

The Florida Bibliophile

November 2019 • Volume 36, No. 3



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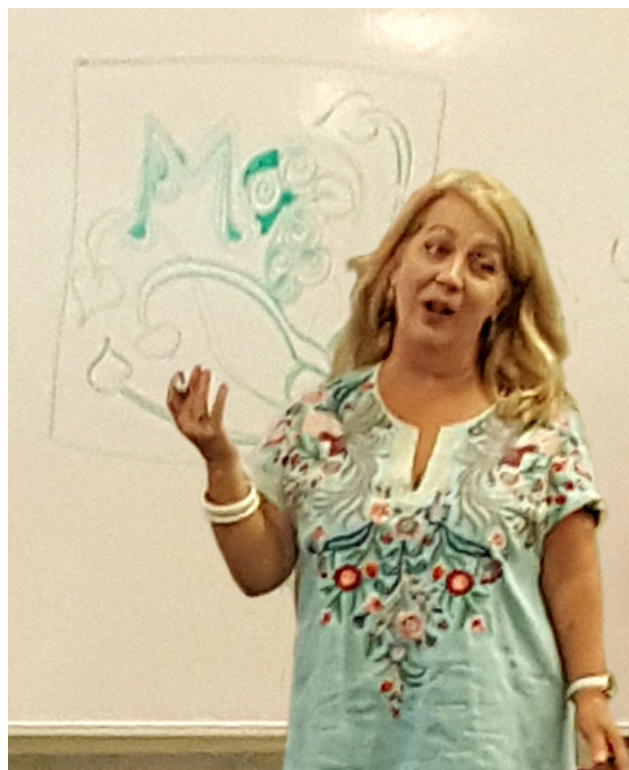
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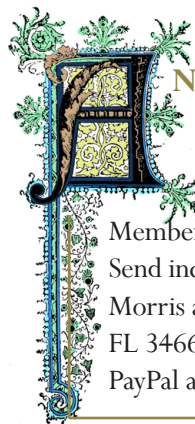
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*Deadline for the December newsletter is Nov. 28, 2019.
See page 27 for details.*

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 2019 FABS Journal [here](#).



Mary Kay Watson guides her audience in making their first Zentangle drawings. She is using this technique to visualize characters and situations in the plays of Shakespeare.



ANNUAL DUES for the 2019-2020 FBS Season are due by December 31, 2019!

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.

FABS Annual Tour – Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota – April 22-26, 2020



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the Florida Bibliophile Society Meeting, October 27, 2019

Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

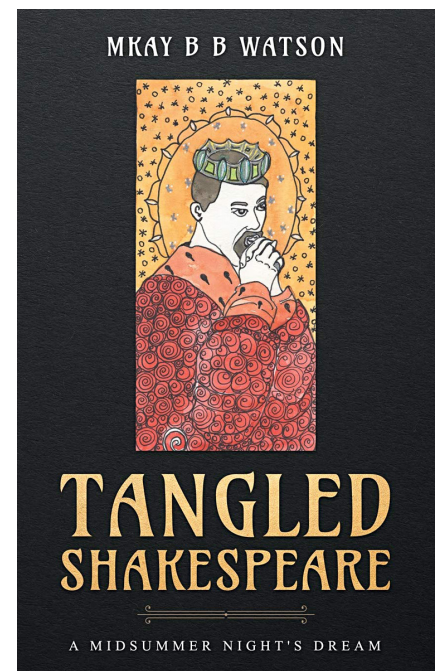
President Jerry Morris began the meeting by noting that our November speaker would be **Jon Chopan**, an instructor at Eckerd College and author of the recently published *Veterans Crisis Hotline*. Jerry solicited inputs from FBS members who participated in the Gainesville Getaway (October 18-20), a visit to the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale, for an article in the FBS Newsletter. FBS members Ben Wiley and Sue Tihansky were attending the FABS tour in St. Louis and reported to Jerry that the President of the Caxton Club had requested 30 copies of our flyer for the upcoming Florida FABS 2020 tour. Deanaletta Seif, a student at the University of Tampa who was a runner-up in the 2019 Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay contest, attended the meeting and was given an FBS book bag.

Peter Max, and Toulouse Lautrec had led her in the direction of more graphic use of the watercolor medium. Samples of her work can be viewed on [flickr](#).

As a watercolorist, she had always wanted to illustrate a book. Additionally, even as a child, she had been fascinated by writers such as Shakespeare and Conan Doyle (and perhaps equally absorbed by the comic cartoon Charlie Brown!). With little formal school background, she found the language of Shakespeare challenging,

but even when individual lines and words were difficult, she was able to extract the gist of paragraphs. Her book *Tangled Shakespeare* – which combines imaginative illustrations with a simplified textual presentation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – is a product of that long-standing desire to illustrate a book, combined with the desire to present the essence of plays in words that “people can understand.” In her recent interview on Rare Book Cafe, Mary Kay noted that she is working on a similar treatment of another Shakespeare play, *Richard III*.

Mary Kay adopted the illustration technique called Zentangle for *Tangled Shakespeare*. As noted on the [Zentangle website](#), “The Zentangle Method is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. We call these patterns tangles. You create tangles with combinations of dots, lines, simple curves, S-curves,



The cover of Tangled Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream by Mary Kay Watson. Mary Kay hopes that a more straightforward telling of Shakespeare's play, coupled with colorful, imaginative art will draw more people into the world of the play and into finding the same pleasure in Shakespeare that she has enjoyed.



Mary Kay Watson's "tangled" rendering of Helena from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Helena, with Demetrius, Hermia, and Lysander, is one of the four young lovers who are the focus of the play. She exemplifies devotion to both her best friend Hermia and her boyfriend Demetrius, despite his unfortunate behavior.

October Minutes, concluded

and orbs. These simple shapes are the “Elemental Strokes” in all Zentangle art. These patterns are drawn on small pieces of paper called tiles.” With Zentangle one can deconstruct apparently complex designs, the sort of complex figures seen in Owen Jones’s classic of decorative patterns, *The Grammar of Ornament*, and with little training create astonishingly beautiful illustration.

Mary Kay is a Certified Zentangle Teacher, and the rest of her presentation was a Zentangle training session. She handed out tiles, pencils, marker pens, and paper tortillons (for artistically smudging pencil lines). For the next half hour, and to a nearly constant chorus of “oohs and ahs” from her audience, she soon had even the least gifted among us making complex (and even beautiful) designs, embellishments on a single capital letter. We learned about auras (line tracing around the outside or inside of a tangle), printemps (essential spirals), bales, and other basic design elements.

At the conclusion of her class Mary Kay noted that she had first learned about Zentangle from the book, *A Zentangle a Day* by Beckah Krahula and recommended that book to newcomers.



The basics of Zentangle are accomplished with a very simple set of tools: paper, a fine point pen, a pencil, and a tortillon (a rolled paper “pencil” used for smudging). The materials shown above were generously supplied by Mary Kay Watson to each member of the audience. They include official Zentangle tiles and a Sakura Pigma Micron pen.

Drawing is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby or profession, but many people (especially adults) believe that they cannot draw. The developers of the Zentangle method, Maria Thomas and Rick Roberts, recognized this barrier in customers for Maria’s artwork and began considering how to help people overcome this barrier and start drawing. That process led to Zentangle. The beauty of Zentangle is that it gets people – even people who think they can’t – drawing. They also saw the meditative aspect of drawing and believed that Zentangle can also help people set aside the daily drama and spend time focusing on something that is beautiful and relaxing. And while Zentangle is not religious, it can be the basis of healthful daily practice. Zentangle does not rely on artistic talent or training – students begin drawing in minutes. From there, their talent, training, or goals can take them in any direction they choose to follow. Even in the hands of experts, Zentangle drawings can have a naive simplicity like those of beginning tangles, or Zentangle can become a sophisticated patterning method for the skilled illustrator. Some people will take the basics and run with them; others will prefer more support or prefer to make Zentangle a hobby in itself. For each type of tangler, there are workshops, videos, websites and books that can enhance and promote their personal drawing practice.

For Mary Kay Watson, this is a perfect combination – Zentangle helps people get into drawing, and *Tangled Shakespeare* helps people get into Shakespeare.



FBS Road Trip: Gainesville Getaway, October 18-20, 2019



The Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale is held twice a year at the Alachua County Bookhouse on North Main Street. At each sale, thousands of people visit during the five-day sale to look through over 500,000 items.

Twice a year – in April and October – The Friends of the Alachua County Libraries holds a book sale. Over 500,000 items are offered for sale in the Friends' "bookhouse" on Main Street in Gainesville. In addition to hundreds of thousands of books are vinyl records, CDs, DVDs, comic books, games, comics, prints and more. Almost 200 volunteers work throughout the year to receive and categorize donations. Better books are set aside for the Collector's Corner. For this October's sale, a number of FBS members drove up from Tampa-St. Pete to attend the sale and enjoy other activities with fellow FBS members in the Gainesville area.

Friday evening, Jerry and Linda Morris, Ben Wiley, and Gainesville resident Charles Brown met for dinner at Formaggio Bistro and Wine Bar for a delicious dinner. We had hoped to eat on the deck, but rain earlier in the afternoon left the deck too damp. We chatted about the antique stores Jerry and Linda had visited in the Gainesville area, about Ben's plans to attend the FABS annual meeting in St. Louis, and of course, the book sale the next day.

Saturday, October 19, was the first day of the five-day sale. Ben and Charles were the only FBS

members to attend the book sale in the morning. The sale was crowded, as it usually is on Saturday morning, with much activity and long check-out lines. This included the Collector's Corner, in which many interesting books and much ephemera could be on display.

We met for lunch at Sweetberries, a sandwich shop not far from the book sale. Gainesville members Dan Hayman and Charles Brown joined Jerry and Linda Morris there. Also there were David Hall, Sue Tihansky, Irene Pavese, and Joan Sackheim who had driven up to Gainesville that morning.

Sweetberries has a great selection of sandwiches, salads, soups, and sides. Sweetberries is a few blocks from the University of Florida and does a steady business in its bright dining room that is filled with local art and on the large deck. It is well known for its homemade frozen yogurt and its selection of brownies, including the buckeye brownie, the Mississippi mud pie brownie, the cheesecake brownie, and others. We passed around a selection of these for a sweet finish to our meal.

After lunch, all of us except Dan headed over to book sale. Saturday afternoon at the book sale

Gainesville Getaway, continued

Sue Tihansky, Linda Morris, Jerry Morris, Dan Hayman, Joan Sackheim, Irene Pavese, and David Hall enjoy lunch at Sweetberries.

is busy, but not especially crowded. Volunteers are constantly restocking the tables and shelves throughout the day, so there are new books to see Saturday and Sunday. It's also easier to see books that might have been overlooked. It was a productive afternoon, and we all came away with some interesting new (to us) books. Most of the FBS group left a little after 3 to return to home or home-away-from-home for a breather before meeting for dinner.



A view of Bivens Arm. The lake is shaped like a bent arm and discharges to a much larger, but intermittently filled, body of water, Payne's Prairie. Once a Native American hunting ground and later adjacent to cattle ranching and orange groves, since 1930, Bivens Arm has been a bird sanctuary and is now part of an extensive conservation area, Bivens Arm Nature Park. The origin of the name "Bivens" is unknown.

There are numerous small lakes in the Gainesville area, one of these, Bivens Arm, flows under US-441 (13th Street in Gainesville). Chopstix Café sits right on Bivens Arm, and has a delightful view of the lake from either the dining room or the terrace. Happily,

it rained much less than predicted on Saturday, so that our comings and goings were easier, and we were able to get a big table on the terrace and dine lakeside in the late afternoon and through sunset. Alligators, cranes, and other wildlife were spotted.

The menu is lengthy, with offerings from many Asian cuisines. When asked for a recommendation, Charles suggested his personal favorite, the House Kung Pao – a bowl full of veggies, three meats, and a generous number of peanuts. Some ordered that as well, but there was a grouper special that evening that sounded (and looked!) delicious which appealed to others. The servers were attentive, perhaps overly so. When asked, our main server said that he wanted to be sure that we were able to finish our dinner in a relaxed way before 7:15 when the mosquitoes would arrive promptly for their dinner! And arrive they did – announced by a bat that performed high-speed aerial acrobatics just beyond the awning covering the terrace. Then, it was a little slap here and there until we were convinced to move on.

As promised at the September meeting, tickets for a play were made available, and Jerry, Linda, Ben, and Charles had an 8 pm curtain time. The theatre was only a few minutes from the restaurant. The Actors' Warehouse began in a storefront on Main Street in Gainesville, nor far from the book sale. In 2017, it relocated one street over to East First Street, to a building that has served variously as a church, a synagogue, and a daycare center in recent years. The building is now refurbished and the

Gainesville Getaway, continued

*The Actors' Warehouse is one of several theaters in Gainesville. It is located on E. First Street in a building formerly used as a church, a synagogue, and a day care. Four FBS members attended the production of *Sordid Lives*, a raucous, "big hair", romantic comedy set in Texas.*

former sanctuary provides a high, open space for a stage and perhaps 100 seats. The show that evening was *Sordid Lives* by Del Shores, a play first performed in Los Angeles in 1996. The play asks the question of how to handle the death of one's grandmother under embarrassing circumstances while keeping a lid on all the family secrets. It became a movie in 2000 and a television series in 2008. A sequel, *A Very Sordid Wedding* was released in 2017. The intimate setting and the energetic performances of the appropriately sordid material made for an enjoyable evening of local theater.

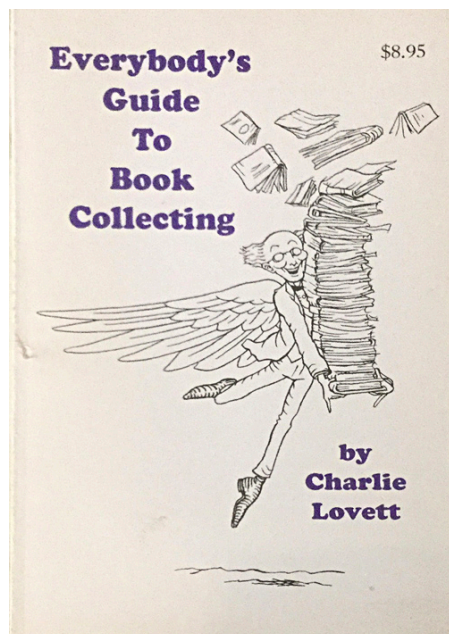
On Sunday, we met for breakfast at 10 am at a popular local breakfast place, The Flying Biscuit Café. We were fortunate to get there before the rush – the wait on Sunday morning can be 40 minutes or more, and plenty of people wait. The menu offers a wide selection of breakfast and lunch dishes. There is outdoor seating, and it was a beautiful morning,



David, Ben, Irene, Joan, Charles, Sue, Linda, and Jerry relax over coffee at The Flying Biscuit Café before heading their separate ways after this year's Gainesville Getaway.

but a table for eight is only available inside.

We enjoyed good food and more lively conversation before adjourning. The Morrises were expected at the Haymans' home to view Dan's collection. David and his riders were ready to head back to St. Pete, as was Ben. Charles returned to the book sale, its relaxed Sunday afternoon browsing, and a productive afternoon of book finding.

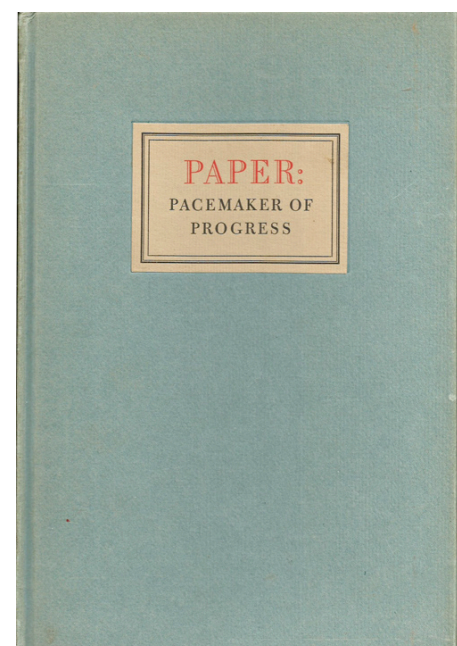
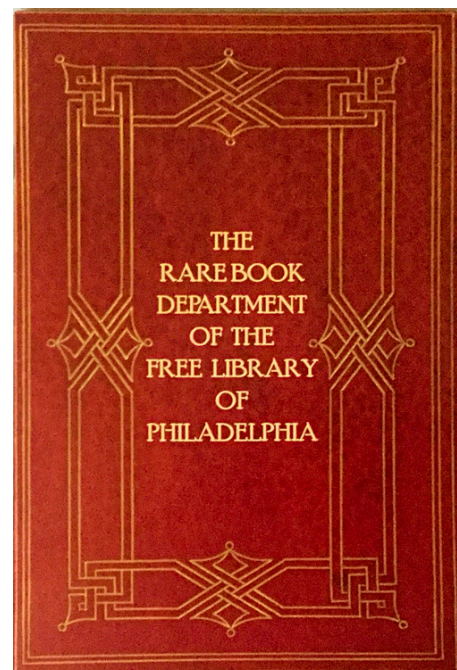
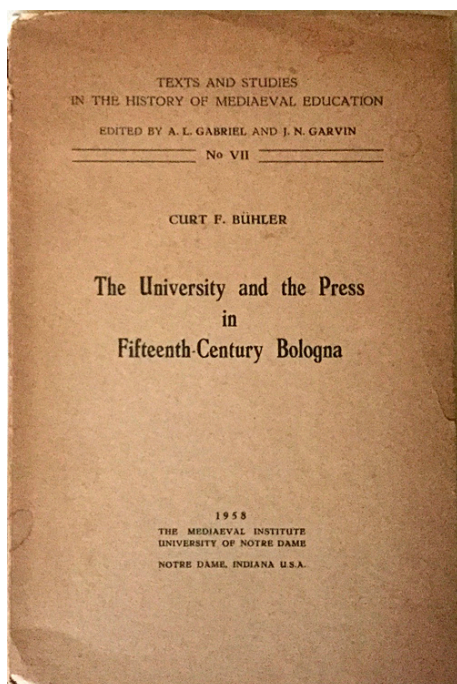
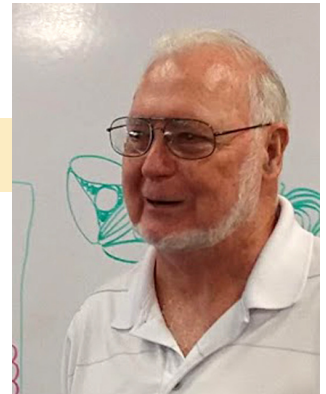
*Gainesville Getaway, continued***Jerry Morris**

Everybody's Guide to Book Collecting by Charlie Lovett, Overland Park, Kansas: Write Brain Publishers, 1993. Charlie Lovett, author of the bestseller, *The Bookman's Tale*, wrote this guide when he was still an antiquarian bookseller. He answers 60 questions about book collecting that will improve the knowledge of beginners and even grey-haired book collectors like me.

The Rare Book Department of the Free Library of Philadelphia. s.l. s.n. 2007? This a handout available for visitors that describes some of the library's collections.

The University and the Press in Fifteenth-Century Bologna by Curt F. Buhler, Notre Dame: The Medieval Institute University of Notre Dame, 1958. I recognized the bibliographer's name and said, "why not?"

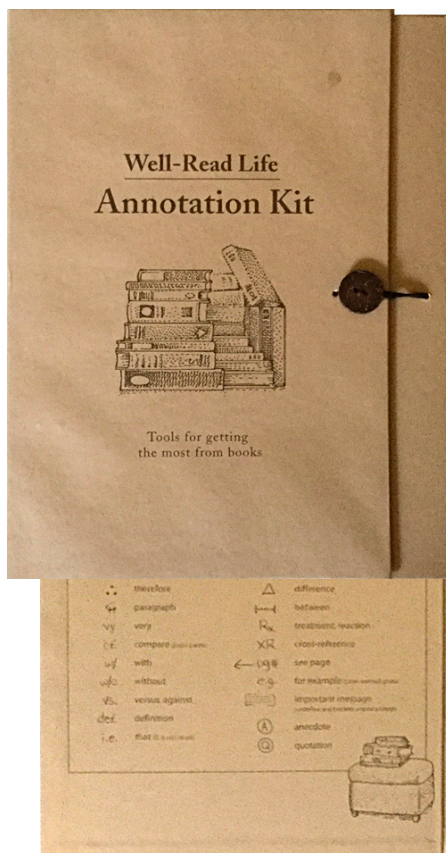
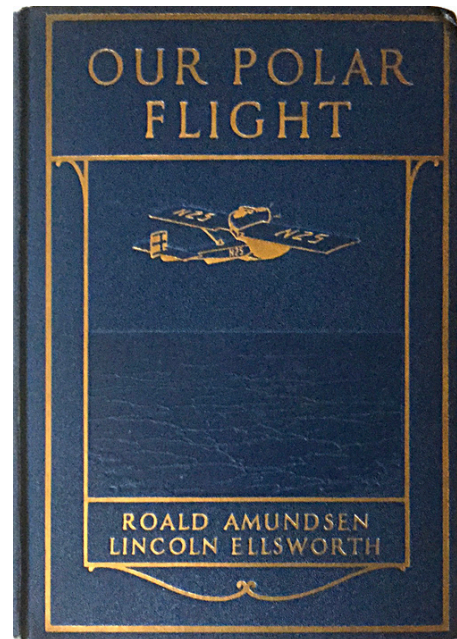
Paper: Pacemaker of Progress, Albany: Marchbanks Press for F. C. Huyck & Sons, 1946. A history of paper and the papermaking industry written by F. C. Huyck & Sons on the 50th anniversary of their business.



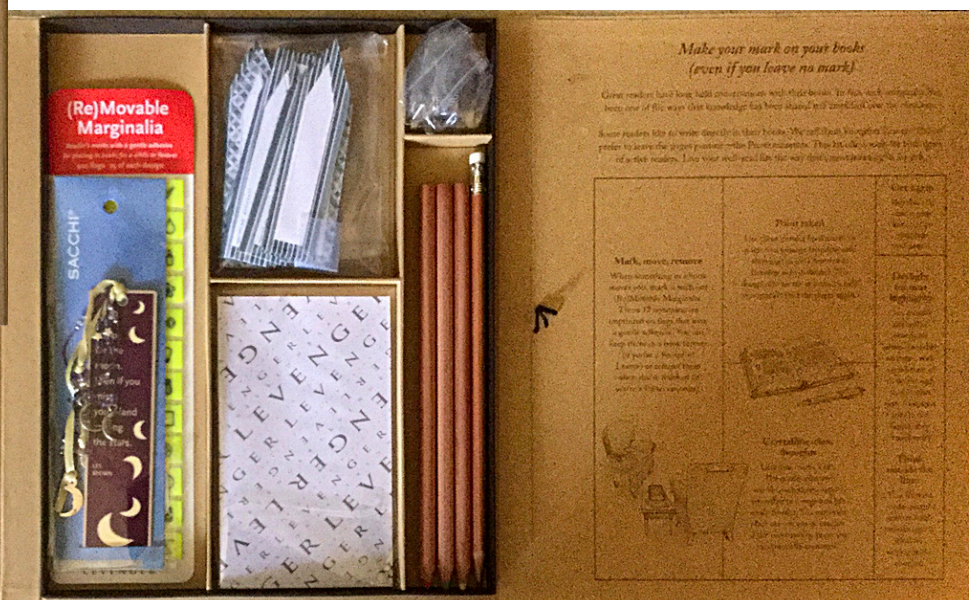
Gainesville Getaway, continued: Jerry Morris

The Debate on the Constitution edited by Bernard Bailyn, New York: the Library of America, 1992 two vols. For my Americana Collection. Debates in the Press, in private correspondence, and in state ratifying conventions in the year 1788.

Our Polar Flight by Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth, New York: Dodd, Mead, 1925. For my Second Sentimental Airman Collection. The aviators' tale of exploring the Arctic from the air.



Well-Read Life Annotation Kit: Tools for Getting the Most from Books, Levens, 2008. One of the items Steve Levens tried to get readers to buy from his Levens company. I never write in my books but I do use bookmarks to save places in books while researching.



Gainesville Getaway, continued: Ben Wiley

Ben Wiley

The Gainesville book sale was huge fun. And I mean literally huge because it's held in a warehouse about the size of a football field with bulging shelves filled with every imaginable book available for purchase, cheap. I talked to one of the staffers at the sale who told me she'd made 180 name tags for all the volunteers necessary to make a sale this size run smoothly. I got in line about 7:30 am for the 9:00 am opening, and already, the line snaked through the parking lot and down the sidewalk. The Collector's Corner was packed hip-to-shoulder with dozens of frantic buyers, hundreds more buyers happily perusing the shelves, more and more people and more and more books arriving throughout the day. No drinks. No food. No strollers. No carts. No animals. No sitting on the floor. No bar code readers. Just books and books and books and books and readers in their glory.

I was excited to find a wonderful three-volume slipcased set of Proust's seven-volume *Remembrance of Things Past* (Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin translation, 1982 Folio Society edition). I have my own paperback copies of the seven volumes of Proust, sometimes

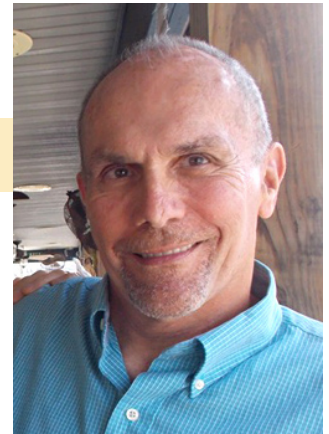
titled *In Search of Lost Time* ("For a long time, I used to go to bed early."), and read them all, carefully and slowly, from 2013 to 2017, in honor of 100th anniversary of the initial publication in 1913.



One of my favorite books is James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, the coming-of-age story of an Irish boy and his conflicts with his country and his church ("to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race"). So I was happy to find the Easton Press issue of *Portrait* with rich green leather binding embossed with gilt shamrocks.

And as a longtime fan of all things Walt Whitman, I was ecstatic to find a signed first edition (2005) of Michael Cunningham's *Specimen Days*, his genre-bending

novel blending science fiction, noir thriller, and ghost story, connected by Walt Whitman's narration and quotation. ("After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, love, and so on—what remains? Nature remains.")

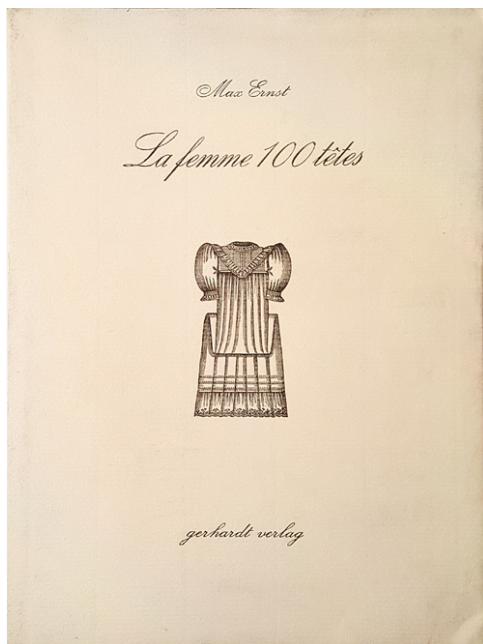


Gainesville Getaway, continued: Charles Brown

Charles Brown

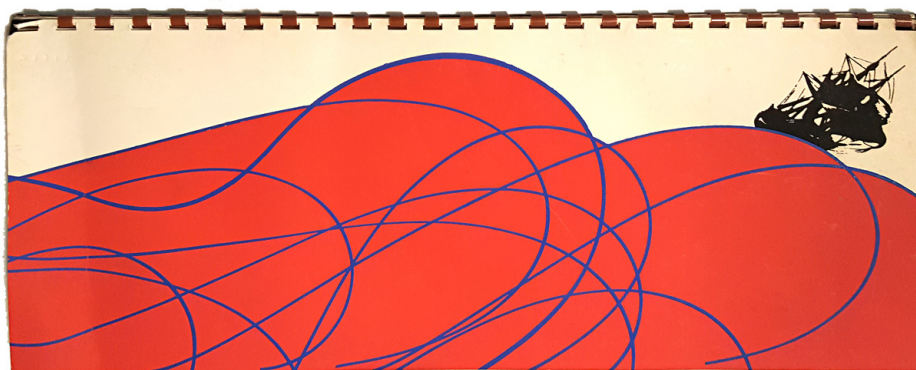
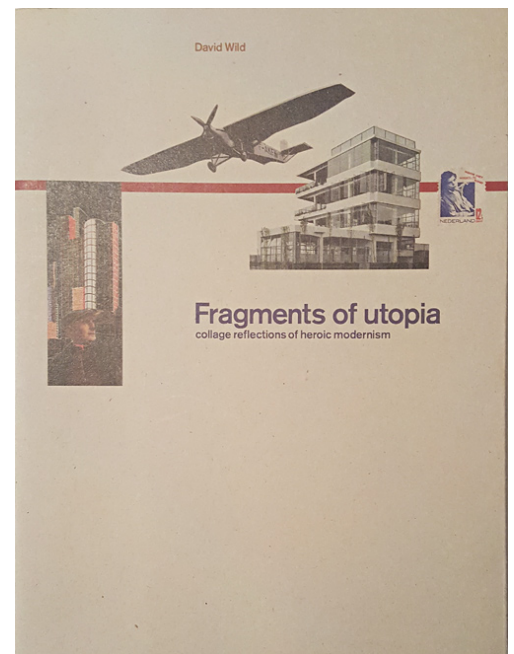
Living in Gainesville means that – for better or worse – I have easy access to the books sale. This sale, as with many others, I found many interesting books, both in the Collector's Corner and on the main floor. I found handmade books, collectible books, unusual books, books that I thought would be useful in language studies, Alice-related books, etc. The book sale is a great place to meet new authors or new subjects or the purely

obscure, and for a dollar or two, one can take home a selection of works just to inspect them and get to know a new writer. Many books in this latter category will eventually find their way back to the book sale's donation boxes. It's fun, and it's for a good cause: all the funds go to library and reading programs in Alachua County.

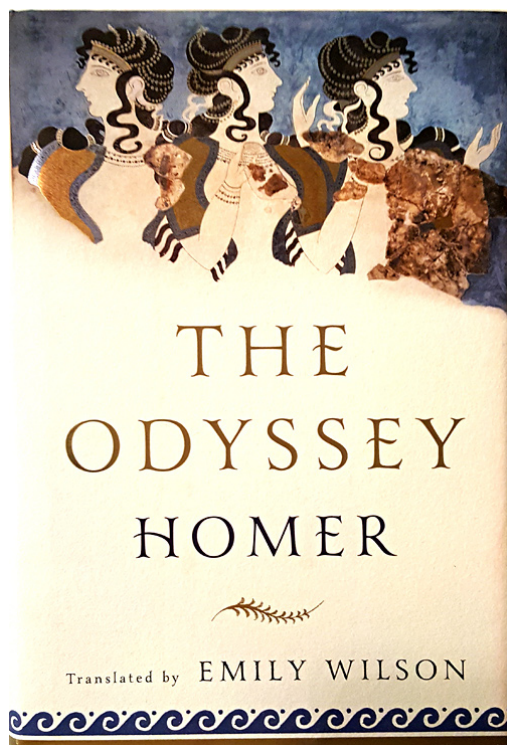


Le femme 100 têtes by Max Ernst. 1962 reprint by Gerhard Verlag, Berlin. First published in 1929, this was the first of Ernst's collage novel. The book is a series of collages made from 19th century black-and-white illustrations. Each one has an enigmatic caption. The title itself is ambiguous: in French, "*Le femme cent (100) têtes*" (the 100-headed woman) is homophonic with "*Le femme sans têtes*" (the woman without a head). I'm fascinated by Ernst's work. This is a beautiful edition of this elegant and strange book.

Fragments of Utopia: Collage Reflections of Heroic Modernism by David Wild. Hyphen Press, 2001. More collage – which is what attracted me to this book. Wild is an architect; the collages and text in this book are his reflection on the project of modernism that dominated the now famous (and highly collectible) Midcentury.



Untitled Artist's Book. Unsigned, undated. 6 by 14 inches. This was one of four books in the Collector's Corner that all appeared to be by the same artist. They may have been student projects. Each one involved printmaking techniques and a variety of constructions, papers, and plastic sheet. Each one is a gem.

Gainesville Getaway, continued

The Odyssey by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson. First edition 2018. University of Pennsylvania bookplate, signed and inscribed in Greek by the author. This was a treat to find. I recently listened to a podcast by Wilson in which she talked about her translation process. Wilson is the first woman to translate the *Odyssey* into English, bringing a fresh approach and modern understanding. Above all, her work has been praised as highly readable and true to the spirit of Homer. Looking forward to reading this.

There was a time when the water supply for one's bathroom convenience was a few feet above and behind one, rather than directly behind. *Pull and Let Go* displays a few of the pulls that were so common at one time. It was produced by Champion Papers in 2000 to promote its Kromekote line, so the paper and printing are the highest quality. It was designed, written, and photographed by graphic designer George Tscherny. It has a small collection of these beautiful promotional print objects.



Epilogue



Time to say goodbye to the Gainesville Getaway. But before they leave, Sue, Irene, and David show off one of Irene's finds, a vintage children's toy book that folds out to form a six-foot-long train, with delightful renderings of cars carrying farm animals, zoo animals, oil, grain (complete with a few rats), chickens. Fun to think about how happy this book made many children over the years... and now a proud collector!



FABS 2019: St. Louis

Tour Notes by Ben Wiley



The Saint Louis Art Museum was originally established in 1879 during a decade in which art museums were established in many great American cities. It remains one of the most significant fine art museums in the U.S. The original building was on the Washington University Campus, but in 1904, the museum was moved its current location, a building designed by architect Cass Gilbert (Supreme Court Building, Washington, D.C.; Woolworth Building, New York City) and which served as the Palace of Fine Arts for the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The museum houses the Richardson Memorial Library, which holds books and other materials related to the history of the museum and its holdings. The library was also the site of the first stop on Thursday of the FABS tour. The statue in front of the museum, the Apotheosis of St. Louis, was created in 1903 by the great American sculptor Charles Henry Niehaus.

The Fellowship of American Bibliophile Societies (FABS) met in St. Louis MO, October 23-27, 2019. FABS 2019, hosted by the Bixby Club of St. Louis, featured full and fascinating days for the 43 members in attendance. Registrants were there from throughout the nation, representing numerous bibliophile societies, including Rowfant (Cleveland), Grolier (New York), Caxton (Chicago), Moveable Book Society, Book Club of Washington, Book Club of California, Book Club of Detroit, Miniature Book Society, and other bibliophile societies in Boston, Salt Lake City, Delaware, and more. It truly was a national gathering of book lovers and book geeks, all anticipating intense encounters with books and those who love them.

This included Sue Tihansky and Ben Wiley of the Florida Bibliophile Society. While in St. Louis, Sue and Ben distributed materials for FABS 2020 (April 22-26) when bibliophiles are invited to our area for three days of activities slated for St. Petersburg, Tampa, and Sarasota.

John Hoover, President of the Bixby Club and Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library, and

Julie Dunn-Morton, also of the Mercantile Library, welcomed the group at an opening reception at the Frontenac Hilton, our host hotel. They reminded us that over the next few days, we would experience a wide range of book-related events (libraries, special collections, book arts, printing presses, bookstores, panel discussions, and more) leavened by non-book activities too (art museum, Missouri wine tasting, campus tours, state park, lunches/dinners, and more).

Suffice it to say their predictions and promises were spot on.



FBS members Ben Wiley and Sue Tihansky attended FABS 2019 Annual Tour in St. Louis. It was Ben's first FABS, but Sue has participated in several annual tours.

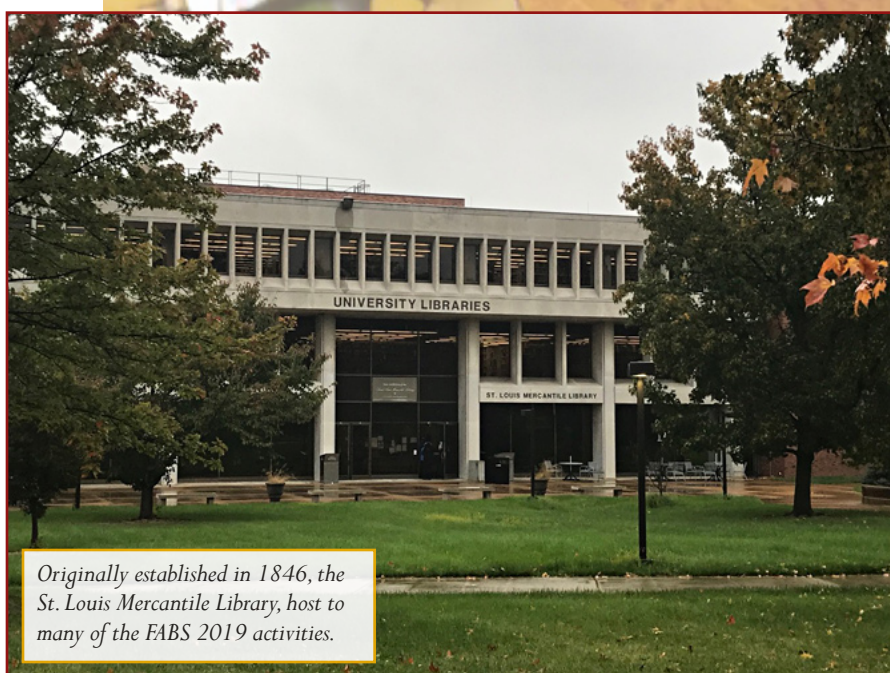
FABS 2019, continued

WEDNESDAY. We settled in at our host hotel, the Fontenac Hilton, and were welcomed with a reception by John Hoover, Director of the St. Louis Mercantile Library and President of the Bixby Book Club. John gave us an overview of St. Louis book history and collectors.

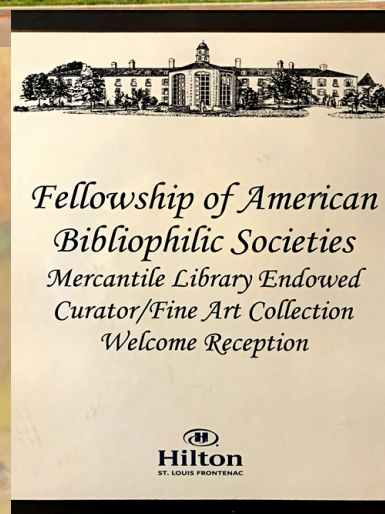
After the reception, we were feted at the Kay Kramer Printery, where we were each able to offset print our own cards on vintage presses.



The Fontenac Hilton Hotel was the host hotel and home base for the FABS tour.



Originally established in 1846, the St. Louis Mercantile Library, host to many of the FABS 2019 activities.



FABS guests enjoy looking through racks and drawers of various type fonts on the Central Print tour of the Kay Kramer Printery.

FABS 2019, continued

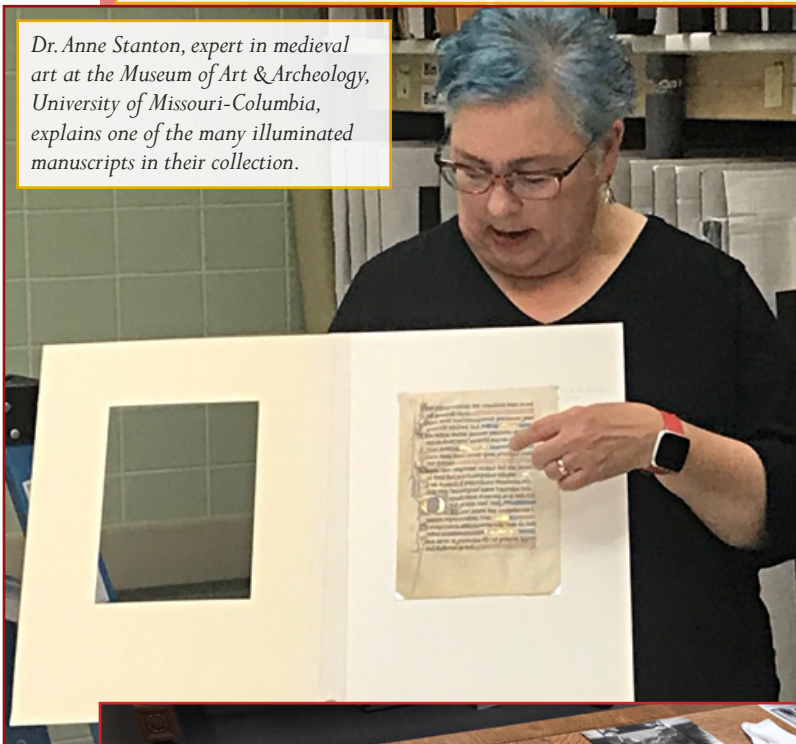
THURSDAY. We enjoyed a trip to the Richardson Memorial Library, Saint Louis Art Museum, then on to a tour of the Washington University Olin Library Special Collections, with a walk to lunch at the Whittemore House on campus hosted by Jim Schiele who showed the group the Schiele Collection of Freedom (prints, art and rare books). In the afternoon, we headed to the *Headlines of History: Historic Newspapers Through the Centuries* tour at the Mercantile Library, then a curator's tour of the art archives, followed by a Halloween Dinner at the Library. The Mercantile Library, the first library west of the Mississippi, has collected for nearly 200 years and is especially noted for its Americana, including deep river history and folklore, railroadiana, and art.



New York Historical Society

Cass Gilbert's original sketch for the Richardson Memorial Library at the St. Louis Art Museum.

Dr. Anne Stanton, expert in medieval art at the Museum of Art & Archeology, University of Missouri-Columbia, explains one of the many illuminated manuscripts in their collection.



A curator at Ellis Library, University of Missouri-Columbia displays the college's book arts



FABS guests tour the Richardson Memorial Library, Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM), that features historic photographs. Cotton gloves are provided, but curators suggested that careful handling with bare fingers is a better way to protect these valuable, fragile archives.

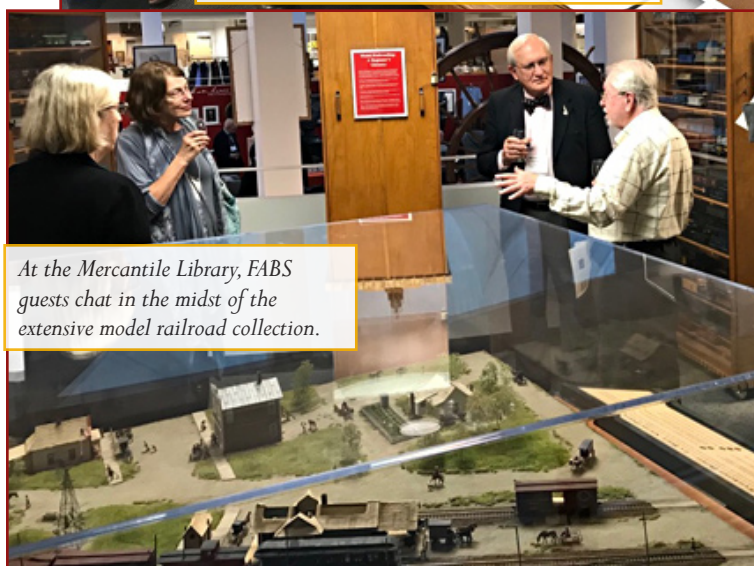
FABS 2019, continued: THURSDAY



FABS guests pore over Special Collections at the Richardson Memorial Library, SLAM.



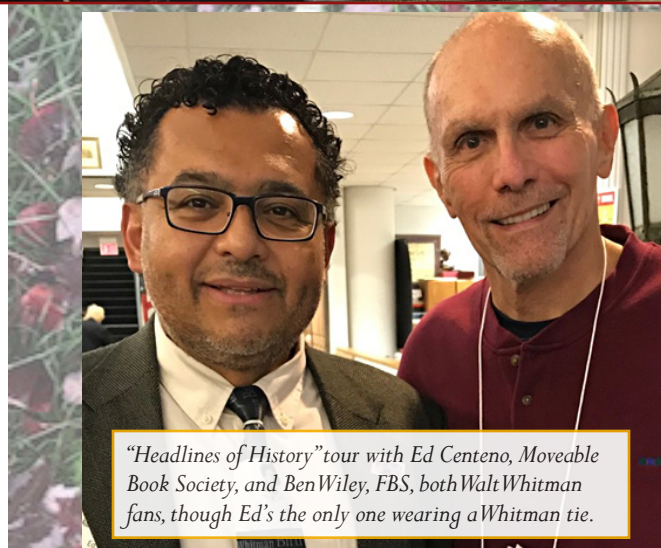
Rare miniature illuminated manuscript housed at Principia College Library.



At the Mercantile Library, FABS guests chat in the midst of the extensive model railroad collection.



Bixby Club Halloween Dinner at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.



"Headlines of History" tour with Ed Centeno, Moveable Book Society, and Ben Wiley, FBS, both Walt Whitman fans, though Ed's the only one wearing a Whitman tie.

FABS 2019, continued

FRIDAY included a trip to Mizzou (University of Missouri at Columbia) for the Museum of Art & Archeology collection, lunch at the University Club, then the Ellis Library Special Collections, followed by Special Collections at the State Historical Society (SHS). This featured two comprehensive collections of the artists most associated with Missouri, Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham. That evening, there was a buffet dinner at Columbia Books, an independent, family-run bookseller, a longtime favorite in the Missouri heartland.



Rare medieval illuminated manuscript from a Book of Days in the Ellis Library Special Collections.



FABS members look over a collection of book arts by Cuban artists at the Museum of Art & Archeology in Columbia, MO.

While visiting the Special Collections at the State Historical Society (SHS) at the University of Missouri, featuring the work of noted Missouri artists, Thomas Hart Benton and George Caleb Bingham, children were in the museum for Halloween festivities and dressed as the artists and posing as if painting a portrait.

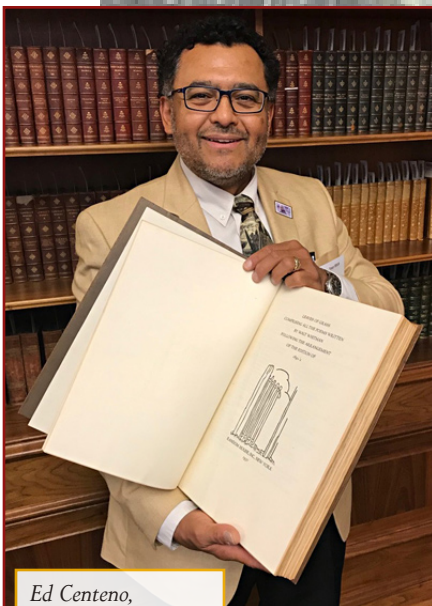


FABS 2019, continued

SATURDAY. We returned to the Mercantile Library for a symposium on “From Cartoons to Campaigns in Print: Politics on Paper.” This panel featured the editorial cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*. Under gray skies in the afternoon, we headed to Principia College (Elsa, Illinois), a Christian Scientist college in a charming little Chautauqua town, for a planned tour of the distinctive campus architecture by Bernard Maybeck, but rain held us inside. Instead, we enjoyed an intriguing presentation about the campus architecture, all located right on the banks of the Mississippi River. While there, we were treated to their extensive rare book archives and collection of book arts. The celebratory closing night dinner was at the Pere Marquette Lodge, a rustic, historic state park lodge, with a impromptu Walt Whitman recitation from Ed Centeno of the Moveable Book Society.



At the FABS symposium, the *St. Louis Dispatch*'s political cartoonist Dan Martin creates the iconic Weatherbird character with a special message for FABS guests: *Welcome to the Merc!*



Ed Centeno, Moveable Book Society, and Whitman collector extraordinaire, holds an 1930 Random House issue of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, following the edition of 1891-'2, housed in the Special Collections of the Marshall Brooks Library at Principia College.

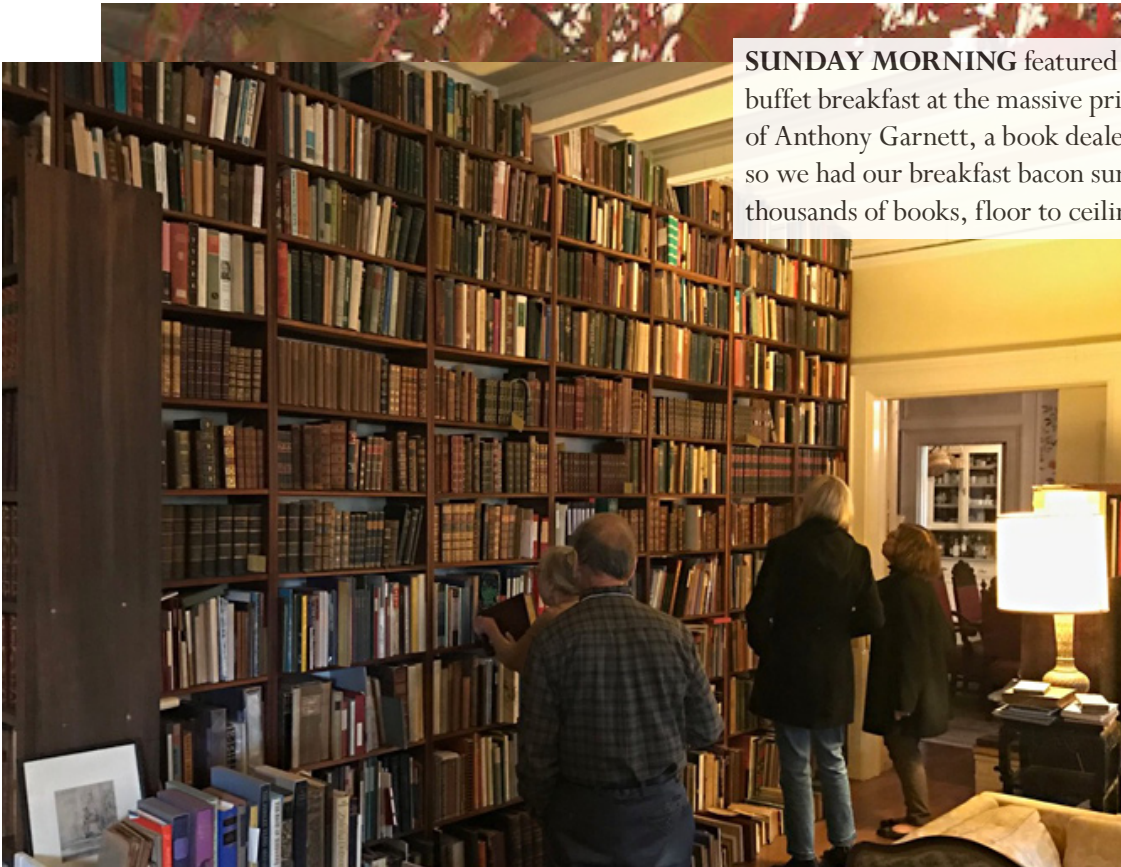


This is a portion of Principia College's Rare Book and Special Collection, featuring first edition of 'Paradise Lost,' books with fore-edge paintings, correspondence from Virginia Woolf and Oscar Wilde, rare bibles, and many items related to Christian Science.




Good laughs and conversation at the closing night banquet at the historic Lodge, built by the CCC, in the Pere Marquette State Park overlooking the scenic Illinois River.

FABS 2019, continued



SUNDAY MORNING featured a farewell buffet breakfast at the massive private home of Anthony Garnett, a book dealer and seller, so we had our breakfast bacon surrounded by thousands of books, floor to ceiling.



New books, old books, new friends, old friends – FABS St. Louis offered it all, plus stunning autumn colors in a magnificent midwestern riverfront backdrop.



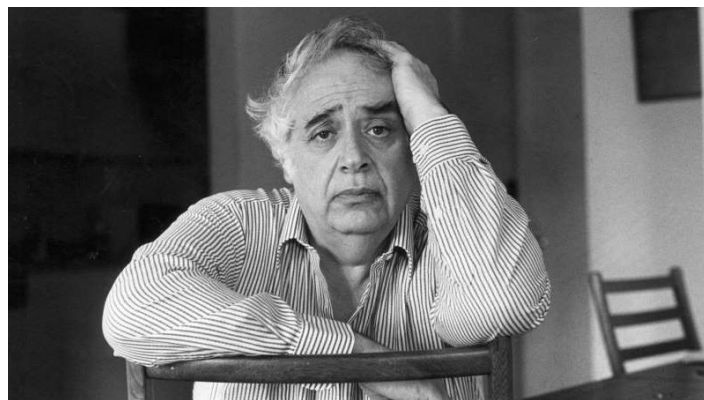
Harold Bloom, 1930-2019

Harold Bloom was a leading figure in American literary criticism for 60 years.

Beginning in 1959, he wrote more than 40 books, including 20 books of literary criticism, several books about religion, and a novel. In addition, he edited hundreds of anthologies for Chelsea House Publishing. His work has been translated into more than 40 languages. Bloom was a member of the Yale English Department from 1955 to 2019, and despite health challenges, Bloom taught well into his later years, swearing that he would need to be removed from the classroom “in a great big body bag” – he taught his last class the week of his death.

Bloom died on October 14, 2019.

Bloom was a relentless defender of the “Western Canon” and argued for the excellence of those works, created and selected over centuries, that became



Harold Bloom in 1990.

Jim Wilson, New York Times

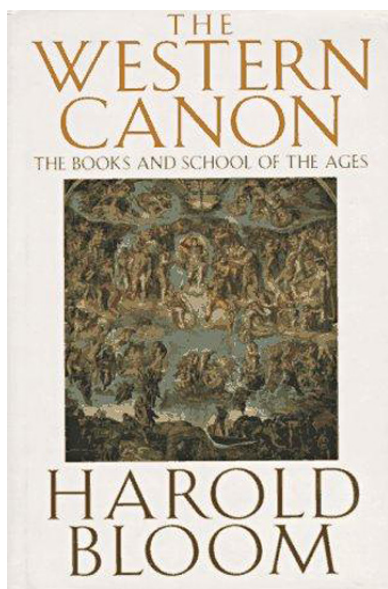
But it didn't stop there. Bloom's books *The Anxiety of Influence* (1973), *The Book of J* (1990) and *How to Read and Why* (2000) were also well received, widely read, and influential. The latter two also bestsellers. And there were many more books.

David Bromwich, a Yale Sterling Professor of English as was Bloom, remembers Bloom as being “as complete an original as a scholar can be.” Bromwich added that Bloom made lasting contributions to the critical literature on Shelley, Blake, Yeats, Stevens, Shakespeare – and a great many other poets. “He had a prodigious energy for both writing and editing, but I think teaching mattered to him most of all. He was an extraordinarily generous friend and colleague – as if he simply had more to give and more to spare than others do,” said Bromwich in Yale University's memorial to Bloom.

Bloom had a prodigious capacity for reading. He claimed said he could read and absorb a 400-page book in an hour. His friend Richard Bernstein, a professor of philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York City, told a reporter that watching Bloom read was “scary.”

Bloom also claimed that his photographic memory contained all of Shakespeare, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, all of William Blake, the Hebrew Bible, and Edmund Spenser's thousand-page poem *The Faerie Queene*. He frequently recited from any of these and more.

Rotund, erudite, and often caustic, Bloom was compared to Samuel Johnson, the great 18th-century critic, essayist, lexicographer, and man about London. Bloom liked that comparison. And like Johnson, Bloom made a powerful impression on his era that will not soon be forgotten.



When *The Western Canon* was released in 1994, it was described in the *New York Times* as “heroically brave, formidably learned.” It fueled as discussion that continues today.

the core of Western curricula. Authors like Shakespeare, Dante, Cervantes, Austen, Whitman, Tolstoy, and Joyce. In his famous book, *The Western Canon: The Books and School of the Ages* (1994, Harcourt Brace), he considers the work of 25 authors and lists many more in an appendix, works that range through several millennia and many cultures. In later years, he criticized his list, concerned that “the list” distracted from the main point of the book.

Bloom's views stood

against the many currents of multiculturalism that sought lesser-known authors and works in order to reveal other voices and points of view. *The Western Canon* was influential academically, and it was a bestseller.



Lost Chapter of *The Tale of Genji* Discovered

A thousand years ago, a Japanese noblewoman and lady-in-waiting known as Murasaki Shikibu penned what is often considered the world's first novel and one of the most influential and important works of Japanese literature *The Tale of Genji* recounts the romantic and political exploits of a prince in the Heian era of Japan. Murasaki's diary shows that *Genji* was already in circulation by 1008. At the time, poetry was the highest literary art in Japan, and novels like *Genji* were regarded as light entertainment for the court's ladies. As such, it was extensively, but carelessly, copied, and many variants were produced. About 300 early copies are known which display many differences and even extra chapters. By the 13th century, the text was highly corrupt.

At that time, the poet Fujiwara Teika, was already at work compiling and reconciling the various versions. Teika reveals in his diary that his copy of *Genji* had been lost in the 1190s, which motivated him to began the process of compiling a new version. The result of his work was published in 1225 and is often referred to as the *Aobyashibon* ("the book with the blue cover"). Published in five chapters, it became the new critical edition of *Genji*, and its copies became basis for most modern editions of *Genji*.



Japan Times

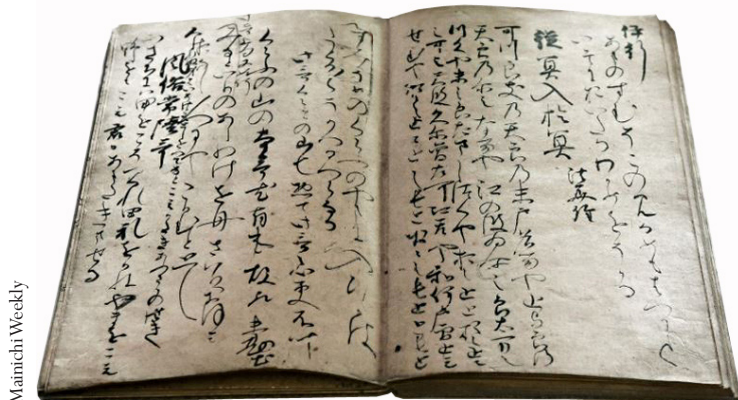
Motofuyu Okochi, descendant of a Japanese feudal lord, displays the newly discovered fifth chapter of a seminal version of *The Tale of Genji*. The material has been in his family since 1743 and was found in a storeroom.

that time. Changes crept into various copies, and though not as serious as the situation in Murasaki's day, questions were raised from time to time.

In the 1930s, the first four chapters from the original edition of *Aobyashibon* in Teika's own hand were discovered. These chapters immediately became national treasures of Japan, and indeed, of world literature. In October 2019, the fifth and final chapter of Teika's *Genji* in his own hand was discovered. The chapter was not lost in the sense that it was unknown or not extant, but in the sense that the original first four chapters had been found, but not the fifth, until recently.

The manuscript was discovered among the heirlooms of Motofuyu Okochi, 72, a descendant of the former feudal lord of the Mikawa-Yoshida Domain in Aichi Prefecture. The manuscript has been in possession of the Okochi family since 1743 when it was inherited from another clan.

Scholars have already scrutinized the manuscript and compared it to modern critical editions of *Genji*. They find few differences other than minor grammatical issues – a testimony to the faithful reproduction of *Genji* and the scholars who have worked to assure it over almost 800 years.



The fifth chapter of Teika's version of *The Tale of Genji*. It was written by Teika in the early 13th century.

Because the printing press was not introduced into Japan until around 1600, copying was the only means of reproducing *Genji* from the 13th century up to



“Sam Clemens” Signature Found in Mark Twain Cave

Simms Cave, Panther Cave, Salpeter Cave, McDowell’s Cave, McDougal’s Cave, Mark Twain Cave – the real name depends on who (and when) you ask. Mark Twain, born Samuel Clemens, lived in Hannibal, MO, from 1839 to 1853, age 4 to 17. He and his brothers Orion and Henry played in nearby McDowell’s Cave, which later featured in Twain’s landmark 1876 novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as McDougal’s Cave. The novel’s popularity led the curious to seek out the cave, so much so that by 1886, it was a bustling local tourist attraction drawing a dime from every visitor. By then, of course, it had been renamed as Mark Twain Cave. Tours of the cave have been given continuously since that time.

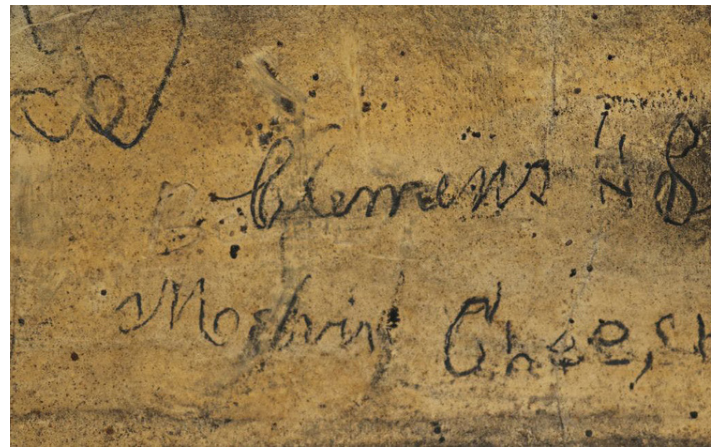
For 50 years, visitors saw the cave just as the Clemens brothers had, by candlelight or kerosene lamp. In the 1930s, electric lights were added. Thousands of people signed their names “in everything from pencil to candle wax to berry juice.” In the 1970s, the cave became a National Historic Landmark, and writing on the walls was thereafter prohibited.



A new entrance to the cave was built in 1890 when the original entrance proved to be impractical for large groups of tourists that were coming to the site.

The cave had a succession of owners over the years, but in 1923 it was for sale again. It was purchased by Evan Thomas Cameron, a county judge. Ownership passed down through Cameron’s family to the current owners, the Coleberds.

It stood to reason that among all those signatures,



The signature “Clemens” appears on the wall of the Mark Twain Cave in Hannibal, MO.

there must be a Clemens, but with over three miles of paths (six miles of wall!) and an estimated 250,000 signatures, this one little word eluded visitors, scholars, and owners for decades.

On July 26, 2019, scholars in Hannibal for the quadrennial Clemens Conference were given a special tour. In attendance were Cindy Lovell, former director of the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum in Hannibal and Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT, and Linda Colberd, the cave’s owner. Lovell and Colberd had searched for the signature for decades.

Once again they wandered off with two colleagues to search. Soon, the flashlight beam happened to fall on something Colberd recognized. As she held the light steady for closer inspection, Lovell began to exclaim “Clemens! Clemens! I see Clemens!”

The discovery was not announced immediately. Arrangements were made for high resolution photographs and experts were contacted for authentication. The photographs revealed “Saml,” a common abbreviation for Samuel in Twain’s day, etched into the wall near the “Clemens,” which was written in pencil in a “beautiful cursive hand.” It is speculated that Clemens began to etch his name and, finding it difficult, continued in pencil.

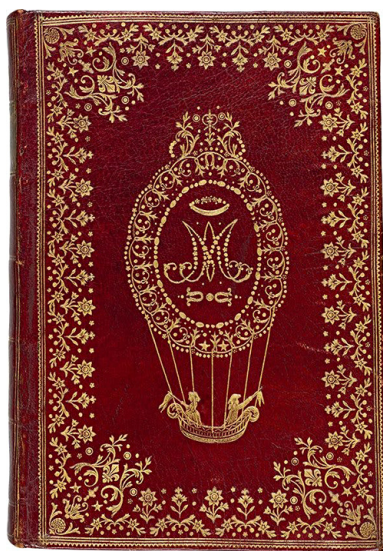
Twain scholars Alan Gribben and Kevin Mac Donnell authenticated the signature, and in late September 2019, the official announcement was made.



Significant Gift of French Books for the Morgan Library

On October 16, the Morgan Library and Museum announced the acquisition of an “unparalleled” collection of 18th-century French manuscripts and bindings. The collection came to the Morgan through the bequest of Jayne Wrightsman.

Wrightsman, who died in April at age 99, was a fixture of New York society, but one who avoided publicity. With her late husband, Charles (1895-1986), Jayne spent much of her life learning about and purchasing fine art. The Wrightsman fortune came from oil. Charles was president of the Standard Oil Company of Kansas from 1932 to 1953 and owned a controlling interest in the company for much of that time.



One of the fine bindings in the collection donated to the Morgan Library by the Jayne Wrightsman estate. This one contains works by Barthélemy Imbert (1747-1790), a French writer. It was bound for Marie Antoinette in the style “à la Montgolfière.”

In retirement, the Wrightsmans devoted themselves to art, building an impressive collection for their 19-room New York apartment, but even more impressive were their gifts to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. They have been called the most Met’s important modern benefactors, giving works such as Gerard David’s *Virgin and Child with Four Angels*, Vermeer’s *Portrait of a Young Woman*, as well as works by El Greco, Tiepolo, Georges de La Tour, Rubens, and

Jacques-Louis David. Their donations of furniture and objet d’art, mostly in the 18th century French style and all of the highest quality and importance, fill 11 galleries. The Wrightsmans also donated works to the British Museum, the Louvre, and the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Though her focus was not books, Jayne Wrightsman also built a significant collection of fine books and bindings. Beginning in the 1960s, she began to work

through agents to acquire 18th-century French books and manuscripts as an important of her project to recreate the splendor of that period in France in her home. The bequest to the Morgan from this collection includes includes 19 manuscripts, 149 printed books in 177 volumes, and 10 watercolours of botanical subjects.

John Bidwell, Astor Curator and Department Head for printed books and bindings at the

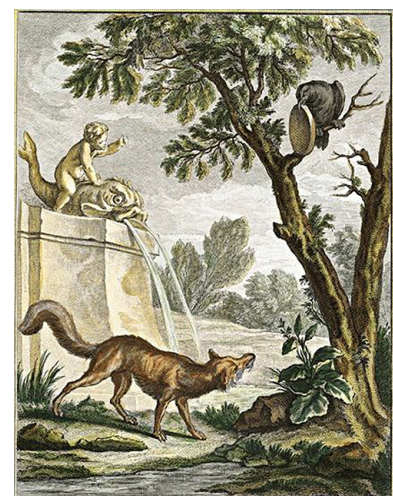
Morgan, described the gift as “transformational”. Highlights include two important editions by La Fontaine – a four-volume folio with plates after Jean-Baptiste Oudry – and a “Fermiers Généraux” two-volume octavo with plates after Charles Eisen. Both in morocco leather decorated in gold.

Bidwell described a book whose binding is tooled in gold “à la Montgolfière,” referring to the hot-air balloon used by the Brothers Montgolfier in the first piloted ascent. The accomplishment fascinated the French and became a motif in the decorative arts.

The books were chosen for Wrightsman primarily for their significance, provenance, and decoration, so their subjects range widely, “from politics to religion to military strategy to court entertainments,” according to Bidwell. This cross-section of 18th-century subjects adds to the interest in the collection.



Jayne Wrightsman maintained a low profile and often self-effacing, but she became intensely interested and knowledgeable about art. The Wrightsmans were good friends of John and Jackie Kennedy, and often hosted them, either in New York or in Palm Beach.



An Oudry illustration for “The Raven and the Fox” by La Fontaine.



Books in Brief

For the Love of Books: Designing and Curating a Home Library

Thatcher Wine and Elizabeth Lane.

Gibbs Smith

264 pp., Sept. 2019

For the Love of Books is about the story our favorite books tell. Our books – the ones we choose to keep – tell the story of who we are. They remind us who we once were and who we aspire to be.

For the Love of Books joins many similar books that have appeared in recent years that might be called “books about books as decor.” Each in its way reflects a contemporary veneration of the book – not a bad or trivial thing. From the teenager who lines up a favorite series of book on a shelf to a collector displaying fine volumes, shelving and displaying books is part of their pleasure. Author Thatcher Wine has built a practice on this idea that he calls “book curation” over the past 20 years, and *For the Love of Books* is a documentation of that practice.

In 2001, Wine established [Juniper Books](#). At the

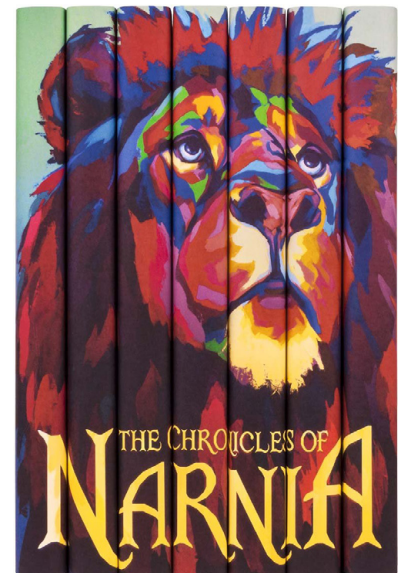
outset, Wine located “one-of-a-kind and rare book collections for clients around the world.”

A few years later, Wine introduced custom book jackets, which expanded his business and his clientele. In addition to truly customized book jackets, the book jackets are offered “off the shelf” for a number of series and genres. Wine has established book subscriptions as well, such as BESO (Books Everyone Should Own).

Wine has built book collections for the rich and the famous, and though he does not reveal client names, his work for Gwyneth Paltrow made public splash. Wine has gone beyond grouping books by color to creating custom book jackets that can reproduce a single image on the spines of a few books or a wall full, as shown on the cover of *For the Love of Books*.

While that is primarily a decor approach, Wine’s book is clear that this about loving books and amplifying their inspiration, not just decorating rooms. With chapters that cover the roles books play in our lives, the rooms where books are used and found in our homes, and the history of private libraries, organization and even elimination of books, *For the Love of Books* takes a fresh approach to living beautifully with books.

Wine’s co-author is Elizabeth Lane, an art historian, graphic designer, and former art curator who is now the book buyer for Partners Village Store and Kitchen in Westport, MA.



Sources: Juniper Books; Amazon; *Town and Country*

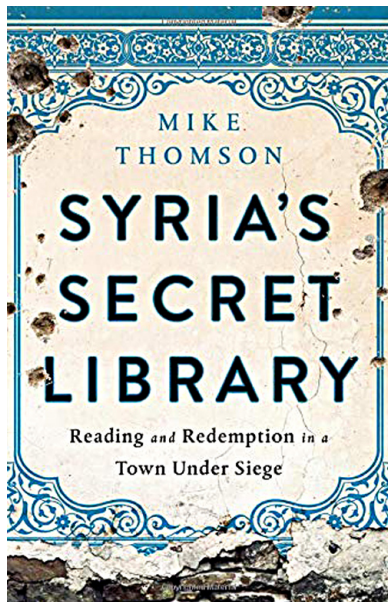


*Books in Brief, concluded***Syria's Secret Library: Reading and Redemption in a Town Under Siege**

Mike Thomson

PublicAffairs

320 pp., Aug. 2019



An “oasis of normality in this sea of destruction” is how one user describes a makeshift library set up in the basement of building near Damascus – the upper floors are in ruins.

The library was first assembled in 2013 in Darayya, a few miles from Damascus.

The town of 80,000 people was subjected to bombing, chemical attacks, and a four-

year siege. Yet, booklovers “salvaged thousands of books from ruined homes, wrapping them in blankets just as they would victims of the war raging around them.” The library they created supports the community in many ways, allowing children from grade school to college to continue their education – schools and colleges were shut down by the revolution – and serving as reference center for physicians at the local hospital which receives victims from the fierce fighting of Syria’s civil war. The location of the library is guarded to prevent it from becoming a target of pro-government forces.

Mike Thomson first reported on the library for the BBC in 2016. His new book tells “an extraordinary story with consummate narrative skill, putting readers directly in the thick of the action.” With physical access impossible and the Internet down most of the time, Thomson connected with Darayyans through cell phone apps like Skype, Whatsapp, and text messaging.

Miniature Books: The Format and Function of Tiny Religious Texts

Kristina Myrvold

Equinox

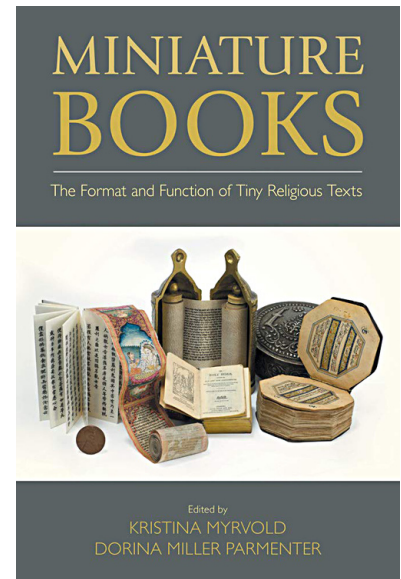
246 pp., Oct. 2019

Miniature books, handwritten or printed books in the smallest format, have fascinated religious people, printers, publishers, collectors, and others through the centuries because of their unique physical features, and continue to captivate people today. The small lettering and the delicate pages, binding, and covers highlight the material

form of texts and invite sensory engagement and appreciation. This volume addresses miniature books with a special focus on religious books in Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist traditions. The book presents various empirical contexts for how the smallest books have been produced, distributed, and used in different times and cultures and also provides theoretical reflections and comments that discuss the divergent formats and functions of books.

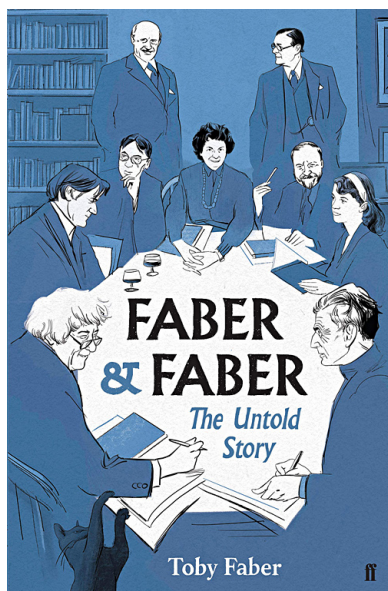
Kristina Myrvold is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Linnaeus University. She is the author and editor of numerous publications on Indian cultures, religions, and migration.

Equinox Publishing Ltd is an independent academic publisher founded in 2003 by Janet Joyce. Now based in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, Equinox publishes journals, textbooks, anthologies, monographs and reference books in the areas of archaeology, linguistics, cultural history, the academic study of religion, cookery and popular music.



*Books in Brief, concluded***Faber & Faber: The Untold Story**

Toby Faber
Faber & Faber
400 pp., Aug. 2019



Founded in 1929, Faber and Faber has its origins in another publisher, Scientific Press, that hired Geoffrey Faber to expand its offerings into trad publications. In 1929, Faber went out on his own, taking the name Faber and Faber, though he was only Faber involved. Faber went on to become a gret independent publisher, publishing books by

T.S.Eliot, William Golding, Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Ezra Pound, Jean Cocteau, Vita Sackville-West, and many others.

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of Faber and Faber, Geoffrey's grandson, Toby Faber, has written the story of this remarkable publishing house. In a decade-by-decade format and told with honesty and humor, Toby Faber follows the progress and challenges the company faced, all the while championing modernity in literature. Faber sheds light on how this small 1929 firm weathered 90 years of economic, political, and industry crises to remain focused and independent. Throughout, Faber demonstrates the powerful role the arts can play in public life.

Toby Faber was a managing director at Faber and Faber for several years. He remains a non-executive director and chairman of sister company Faber Music. He has written two celebrated works of non-fiction, *Stradivarius* and *Fabergé's Eggs*. His crime thriller, *Close to the Edge*, was published in 2019. ➡

Sources: Faber & Faber; Wikipedia; *The Guardian*

Wise Men Fished Here: A Centennial Exhibition In Honor of the Gotham Book Mart, 1920-2020

David McKnight
Univ. of Pennsylvania Libraries
180 pp., Jan. 2019

The legendary New York City bookstore, Gotham Book Mart, was founded in 1920 by Frances Steloff. It became a center for avant-garde literature and authors.

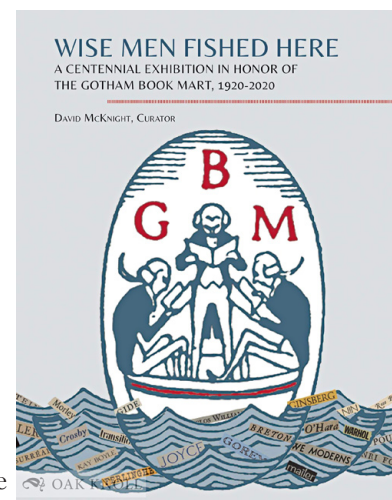
The Gotham Book Mart closed in 2005, after almost a century as a vital part of the New York literary scene. In 2008, the bookstore's entire contents were given to the University of Pennsylvania.

For eight years, Penn Libraries curators and staff unpacked and processed over 200,000 items and produced 150 linear feet of archival materials.

For the 100th anniversary of the founding of the bookstore in 2020, the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts mounted an exhibition in honor of Frances Steloff and her famous bookstore. Curator David McKnight, with the assistance of Katherine Aid and Camille Davis, selected 300 pieces ranging in date from 1900 to 2000. *Wise Men Fished Here* is the catalog of this exhibition, drawing upon a vast array of material evidence – books, periodicals, manuscripts, and ephemera – to narrate the history of the shop from its earliest beginnings. The exhibition explores the shop's role in assembling, publishing, and promoting groundbreaking experimental writers, as well as its later years under the ownership of Steloff's hand-chosen successor, Andreas Brown, focusing on Brown's passion for postcards and collaborations with graphic artist Edward Gorey.

*For more about Jay Kislak and the Philadelphia and Miami centers, see *The Florida Bibliophile* for Sept. 2019. ➡

Sources: Oak Knoll Books; Kislak Center, Univ. of Penn.



Upcoming Events

November 2019



Jon Chohan: Imagining the Other: On Writing outside the Self

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

November 17, 2019, 1:30 pm

Jon Chohan received his BA and MA in American History from SUNY Oswego and his MFA from The Ohio State University. His first collection was *Pulled from the River* (Black Lawrence Press, 2012). His work has appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Post Road*, and elsewhere. He is the winner of the 2017 Grace Paley Prize for Short Fiction and the 2018 Foreward Indie Silver Medal for Military and War Fiction for his second collection, *Veterans Crisis Hotline* (Univ. of Massachusetts Press, October 2018).

Jon will be reading from *Veterans Crisis Hotline* and discussing the research, interviews, and delicate approach a writer takes when working on stories that exist outside their own perspective. He will take questions about this, about short fiction, and about the publishing world (what little he knows).

December 2019



Florida Bibliophile Society Holiday Party

December 15, 2019, 1:30 pm

This year's gala event will be held at the home of Ben and Joyce Wiley. Details forthcoming.

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!



Florida Book Events Calendar

Know about any events of interest to book lovers? Send corrections and additions to Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net

LIBRARY BOOK SALES

For the numerous library book sales around the state and library-operated bookstores, visit

Florida Library Book Sales:

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

N O V E M B E R

November 3-17

JCA Jewish Literary, Film, and Arts Festival

Jacksonville, FL (jcjax.org/jcafest/)

November 9

Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading

USF St. Petersburg

140 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg

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

November 7-10

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

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

November 11-18

Miami Book Fair International

Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, FL

(www.miamibookfair.com/)

November 14, 6 PM, & November 15, 10:30 AM

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *The Magician of the Modern: Chick Austin and the Transformation of the Arts in America* by Eugene R. Gaddis

D E C E M B E R

December 4-8

INK Miami

(www.inkartfair.com)

December 4-6, 2018

Cracker Storytelling Festival

Homeland, FL

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

December 5-8, 2018

Art | Basel, Miami

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

December 12, 6 PM, & December 13, 10:30 AM

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *Glittering Images: A Journey Through Art from Egypt to Star Wars* by Camille Paglia

SARASOTA AUTHORS CONNECTION

presents

Tim Jacobs



“The All-Important Query Letter”

Tim has published 12 books and over 400 articles. He teaches classes on writing and publishing and currently owns JWC Publishing. Like a resumé, the query letter is the first introduction to your work that a publisher or agent will get. What are its key elements? What are the tricks of the trade? Tim can help!

Tuesday, November 13, 6 PM

Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 0

January 9-12

38th Annual Key West Literary Seminar

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

January 10, 10:30 AM

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *The Peony Pavilion* by Tang Xianzu

January 18-25, 2019

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)

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

January 24-27

34th Story Fest (sponsored by The Florida Story Association)

Mount Dora, FL (<http://flstory.com/festival/>)

January 26-February 3, 2019

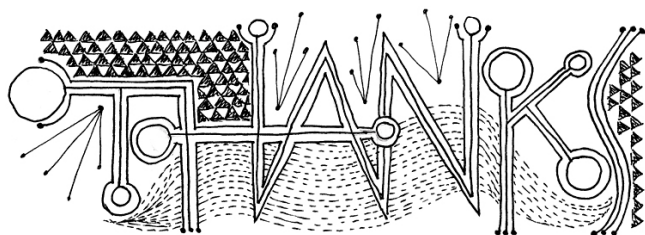
30th Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org/)





Reading-themed mural in downtown Gainesville, FL, two blocks for the Alachua County Bookhouse where the semiannual sale is held. The mural is signed Amsik 2017.



This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

Charles Brown
 Julie Dunn-Morton, FABS 2019 Coordinator
 David Hall
 Jerry Morris
 Linda Morris
 Maureen E. Mulvihill
 Gary Simons
 Sue Tihansky
 Ben Wiley
 Barry Zack, SAC

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, 2019–2020 Season



David Hall

September 15 • FBS Members: Treasures We Found during the Summer Break. FBS members shared about recent acquisitions and brought books for a fascinating afternoon of show and tell.

October 27 • Mary Kay Watson: Tangled Shakespeare. Mary Kay is an illustrator who has recently published a book of imaginative illustrations to accompany *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mary Kay presented her book and discussed her process. Mary Kay conducted supplied materials for a brief workshop and introduced the audience to Zentangle drawing.

November 17 • Jonathan Chopan: Imagining the Other: On Writing outside the Self. Dr. Chopan is as Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Eckerd College. He will talk about a challenge that every writer faces: writing outside of one's own experience.

December 15 • FBS Holiday Party. This year's gala event will be held at the home of Ben and Joyce Wiley.

January 19 • Jerry Morris: My Books About Books Collection. Jerry is president of FBS and an accomplished book collector. Among other areas, Jerry collects Books About Books, a fascinating topic. His collection currently numbers 1,243 books. He promises that not one will be missed!

February 16 • Mark Harris: Collecting Comics. For many people, comics are still a very lighthearted collectible, but they are now widely recognized for their potential for serious business, art, and literature. Mark is an avid and knowledgeable collector who will discuss his collection and comic collecting in general.

March 15 • Open.

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

April 19 • Lola Haskins, Poet. Lola delighted us with her readings in National Poetry Month 2017. She returns to FBS in 2020. Her most recent book, *Asylum: Improvisations on John Clare*, was published in the prestigious Pitt Poetry Series.

April 22-26 • The Florida Bibliophile Society hosts the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies Annual Tour. Each year, a member club of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (FABS) hosts a study tour. The host club invites members of the other FABS clubs to visit and view the bibliophilic wonders of its area.

For the first time in its 37-year history, the FBS will host a study tour of the Tampa Bay area, including Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota, on April 22-26, 2020. The tour is scheduled to coincide with the 39th Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, April 24-26, 2020. Details of this exciting event can be viewed in the [FABS Tour 2020 brochure](#).

April 24-26 • 39th Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. One of the largest book fairs in the U.S. happens each year, right in our backyard, at the Coliseum in downtown St. Pete. Each year, FBS hosts a table at the entrance to the Book Fair where we answer questions and hold parcels for visitors. Many visitors sign up for our newsletter, and some join FBS. A highlight occurs on Sunday when FBS collectors provide free book evaluations.

May • There will be no meeting in May. This year's annual FBS banquet will be combined with the closing banquet of the FABS Annual Tour in April.



Endpaper • Our October Harvest



October was a busy month for us bibliophiles, filled with a harvest of fun and books!

Between the regular October meeting, the Gainesville Getaway, and the FABS Tour in St. Louis, we were really “hitting the books”!

In Gainesville, it was fun to have the extra time together at the book sale, at several meals, and even at the theater, — time to talk and clown around and share about our different activities.

The October meeting with Mary Kay Watson was a change of pace and a treat. I can remember trying to get adults to draw in a couple of workshops many years ago, and it isn't easy. Even children become convinced at an early age that they can't draw. But Mary Kay was an engaging and lively teacher, and Zentangle seems like a great way to get people drawing. And it worked that day! Even if you enjoy drawing, it takes time and regular practice, which are not always easy to come by. So it was a pleasure to have the materials so generously

provided and have the time set aside to just draw and create. After the meeting, a few of us went across the street to Oxford Exchange for a bite, and Mary Kay and her husband Dennis joined us. They were delightful, and I got a better impression of how much study and thought Mary Kay puts into her projects.

Ben and Sue brought back great reports from St. Louis — and added to the enthusiasm about the 2020 FABS Tour that will be right here in Florida. Thanks to Ben for taking so many pictures — so easy to forget when you're having a great time, meeting so many interesting people, and enjoying so many fascinating venues and presentations. We hope to see many of those people here next year in what promises to be several days filled with fun and books.

I think that's where I started...

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

OFFICERS

President: **Jerry Morris**
moibibliomaniac@gmail.com

Vice President: **Charles M. Brown**
cmbrown@atlantic.net

Secretary: **Gary Simons**
gsimons1946@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **Linda Morris**
linjer25@gmail.com



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Hospitality: **Linda Morris**
linjer25@gmail.com

Lee Harrer **Jerry Morris**
moibibliomaniac@gmail.com

Award: **Carl Mario Nudi**
carlnudi@netscape.net

Social Media: **Carl Mario Nudi**
carlnudi@netscape.net

Archives: **Carl Mario Nudi**
carlnudi@netscape.net

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Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor.

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