

The Florida Bibliophile

January 2020 • Volume 36, No. 5



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Deadline for the February newsletter is Jan. 30, 2020.
See page 30 for details.

Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FBS newsletter is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the Fall 2019 FABS Journal [here](#).



In the German language, *Schwein gehabt* or “having a pig” means being lucky. In Germany and other Nordic countries, pigs are associated with good fortune; thus, the New Year’s tradition of giving away little porkers made of marzipan – a very sweet paste of sugar and ground almonds. The happy pigs above appear to have had a little too much prosecco during their celebrations – but these are not ordinary pigs, they are *Glücksschwein*, or “lucky pigs” [*heldig gris* in Denmark, ed.]. Just our way of wishing you a new year full of happiness and good fortune!

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



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY SCRAPBOOK



The gifts are wrapped!



Our Hosts – Ben and Joyce Wiley



The pear tree is lit!



The tables are set!

✦ HOLIDAY PARTY SCRAPBOOK ✦



Christmas in Florida – Snacks and beverages on the deck.

BON APPETIT!

Our Holiday Party began on the Wileys' deck with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. We enjoyed shrimp cocktails and delicious cheeses among other treats and wine. Guests were offered a prosecco and limoncello cocktail (it still needs a name). It's hard to say what is unseasonable in Florida's very changeable winter, but the weather was sunny and mild, perfect for an outdoor start to our party.

Inside, the many delicious main dishes, side dishes and desserts furnished by the guests were being laid out, and when complete, we were summoned to fill our plates and take our places at one of the tables set in the dining room and in the Florida room.

We were enjoying lively conversation and second helpings as Treasurer Linda Morris made her way among the tables giving each one of us a ticket for the secret gift exchange. We had all been requested to bring a book of value no greater than \$20. They were all wrapped and waiting for us. As Linda called out the numbers, we made our way one by one to the gift table and carefully chose a gift. We opened our gifts



L to R: Irene Pavese, Linda Morris, Jerry Morris, Charles Brown, Joan "of Art" Sackheim, BonSue Brandvik, and Camilla Luckey



L to R: Lee Harter, Roberta Cifelli, Ed Cifelli

HOLIDAY PARTY SCRAPBOOK

with interest and delight – and there may have been a couple of exchanges.

As we have for several years, we passed around the Christmas crackers. A volley of pops around the room was followed by laughter, paper crowns, clever trinkets, and delightfully bad jokes.

It was a beautiful afternoon and a good time to be together. Many thanks are due to Ben and Joyce Wiley for the hospitality they showed us in their lovely home at the top of the hill – yes, a hill.



L to R: Carl Nudi, Betty Patterson, Jude Bagatti, Sue Tihanksy, and David Hall



BEN'S LIBRARY

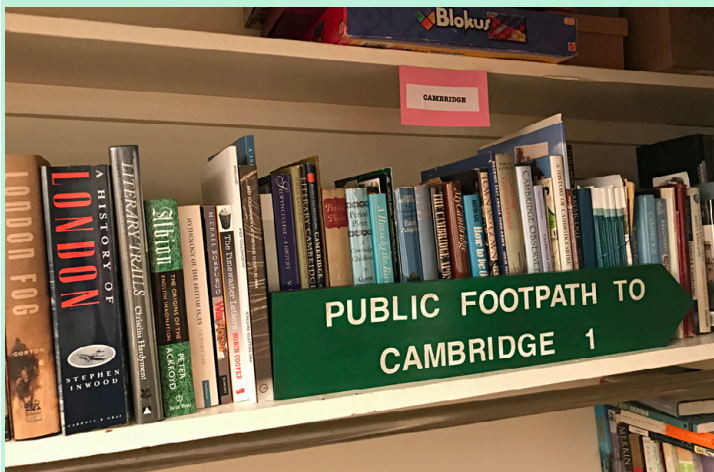


Ben introduced several of us to his library, a room off the living room that is a model of organization, with carefully categorized books and a few helpful labels.





BEN'S LIBRARY



Ben's library reflects his career in college teaching, his extensive reading interests, and his travels. The bookcase shown on the previous page has a shelf devoted to Ben's miniature books, fiction, poetry, books about books, travel, and more. All the books on one shelf are by John Updike, one of Ben's favorite authors.

The shelves shown at the top of this page reveal Ben's longtime interest and travels in England (left) and Cambridge (right). For almost 20 years, Ben accompanied Florida college students for their international summer school at Cambridge. He has returned several summers since and taken literature and film courses.

There are several other bookcases in the room. At the right is shown a bookcase that holds Ben's collection of Walt Whitman, another favorite (image right), and a set recently acquired at the Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale: a fine edition of Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*.

There are two cases shelved double-deep that are marked "Books Not Yet Read." That keeps Ben's reading goals right in front of him all the time.



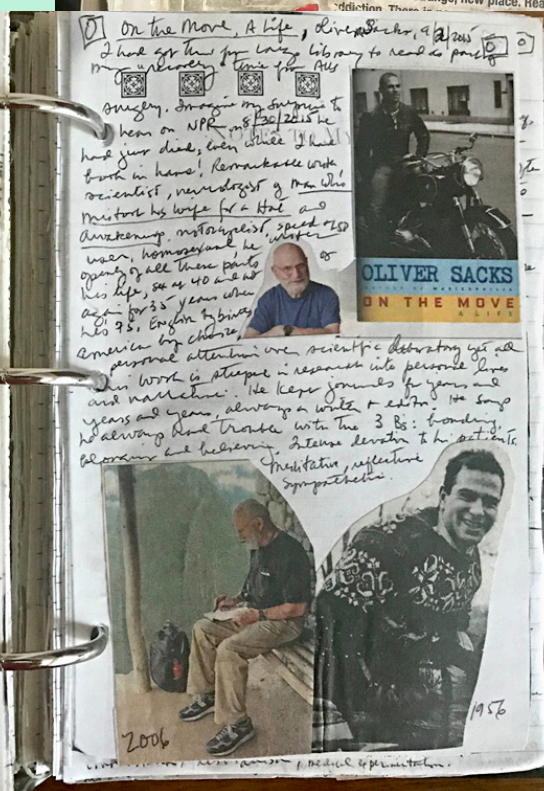
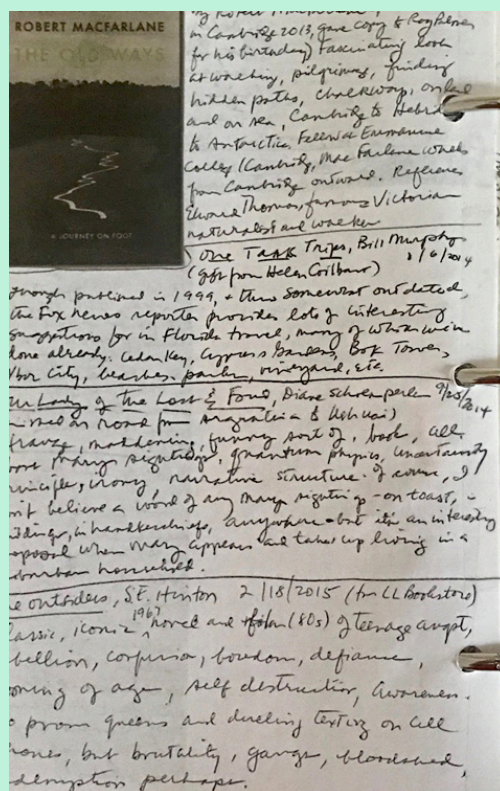
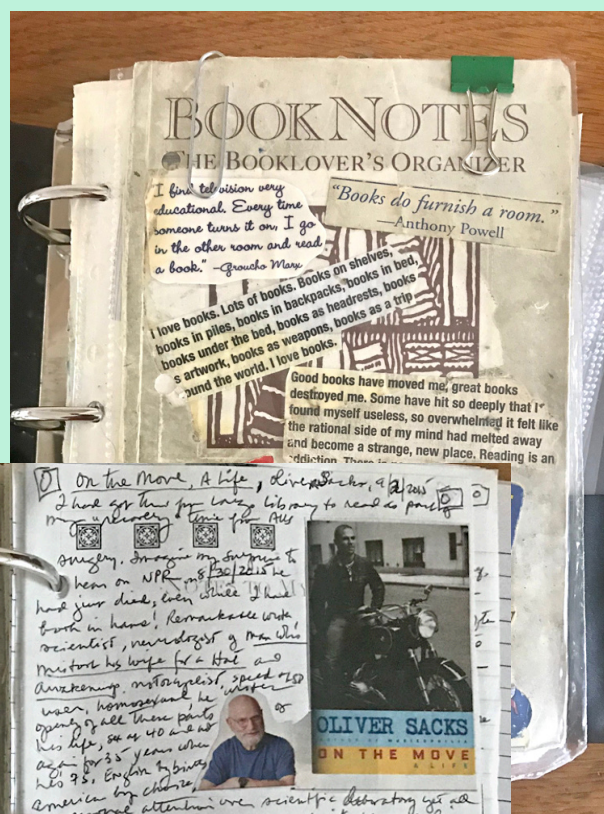
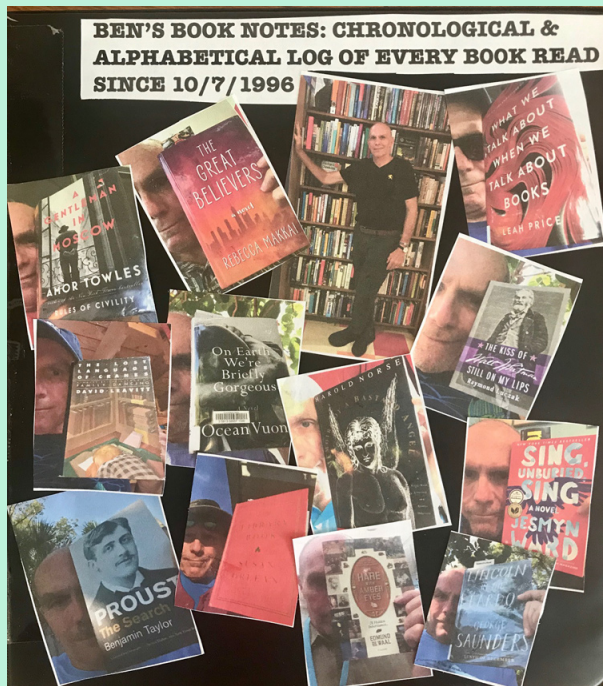


BEN'S LIBRARY



One of the most remarkable books in Ben's collection is the log he has kept of his reading for the past 20 years.

Begun on October 7, 1996, the book contains the titles of the hundreds of books that Ben has read since then, numbered sequentially, and accompanied by the date on which he finished reading the book. Another section of the log contains brief notes about the books and related clippings such as book covers, author photos, etc.



Jude's Oxford Odyssey, September 2019

Jude Bagatti

Day One – Arrival

My friend Maggie and I arrived at Oxford about an hour after boarding a bus at Heathrow – bleary-eyed from our overnight flight. We settled gratefully into our new home, the Isis Guest House, a St. Edmund Hall College residence, available during summer break. We had 12 days to enjoy the legendary city.

Comfortable we were, but the need for dinner got us back out almost immediately. At the nearby La Cucina, an arugula risotto with sea bass and Italian Moretti beer was my satisfying first Oxford meal.

Fortified and feeling adventurous, Maggie and I wandered a bit, passing the 13th century city wall and discovering The White Horse Inn, the famous haunt of Endeavor Morse, Colin Dexter's fictional detective, familiar to fans of BBC Mystery on PBS.



Isis Guest House, St. Edmund Hall College, a ten-minute walk from central Oxford. College rooms are available for rent during the college's summer break.

Day Two – Meeting Oxford

Our first full day in Oxford was brilliant and sunny. Energized after a good night's sleep, we covered a lot of ground: Oxfam Charity Shop, Blackwell's Bookstore, The White Horse Inn, and a tour of Trinity College.

The day was still young and balmy. We decided to take the river path to the village of Iffley, namesake of our guest house's road. Long canal boats lined the banks where ducks, swans, and Canadian geese swam. We had a bite at rustic Isis Farmhouse Pub



Founded in 1879 in Oxford by Benjamin Blackwell, Blackwell's Bookstore now has 45 branch stores throughout the UK.

and restaurant and watched a boat navigate the famous Iffley Lock.

In Iffley, we visited the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, a Norman structure built in 1175. Among the church's many rich features are Romanesque stone carvings; an artistic cover of a Tournai marble baptistry font; and rows of beakheads (sharp points) arching over doorways representing world evils to be escaped in church. Most impressive was its strong, silent spirit and aura of peace. It was a fitting place for a prayer of thanks.

On the walk back to Oxford, we found the Prince of Wales Pub and enjoyed "Fizz" & Chips (the "fizz" is complimentary prosecco) and "mushy" peas.

Day Three – A Golden Afternoon

Chilly, rainy days are typical here, so the next day, we were grateful for more sunshine. At Magdalen Bridge Boat Hire we engaged a pole guide for an hour's relaxing punt on the narrow 9-foot-deep Cherwell River, a tributary of the Thames – often called the Isis in these parts.

We meandered through Oxford Botanic Garden and then the aisles of the historic Covered Market, absorbing sights and scents of all its vendors' booths. At the famous Ashmolean Museum, we viewed

Oxford Odyssey, continued

Founded in 1621, the University of Oxford Botanic Garden is the oldest botanic garden in Great Britain and one of the oldest scientific gardens in the world.

Egyptian and Roman exhibits as well as the stark, bold abstract paintings of German artist A.R. Penck (1939–2017).

Passing The King Arms Hotel & Pub, we encountered a raucous gathering celebrating a 10-year reunion of former Oxford students. In beer-garden fräulein and lederhosen garb, or cartoonish facsimiles, it looked like an early Oktoberfest. We joined in a jolly exchange of banter for a time before retreating to our inn to freshen up.

Day Four – Oxford Colleges

Sunday, the city was crawling with visitors walking from one college to another. Oxford University consists of 38 colleges, and many of them were holding Open Doors to the public this weekend before students return to classes the following week. Most college buildings boast significant architectural and sculptural features, including towers and

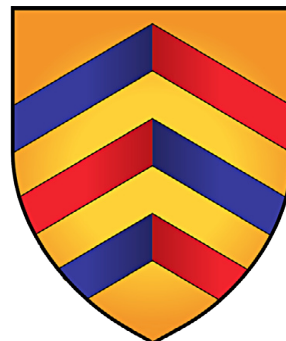
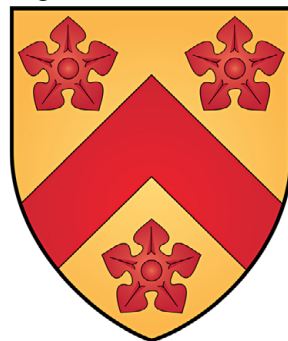
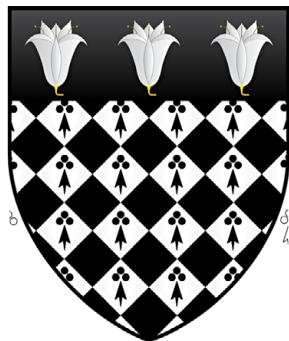


Maggie (left) and Jude (right) prepare to enter the Ashmolean Museum. A passerby snaps the photo with Jude holding a copy of St. Pete's The Gabber.

gargoyles. Each has its heraldic shield or coat of arms adorning its walls. All have dining halls, chapels, churches, galleries, and libraries as well as grassy courtyards, or quadrangles, cloisters, gates, and gardens. Some are more opulent than others, but all drip with tradition.

Magdalen College, with its famous Great Tower holding a ring of ten bells, was our first stop. Founded in 1458, its grounds are home to a live herd of ornamental fallow deer. Literary giants C. S. Lewis and Oscar Wilde are alumni.

All Souls College, one of my favorites, was founded in 1438 by Henry VI and Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury. It is now primarily a research institution for humanities and social sciences. In the church vestibule, I spoke with a Czech woman working there as an artifact restorer. She showed me a notable artwork: a plaque of souls rising from the dead. Upstairs in another building,



Coats of arms of four of Oxford's 38 colleges. From left to right, Magdalen, All Souls, Merton, and Christ Church.

Oxford Odyssey, continued

The Great Hall at Christ Church College was completed in 1520 during the powerful administration of Cardinal Wolsey.

a line of viewers passed through the two-tiered Codrington Library, which holds rare and ancient volumes behind barred shelves. Outside is a sun dial designed by architect Christopher Wren in 1658.

Merton College, considered the wealthiest, traces its origin to 1264. Its Mob Quad is claimed to be Oxford's oldest. Playing fields and boat houses support intramural rivalries in rugby, cricket, squash, croquet, lacrosse, football, and canoe polo. Writers J. R. R. Tolkien and T. S. Eliot were Mertonian students and professors. Roger Bannister of sub-4-minute-mile fame and singer-actor Kris Kristofferson are alumni.

An odd Merton ritual called the Time Ceremony has taken place every October for four decades. On the date for setting clocks back, students don mortarboards and academic robes, wait till 2:00 a.m., and linking arms, walk backwards around the quad for an hour. Port sipping aids their effort.



On our route was University Church of St. Mary's The Virgin. In the heart of the city, it is the spiritual heart of Britain's oldest university. John H. Newman, vicar in 1828–43, was a founder of the "Oxford Movement," which sought to restore

proper Catholic tradition to the Church of England.

Along High St., we passed Whitewall Gallery exhibiting funky coastal paintings and sculptures by London artist Rebecca Lardner. Champagne cooled our dry throats.

Christ Church College and its Anglican Cathedral, by far the largest and most impressive of all, was the day's final college tour.

It dates from 710

as a Saxon Priory of St. Frideswide, patron saint of Oxford. Refounded by Augustine monks in 1122, it was officially founded by Henry VIII in 1546 and became a site of rivalry between Cardinal Wolsey and the King. The Christ Church Meadow is a tranquil pasture encircled by paths. Art historian John Ruskin, an undergrad in 1837–42, is said to have noted that the meadow, when flooded, resembled a Venetian waterscape. The college's Tom Quad is Oxford's largest. Installed in Christopher Wren's Tom Tower is a six-ton bell called "Great Tom." A lofty, fan-vaulted ceiling hung with 12 stone lanterns tops the wide Hall Staircase, circa 1638. The Great Hall seats 300 and inspired the studio creation of Hogwart's Hall. I could easily picture wizards-in-training seated at the long tables in the spacious, bannered hall. Staircase, Hall, Cloister, and Quad have been seen in Harry Potter and other films.

Thirteen UK prime ministers are Christ Church alumni, as are Lutwidge Charles Dodgson aka Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* writer; poet W. H. Auden; William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania Province; and philosopher John Locke,



The Tom Tower viewed from the Tom Quad.

Oxford Odyssey, continued

The Pitt Rivers Museum is the archeological and anthropological museum of the University of Oxford. It contains over 500,000 items.

father of liberalism, to name only a few. On another Sunday, we would return to Christ Church Cathedral for a 6:00 p.m. Choral Evensong.

After a long, hot, tiring day of college-jumping, our quest for dinner took us to Chiang Mai Thai restaurant in Kemp Hall Passage off High St. where I relished the pleasant service and the hearty, hydrating coconut milk and mushroom soup.

Day Five – Magpies and Museums

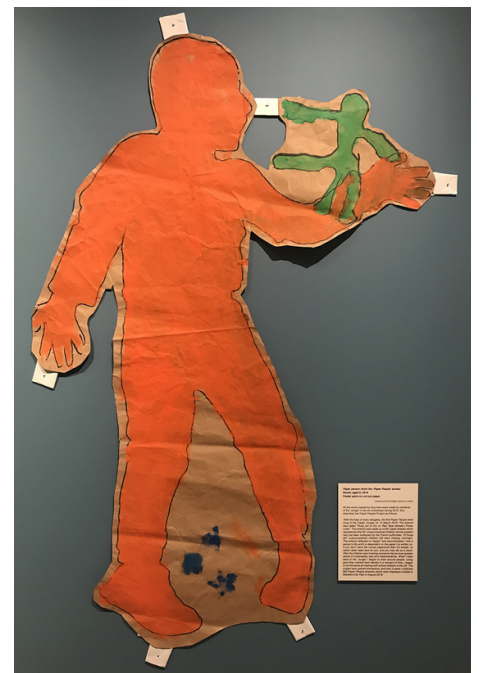
On the first cloudy but still warm day, we were greeted by a magpie as we walked past ruins of old Holywell Church and cemetery on the way to Pitt Rivers Museum. Founded in 1884, this most unusual museum holds 500,000 archeological and anthropological objects, past and present, from all parts of the world. Juxtaposing eras and cultures, it exposes mysterious, surprising, diverse artifacts of every kind imaginable on three jam-packed floors. The museum is dim to help conserve the objects. Flashlights (or torches, as Brits call them) are available to read labels.

Objects are grouped in a unique manner: by use, function, material, or how they were made, rather than by age, culture, or geographical origin. For instance, in one large case, all the methods that ancient and modern people have ever used for making light and fire are exhibited together. Similarly

displayed are the same for basketry; pottery; textiles; clothing; musical instruments; vessels; dwellings; writing or communication methods; smoking and stimulants; masks and performance; ivory, bone, and horn use; treatment of the dead; magic, ritual, and religion. And that's just one of the three floors.

The more conventional Museum of Natural History shares the same building with displays on two floors of extinct and living birds, insects, mammals, fish, sea life, bones and huge skeletal presentations of whales and dinosaurs. A large collection of minerals includes a big chunk of meteorite.

A special exhibition was on view called *LANDE: The Calais "Jungle" And Beyond*. It told the story in photographs and drawings of deaths, rapes, and arsons endured in the French camp by thousands of African and Mid-East refugees hoping to get into the UK. In March, 2016 the camp was evacuated and demolished, inhabitants sitting on freezing ground with no food, water, or toilets, before being processed and removed on coaches. Two hundred ninety-one Paper People cutouts were hung in the area representing the 291 unaccompanied children in the camp.



*One of the cardboard cutouts in the exhibition *LANDE: The Calais "Jungle"* at the Pitt Rivers Museum. The cutouts represent the hundreds of unaccompanied children that lived in a squalid detention camp waiting to immigrate to the UK.*

Day Six – A Day at the Palace

On Tuesday, the sun was back in full force for us, as we boarded the bus for the 40-minute ride

Oxford Odyssey, continued

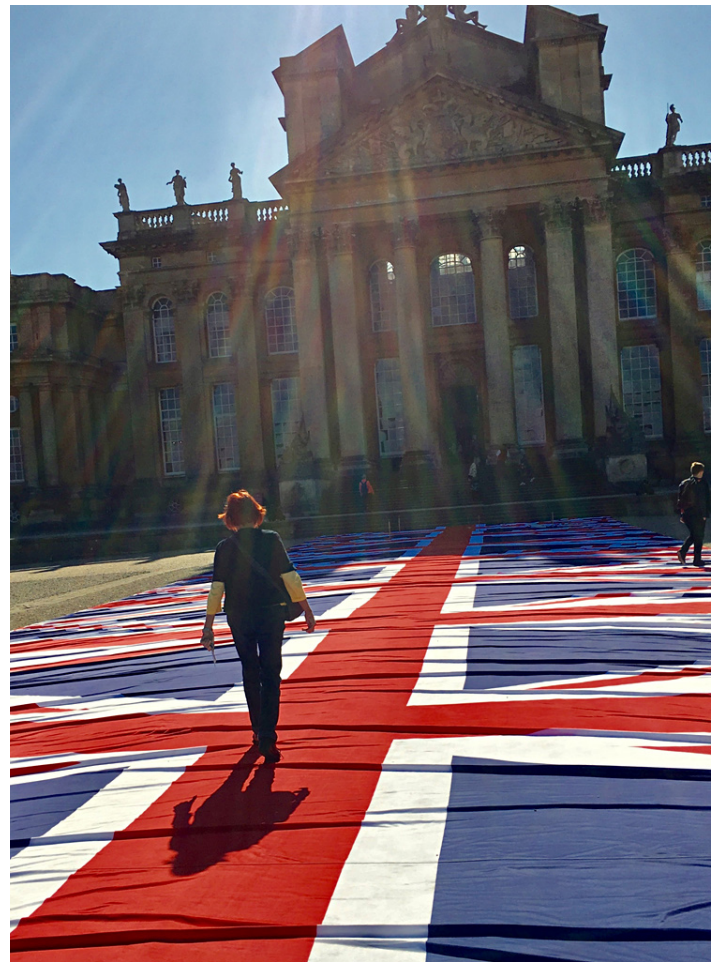
"Mini-Me," a 2000 sculptural self-portrait by Maurizio Cattelan watches from a high ledge in the Great Hall of Blenheim Palace.

from Oxford City Centre to Blenheim Palace at the village of Woodstock.

On the Palace's grassy Great Court, we were astonished to see the giant-size Union Jacks, Britain's flag, laid edge to edge to form a cross on the expansive

lawn. People were using it as a walkway. It felt disrespectful to walk on a country's flag, but we did so. We learned that this installation was part of an exhibition, *Victory is Not an Option*, by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, on view at the Palace. The exhibition explores themes of national identity, power, and personality. It was a stroke of luck that our visit coincided with this provocative, outrageous and witty exhibition, minus its 18K Golden Toilet, stolen just days earlier. Cattelan's art was scattered throughout the palace halls and rooms; one piece, not listed in the guide, was hidden in the Great Hall, challenging viewers to spot it – a Cattelan "Mini-Me" sitting high on a ledge.

Cattelan's works have layers of meaning, symbolism and humor. A worn, tired life-sized horse hangs from the ceiling, representing Italy's exhaustion from a century of fascism and upheaval. In counterpoint to the horse, the valiant steed, a huge crocodile hangs representing a scaly dragon as foe. In another room,



Jude walks toward the entrance of Blenheim Palace on the red pathway formed by an array of giant UK flags that is part of an art exhibition at the palace.

Pope John Paul II lies on the floor felled by a meteor, suggesting that even the holiest are not safe from misfortune. The long library room hosts a schoolboy figure on his knees, but his face is that of Hitler, apparently praying for forgiveness.

Blenheim Palace has a 300-year history. Queen Anne gave it to the 1st Duke of Marlborough after he defeated the French in 1704. Now the home of the 12th Duke, it is filled with grand collections of art, tapestries, and furniture. Winston Churchill, considered the "Greatest Briton," was born at



Blenheim Palace

Oxford Odyssey, continued

Blenheim in 1874; that room is on display as are films and audible speeches, portraits, writings and insights into his courage, skills, and vision.

The 2,000-acre Palace Parkland includes formal gardens, water terraces, a rose garden and the Temple of Diana where Churchill proposed to Clementine. We walked among stately old trees and lake views to the Grand Cascade, a small waterfall, and the Pump House and, leaving the Palace grounds, we entered the village of Woodstock. A half pint of Speckled Hen Ale in the cool pub of MacDonald Bear Hotel was a welcomed pick-me-up.

Day Seven – More Landmarks

The Sheldonian Theatre, considered an architectural jewel of Oxford, was our initial destination the next morning. Erected between 1664–69, it was designed by Christopher Wren, who seems to have been busy everywhere in those years. Climbing 100 creaky wooden stairs up to the eight-sided cupola, we gazed at the 360-degree panoramic view of the city and distant low mountains. The theatre's semicircular seating has four levels capped by a soaring dome painted with 32 panels representing Truth descending to the Arts and Sciences. They were created by Robert Streater, Serjeant Painter to the King.

Worcester College on Walton St. was a familiar one to Maggie. It was being renovated and expanded, but



St. Philips Books offers secondhand and rare books.

it was open and provided green space for relaxing. In chairs on the grass, we sipped from tiny bottles of banana rum that Maggie produced from the depths of her backpack. Celebrity attendees at Worcester include Robert Murdoch, media baron; Harry Potter actor Emma Watson; Gemma Chan, film star of *Captain Marvel* and *Crazy Rich Asians* left law studies here to pursue acting.

A brief browse at St. Philips Antique & Rare Book Shop, and we then prevailed on passersby at several iconic Oxford sites to photograph us holding Gulfport's weekly newspaper, *The Gabber*. Querying people on their views of the Brexit issue, it seemed clear most working class folks were against exiting EU – with or without a deal.

At dinner, the coveted raised corner table at The White Horse was ours. A savory bowl of Scottish mussels in a creamy sauce with hot bread filled the bill for me and my stomach. Not ready to retire, I walked on to Cornmarket & Queen Lane, joining waves of foreign tourists scouring Alice and Potter souvenir shops, listening to Oxford Humanists at a booth speak of secular life, and being entertained by buskers and musicians on these pedestrian promenades. A lone walk home in the dark, and I was ready for bed.

Day Eight – A Perch, a Trout, and a Nosebag

Today, we walked the Thames Towpath, starting at St. Aldate St. at Christ Church to Osney Locks, Godstow Locks, and Port Meadow, an expansive

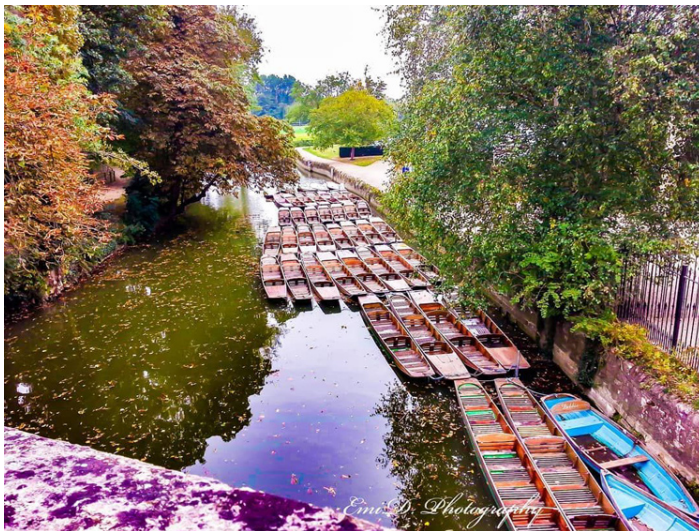


The Sheldonian Theater, one of the "architectural jewels" of Oxford.

Oxford Odyssey, continued*The Perch on Binsey Lane.*

prairie next to the river where cows and wild horses drank or roamed. Two young women took a cool dip on this hot day. “Not cold,” they said. Wild blackberries provided a juicy snack, and a dandelion flower or two provided my usual wayside Vitamin C energy source.

We lingered for drinks at The Perch, a rural watering hole on Binsey Lane. Two kinds of Scotch eggs were offered there, but I wasn’t hungry. That was a shame because I had been hankering for a Scotch Egg, a favorite of mine since my first English visit in 1971. A large, festive group seated at long tables drew my attention. Curious, I asked three men about the lively gathering. They enthusiastically explained that it was a reunion of Rhodes Scholars of 1979 to 1981. These three were from Texas, Wyoming, and Idaho. The

*Canal boats on the Cherwell River.*

last, Mike Hoffman, was a former theatre director at American Stage, St. Pete, where I currently volunteer.

Further on, we came to The Trout, like The Perch, another well-known, venerable roadhouse, oasis for weary, thirsty trampers; this one a bit more posh. Another drink, and we forged on through Wolvercote Village, connecting with the Oxford Canal Path lined with the ubiquitous narrow canal boats. The walk ended at Hythe Bridge St. not far from our dinner destination. The Nosebag is a health food eatery upstairs in a historic building (aren’t they all?) on St. Michael’s St. The pleasant Filipino chef served a flavorful Bombay potato and spinach quiche-like wedge with three salads of your choice; mine were beets, quinoa, and greens.

I spoke with Raja, a mature Manchester woman, a Nosebag regular, hatted, gloved, and draped, brightening a corner in a flowing array of colors and flash. She was just one of a number of gaudily costumed and blinged women and men I observed around town who decorate themselves for fun, with no particular reason or event. Oxford is not as staid or sedate as one might think. Perhaps the heady academic atmosphere requires some comic or cosmic relief, or maybe it’s the recurring bell-clanging!

Day Nine – Protests and Performances

Today’s explorations were all in town, starting with an hour-long guided tour of the Bodleian Library. Established in 1602, it is Oxford’s main research library, holding over 13 million items. The “Bod,” as it’s called, is one of Europe’s oldest libraries, second in size to the British Library. Physically attached to the library on the first floor is the classic gothic Divinity School, with an ornate and intricate vaulted ceiling full of carved symbols. Lectures, oral exams



Oxford Odyssey, continued

This 15th century Ethiopian illuminated manuscript is from the Bodleian Library. It is written in the Ge'ez script, which was used to write a number of languages of the area.

and theological discussions were held in this elaborately adorned medieval room, which appeared in Harry Potter as the Infirmary.

Weston Library, part of Bodleian's modern library group, is right across Broad St. Its *Talking Maps* display draws on a collection of 1.5 million maps covering almost

1,000 years. Of special interest to me was a lobby showcase of sacred scripts in the ancient Ge'ez script, still used in churches in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Outside the Weston, my attention was grabbed by the shouts and clamor of a street protest parade. I dashed to follow the signs-bearing crowd to find out what it was about. September 20 – I realized it was the worldwide day of marches warning of climate change and global warming. The fervent protests of the crowds brought a lump to my throat.



A march in Oxford brings awareness to climate change.

It was Open Doors at colleges again, and again, the weather was perfect. Off Broad St., next to Trinity College is Balliol College – they share a spirited field, river, song, raid, and tortoise race rivalry. Arguably the oldest college, Balliol, founded 1263, is definitely the oldest co-founded by a woman, Dervorguilla, widow of rich landowner John de Balliol.

Balliol's patron saint is St. Catherine of Alexandria, martyred in the 4th century on a spiked wheel for protesting persecution of Christians. Her body, "carried by angels to Mt. Sinai," rests in a shrine at the Monastery of the Transfiguration. Balliol celebrates her feast day, November 25th, with a dinner beginning with the Grace Cup containing a mix of claret, clove cordial, curaçao, cherry brandy, and sherry. The menu no longer includes peacock.

Among many famous Balliol alumni are Adam Smith, economist; Aldous Huxley, writer; poets Robert Browning and Algernon Swinburne; Boris Johnson, current UK Prime Minister; and Empress Masako of Japan.

The day grew hotter as we headed toward Oxford Castle & Prison. In its 1,000 years, it has held famous and infamous personages as a religious site, a home for royalty, justice center, and jail. The last hanging took place there in 1952. We climbed the Norman Mound for a city view and the breeze.

Nearby is Oxford Playhouse at Burton Taylor Studio, where most tickets cost under £10. Unfortunately, schedule conflicts prevented our patronage. After checking out the emerging Modern Art Oxford gallery, we dined at Georgina's, an upstairs café in the Covered Market. Mainly Greek food, the menu offered an eggplant and butter bean mix with salad. I got a lamb meatball, too.

At 5:30 p.m., we were back at University Church of St. Mary the Virgin to buy tickets for *Sansara*, *Music of the Spires*, a choral music performance by an award-winning ten-voice a cappella ensemble. Sacred Latin hymns were sung by six men and four women, but they sounded like many more voices.

A quick nightcap at The White Horse begs for a bit of its history to be told: In 1551, the inn was known

Oxford Odyssey, continued

as The White Mermaid Situation in Canditch, now Broad St. Forty years later, Queen Elizabeth I renamed it The White Horse. It is one of only two remaining public houses in Oxford left “untouched,” that is, no games, TV, or juke box, just traditional British ales, home-cooked food and warm, friendly ambiance. When the first floor kitchen was being renovated after a 1980 fire, a witch’s broom was found concealed in a wall. Superstitious fear meant no one would touch it, and it was left in there and boarded up, where it remains.



The White Horse Inn, a favorite haunt of Inspector Morse.

Day Ten – A Peaceful Day; a Concert for Peace

With no pressing agenda today, a relaxed tour of St. Edmund Hall College was the early afternoon starter. An outdoor Art Walk along Broad St. with local arts and crafts vendors reminded me of the many similar ones at home. Along the pedestrian walkways at Cornmarket and Queen’s Lane, we stopped at Marks



On September 21, 2019, the World Orchestra for Peace performed in Oxford. The project was the vision of the famous conductor Sir George Solti.

& Spencer department store and visited Westgate Mall before meeting for dinner. Making sure we’d have quick service at the very popular Edamane Japanese Homecooking, we arrived early and waited for it to open at 5 p.m. with a group of Tokyo businessmen in town for an energy conference. Accompanied by warm sake, my miso soup, salmon chunks, and edamame-in-pods were delicious.

Promptly at 6:15 p.m., we stood at the Sheldonian Theatre counter to purchase tickets to the evening’s Rotary-sponsored Oxford Concert For Peace. It would be the only 2019 performance in the UK by The World Orchestra for Peace. Sally Gold, Oxford doctor of Hebrew now living in London, also waited for a ticket. Decked out in a lavish and wild clash of hues and jewels, including a gem at her 3rd eye, she fit into the community of exotic Oxford characters often encountered.

The Orchestra, designated UNESCO Artist for Peace in 2010, consists of international members who serve gratis to help bring nations together through music. Since 1995, leading musicians from 125 great orchestras in more than 60 countries have performed 24 concerts. Tonight’s prestigious concert marked a UN day of global ceasefire and nonviolence. We heard moving performances of Mozart, Grieg, Elgar, and Tchaikovsky. Our first-level seats in the packed four-level historic theatre were perfect, and the music left us tearfully and joyfully inspired.

Day Eleven – To the Moon and Back Again

This morning, a light drizzle is falling – a good day to read and relax a while. At 2 p.m., a talk by Oliver

Oxford Odyssey, concluded

Morton, author of *The Moon: A History for the Future*, was scheduled at Blackwell's Bookstore. I learned that moon dust is gritty and glassy, and a danger to lungs should it be inhaled.

Christ Church Evensong at 6 p.m. attracted a line for the one-hour service, enhanced by the voices of a boys' choir. Afterward, my dinner at The Turf Tavern was disappointing. They were out of Scotch Eggs, the Hunter's grilled chicken was dry and came with unwanted French fries. The greens were the only good thing on the plate. It was cooler now, but a desired hot potion of any kind was unavailable. Fortunately, it was my only poor meal in Oxford.

Day Twelve – Meditation and Reflection

At 11 a.m., I ventured to the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, a storefront I'd seen previously on Broad St. I wished to experience The Journey, a series of 10 wall plaques with electronically animated visuals and audio operated via a phone remote and head phones. One message: "If you are a thorn, the world is a thorn; if you are a flower, the world is a flower." After viewing them all, I sat with one or two other visitors for a brief meditation. The Oxford center has been open 15 years. It was a quieting, reflective interlude to reset one's outlook. There are BK centers in Carrollwood (Tampa) and Miami.

In the breezy, early afternoon we set out to find Willow Walk, which in the past, famous authors had been known to frequent. The experience was less nostalgic than it might have been: the woodsy path is rather short and posted with a police warning



Willow Walk, a quiet ending to our days in Oxford

about drugs. Leaving the Walk, we came upon St. Lawrence Church in North Hinksey Village, explored its cemetery and proceeded to The Fishes, an elegant pub. It occurred to me that each pub we visited during our long walks had fishy names. It was here at last that I found my elusive Scotch Egg, a Black Pudding Scotch Egg, prepared with pig's blood. Perhaps less appealing, but it was my last chance. It came to me cut in half with a crispy blackish breading around a soft-centered egg and hot English mustard similar to horseradish. It was excellent.

A light rain was falling as we left the pub and trudged on to the town of Botney. Amid much construction in progress, we took a peek into the small library and Sea Court Pub before catching a bus back to Oxford City Centre.

Day Thirteen – Departure

We left Oxford on the early morning bus for Heathrow. The rain was coming down more heavily. It was the kind of English weather I had feared all along that would put a damper on the trip. How lucky it had held off till the last day to give us a wet sendoff!

At Heathrow, an extremely thorough encounter with security detained so long, we nearly missed the call for our flight. But we were rewarded with a sweet surprise: an upgrade to Business Class to fly home in grand style.



Scotch eggs found.



An Interview with Sonja Jordan-Mowery, Conservator

Carl Mario Nudi

Members of the Florida Bibliophile Society will be traveling to the workshop of book and paper conservators Sonja K. Jordan-Mowery and John Franklin Mowery on Jan. 11 in Venice.

In 2015, Sonja retired as head of conservation at Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Libraries in Baltimore, and her husband, John, retired as head of conservation at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Last fall, I spent a couple of hours with Sonja at the Mowery Book & Paper Conservation workshop and asked her a few questions.

FBS: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

SONJA: I was born in Budapest, Hungary. My father was a soccer coach in various Eastern European countries. We left Hungary during the 1956 revolution and immigrated to Canada where we lived between Toronto and Montreal for about 11 years.

We had traveled extensively because my father's soccer coaching had taken him around the world, and I spent a year in South America when I was nine years old. We finally arrived to the U.S. in 1966–67.

I lived in Dallas, Texas, where my father was coach of the soccer team called the Dallas Tornado at the time. So I went to high school there.

I earned a BA in philosophy from the University of Texas at Arlington and an MA in philosophy from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Then, I earned my second master's in librarianship and rare books at the University of Chicago.

Basically, after that degree, I stayed in the field of books and paper, primarily historical and curatorial work.

FBS: How did you become interested in book conservation? Were books a big part of your life growing up?

SONJA: I grew up in a family who collected books and art. My father was a collector. He had about 10,000 books.

Beyond reading philosophical works and the great



Sonja Jordan-Mowery in her studio in Venice. A book is a complex object and a conservator must understand not only its historical context, material make-up, but how it is to perform, in order to provide the best conservation remedy.

books, my reading interests are primarily in the area of medieval history, theology, history of science, and technical books.

FBS: What was your first job in the field?

SONJA: I initially started as a rare books cataloger, but coupled that with conservation. My first job was at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, where I started as a rare books cataloger for philosophy, science, and non-Roman languages. Shortly after the second year, I was awarded an Andrew Mellon Internship in conservation.

After that six-month internship, I returned to Notre Dame and then started to build the first conservation program and conservation laboratory at the university.

During that same time, the libraries were reorganizing, and I was appointed Head of Special Collections, Archives, the Medieval Institute Library, and Conservation.

This odd mix certainly reflected my various areas of expertise, and the director had no reservations about

Jordan-Mowery Interview, continued

exploiting that. Needless to say, I was happy until the growth of the conservation department and program, through grants and benefactors, grew so rapidly that it separated from Special Collections.

When I started at Notre Dame in 1986, there was no preservation program. By 1991, the Conservation Department emerged full force, with four conservation technicians, 12 part-time student technicians, six federal, state, and local grants totaling four million dollars, and a new 3,000-square-foot building dedicated to conservation and preservation.

By the time I left in 1999, we had established a digital program and had preserved over 100,000 books.

FBS: Tell us something about your career.

SONJA: In the early nineteen eighties, the U.S. still did not have a robust program for (book and paper) conservation bench training. There were conservation programs for fine art and objects, things primarily related to museums. The conservation of books was often done by bookbinders or book restorers who had apprenticed with trained bookbinders or book restorers and were working privately.

The major libraries engaged in book restoration in the 60s and 70s would have been the Library of Congress, the Newberry Library, and Johns Hopkins Milton S. Eisenhower Library. Each of these



Sonja washes a small print in pH neutral recalcified water to remove the backing to which the print was attached.

programs were started by Europeans, primarily Englishmen – Don Etherington, Peter Waters, John Dean, Christopher Clarkson – people who learned the craft in Europe and came to the U.S. There were some Americans, don't get me wrong, but the big names that stand out as the grandfathers of institutional training were English.

So in the 80s there was no formal conservation training in the U.S. Columbia had in their library school what they called a conservation program, but it was mostly a management program.

The conservation that I took at the time at the University of Chicago was focused on the chemistry of paper and paper degradation as well as the influence of the environment on book degradation. In addition to that, we got a lot of content on the history of printing, manuscript studies, and role of the book as historical artifact. One of my instructors was Robert Rosenthal, who was a great bibliophile from a large family of New York book dealers. We also had outside lecturers like Paul Needham, Christopher Clarkson, Paul Saenger, and others.



Sonja holds a 19th c Ethiopian manuscript whose binding will need restoration.

Jordan-Mowery Interview, continued

So it was hands-on, but it was not repair orientated. It was about understanding the artifact. And I think that gave those of us who took those kinds of initial courses an advantage because we understood the book historically and materially. I continued to take workshops and intensive courses with people like Christopher Clarkson, Don Etherington, James Brockman, Joanna Mankowski, as well as intensive workshops being offered in the U.S. and Europe.

By the 90s, the recognition that libraries – and not museums – were primarily going to be responsible for book and paper conservation really exploded. It was during the 80s and the 90s that the U.S. started to lead [in book and paper conservation].

There was more science being dedicated to research book and paper materiality and degradation and the materials and techniques used to conserve them. Book restorers were becoming known as book conservators, and by the mid-1980s, the American Institute for Conservation created the subspecialty of book and paper conservation. For the first time, book conservators and restorers had a professional affiliation along with art conservators.

This surge in book conservation, however, coincided with the beginnings of digitization, and this resulted in competition for financial resources as well as the

attention of library directors.

Many library directors thought that digitization would replace the need for conservation. Many directors believed that because of the problem of conserving our brittle books and hundreds of years of collecting, it was not cost-effective to look at intervention and that digitization would displace conservation, and funding started to change.

I saw it at Notre Dame. Then, I was at Johns Hopkins University [beginning in 2003], and there, I revived a program that had existed in the 70s. [Sonja was at John Hopkins from 2003 until she retired in 2015. Ed.]

Hopkins had been the leader in the 70s, led by John Dean, to create U.S. apprenticeship programs modeled on the English program. It was certified with the Board of Labor and Statistics, and it had a fabulous reputation for taking people who were either knowledgeable in historicity or good with their hands and going through an intensive seven-year program to train them, and that flourished from the 70s and the 80s.

Then, after John Dean left, directors changed the direction, and the conservation program suffered for about 20 years.



Jordan-Mowery Interview, continued

Then in 2003, I was asked to apply for the head of conservation at Johns Hopkins University, and having been an intern there, I had extremely favorable and positive memories, and I had stayed in contact with several of the original conservators and was well aware of what was happening there. And I decided it was a moral act to go and rebuild it, and I did.

With over eight million dollars that I helped raise from the Mellon Foundation as well as private donors and many others, we established our own conservation lab in the new wing of the library.

I hired people from Europe and around the U.S. who had experience at the bench and could take any artifact from where it was to where it should be.

FBS: How did you and your husband end up in Venice?

SONJA: Both my husband and I had private conservation clients and always had studios in our home. Our private clients included individual collectors and dealers in books and documents from across the U.S.

I had several positions, and so did not so much choose where I lived, but where I worked. My husband stayed in the same location. When we retired from our institutional positions, it was the first time we could decide to live where we wanted.

We had both had enough of the snow and big cities. We had vacationed in St. Petersburg for several years. So we decided that Florida would be ideal.

So, I decided to go on a road trip to find the best coastal small town with some culture and history. I discovered Venice and that was it. I called my husband who flew down and he agreed.

Of course everything here is smaller. We had a 5,000-square-foot home on four acres in Maryland, and our studio was on one entire floor. But we soon realized we would have to have two places, one to call home and one for the studio.

We found the perfect spot in historic downtown Venice, and a great little house in Osprey. We are in our second studio space in historic Venice, because after two years of business, we needed more room.



Sonja among books needing conservation and tools at Mowery Book and Paper Conservation.

We have been at this location for 1½ years, and we are already thinking of expanding again. Business has been great, and we have met some wonderful people, who started as clients but now we call friends.

FBS: Where do you think the field of conservation is today in light of the trend to digitize everything?

SONJA: Both have found their respective niches and coexist beautifully.

Conservation has continued to grow, and while formal conservation training programs in the U.S. are still limited to one, there are many more opportunities for conservation science research, internships, and apprenticeship.

Conservation remains the primary choice for rare books and manuscripts and historical works. But digitization has addressed many of the volumes that are beyond conservation, as it should be.

Part of it is that anything new is always sexy, and one of the things that is both a criticism and a positive is that many directors have to look for money for their institution and to brand themselves in some way. That is unfortunate, but characteristic, in that directors always jump on the latest thing.

This is not a new phenomenon. Directors are often pressured to make [their program] first relevant to the academic institution – if this is an academic

Jordan-Mowery Interview, concluded

library — and to their core curriculum, their faculty, and their dean and to bring in money.

FBS: When does digitization make sense?

SONJA: Directors and others finally realized that digitization can go hand in hand with conservation, and you're not going to digitize something in poor condition. If you're going to "manipulate" the visual information into a digital copy, you have basically lied about what you have. If a patron goes back to the original because they want that tactile experience and content, they see that the original doesn't look anything like the digitized copy.

Sonja's Book Preservation Tips for Book Collectors

- **Never hesitate to purchase a book because of its disrepair.**
- **Do not put books in a compromised environment, such as direct sunlight or unstable temperature and/or relative humidity.**
- **Always use a reputable conservator.**
- **Do not shelve oversized books on their foreedge**
- **Do not attempt any repairs, and *please* no scotch tape!**

So it all sorted itself out into a rational approach — not only rational but also beneficial.

There's so much information now that you can get on the Internet through digital collections; it's profoundly helpful, but it doesn't displace the need for some scholars, or collectors, or just the populace to see the artifacts.

It's one thing to see the Book of Kells in real life, or the Declaration of Independence in real life, it's another thing to see a photocopy.

FBS: So, people still want to preserve the original artifact?

SONJA: I think that for our constituents, who collect first editions or books with historical or artifactual value of some sort, there will always be a need for conservation — similarly for documents and ephemera and art on paper.

Conservation will always have a place in that venue, and that's what keeps us in business.

I know that major academic institutions have learned their lesson, and I see so many of them have healthy conservation programs. Some are making it a strategic goal.

Unfortunately, in England I see them struggle in a way we were in the 80s. So they are struggling a little with training.

FBS: What about the Library of Congress? Are they doing a good job of conserving the original texts and papers?

SONJA: The Library of Congress is not a national library the way the Bibliothèque Nationale or the British Library is.

They are conserving their collection, which is extensive. It's the largest library in the world. They collect everything, and they have a massive conservation program and they're extremely talented.

FBS: Is there a national organization of book conservators?

SONJA: There is the American Institute for Conservation, AIC, which was established in the 60s.

But just to give you an indication of its history, in the 60s and onwards, it was primarily geared to museums, and (it felt) the need to preserve historic artifacts and paintings and objects.

It was only in the 80s — 1985, I think — that books and paper became a subdivision within AIC.

So you can see that AIC was well established for 20 years before we even reared our head. By the time that we, book and paper conservators and libraries, start stepping up to the plate for book and paper artifacts is when digitization was becoming popular.



Recreating a Great Irish Collection

On December 6, 1921, the government of the United Kingdom and representatives of the Irish Republic signed a treaty that ended over two years of conflict, the **Irish War of Independence**. The treaty provided for Irish self-rule with the same status as Canada within the British Empire, creating the Irish Free State. Northern Ireland opted out and chose to remain in the United Kingdom. Two factions developed in the Irish Free State: one was pro-treaty, and the other, the Irish Republican Army, opposed the treaty.

Within a few months, on June 28, 1922, civil war broke out in the Irish Free State between the pro-treaty and anti-treaty forces. The civil war would end a little over a year later, in favor of the pro-treaty

forces, but the bitter division and the cost in lives would set the tone for Irish politics for decades.

At the beginning of the war, anti-treaty forces had occupied Four Courts, the court and administration complex in central Dublin. After a two-day siege, the pro-treaty forces took over, but in the process, a massive explosion

occurred in Four Courts, causing a devastating fire that destroyed records documenting hundreds of years of Irish history. Some records that were not consumed by the flames were carried away by the wind as more of the interior of the building was exposed by the destruction. They were scattered across the city, and some were found on the Hill of Howth, seven miles east and across Dublin Bay.

A list of these documents survived in the Public Record Office's basement, which was largely unaffected by the fires which destroyed the upper stories of the building. That list gives an idea of the scope of the loss: it is 300 pages and dates back seven centuries. Census records for the entire 19th



During the 1922 Civil War, a huge explosion shook the central court buildings in Dublin. In the ensuing fires, many buildings and thousands of documents and hundreds of years of history were lost.

century were incinerated. Chancery records detailing British rule in Ireland as far back as the 14th century and grants of land by the crown were destroyed as were thousands of wills and title deeds. Records of chief secretaries to Ireland and centuries of Church of Ireland parish registers vanished in the fire. Especially damaging to research efforts are records lost for the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

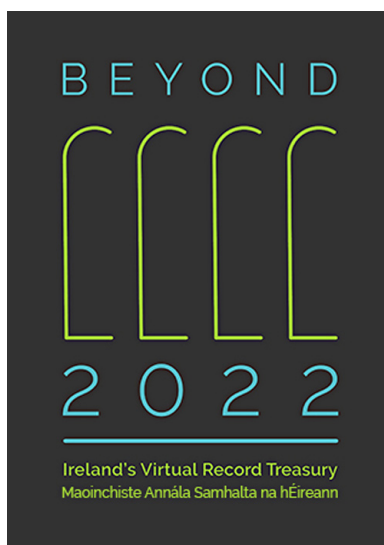
The Plan to Recreate

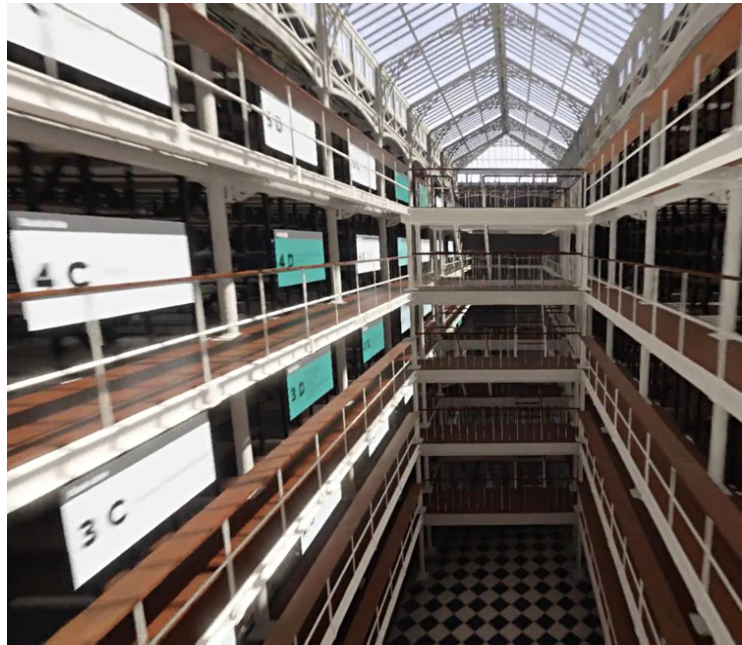
June 30, 2022, marks the centenary of the Four Courts explosion and fire. In 2018, looking ahead to that date, Trinity College Dublin established *Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury*, a research project that seeks to retrieve as many of the Four Courts documents as possible through duplicates in



Every possible avenue has been pursued in reconstructing the documents from the Public Records Office. A librarian carefully opens a document box marked "Charred Fragments."

Sources: Irish Times; National Archives of Ireland; National Archives UK



Recreating Irish Collection, concluded

In Phase II of the Beyond 2022 project, the Public Records Office of Ireland will be reconstructed as a three-dimensional computer model, recreating every aspect of the building in as much detail as research allows. A photograph of the interior of the building appears on the left, and a similar view from the digital reconstruction appears on the right.

other archives. The new archive will be digital with public access.

Five institutions are involved in the project: the National Archives, the UK national archives, the public records office in Northern Ireland, the Irish Manuscripts Collection, and the library at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). A number of other institutions in Europe and the U.S. are also participating in the project.

The first phase of the project has focused on the creation of a database of archival holdings, based on *A Guide to the Records Deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland* – fortuitously compiled by Herbert Wood three years before the fire – and other reports. Work is also underway to assess for conservation over 200 boxes of materials that survived the fire.

Beyond 2022 director Dr. Peter Crooks recently reported on the exciting progress the project has made, describing the scale of copies and duplicates identified in other archives as “astounding.”

Crooks commented, “We are committed to producing 50 million words of searchable material by 2022 and that is possible with the artificial

intelligence we are using. Tens of thousands of papers will be digitised, but they will also be searchable, which is a change. We will be able to mine this information for individual names.”

Another aspect of the project will be the three-dimensional virtual reconstruction of the Public Records Office itself, a six-story Victorian building made of cut granite, located next to the River Liffey.

The explosion and fire of June 30, 1922, is just one of several critical events in the period 1912 to 1922 whose centennials are being celebrated during the “[Decade of Centenaries](#).” This program of Ireland’s Department of Culture has the goal “to ensure that this complex period in our history, including the Struggle for Independence, the Civil War, the Foundation of the State and Partition, is remembered appropriately, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity. A key objective of the initiative is to promote a deeper understanding of the significant events that took place during this period and recognise that the shared historical experience of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories.”

Bibliography Week NYC, January 21-25, 2020

Bibliography Week happens each January in New York when several book history groups, including the Grolier Club, The Bibliographical Society of America, and American Printing History Association, have their annual meetings and other events.

On Tuesday, January 21, the Club will host a Symposium on Women in the Book Arts, connected with the exhibition “500 Years of Women’s Work: The Lisa Unger Baskin Collection.” In the evening, at the Columbia Rare Book & Manuscript Library, members are invited to attend “Awash in Books: Books for the Year of Water,” a hands-on look at books exhibited in “The Year of Water: Selections from Columbia’s Book Arts Collection.”

On Wednesday, the Club will host a Bibliography Week Lecture: Lisa Baskin on the themes of the exhibition “500 Years of Women’s Work”

Thursday’s events will be at the French Institute and at the *Booklyn* studio. At the former will be a special mini-antiquarian book fair, sponsored by the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America. The latter will host an afternoon open house at which guests may peruse new and innovative printed works from around the world.

On Friday is the Bibliographical Society of America annual meeting: papers from new scholars at 2 pm; annual meeting at 4; and reception at 6.

Saturday at the New York Academy of Medicine, Leah Price, founder and director of the Rutgers Initiative for the Book will talk about her book *What We Talk About When We Talk About Books*. In the afternoon, American Printing History Association will hold its annual meeting at the New York Public Library.

Details of these events on the [Grolier Club website](#).

Costa Book Awards 2020

The Costa Book Awards are annual literary awards recognizing English-language books by writers based in Britain and Ireland. The awards were inaugurated in the early 1970s under the sponsorship of Whitbread, an international hotel and restaurant company.

Until 2006, the award carried Whitbread’s name, but in that year, the sponsorship was taken over by a Whitbread subsidiary, Costa Coffee, and the award name was changed. Awards are given in five book categories: Novel, First novel, Children’s book, Poetry, and Biography. In 2012, a Short Story Award was established. Award winners need not be British or Irish, but they must fulfill a residency requirement.

The awards are given both for high literary merit but also for works that are enjoyable reading and whose aim is to convey the enjoyment of reading to the widest possible audience. As such, they are a more populist literary prize than the Booker Prize.

The 2020 winners were announced on January 6.



Novel – Jonathan Coe, *Middle England*

First novel – Sara Collins, *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* (debut author)

Children’s book – Jasbinder Bilan, *Asha & the Spirit Bird* (debut author)

Poetry – Mary Jean Chan, *Flèche* (debut author)

Biography – Jack Fairweather, *The Volunteer: The True Story of the Resistance Hero who Infiltrated Auschwitz*

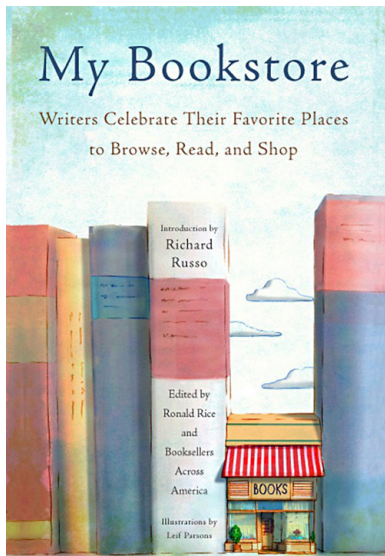
Two prizes remain to be awarded: the short story and the best book of the year. These will appear later in January.

Books in Brief

My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places to Browse, Read, and Shop

Ronald Rice, ed.

Black Dog & Leventhal, 392 pp., Nov.. 2012



Fannie Flagg, Isabel Allende, Dave Eggers, Pico Iyer, Wendell Berry, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Simon Winchester, Ann Patchett, Barry Moser, Chuck Palahniuk, Tom Robbins – these are a few of the more than 75 writers that share about their favorite bookstore in *My Bookstore*.

A writer's relationship with their local bookstore can last for years or even decades. Often, the local store supported the author during their early career and later worked tirelessly to introduce their work to new readers. But authors are also readers and customers, just like us. For them, as for most of us, bookstores serve as the anchor for our communities, the place that introduces us to new ideas (and new neighbors), and that sets our children on the path to becoming lifelong readers and lovers of books. *My Bookstore* brims with original, deeply moving, funny, and well-crafted tributes to bookstores from Powell's in Portland (OR) to Books & Books in Coral Gables (FL) and from Longfellow Books in Portland (ME) to Chaucer's Books in Santa Barbara (CA), all charmingly depicted by Leif Parsons.

Ronald Rice has worked in book publishing as a sales and marketing professional for 25 years, working with and promoting bookstores. He was a four-time nominee for *Publishers Weekly* Sales Representative of the Year and has served multiyear terms on both the NEIBA and SEBA advisory councils. He lives in Philadelphia, PA.

Sources: bookweb.org; Black Dog & Leventhal; Amazon

ABCD of Typography

David Rault

SelfMadeHero, 128 pp., Sept. 2019

WARNING: YOU ARE NOW VIEWING TYPOGRAPHY. PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

The small symbols that allow human thought and speech to be transmitted without sound over miles and millennia are magical. In the *ABCD of Typography*, David Rault

provides a sketch – literally and figuratively – of 3,500 years of typography.

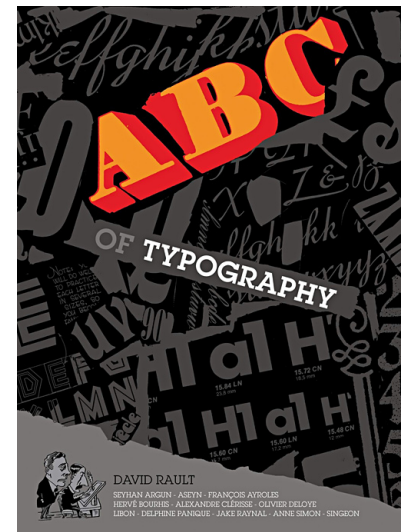
Praised by *The Guardian* as one of the best graphic novels of 2019, Rault guides us on the journey from the earliest scripts through the development of the scripts of the classical and medieval eras to the



modern eras of metal and then digital type. That journey is illustrated in series of chapters, each illustrated by a different artist, including Seyhan Argun, Aseyn, François Ayroles, Hervé Bourhis, Alexandre Clérisse, Olivier Deloye, Libon, Delphine Panique, Jake Raynal, Anne Simon, and Singeon. The highly graphic format suits the subject of typography, which has been deeply influenced by graphic design throughout history.

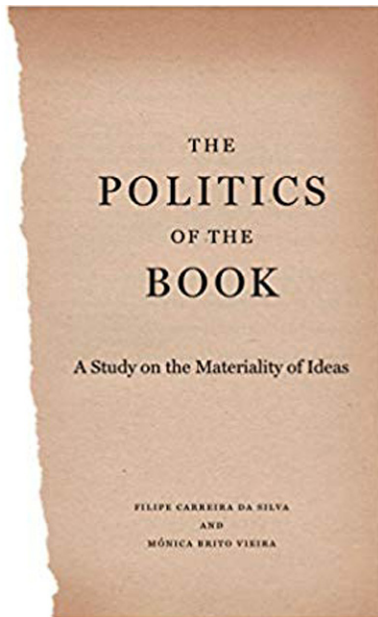
David Rault is a graphic designer, photographer, and writer. He is the author of numerous books about typography. He lives in Nuremberg, Germany.

Sources: Amazon; SelfMadeHero



*Books in Brief, concluded***The Politics of the Book: A Study on the Materiality of Ideas**

Filipe Carreira da Silva and Mónica Brito Vieira
 Penn State Univ. Press
 272 pp., May 2019



As any author knows, the power of a text is more than just the brilliance of the words on the page. Many material factors play a role in the influence and acceptance of a book.

This tacit understanding had become the subject of active research as book studies have developed over the last 50 years. In *The Politics of the Book*, Da Silva and Vieira bring a full battery

of modern approaches to bear on several classic sociological texts, including work by Durkheim, Mead, Marx, Du Bois, Weber, and Tocqueville.

The authors explore what publishers, editors, translators, and commentators accomplish by offering the new versions of the works under consideration, examine debates about the intended meaning of the works and discussions over their present relevance, and elucidate the various ways in which content and material form are interwoven. In doing so, they characterize the editorial process as a meaning-producing action involving both collaboration and an ongoing battle for the importance of the book form to a work's disciplinary belonging, ideological positioning, and political significance.

Filipe Carreira da Silva has written several influential books on social theory. He is Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, Univ. of Lisbon, and Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Mónica Brito Vieira is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Politics of the University of York. Sources: Penn State Univ. Press; Amazon

**The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Three-Volume Novel**

Troy J. Bassett
 Palgrave Macmillan
 253 pp., forthcoming April 2020

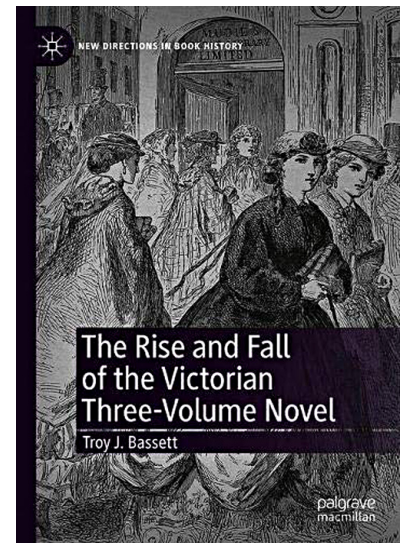
During most of the 19th century, the three-volume format was the prestige form of the novel.

Utilizing recent developments in book history and digital humanities, *The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Three-Volume Novel* offers a cultural, economic, and literary history of the Victorian three-volume

novel, the prestige format for the British novel during much of the nineteenth century. With the publication of Walter Scott's popular novels in the 1820s, the three-volume novel became the standard format for new fiction aimed at middle-class audiences through the support of circulating libraries. Following a quantitative analysis examining who wrote and published these novels, the book investigates the success of publisher Richard Bentley in producing three-volume novels, the experiences of the W. H. Smith circulating library in distributing them, the difficulties of authors such as Robert Louis Stevenson and George Moore in writing them, and the resistance of new publishers such as Arrowsmith and Unwin to publishing them. Rather than faltering, the three-volume novel stubbornly endured until its abandonment in the 1890s.

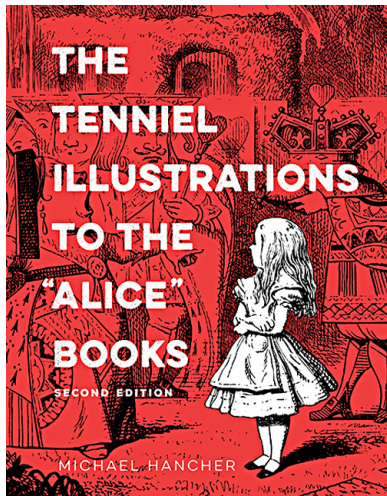
Troy J. Bassett is Professor of English at Purdue University Fort Wayne, USA. He has published numerous articles and book chapters on Victorian book history and literature and is the creator of the digital humanities project *At the Circulating Library: A Database of Victorian Fiction, 1837–1901*.

Sources: Palgrave Macmillan; Amazon



*Books in Brief, concluded***The Tenniel Illustrations to the “Alice” Books, 2nd edition**

Michael Hancher
Ohio State Univ. Press
312 pp., Oct. 2019



Published in the 1870s, the reputation of Alice in Wonderland has grown steadily – the characters and ideas in the book are now globally used and recognized.

The Tenniel Illustrations to the “Alice” Books places the success of Tenniel’s 92 illustrations for the

Alice books in several historical contexts, including Tenniel’s career as a leading artist for *Punch*.

This new edition also pays special attention to the material circumstances that enabled and conditioned the printing of the illustrations. The twelve chapters of Hancher’s first edition (1985) have been revised and updated throughout, drawing on archival and published resources made available in recent decades. Six chapters are entirely new, explaining how Tenniel’s drawings were professionally hand-engraved on wood blocks; how electrotype replicas were made from those blocks; and what problems could mar the commercial printing of such images – as notoriously happened in the first printing of *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, which Carroll suppressed on Tenniel’s advice. Also considered for the first time here are the coloring of Tenniel’s black-and-white illustrations, by Tenniel and other artists, and the extraordinary treatment later given to Tenniel’s illustrations by the prestigious Limited Editions Club.

Michael Hancher is Professor of English at the University of Minnesota, specializing in Victorian studies; book history; lexicography; pragmatics, literature, and the law; and digital humanities.

Sources: Ohio State Univ. Press; Amazon; Univ. of Minn.

**The Book in Mamluk Egypt and Syria (1250–1517)**

Doris Behrens-Abouseif
Bibliographical Society of the Univ. of Virginia
383 pp., 2019

The Mamluk Sultanate was centered on Egypt, extending west to Libya, north through the Sinai, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, and south on both sides of the Red Sea to Ethiopia and Mecca.

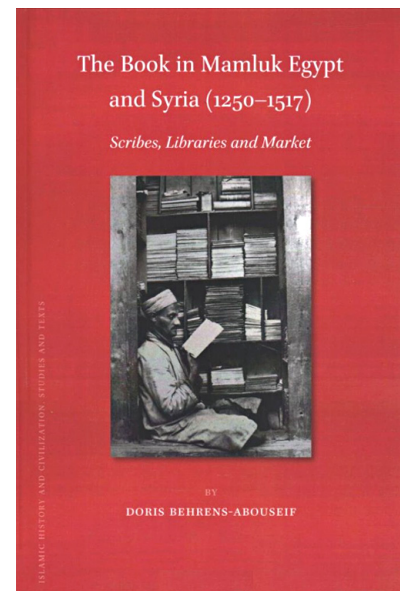
It was a powerful and rich sultanate that honored knowledge, producing many fine books over the hundreds of years of its rise and fall.

The Book in Mamluk

Egypt and Syria (1250–1517) is the first to date to be dedicated to the circulation of the book as a commodity in the Mamluk sultanate. It discusses the impact of princely patronage on the production of books, the formation and management of libraries in religious institutions, their size and their physical setting. It documents the significance of private collections and their interaction with institutional libraries and the role of charitable endowments (waqf) in the life of libraries. The market as a venue of intellectual and commercial exchanges and a production center is explored with references to prices and fees. The social and professional background of scribes and calligraphers occupies a major place in this study, which also documents the chain of master-calligraphers over the entire Mamluk period. For her study, the author relies on biographical dictionaries, chronicles, waqf documents and manuscripts.

Doris Behrens-Abouseif is Professor (emerita), SOAS, University of London.

Sources: Brill; Amazon



Upcoming Events

January 2020



Jerry Morris: Moi's Books About Books Collection
Seminole Community Library
 9200 113th St. N.
 Seminole, FL

January 19, 2020, 1:30 pm

Moi's Books About Books Collection will be Jerry's fifth presentation for FBS. "William Targ, Bibliophile" in October 2005, was followed by presentations on the collections of Mary Hyde, then Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and Charles Lamb, and most recently, in March 2015, Jerry presented "Whose Hands Were on This Book?" about his collection of association copies. Jerry collects in many areas, but his largest collection, now over 1,300 books, includes books about book collecting, bookselling, bookbinding, book history, book clubs, bookplates, libraries, and anything else that has to do with books – a category often called "books about books."

"Moi" is short for "MoiBibliomaniac," a nickname Jerry uses to describe his approach to collecting. ⚡

February 2020



Mark Harris: The Complete History of Comics Books (in under 30 minutes!)

Macdonald-Kelce Library
University of Tampa
 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL

February 16, 2020, 1:30 pm

We say, "Impossible!" But Mark, an avid collector of comic books, will prove us **wrong**. Many still think of comic books as children's entertainment, but for over a century, comics have absorbed our cultural dreams and beliefs, and now in the form of multi-decade blockbuster movie franchises, they are feeding them back to us. Comics are now a genre and an art form. They've given rise to graphic novels, which are regularly reviewed in rather serious publications, like the *New York Times*. Comics have generated huge industries in Europe and Japan. They are a multibillion dollar enterprise which reaches billions of people. How did it happen? Mark will explain. ⚡

Florida Book Events Calendar

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

LIBRARY BOOK SALES

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

Florida Library Book Sales:

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

JANUARY 2020

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

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)

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

January 22-25

Friends of Largo Library Book Sale

- Thu, Fri 9-5, Sat 9:30-3:30
 - Preview: Wed 3-5, Friends; join at door \$10
 - 7,000 books; 85% donated; 85% hardcover; sorted; no buyer restrictions; 50 cents each or 3/\$1
- Largo, FL (<http://lplfriends.blogspot.com/>)

January 23-26

Florida Storytelling Festival

(sponsored by The Florida Story Association)
Mount Dora, FL (<http://flstory.com/festival/>)

January 25-February 2

31st Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org/)

FEBRUARY

February 14, 10:30 AM

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *Uncommon Clay: Life and Works of Augustus Saint-Gaudens* by Burke Wilkinson

February 13-15

Amelia Island Book Festival

Amelia Island, FL
(www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/)

SARASOTA AUTHORS CONNECTION

presents

Camille Cline



“Editing Your Work for Presentation to Agents or Publishers, Part 2”

Camille has turned her extensive career in publishing into a service for writers called The Literary Spa to help authors prepare work to present to agents and publishers. She understands the challenges authors face and has developed a method to help authors overcome them.

Tuesday, January 21, 6 PM

Fruitville Library

100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota, FL

February 13-16

Savannah Book Festival

Savannah, GA (www.savannahbookfestival.org/)

February 20-23

Coastal Magic Convention

Daytona Beach, FL (coastalmagicconvention.com/)

MARCH

March 7

Southwest Florida Reading Festival

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

March 7-8

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Mar. 8, 10:30 AM, Ringling Art Library Reading Room
Book of the month: *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*, by Ross King

March 21

9th Annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival

Venice, FL (<http://venicebookfair.com/>)





Lighthouse Books Has a New Home!

FBS member Mike Slicker has made the move! [Lighthouse Books](#), after over 40 years in St. Pete, is now located in Dade City at 14046 5th St. The shop is open to the public Wed–Sat, 11 am to 6 pm, and Sunday 1–5 pm. Mike still has a great selection of books and offers a discount to the FBS members. You might want to stop by on January 18 for the Open House and get a look at the new digs!



This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

Jude Bagatti
David Hall
Jerry Morris
Linda Morris
Maureen E. Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Gary Simons
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 recently published a book of imaginative illustrations to accompany *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She presented her book, discussed her process, and supplied materials for a brief workshop introducing the audience to Zentangle drawing.

November 17 • Jonathan Chopan: Imagining the Other: On Writing outside the Self. Mr. Chopan, an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Eckerd College, read from his recent book, *Veterans Crisis Hotline*, and took questions from the audience.

December 15 • FBS Holiday Party. FBS members Ben and Joyce Wiley hosted a wonderful holiday party at their home in Largo.

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 more than 1,300 books, and he promises that not one will be missed!

February 16 • Mark Harris: Collecting Comics. For many people, comics are still a 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 comics collecting in general.

March 15 • FBS Open Mike. Many FBS members are also writers. Members are invited to bring a short

work of poetry or fiction (even a song!) to share at the March meeting.

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.

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



Endpaper • Looking Ahead



2020 is finally here, and for FBS it will be a banner year as we look ahead to hosting the FABS Annual Tour – the first one in sunny Florida!

I think many people would be surprised at the book resources – the libraries, museums, collectors, presses, and more – that we have here in the Sunshine State. Because of the distances, we can only offer our guests a small part of the state, but what a great area!

You can see the tour schedule by following the link on the front of this newsletter. When you do, you will see that a very special tour is on offer, including world-class museums and book collections. A truly memorable tour has been planned by some very dedicated – and fun-loving – bibliophiles!

In between, there will be delicious food and good fellowship. And if I may brag a bit, before and after there will be the rest of the state of Florida with its many cultural, entertainment, and nature destinations. There are also plenty of great book stores and antique

malls in the tour area.

And doesn't everyone have a relative in Florida? It doesn't matter, because you already have a few friends. We hope our guests will have some extra time to enjoy Florida!

A special treat, this annual tour is tied into the largest antiquarian book fair in the Southeast. The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, held in St. Petersburg for almost 40 years, brings in dozens of rare book dealers. Dealers offer books and ephemera in every subject area and price level, from the interesting to the truly rare. You can check out the [FABF website](#).

FBS members are looking forward to hosting fellow bibliophiles from around the country and introducing them to some of the Book Wonders of Florida.

[Sign up soon!](#)

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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The Florida Bibliophile is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983. It is published monthly from September to May. Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to: Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net. www.floridabibliophilesociety.org © 2020 Florida Bibliophile Society

Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor.

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