The Florida Bibliophile

October 2021 • Volume 38, No. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the September 2021 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society p. 2
"COTTON MATHER, YOU DOG!" Inoculations 300 Years Ago, by Ed Cifelli
Douglas Gorsline: Illustrator and Writerp. 12
The Shape of Orchids — Exhibition at Florida Gulf Coast University Library Special Collections
Brooklyn Book Fest 2021, by Maureen E. Mulvihillp. 17
Books in Brief
Upcoming Eventsp. 22
Book Events, Podcasts, and More p. 23
FBS 2021–2022 Season p. 25
Endpaper • So Many Booksp. 26

Deadline for the November newsletter is October 29, 2021. See page 21 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.



NNUAL DUES for the 2021–2022 FBS Season are due by December 31, 2021!

Membership is \$50 U.S. per household per year. Send inquiries and payments to treasurer Linda Morris at 13013 Willoughby Lane, Bayonet Point, FL 34667. Dues may also be paid using our PayPal account: floridabibliophiles@gmail.com.



Minutes of the September 2021 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

Our September meeting was a joyous gathering with lots of laughs and lots of chatter. Our topic was "Treasures we found during the Summer Break," so everyone got to hear about books that most of us hadn't seen, and learned about book subjects that many of us were only dimly aware of. Hopefully, this will be our last Zoom-only meeting as we gingerly move toward in-person meetings.

During meeting preliminaries, it was announced that our October meeting will be an in-person meeting at Lighthouse Books, that attendees will need to be masked and Covid-vaccinated, and that Ed Cifelli will be our speaker. We are also looking into having Zoom access for remote participants. Our November presenter, Kurt Zimmerman of the Book Hunters Club of Houston, will present remotely over Zoom, but hopefully many of our FBS members will be able to gather together to hear and see Kurt.

September is our normal month for electing officers. However, as the current officers were willing to serve for another year, and as no new nominations were proffered, an election wasn't necessary. Congratulations, and thanks for their continued service to FBS, to President Charles Brown, Vice-President Jerry Morris, Secretary Gary Simons, and Treasurer Linda Morris.



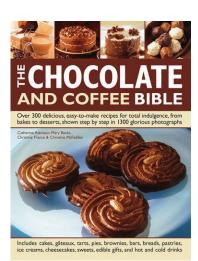
Jeannie Simons was the first "show and teller." She explained that she had been having a nice morning coffee with her husband, Gary, and with FBS member Carl Nudi at Shelf Indulgence, a local combined book store and coffee shop, when her eye caught a copy of *The Chocolate and Coffee*

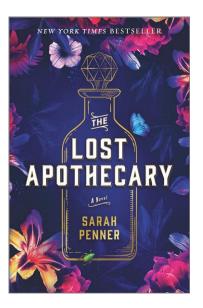
Bible, a book which presents "over 300 delicious, easy to make recipes . . . shown step by step in 1300 glorious photographs." Because "chocolate and coffee is where we live," she instantly decided she had to have the book. Nevertheless, the book had sat on her shelf until this morning, when, looking at the recipes, all she could say was, "Oh my God, Oh my God!" She proclaimed that this was her find for the summer. Her regular reading over the summer included various novels and political books, including *I Alone Can Fix It*.



Linda Morris reported she was reading *The Lost Apothecary*, a New York Times bestseller by St. Petersburg resident Sarah Penner. Sarah had emailed Jerry Morris after reading his blog, and had wanted to attend the September FBS meeting, but she was on a book promotion tour and couldn't

attend. Linda recommended Penner's historical novel, and added that Jerry was considering Ms. Penner as a possible FBS banquet speaker. Ben Wiley added that





Sarah Penner would be speaking at the Largo Library in the spring, and that he would provide more specific information for FBS members.



Jerry Morris highlighted several books he had acquired from Lee Harrer's library. Lee, knowing of Jerry's interest in aviation books, had personally bequeathed to Jerry his Charles Lindberg collection of some 25 books. Jerry held up to the camera with evident pleasure another acquisition from Lee, *A Short History of English Printing*, a

volume in the English Bookman's Library Series. Lastly, Jerry also received from Lee the first four issues of *The Book Collector Magazine* (from the early 1950s), a British journal that deals with all aspects of the book.



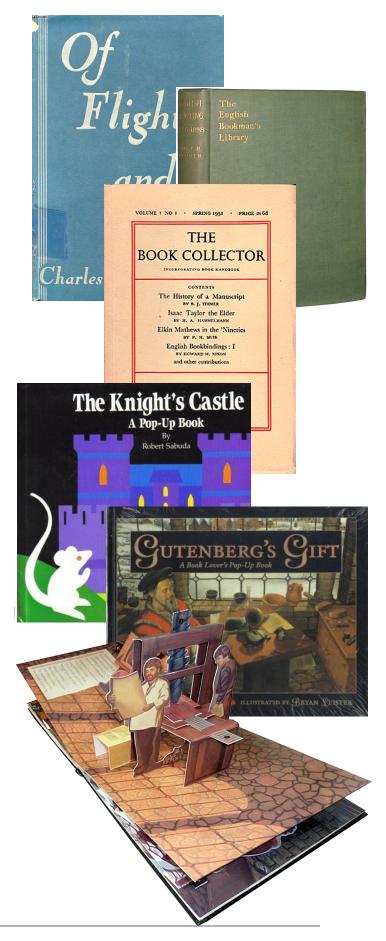
Irene Pavese was up next, and she began by saying she had also gotten some books from Lee Harrer's library. To her, the sale of Lee's library itself was an "overwhelming" emotional experience. She particularly enjoyed seeing some of the little notes that Lee had written in his books — she called

them "little love notes" from Lee to her. As she was about to leave the sale, she was pointed to some forty pop-up books, which she delightedly boxed up and took away. She held up to the screen and showed us some of the wonderful pages of two of the books, *The Knight's Castle*, a Robert Sabuda book, and *Gutenberg's Gift*, a fictionalized biography of Gutenberg, and received in return a general chorus of oohs and ahs! She also reported finding identical books from 1903 with Margaret Armstrong covers in two different book stores in Deland.



When it was Terry Seymour's turn to present, he wheeled his chair around so that the Zoom participants could see "the largest book" that he had: the famous William Henry Ireland book of manuscripts and plays, *Miscellaneous Papers and Legal Instruments under the Hand and Seal of William Shakespeare* (1795), that

had supposedly been written by Shakespeare but, in fact, were all forgeries. James Boswell had been an



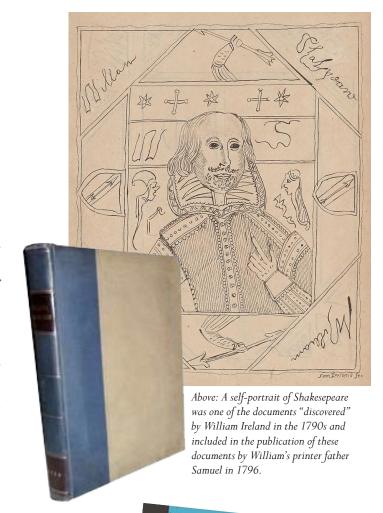
enthusiastic subscriber to this work, and as a Boswell collector, Terry was thrilled to finally obtain this rare volume. Boswell died six or eight months before the book was finally printed, but his executor, Edward Malone, who himself was a noted Shakespearean scholar, and who also played the lead role in exposing and debunking this forgery, honored Boswell's subscription commitment in order to personally examine a copy of this work.

Terry's other find was a second edition of the *Life of Johnson*, which was published during Boswell's lifetime. Terry already had three other copies of the second edition, but this most recent addition to his library has a bound-in "cancelled" page which apparently had not been noted before.

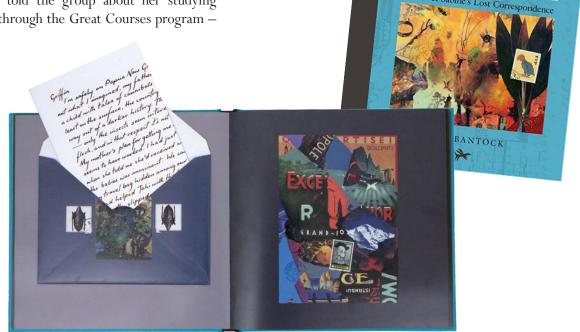


Elenora Sabin showed her copy of *The Pharos Gate*, the last in the Griffin and Sabine series of epistolary novels written by Nick Bantock and published between 1991 and 2016. As described by *Publishers Weekly*, these books "invite readers to examine handmade postcards and open colorful

envelopes as they eavesdrop on lonely London carddesigner Griffin Moss and mysterious South Pacific islander Sabine Strohem." Elenora praised the artwork and sheer beauty of this semi—pop-up book. Elenora had previously told the group about her studying ancient Greek through the Great Courses program —



PHAROS GA

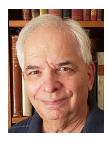


she now offered an update, told us that she now knew the opening lines of the *Iliad* in Greek by heart, and had opened a correspondence with the professor who taught the class!



Roxanne Rhodes called our attention to a book that she had not yet read, but had heard about in another book club. This book, *The Curse of Cast; or, the Slave Bride*, written by Mrs. Julia C. Collins, might be the first published novel by an African-American woman. The novel was serialized in 1865

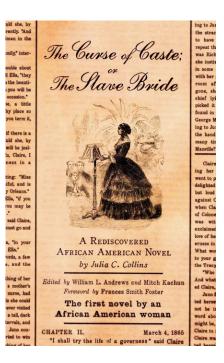
in *The Christian Recorder*, the national newspaper of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and has recently been reissued. Roxanne described the novel as genteel, but noted that it dealt with miscegenation, certainly a taboo topic for its time.

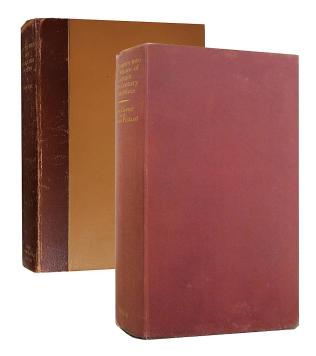


Gary Simons talked about two recent finds, the first of which, *Lectures on English Poets* by James Russell Lowell, was published by a book club, the Rowfant Club, in 1897. To appreciate this "find," one must know the back story. At least some FBS members may recall the poet James Russell Lowell (1819–1891): some may even remember his

lines "And what is so rare as a day in June / Then, if ever, come perfect days." In 1855, uncertain of his future course, Lowell gave a series of high-profile public lectures in Boston on English Poets. These well-received lectures led to Lowell being appointed to a career-shaping position at Harvard. A local newspaper evidently was given access to Lowell's notes and published detailed first person accounts, which were initially incorporated into an individual's scrap book, and eventually wound up in a university archive. The Rowfant Club rediscovered and finally published this "lost document" of American literary history.

Gary's second book, a 1934 volume he found at Lighthouse Books, had the rather off-putting title *An Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets*. But, Gary reported, it is actually something of a bibliophilic thriller, as this volume established and documented the literary forgeries of Thomas J. Wise, one of the then most widely respected bibliophilic authorities of the day.







Building upon the topic of literary forgery, Ben Wiley called attention to *Can You Ever Forgive Me?: Memoirs of a Literary Forger*, a 2008 memoir by Lee Israel and a corresponding 2018 film. Lee made a career of forging celebrity letters and selling them to New York booksellers and other buyers. Ben exclaimed that the film, with Melissa

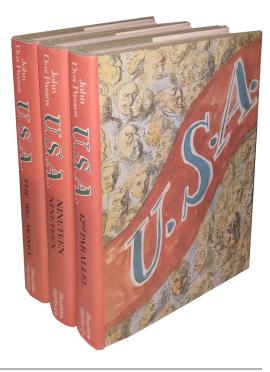
McCarthy, was delightful, and was a terrific look at the life of a forger. Ben's own discussion book for the day was yet another work purchased at the sale of Lee Harrer's library, a book on baseball by John Cheever called *The National Pastime*. The story first appeared in *The New Yorker* in the 1950s, and was published as a book in a limited edition of 330 by Sylvester and Orphanos in 1982, with illustrations by Vance Gerry. The story is about a boy who loves baseball but fears and avoids playing the game himself, and finally finds redemption as an adult. According to Ben, "this is Cheever, so it is sweet and subtle," and this book bears both the book designer's bookplate and Cheever's signature!



Ed Cifelli said he had spent most of the last four months reading, including a wonderful biography of Mozart, some of Hemingway's nonfiction, lots of Henry James, including *Portrait of a Lady* and *The Ambassadors*, biographies of 1920s writers, including Dorothy Parker, Robert Benchley, and F. Scott Fitzgerald, but that "the big surprise" for him had been John

Dos Passos's *U.S.A.* trilogy. Ed had owned various editions of these books for years without reading them. But now he has read all three volumes, and he found them a wonderful collage of America from 1898 to about 1930. Ed opined that there really is no plot, but it is still a unique reading experience. A dozen or so characters appear and reappear, interspersed with "news reels" (bits of information from the period), sections of "the camera eye" (stream of consciousness musings), and short biographies of prominent figures. Ed ended with a quote of a character claiming that the election of Woodrow Wilson was a "stolen election" — Ed concluded that "some things are too wonderful for words."





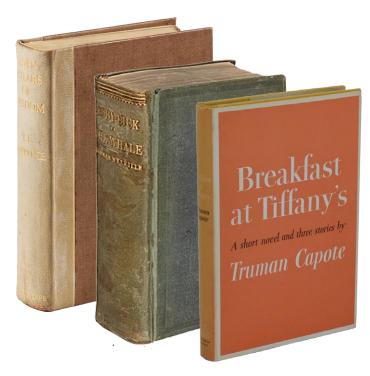


Ed's talk led to a general discussion regarding "the great American novel." Joan Sackheim suggested that *Gone With The Wind* might have claimed that title, but that her own favorite books were *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (T. E. Lawrence), *Moby Dick* (H. Melville), and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (T. Capote). Several

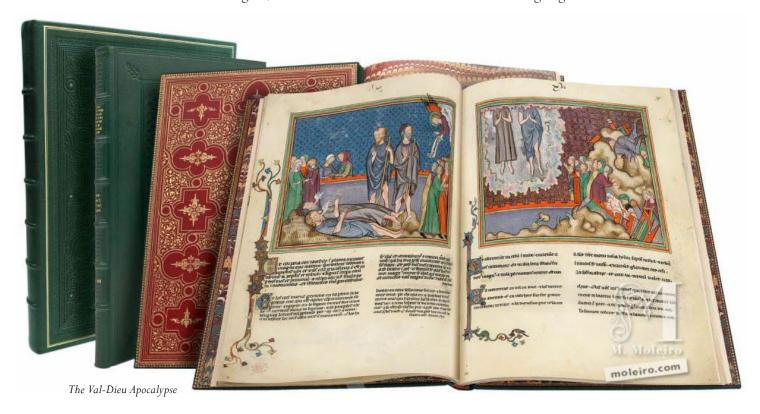
FBS members spoke in favor of *Huckleberry Finn*.



Our next presenter was Dan Hayman, who showed Moleiro facsimile editions of two wonderful books: the first was the illuminated *Book of Hours of Charles VIII*, the father of Francis the First, King of France. Dan showed us simply amazing illustrations from this work. A second facsimile was the *Val-Dieu Apocalypse* from 1328, in Latin and



fourteenth-century Norman French, which has one of the best "mouth of hell" illustrations. Dan is also studying a book "which you can only read if you are at least seventy," *The Complete Memoirs of Casanova*. Dan asserted that in reality Casanova was the social historian of the eighteenth century. He knew many of the major figures of the time and was himself immersed in all kinds of social classes and situations. In response to a question, Dan said that he had taught high school social studies for thirty-five years, and he initially collected things that he could use in the classroom. In that regard, he owns several documents of historical value going back to 1260 CE.



Minutes, concluded



Charles Brown concluded a great Sunday afternoon meeting by sharing three twentieth-century books. The first, *Out of the Vortex* by Amy Whitehouse, is a memoir of growing up in an alcoholic household; Charles highly recommended the book. The second book was an edition of Ionesco's *La Cantatrice Chauve (The Bald Soprano)*, which

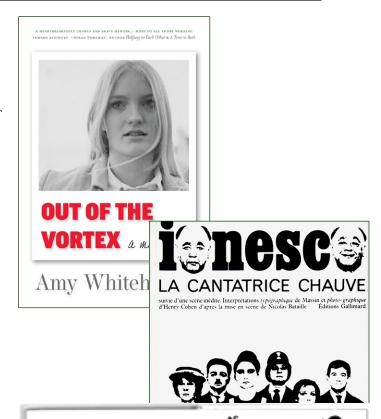
was designed by the French book designer Robert Massin. Charles praised the visual aspects of the book and particularly lauded the typography, which follows the sense of the text through large open layouts. The third concerned a symbolist work by the Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha, *Le Pater*, which was published through the financial auspices of Kickstarter.

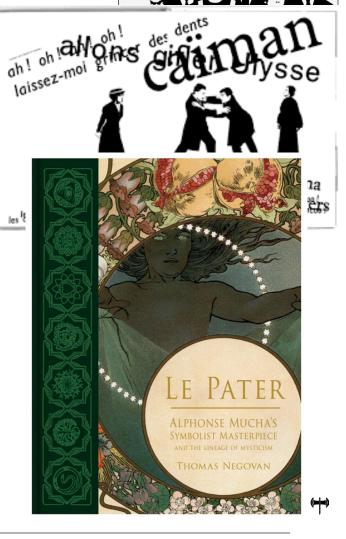
Ed Cifelli brought the meeting to its close by quoting a Dorothy Parker poem,



I like to have a martini, Two at the very most. After three I'm under the table, After four I'm under my host.

Lastly, FBS members, please remember that 2021–2022 dues are due, and that FBS would welcome donations from members to fund our annual Lee J. Harrer Book Collecting Contest.





"COTTON MATHER, YOU DOG!" Inoculations 300 Years Ago by Ed Cifelli

Cotton Mather, the cantankerous Boston minister who has been saddled with a big portion of the blame for the deadly Salem Witch Trials in 1692, was a hero in 1721 when he espoused inoculations to fight off the deadly smallpox epidemic that had reappeared in Boston that year.

The anti-inoculators were so fierce and ferocious in their opposition, however, that one of them hurled a homemade bomb through Mather's bedroom window one November night.

It came with a message:

"COTTON MATHER, YOU DOG, DAM YOU! I'L INOCULATE YOU WITH THIS; WITH A POX TO YOU!"

What exactly had Mather done to deserve such treatment?

For starters, he was smart enough to recognize the recurring pattern of smallpox epidemics in Boston. He had calculated that from 1630 the disease came back every twelve years.

He was expecting the next attack to begin in 1714, but it didn't come that year, which drove Mather to speculate that the 1713 measles epidemic that had claimed his wife and three of his children had somehow altered the smallpox pattern.

Everyone in Boston, however, feared its deadly return from one year to the next that decade, and then in 1721, it hit again with a vengeance. In all nearly 6,000 people were infected that year, about half the city, 844 of whom died, according to Kenneth Silverman's Pulitzer prize—winning biography, *The Life and Times of Cotton Mather* (1984).

But Mather did more than simply detect a pattern. Drawing from successful inoculation accounts published by the British Royal Society and adding word-of-mouth testimonies provided by his African servant, Onesimus, he published his theory of inoculations.

The evidence was sufficient, Mather argued, to begin a wide program of life-saving procedures—but his arguments fell largely on deaf ears.



Cotton Mather (1663–1728) in an 1728 engraving after the portrait by Peter Pelham (1697–1751)

However, through the work of a respected Boston physician, Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, an unknown number of what may be called "Mather's inoculations" were administered during the summer of 1721 throughout the city and surrounding areas.

There was hot disagreement, but the general public had begun to be educated to the theory and implementation of protection through inoculation, the very same principles that would become widely accepted over the next three centuries.

Mather's critics were loud, violent, and persistent and very slow to accept the controversial theory. And many never did. They worried that inoculation wouldn't stop the disease but would instead worsen it. They called Mather and the other inoculators hypocritical and authoritarian.

And they dragged out their most reliable allpurpose argument: smallpox was a divine judgment against a sinful people. And sinners always got what they deserved.

History has corrected the judgment against Cotton

Published in the <u>Tampa Free Press</u> on Sept. 23, 2021. Reprinted with permission.

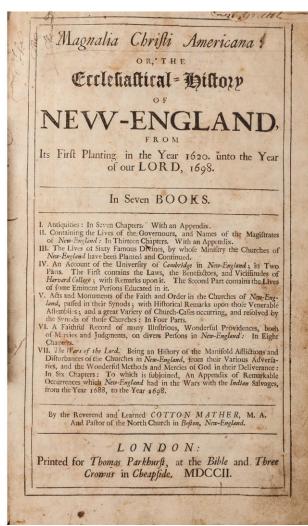
Mather, continued

Mather in this 1721 political-scientific battle over infectious disease. It has recognized the rightness of his crusade for inoculation against smallpox—and by extension against countless other deadly diseases from measles to polio to Covid-19.

There is no longer any scientific dispute about inoculations or immunizations, what we call vaccinations today: they have saved millions of lives and will save millions more as people line up one by one, roll up their sleeves, and get their shots.

All of this due to the tireless work of an unlikely spokesman for science, the Rev. Cotton Mather, the most puritanical of all the 17th-century New England ministers.

Cotton Mather is mostly remembered today for his fierce Puritanism and his role in the Salem Witch Trials of 1692–1693. Despite the stereotype implied, Mather was conflicted about the trials (but ultimately supported the executions of 19 of the 30 defendents) and one of the foremost intellectuals of early America. He was a keen observer of natural phenomena with an interest in science and medicine, at a time when it was rare for doctors to have a degree. Mather's writings were highly respected, and his many contributions to the Royal Society of London, which remains one of the world's preeminent scientific associations, led to his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1713. Mather authored over 450 books and pamphlets, many of which concerned his interest in science and medicine. Three of his most important works are shown here.



Magnalia Christi Americana: The Ecclesiastical History of New-England from Its First Planting in 1620, unto the Year of Our Lord 1698

The Magnalia Christi Americana, or The Glorious Works or Christ in America, is regarded as Mather's greatest work. It comprises seven books, including a detailed account of the Bay Colony's progress from its founding in 1620 up to 1698. Mather's diary indicates that he began the project in 1693, yet when completed, no New England printer could produce a book of this size. It was two more years before Mather entrusted his priceless manuscript to his friend Edward Bromfield for the trip to England, where Magnalia would be printed in 1702. It would first be printed in America in 1820.

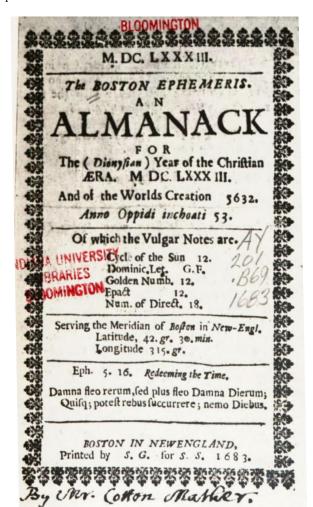
Mather's epic history begins with these words:

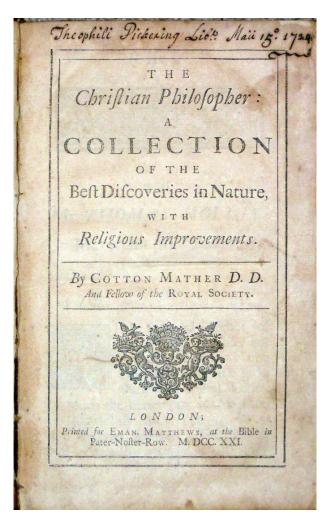
I WRITE the Wonders of the CHRISTIAN RELIGION, flying from the Depravations of Europe, to the American Strand: And, assisted by the Holy Author of that Religion, I do, with all Conscience of Truth, required therein by Him, who is the Truth it self, Report the Wonderful Displays of His Infinite Power, Wisdom, Goodness, and Faithfulness, wherewith His Divine Providence hath Irradiated an Indian Wilderness.

Mather, concluded

The Christian Philosopher: A Collection of the Best Discoveries in Nature with Religious Improvements

The Christian Philosopher (1721) fuses Mather's religious and scientific interests. It is not an interpretation of science in religious terms, but builds solidly on 17th-century advances in scientific thought as a demonstration of the intelligent design of the universe. Mather followed European science closely and was very familiar with the work of Sir Isaac Newton and other workers then revolutionizing science. The Christian Philosopher surveys all sciences known at the time, including anatomy, astronomy, geography, meteorology, physics, and zoology in 34 chapters with titles like "Of the Light," "Of Saturn," Of Thunder and Lightning," "Of Gravity," and others. Again, the size of the book required that it be published in London.





The Boston Ephemeris. An Almanack for the (Dionysian) Year of the Christian Æra. MDCLXXXIII. And of the Worlds Creation 5632.

This edition of The *Boston Ephemeris* was written by Mather in 1683. An ephemeris is a table giving the calculated positions of a celestial object at regular intervals throughout a period. Mather's calculations for eclipses and the positions of the moon, planets, and comets with respect to the stars must have been done by hand, indicating his mastery and his influence. In 1686, another *Boston Ephemeris* was published by his brother Nathanael.

Douglas Gorsline: Illustrator and Writer

On the Route d'Etornay in the French village of Bussy-le-Grand – not far from Dijon – a Burgundian barn has been transformed by a labor of love into a museum for the American artist, illustrator, and writer Douglas Gorsline (1913–1985).

The story begins in Rochester, New York, where Gorsline was born and where he studied art at the Rochester School of Technology. He moved to Connecticut in 1930, where he attended the Yale School of Art and then to New York City where he joined the Art Students League of New York.

As a painter, his work was influenced by the art movements of the early 20th century, especially cubism and surrealism. In 1936, he married Elizabeth Perkins, "Zippy" (daughter of Max Perkins), and she became a subject of many of his paintings. He began to work in commercial art in in the 1940s, and both his bodies of work – painting and illustration – received good reviews. In 1947, Gorsline was elected a full academician by the National Academy of Design.

During the 1950s, he became sought after as an illustrator and provided illustrations and covers for over 70 books. He also began to write. The decade began with his book *What People Wore* (1952), for which he created many illustrations, and ended with the publication of *Farm Boy* (1960), a young adult novel about a boy who escapes a troubled life and finds purpose on an uncle's farm.

In 1959, Gorsline and Elizabeth divorced, and he began to teach at the Art School of the National Academy. He began a long association with *Sports Illustrated* magazine, in a series of commissions. The magazine's art director, Richard Gangel, stated that Gorsline brought the skills of a "superb draftsman and the keen observer" to his work for the magazine. Gorsline was particularly interested in how to portray motion in painting, combining realism with a cubist sensitivity in a style he called "sequential simultaneity." Gangel also said, "He never worried about the difference between fine art and illustration. His concern was about producing art of very high quality, which functioned



Douglas Gorsline — Self-portrait in a Chinese Hat. This painting from the 1970s shows Gorsline's technique of "sequential simultaneity," in which he combined realism with elements of cubism. [Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY]

beautifully as visual journalism."

In 1965, Gorsline moved to France, where he would spend the rest of his life. Once established there, he wrote his girlfriend, Marie, and invited her to join him. They were married in Paris and became "inseparable" for the rest of his life. They collaborated on books, and Marie was Gorsline's constant companion: she accompanied him on frequent outings in the "traveling studio" during which Gorsline would stop and paint to capture an appealing scene, and Marie would read to him or take photographs at the location, which could be used later to refresh Gorsline's memory.

In 1973, Gorsline was officially invited to visit the People's Republic of China to paint and discuss art — the first American to be honored in this way. The invitation was extended at the suggestion of Lois Snow, widow of journalist Edgar Snow, whose long relationship with Mao Zedong had begun in the 1930s. During the early 1970s, political and

Gorsline, continued

economic calamities in China, including the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution, had left millions of Chinese dead and Mao contending with local revolutionary committees fomenting real revolution. At the same time, relations with the Soviet Union were deteriorating and skirmishes escalating. It was in this environment that Mao softened relations with the U.S., and President Richard Nixon was invited to visit in 1972 and famously did so, the first American president to visit Communist China. Gorsline's visit the following year provided a unique opportunity for an artist to view and record scenes of China at this critical moment in its modern history. Again, Marie took many photographs to capture the locations, the crowds, and the individuals as sources for Gorsline's painting.

Gorsline continued to work in both painting and illustration through the 1970s. He and Marie

enjoyed their life in France, seeking restaurants with finer escargots or a better Beaujolais.

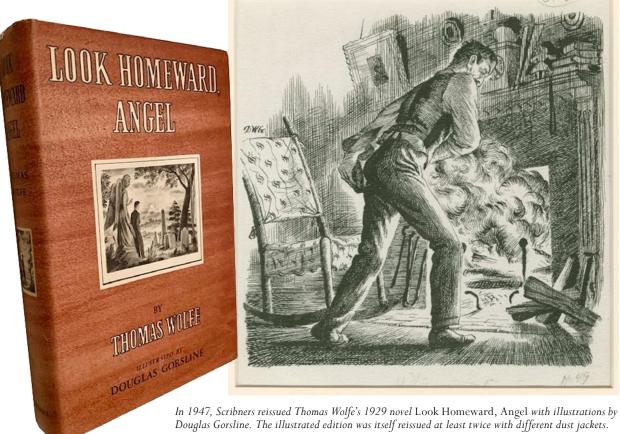
In 1985, Gorsline suffered a stroke from which he did not recover. At that point, Marie took up the task fo honoring his work and their life together by creating a museum in the barn on their home property in Bussy-le-Grand. Fittingly, royalties from books the Gorsline and Marie created helped fund the renovation of the barn, where many works by Gorsline and his collegues are displayed.

Gorsline's work is held in numerous public and private collections in the U.S., Europe, and China. Many of Gorsline's papers are held by North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC), by special arrangement with Marie Gorsline. In addition, Marie arranged for NCSU to acquire the farmland around the home in Bussy-le-Grand to create a dormitory for visiting students taking classes in Dijon.

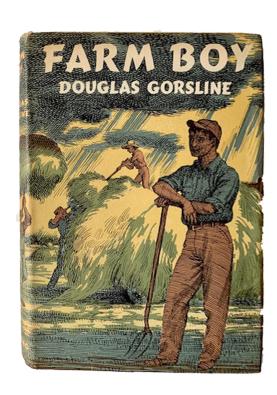


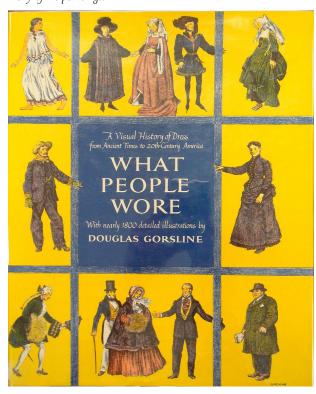
An interior view of the renovated barn that serves as the Musée Douglas Gorsline in Bussy-le-Grand, France.

Gorsline, continued

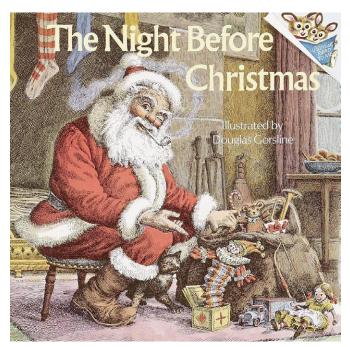


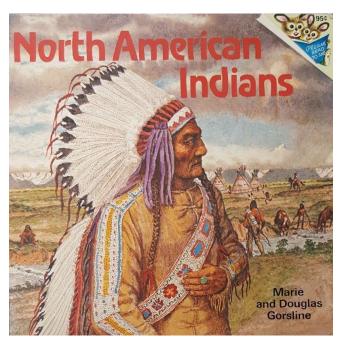
Gorsline is credited with two books as writer and illustrator: What People Wore (1952) and Farm Boy (1960). As the cover states, he executed almost 1,800 illustrations for What People Wore. Gorsline was very interested in clothing, how it draped on the body and how it revealed and concealed — an interest that is shown in many of his paintings.



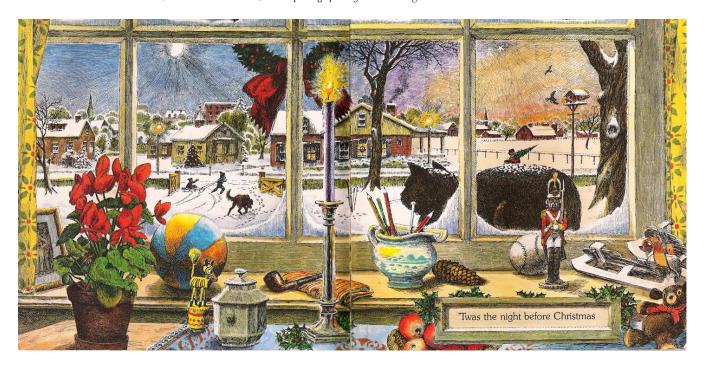


Gorsline, concluded





Marie and Douglas worked together on a number of titles for children, including The Night Before Christmas (Random House, 1975) and North American Indians (Random House, 1977). The opening spread from The Night Before Christmas is shown below.



Sources

Beverly Barham. 2009. The Art of Douglas Warner Gorsline. North Carolina State University.

"Cover Art: An Online Exhibition." Undated. Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida.

"Douglas Gorsline Papers." 2001. McCain Library and Archives, University Libraries, University of Southern Mississippi.

"Douglas W. Gorsline, 72, Dies; Book Illustrator and Author." *New York Times*, July 10, 1985. Musée Douglas Gorsline website.

"A Review of Farm Boy by Douglas Gorsline." Undated. Kirkus Reviews.



The Shape of Orchids – Exhibition at Florida Gulf Coast University Library Special Collections

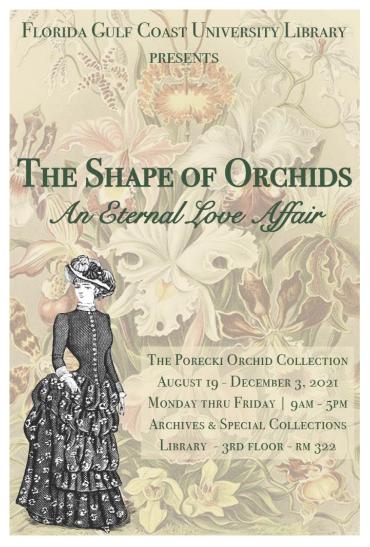
Florida Gulf Coast University Archives and Special Collections will present The Shape of Orchids: An Eternal Love Affair from August 19 to December 3, 2021.

Orchids are considered to be one of the most coveted ornamental plants with their exotic, graceful, and delicate forms. The orchid has, for many centuries, been a symbol of love, luxury, beauty, and strength. In Victorian Britain, the orchid became an obsession, and in the Victorian mind, orchids took on a special life and significance.

The Shape of Orchids celebrates the Porecki Collection, bringing many elements together to create a Victorian-esque narrative. Rare prints dating back to the early 17th century mingle with modern images by nationally acclaimed photographer Clyde Butcher, a Florida resident since 1983. Also on display will be orchids as images and ideas in popular culture and other works of the imagination, from stamps featuring orchids from across the globe to the limited edition graphic novel Black Orchid (1988–1989) by celebrated author Neil Gaiman. The exhibition will feature rare books from FGCU's permanent collection, handcrafted botanical wallpapers, local herbarium specimens, and living orchid walls on loan from the Naples Botanical Gardens.



Florida Gulf Coast University Library
Sources: FGCU Library Special Collection; clydebutcher.com



The Porecki Collection is named after Daniel and Mary Alice Porecki, for whom orchids were the spark and a continuing passion of their relationship. Their love affair began the moment they set eyes on each other — fueled by their mutual passion for horticulture. From the moment the Poreckis bought their first orchid, there was no turning back. The hunt for new specimens took them to Africa, Costa Rica, Jamaica ... to name a few. Their love of live plants encouraged a new passion: collecting orchid-related treasures from flea markets and antique stores. The Poreckis lived by their own rules — traveling, gardening, caring for family, and collecting were the staples of their incredible, orchid-fueled life together.



BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL 2021

September 26, 2021 – October 4, 2021 A Hybrid Event: Live & Virtual



Writers, Editors, Printers, Book Illustrators, Book Historians, Publishers, Book Critics, Book Agents, Booksellers ... Bibliophiles Of All Stripes

Detailed, Full Schedule < https://brooklynbookfestival.org/>



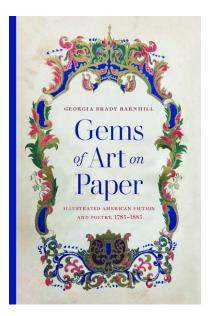
In the spirit of bibliophilic outreach, *The Florida Bibliophile Society* is pleased to promote the continuing good work and success of writers in Brooklyn, New York. Its historic legacy of dedicated writers dates from Walt Whitman, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Truman Capote, Philip Levine, *et al. Brooklyn Book Festival 2021* hosts a broad agenda of prominent living writers from Brooklyn and beyond: Paul Auster, Jonathan Lethem, Joyce Carol Oates, George Packer, Francine Prose, Anne Waldman, Cornel West, Hanif Abdurragib (2021 McArthur Fellow), *et al.* Come read & revel!

Page contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, FBS Member & 2012-2015 V.P.; Brooklyn resident for 30 years; Guest Speaker, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Museum; Visiting Professor (Shakespeare), St Joseph's College, Clinton Hill, Brooklyn. "My 30 years in Brooklyn, with its deep roots in 17thC Dutch history, is my best credential of all." ◆

Books in Brief

Gems of Art on Paper: Illustrated American Fiction and Poetry, 1785–1885

Georgia Brady Barnhill Univ. of Massachusetts Press 288 pp., 2021



The 19th century was a period of dramatic transformation for the United States as independence, expansion, and the industrial revolution transformed the country from a set of rural colonies to an industrial and economic powerhouse.

The printing arts were also transformed in this era. At the beginning of the century, few shops could produce, nor

households afford, the types of illustrated books that would be common by century's end when publishers loaded books with reproductions of fine art and newly commissioned illustrations.

In *Gems of Art on Paper*, Barnhill explains the costs and risks that publishers faced as they transformed America's visual culture from sparse to abundant. New practices and new technologies enhanced works of fiction and poetry. Bookmakers worked closely with skilled draftsmen, engravers, and printers to reach an increasingly literate and discriminating American middle class. Barnhill argues that while scholars have largely overlooked the efforts of early American illustrators, the works of art that they produced impacted readers' understandings of

the texts they encountered, and greatly enriched the nation's cultural life.

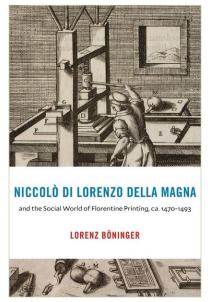
Georgia Brady Barnhill, an expert on 19th century visual culture, was curator of graphic arts and director of the Center for Historic American Visual Culture.

Source: University of Massachussetts Press

Niccolò di Lorenzo della Magna and the Social World of Florentine Printing, ca. 1470–1493

Lorenz Böninger Harvard Univ. Press 224 pp., 2021

Lorenz Böninger offers a fresh history of the birth of print in **Italy** via the story of one of its preeminent figures, Niccolò di Lorenzo della Magna. After working for several years for a judicial court in Florence, Niccolò set up a business there and published many influential books, including Marsilio Ficino's De christiana religione, Leon Battista Alberti's De re aedificatoria, Cristoforo Landino's commentaries



on Dante's *Commedia*, and Francesco Berlinghieri's *Septe giornate della geographia*. Many of these books were printed in vernacular Italian.

Despite his prominence, Niccolò has remained an enigma. Böninger fills this void with a meticulously researched portrait, illuminating not only Niccolò's life but also the Italian printing revolution generally. Combining attention to bibliographic and textual concerns with a broader social and economic history of printing in Renaissance Italy, Böninger provides an unparalleled view of Italian printing in its earliest years. The story of Niccolò di Lorenzo furnishes a host of new insights into the legal issues that printers confronted, the working conditions in

confronted, the working conditions in printshops, and the political forces that both encouraged and constrained the publication and dissemination of texts.

Lorenz Böninger has published widely in Renaissance history, including critical editions of the letters of Lorenzo de' Medici and of the Ricordanze of Lorenzo Guidetti. *Source*: Harvard University Press

Books in Brief, continued

The Grand Medieval Bestiary: Animals in Illuminated Manuscripts

Christian Heck and Rémy Cordonnier Abbeville Press 620 pp., 2018



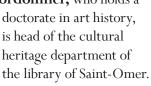
Originally published in 2012, the *Grand Medieval Bestiary* is now available in an affordable edition.

As the 587 colorful images in this magnificent volume reveal, animals were a constant and delightful presence in illuminated manuscripts throughout the Middle Ages. They were illustrated not only in bestiaries—the compendiums of animal fact and fable that were exceedingly popular in the 12th and 13th centuries—

but in every sort of manuscript, sacred and profane, from the Gospels to the *Romance of the Rose*.

Both beautiful and informative, essays on the medieval lore and iconography of one hundred creatures are alphabetized by their Latin names, from the alauda, or lark, whose morning song was thought to be a hymn to Creation, to the vultur, whose taste for carrion made it a symbol of the sinner who indulges in worldly pleasures. The selection includes a number of creatures that would now be considered fantastic, including the griffin, the manticore, and of course the fabled unicorn.

Rémy Cordonnier, who holds a



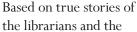
Christian Heck, professor of art history at the University of Lille, is an authority on illuminated manuscripts.

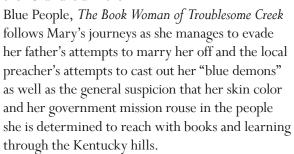
Source: Abbeville Press; New York Journal of Books

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

Kim Michelle Richardson Sourcebooks Landmark 320 pp., 2019

The book woman of Troublesome Creek, Cussy Mary, is one of the dedicated librarians who carried books on muleback to the isolated hill people of Kentucky in the 1930s, including the Blue People, whose unusual skin color — the result of a rare genetic trait — made them objects of ridicule and discrimination. And Cussy Mary was one of them.



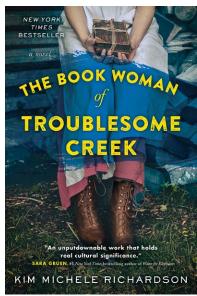


The portrait painted of Mary's struggles, the Blue People's oppression, and the poverty of that time and place are lightened as Mary's work as a librarian makes a real difference in one life after another. It's not just the books either, as Mary carries messages, medicine, and advice that improve the lives of her patrons. It's work she would much rather do than

settle down and tend house for a miner like her father.

Kim Michele Richardson has written four works of historical fiction, her latest, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, has won numerous awards.

Source: Kirkus Reviews; Amazon



Books in Brief, concluded

The Bibliophile Mysteries (16 books)

Kate Carlisle Berkley 2009–2022



Kate Carlisle worked in television for many years before turning to writing. That brief description does not include the many diversions and detours she took as a *Dating Game* chaperone, working in a vineyard, joining a commune, selling fried chicken, and of course, spending a

year in law school. Her varied and colorful experiences combined with her love of books and a fascination with bookbinding led her to writing fiction, and in 2009, she published the first in her Bibliophile Mysteries series, which now numbers 15 books in print and a sixteenth scheduled for publication in 2022.

The first book in the series was *Homicide in Hardcover*. It introduces Brooklyn Wainwright, a bookbinder and book restorer — she is happiest when she is bringing a rare book "back to life." The mystery begins when Brooklyn finds her mentor lying in a pool of his own blood. With his final breath he leaves Brooklyn a cryptic message, "Remember the Devil," and gives her a priceless—and supposedly cursed—copy of Goethe's *Faust* for safe-keeping. A thoroughly bookish setting for a very bookish mystery.

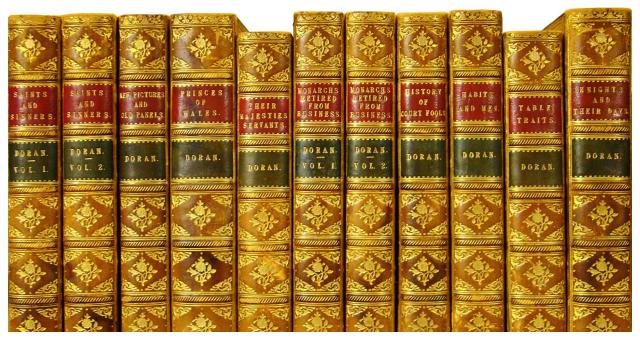
Brooklyn lives in San Francisco, the child of hippie parents who were devoted followers of the Grateful Dead — thus, Deadeads. Her parents now live in the wine country of Sonoma County, which with San Francisco, draws on Carlisle's personal life and provides the setting for much interesting action. There are the recurrent characters, including a wonderful boyfriend in the former spy and no PI, Derek, (spoiler! they get married in book 12 — not without incident) and best friend, Robin (they grew up in the Dharma commune together).

Generally with high reviews on Amazon and good reviews in the press, the Bibliophile Mysteries are a good bet for the mystery-loving bibliophile.



- 1. Homicide in Hardcover (2009)
 - 2. If Books Could Kill (2010)
 - 3. The Lies That Bind (2010)
 - 4. Murder Under Cover (2011)
 - 4½. Pages of Sin (2012 novella)
- 5. One Book in the Grave (2012)
 - 6. Peril in Paperback (2012)
- 7. A Cookbook Conspiracy (2013)
 - 8. The Book Stops Here (2014)
- 9. Ripped From the Pages (2015)
 - 10. Books of a Feather (2016)
 - 11. Once Upon a Spine (2017)
 - 12. Buried in Books (2018)
- 13. The Book Supremacy (2019)
 - 14. The Grim Reader (2020)
 - 15. Little Black Book (2021)
 - 16. The Paper Caper (2022)

(-|-)



Selected works of John Doran (1807–1878) in custom uniform binding. "Dr. Doran" was an English writer of Irish descent who wrote numerous books on society or history, often with a light-hearted touch, with titles like History of Court Fools (1858) and Knights and Their Days (1890).



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, 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!

Why not write about it!?



Upcoming Events

October 2021



Ed Cifelli: "The Capitalist of Po Biz," or John Ciardi: America's Millionaire Poet

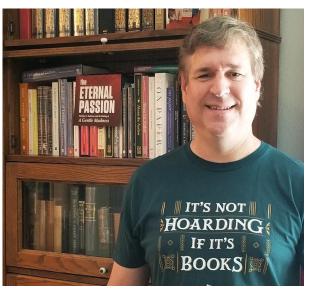
Lighthouse Books 14046 5th St, Dade City, FL

October 17, 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 20th century. Ed will present the true rags-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.

November 2021



Kurt Zimmerman: Some Rare Book Hunting Escapades Seminole Community Library 9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL

November 21, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

Rare Book Hunting is something that Kurt Zimmerman has enjoyed doing for over 30 years. For the past ten years, he has been writing about his discoveries on his popular blog, American Book Collecting. Kurt is co-founder and current President of the Book Hunters Club of Houston. Earlier this year, the club published a book of his essays and escapades, aptly titled Rare Book Hunting. Books about Books is what Kurt collects, more specifically, association copies, books about books inscribed by their authors to other noted bibliophiles. Rare Book Hunting is one of the seven current favorite Books about Books that Michael Dirda recommended in the Sept. 29th issue of The Washington Post. Dirda defined Books about Books as "a wide-ranging category that could easily be relabeled 'the stuff that dreams are made of." Kurt will tell us some of this "stuff" that he has recently found: stuff that we could only dream about!

Book Events, Podcasts, and More

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

Florida Book Events - Oct.-Nov. 2021

October 2021 - Canceled due to Covid

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

October 23-27, 2021

 ${\bf Alachua\ Co.\ Friends\ of\ the\ Library\ Book\ Sale}$

Gainesville, FL (http://folacld.org/)

Covid precautions will be observed; masks required

 ${\bf Other\ Words\ Literary\ Conference}-{\rm On\ hold}$

University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

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

November 1–18

JCA Jewish Literary, Film, and Arts Festival

Jacksonville, FL (jcajax.org/jcafest/)

November 6

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

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

November 8-14

Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading

USF St. Petersburg

140 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg (www.tampabay.com/expos/festival-of-reading/)

November 14-21

Miami Book Fair International

Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, Miami, FL (www.miamibookfair.com/)

November 19, 10 a.m.

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Featured Book: Plunder: Napoleon's Theft of Veronese's

Feast by Cynthia Saltzman

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:

Sept. 17 – Hammonds Books

Sept. 14 – Tavistock Books

July 27 – The Story Shop

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. Allan Smith, 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. 25 (S6 E34): Ohio children's bookseller Larry Rakow, a regular on Rare Book Cafe, finishes his discussion of Little Golden Books and what you need to know if you collect them. Also, Ed Markiewicz sends a report from Greece, including a reading from Beat poet Gregory Corso's letter to Allen Ginsberg written in Athens. Plus, Lee Linn, Gigi Best, David Hess, and more.

The Biblio File, with Nigel Beale

THE BIBLIO FILE 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. 21 – Steve Lomazow: Begun in 1972, the Steven Lomazow Collection of American Periodicals is now considered to be the most extensive in private hands.

Sept. 13 – Heather O'Neill: Heather and Nigel discuss one of her favorite books, Agota Kristof's *The Notebook*.

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 Enniss on the relationship between collectors and rare book libraries

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

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:

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.

Nov. 18, 2 p.m. EDT – Elizabeth McHenry: To Make Negro Literature: Writing, Literary Practice, and African American Authorship.

McHenry traces African American authorship in the 10 years after the 1896 legalization of segregation. Focusing on unfamiliar practitioners whose works reflect the unsettledness of African American letters in this period, she analyzes the unpublished, unsuccessful, or only partially achieved and recovers a hidden genealogy of Black literature as having emerged tentatively, laboriously, and unevenly.

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 50 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:

<u>History of the Book</u> – Interactions between the history of the book and other areas of research.

<u>Middle East Centre Booktalk</u> – The Oxford podcast on new books about the Middle East.

Grolier Club of New York Videos

The Grolier Club of New York has posted over <u>230</u> <u>videos on Vimeo</u>, including many virtual exhibition openings, tours, and show-and-tell episodes. All videos can be located on the Vimeo webpage listed above.

Recent episodes:

Special Functions Virtual Tour: Sinclair Lewis Exhibit

Magazines & The American Experience

Lorenz Böninger: Niccolò di Lorenzo della Magna and the Social World of Florentine Printing, ca. 1470–1493



Florida Bibliophile Society 2021–2022 Season



FBS meetings may be in-person or via Zoom as conditions warrant. Check the Upcoming Events page for details.

September 19 • FBS Members—September Show and Tell: Covid can't stop the collectors! Attendees shared recent additions to their collections.

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 – Some Rare Book Hunting Escapades: Join us as Kurt, founder and president of the Book Hunters Club of Houston, shares some of the quests that led to his recent book Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades (2020). For several years, Kurt was director of rare books and maps for Butterfield and Butterfield Auctions, 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 Starrett: 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 banquest is possible and advisable. Stay tuned!

(|

Endpaper • So Many Books...



Only the most devoted readers of *The Florida Bibliophile* (which I assume is <u>all</u> readers of *The Florida Bibliophile*) will recognize that the title of this Endpaper is slightly recycled. But after our September meeting, it seemed a more fitting expression of amazement than a simple "Wow."

These show-and-tells are always such a revelation about the varied interests of our members, their knowledge, and their contagious enthusiasm.

They are also a testimony to the fellowship of bibliophiles as the collection of one passes to others, both as objects of interest and remembrances. I am speaking, of course, about our dear fellow bibliophile Lee Harrer and his books that were generously made available to FBS members. Just as he will live on in our many fond memories — as several noted during our meeting — many of us will now treasure these wonderful mementos.

Our show-and-tells are also a revelation about

collecting, and the many possibilities for forming interesting collections.

Some of these possibilities could be quite obscure, and yet each one has its own rewards as learning about the lives and accomplishments of the wide assortment of professionals that contribute to books brings to life individuals – whether well-known or less so – and adds an extra dimension to the books they worked on. Many authors, quite famous in their own time, are waiting to be reappreciated – as are book designers, publishers, illustrators, printers (and even editors!)... Each one creates a quest, which is rewarding in itself, and leads to greater treasures in encounters with the history and culture that surrounded these individuals and to which - in a slightly recycled metaphor – our books are doors. Like Borges's infinite library, each of our collections hold this limitless potential.

See you at the bookstore!

— Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

OFFICERS

President: Charles M. Brown

cmbrown(a)atlantic.net

Vice President: Jerry Morris

moibibliomaniac@gmail.com

Secretary: Gary Simons

gsimons1946@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Linda Morris

linjer25@gmail.com

FBS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Linda Morris linjer25@gmail.com

Lee Harrer Jerry Morris

Hospitality:

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 © 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.