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Deadline for the September newsletter is Friday, September 28, 2018. See page 14 for details.

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.

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 Winter 2018 FABS Journal here.

Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers
Florida Bibliophile Society Annual Banquet
Brio Tuscan Grill, International Plaza, Tampa,
May 20, 2018

FBS President Jerry Morris opened the annual banquet with a welcome message and introductions. The banquet was held for the third year in a room at Brio Tuscan Grill. The attractive surroundings, the attentive service, and the excellent food have pleased FBS members every time. Behind Jerry are several tables of books offered for the silent auction.

The guest speaker for our banquet was Dell De Chant, Chair of Religious Studies, University of South Florida. Dr. De Chant’s engaging talk focused on the evolving relationship between major religions and world culture. Dr. De Chant responded to a lively Q&A session with insight and humor.

FBS Vice President Charles Brown presents this year’s first prize in the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Contest to Autumn Howard (Univ. of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee) for her essay “Collector’s Remorse,” which she read at the banquet. Awards were also presented to two runners-up: Tara Kraft (Univ. of Arizona online) and Jaya Nair (St. Petersburg College). Banquet attendees received a special keepsake booklet containing these three essays. Keepsakes were mailed to all FBS members not in attendance.
Minutes of the FBS Executive Committee Meeting, August 26, 2018

The meeting was chaired by FBS President Jerry Morris. In attendance were vice president Charles Brown, secretary Gary Simons, treasurer Linda Morris, Lee Harrer, Carl Nudi, Irene Pavese, Mike Slicker, Sue Tihansky, Joan Sackheim, and by phone, Joan Knoertzter.

Agenda items for the meeting:

- Should FBS sponsor the 2020 FABS Tour
- Keepsakes for FBS Speakers
- Meetup Unlimited Six-month subscription
- Possible Special Events/Trips This Season
- Meeting Date Changes

Should FBS sponsor the 2020 FABS Tour

FBS is an affiliate of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS). Each year, FABS hosts a four-day tour event in an affiliate’s home state. Last year’s tour was hosted by the Delaware Bibliophiles. FBS was invited to host the FABS tour in 2020. The tour is a significant undertaking, and the executive committee considered two main questions: are there enough book-related venues for the four-day event, and is there enough support among FBS members to plan and conduct the tour?

FBS members Mike Slicker and Joan Knoertzter joined the meeting to discuss these questions because of their long familiarity with FABS and the tour. A list of possible venues in the Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota including plenty of interesting and important sites, such as the Brizzle-Schoenberg Special Collections Center at Ringling College, the Elling O. Eide Center for Research University of South Florida Special Collections, and the Map Collection at the Tampa History Museum.

Discussion of whether FBS could supply enough workers to plan and conduct the tour was led by Joan Knoertzter, based on her experience with tour planning and organization. After some discussion, there was general agreement that FBS should host the 2020 FABS tour, subject to discussion with the members and acquiring commitment from members to participate.

Keepsakes for FBS Speakers

In the past few years, keepsakes for speakers at FBS meetings have been an appropriate book and a commemorative bookplate. The books have been donated by Jerry Morris from his personal collection. Jerry proposed to the committee that FBS should purchase keepsake books beginning with this season, and the committee voted to continue giving the books and paying for them. A signature page will be added to the gift books that FBS members in attendance at the meetings can sign.

Meetup Unlimited Six-month Subscription

Over the past 18 months or so, FBS has had an account at Meetup.org to announce events. There are now over 230 members of the FBS meetup group. A few members of this virtual group have attended an FBS meeting, and three have become FBS members. The committee voted to continue the Meetup group at $90 per six months.

Possible Special Events/Trips This Season

A number of special events/excursions were proposed for the upcoming FBS season:

- Gainesville Friends of the Library Book Sale, Oct 13-17
- Lakeland Library/Art Museum
- Jefferson Memorial Replica in Tarpon Springs
- Bookstore Visits.

The committee felt that special events should be held on weekends, specifically Saturday, when possible. Plans for these events will be announced when they are available.

Meeting Date Changes

FBS regular meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month, September to May, alternating between Seminole Community Library and the Macdonald-Kelce Library at the University of Tampa. This year, three meetings will be held on alternative dates, due to prior commitment of the room or the Easter holiday. The changed dates are January 11 and March 10 at Seminole Community Library and April 14 at the Macdonald-Kelce Library.
Did you know that libraries and bibliophiles have had their own patron saint—since A.D. 1047, no less? Wiborada, of the church of St. Magnus on Lake Constance, Italy, became the first woman in the history of the Catholic Church to be canonized. She was recognized for remaining alone in a tower holding the library of the Abbey of St. Gall during a siege by Hungarian forces, at the cost of her life. (The monks took refuge in a nearby fortress.)

The Library is rich with nuggets like this, as well as what we might expect to see in a work on libraries, like descriptions of the great public and private ones throughout history: from the libraries at Alexandria, Egypt, and the Vatican to the Pierpont Morgan, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Beinecke, the Bodleian, and the great libraries that have been lost. The author’s cultural awareness as an Australian may be evident in his including the Rylands library—Lord Spencer’s private library at Althorp, England—but not the Huntington-Hartford near Los Angeles. (The author credits the university and public libraries in Melbourne, Australia, as helping to “make Melbourne one of the greatest cities of the nineteenth century.” Perhaps.)

Among the most intriguing gems in this work are occasional observations that this reviewer has never seen elsewhere. We have been exposed before to such concepts as how the direction of writing has varied from left to right and vertically. But when else have we been told that “the rate of [library] shelf-sag occurs proportionally to the shelf’s length, to the power of four.” The modern library designer Melvil Dewey calculated from this that the optimal shelf length was one meter: beyond that, sagging was inevitable without reinforcement.

Speaking of library design, Samuel Pepys “housed his books in gilded cases so exactly that his footman, after consulting the catalogue, could locate any book blindfolded.” And if you want to do a first-rate job of protecting your books from light, change out your windows: “Blue and violet glasses are just as bad as untinted glass, . . . whereas red, green, and yellow glasses are highly protective of leather bindings.” One further observation that was a surprise to this reader: “The prohibition of eating and drinking in libraries is less about protecting books from spillages or sticky fingers than it is about discouraging insects and rodents.”

Did you know that books can be distinguished older from younger partially by their smell? As the volatile organic compounds in paper, leather, and glue degrade, at predictable rates, they release a blended scent with notes of vanilla and almond, for instance.

A serious inconvenience, if not outright shortcoming, of this book is its lack of an index. The richness of the text is made less accessible not only by this omission but also by less than intuitive titles such as “A damned sewerful of men: Renaissance Rediscoveries” (Chapter 4).

Finally, to put our own book-collecting and storage problems in perspective, consider that sales of Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings eventually came to “vastly exceed the total number of books written in the Middle Ages plus the number produced in the first decades of printing.” How many meter-long shelves would that fill?
Lost at Sea: Brontë Society to Publish Lost Works of Charlotte Brontë

Early in 2018, The Guardian reported that the Brontë Society will publish two previously unknown works by Charlotte Brontë: a 77-line poem and a 74-line story. The two works were found in a book owned by Charlotte’s mother, Maria Branwell, before she married the curate Patrick Brontë in 1812.

Maria’s book was The Remains of Henry Kirke White, a collection of poems by White (1785-1806) edited by Robert Southey (1774-1843). White, who died of consumption at 21, wrote poems that were admired by Southey and Byron. Southey was an English poet of the Romantic school, one of the Lake Poets along with William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and England’s Poet Laureate for 30 years from 1813 until his death in 1843. Southey gathered White’s poems and other writings, both published and unpublished in Remains, which was first published in 1807. White’s writings allude so frequently to his life and illness that, together, they almost form an autobiography. White was a friend of Maria’s future husband Patrick Brontë when they were both students at St. Johns College, Cambridge.

Maria had annotated the book, and her son Branwell would later embellish it with a sketch and some notes that appear to be in an early form of shorthand. The book was among Maria’s possessions shipped from her home in Cornwall to Yorkshire, where she and Patrick settled.

Unfortunately, the trunk carrying Maria’s possessions was lost when the ship it was on sank off the Devonshire coast. Remains was one of the very few of her items recovered. Patrick later inscribed it in Latin:

Hic erat Liber, Uxonis meae charissimae, et servatus fuit ad undis – igitur, semper servandus. P.B.

(This was the book of my most beloved wife, and it was saved from the waves; therefore, it will be saved forever.)

Maria died in 1821; her children were still young. Over the years, this treasured family possession gained additions: family notes, sketches, and letters, including one by Arthur Bell Nicholls, Charlotte’s husband, written shortly after her death in 1855. And of course, the two works by Charlotte Brontë.

Patrick lived on at Haworth Parsonage (now the site of the Bronte Society museum and headquarters) until 1861. Remains was then acquired by a private collector at an auction at Haworth. It moved to the United States.

In 2015, a California dealer in rare books, Randall House, discovered the two pieces by Brontë, which had apparently been previously unknown, in the pages of a book owned by the Charlotte’s mother. The dealer contacted the Brontë Society, and the materials were authenticated. With the support of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Victoria and Albert Purchase Grant Fund, and the Friends of the National Libraries, the Society purchased the book for £170, 000 ($200,000). Remains will have a permanent home in the Brontë Parsonage Museum. The new publication will include the newly
Brontë, continued

discovered Charlotte Brontë poem and story, a sketch by Charlotte’s brother Branwell, annotations by the Brontë children from Maria Brontë’s book, essays by Brontë scholars placing the Brontë works and Maria’s copy of *Remains* in context, and an account of the manuscripts’ history.

The new book will be the premier publication of the Brontë Society. Reportedly, the publication will be of “high production value”, and a limited edition will be produced exclusively for Society members. Publication was intended for the fall, in time for the holiday season, but a definite date has not yet been announced.

Both the 74-line story and the 77-line poem are set in “Angria,” the fictional world imagined by Charlotte and her brother Branwell in their childhood, which became the basis of several early writings. The newly discovered poem tells about a lovesick wife and a prosperous king. The story is set in 1833, and in its relatively few lines, caricatures individuals from the Bronte home village, Haworth, such as the Reverend John Winterbottom, a religious opponent of their father. It also tells of a public flogging and embezzlement from the Wesleyan chapel.

Left: On the last page of Maria Branwell’s copy of *The Remains of Henry Kirke White*, there is a sketch, believed to be by her son Branwell, and a note in what appears to be a form of shorthand. The note is introduced with a right-pointing hand and ends with calligraphic flourishes.

Above: The shorthand note has been enlarged to facilitate sleuthing.
The Big Sleep (1946; Howard Hawks, dir.) is the second outing for movie duo Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. They had starred together in her first film, To Have and Have Not (1944). Their on-screen chemistry led to three more films together. Their off-screen chemistry led to a personal relationship that lasted until Bogart died in 1957.

In The Big Sleep, Bogart plays Raymond Chandler’s Philip Marlowe in a complex plot which revolves around Lauren Bacall’s character, Vivian, and her younger sister, Carmen. The story begins when their father asks Marlowe to help him resolve gambling debts that Carmen owes to a man named Geiger – a rare book dealer!

Marlowe goes to Geiger’s shop, A. J. Geiger Rare Books and Deluxe Editions. Before entering, he pushes up the brim of his hat and puts on sunglasses, affecting the attitude of an over-eager buyer in search of two particular books. He asks the shop attendant, Agnes (Sonia Darrin), for “Ben-Hur, 1860, (III Edition) with the erratum on page 116” and a “Chevalier Audubon, 1840, the whole set, of course.”

Agnes is unsure. Marlowe asks, “You do sell books?” In the meantime, a questionable character enters the shop behind Marlowe and looks for a signal from Agnes. She gestures that he should head to the back. He disappears through a door at the back. (In the book, Marlowe thinks, “She knows about as much about rare books as I know about handling a flea circus.”) Apparently disappointed, Marlowe leaves. Luckily, Acme Book Shop is right across the street. Again, Marlowe asks for Ben-Hur and Audubon. And again, the attendant (Dorothy Malone) is dubious, but for different reasons than Agnes. She checks a catalog absently before replying that no one would have such books. Marlowe tells her that across the street, they did not know that. The attendant is intrigued. Marlowe has a flask of rye. The attendant has two cups. She closes the store for the afternoon.

Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ, by Lew Wallace, was first published by Harper and Row in 1880. There is no 1860 edition, with or without an erratum. J. B. Chevalier published an edition of John James Audubon’s Birds of America in seven volumes, from 1840 to 1844. Marlowe makes a point to ask for “the whole set” which did not exist in 1840.
What Members Are Reading & Talking About …

LITERATI BOOK CLUB OF SARASOTA

Cook Library, New College (Thursdays, 6pm) / Ringling Art Library (Fridays, 10:30am)
Facilitator: Elisa Hansen, Head of Library Information Services, Ringling Art Library
Schedule • Facilitator

On September 20th, Sarasota’s LITERATI BOOK CLUB launches its 2018 / 2019 Season with a rich variety of topics ~ Vasari, Venetian Art, Monet, Renoir, Whistler, Art Books of World War II, Picasso & the Modernists, Peggy Guggenheim, Women Painters, and more. The Club is a small community of art book readers and art history devotees ~ you will meet some interesting people! For the Club’s full schedule of topics, see link, above. No fee, no registration, all welcome.

Here is the Club’s current bookmark:

Page Written & Designed By Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member & V.P. (2012-2015)
What Members Are Viewing …

FRENCH ART FROM HARVARD VISITS SARASOTA

The Horvitz Collection of French Paintings & Drawings
Horvitz Curator: Alvin L. Clark, Jr., Harvard Art Museums
Hosted by The Ringling Museum, Sarasota, Florida
September 9, 2018 – December 2, 2018

Geneviève de Malboissière (1722–1789), as Melpomene, Muse of Tragedy.
Allegorical portrait, 1765, by Louis-Michel van Loo (Toulon, 1707-Paris, 1771). 92 x 72 cm

Sarasota’s Ringling Museum welcomes this lavish exhibition of 10 paintings, 60 drawings, and 10 related prints (circa 16th-19th centuries) from the distinguished Horvitz Collection of French Art, Harvard Art Museums. The show’s organizing theme is visual image as narrative agency: art as storytelling. (Every picture tells a story.) Do view this special exhibition. Page Written & Designed By Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member & V.P. (2012-2015).
What Members Are Publishing …

THE INKY BROTHERHOOD OF PRINTERS

Maureen E. Mulvihill’s commissioned essay, “A Tale of Three Cities: Remembering Elizabeth Eisenstein (1923-2016),” was recently published in the respected media journal, Explorations In Media Ecology, edited by Lance Strate, Fordham University, NYC, where Dr Mulvihill taught a first-ever Multimedia Research Methodologies workshop (1996-7). The Winter 2017 issue honored the contribution of Dr Eisenstein with several essays by established media scholars and bibliophiles. Maureen’s essay discussed her intersections with Eisenstein in Detroit, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; and New York City, the urban arc of Maureen’s training and scholarly development. Her essay includes 3 large color images and an assessment of the Eisenstein legacy. <Publisher’s Abstract /Webpage >

Eisenstein’s Signature Work On The Early Print Trade,

The Printing Press As An Agent of Change, 2 vols.


Professor Elizabeth Eisenstein (image, right), 2004, with President Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2003-2013).

Photographer, Paul Jaronski. Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor. Licensed, CC-BY-NC 4.0.
Books in Brief

I’d Rather Be Reading: The Delights and Dilemmas of the Reading Life
Anne Bogel
Baker Books
160 pp., 2018

Anne Bogel is the author of the blog Modern Mrs. Darcy, with the goal “to explore what it looks like to be an accomplished woman in our modern world.” The blog isn’t just about books, but books are frequently featured. Bogel is an avid reader and regularly reviews and reports on books in categories like “Literary Matchmaking,” “Best Books You’ve Never Heard Of,” and “Other People’s Bookshelves,” among others. She’s a serious reader who takes a light touch.

Bogel’s blog also hosts her podcast “What Should I Read Next?” The nearly 150 entries include “Ruining your childhood one books at a time” and “Wanna read more? Quit your job.”

If you’ve ever said to yourself “I’d Rather Be Reading” then Bogel’s latest book, I’d Rather Be Reading, is for you. The book is a collection of anecdotes and reflections on the reading life. Chapters in the book lead readers to remember the book that first hooked them on reading, the eternal problem of organizing books, and many other shared experiences of devoted readers.

But Bogel does not lose the reader in reflection, she also invites readers to discover new ways to approach literature and learn fascinating new things about books and publishing. Bogel introduces each chapter with an anecdote from a favorite book. No doubt, reading I’d Rather Be Reading will answer the question “what should I read next”?

Bibliophile: An Illustrated Miscellany
Jane Mount
Chronicle Books
224 pp., 2018

Jane Mount is an illustrator who, in 2012, published My Ideal Bookshelf, in which writers, designers, and other cultural figures shared their favorite books, accompanied by Mount’s illustrations.

In Bibliophile: An Illustrated Miscellany, Mount takes a wider look at the world of books through her illustrations, taking the reader to intriguing bookstores around the world and the workplaces of famous authors, presenting famous fictional meals, and as in My Ideal Bookshelf, bringing together collections of books.

But Bibliophile is not just a book of beautiful illustrations. The images are accompanied by anecdotes, quizzes, poems, and recommendations for reading. Bibliophile is a celebration of the world of books and reading.
Upcoming Events

September 2018

“Forget-Me-Not”: The Literary Annuals of Yesteryear
– Dr. Gary Simons
Seminole Community College
9200 113th St. N.
Seminole, FL
September 16, 2018, 1:30 pm

FBS member Gary Simons will give a presentation on English Literary Annuals. These 19th century annuals were affordable productions which included a variety of literary forms and illustrations. The annuals reflected the British public’s increasing appetite for literature. Beginning in the 1820s, they were usually published in November, in time for December gift giving. The heyday of annuals was 1820-1860, but some titles continued into the early 20th century. 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 2018

Thumbs Up, Down, and Sideways: Film Reviewing for Creative Loafing Tampa, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
– Ben Wiley
Macdonald-Kelce Library
University of Tampa
401 W. Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL
October 21, 2018, 1:30 pm

What’s the point of a film review? Who reads film reviews anyway? Why don’t film reviewers like the movies the audience likes? “Who do you think you are?—you couldn’t make a film if your life depended on it, yet you’re pontificating about the finished product.” Ben will consider all these questions, and more, as he talks about his role as a film reviewer for Creative Loafing Tampa, how he approaches the process of capturing the essence of a movie, and his very subjective reaction to it. If technology cooperates, we’ll watch clips/trailers from a few films that he’s reviewed.
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

SEPTEMBER
September 22, 2018
Florida Heritage Book Festival and Writers Conference, St. Augustine, FL
(fhbookfest.com/)

September 20-21, 2018
Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Sept. 20, 7 PM, New College Cook Library
Sept. 21, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room
Book of the month: When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II, by Molly Manning

OCTOBER
October 16, 2018 – March 13, 2019 (15 events)
Alper JCC Berrin Family Jewish Book Festival
Miami, FL
(http://www.alperjcc.org/artsculture/book-festival/)

October 11-13, 2018
Other Words Literary Conference
University of Tampa, Tampa, FL
(http://www.floridarts.org/other-words-conference/)

October 11-14, 2018
North American Victorian Studies Association Annual Conference
St. Petersburg, FL
(https://www.navsa.org/)

October 13-17, 2018
Alachua Co. Friends of the Library Book Sale
Gainesville, FL
(http://folacld.org/)

October 18-19, 2018
Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Oct. 18, 7 PM, New College Cook Library
Oct. 19, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room
Book of the month: An Artist of the Floating World, by Kazuo Ishiguro

NOVEMBER
November 8-11, 2018
13th Annual Sanibel Island Writers Conference
Sanibel Island, FL (www.fgcu.edu/siwc/)

November 1-15, 2018
JCA 21ST Jewish Book Festival
Jacksonville, FL (jcajax.org/jcafest/#bookfest)

November 15-16, 2018
Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Nov. 15, 7 PM, New College Cook Library
Nov. 16, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room
Book of the month: In Montmartre: Picasso, Matisse and the Birth of Modernist Art, by Sue Roe

November 17, 2018, 10 am – 5 pm
Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading
USF St. Petersburg
140 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg
(www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/)

DECEMBER
December 5-9, 2018
INK Miami
(www.inkartfair.com)

December 5-7, 2018
Cracker Storytelling Festival
Homeland, FL
(http://crackerstorytellingfestival.com/)
Sonnet II

Give me a cottage on some Cambrian wild,
Where far from cities, I may spend my days:
And, by the beauties of the scene beguil’d,
May pity man’s pursuits, and shun his ways,
While on the rock I mark the browsing goat,
List to the mountain torrent’s distant sound,
Or the hoarse bittern’s solitary note,
I shall not want the world’s delusive joys;
But, with my little scrip, my book, my lyre,
Shall think my lot complete, nor covet more:
And when, with time, shall wane the vital fire,
I’ll raise my pillow on the desert shore,
And lay me down to rest where the wild wave
Shall make sweet music o’er my lonely grave.


This Month’s Writers and Contributors

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

David Hall
Lee Harrer
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen Mulvihill
Gary Simons
Ben Wiley

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

**September 16** ● FBS member Gary Simons will give 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 will give a presentation on his work as a movie critic. Ben is a retired professor of film and literature at St. Petersburg College whose movie reviews appear regularly in the Tampa magazine *Creative Loafing*. Ben also writes a column, BookStories, in which he reflects on books which have influenced him.

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

**December 16** ● Holiday Party at Joan Sackheim’s House. FBS provides the ham, and members bring side dishes and desserts. 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 marched across the Selma bridge with John Lewis in 1965, will be our guest speaker for Black History Month. Wilson was a junior at Tuskegee University at the time of the march. He graduated the following year and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, serving in various locations stateside and overseas. 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, or Bestsellers of 1691.” 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.
Fall is in the air… even in Florida! It’s the start of school, the kickoff of the football season, AND the start of the new season of the Florida Bibliophile Society. As you’ll see on our Upcoming Events and FBS 2018-2019 Season pages, we have a fascinating series of presentations as well as member events planned for this season. Kudos to our scheduler-in-chief and president Jerry Morris for a great line-up, from film experts to Florida mystery writers, from English lit to German lit, from the history of the circus to the Civil Rights Movement, it’s going to be a fascinating year.

And as you will see from our Florida Book Events calendar and other event announcements, there are many other events for bibliophiles in Florida to enjoy, as well as events in the arts and literature.

I often hear regrets that people aren’t reading, that books are in trouble, that bookstores are closing… Surely, the book business has faced some serious challenges in the past few years, but to paraphrase Mark Twain, “rumors of the death of the book are greatly exaggerated.”

Electronic media have made inroads, but e-book sales leveled off several years ago, and the same electronic media have empowered small publishers of all types to produce books. Movies have displaced some reading, but blockbuster movies like Harry Potter, The Twilight Series, or The Lord of the Rings have led to publishing and reading phenomena. At the same time, courses and curricula in book arts and book history are becoming more common. Powells online, Amazon, ebay, ABEBooks, Bookfinder.com, and a host of other websites make it easier than ever to locate books of interest and build a collection on any imaginable subject. And my bookshelves are proof!

It’s a great time to be a bibliophile! I hope to see you at any or all of our meetings this year!

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles