
Barry Zack, Sarasota Authors Connection

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!

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.

“They were there, all together, up in the air.” Mary Shepard illustration for Mary Poppins, 1934.
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 retired last year from teaching literature at USF, but he continues to edit 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 members gathered at Joan’s lovely home for an afternoon of fellowship, good food, and fun!

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.
I hope all our readers had appropriately bookish holidays—books given, books received, more time for reading—oh yes, with plenty of time for family, friends, and good food!

Now it’s time to look ahead to the new year and maybe make a few resolutions and a few plans.

If we look a little beyond the horizon, FBS will be hosting the 2020 Annual Book Tour for the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies. This will be the first year in FBS’s 36-year history that we have hosted the tour, and there has been great support among our members.

There are many wonderful destinations for bibliophiles throughout the state. We have already identified a number in the Tampa-St. Pete-Sarasota area that will provide a full itinerary for the three tour days, which run up to the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. It will be a great tour for our guests. For FBS members, it will be a great opportunity to see book venues in our own backyard that we might otherwise not visit or be able to get into. I’m already excited about this.

The 2019 FABS Book Tour is in St. Louis. FBS member Sue Tihansky goes to the Book Tour regularly, and she has great stories about the places she’s visited, the books and libraries she’s seen, and the wonderful people she’s met.

As exciting as it is to look ahead to special events in 2020, there are still plenty of exciting activities in store for FBS in the next few months. We have more interesting meetings, the Harrer Book Collecting Prize, our annual banquet, the Antiquarian Book Fair—and there might be a couple of surprises along the way!

We look forward to hosting you at any of our public events, and until we meet…

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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 © 2019 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.