

# The Florida Bibliophile

September 2021 • Volume 38, No. 1



## IN THIS ISSUE

*Minutes of the May 2021 Meeting of the  
Florida Bibliophile Society*..... p. 2

*FBS Summer Semester:*

*I. Road Trip to Lighthouse Books* .....p. 12

*II. The Connecticut Yankees in King  
Ringling's Court* .....p. 13

*Detroit Hustles Harder! Detroit Book Fest  
2021, by Maureen E. Mulvihill* .....p. 14

*Books in Brief* .....p. 15

*Upcoming Events* .....p. 18

*Book Events, Podcasts, and More*.....p. 19

*FBS 2021–2022 Season* .....p. 21

*Endpaper • No Book So Obscure...* .....p. 22

*Deadline for the October newsletter is October 1, 2021.  
See page 17 for details.*

Membership in the Fellowship of American  
Bibliophilic Societies is included with your  
FBS membership. The FABS newsletter is now  
electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of  
the Spring 2021 FABS Journal [here](#).



Florida Bibliophile Society  
A community of book lovers

## Minutes of the May 2021 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

President Charles Brown opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests to the Florida Bibliophile Society's 2021–2022 season. After a brief discussion of business items, Vice President Jerry Morris introduced the afternoon's speaker, FBS secretary Gary Simons.

In the 1970s, Gary was a tenured professor of chemistry at Wichita State University. In the mid-1970s, he decided to leave academia and enter the corporate world. Beginning in 1978, he held a number of upper-level positions, including Director, Vice President, or President with several companies, including Energy Systems International, E-Systems, Automated Office Services, and AC Technology.

In 2005 Gary persuaded his wife, Jeannie, to retire early with him so that he could pursue his interest in English literature. He returned to the academy, once again a graduate student, but this time, at the University of South Florida in Literature. He worked as a graduate assistant, teaching mostly British literature. In 2011, he completed his Ph.D. with the dissertation *"Show Me the Money!": A Pecuniary Explication of William Makepeace Thackeray's Critical Journalism*.

Gary then taught British, American, and World Literature as an adjunct faculty member at USF until 2019. During that time, he was actively engaged in both teaching and research with a focus on British literature of 18th and 19th centuries. He published numerous articles and gave conference presentations on Victorian literature, including three presentations on the early 19th-century author Catherine Gore, developed in collaboration with Jeannie Simons.

From 2013 to 2020, Gary served as editor of the Curran Index, a database of Victorian publications that were originally published anonymously. The database assists scholars in identifying the authors. The Curran index is a successor to the "legendary" Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals that "broke through the anonymity of the Victorian periodical press to open up a vast world of authorship. Thousands of attributions have been discovered "by painstakingly assembling many kinds of evidence."

No stranger to FBS presentations, in September 2016, Gary opened the 2016–2017 FBS season with a presentation about the work of Catherine Gore, "The Wittiest Woman of Her Age": The Life and Letters of Catherine Gore (reported in *The Florida Bibliophile*, Oct. 2016). In September 2018, Gary again opened the FBS season with a presentation: "Forget-Me-Not: The Literary Annuals of Yesteryear."

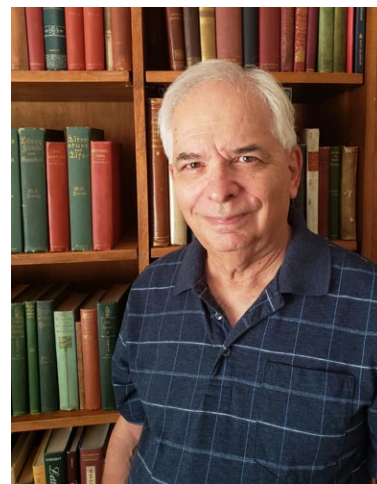
Jerry then handed the mic to Gary (control of the Zoom session, in this case) for his presentation to the closing meeting of the FBS season, The Publications of American General Interest Book Clubs.

### Introduction

Those of you who know me as a book collector probably also know that my comfort zone and expertise is the 19th century, particularly books and periodicals of late Romantic and early Victorian England. But that is not what I am going to talk about today.

Instead, my topic, the publications of bibliophilic clubs and societies, is a new Covid-era enthusiasm and project. I'm delighted to have an opportunity to share my excitement and my preliminary findings with you. But, please be forewarned: in this field, I am more a beginner than an expert. At this point, I have more questions than answers, and I welcome comments and suggestions.

By the words "general interest" in the title I mean to denote bibliophilic clubs or societies that are not dedicated to a particular format, genre, or author but rather comprise members with varied interests, like our own.



Gary Simons stands before a portion of collection of Victorian literature.

*Minutes, continued***How I Got Started**

Three recent events triggered my interest.

First, in the midst of the Covid pandemic, Jerry Morris suggested that we might want to write and publish a history of the Florida Bibliophile Society to celebrate our upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That made me wonder what book club histories might be like, so I ordered and read histories of two of the “name brand” clubs: the Caxton Club and the Grolier Club. And I did find them interesting, both in their particulars and in the light they shed on the evolving world of book collecting.

Secondly, I have spoken before to FBS about my interest in the British bibliophile and poet, Frederick Locker-Lampson, and how the Rowfant Club had taken its

name from Locker-Lampson’s family home, which housed his library. I found that the Rowfant club had also published a few short books on Locker-Lampson, namely, essays by people who knew him. Over the last several months, I read those books and found them both insightful and engagingly anecdotal.

Thirdly, in 2021, on a trip to Lighthouse Books (Dade City, FL), I purchased a privately published book that turned out to be a supplement to a previously published Grolier Club book on early American engravings. Of course, I hunted online for the earlier Grolier volume, found it, examined it, and learned that even though it had been published over 100 years ago, it is still the standard reference book in its field.

Club histories, anecdotal reminiscences, scholarly bibliographies – I wondered what else, what other

kinds of books book clubs published. So I started looking online. I knew that some clubs had published lists of their own publications, but I really wanted a relevant study or reference book that covered many bibliophilic clubs or societies.

**What Is Already Out There**

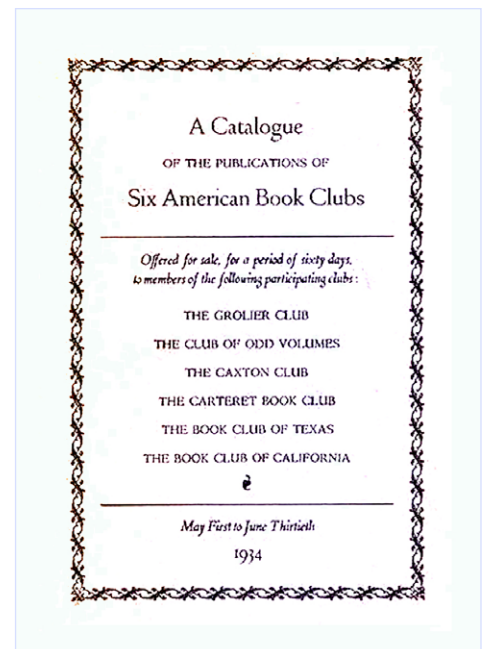
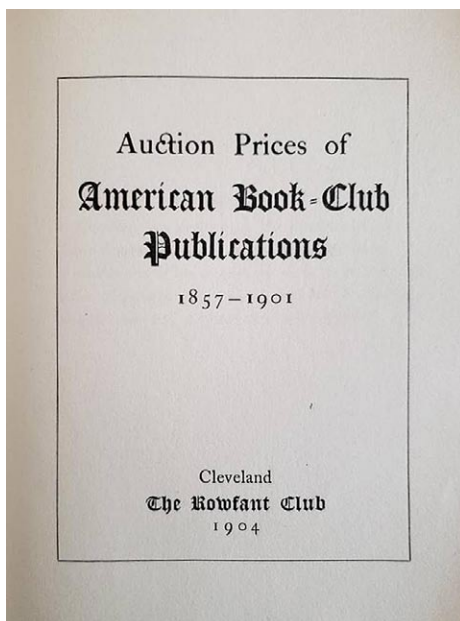
To my surprise, thus far, I have found only two items that seemed relevant.

The first, *Auction Prices of American Book-Club Publications, 1857–1901*, a study by Robert Roden published by the Rowfant Club in 1904 was fascinating. Roden referenced 28 different American book clubs, most of which did not survive to 1900, and listed nearly 200 of their publications, up to 1901, with their auction prices.

I had no idea that there were so many book collecting and publishing clubs in the 1800s, and I also found that copies can still be found of many of these publications. Further, by its very title, this study suggests that perhaps American Book Club Publications could be regarded as its own genre, a

collectable genre sold at auctions. But, of course, what about the last 120 years!

When I saw *A Catalogue of the Publications of Six American Book Clubs* (1934) online, I was excited about its potential and couldn’t wait until it came in the mail. When it came, I found that it was indeed useful, but not as complete as its title might suggest. Back in 1934, bibliophilic clubs only gave or sold their publications to their own members, usually by subscription. In the midst of the Depression, six clubs got together





---

*Minutes, continued*

to offer their unsold copies – perhaps, in effect, their remainders – to members of sister clubs, but still not to the general public. These book lists were interesting, but of course inherently incomplete.

As an unschooled bibliographer at heart, I spend much of my free time at my computer, and I am happiest when I am identifying and putting into some order bits of information. So, if I couldn't find the general multi-club reference I was looking for, I decided to conduct a survey and create my own!

### **The Project**

This, then, is my project:

Survey the publications by [and sometimes published for] American General Interest Bibliophilic Clubs and construct a multi-club bibliography.

I'll explain the bracketed phrase shortly. The project is still in its infancy, but I'd like to describe what I am doing and how far I have gotten and then spend the rest of the talk sharing some of what I have learned.

### **Which Publications Should Be Included**

Putting aside for a while the specification of clubs or societies, I'd like to discuss what, for the purposes of this study, is a publication. If an item is clearly bound as a book, in hard cover, soft cover, or stiff paper wrappers, I wanted to include it. Similarly, book club exhibition catalogues or auction catalogues are important documents of record, and they should be included. But sometimes catalogues for book club exhibitions are actually issued not by the clubs but by third parties. Thus we come back to "and maybe sometimes for": these third-party-issue catalogues document club activities and are just as interesting or just as collectable as catalogs issued directly by the book clubs. So, they are "in."

And what about booklets, which are frequently held together with staples. Here the answer is "it depends." Booklets that are in essence small exhibition catalogues or written copies of presentations should be "in," but perhaps booklets such as menus or announcements should not be.

Keepsakes are another ambiguous category. Generally, these are "giveaways" given to all members, sometimes published by the club, sometimes given to the club, but always associated with the club. Some of these items are undoubtedly important, but others might only be of interest to a "completist" collector. I'm struggling with this one. And when I started this project, I intended to exclude broadsides, but I found that so many of these sheets were interesting, even arresting, and clearly collectable, that my position has wavered.

At least for now, I have decided to exclude periodicals: no *Caxtonians*, no *Grolier Gazettes*, no *Book Club of Washington Journals*, no newsletters (but this could change). And, as my list shows, I'm excluding other more ephemeral printed items, although I understand that some collectors might want every piece of paper ever issued by a club. I've excluded items published only in soft copy.

### **What Information Should Be Included**

I wanted to do something more than a simple checklist of titles and authors and/or editors. Of course publication information – when, where, and by whom – should be included.

My goal, however, was to include some aspects of descriptive bibliography. Almost all of the items I have been tracking are "limited first editions," but I thought the edition size – sometimes as small as 50 copies – should be noted. Similarly, some indication as to pages – perhaps just page count or sometimes pages by section – would be helpful. And many book club publications were printed on special papers, which should be noted.

The size of the work, the presence or absence of illustrations, and some description of the binding were items on my want list. Likewise, as many of these works were the products of fine presses, I wanted to include the printer.

A title can "say it all," but sometimes a title really doesn't explain what is in the publication. So I plan to include, when appropriate, a one- or two-sentence summary of the contents. And sometimes publications were issued to mark special events or had other unusual

---

*Minutes, continued*

but notable features.

Sometimes I will have to consult several sources to get all this information, and some information holes will be unfilled.

**Where to Look**

Of course, I will only be able to personally examine a small fraction of the publications that I would like to include in this study. So, I must rely on secondary sources for information. Where does one look?

The first, and perhaps easiest place to look is club websites, and some clubs, such as the Ampersand Club (Minneapolis, MN) and the Book Club of Washington (Seattle, WA) do seem to list all their publications on their websites. But other clubs, such as the Zamorano Club (Los Angeles, CA), only provide a list of selected publications – and for a bibliographer, “selected” is a dreaded word, a synonym for “incomplete.” Some websites don’t list publications at all, and some clubs simply don’t have websites.

Fortunately, many of the book clubs that publish most frequently have issued lists of their publications in club histories, anniversary volumes, or even in separately published volumes. Even here, however, the issue of identifying publications issued after the date of publication of the respective source volume remains a challenge. Yearbooks can also be helpful. Some yearbooks identify publications for a given year or period, or perhaps even all publications up to that year.

Booksellers’ listings, such as those on viaLibri or eBay, can be very helpful, as detailed information on bindings and physical format is often provided, but some publications will not be listed. WorldCat, an online union catalog that itemizes the collections of 15,600 libraries, can be helpful in identifying publications. If a publication is catalogued in any of these member libraries it can be identified, but often only with very limited information.

Lastly, of course – although I have not done so to this point – one can make direct inquiries to the officers of current clubs or, in some cases, search club archives.

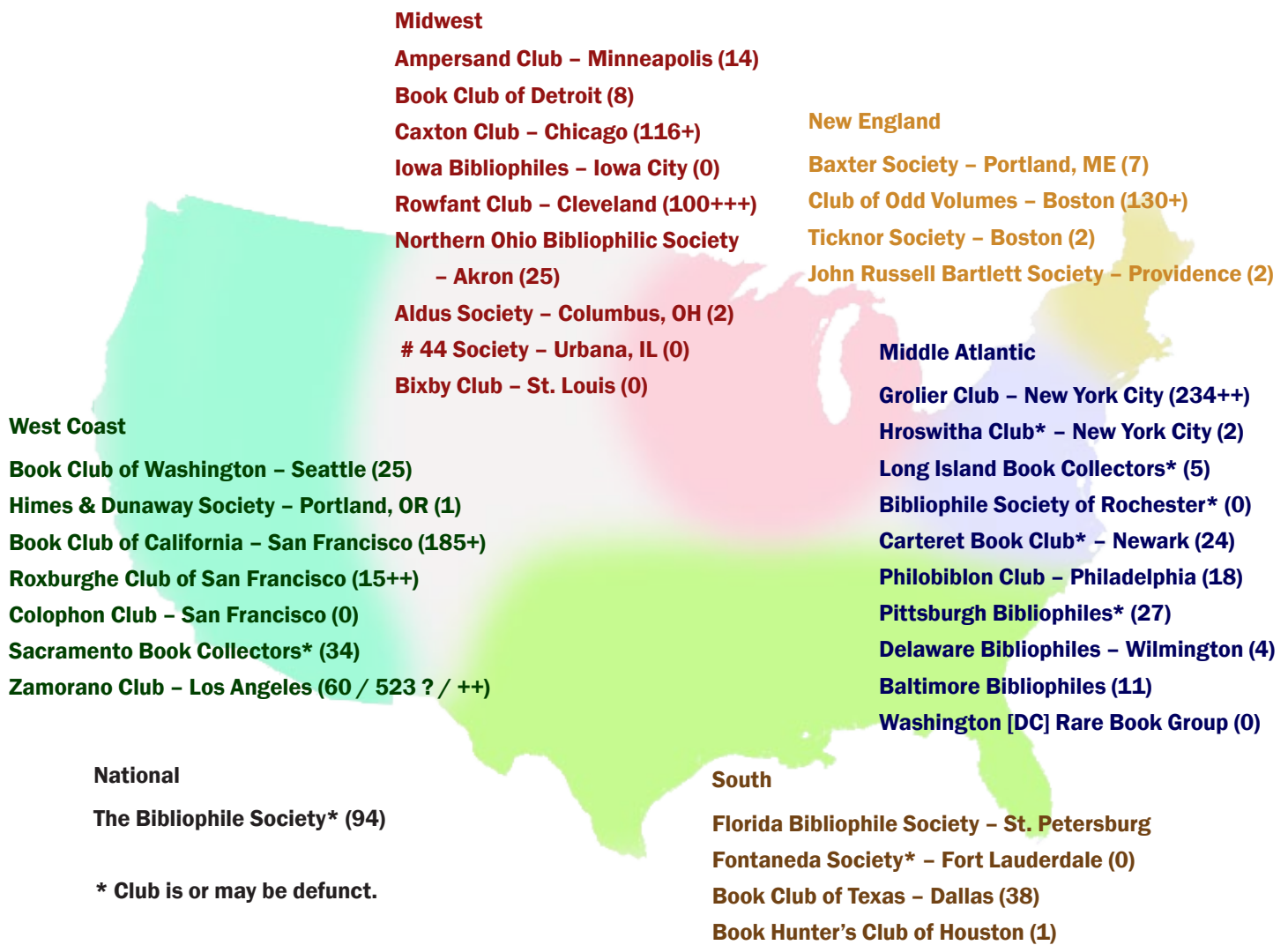
**Some Important Sources**

Here I’ve listed some of the sources that I’ve thus far found to be useful:

- Donald Farren, *The Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty 1954–2004*: 10 publications
- Duncan H. Olmsted, *Seventy Years: a Checklist of Book Club [of California] Publications 1914–1983*: 175 publications + 44 keepsakes (many multi-part)
- Duncan H. Olmsted, *A Checklist of Joint Meeting Keepsakes of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and Zamorano Club of Los Angeles for the Years 1953–1966*: 120 keepsakes
- Frank J. Piehl, *The Caxton Club 1895–1995: Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago*: 58 publications, 58 other printed materials
- *Club of Odd Volumes Yearbook for 1958*
- *The Grolier Club 1884–1984: Its Library, Exhibitions, and Publications*: 234 items
- Paul M. Duke, *NOBS: The First Ten Years* [1983–1993]: 10 keepsakes
- Robert E. Spiller and Howard Heaney, *The Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia: The First 80 Years 1893–1973*: 15 publications
- Arthur H. Clark, *A Bibliography of the Publications of the Rowfant Club* [Part 1]: 1925; Leland Schubert, Part 2, 1925–1961
- George E. Fullerton, *The Zamorano Club: The First Half Century, 1928–1978*: 523 [publications and] keepsakes

Glancing down the list one sees many familiar names: Baltimore Bibliophiles, Book Club of California, Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, Grolier Club, Caxton Club, and others.

In many cases, these source works are clearly “labors of love” by their developers. Sometimes, they are products of a decade or more of sustained effort in trying to identify and catalogue virtually every printed item ever issued by or for a given club or society. For aficionados of a particular club or society, they are the essential “go to” place to look for information on that

*Minutes, continued*

organization's publications. My planned bibliography is not intended to supplant any of these volumes, but will, with appropriate credit and acknowledgement, utilize and integrate some of their information.

At the same time, none of these sources is really current, so the project of identifying newer publications, or publications from other clubs or societies, remains.

### Where I Am Now

The map above gives a snapshot of the current status of my project.

So far I have identified 35 clubs which I believe will collectively encompass more than 1,500 associated publications. Some clubs, which either are or may be defunct, are marked with an asterisk. Note that

a number of the Middle Atlantic clubs which were active for decades sadly now seem to be gone, and there is a dearth of clubs in the Rocky Mountain area and in most of the South. All of these clubs have or had regionally centered memberships and regular meetings and presentations – with one exception: the now extinct Bibliophile Society, which published books for a national club membership and which I felt was too important to leave out. I would be most appreciative if anyone could suggest additional clubs or societies for this study.

In parentheses after each club's name, I have shown the number of publications that I have thus far ascribed to the club. A plus sign indicates that I expect further additions; the more plusses, the more expected

*Minutes, continued*

additions. I don't think anyone will be surprised at the names of some of the clubs that have published extensively: The Club of Odd Volumes, The Grolier Club, the Caxton Club, the Rowfant Club, the Book Club of California, and the Zamorano Club. Many clubs seem not to have published at all. But there is a very sizeable and significant middle tier which should not be overlooked.

**Some Preliminary Results**

My examination of what I have found so far has produced the following breakdown of the types of publications produced by America's general interest book clubs:

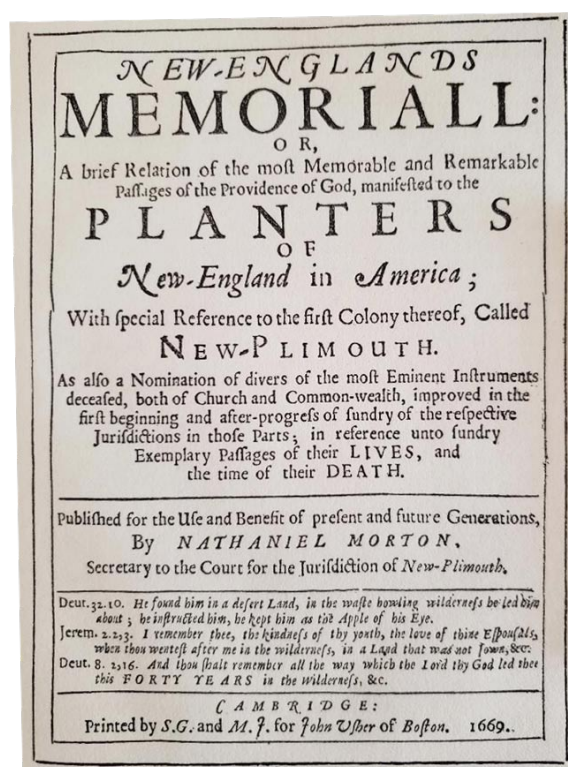
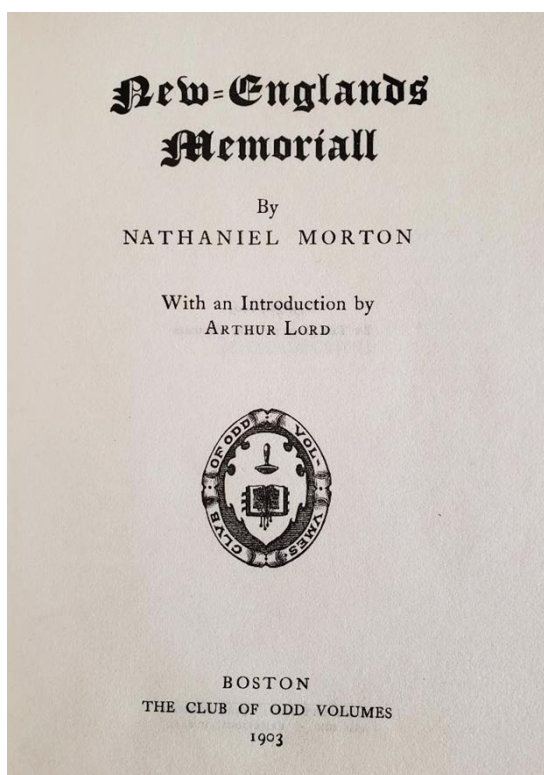
- Regional Americana
- Exhibition Catalogues
- Anniversary Volumes and Club Histories
- Year Books
- Social Records and Trips
- Scholarly Studies
- Presentations
- Essays by Club Members
- Keepsakes

**Regional Americana**

Regional Americana is a major bibliophilic club subgenre. Often, it takes the form of the republication of a foundational regional document. For example, *New-Englands Memoriall* by Nathaniel Morton (Club of Odd Volumes, 1903) is a republication of a detailed history of the Plymouth colony, which was first published in 1689. I have another Club of Odd Volumes book in my collection which reprints – in Latin and in English -- a poem extolling New England, which was first published in 1625!

This sort of publication is not limited to New England. The Zamorano Club in Los Angeles, for example, has issued some classic documents from early Spanish California, usually with a facsimile of the original publication coupled with an English translation. Moving up the California coast, one finds historic writings on old San Francisco and contemporary accounts of the 1849 Gold Rush among the publications of the Book Club of California and the Sacramento Book Collectors.

The Caxton Club in Chicago has published translations of the writings of French explorers and accounts of





*Minutes, continued*

frontier life and Indian Wars. The Book Club of Texas has reissued works written during the days of the Republic of Texas or the days of the “wild west” or the time of the Confederacy. The Philobiblon Club in Philadelphia has reprinted work originally issued under the direction of William Penn. And so on.

One could build a nice collection of these reprinted foundational documents, issued by various book clubs and societies.

**Exhibition Catalogues**

Exhibition catalogues are a characteristic form of book club literature.

Tally Ho anyone!

Some of us may think of foxhunting as a cruel sport best forgotten; others may regard it as an intriguing relic of bye-gone days, but for Duncan Andrews, as shown in the exhibition catalogue *Tally Ho! 400 Years of Foxhunting* (Grolier Club, 1975), it is an object of bibliophilia. This 40-page brochure lists 100 books, manuscripts, prints, and drawings on foxhunting, all drawn from his collection.

*Fifty-five Books Printed before 1525, Representing the Works of England's First Printers* (Grolier Club, 1968) is perhaps a more conventional catalogue. An elaborately prepared and printed hard cover book, has its own

“wow” factor: it includes detailed bibliographic listings and illustrations from incunabula and near-incunabula from the collection of Paul Mellon, an heir to the Mellon banking fortune.

Each of these catalogues is itself an affordable collectable, so nice to have in one's library! What a

range of subjects and interests could be encompassed in a collection of book club exhibition catalogues!

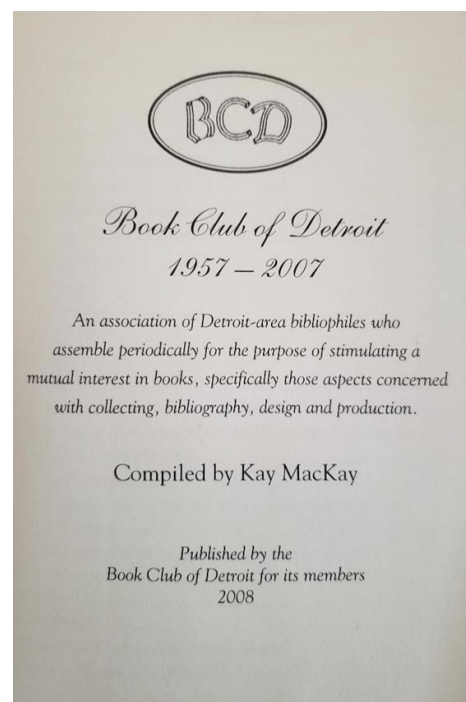
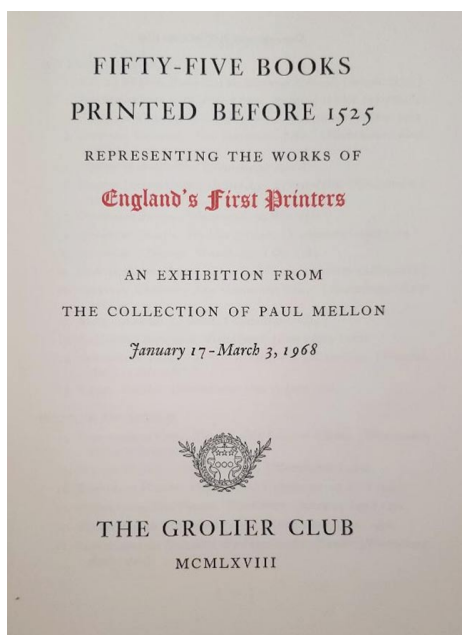
**Anniversary Volumes**

*The Philiblon Club of Philadelphia: The First Eighty Years, 1893–1973* by Robert Spiller (Philobiblon Club, 1973) is an elegant hardcover volume with a vellum spine and decorated green paste boards. It was published in an edition of 275 numbered copies on high-quality paper. It includes an extended history of the club, color facsimiles of the title pages of several club publications, a list of all club officers going back to the club's founding in 1893, and a list of publications.

*The Baltimore Bibliophiles at Fifty, 1954–2004* (Baltimore Bibliophiles, 2009) is a composite volume: presumably to save costs, the first half of the book is “Children's Books in Bygone Baltimore,” an essay and a bibliography by Linda F. Lapidés, and the second half of the volume contains a history of the club, several essays, membership lists, publications, and a listing of meetings and speakers from 1954 to 2004 – quite a record! This attractively bound hard cover volume was designed by Mark Samuels Lasner, printed on high quality paper, and issued in a limited edition of 300 copies.

Both of these volumes are highly collectable, and each tells the story of their respective clubs, albeit in somewhat different ways.

*Book Club of Detroit, 1957–2007*, a fifty-year history of the Book Club of Detroit, issued in 2008, is divided into many small sections and essays, including sections for “Early Membership,”





*Minutes, continued*

“Publications,” “History – part 1 and part 2,” “Notable Programs,” and a “Club Photo Album.” This volume was issued in an edition of 500 copies; its “look and feel” differs from that of the anniversary volumes on the previously described, but is still quite effective.

*The First 75 Years: The Story of the Book Club of California, 1912–1987* by Oscar Lewis was issued in an edition of 1,200 copies, on Mohawk Superfine paper and with an attractive red and green binding. The text appears to have been written by a single author, Oscar Lewis. The typography of this volume is outstanding, and color illustrations of club rooms and some club ephemera provide added value. As with the other anniversary volumes there are lists of club officers and publications.

Also in my collection, I have anniversary volumes from The Grolier Club 1884–1984, the Long Island Book Collectors 1966–1991, The Caxton Club 1895–1995, the Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society 1984–1994, and the Zamorano Club 1928–1978 – and there are several other identified anniversary volumes on my wish list.

one wants, for example, to see what kind of meetings and presentations book club members were having in, say, 1926 – no problem. For example, the Club of Odd Volumes year book for 1929 shows that in November of 1926 the famed bibliophile and bookseller A. S. W. Rosenbach presented to the club on “Early American Children’s Books,” and that other presentations that year included “Shakesperiana,” “Cape Cod in the Revolution,” and “The Poetry of Weather.”

Also, these books almost always contain lists of publications.

### Social Records and Trips

Book clubbing is inherently a social activity; don’t we all value our book club friendships and shared activities? Some clubs and societies record some of their social events through special publications.

As best as I can tell, the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles as a group are defunct, yet a series of publications remains to record itineraries, speakers, some presentation details, and even receptions and dinners.

- *Grandfather’s Attic* (1964) – An account of a visit by the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles to Philadelphia, including a tour of the Rosenwald Collection, Nov. 15–17, 1963
- *Pilgrimage to April* (1966) – An account of visits to rare book collections in the Washington, D.C., area, April 23–25, 1965
- *Connoisseur’s Haven* (1967) – The Pittsburgh Bibliophiles’ journey to Baltimore, Oct. 27–29, 1967
- *September Solstice* (1967) – The Virginia journey of the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles
- *Autumn Adventure* (1969) – The Pittsburgh Bibliophiles journey to New York City, Oct. 25–26, 1968
- *Passage to Boston* (1973) – An account of visits to rare book collections in Boston, April 27–29, 1973
- *Chicago Pilgrimage* (1974) – Account of a trip made by the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles, April 1974
- *Pilgrimage to Italy* (1976) – Account of a three-week trip made by the Pittsburgh Bibliophiles, 1976

Unfortunately, the two of these publications that I own do not contain photographs. But in a way, these volumes are like old photograph albums, presumably of interest to the

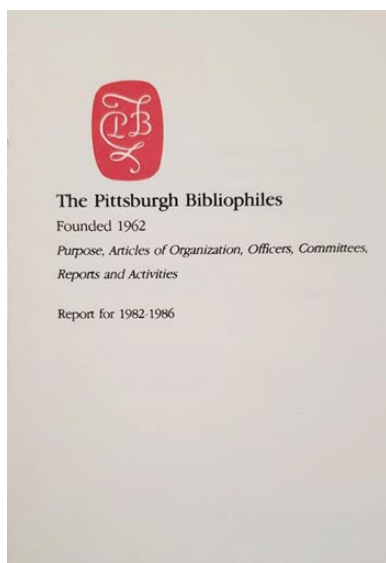
### Year Books

Many clubs issue or used to issue year books. These books document the meat and bones of club activities. Particularly early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they were often presented as “show pieces,” small hard cover volumes on elegant papers.

Sometimes year books were issued yearly, and sometimes they were issued once every several

years, each issue covering all activities since the previous year book. Some of them had interesting essays on various book-related subjects.

These volumes are essentially time capsules that provide a “look back” into book club history and activity. If



*Minutes, continued*

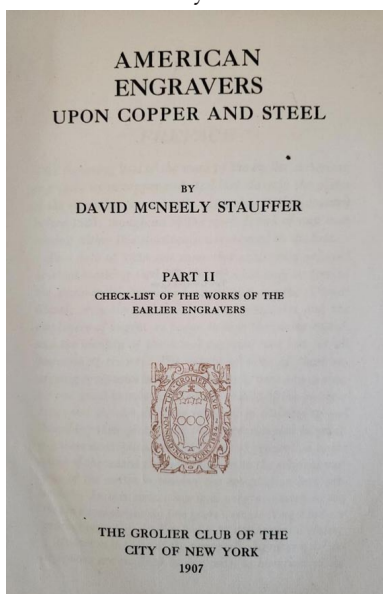
surviving club members and their families, and yet at the same time, maybe of more general interest as they document and give a human face to book collecting and book clubbing in the 1960s and 1970s.

And, although a given club or society may be gone, and websites can disappear, paper survives. Once published, copies of most publications can, with patience, be found and secured.

**Scholarly Studies**

Even general interest book clubs sometimes publish specialized, extended, essentially academic studies.

*American Engravers upon Copper and Steel* (in two parts) by David McNeely Stauffer (Grolier Club, 1907) is a 365-page scholarly work—a study mentioned earlier in this essay—that has remained a standard in its field.



*George Sterling: A Bibliography* by Robert W. Mattila (2004), concerning the works of a West Coast poet, was issued nearly 100 years later by the Book Club of Washington. According to its introduction, this second book reflected the author's "painstaking work of more than twenty-five years." Presumably both of these works are the fruits of extended personal passions, ripened

through the authors' respective book clubs.

These volumes are not alone. Among the publications of book clubs, one finds works such as the letters and the journals of John James Audubon; a bibliography of the History of California; the definitive study of Hrotsvitha of Gandersheim, a 10th-century German secular canoness, dramatist, and poet; a bibliography of editions of *The Compleat Angler*, 1653–1967; and the like.

I don't know what financial considerations went into the publication by book clubs of these inherently

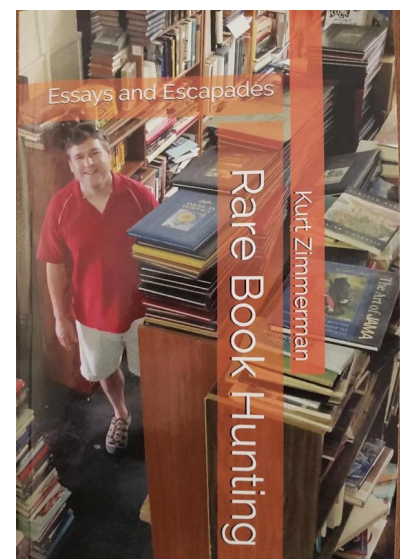
personal yet academic works.

**Essay Collections**

There is also room in the book club or society publication universe for less studious collections of essays. In *Curiosities of the Ticknor Society: Contributions from Members, 2014–2015*, there are 17 short essays, each by a different society member. A sampling of the contents shows the range of these contributions:

- Focusing Your Collecting Is Impossible! By Sidney Berger
- Geroge Ticknor: In the Society of Books, by Mary J. Cronin
- Tables of Logarithms, by Scott Guthery
- Favorite Literary Characters from My Youth, by Barbara Adams Hebard
- Anthropologists Writing Fiction, Janet Steins

Everyone gets to have his or her own say. Doesn't that sound like fun, both to put together and to read? Other clubs have done similar things, for example, the publications of the Long Island Book Collectors. And there is the very recent single author collection *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades* by Kurt Zimmerman, published by the Book Hunters Club of Houston (the only thing I need to say here is "Highly Recommended").

**Individual Presentations**

Sometimes, perhaps more often formerly than recently, book clubs and societies have published the texts of individual presentations.

For example, *Alfred Tennyson, Frederick Locker, and Augustine Birrell: A Talk Given to the Rowfant Club by Sir Charles Tennyson on 28 September 1962* (Rowfant Club,

*Minutes, concluded*

1964) commemorates a presentation by the grandson of Alfred Lord Tennyson on “the three most outstanding literary personalities that [he] has known.” This is one of the books that got me started on this exploration of book club publications -- the Frederick Locker in the title is the Locker-Lampson that is a personal interest of mine. Packaged as a small hard cover, with an Old Face type on antique laid paper, in a limited edition of 181 copies, and signed by the author. For a bibliophile and English literature buff like myself, this is simply a trophy for one’s bookshelf.

*Life in a London Bookshop: Excerpts from a Lecture* by Anthony Rota (Ampersand Club, 1989) is another wonderful record of a presentation – once again issued in hard cover, on high-quality paper – but this time of a presentation given by the famed antiquarian bookseller Anthony Rota and published by the Ampersand Club. Rota describes a week in his London bookshop, evaluating collections, dealing with vendors and customers, attending auctions, and the like.

The work bears Rota’s distinctive touch – his last sentence reads “Such is my life: aching back and dirty shirt-cuffs – and I love it!”

Charming, absolutely charming!

Be assured, however, that if your interests are different from mine, that there are many individual presentations published by book clubs on all sorts of subjects. If your interest is, for example, in printing or typography, there are presentations on great printers like William Caxton or John Baskerville, or histories of fine presses such as the Merrymount Press or the works of John Henry Nash in San Francisco. If you should want to read about printing in Russia you can find an appropriate presentation (I have one in my collection!).

One final benefit – these single-presentation books or brochures tend to be short, so you can fit many of them on your bookshelf!

**Keepsakes**

And now we come back to the subject of keepsakes, usually items given without charge to club members, sometimes issued by third parties, and perhaps of

arguable longevity and value.

One of special interest for this project comes from the The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and the Zamorano Club [in Los Angeles]. The two clubs have had a long tradition of annual joint meetings, at which the members of both clubs often receive several keepsakes. One in particular is *A Checklist of Joint Meeting Keepsakes of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and Zamorano Club of Los Angeles for the Years 1953–1966*. The title is self-explanatory, and the cover gives additional information: Compiled as a Keepsake for the Occasion of the 1968 Joint Meeting in San Francisco by Duncan Olmsted and David Magee. Interestingly, it was not issued by either club but as a gift by Olmsted and Magee.

In charming red and black type, the checklist shows keepsakes and their respective donors. Some were produced by a club, but many others were not. For the purposes of my bibliography all of these particular keepsakes appear to be “keepers,” but many other keepsakes such as printed menus, announcements, invitations, and the like will probably be excluded.

**Final Thoughts**

The publications of America’s book clubs offer lots of good reading and good collecting, often at reasonable prices and for all interests.

Older books are easier to find because they be more available in the resale market.

Many of these books are quite beautiful, both old and new.

The catalogues produced by book clubs offer a connection to bookmen, historic figures, and extraordinary books.

These publications enduringly document club activities, members’ interests and collections, and the bibliophilic world.





## FBS Summer Semester I: Road Trip to Lighthouse Books

**O**n July 15, an intrepid group of Florida bibliophiles set out for Dade City and the new home of Lighthouse Books.

We gather around noon (some had gotten there earlier) and were greeted by Mike Slicker's usual hospitality, including a beautiful display of hot, fresh doughnuts! The new Lighthouse Books is as spacious as the previous version was crowded. It was a pleasure to browse the well-lit, well-organized collection.

However, our first order of business was lunch! After a certain amount of deliberation and smartphone research, we decided on Kafe Kokopelli and found there, only a few blocks away, a charming restaurant with a paneled interior and decorated with vintage *objets*. We sat at a big round table and enjoyed the lunch fare, including delicious salads and piled-high sandwiches.

We then returned to Lighthouse Books for a serious afternoon session of browsing. One by one, we wandered up to the desk with our stacks of books, and Mike and his daughter, Sarah, helped us with our purchases. We showed our finds to each other, explaining excitedly their significance for our interests and collections.

Another beautiful book day in Dade City!



*Light emanates from Lighthouse Books owner Mike Slicker.*



*Jerry and Gary peruse the British history section.*



*The assembled company at Kafe Kokopelli.*



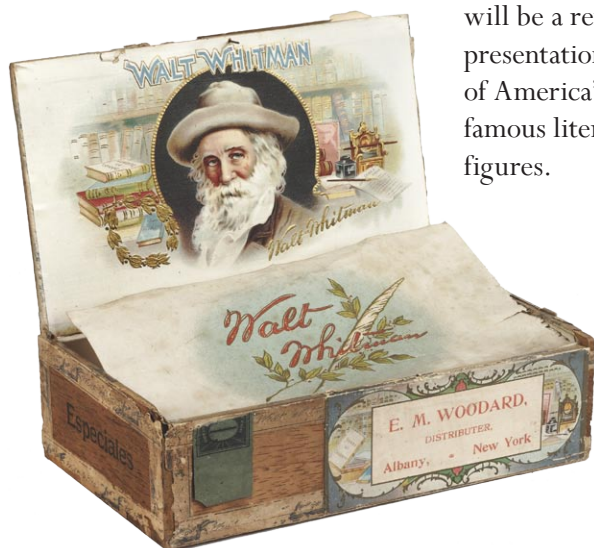
## FBS Summer Semester II: The Connecticut Yankees in King Ringling's Court

**FBS** members Sue Tihansky and Ben Wiley attended the FABS Annual Tour in St. Louis a couple of years ago where they met a trio of Connecticut bibliophiles: Ed Centeno, Ken Smith, and Frank Gagliardi.

These Connecticuters made their way to Florida (for their first visit!), to St. Petersburg, in July to experience a few of the locations they would have enjoyed if the Florida FABS Tour had taken place in April 2020. They were hosted and guided in their excursions by Ben. The Dali, The Ringling, and our best bookstores were a few of their stops in the busy itinerary Ben arranged. Ben, with his wife Joyce, even hosted a mini-banquet: a luncheon at his home with a few nearby bibliophiles and his guests from the North.

Ed and Frank are collectors. Ed is a serious collector of Walt Whitman — also one of Ben's major interests — and he presented a few items at the luncheon. Ed's special focus is how Whitman's image and imagery have been appropriated by American commercial culture, beginning during Whitman's lifetime, but not with his approval or to his benefit, and continuing to the present day. Frank is a serious collector of pop-up books, with a collection already over 3,000. Even at that, he found a few new ones during his Florida trip.

Ed will return to Florida for a special Whitman presentation at the Largo Public Library on March 31, 2022, coordinated by Ben. Make plans — this will be a remarkable presentation on one of America's most famous literary figures.



Frank (center) and Ed (right) received signed copies of FBS member Ed Cifelli's latest book, *Longfellow in Love*, during a visit to Ed's home.



Ben, Ed, Frank, and Ken (left to right) visit Lighthouse books.



Ken, David, and Frank (left to right) in Ringling Museum Courtyard.







## ***DETROIT FESTIVAL OF BOOKS ~ JULY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

An impressive turnout by 12 noon. Eastern Market, Downtown Detroit

Live TV coverage, Detroit's Channel 7 News

For additional images & backstory, see <[\*\*Detroit Hustles Harder\*\*](#)>

***Image Right: Charlene Kull, President, Book Club of Detroit***

### ***Responses from Event Planners & Visitors:***

"The 4th annual Detroit Festival of Books on Sunday, July 18, 2021 started promptly at 10:00 a.m. We had immediate foot traffic from a large crowd of bookbuyers. The volume of people ebbed and flowed throughout the day, not dipping noticeably until after about 3p.m. The stream was constant all day long! Channel 7 News covered the event, and interviewed famous Detroit bookseller, John King; the TV crew then snaked through the crowd, capturing colorful live footage. The weather was beautiful, the sales brisk, and the vendors and visitors were joyful for the opportunity to make a tangible, in-person contribution to the city's book culture. Catch us next year, Sunday, July 17, 2022, enjoy our 5th annual Detroit Bookfest." - ***Ryan M. Place, Chair, Event Committee; Former VP, Book Club of Detroit.***

"The Festival of Books turned out to be a commercial success AND a success for the Book Club of Detroit which signed up new members at the event -- a fashion designer with the College of Creative Studies, Detroit, also a bookbinder, a photographer, a hand surgeon, avid collectors, and college students and teachers. I am thinking of having a *New Members* event at my home to welcome them all. They'll surely be in fine company with the Book Club of Detroit, we're a dedicated crowd." - ***Charlene Kull, President, Book Club of Detroit.***

As a bookstore owner and a bookseller at this enjoyable event, I was thrilled to be overwhelmed (no hyperbole here, folks) with bookbuyers at the annual Detroit BookFest event. We were too busy to take a break. The visitors shopped with confidence and genuine interest -- a younger demographic of bookbuyer. - ***C. Hedger Breed, White Raven Books, Ypsilanti, Michigan; Former President, Book Club of Detroit.***

This was my first Detroit Bookfest, and as a newcomer to the city and (maybe) to Wayne State University's Pharmacy School, I was entirely impressed by the variety of items on offer. I bought several books, posters, & some ephemera for my parents & friends back in Kansas City. And met some interesting people. A good day in Detroit! And now on to the world-class Detroit Institute of Arts on Woodward Avenue and the impressive Detroit Public Library, both steps away from the WSU campus. Yes! - ***J. Desmond Reilly, Student.***

---

Contributed by ***Maureen E. Mulvihill***, VP, Florida Bibliophile Society, 2012-2015, and continuing member, Book Club of Detroit. For her detailed feature on the Detroit event, view <[\*\*here\*\*](#)>.

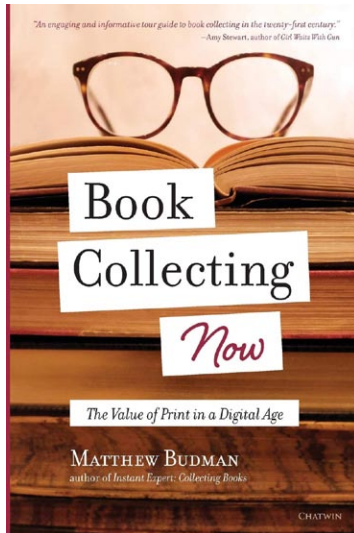
---



## Books in Brief

### Book Collecting Now: The Value of Print in a Digital Age

Matthew Budman  
Chatwin Books  
168 pp., 2019



E-books, once predicted to replace physical books, have leveled off at around 30% of book sales, leaving an amazingly vibrant marketplace for physical books. In fact, a new generation of collectors is reinvigorating the world's greatest pastime. *Book Collecting Now* is more than a new guide to an old hobby, it aims to bring in readers who have never considered

beginning a personal library. Illustrated with over 100 photos, the book offers a framework to think about collecting and all the practical advice needed to get started and go further.

Now that we spend so much time in digital environments, we need more life in our lives. Real books connect us to real people, real lives, real ideas, and real imagination. They are a link to history, as well as a way to make an aesthetic and intellectual statement about your interests and values.

Books and book collecting, the Internet has changed much, as it has in so many areas. But collecting is a centuries-old hobby, and most of the basic principles remain constant, even if more people are browsing volumes online than in quaint little bookshops. It's only the details that have changed – and those details are what *Book Collecting Now* aims to help readers navigate.

**Matthew Budman** began reading at age 2 and went on to become a book reviewer and avid collector. He has written several guides to collecting.



Sources: Goodreads; Amazon

### Modern Book Collecting: A Basic Guide to All Aspects of Book Collecting: What to Collect, Who to Buy from, Auctions, Bibliographies, Care, Fakes, Investments, Donations, Definitions, and More

Robert A Wilson  
Skyhorse Books  
288 pp., 2015

#### Modern Book Collecting

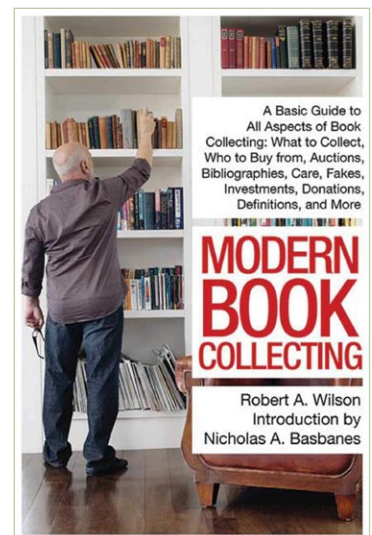
offers advice that answers all the most important questions a book lover and collector might have: what to collect and where to find it, how to tell a first edition from a reprint, how to build an author collection, how to get the best price from dealers, how to understand the prices and rarity of books, and more. Robert A. Wilson reveals the world of collecting, focusing on books that are collected most often: those by important late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century writers.

Covering every aspect of book collecting, this book includes a handy dictionary of terms used in auction and dealer catalogs, a comprehensive and accurate key to identifying first editions from nearly two hundred American and British publishing houses, a list of bibliographies of more than two hundred collected modern authors, a directory of book auction houses and rare book dealers, and a section on Internet resources.

For book lovers looking to embark on the wonderful adventure of collecting, or established collectors wanting a go-to guide, *Modern Book Collecting* is a must-have resource.

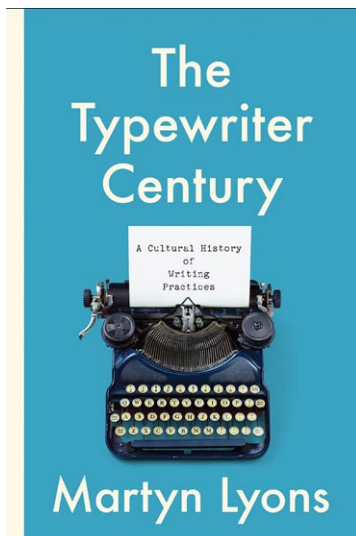
**Robert Wilson** (1922–2016) owned the famous Phoenix Book Shop in Greenwich Village from 1962 until closing it in 1988.

Sources: Simon & Schuster; Riverrun Bookshop Blog



*Books in Brief, continued***The Typewriter Century: A Cultural History of Writing Practices**

Martyn Pyons  
Univ. of Toronto Press  
276 pp., 2021



In 2006, when Larry McMurtry accepted the Golden Globe award for co-writing the screenplay of *Brokeback Mountain*, he thanked his typewriter. McMurtry exemplifies the relationship that many writers develop with the machine that is the fountain through which their creativity flows. For more than a century, the typewriter was standard equipment for everyone that

produced text, from memos to manuscripts. It was a fixture on virtually every desk in every office.

*The Typewriter Century* captures the intensity of the relationship between writers and their typewriters from the 1880s to the 1980s, when word-processing superseded it. Drawing examples from the United States, Britain, Europe, and Australia, *The Typewriter Century* focuses on “celebrity writers,” including Henry James, Jack Kerouac, Agatha Christie, Georges Simenon, and Erle Stanley Gardner.

Some authors believed the typewriter facilitated spontaneous and automatic typing; others found a new and disturbing distance between themselves and their work. *The Typewriter Century* provides a cultural history of the typewriter, outlining the ways in which it can be considered an agent of change as well as demonstrating how it influenced all writers, canonical and otherwise.

**Martyn Lyons** is an emeritus professor of History & European Studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, and has authored numerous books.



Source: Univ. of Toronto Press

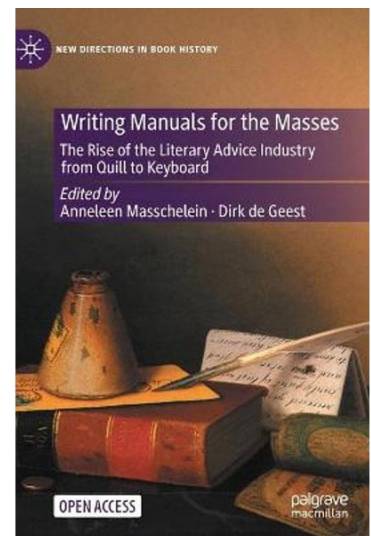
**Writing Manuals for the Masses: The Rise of the Literary Advice Industry from Quill to Keyboard**

Anneleen Masschelein, Dirk de Geest, eds.  
Palgrave Macmillan  
434 pp., 2020

An adage states that there is “a book in every one of us,” and in many cases that’s where it will stay. But for many others, the desires to write, to publish, and to be read drive them to seek out advice for how to accomplish these goals. In his 2006 book *To Exercise Our Talents: The Democratization of Writing in Britain*, Christopher Hilliard coined the term “writing advice industry”

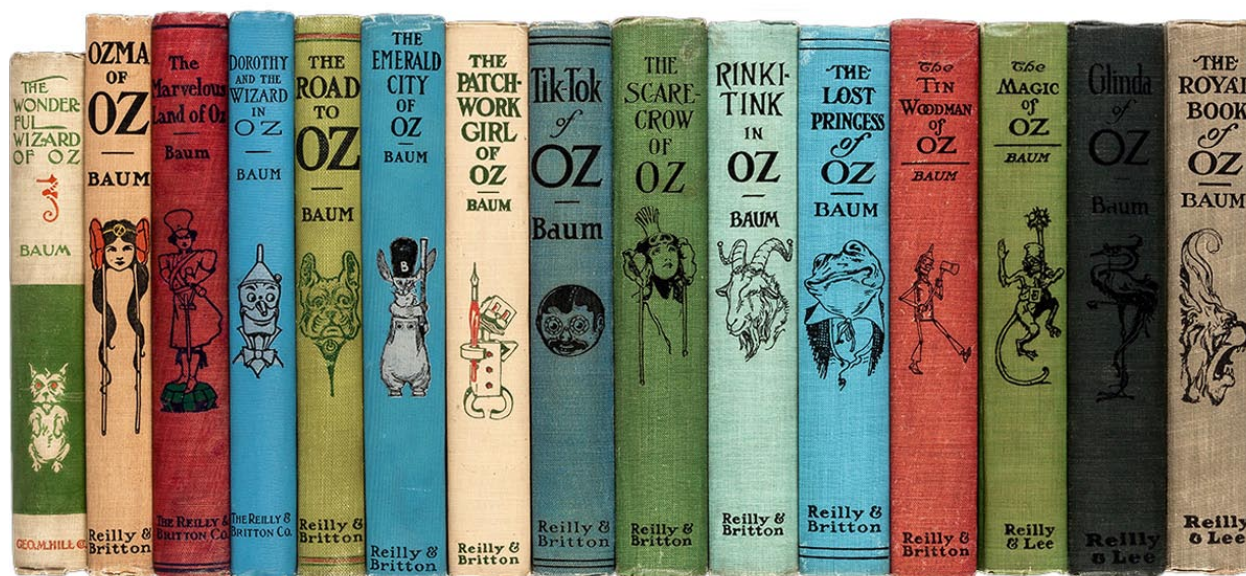
with reference to self-help, self-instruction enterprise that began to flourish in the early 20th century with “clubs, magazines, guidebooks, and correspondence schools” and which has grown steadily ever since to encompass a wide range of publications, activities, services, and institutions.

*Writing Manuals for the Masses* is a collection of essays that examines the literary advice industry since its emergence in Anglo-American literary culture in the mid-nineteenth century within the context of the professionalization of the literary field and the continued debate on creative writing as art and craft. Often dismissed as commercial and stereotypical by authors and specialists alike, literary advice has nonetheless remained a flourishing business, embodying the unquestioned values of a literary system, but also functioning as a sign of a literary system in transition. Exploring the rise of new online amateur writing cultures in the twenty-first century, this collection of essays considers how literary advice proliferates globally, leading to new forms and genres.



Source: Palgrave Macmillan; Harvard Univ. Press





L. Frank Baum wrote 14 Oz books. The last book pictured above is actually by Ruth Plumly Thompson, who took up the immensely popular series after Baum's death, writing another 20 books. Several dozen more were written by other writers, up to the present day.



## 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

Have an idea for an article for *The Florida Bibliophile*? Contact Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto: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!

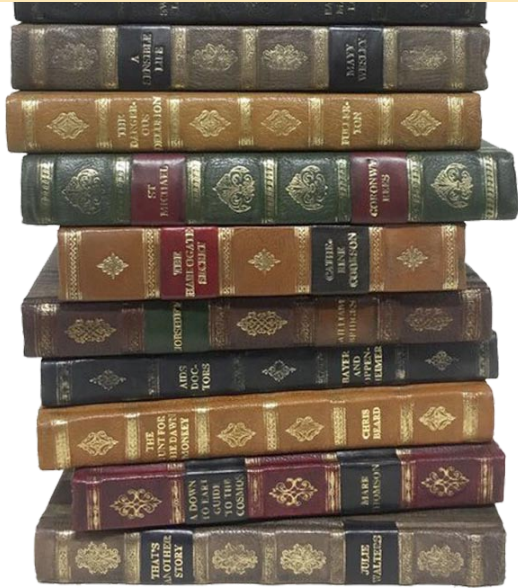


Your input and content are needed. FBS is about participation, about discoveries, about passionate interests, and sometimes the deliciously obscure. Why not write about it!?



## Upcoming Events

### September 2021



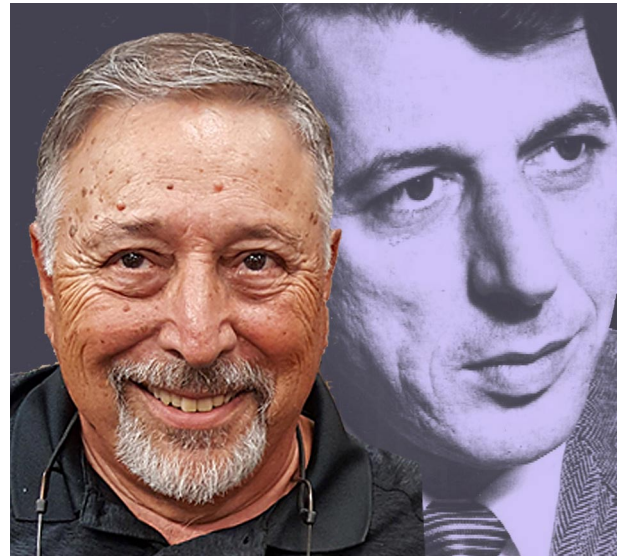
### Treasures We Found during the Summer Break

#### Virtual Meeting via Zoom

September 19, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Perhaps Covid has kept us largely at home, but that does not mean collecting has stopped! Between Amazon, Alibris, AbeBooks, eBay, etc. (and the occasional sortie to the local book store), bibliophiles are still busy making discoveries and building collections. It's always fun to see what other people have discovered and/or acquired, and it's a great way to learn more about books and our fellow bibliophiles. Join us in September with a few summer treasures for an always-special show and tell.

### October 2021



### Ed Cifelli: “The Capitalist of Po Biz,” or John Ciardi: America’s Millionaire Poet

#### Lighthouse Books

14046 5<sup>th</sup> St, Dade City, FL

October 18, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

John Ciardi, raised in poverty, B-29 gunner, Harvard professor, media personality, and – oh yes – one of the most important American poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ed will present true rag-to-riches story of Ciardi’s rise from poverty to his role as a famous poet and personality. As Ed describes it, Ciardi was the “rarest of all rare people: a wealthy poet.”

Ed has written extensively on Ciardi, including his *John Ciardi: A Biography* (Univ. of Arkansas, 1997). In 2009, Ed was invited to contribute to a new edition of one of Ciardi’s most famous works, his three-volume translation of Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, “the” Dante for generations of American students.



## Book Events, Podcasts, and More

*Know of any events of interest to book lovers? Send corrections and additions to Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto:cmbrown@atlantic.net).*

### Florida Book Events – Sept.–Oct. 2021

September 2021 – No date, may be canceled

#### **Florida Heritage Book Festival and Writers Conference**

St. Augustine, FL (website inactive)

September 24–26, 2021

#### **Necronomicon**

Tampa, FL (<http://www.stonehill.org/necro.htm>)

October 2021 – Canceled due to Covid

**Florida Writer's Conference**, Altamonte Springs, FL  
<https://www.floridawriters.org/annual-conference>)

October 23-27, 2021

#### **Alachua Co. Friends of the Library Book Sale**

Gainesville, FL (<http://folaclid.org/>)

Covid precautions will be observed; masks required

#### **Other Words Literary Conference** – On hold

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

(<http://www.floridarts.org/other-words-conference/>)

### Behind the Bookshelves, the AbeBooks Podcast

[Behind the Bookshelves](#) offers interviews with authors, collectors, and booksellers covering a wide range of topics. Recent episodes include:

**July 27 – The Story Shop:** Jenny and Patrick Kalahar (Story Shop booksellers on AbeBooks) share their adventures in books from dressing up as Edgar Allan Poe to writing books about cats and answering bookish questions on a call-in radio show.

**July 22 – Committed by Adam Stern:** Dr. Adam Stern discusses his just-published book, which describes his four-year residency in Harvard's Medical Program.

**July 13 – Tom Lecky of Riverrun Books** (Ardsley, NY) has sold with AbeBooks since 1996. Formerly, head of printed books & manuscripts at Christie's in New York and a book appraiser on PBS' Antiques Roadshow.

**July 5 – Ray Boas, Bookseller**, has sold with AbeBooks' first year, 1996. Ray tells about his bookselling from early Internet days to opening his own bookshop after retiring from the U.S. Navy.

**June 16 – Small Library Company:** Meg Dillon, former BBC librarian, explains how she buys, sells, and organizes books for small private collections and shares her first impressions of the rare bookselling business.

### Rare Book Cafe

Rare Book Cafe, now in its sixth season, covers all aspects of books in "the only live-streamed program about antiquarian books, ephemera, and more...."

Produced by St. Pete journalist (just one of his many talents!) T. Allen Price, RBC streams on most Saturdays. View episodes on the [Rare Book Cafe website \(on Facebook\)](#), on YouTube, and in audio, *Rare Book Cafe Raw*, on podcast sites.

**Sept. 3 (S6 E31):** Ohio children's bookseller Larry Rakow shares details of one of the most fascinating genres for collectors – The Little Golden Books. Plus contributions from Rare Book Cafe regulars Lee Linn, Richard Mori (The Road Warrior), and David Hess with his feature Things Found in Old Books.

**Aug. 28 (S6 E30):** Florida genealogist Gigi Best shares her adventure and lessons learned as she researched her ancestors who arrived in Colonial America aboard English privateers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Plus contributions from Rare Book Cafe regulars Lee, Mary Kay, Richard (The Road Warrior), and David Hess with his feature Things Found in Old Books.

### The BiblioFile, with Nigel Beale

[THE BIBLIOFILE](#) is one of the world's leading podcasts about "the book" and book culture. Host Nigel Beale fosters wide-ranging conversations with authors, poets, publishers, booksellers, editors, collectors, book makers, scholars, critics, designers, publicists, literary agents, and others who just plain love books. The website provides podcasts back to 2006, lists of reading, links, etc.

#### **Recent episodes:**

Sept. 1 – Aimee Peake on selling antiquarian books on the Prairies

Aug. 30 – Ken Whyte and Jack David on the lessons of Canadian book publishing

Aug. 27 – Stephen Ennis on the relationship between collectors and rare book libraries

Aug. 16 – Meghan Constantinou with the goods on private library catalogues

Aug. 2 – Justin Schiller on building the greatest children's book collections in the world

*Book Events, Podcasts, and More, concluded***American Antiquarian Society  
Virtual Book Talks**

**Founded in 1812 by Isaiah Thomas, a Revolutionary War patriot and printer, the American Antiquarian Society is the oldest history society in the U.S.** It limits its interests to the period before 1876 and holds the “largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music, and graphic arts material” printed up to that date.

The AAS’s Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC) was established in 1983, responding to and promoting the then emerging field of book history. PHBAC sponsors **Virtual Book Talk**, which showcases “authors of recently published scholarly monographs, digital-equivalents, and creative works broadly related to book history and print culture.” Virtual Book Talk is free, but advance registration is required. Past talks are archived on the PHBAC website.

*Upcoming episodes:*

**Sept. 30, 2 p.m. – Gordon Fraser: *Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America*.** Fraser explores how America’s dream of colonizing space began not in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but in the 18<sup>th</sup>, from the beginning. This tacit relationship between the U.S and the cosmos was portrayed in the “constellation” on the flag and the capital’s street layout. It was communicated in every almanac, map, and star chart throughout U.S. society. Meanwhile, Black, indigenous, and other communities offered their own alternative cosmologies.

**Oct. 28, 2 p.m. EDT – Corinna Zeltsman: *Ink under the Fingernails: Printing Politics in Nineteenth-Century Mexico*.** The fight for Mexican independence was accompanied, like similar struggles, with an abundance of broadsides, pamphlets, and booklets. Far from passive conduits, print shops, “unexplored spaces of democratic practice,” were part of the negotiations that resulted in these materials. Zeltsman explores these interactions with state and religious authorities.

**The Book Collector Podcast**

In 1952, James Bond author Ian Fleming created *The Book Collector*, a “unique periodical for bibliophiles,” which featured a wide range of articles pertaining to book collecting, modern first editions, typography, national libraries, and numerous matters of interest to book collectors. Fleming died in 1964, as did the journal’s editor John Hayward. After a brief hiatus, the journal started up again in the hands of its new owner and editor, Nicolas Barker. In 2016, Fleming’s nephews, James and Fergus Fleming, assumed leadership of the journal, and in 2020 they created a podcast, which features readings from the journal’s archives. There are now [48 podcasts](#) available on SoundCloud.

**University of Oxford Podcasts**

Hundreds of podcasts are available in many series of interest to bibliophiles. Here are a few selections to get started:

[History of the Book](#) – Interactions between the history of the book and other areas of research.

[Fantasy Literature](#) – The roots of fantasy, the main writers and themes, and how to approach these texts.

**Grolier Club of New York Videos**

The Grolier Club of New York has posted over [230 videos on Vimeo](#), including many virtual exhibition openings, tours, and show-and-tell episodes. All videos can be located on the Vimeo webpage listed above.

*Recent episodes:*

[100 Books Famous in Typography, led by curator Jerry Kelly](#)

[Magazines & The American Experience](#)

[Lorenz Boninger: Niccolò di Lorenzo della Magna and the Social World of Florentine Printing, ca. 1470–1493](#)





## Florida Bibliophile Society 2021–2022 Season



David Hall

All FBS meetings will be available via Zoom. Some events may also be in person. Check the Upcoming Events page for details.

**September 19 • FBS Members – September Show and Tell:** Covid can't stop the collectors! Attendees are invited to share a treasure or two acquired over the summer.

**October 17 • Ed Cifelli – “The Capitalist of Po Biz” or, John Ciardi: America’s Millionaire Poet:** Ed is the author of two books about the poet John Ciardi. Not only one of most important 20th-century American poets, Ciardi had a fascinating life story and was a media personality in his day.

**November 21 • Kurt Zimmerman – TBA:** Kurt is founder and president of the Book Hunters Club of Houston. For several years, he was director of rare books and map for the Butterfield and Butterfield auction house in San Francisco.

**December 19 • FBS Holiday Party:** Details forthcoming.

**January 16 • Elaine Togneri – TBA:** Elaine has published fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, but she is best known for her mystery stories, which have been published on the Web, in anthologies, and in major magazines.

**February 20 • Reid Byers – TBA:** Reid's varied career has included minister, welder, and computer programmer, among others. He is author of *Private Library: The History of the Architecture and Furnishing of the Domestic Bookroom* (Oak Knoll Press, 2021).

**March 20 • Boštjan Petrič – Book Collecting in Slovenia:** Boštjan describes himself as a “book collector, bibliomaniac, and book enthusiast.”

Through his [Fate of Books](#) blog, he provides a Slovenian perspective on book collecting and on his special interest, libricide, i.e., the destruction of books. His blog comes with a moral: no matter how obscure the book, there is a collector somewhere who would love to possess it.

**March 31 • Special Event at Largo Public Library – Ed Centeno.** Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* Still Relevant to Modern Times. Ed will share his insights as well as selections from his outstanding Whitman collection.

**April 1–3 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair.** Planning is underway for one of the largest book fairs in the U.S., which 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.

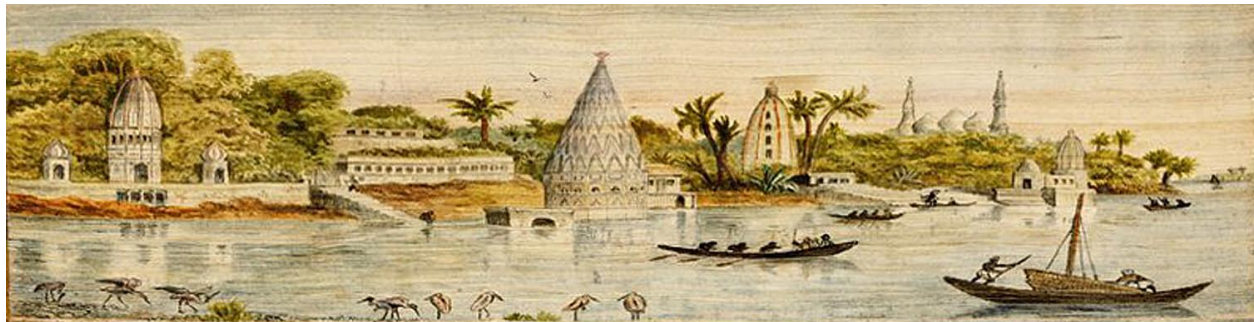
**April 17 • Ray Betzner – Studies in Starret:** Betzner became addicted to Sherlock Holmes at an early age, which led him to the Holmes scholar, Charles Vincent Emerson Starrett. *Studies in Starrett* is Ray's blog in which he explores “Starrett's work, his connections with other writers, and his influence, especially in the world of Sherlock Holmes.”

**May 15 • Banquet:** We will be watching carefully to see if a May banquet is possible and advisable. Stay tuned!

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



## Endpaper • No Book So Obscure...



Our 38<sup>th</sup> FBS season is shaping up to be another fascinating one! Thanks to Jerry Morris for assembling a great series of speakers, and thanks to our last speaker of last season, Gary Simons, for providing us with such rich fare.

Gary appears to be the first person to take a broad view of book club publications. After so many decades (or centuries?) of bibliophilia, that could be a surprising fact, but the truth is that there are many such projects waiting to be discovered and executed, if like Gary, one enjoys making lists and doing some sleuthing.

The value is not always immediately obvious, but if you will forgive a philosophical flight, the very nature of the book is that author after author and generation after generation, knowledge is preserved and built upon. I can tell you from my career in science that many important discoveries have been built on obscure research, rediscovered when the time was

ripe (perhaps that's a book waiting to be written!).

I have to be a bit philosophical after reading the comment by Slovenian book collector Boštjan Petrič (see page 21) that no matter how obscure the book, there is a collector somewhere who would love to possess it. Boštjan rails against the destruction of books, certainly in acts of desecration or censorship, but even more broadly in the casual destruction of books which are no longer valued by their owners.

In our mass-produced, digital age, trapped as it is between faceless commodity and senseless notoriety, the book is an oasis, full of personal connections to the host of individuals that contribute to the pagey things that bibliophiles love to find, to connect, to share.... We wish more people would discover these pleasures. As a hobby, few are as enriching as book collecting, few can take us as far, and few can follow us from our earliest days to our last.

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

## The Florida Bibliophile Society

### OFFICERS

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

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

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

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



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

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

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

**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](http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org) © 2021 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.