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.

Never happier than when holding a book, Jerry Morris gave an enthusiastic presentation about his Books about Books collection. Over a thousand volumes and growing, Jerry found a way to squeeze in every one... as he promised.

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

38th Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair
April 24–26, 2020 – St. Petersburg, FL
(http://floridabooksellers.com/bookfair.html)
Minutes of the Florida Bibliophile Society Meeting, January 19, 2020

President Jerry Morris opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests. He introduced Terry Shockey, a member of the Rowfant Club in Cleveland, and his nephew, Jeff Morris, a comics collector. Jerry spoke about several upcoming events, including a visit to Doralynn Books in Madeira Beach after the meeting. Doralynn Books is owned by FBS member Sean Donnelly and his business partner Harry Nash. They have, from time to time, kept the bookshop open later than usual so that FBS members can enjoy some refreshments while visiting, browsing the books, and enjoying a nice discount.

Jerry also announced a special FBS Day at Lighthouse Books on February 8. Lighthouse Books is owned by Mike Slicker, long-time FBS member and bookstore owner in St. Petersburg, who has recently relocated to Dade City.

The Main Feature: MoiBibliomaniac

Jerry then introduced the guest speaker – himself – and his presentation, Moi’s Books about Books. “Moi” is short for the nickname that Jerry adopted years ago for his collecting persona, MoiBibliomaniac.

Then, Jerry introduced the subject. “Books about Books” is a category of books often thought to date to the 1880s with the publication of Alfred Pollard’s Early Illustrated Books (1893). Although such books were rare at that time, since then, many such books have been published.

Jerry explained that collectors may disagree about what books should be included in this category. For example, the Grolier Club of New York claims to hold 100,000 books about books.

Jerry explained that collectors may argue about what books to include in “Books about books.” He presented the following classification scheme used by the Grolier Club. It helps to clarify what the term “books about books” applies to, and it shows how many types of books could fit the category. It also shows the richness of the subject.

From Reader to Bibliomaniac

Jerry shared a quote (“A tortuous journey,” above) in which he described his own journey from reader to bibliomaniac and, thus, a collector of books about books (among other areas in which Jerry collects!). This quote is a condensed version of the process Jerry would outline in an interview in Fine Books and Collectibles, Winter 2015. In that interview,
he shared that the process began in 1985 when he was stationed with the U.S. Air Force at RAF Mildenhall, UK. What started as a casual interest became a serious focus, mentored by the bookseller Faith Legg, and fueled by Jerry’s voracious reading habits and eager collecting.

In his Fine Books and Collectibles interview, Jerry described the next step:

Inexpensive dictionaries and quotation books are what I first started collecting. Then Samuel Johnson caught my eye – or rather a volume of his Idler essays, it was. Not long after that, my wife found Sonnenschein’s Best Books* on a bargain table in a bookstore in Clare, England. And ‘Books About Books’ became my biggest obsession.

Jerry soon discovered Andrew Lang’s The Library (Macmillan, 1881). This led to J. Herbert Slater (Round and about Book Stalls), Arthur Dobson (A Bookman’s Budget), and Leigh Hunt (“My Books”). He read everything he could find by them. These four authors alone account for almost 100 volumes in Jerry’s Books about Books collection. Others followed.

In 1989, Jerry retired from the Air Force and returned to the U.S., settling in Florida. It seems incredible now, but the personal computer was a new invention, and there was no Internet. Some readers will recall that the way out-of-print books were located was through publications like AB Bookman’s Weekly, in which dealers advertised available books and collectors placed books-wanted notices. After Jerry had “exhausted the supply of books about books in the entire state of Florida,” he became a devoted reader of Bookman’s Weekly. As he would write later for the online version of Bookman’s Weekly, he would mark his wants on the back of the magazine…. then “check the balance in my checking account and start making phone calls.”

The Internet killed Bookman’s Weekly. The online version did not survive long as more and more booksellers offered their books directly. American Book Exchange, now AbeBooks.com, created tools for booksellers early in the Internet era. It became easier to locate even obscure books.

Jerry took full advantage of the Internet to build his collection, but he also began to blog about the collection and his discoveries. But a bibliomaniac does not write one blog or two or three… he writes five (or more!). More about this later.
January Minutes, continued

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Breaking Down the Collection

Jerry had promised to share about every one of the 1,300+ books in his Books about Books collection. He fulfilled the promise by reviewing each subdivision of his collection and sharing a treasure or two in each category. Here are the subdivisions, with the estimated number of books in each group:

– Books of provenance: 594 books
– Anecdotal: 313 books
– Catalogues: 288 books
– Periodicals: 287 books
– Samuel Johnson: 263 books by or about
– Bibliographies: 225 books
– Booksellers: 155 books
– Libraries: 145 books
– Instructive: 119 books
– Book arts: 100 books
– Book clubs: 96 books
– Publishers: 93 books
– Bibliomysteries: 41 books
– History: At least 30 books
– Bookplates: 32 books

Some of these books are displayed in the gallery that follows these minutes.

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My Sentimental Library

Jerry spoke about one area of collecting outside his main topic: My Sentimental Library. These books include those that have a nostalgic association for Jerry. The examples Jerry shared will explain:

– *Napoleon’s War Maxims with His Social and Political Thoughts* (1891), by Lucien E. Henry; Jerry’s copy had been owned by William “Billy” Mitchell, known as the “Father of the Air Force”.

– *International Code of Aviation* (1933), by Francesco Cosentini; Jerry’s copy was owned by Charles Lindbergh.

– *Oswald Jacoby on Poker: How to Play a Winning Game* (1945), by Oswald Jacoby; Jerry’s copy was owned by General John H. Cushman.

– *Vista Iberoamericanas, or Latin American Sights*, by William F. Rickenbacker; Jerry’s copy was owned by William’s father, the World War I flying ace, Eddie Rickenbacker.

– *Folk Tales From Vietnam*, by Glenn W. Monigold; Jerry’s copy was owned by General William Peers, who supervised the investigation of the My Lai massacre.

The last book in this list illustrates the interest and the power of books and their associations – during their lives, books will contact many owners. The following is condensed from Jerry’s article “The Sentimental Airman,” which appeared in the online version of *AB Bookman’s Weekly* and is hosted on his blog *My Sentimental Library*.

...the 306th Psychological Warfare Battalion... presented this book, *Folk Tales from Vietnam*, to General Peers in 1964...

General Peers wasn’t assigned to Vietnam until March, 1968, at which time he assumed command of the American ground forces in Vietnam. He later returned to Vietnam in November, 1969, to conduct the My Lai Investigation.... Almost 500 civilian men, women, and children were killed by American soldiers. The Peers Inquiry lasted four months, and contained 20,000 pages of testimony from almost 400 witnesses. In his blistering report, General Peers recommended charges be brought against dozens of officers and enlisted men for murder, rape, and coverup of the massacre. Several American Division Generals were included in the coverup charges. Only one soldier, Lt. William Calley, was ever convicted of any crime relating to My Lai.

The books that a man buys and keeps are more indicative of his character than the size of his bank account or the people with whom he associates. Books remain after a man’s lifetime as mute reminders of the extent of his emotions and the degree of his intellect.

There are as many kinds of people in the world as there are people in the world: (a) those who collect, and (b) those who don’t. Each kind is crazy. ...

There is another association of historical significance in the provenance of this book. The Sentimental Airman [Jerry] acquired it from a retired Air Force Officer, [hereafter] THUDRAT. He was one of the 52 hostages held captive for 444 days in Iran. To make matters worse, the Ayatollah Khomeini decided to put THUDRAT on trial as a war criminal. The Ayatollah claimed that THUDRAT had bombed civilian targets in Vietnam during the Rolling Thunder Campaign. THUDRAT had flown over 100 Rolling Thunder bombing missions in his F-105 aircraft.

Plans for the trial were cancelled, however, because Vietnam declined to produce any witnesses for the trial. Finally, after 444 days of captivity, on the very day that President Reagan took office, THUDRAT and the other hostages were released. That, to me, is a fitting end to a story that began as a folk tale from Vietnam.

Jerry and the Internet
Jerry concluded his presentation by talking about MoiBibliomaniac in the Internet era.

Jerry took full advantage of the arrival of the Internet. As described above, as more booksellers turned to the Internet to offer books, more collectors used the Internet to locate and purchase books. Jerry’s favorite book resource in print, AB Bookman’s Weekly, felt the pressure of this conversion and was phased out in the 1990s. It had started as a column in Publishers Weekly, and that publication tried to revive Bookman’s Weekly in an online edition. Jerry wrote a number of articles for Bookman’s Weekly online, but eventually, it was also phased out.

By then, Jerry had a serious writing bug and began blogging. In addition to writing for online journals, Jerry started on a dozen or more websites and blogs about book collecting. The following “blogliography” covers Jerry main blog activities and their years of production. It does not include several non-book-related blogs that Jerry worked on.

– My Sentimental Library (2009-2020) – This is Jerry’s main blog.
– Biblio-Connecting (2011, 2018-2020)
– Contemplations of MoiBibliomaniac (2012-2019)
– The Early Editions of the Elements of Style (Dec. 2018)
– Bibliophiles in My Library (2008-2017)
– About Samuel Johnson’s Undergraduate Library (inactive) (2008-2010) – Jerry cataloged Johnson’s undergraduate library from historical documents. These were the books that Johnson brought with him to Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1728.
– The Displaced Book Collector (May-Oct. 2007)
– Moibibliomaniac’s Other Books (1999-2007)

In addition to using the Internet for collecting and his voluminous writing, Jerry has also turned to the Internet for cataloging. He uses a service called LibraryThing (www.librarything.com/) that allows members to catalog their books and connect these catalog entries to titles in almost 5,000 libraries, including the Library of Congress, and services like Amazon. LibraryThing also provides a social media link with other bibliophiles and recommendations for books related to cataloged titles. Jerry has cataloged 4,371 books, of which 1,375 are listed as “Books about Books.”
Origin of Books about Books

An early use of the term “Books about Books” occurs in the title of this publication from the Birmingham [UK] Free Library in 1883.


The Best Books: A Reader’s Guide (Sonnenschein, 1891), with its sections on books about books was the book that first fired Jerry’s passion for Books about Books.

A selection of Books about Books from Jerry’s collection. The book at left, The Library by Andrew Lang, was one of the first in Jerry’s collection.
Sources of Books about Books

These issues of AB Bookman’s Weekly from the 1990s were special issues devoted to “Books about Books and Printing History.” Beginning in 1948, Bookman’s Weekly was an important resource for finding books in the years before the Internet dominated bookselling. The magazine had a brief presence online in the late 1990s before publication ceased completely in 1999.

Oak Knoll Books and Oak Knoll Press, founded by Bob Fleck, have been an important source of books about books for over 40 years.

Once a year, the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair brings dozens of booksellers to St. Petersburg. The Fair has been a valuable source of books and friends for Jerry over the years.
A Sampling of Jerry’s Books about Books Collection

**Anecdotal** – These are books of stories by and about book dealers, their shops, their customers, rare books, and obsessions – makes for great stories.

**Instructive** – It’s easy to start collecting, but like many hobbies, there’s more to know to become a more serious, and knowledgeable collector.

**Book history** – This covers a wide range of topics from the history of specific books, the impact of books on cultures, to the development of publishing.

**Bibliomystery** – Books figure into many types of mysteries, including those that involve a bookstore, a bookseller, or a unique book.
A Sampling of Jerry’s Books about Books Collection (continued)

**Booksellers** – Even bookselling has its stars, and even less well known booksellers can tell an interesting story.

**Bibliography** – Accurate lists and descriptions of books are foundational for research, cataloging, and book selling.

**Periodicals** – There are many periodicals that focus on books from more general books focused on readers to more specialized publications intended for collectors.

**Book clubs** – Similar to *The Florida Bibliophile*, other clubs in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies publish informative and interesting newsletters and journals.
James Tapley, Bookbinder, 1951-2019

News of the death in early December of James Tapley, a well-known Sarasota bookbinder, was circulated among fellow book workers and bibliophiles in the last days of 2019. Sarasota was not far from the city where Tapley was raised, Lakeland. But between Lakeland were New York and Europe and apprenticeships with some of the finest bookbinders. He brought all these experiences, finally, to Sarasota, where he frequently served the Ringling Museum and dealers in fine arts like Parker Books.

Tapley’s passion for bookbinding began when he was a 12-year-old boy. Tapley told the story of browsing at the public library in Lakeland, “his refuge from a poor family life.” He was an avid reader. One day, he spots an interesting book – French decorative arts in the 1920s and 1930s.

Tapley described what happened next: “I opened to this spread with very high-style, art bookbindings.... bookbindings that use the skills of the very best craftspeople in the world. I just thought they were incredibly beautiful. That’s when I wanted to find out about bookbinding.”

Training in bookbinding was not available in local schools. When he was old enough, Tapley would travel to New York and Europe to study his craft. Tapley’s greatest influence was Christopher Clarkson, but he considered himself fortunate to have known and learned from many great American binders of the last generation, including Carolyn Horton, Arno Werner, Laura Young, and Stella Patri.

Tapley had a vast knowledge of book construction, repair, and conservation. In his one-man shop, he worked on books of every type, from Egyptian papyrus to modern classics. He was frequently called upon to repair books that had been repaired in the past, and he lamented the techniques that were once standard, before many advances in materials and science. He described repairing such books as “nightmarish”.

In general, Tapley felt that over the centuries, commercial book binding has lowered in quality, but he saw this as the necessary consequence of the demand for books, which exploded in the century after the invention of the printing press and has continued to increase ever since. Tapley once commented that the worst thing that can happen to a book is “to never be opened, never be used or never be loved.”

That sentiment reflected Tapley’s own love of reading. The thirst for reading and knowledge that he had developed as a boy continued throughout his life. In addition to the technical and creative pleasure he derived from working with his clients’ books, he read them. He said that part of the excitement of his work is that he never knew what book (that is, the content) would come in next: “One of the things I love about my profession is the incredible range of works that come through. You just never know what it’s going to be.”

Tapley shared the story of one surprise. A client brought him a book for restoration that their parents had carried with them when they fled Russia. This book, an atlas of Russia produced under “the last czar,” was illustrated with hand-colored portraits of all the nationalities — in characteristic costume — that lived in the vast Russian empire. Tapley’s research revealed that the book was worth “a couple of hundred thousand dollars” — the czar had personally commissioned the book, and only 100 copies of the book had been printed.

The loss of Tapley’s gentle spirit, ready wit, and highly regarded technical abilities will be felt throughout the fine book world.

Sources: Your Observer; SMU; Ex Libris; jamesapley.com
Bindings by James Tapley

On these pages are displayed a few of the many bindings created by James Tapley, including his submissions to the Helen Warren DeGolyer Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding hosted by SMU’s Bridwell Library. Descriptions accompany the photos where available.
Jean Genet
*Querelle of Brest*
Gilt Harmatan goatskin spine with boards of eggshell, 24k gold leaf, and Japanese lacquer colored with Kremer Pigments’ Maya Blue over Swiss blue board.
The binding is a variant on Jean De Gonet’s exposed sewing and Renaissance slotted spine structures. The text block was lightly trimmed to even the text, the head was gilt and sprinkled, pastedowns of suminagashi and kozo papers were prepared, and then the whole sewn on five linen tapes using blue linen thread, followed by the application of glue with pure gelatin, the spine lightly rounded using finger pressure. The swell from sewing was allowed to settle into its natural state with no further manipulation.

Henry Vaughan
*Sacred Poems being a Selection*
Decorations engraved by Charles Ricketts. One of 210 copies.
The book is sewn on five frayed linen cords, all text block edges left rough, and bound in full Oasis goatskin using a modified, but traditional, French style. The binding is decorated with multicolored leather onlays to an abstracted cruciform design with occasional colored foil tooling.
William Blake
*There is no Natural Religion*
Cambridge, Massachusetts: Department of Graphic Arts, Harvard College Library, 1948.
Hand-forged and drawn ingot sterling silver square wire, hand-forged sterling silver “stars,” purchased sterling silver tubes for hinges, purchased sterling silver bezels, and purchased lab-grown rubies. All silver except the stars intentionally blackened. Endpapers of kozo unryu sprinkled with gold dust. Text sewn into a muslin spine lining, head gilt, textblock secured to binding using adhesive produced by creosote wax insects. Binding accomplished utilizing traditional Diné (Navajo) silversmith tools and methods, produced while on retreat in the Naabeehó Bináhásdzgo (Navajo Nation), and is dedicated to my Diné teacher Tommy Young.

C. P. Cavafy
*Collected Poems*
Sewn on tapes and forwarded as a Brockman Concave Spine Binding, tab and slot board attachment. Head gilt and colored. Covered in two colors of goatskin, title inlaid on spine, boards tooled in gilt and foil, back inlaid with eggshell lacquer and front panels joined by a forged brass panel. Japanese handmade paper doublures.
The Helen Warren DeGolyer Triennial Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding

When Helen Warren (1926-1995) married Everett deGolyer, she joined a wealthy Dallas family already known for philanthropy prominently to the arts. She was a supporter of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, the Dallas Symphony, the Dallas Opera, Planned Parenthood, and the Bridwell Library of Southern Methodist University. She was also a patron of the Aspen Summer Music Festival and the Aspen Opera. She and her husband endowed the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts Clare Hart DeGolyer scholarship in honor of their daughter who died in 1975.

The DeGolyers were also important collectors of books. Everett DeGolyer, Sr., and his son Everett deGolyer, Jr., were great collectors. They donated many rare books to Bridwell Library at SMU; for example, an extremely fine copy of *Endymion* by John Keats and other rare first editions of Conrad, Stevenson, Kipling, Whitman, and many others.

Helen joined this DeGolyer tradition in her own way: by becoming a binder of books. She drew upon the tradition of hand bookbinding established in Dallas through the teaching of the late Marianna Roach, a founding member of the Craft Guild of Dallas and instructor to many fine bookbinders. Helen studied with both Roach and Dorothy Westapher in the Dallas area. She also studied with Swiss bookbinder Hugo Peller.

Helen’s work appeared in many exhibitions, showing a “refined, restrained taste – yet with a flare.” She was a member of the Guild of Book Workers.

Upon Helen’s death in 1995, the Helen Warren DeGolyer Triennial Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding was established by the DeGolyer family according to her wishes and in her honor. It is hosted every three years by Bridwell Library at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. The competition, exhibition, and accompanying DeGolyer Conference aim to inspire and encourage the craft and art of bookbinding in the U.S.

Competitors submit a proposed design for a book held by Bridwell Library Special Collections and a recently completed example of their work.

The winner of the DeGolyer Award for American Bookbinding receives a commission to realize their proposed design. In addition, prizes for Excellence in Fine Binding and Design are awarded.

Completed commissions of previous DeGolyer Award winners and a selection of competition entries, including design proposals and sample bindings, are exhibited in The Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries at Bridwell Library.

In conjunction with the triennial exhibition and competition, the Helen Warren DeGolyer Conference is held at Bridwell Library and Perkins School of Theology on the Southern Methodist University campus. The conference features lectures and workshops led by noted binders and artists.

Sources: SMU; Guild of Book Workers; *The Austin American*
Among biographers, Robert Caro holds a special place. Reviewers, readers, and fellow writers often praise his exhaustive research and great detail, an approach some call “Caro-esque.” He is best known for his 1974 1,300-page biography The Power Broker, which examined the life of Robert Moses, a public official in New York City who was instrumental in giving the city its modern form. The Power Broker won the Pulitzer Prize and was selected by The Modern Library as one of the greatest 100 nonfiction books.

At 84, Caro is in the process of completing his magnum opus, a five-volume biography of Lyndon Johnson, of which four volumes have been completed:

– Path to Power (1990, 960 pp.)
– Means of Ascent (1991, 592 pp.)
– Master of the Senate (2003, 1,232 pp.)
– The Passage of Power (2012, 736 pp.)

As he does so, he has reached an agreement with the New-York Historical Society which will receive his papers, 200 linear feet of material. One of the conditions of the agreement is that NYHS will create a permanent exhibition demonstrating how Caro created a work on the scale of the Johnson biography.

Caro explained his reasoning, “With most archives, there’s a big splash, then two or three months later, it’s time for the next, but I wanted something that wouldn’t go away…. I want people to be able to see how I gather my material and how I turn it into books, how I write.”

Caro’s papers will be one of largest collections of a single person’s papers at NYHS. They include research notes, drafts, annotated news clippings, correspondence and other documents, “from once-classified memos excavated at the LBJ Presidential Library to at least one artifact literally coaxed out of a secret trunk.” There are thousands of interviews with the well-known associated with his biographies as well as with the obscure who were part of Caro’s effort to ferret out every last piece of information. The amount of primary material in the archive was described by the NYHS librarian as remarkable.

The archive also includes several hundred thousand pages of material that did not appear in his published work. These pages form book-length works of their own on influential figures that Caro’s editors encouraged him to remove from his final work.

Surrounded by filing cabinets and piles of legal pads, Caro described his relief at finally having made arrangements for his papers. “It’s like a true weight has been lifted from my shoulders.”
Old Is New Again: Twitter Discovers Times New Roman

Times New Roman: let’s break it down.
In 1931, The Times (London) commissioned the creation of a new font for their newspaper. The result, conceived by the artistic advisor to the printing equipment company Monotype, Stanley Morrison, in collaboration with a lettering artist in the Times’s advertising department, Victor Lardent. The design harkens back to the kinds of letters the Romans once carved on their monuments: the letters of the inscription at the base of Trajan’s column are often considered the most perfect example of these letters. “Roman” also, because they are upright, not slanted or italic, the latter based on expert handwriting of the 16th century. Also, the letters have serifs, the small thornlike projections at the ends of the strokes:

LETTERS WITH SERIFS

LETTERS WITHOUT SERIFS.

If this all seems too technical and cold, believe me, it isn’t. Passions are stirred among users of fonts, from printers, to designers, to writers. This passion was recently released when, on January 26, British author Séan Richardson asked an innocent question on Twitter:

Please reveal the deepest part of yourself:
Which font and which size do you write in?

Writers are often quite particular about their choice of pen, pencil, paper, location, typewriter, software, etc.… and this certainly extends to fonts. Answers to Sean’s question came in quickly – over 500 responses were received in the first week – showing a range of preferences:

Arial 12 point
Georgia 12 point single spaced

Courier 12 point

New Century Schoolbook 12 point

Even the simplest computer now arrives with dozens of fonts. Each one has a look and feel of its own – the font throughout this newsletter is Perpetua – and it is a great pleasure to run amok: font madness one might call it. Design books offered the advice: Just because you can use a hundred different fonts on your one-page flyer does not mean that you should.

As with all things Internet, it wasn’t long before the backlash began. The Times New Roman crowd showed up. The argument is summarized by fantasy novelist Rebecca Kuang: “Times New Roman, size 12 point, 1.5 spacing, like a human being.”

“Since we spend so much time with fonts, it’s unsurprising they provoke such strong emotions,” Richardson told The Guardian. “The reaction to the tweet is fascinating because it goes beyond personal preference and into questions of identity, accessibility, place, accent and style.”

What’s your favorite font?

In 1932, The Times (London) displayed Times New Roman (left) and the paper’s previous font, Didone (right). Times New Roman letters are larger in the same amount of space and darker. Times New Roman gives the page a more even tone, and is easier to read.

Sources: The Guardian; lithub; Twitter
New Brexit Controversy Swirls around Missing Comma

No doubt the documents that severed the relationship between Britain and the European Union are complex and full of potential punctuational pitfalls. But the latest Brexit controversy surrounds a comma — or rather a missing comma — on the coin recently struck by the Royal Mint to commemorate this most contentious and historical event.

Passions can run high regarding the so-called Oxford, or serial, comma. It’s the comma that appears before the last element in a list of more than two items, as in “A, B, and C.” For some authors and editors, the Oxford comma is optional; for others, it is required; and for others it is an offense. For the Brexit commemorative 50p coin, the Mint chose the words of Thomas Jefferson “Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations.”

The coin issued on January 31 was the second edition of the coin. One million Brexit 50p coins were minted in fall 2019 for the October 31 Brexit date. And when Brexit was delayed, the one million coins were melted down (one wonders if they were all melted down).

Novelist Philip Pullman tweeted “The ‘Brexit’ 50p coin is missing an Oxford comma, and should be boycotted by all literate people.” Jefferson might not agree. He famously omitted this comma in the phrase “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” when he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

But Stig Abell, editor of the Times Literary Supplement, felt the emptiness: “the lack of a comma after ‘prosperity’ is killing me.” Abell is a member of another camp of Brexit coin critics that feel the quotation is simply flat. Some Brexit supporters felt it should be punchier.

An aide to Tony Blair, members of the anti-Brexit camp, said that when receiving change, he would ask for “two 20p pieces and a 10”, in order to avoid the new coin.

New issues of coins or currency are often greeted by mixed reviews, but rarely of the grammatical or literary variety. Devotees of Jane Austen criticized the Austen 10-pound note because the quotation from Pride and Prejudice used on the note “I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading.” are the words of a character who has no interest at all in books or reading. Was the mint feigning a similar pretense?

A similar faux pas was committed by the Irish mint on a James Joyce commemorative coin that misquoted the great Irish author. The Mint claimed that the quotation captured the spirit of Joyce’s work, even if it was not an exact quote. The Austen 10-pound note replaced a 10-pound note of similar design that featured Charles Dickens.

Sources: The Guardian; lithub; Twitter
People of the Book
Books Authors & Their Subjects
Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

NEW Author Lecture Series!

Eight Jewish authors visit our community to discuss their recently published books. This series features a variety of Jewish topics: Jewish identity, Jewish culture, Anti-Semitism, Elie Wiesel, Resistance fighters of World War II, and (yes!) the beloved Marx Brothers.

Upcoming Speakers & Their Subjects

Ariel Burger (February 13th), on distinguished Holocaust authority, Elie Wiesel
Josh Frank (March 8th), on a reclaimed Marx Brothers film which inspired his graphic novel
Jack Fairweather & Sarah Rose (April 21st), on heroes of the World War II Resistance

Webpage & Tickets < https://jfedsrq.org/books >
Venue: Greenspan Family Campus for Jewish Life, 580 McIntosh Rd., Sarasota

Notice Contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member and 2012-2015 Vice President
Dr Mulvihill’s book credits, to date, include Poems by Ephelia (NY: Scholars Facsimiles & Rpts, 1992, 1993); Thumbprints of Ephelia (a multimedia website, (Re)Soundings, Penn., 2001-08); ‘Ephelia’ (Ashgate UK, 2003); Poems of Mary Shackleton Leadbeater (ebook, with images & apparatus; Alexander Street Press, Virginia, 2008); as Advisory Editor / Contributor, Ireland & The Americas, 3 vols (ABC-Clio, 2008). In progress, No More Lovely Lore: Irishwomen’s Political Writings & Response, c1603-1801, Texts & Commentary. Maureen is a J-Fed member.
How the Classics Made Shakespeare

Jonathan Bate
Princeton University Press
384 pp., Apr. 2019

Shakespeare was steeped in the classics. From one of our most eminent and accessible literary critics, a groundbreaking account of how the Greek and Roman classics forged Shakespeare’s imagination.

Shaped by his grammar school education in Roman literature, he worked in a theatrical profession that had inherited the conventions and forms of classical drama, and he read deeply in Ovid, Virgil, and Seneca. In a book of extraordinary range, acclaimed literary critic and biographer Jonathan Bate, one of the world’s leading authorities on Shakespeare, offers groundbreaking insights into how, perhaps more than any other influence, the classics made Shakespeare the writer he became.

Revealing in new depth the influence of Cicero and Horace on Shakespeare and finding new links between him and classical traditions, ranging from myths and magic to monuments and politics, Bate offers striking new readings of a wide array of the plays and poems. At the heart of the book is an argument that Shakespeare’s supreme valuation of the force of imagination was honed by the classical tradition and designed as a defense of poetry and theater in a hostile world of emergent Puritanism.

Jonathan Bate is Professor of Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature at the University of Warwick, chief editor of The RSC Shakespeare: Complete Works, and the author of many books, with many awards and honors, including the CBE.

Sources: Amazon

Shakespeare’s Library: Unlocking the Greatest Mystery in Literature

Stuart Kells
Counterpoint
336 pp., Apr. 2019

Millions of words of scholarship have been expended on the world’s most famous author and his work. And yet a critical part of the puzzle, Shakespeare’s library, is a mystery. For four centuries people have searched for it: in mansions, palaces, and libraries; in riverbeds, sheep pens, and partridge coops; and in the corridors of the mind. Yet no trace of the Bard’s manuscripts, books, or letters has ever been found.

The search for Shakespeare’s library is much more than a treasure hunt. Knowing what the Bard read informs our reading of his work, and it offers insight into the mythos of Shakespeare and the debate around authorship. The library’s fate has profound implications for literature, for national and cultural identity, and for the global Shakespeare industry.

It bears on fundamental principles of art, identity, history, meaning, and truth.

Unfolding the search like the mystery that it is, acclaimed author Stuart Kells follows the trail of the hunters, taking us through different conceptions of the library and of the man himself. Entertaining and enlightening, Shakespeare’s Library is a captivating exploration of literature’s most enduring enigma.

Stuart Kells is an award-winning writer whose books have been published around the world. His shorter writings have appeared in a wide range of journals, magazines, and newspapers. He has won the Ashurst Business Literature Prize twice (in 2016 and 2019).

Sources: Amazon

How the Classics Made Shakespeare

How the Classics Made Shakespeare

Jonathan Bate
Princeton University Press
384 pp., Apr. 2019

Shakespeare was steeped in the classics. From one of our most eminent and accessible literary critics, a groundbreaking account of how the Greek and Roman classics forged Shakespeare’s imagination.

Shaped by his grammar school education in Roman literature, he worked in a theatrical profession that had inherited the conventions and forms of classical drama, and he read deeply in Ovid, Virgil, and Seneca. In a book of extraordinary range, acclaimed literary critic and biographer Jonathan Bate, one of the world’s leading authorities on Shakespeare, offers groundbreaking insights into how, perhaps more than any other influence, the classics made Shakespeare the writer he became.

Revealing in new depth the influence of Cicero and Horace on Shakespeare and finding new links between him and classical traditions, ranging from myths and magic to monuments and politics, Bate offers striking new readings of a wide array of the plays and poems. At the heart of the book is an argument that Shakespeare’s supreme valuation of the force of imagination was honed by the classical tradition and designed as a defense of poetry and theater in a hostile world of emergent Puritanism.

Jonathan Bate is Professor of Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature at the University of Warwick, chief editor of The RSC Shakespeare: Complete Works, and the author of many books, with many awards and honors, including the CBE.

Sources: Amazon

Shakespeare’s Library: Unlocking the Greatest Mystery in Literature

Shakespeare’s Library: Unlocking the Greatest Mystery in Literature

Stuart Kells
Counterpoint
336 pp., Apr. 2019

Millions of words of scholarship have been expended on the world’s most famous author and his work. And yet a critical part of the puzzle, Shakespeare’s library, is a mystery. For four centuries people have searched for it: in mansions, palaces, and libraries; in riverbeds, sheep pens, and partridge coops; and in the corridors of the mind. Yet no trace of the Bard’s manuscripts, books, or letters has ever been found.

The search for Shakespeare’s library is much more than a treasure hunt. Knowing what the Bard read informs our reading of his work, and it offers insight into the mythos of Shakespeare and the debate around authorship. The library’s fate has profound implications for literature, for national and cultural identity, and for the global Shakespeare industry.

It bears on fundamental principles of art, identity, history, meaning, and truth.

Unfolding the search like the mystery that it is, acclaimed author Stuart Kells follows the trail of the hunters, taking us through different conceptions of the library and of the man himself. Entertaining and enlightening, Shakespeare’s Library is a captivating exploration of literature’s most enduring enigma.

Stuart Kells is an award-winning writer whose books have been published around the world. His shorter writings have appeared in a wide range of journals, magazines, and newspapers. He has won the Ashurst Business Literature Prize twice (in 2016 and 2019).

Sources: Amazon
The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders
Stuart Kells
Counterpoint
288 pp., Apr. 2018

Libraries are much more than mere collections of volumes. The best are magical, fabled places whose fame has become part of the cultural wealth they are designed to preserve. Some still exist today; some are lost, like those of Herculaneum and Alexandria; some have been sold or dispersed; and some never existed, such as those libraries imagined by J.R.R. Tolkien, Umberto Eco, and Jorge Luis Borges, among others.

Ancient libraries, grand baroque libraries, scientific libraries, memorial libraries, personal libraries, clandestine libraries: Stuart Kells tells the stories of their creators, their prizes, their secrets, and their fate. To research this book, Kells traveled around the world with his young family like modern-day "Library Tourists." Kells discovered that all the world’s libraries are connected in beautiful and complex ways, that in the history of libraries, fascinating patterns are created and repeated over centuries. More important, he learned that stories about libraries are stories about people, containing every possible human drama.

Stuart Kells is a widely published and awarded author. The Library: A Catalogue of Wonders was shortlisted for the Australian Prime Minister’s Literary Award (nonfiction) and the New South Wales Premier’s General History Prize, and longlisted for the Waverley Library Award.

Sources: Amazon

The Annotations in Lady Bradshaigh’s Copy of Clarissa
Janine Barchas and Gordon D. Fulton
English Literary Studies Monograph Series
144 pp., May 2018

At 970,000 words, Samuel Richardson’s Clarissa (1748) is one of the longest novels in the English language, and it has been praised as one of the greatest. The great man of 18th century letters Samuel Johnson called it “the first book in the world for the knowledge it displays of the human heart”.

Among Richardson’s friends were the sisters Dorothy and Elizabeth Bellingham, later Lady Bradshaigh and Lady Echlin. Correspondence between Richardson and Elizabeth has been published in three volumes. Dorothy was an early reader of Clarissa, and a “correspondence” with Richardson is preserved in the margins of her copy. Richardson viewed this copy and made a few notes of his own in response.

Dorothy found some of the choices that Richardson’s female protagonist makes less than believable, and she noted them. This appears to have influenced the 1751 edition of Clarissa. The Annotations records the annotations in Lady Bradshaigh’s copy of Clarissa and provides a useful introduction to the author, the book, and the annotator.

Janine Barchas is the Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor in English Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of The Lost Books of Jane Austen among other books.

Gordon D. Fulton is an associate professor of English at the University of Victoria (BC). He is author of the book Styles of Meaning and Meanings of Style in Richardson's Clarissa.

Sources: LA Review of Books; U. Victoria; The Guardian
Women’s Bookscapes in Early Modern Britain: Reading, Ownership, Circulation
Leah Knight, Micheline White, and Elizabeth Sauer
Univ. of Michigan Press, 312 pp., Nov. 2018

Women in 16th- and 17th-century Britain read, annotated, circulated, inventoried, cherished, criticized, prescribed, and proscribed books in various historically distinctive ways. Yet, study of women’s reading practices and book ownership has been an elusive and largely overlooked field.

In thirteen probing essays, Women’s Bookscapes in Early Modern Britain brings together the work of internationally renowned scholars investigating key questions about early modern British women’s figurative, material, and cultural relationships with books. What constitutes evidence of women’s readerly engagement? How did women use books to achieve personal, political, religious, literary, economic, social, familial, or communal goals? How does new evidence of women’s libraries and book usage challenge received ideas about gender in relation to knowledge, education, confessional affiliations, family ties, and sociability? How do digital tools offer new possibilities for the recovery of information on early modern women readers?

A three-part structure highlights individual readers and their libraries, analyses of readers and readership in the context of their interpretive communities, and new types of scholarly evidence as well as new methodologies and technologies for ongoing research.

The Periodical Press in Nineteenth-Century Ireland
Elizabeth Tilley
Palgrave Macmillan
Forthcoming April 2020

This book offers a new interpretation of the place of periodicals in nineteenth-century Ireland. Case studies of representative titles as well as maps and visual material (lithographs, wood engravings, title-pages) illustrate a thriving industry, encouraged, rather than defeated by the political and social upheaval of the century.

Titles examined include: The Irish Magazine, Monthly Asylum for Neglected Biography, The Irish Farmers’ Journal, and Weekly Intelligencer; The Dublin University Magazine; Royal Irish Academy Transactions and Proceedings and The Dublin Penny Journal; The Irish Builder (1859-1979); domestic titles from the publishing firm of James Duffy; Pat and To-Day’s Woman.

The Appendix consists of excerpts from a series entitled “The Rise and Progress of Printing and Publishing in Ireland” that appeared in The Irish Builder from July of 1877 to June of 1878. Written in a highly entertaining, anecdotal style, the series provides contemporary information about the Irish publishing industry.

Elizabeth Tilley is Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature and book history at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has published extensively on nineteenth-century Irish book and periodical culture.
Upcoming Events

February 2020

Mark Harris: The Complete History of Comic 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.

March 2020

FBS Open Mike
Seminole Community Library
9200 113th St. N.
Seminole, FL
March 15, 2020, 1:30 pm

In addition to being avid book collectors and readers, many FBS members are also writers in many media. Join us as FBS members present stories and poems – and maybe a song or two!

Please contact Jerry Morris (moibibliomaniac@gmail.com) to add your name to the schedule.
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

FEBRUARY

February 14, 10:30 AM
Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

February 13-15
Amelia Island Book Festival
Amelia Island, FL (www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/)

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 20-21
Palm Beach Book Festival
West Palm Beach, FL (http://www.palmbeachbookfestival.com/)

March 21
9th Annual Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival
Venice, FL (http://venicebookfair.com/)

March 27, 10:30 AM
Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Book of the month: Bluebeard: A Novel by Kurt Vonnegut

March 28
BookMania! (est. 1994)
Jensen Beach, FL (https://www.libraryfoundationmc.org/programs/-bookmania-festival/)
This Month’s Writers and Contributors

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

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

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 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 ● FABS Tour Florida! – Don’t Miss It! – Sign Up Today!

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.