

The Florida Bibliophile

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IN THIS ISSUE

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

Greetings from Planet Word! p. 6
by David Hall

About Table Talk p. 9
by Jerry Morris

Books in Brief p. 19

Upcoming Events p. 23

*Artful Books 2021 at Museum of Arts and
Sciences* p. 24

Book Events, Podcasts, and More p. 25

FBS 2021–2022 Season p. 27

Endpaper • If It's Books... p. 28



**Kurt
Zimmerman:
Book Hunter**

*Deadline for the January newsletter is December 30, 2021.
See page 22 for details.*

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



**ANNUAL 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.



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the November 2021 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

Ah, technology! Our *October* meeting was a combined in-person and Zoom meeting, but then our speaker was with our assembled local group. In *November*, we crossed a further bridge, as we once again had a combined in-person and Zoom meeting, but this time our speaker was at a remote location, in Conroe, Texas! And, inevitably, the same technology that had readily worked in practice sessions chose to be prickly in real time. However, persistence – that is, the persistence of our Vice President, Jerry Morris – eventually paid off, and our local assembled Florida audience as well as Zoom participants from the Baxter Society (of Maine), the Book Hunters Club (of Houston), the Caxton Club (of Chicago), our own Florida Bibliophile Society, and assorted friends and family members heard and saw a memorable presentation.

Our speaker was Kurt Zimmerman, president of the Book Hunters Club of Houston.

Kurt was introduced by Jerry Morris, who reminisced that many years ago someone from Conroe, Texas, with the Ebay username “zbooks” frequently outbid him for association copies of books about books. In 2007, zbooks, AKA Kurt Zimmerman, introduced himself to Jerry via an Ebay message, writing, in part:

I have got an interest in the history of book collecting and have accumulated a fairly large group of related miscellaneous material over the years. My background in rare books goes back about 20 years. I have a library degree from UT Austin, specializing in rare books, worked in the library field for a while with some great

American Book Collecting

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Kurt Zimmerman: A Talk to the FBS About Bookseller Dorothy Sloan

I gave a zoom talk recently to the Florida Bibliophile Society about antiquarian bookseller Dorothy Sloan (1943-2021). She was an important mentor in my youth. The focus is the acquisition of the core of her reference library and portions of her archive. Jerry Morris, president of the FBS, provides the introduction and the ending presentation. There were a couple of technical glitches, but all's well that ends well.

Here is the youtube link (talk approx. 37 minutes).



My New Book Is Out! Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades

- [Get It Here!](#)
- [Review by Rebecca Rego Barry](#)
- [Review by William Butts](#)
- [Review by Jeremy Dibbell](#)

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Screenshot of Kurt Zimmerman's blog, American Book Collecting, featuring his recent appearance before the Florida Bibliophile Society.

Minutes, continued*Dorothy Sloan*

bookmen, worked for a couple of book dealers, and ran the book department at Butterfield's auction house in San Francisco. All this was fun, but not very lucrative. I decided I preferred collecting over dealing (having been collecting all along). . . . For the last ten years I've been back here in the Houston area in the family real estate business.

Jerry's and Kurt's association has continued over the years. Kurt sold Jerry some of the books he had purchased at Larry McMurtry's Last Book Sale in 2011, and in 2018, Jerry visited Kurt's home and library in Texas. Earlier this year, Jerry interviewed Kurt for the Rare Book Café webcast.

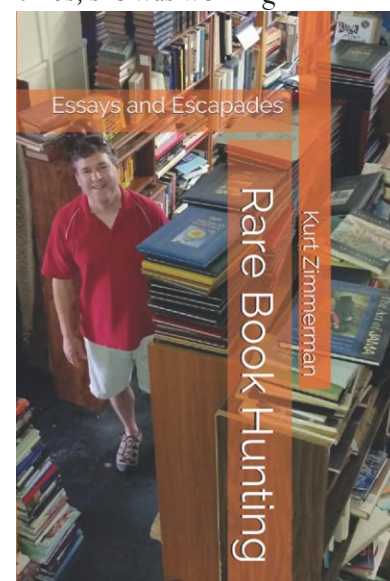
In 2011, Kurt started his long-running popular blog, *American Book Collecting*. In 2021, the Book Hunter's Club of Houston published Kurt's book, *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades*, which was in part drawn from his blog. This must-read book has won rave reviews from Michael Dirda in the *Washington Post*, Nick Basbanes in *Fine Books & Collections*, and Jennifer Larson in a recent issue of the *FABS Journal*.

Kurt began his presentation by noting that he was now going into his 33rd year as a book collector and now had some ten thousand items relating to the history of book collecting. Besides books, his collection includes manuscripts, photographs, documents, and various ephemera. His emphasis as a collector has always been association copies – he called them “sentimental copies” – with annotations or other markings of the

people, often prominent bookmen, who owned or touched the books. For Kurt, “every book has a story.” As a result of his collecting and his blog, he has gotten to know so many people, and in his view, “part of book collecting is who you meet.”

Kurt announced that today he would talk about one of his latest book escapades, involving a huge acquisition, but that first, he wanted to talk about his early mentor, Dorothy Sloan.

Dorothy was a Texas bookseller who passed away earlier this year. She was born in Houston in 1943 and was one of the finest antiquarian booksellers of her generation. In the early 1970s, she was working in San Francisco at Howell Books, then one of the greatest bookstores in the country. A woman in what was then basically a man's field, she excelled in cataloging books and won wide recognition for her ability to bring out the history and hidden value of rare books. She specialized in Texana, Western Americana, and Latin Americana. She moved back to Texas in 1979 to work for the Jenkins Company and in



Kurt's book, *Rare Book Hunting: Essays and Escapades*, was published in 2021.

Minutes, continued

1984 established her own business. She always had to work on a shoestring budget, but she handled really good material and was great at getting consignments.

About 1990, when Kurt was in college, he heard that Dorothy, then based in Austin, was looking for some help. Dorothy was a younger-than-her-age, dynamic, outdoorsy person, with a wicked sense of humor. Kurt, college-aged, was a bit overwhelmed when she interviewed him – particularly by her off-color jokes! But he was delighted when she said “show up for work.”

Kurt spent the better part of two years working for Dorothy, sitting next to her, and cataloging collections that would be put up for sale. A key to good cataloging is a good reference library, and Dorothy had one of the best, maybe eight or ten thousand reference books. She not only had the books, she knew them off the top of her head and could rapidly ferret out the information needed for a good catalog entry. She and Kurt would spend the time to write detailed descriptions, even for books that were not that expensive and which other catalogers might have neglected, but she was also frequently behind on schedule. At one time, Dorothy was almost a year behind in cataloging for sale the book collection of octogenarian Texas book collector Bill Mora. Kurt recalled being in the room when Bill Mora stopped in to see Dorothy, unannounced. In the middle of a book discussion, he abruptly turned and asked her if she would get his collection done before he died. After a brief pause, Dorothy replied that she would, and she did, producing a catalog that made Bill proud.

Kurt recalled that during their time together, Dorothy would tell stories drawn from her book trade experiences. From these stories Kurt suspected that in the 1970s she was something of a wild “flower child.” In the 1990s, however, she was at the top of her game, playing a key role in the detection of fake Texas documents. She could be engaging but was also principled, and at one point even resigned from the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America when she felt it was not doing enough to crack down on misrepresented books.

Kurt fondly remembered that Dorothy had allowed

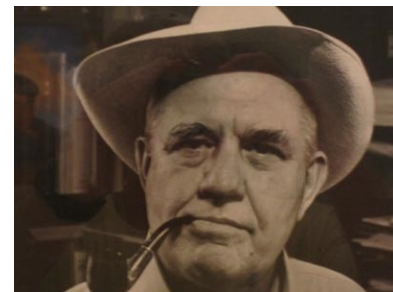
him to catalog a collection of the writings of Texas writer J. Frank Dobie, which he now considers to be a landmark in his growth as a bookman. She urged Kurt to start early to catalog his own collection – he did so – and has continued to catalog his acquisitions over the decades. Today his personal catalog runs to over eleven hundred pages!

As a measure of her accomplishment, Kurt noted that Dorothy had put out twelve of her own sales catalogs and additionally produced at least twenty-four magnificent auction catalogs for materials placed in her hands on consignment. In Kurt’s view, these catalogs were not just catalogs, but were works of art.

After Kurt moved on professionally, he kept in touch with Dorothy, but over the years, he saw her less and less.

And then Kurt told us of his escapade of joy and sorrow.

Late last year, Kurt emailed Dorothy and, to his sorrow, received a response from Dorothy’s daughter, Jasmine, saying that Dorothy was suffering from a very rapid onset of advanced dementia. Jasmine was trying to organize a few hundred thousand dollars’ worth of books that her mother had accepted on consignment for return to their consignees. Additionally, she had contracted with Oak Knoll Books, Rob Fleck, and Michael Laird to buy most of her mother’s reference collection in bulk. Rob had flown down to Austin, rented a U-Haul truck, filled it with over 300 boxes of Dorothy’s reference books, and driven the truck back to Oak Knoll’s home base in New Castle, Delaware. In addition, boxes and boxes of Dorothy’s catalogs and other materials which were located in a storage shed had been heavily damaged and had to be thrown out.



James Frank Dobie (1888–1964) was an American folklorist, writer, and newspaper columnist best known for his many books depicting the richness and traditions of life in rural Texas during the days of the open range. Titles include A Vaquero of the Brush Country (Southwest Press, 1929), Up the Trail From Texas (Random House, 1955), and Out of the Old Rock (Little, Brown & Co., 1972).

Minutes, concluded

Kurt and his wife Nicole drove to the Sloan home to help sort materials. While there, they found that there some remaining archive and reference materials in the shed could be salvaged; Kurt was able to save and take home ten or fifteen boxes of books. One of Kurt's goals as a bookman is to preserve the history of the book trade, and very few booksellers' archives survive, so for Kurt this rescue of some of his mentor's materials was particularly meaningful. But the rescue story doesn't end there.

Kurt also contacted Rob Fleck, who invited Kurt to come up to New Castle and have a first chance to purchase some of Dorothy's reference materials. This all happened in the middle of the pandemic, late last fall. Kurt, deciding he was willing "to risk his life one time for books," flew up to New Castle and spent three full days immersed in the materials taken from Dorothy's home. Not worrying about how he would pay for anything, Kurt started placing his want items in stacks — he pulled perhaps a thousand to fifteen hundred items! It took Rob a month or so to go through these stacks and price Kurt's items. Eventually two pallets of books, perhaps fifty boxes, were shipped back to Kurt's house in Texas. Of course the big semi truck would not fit in Kurt's cul-de-sac, and the pallets had to be brought in by dolly to Kurt's garage.

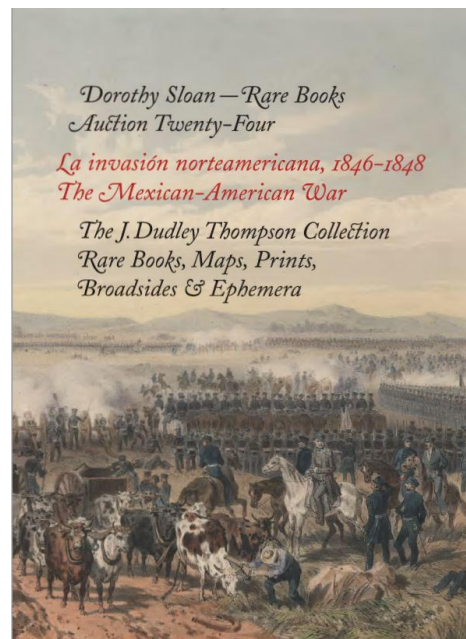
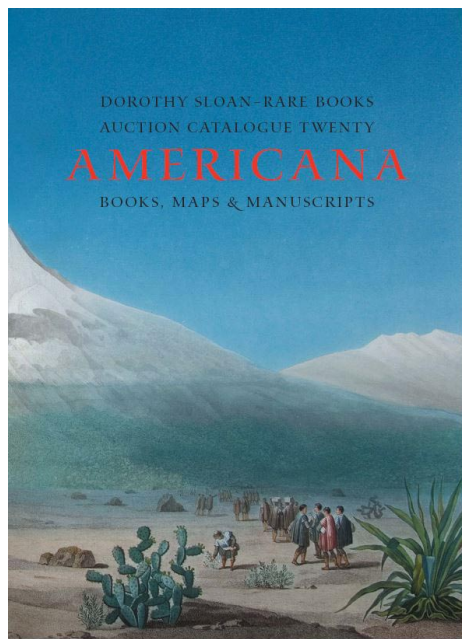
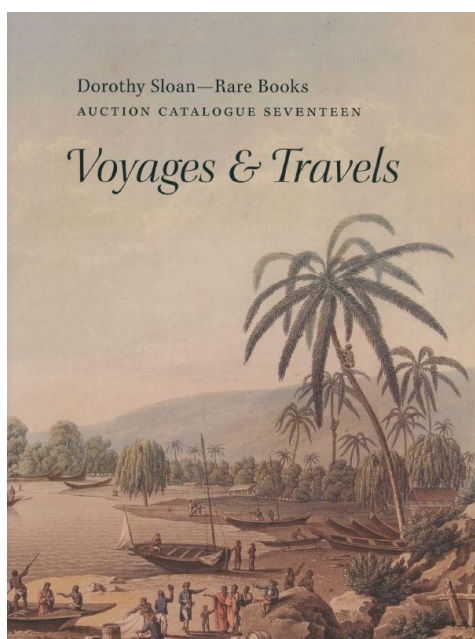
Over time Kurt unloaded all of this material, and he rather proudly declared that "every square inch is filled" with the working copies of books from Dorothy's reference collection. He hoped that if Dorothy was up there looking down on him, she was happy that the core of her collection had been preserved by her former trainee.

Kurt is now writing some essays about Dorothy, to preserve her legacy as a bookseller. He is still cataloging items from his bulk purchase — "some of them get him excited, and some of them bring a tear to his eye."

.....

After a well-deserved round of applause, Jerry announced that FBS would present to Kurt an association book that had come from the William Reese Company. This book was *On the Gathering of a Library* by Hal H. Smith, a book which had successively passed through the hands of noted bookmen William Van Dyke, Arthur Swann, and David Kirschenbaum.

Treasurer Linda Morris reviewed the healthy state of FBS finances and reminded attendees that dues were due by December 31. Charles Brown reminded everyone of the sign-up sheet for our Christmas party. We ended the meeting with a marker of normality: our first book auction since the start of the pandemic.



Auction catalogs 17, 20, and 24 from Dorothy Sloan Rare Books



Greetings from Planet Word!

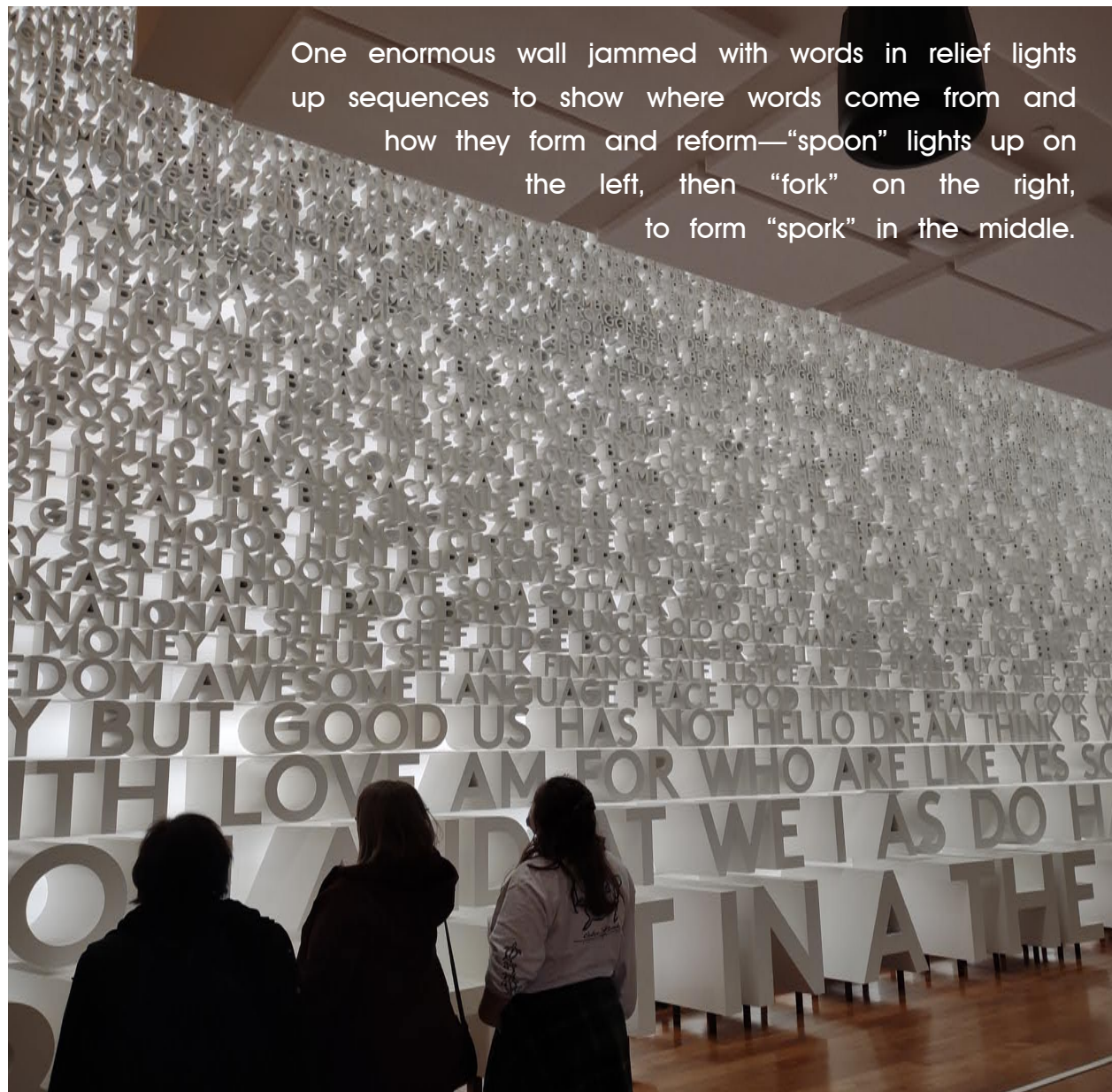
by David Hall

On June 3, 1880, the first wireless telephone message was sent over a beam of light from a “photophone” invented by Alexander Graham Bell. The message originated from the top floor of an 1869 brick building housing the first comprehensive free universal education program in the District of Columbia.

On October 21, 2020, that same building debuted Planet Word: The Museum Where Language Comes to Life. Ann B. Friedman, wife of the opinion columnist Tom Friedman, had been

inspired to create this experience by the Museum of Mathematics in New York City: if a museum for numbers, why not one for words?

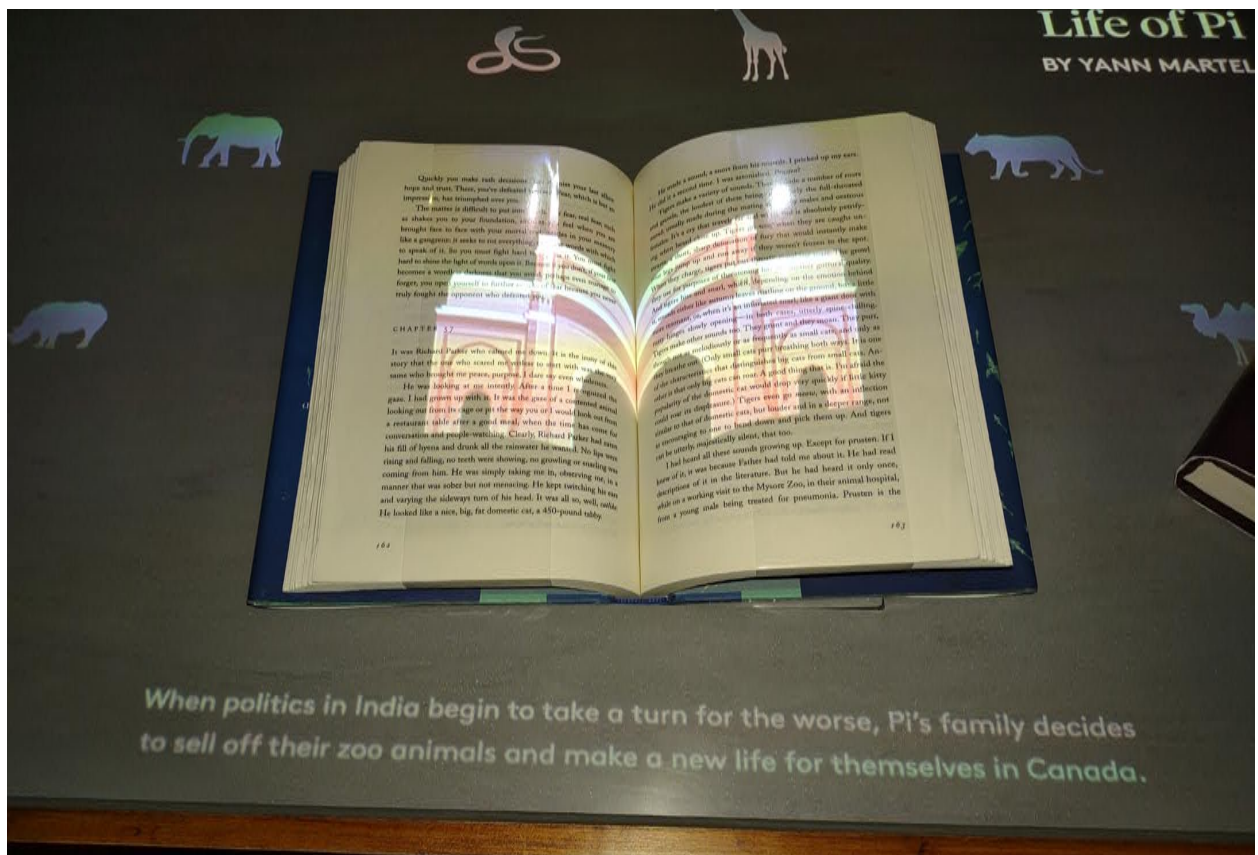
Today this educationally progressive, technologically topnotch museum goes beyond the archival function of a traditional museum to present words in every form imaginable – not just poetry and haiku and karaoke and the International Phonetic Alphabet and all the national forms of the various sign languages.



Planet Word, continued

How to demonstrate words' meanings comes alive in another room showing a generic country scene painted on the walls. Running around the base are words denoting emotions as well as visualizations. Pick up a (digital) paintbrush from the track of the mural and paint above the word "angry" to create a scene representing that emotion. Or if you aren't sure what "autumnal" means, paint above that to make your very own fall setting.

For this visitor, the most educationally advanced exhibit was an electronic desk upon which to place any of the books on shelves in that room. The book immediately becomes illuminated with scenes out of the book, a narrator describes the essence of the book, and helpful subtitles add to the whole experience.



Planet Word, concluded

Humor runs throughout the whole museum. One exhibit engages visitors in trying to teach a computer why one of the cartoons it has drawn is funny but the other isn't. There is even (clean) bathroom humor. And the ability of language to laugh at itself shows up in unexpected corners, like the ditty here.

Expect the unexpected at Planet Word. An unobtrusive handle on a full-height bookshelf pulls open a swiveling door to a cozy listening room with recorded poetry readings going on inside.

There's more here than meets the eye, obviously. For anyone with a developing propensity toward words, Planet Word will richly reward a visit.

Planet Word: The Museum Where Language Comes to Life. Opened Oct. 21, 2020. 925 13th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005. 202 931-3139. connect@planetwordmuseum.org. Open Wed.–Sun. 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Free, but register online ahead of time. Timed entry but not exiting.



Planet Word is in the 50,000-square-foot, five-story Franklin School, built in 1869 and restored during 2018–2020.

About Table Talk

by Jerry Morris

When I chose the subject “Table Talk” for this article, it seemed simple: (1) define “table talk: and (2) discuss and display some of the table talk books in my library.

Let’s begin with definitions of table talk from my 1785 edition of Johnson’s Dictionary (Fig. 1), from my facsimile edition of the 1828 First Edition of Webster’s American Dictionary (Fig. 2), and from my 1970 edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (OED; 14 vols.) (Fig. 3).

Both Johnson and Webster defined table talk as conversation at meals or at table. But Johnson went further and defined table talk as table discourse as well. The OED more or less agreed with these definitions, but it added that table talk is now considered to be the “social conversation of famous men of intellectual circles ... reproduced in literary form.”

The OED cited Arthur Hallam in its listing. And that made me nervous: there might be more to this than I first thought. Indeed, the OED shows that there is a special category of table talk called Ana: “the reported conversation or table talk of the learned” (highlight). Johnson defines “ana” as “Books so called from the last syllables of their titles; as, Scaligerana, Thuaniana; they are loose thoughts, or casual hints, dropped by eminent men, and collected by their friends.” This term was once more widely understood and used as the label for a popular genre.

I had Hallam’s book handy and immediately read the entire passage that he labeled as “The Ana.” Hallam discusses the miscellaneous literature of France of the 16th and 17th centuries and specifically mentions the other groups of miscellaneous literature: the memoirs, the letters, the travels, the dialogues, and the essays of the French. In discussing the group “The Ana,” Hallam mentions *The Menagiana* and says it was “full of light anecdote of a literary kind....” If I understand this correctly, Hallam considers anecdotes to be in the same vein as table talk and ana. Indeed, all examples of “The Ana” that I read contained more than just table talk or conversation. They contained anecdotes and other

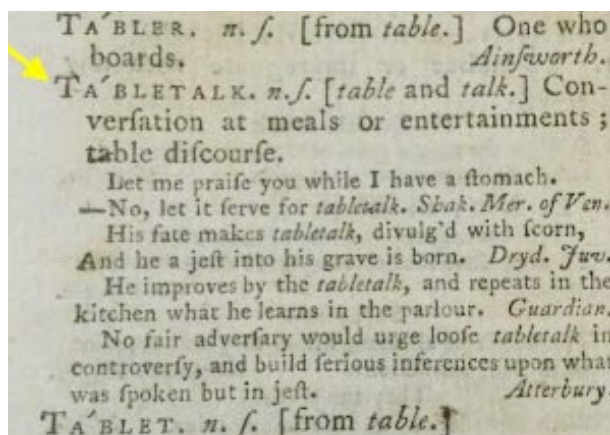


Fig. 1. “Tabletalk” in Johnson’s Dictionary (1785)

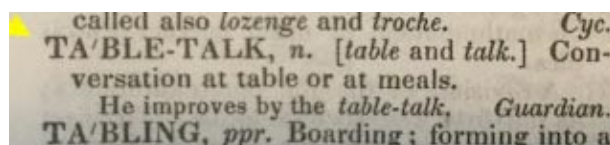


Fig. 2. “Table-talk” in Webster’s American Dictionary (1828, 1st ed., facs.)

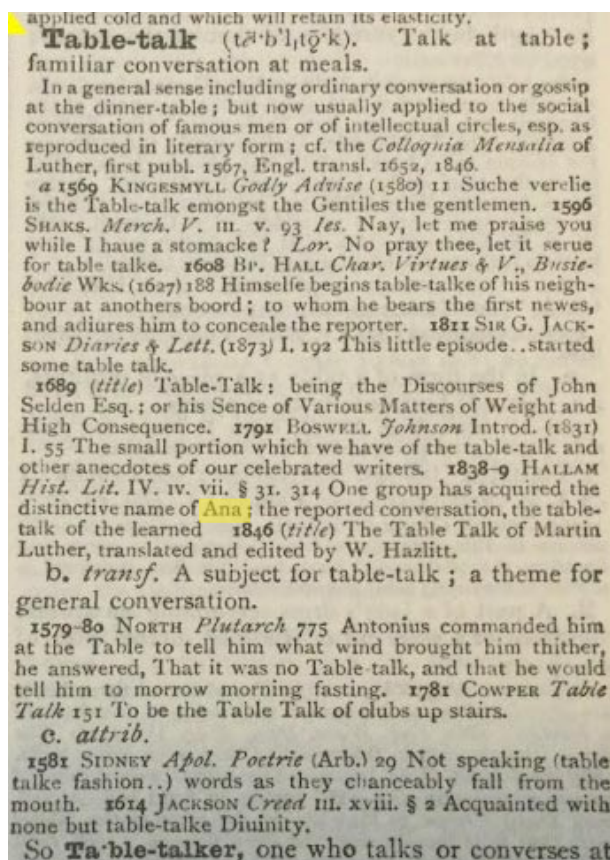


Fig. 3. “Table-talk” in the Oxford English Dictionary (1970)

Table Talk, continued

literary information. These distinctions are at the heart of book classification, and they matter because they reflect our understanding of how subjects are related – and for bibliographers-at-heart like me, they are part of the fun!

I realized that I was now looking right down a rabbit hole. I would have to search further to understand fully the uses of the phrase “table talk.” Checking in Carter’s *ABC for Book Collectors*, I found nothing about table talk under T. This was puzzling, but after a few minutes, it occurred to me to check the letter “A” where I found Abbreviations ... Adams ... Advance Copy ... Advertisements ... A La Grecque ... All Published ... American Book-Prices Current ... Americana ... and finally, there it was: Ana. (Fig. 4)

The “tables” had turned! According to Carter, table talk is just a part of ana, and ana also includes sayings, anecdotes, etc.

I had to go farther in my search for how these terms are currently understood to relate to each other, which led me to the Library of Congress (“LOC” to its friends), which provides guidance for catalogers by listing a vast number of terms as categories and subcategories. I found both “Ana” and “Table-talk” (Fig. 5).

This is where one has to understand a little about indexing rules. As anyone who uses a library knows, all the books are assigned a call number, which tells the librarians where a book should be shelved. In the LOC, books are cataloged using letters and numbers (the Dewey Decimal System uses only numbers). The LOC guide shows all the legal categories and subcategories of book subjects and then leads the cataloger to the right general call number. There are further rules for adding other letters and numbers to assign a number that is specific to a particular book.

When I consulted the LOC guide, it showed “Ana” as a term that should not be used for cataloging (“UF” in Figure 5, top), whereas “Table-talk” was a legitimate category. Further, the LOC guide recommended that if “Ana” was encountered, “Table-talk” is one of the terms that catalogers

ANA

A collective noun meaning a compilation of sayings, table talk, anecdotes, etc. Southey described Boswell’s *Johnson* as ‘the Ana of all Anas’. Its most familiar use is, however, the original one (from which the noun was made) in the form of a Latin suffix meaning material related to as distinct from material by; e.g. Boswelliana, Railroadiana, Etoniana. Like other such suffixes it is not always easily attachable to English names, even assisted, as commonly, by a medial *i*. Shaviana, Harveiana and Dickensiana are well enough; but Hardyana is repugnant to latinity; Cloughiana and Fieldingiana are awkward on the tongue; and should one write Wiseiana, Wiseana or Wisiana?

Fig. 4. “Ana” defined in *ABC for Book Collectors*

Table-talk	
[PN6259-PN6268]	
UF	Ana
	Sayings
	Talking
BT	Anecdotes
	Aphorisms and apothegms
	Biography
	Conversation
	Epigrams
	Wit and humor
SA	<i>subdivision</i> Quotations under names of individual persons

Ana	
USE	Anecdotes
	Aphorisms and apothegms
	Epigrams
	Maxims
	Proverbs
	Quotations
	Table-talk

Fig. 5. LOC guidance for terms “Table talk” and “Ana”. UF = A term not authorized for indexing. USE = Authorized terms that indexers should use instead of the listed term. BT = Broader term; indicates a more general class to which a term belongs. SA = See also; indicates that “Table-talk” may also be used as a subcategory under Quotations under the names of specific persons.

Table Talk, continued

should use instead. So, for LOC, “Ana” is subordinate to “Table-talk.”

This seemed to provide a clear structure. “Table-talk” could be indexed under the broader terms (“BT” in Figure 5, bottom) Anecdotes, Aphorisms and Apothegms, Biography, Conversation, Epigrams, and Wit and Humor. Catalogers are instructed to index “Ana” as Anecdotes, Aphorisms and apothegms, Epigrams, Maxims, Proverbs, Quotations, and, notably, Table-talk.

I admit I was a little glad about this. With authorities like Johnson, Webster, the OED, and the LOC in agreement I began to feel confident that I was on firm ground for the use of “Table Talk.”

The LOC did, however, provide useful information regarding indexing Ana! The LOC suggested I use Anecdotes, Aphorisms and Apothegms, Epigrams, Maxims, Proverbs, Quotations and, lastly, Table-Talk!

Once the category is chosen, the cataloger can assign a call number. The LC classification codes for “Table-Talk” are PN6259–PN6268. One wrinkle: “Table-Talk” is not a unique category; it shares these call numbers with with “Anecdotes” (Fig. 6).

	Anecdotes. Table talk
6259.A2	General works
	Collections
6259.A3-Z	Polyglot. Greek and Latin
	Other language divisions
	English
6260	Early though 1800
6261	1801-
6262	French
6263	German
6264	Italian
6265	Spanish

Fig. 6. “LOC call numbers for “Anecdotes” and “Table talk”

THIS is a Book of Table Talk, and, as most readers are aware, the phrase “Table Talk” is a very difficult one to define. We are told by Dictionaries; and of course we all appeal to them, that “Table Talk” is that which we speak over the dinner-table:—

Fig. 7. The first words in the preface to *Adversaria, Ana, and Table Talk: A Literary Commonplace-Book* (1869) by Alexander Hislop.

Now we come to the part where we view examples from my library and identify whether they contain table talk, ana, or something else.

I was aided by Alexander Hislop. His book *Adversaria, Ana, and Table Talk: A Literary Commonplace-Book* was published in Edinburgh. Google Books lists 1869 as the publication date, but Hislop died in 1865, so I can’t vouch for the accuracy of the date of publication. What I can vouch for is what Hislop says about table talk in the preface of his book (Fig. 7)!

I shall take Hislop’s words to heart and use the Johnson-Webster definition of table talk, “conversation at meal or at table,” to investigate the books in my library that have the words “table talk” or “table” in their title and contain conversation or discourses. Eight books in my library qualify under these criteria.

First up: *Table-Talk* (1660) by John Selden.

My copy of Selden’s *Table-Talk* is the one published in the series *English Reprints*, edited by Edward Arber (Fig. 8, p. 12). John Selden (1584–1654) was by all accounts a remarkable man, praised by no less than John Milton as “the chief of learned men reputed in the land.” Known for his far-ranging knowledge and intelligence, a “polymath,” he was an English jurist, a scholar of ancient English law and constitution, and a scholar of Jewish law.

Selden’s *Table-Talk* was not what I expected. It was not conversation that took place at dinner or around a dinner table for that matter. It was organized around another kind of table: a table of contents! This “table” lists Selden’s remarks that his amanuensis, Richard Milward, reportedly heard, recorded, and organized by topic: Abbies, Priors, etc.; Articles, Baptism; Bastard, Bible, Scripture; Bishops before the Parliament; etc. However,

Table Talk, continued

Selden's biographer, David Wilkins, disputed their authenticity. A few examples follow.

From *Conscience* —

[1] He that hath a Scrupulous Conscience, is like a Horse that is not well wayed; he starts at every Bird that flies out of the Hedge.

From *Contracts* —

3. Lady Kent Articled with Sir Edward Herbert, that he should come to her when she sent for him, and stay with her as long as she would have him, to which he set his hand; then he Articled with her, That he should go away when he pleased, and stay away as long as he pleased, to which she set her hand. This is the Epitome of all the Contracts in the World, betwixt Man and Man, betwixt Prince and Subject; they keep them as long as they like, and no longer.

From *Money* —

[1] Money makes a man laugh. A blind Fiddler playing to a Company laughed at him; his boy that led him, perceiving it, cried, Father, let us be gone, they do nothing but laugh at you. Hold thy Peace, Boy, said the Fiddler; we shall have their money presently, and then we will laugh at them.

Samuel Johnson's Table Talk

James Macaulay (1817–1902), a periodical editor in London, compiled *Doctor Johnson: His Life, Works, and Table Talk* for Frederick A. Stokes in 1893 as a “tribute to the memory of one who, as a man even more than as an author, was recognized as the chief of the republic of letters in the eighteenth century.”

My copy (Fig. 10, p. 13) was formerly owned by D. S. Pithers (otherwise unknown to me) and includes his Johnsonian bookplate (Fig. 11, p. 13). Yes, it contains Johnson's conversations or quotations, often with context.

The first 70 or so of the book's 169 pages are devoted to Johnson's life and work, written by Macaulay. The remaining pages, titled “Table Talk,”

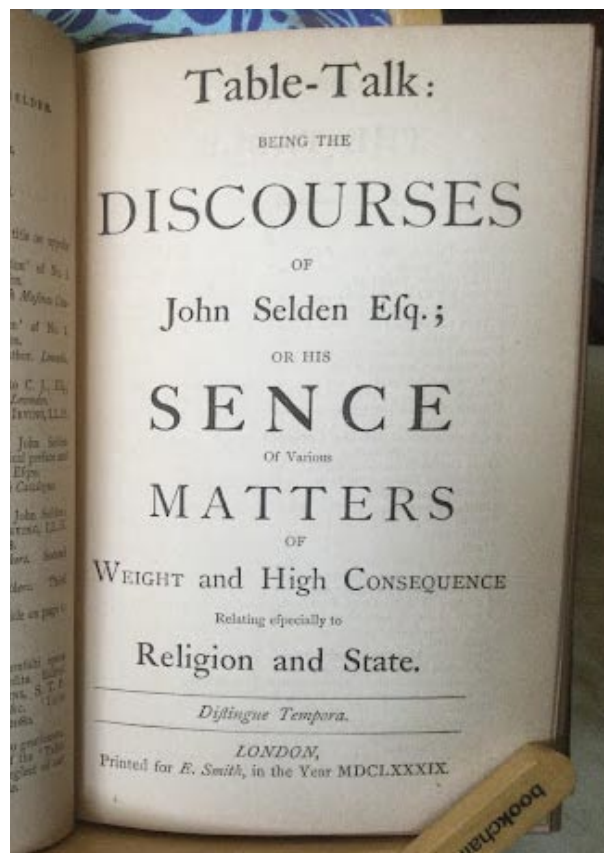


Fig. 8. Title page of *Table-Talk* by John Selden as published in English Reprints, edited by Edward Arber.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
	PAGE
Abbeys, Priors	1
Articles	2
Baptism	3
Bastard	4
Bible, Scripture	5
Bishops before the Parliament	8
Bishops in the Parliament	10
Bishops out of the Parliament	15
Books, Authors	19
Canon Law	21
Ceremony	21
Chancellor	22
Changing Sides	22
Charity	24
Christmas	24
Christians	25

Fig. 9. Table of contents from *Table-Talk* (1660) by John Selden, as published in *Temple Classics*, edited by Israel Gollancz

Table Talk, continued

are compiled from various sources.

A few examples follow. They display Johnson's wit and his connection to many famous people and people of letters in his era, both of which help to explain the pleasure of studying Johnson and the unusual devotion of Johnsonians.

From Scotland and Scotchmen –

Not long afterwards Boswell entertained Johnson at the Mitre Tavern, and had among his guests Mr. Ogilvie, a fellow-Scotchman, who had written a poem. He asked Johnson's permission to introduce him. "Certainly," said the Doctor, with sly pleasantry adding, "but he must give us none of his poetry." Ogilvie was unlucky enough to choose for his topic of conversation the praises of his native land. He thought he was safe in saying that Scotland had a great many noble, wild prospects. "I believe, sir," said Johnson, "you have a great many. Norway, too, has noble, wild prospects; and Lapland is remarkable for prodigious noble, wild prospects. But, sir, let me tell you, the noblest prospect which a Scotchman can see is the high road that leads him to England," a sally which sent the company in a roar.

Works of Fiction –

Speaking of the sameness in writers of novels he said, "There is very small quantity of real fiction in the world; and the same images with very little variation, have served all the authors who have ever written."

Begone, Dull Care! –

Boswell said that "drinking drives away care, and makes us forget whatever is disagreeable. Would you not allow a man to drink for that reason?" "Yes, sir," said Johnson, "if he sat next to you." Poor Bozzy!

Hazlitt's Table Talk

William Hazlitt (1778–1830) was an English essayist, drama and literary critic, painter, social

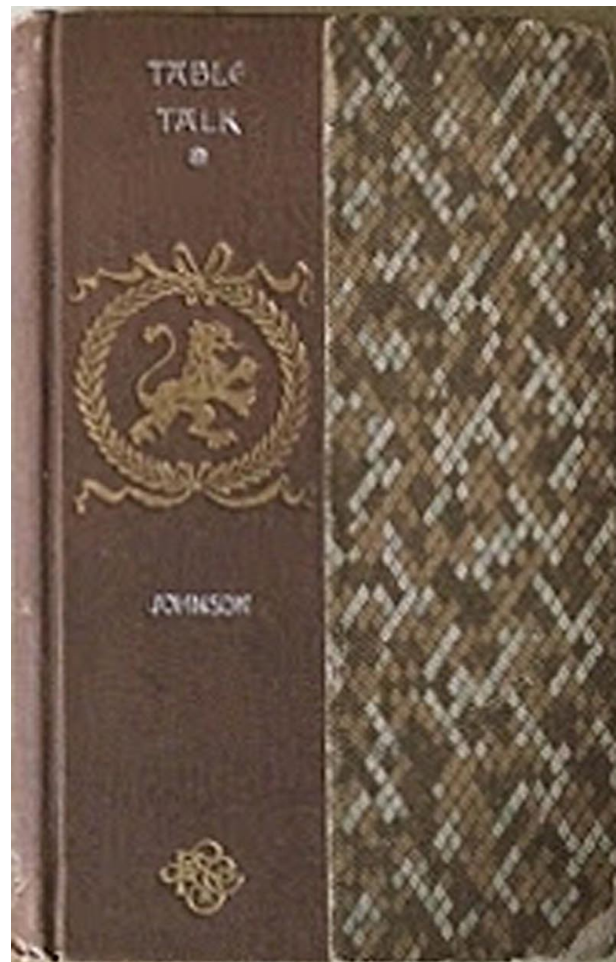


Fig. 10. My copy of Doctor Johnson: His Life, Works, and Table Talk (1893) by James Macaulay



Fig. 11. The Johnsonian bookplate of D. S. Pithers

Table Talk, continued

commentator, and philosopher, now considered one of the greatest critics and essayists in the history of the English language. His *Table Talk: Essays on Men and Manners* was first published in two volumes in the 1820s, and it is widely considered to be among the finest of Hazlitt's works. My copy is from an edition published by the prestigious firm of Asprey & Co. around 1909.

Before we even get to the main text, we see that the table of contents lists the pieces in the books as "Essays" (Fig. 12). Even a brief inspection confirms this, and despite the title, we can hardly call this a book of table talk.

Sanborn's *Table Talk*

Next, we come to *Table Talk: A Transcendentalist's Opinions on American Life, Literature, Art and People from the Mid-Nineteenth Century through the First Decade of the Twentieth*, writings by Franklin Benjamin Sanborn (1831–1917), an American journalist, teacher, author, reformer, and abolitionist, compiled by Kenneth Walter Cameron in 1981 (Fig. 13). Transcendentalism was a philosophical movement that flourished during 1820–1850. Transcendentalists believed that people were inherently good but corrupted by society and its institutions. People were at their best when they were truly self-reliant. Physical and spiritual processes were seen as inseparable and the divine was found here on earth in everyday experience. Ralph Waldo Emerson is often considered the most important proponent of transcendentalism, and there is much about him in Sanborn's writing.

Frankly, I have to use my imagination to classify this book as table talk. Sanborn was a feature writer for the *Springfield Republican* and the *Boston Daily Advertiser*, and his so-called *Table Talk* collects writing from the period 1869–1918. Cameron says that the book consists of "personals and *obiter dicta** that Sanborn usually placed at the end of his feature articles and book reviews." His column in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* was named "The Breakfast Table," and that could be the source of Cameron's title for the book. Or maybe it was because readers read

* *obiter dicta* – an unofficial expression opinion; other remarks

10		CONTENTS	
ESSAY			PAGE
22.	ON CRITICISM		259
23.	ON GREAT AND LITTLE THINGS		274
24.	ON FAMILIAR STYLE		293
25.	ON EFFEMINACY OF CHARACTER		300
26.	WHY DISTANT OBJECTS PLEASE		309
27.	ON CORPORATE BODIES		320
28.	WHETHER ACTORS OUGHT TO SIT IN THE BOXES ?		330
29.	ON THE DISADVANTAGES OF INTELLECTUAL SUPERIORITY		350
30.	ON PATRONAGE AND PUFFING		359
31.	ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHARACTER		366
32.	ON THE PICTURESQUE AND IDEAL		383
33.	ON THE FEAR OF DEATH		389

Fig. 12. Partial contents of *Table Talk: Essays on Men and Manners* (vol. 1, 1821) by William Hazlitt

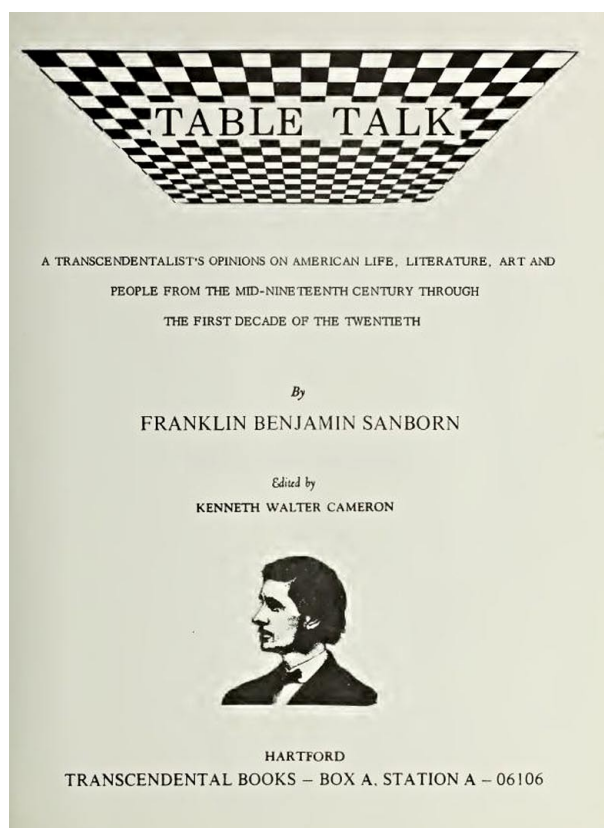


Fig. 13. Title page of *Table Talk* (1981), writings of Franklin Sanborn, compiled by Kenneth Walter Cameron

Table Talk, continued

his articles when they were sitting at the breakfast table?

A few titles of the entries will give a flavor of the contents.

(12) June 14, 1870. News of Louisa May Alcott from Europe – May Alcott is sketching in France

(17) Sept. 18, 1871. The Boston edition of *Leaves of Grass* is out of print – The plates survive – Whitman's American Institute verses

(286) Aug. 1, 1901. A report concerning Lenbach's portrait of Emerson – The best painting is David Scott's – Herman Grimm's sources of information concerning Emerson – H. W. Gleason's photographs of Thoreau's world

(308) Feb. 18, 1902. Vagaries of fame – John Brown vs. Charles Robinson – The John Brown song

(420) June 8, 1905. Pranks of Harvard students past and present

(507) Nov. 12, 1907. Genesis and background of *The Atlantic*.

The the almost 800 pieces are usually one or two short paragraphs, though some are longer. I have to say, though, that the book is well worth reading, from Sanborn's involvement with John Brown to his opinions of the authors of the day.

Holmes's *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table (1858; my edition, Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1889) by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., is a famous title in American letters. Holmes was a highly revered physician and poet. His son, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., would become one of America's most respected jurists. *Autocrat* is the first of a series of three books by Holmes that also includes *The Professor at the Breakfast-Table* (1859) and *The Poet at the Breakfast-Table* (1872). Holmes was a founder of *The Atlantic Monthly*, for which he wrote fictional

(17) Sept. 18, 1871. THE BOSTON EDITION OF *LEAVES OF GRASS* IS OUT OF PRINT--THE PLATES SURVIVE--WHITMAN'S AMERICAN INSTITUTE VERSES.

We did injustice to Walt Whitman's popularity as a poet when we said, the other day, that his Boston edition of "Leaves of Grass" was still in the market. The publishers inform us that the copies were all sold long ago, many of them having gone to England; and that there have since been two or three editions of the book with alterations. One of these was published in London by J. C. Hotten, and another, quite recently, in New York. The stereotype plates of the Boston edition are in existence, but Mr. Whitman does not permit their use, because he has made so many alterations in the text. The newspapers are still exercising their wit, such as it is, over his American Institute verses, which have been more generally copied than any of his previous productions.

Fig. 14. Section 17 from Sanborn's Table Talk

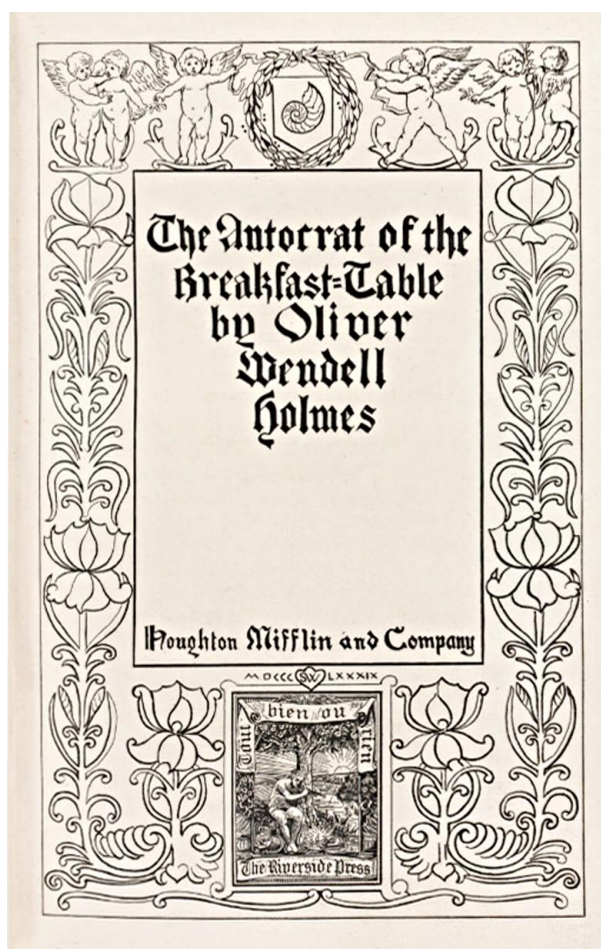


Fig. 15. Title page from my 1889 edition of Holmes's *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table*

Table Talk, continued

conversations at the breakfast table. The autocrat of the title is a boarding house resident who finds himself among a diverse group at breakfast each morning. In the book, the autocrat describes these individuals and others and the conversations they have. Excerpts from these conversations become the basis of extended considerations by the autocrat, who connects them to other remarks, leading to wide-ranging ruminations. These are fictional conversations, but they are conversations that take place at a table.

This excerpt from Chapter 3 will give a flavor of the both the *Autocrat* and the autocrat:

But remember that talking is one of the fine arts,—the noblest, the most important, and the most difficult,—and that its fluent harmonies may be spoiled by the intrusion of a single harsh note. Therefore conversation which is suggestive rather than argumentative, which lets out the most of each talker's results of thought, is commonly the pleasantest and the most profitable. It is not easy, at the best, for two persons talking together to make the most of each other's thoughts, there are so many of them.

[The company looked as if they wanted an explanation.]

When John and Thomas, for instance, are talking together, it is natural enough that among the six there should be more or less confusion and misapprehension.

[Our landlady turned pale;—no doubt she thought there was a screw loose in my intellects,—and that involved the probable loss of a boarder. A severe-looking person, who wears a Spanish cloak and a sad cheek, fluted by the passions of the melodrama, whom I understand to be the professional ruffian of the neighboring theatre, alluded, with a certain lifting of the brow, drawing down of the corners of the mouth, and somewhat rasping *voce di petto**, to Falstaff's nine men in buckram. Everybody looked up. I believe the old gentleman opposite was afraid

* *voce di petto* — Italian; literally “chest voice,” the lowest pitch

I should seize the carving-knife; at any rate, he slid it to one side, as it were carelessly.]

The autocrat proceeds to explain what he means by “the six.”

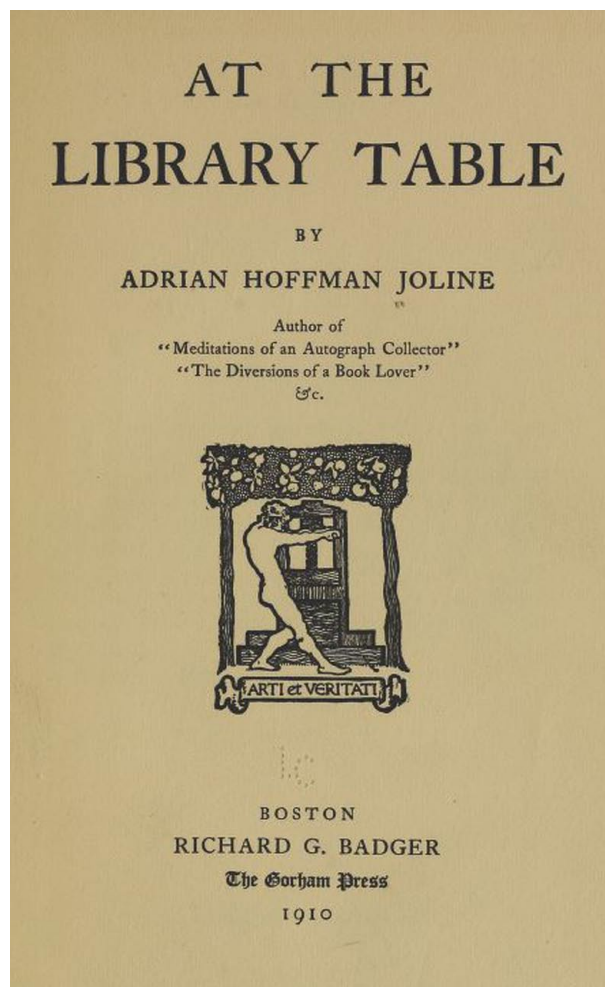


Fig. 16. Title page from *At the Library Table* (1910) by Adrian Hoffman Joline

Joline's *At the Library Table*

At the Library Table (1910) by Adrian Hoffman Joline (Fig. 16) qualifies as one of my table talk books not just because the word ‘table’ is in the title, but because, in some of the passages, Joline appears to be conversing while he is sitting at his library table.

Sitting at the library table and letting my eyes wander with affection to the adjacent shelves, I try to fancy who buys the multitudinous books of memoirs and reminiscences, of



Table Talk, continued

literary, dramatic, and political gossip, which are poured so profusely from the English presses (p. 7).

Most of us find that as the number of years increases we are apt to spend to pass more and more time at the library table, within easy reach of the shelves. I have been charged with believing that books are “the chief things in life;” I admit that they are not and ought not to be that, but I see no reason why we should not be allowed to enjoy them as we would any other innocent pleasure in due moderation (p. 14).

Joline was a book collector and an autograph collector, but more well known for the latter. He was a graduate of both Princeton and Harvard Law School, and wrote several books related to his collecting hobbies. He was a member of the Grolier Club of New York, the Bibliophile Society of Boston, and the Caxton Club of Chicago. You can read more about this fascinating bibliophile in a July 2017 post on my blog *My Sentimental Library* [tinyurl.com/2p892phe].

Gosse’s *More Books on the Table*

More Books on the Table (1923; my edition, 1969 reprint) by Sir Edmund William Gosse (1849–1928) was a late product of this well-known poet, author, and critic. It followed 1921’s *Books on the Table*, each book collecting essays that Gosse had written for *The Sunday Times* (London). Gosse began his career as a librarian in 1867 and published his first volume of verse, *Madrigals, Songs, and Sonnets*, in 1870. He would go on to publish almost 40 books, mostly in literary criticism. In fact, he was so highly regarded, that he was invited to lecture in English at Cambridge even without the traditional credentials. Cambridge awarded him an honorary M.A. Later in the 19th century, he became quite an important art critic of the late Victorian era.

Books continue to be heaped upon my table, and they are flowers that tempt into the sunshine bees, which I call memories, hived

in the course of sixty years of indiscriminate and insatiate reading. The Young Anarchist placed his trust in books, and we are told that he was disappointed. The fault must have lain, I think, in himself and not in literature. I have forgotten who Lucas de Penna was, but I love him for saying that books were to him “the light of the heart, the mirror of the body, the myrrh-pot of eloquence.” So they are to me, and more so the older I grow. When the infinite variety and charm of them fail to enchant me, it will be time for me to “cease upon the midnight with no pain.” (p. vii)

Brewer’s *Around the Library Table: An Evening with Leigh Hunt*

Around the Library Table: An Evening with Leigh Hunt was written by Luther Brewer in 1920 and published in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, by Torch Press, the press started by Brewer and his wife Elinore. The book, in an edition of 250, was one of a series of annual gift books printed as Christmas gifts. The Brewers became dedicated collectors of Leigh Hunt (1784–1859), so dedicated that they created one of the most substantial collections around any of Romantic poet. Though not specifically designated, after the death of Eleanor and then Luther in 1933, this important collection was acquired by the University of Iowa.

Hunt was never a successful poet himself, despite his efforts. However, he became an influential editor and writer in other areas. Notably, he developed close friendships with some of the great names in the Romantic movement, including, for example, Byron, Keats, and the Shelleys. Hunt’s autobiography is a fascinating guide to these relationships and that era. He outlived his famous his famous Romantic contemporaries and continued to write. He developed a close friendship with Charles Dickens, whose work he promoted. When Dickens’s novel *Bleak House* appeared in 1852–1853, many of Hunt’s friends were outraged at the character Skimpole, who described himself as childlike and not understanding any of the ways

Table Talk, concluded

of the world, yet was a conniving mooch, always in debt. Many of Hunt's friends found the character immediately recognizable as Hunt and demanded a public apology. Apparently, such a letter was sent, but it has not survived. By all accounts, one person not offended by the portrayal was Leigh Hunt, and he and Dickens remained close friends until Hunt's death.

Brewer's book is structured as a series of conversations around a table in the Brewers' library. After welcoming his friends to an evening of conversation, Brewer ponders what they should discuss, concluding:

Let us, then, spend an evening with Leigh Hunt, of whom Charles Dickens wrote: "His was essentially human nature, rich and inclusive sometimes over-clouded with the shadow of affliction, but more often bright and hopeful, and at all times sympathetic ... So at this time we ask you to gather around the big table in our library where we may visit informally, and talk of the fellowship of books, and look at some Hunt rarities.



Fig. 17. The table in the Brewers' library at which the conversations in *Around the Library* take place

We are hungry for your companionship, and while, possibly, your presence is not essential to complete our happiness, for we have friends on the shelves that are a solace to us at all times, yet we want you to know that we hold you in great esteem (p. 10).

In response, Brewer discusses the books in his extensive Hunt

collection in a question-and-answer format with about 20 people. Notably, he presents to them a first edition of Hunt's *Wit and Humour, Selected from the English Poets; with an Illustrative Essay, and Critical Comment* (1856) inscribed to Mary Shelley "from her affectionate friend, L.H."

More about Hunt and Brewer in my April 2017 post on My Sentimental Library (tinyurl.com/5xjchr43).

A few final words from Brewer:

'Tis said that it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks. Equally difficult, surely, is it to break a veteran collector of a long continued habit. Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled, you may shatter the collector's fortune or remind him of the necessities brought on by a calamitous war, yet the aroma of old books and the fragrance that breathes out of old letters will cling to his soul so closely that he cannot break away from the things that have brought, in the days that have gone, rest and peace to his mind.

.....

A version of this article appeared on Jerry Morris's blog *My Sentimental Library*, posted on October 28, 2021. It appears here with additional material by Charles Brown.

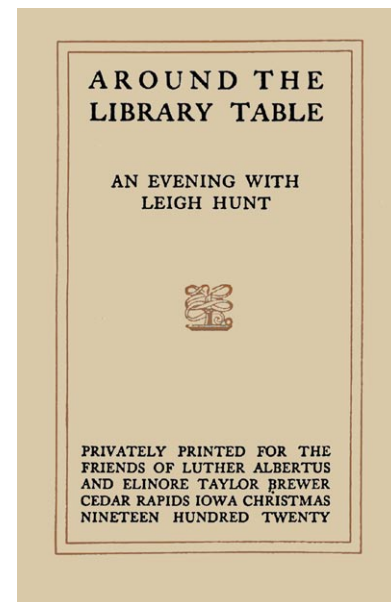


Fig. 16. Title page from *Around the Library: An Evening with Leigh Hunt* (1920) by Luther Brewer



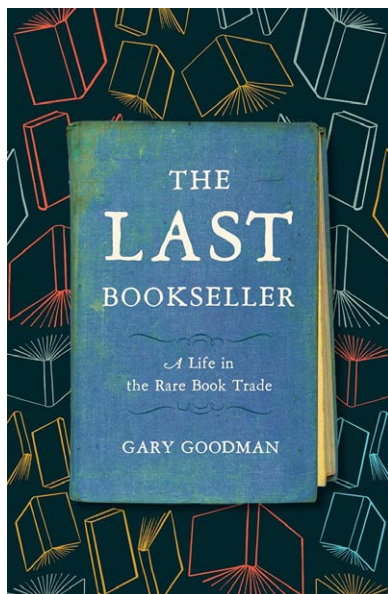
Books in Brief

The Last Bookseller: A Life in the Rare Book Trade

Gary Goodman

University of Minnesota Press

200 pp., 2021



Did you ever walk into a bookstore and imagine owning it? Gary Goodman did more than imagine.

In 1982, Goodman wandered into a run-down, going-out-of-business used-book shop in East St. Paul, and the rest – as they say – is history. As many do, he had to learn the hard way, through estate sales and book fairs, amazing finds, forgers, book thieves, book hoarders,

and bibliophiles. These colorful, and often hilarious encounters, are the substance of *The Last Bookseller*. For example, we meet the infamous St. Paul Book Bandit, Stephen Blumberg, who stole 24,000 rare books worth more than fifty million dollars; John Jenkins, the Texas rare book dealer who (probably) was murdered while standing in the middle of the Colorado River; and the eccentric Melvin McCosh, who filled his dilapidated Lake Minnetonka mansion with half a million books.

In 1990, Goodman and partners opened St. Croix Antiquarian Books in Stillwater. This store became so successful and inspired so many other booksellers to move to town that Richard Booth, founder of the

“book town” movement in Hay-on-Wye in Wales, declared Stillwater the First Book **Gary Goodman** has been a used and rare book dealer in Minnesota for nearly forty years. He is the co-author of *The Stillwater Booktown Times* and *The Secret History of Golf in Scotland*.



Source: University of Minnesota Press

Shelf Life: Chronicles of a Cairo Bookseller

Nadia Wassef

Farrar, Straus & Giroux

240 pp., 2021

When the bookstore Diwan was founded in 2002 in Cairo, nothing like it existed in Egypt. Culture was languishing under government mismanagement, and books were considered a luxury, not a necessity. In this environment, three friends, Nadia, Hind, and Nidal, opened Diwan. They had no business degrees, no formal training, and nothing to lose. Yet within 10 years, Diwan became a rousing success, with ten locations, 150 employees, and a fervent fan base.

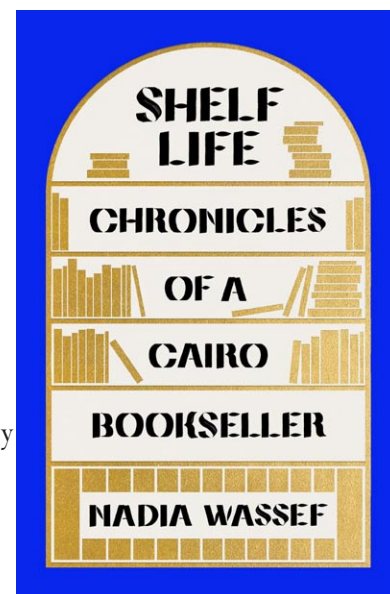
Frank, fresh, and very funny, Nadia Wassef's memoir tells the story of this journey. Its eclectic cast of characters features Diwan's impassioned regulars, like the demanding Dr. Medhat; Samir, the driver with CEO aspirations; meditative and mythical Nihal; silent but deadly Hind; dictatorial and exacting Nadia (a self-proclaimed bitch to work with), and the many people, mostly men, who said Diwan would never work.

Shelf Life is a portrait of Egypt hurtling toward revolution, a feminist rallying cry, and a crash course in running a business under the law of entropy. Above all, it is a celebration of the power of words.

Nadia Wassef has master's degrees in fine arts, Social Anthropology, and English. Before Diwan, she worked in research and advocacy in women's rights. She was named one of Forbes 100 Most Influential Women in the Middle East in 2014, 2015, and 2016.



Source: Farrar, Straus & Giroux

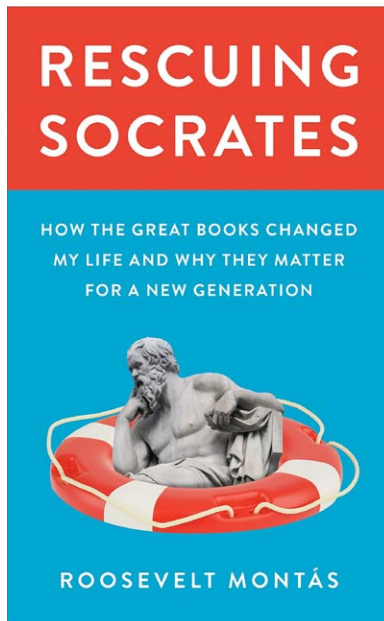


*Books in Brief, continued***Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation**

Roosevelt Montás

Princeton University Press

248 pp., 2021



A liberal education was traditionally characterized by a rigorous engagement with the classics of Western thought and literature – this approach to education is all but extinct in American universities, replaced by flexible curricula that serve ever-narrower academic specializations. Many attack the very idea of a Western canon as chauvinistic, while the

general public increasingly doubts the value of the humanities. In *Rescuing Socrates*, Roosevelt Montás tells the story of how a liberal education transformed his life, and he offers an intimate account of the relevance of the Great Books today, especially to members of historically marginalized communities.

Montás emigrated from the Dominican Republic to Queens, New York, when he was twelve and encountered the Western classics as an undergraduate in Columbia University's renowned Core Curriculum, one of America's last remaining Great Books programs. The experience changed his life and determined his career – he went on to earn a PhD in English and comparative literature, serve as director of Columbia's Center for the Core Curriculum, and start a Great Books program for low-income high school students who aspire to be the first in their families to attend college.



Sources: Princeton University Press

Book Wars: The Digital Revolution in Publishing

John B. Thompson

Polity

450 pp., 2021

Book Wars tells about the turbulent decades when

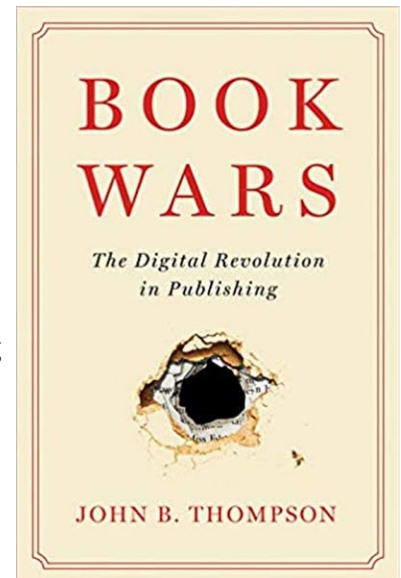
book publishing collided with the great digital revolution. From the surge of ebooks to the self-publishing explosion and the growing popularity of audiobooks, *Book Wars* provides a comprehensive account of technological disruption in the publishing industry. The foundation on which this industry had been based for 500 years – the packaging and sale of words and images in the form of printed books – was challenged

by technological innovations that enabled symbolic content to be stored, manipulated, and transmitted quickly and cheaply. Publishers and retailers found themselves facing new players offering new products and services and challenging some of their most deeply held principles and beliefs. The book wars had begun.

While ebooks were at the heart of many of these conflicts, Thompson argues that the most fundamental consequences lie elsewhere. The paper book has proven to be remarkably resilient, but the digital revolution has spawned other players who wield unprecedented power and have given rise to an array of new forms of publishing, information, and communications.

John B. Thompson is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Cambridge and Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge. His books include *Merchants of Culture and Media* and *Modernity: A Social Theory of the Media*.

Sources: Wiley

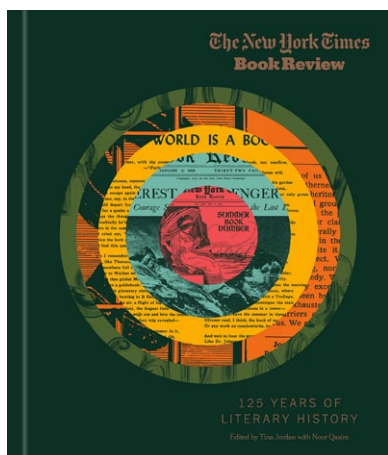


*Books in Brief, concluded***The New York Times Book Review:
125 Years of Literary History**

Tina Jordan and Noor Qasim, eds.

Clarkson Potter

368 pp., 2021



The “New York Times Book Review” first appeared on October 10, 1896. In the years since, the Review has brought a world of ideas to its readers and introduced them to remarkable books and authors. The best, best, funniest, strangest, and most memorable pieces from the past 125

years have been collected in this lavishly illustrated tribute. With scores of stunning vintage photographs, many of them sourced from the *Times*’s own archive, readers will discover how literary tastes have shifted through the years—and how the Book Review’s coverage has shaped so much of what we read today.

The New York Times Book Review: 125 Years of Literary History is essentially the story of modern American letters. It is also something of a behind-the-scenes look at American literary culture, with interesting reviews, never-before-heard anecdotes about famous

writers, and spicy letter exchanges. Here are the first takes on novels we now consider masterpieces, including a long-forgotten pan of *Anne of Green Gables* and a rave of *Mrs. Dalloway*, along with reviews and essays by Langston Hughes, Eudora Welty, James Baldwin, Nora Ephron, and more.

Tina Jordan is deputy editor of the New York Times Book Review and senior editor of *Entertainment Weekly*.

Noor Qasim is a writer from the Chicago area. Most recently, she interned at *The Paris Review*, where she wrote on literature and culture.

Sources: Clarkson Potter; *New York Times***The Typographic Imaginary in Early
Modern English Literature**

Rachel Stenner

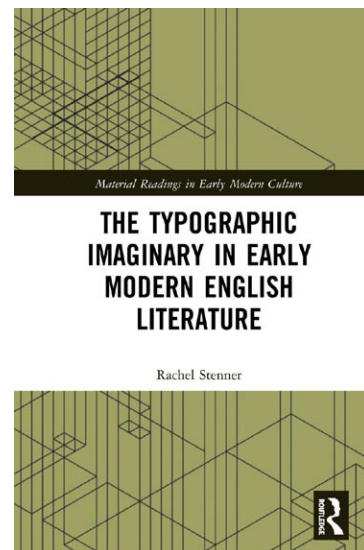
Routledge

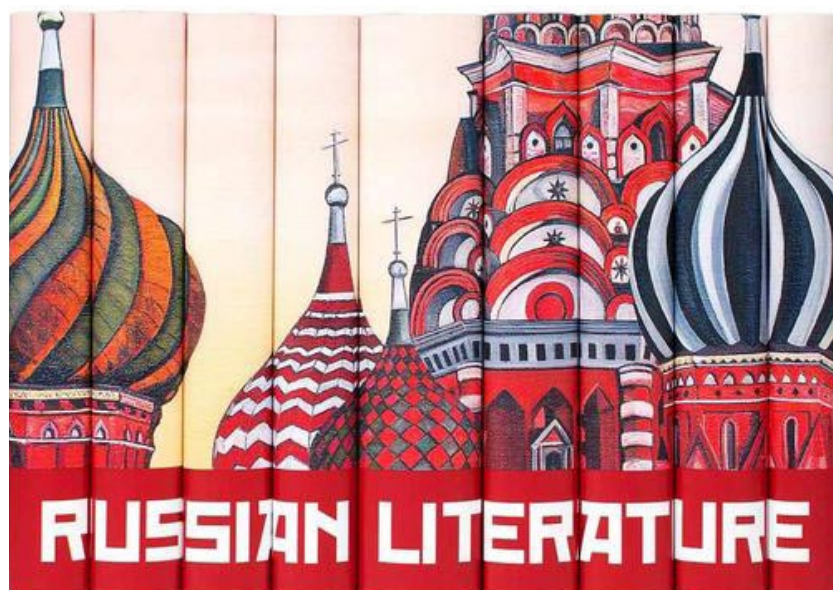
216 pp., 2018

It is easy to take print production for granted 500 years after Mr. Gutenberg’s revolution, but there was a time when print technology was as novel as the products of the Wright Brothers. *The Typographic Imaginary* examines the ways in which medieval and early modern authors and printers invited readers to imagine the processes and the people involved in this exciting then-new technology.

Rachel Stenner uses references from early printed books to contemporary attitudes toward the medium of print and traces the emergence of what she terms the ‘typographic imaginary,’ described by reviewer Elisabeth Chaghafi as “a shared toolset of imagery, terminology, and tropes that evolved alongside print itself ... employed by writers to evoke not so much the reality of the printing house as the idea of print and its various connotations.” These “fictionalised depictions” show that attitudes toward the medium were more nuanced than our cut-and-dried historical descriptions would suggest. Chaghafi observes that “the book’s organisation into short chapters, each of which analyses a small number of texts in detail, is helpful in keeping the discussion concrete and focused on specific examples.”

Rachel Stenner lectures in Renaissance Literature at the University of Sheffield, UK. She is the author of several books on literature and book production in the Early Modern period.

Sources: Routledge; *The Spenser Review*



Fine libraries are often associated with shelves of gilt leather spines in beautiful uniform editions. This tradition began in the 18th century when books were typically published without hard covers and owners had their copies custom bound. Today, many book sets are issued in uniform editions which carry the same spine design or, as in the case of the Harry Potter or Tolkien books, a single image may run across the spines of the entire set. There are also companies like Juniper Press that design dust jackets that create beautiful book sets as shown above for their set of Russian literature.



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, cbrown@atlantic.net, to submit or for assistance in preparing your article.

Join FBS!

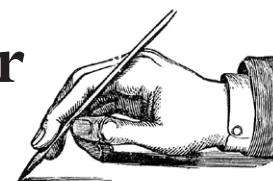
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group. You will find contact emails on the last page of this newsletter.

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

December 2021



FBS Holiday Party

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

The FBS Holiday Party will once again be hosted by Ben and Joyce Wiley at their home in Largo.

FBS members are requested to bring an appetizer, side dish, wine, or dessert. Please RSVP to Jerry Morris (moibibliomaniac@gmail.com) by Sunday, December 12, if you are coming, and let us know what you will be bringing.

FBS members are also requested to bring a wrapped book. Our book exchange last year was so much fun that we want to do it again!

Hope to see you there!



January 2022



Elaine Togneri: What if? Writing Short Fiction for Fun and Profit

Seminole Community Library
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
(also available on Zoom)

January 17, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Elaine Togneri has over forty published short stories in markets ranging from webzines and anthologies (*Malice Domestic 15: Murder Most Theatrical*) to major magazines (*Woman's World*). Her story "Genius" appears in this year's MWA Anthology, *When a Stranger Comes to Town*. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime. Elaine holds an M.A. in English from Rutgers University and is the founder of the Sisters in Crime – New Jersey Chapter. Webpage: sites.google.com/site/elainetogneri



Artful Books 2021: Exhibition at Daytona Beach's Museum of Arts and Sciences Features the Latest in Artist's Book Creations

ARTFUL BOOKS 2021 opened on November 13, 2021, and continues to January 16, 2022, in the Karshan Center of Graphic Arts at Daytona Beach's Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS), in conjunction with LnS GALLERY, Miami.

The exhibition features some of Florida's best contemporary artists and their "fascinating and widely creative examples of books as sculptures," showcasing this unique art form that celebrates books, literature, fine art, and creativity. As varied as their creators, the objects included may be crafted from the finest leathers and papers or assembled from repurposed materials or books. Often they are made of delightfully unexpected, textured materials.

The first Artful Books exhibition, curated by independent Miami-based curator Barbara Young, took place in November 2019 in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Library's famous Book Fair, one of the most renowned events of its kind in the U.S.

Founded in 1955, MOAS has become the largest museum in Central Florida, home to over 30,000 objects. Special features include:

- The Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art, with the world's largest collection of Florida art
- The largest permanent exhibition of Cuban art outside of Cuba



Bird of a Feather (2019) by Jeff Larson is one of the works featured at this year's Artful Books exhibition.

- The second largest collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia in the world.

MOAS also has significant collections of Americana, Florida fossils, international decorative arts, Early American furniture and art, and Chinese art.

The Karshan Center is named for Donald Karshan (1930–2003), a print collector, writer on the graphic arts, and former director of the New York Cultural Center on Columbus Circle. Karshan was North America's foremost expert on the work of renowned 20th-century sculptor Alexander Archipenko (1887–1964). Karshan retired to Central Florida in 1985 and often worked with MOAS and loaned works from his collection.



Main entrance of Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS), Daytona Beach

Sources: MOAS, New York Times, Brian Owens Art



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 – Nov.–Dec. 2021

November 12, 2021, to January 16, 2022

Artful Books 2021

Museum of Arts and Sciences

352 S. Nova Road, Daytona Beach, Fla.

www.moas.org/Artful-Books-2021-6-20111.html

December 10, 10:30 a.m.

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Featured Book: *The Lost Painting: The Quest for a*

Caravaggio Masterpiece by Jonathan Harr

January 6–9, 2022

Annual Key West Literary Seminar: “A Seminar Named Desire”

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

January 7 to February 7

33rd Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival of the Arts and Humanities

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org/)

January 13–15, 2022

F.R.E.S.H. Book Festival

Daytona Beach, Florida

<https://www.freshbookfestivals.net/>

January 14, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Featured book: *Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art* by Laney Salisbury

January 15–22

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)

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

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:

Nov. 26 – *Bookselling in Finland: Moraine Books*

Oct. 25 – *Grapes of Wrath Manuscript*

Oct. 22 – *The Haunted Bookshop*

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 T. Allan Smith (just one of his many talents!), 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.

Nov. 27 (S6 E43): Guest book collector and bookseller Larry Rakow of Wonderland Books in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, explores the amazing world of magic lanterns, those story-telling devices that enthralled 19th-century audiences. Barbara Loe of Cardtique in Osprey, Fla., offers a look at some vintage Christmas die-cut cards or “scraps” from various countries. In *Things Found in Old Books*, David Hess (The Book Man, Orange, Calif.) finds a mail-in envelope for Instamatic cartridges, a 1968 pocket calendar, and more. Co-host Lee Linn tells about a trip to Georgia, her visit with Cafe regular Mary Kay Watson in Morgantown, W. Va., and some of the treasures she found along the way.

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:

Nov. 23 – Falk Eisermann, head of the Incunabula Division at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, on finding and cataloguing all of the Incunabula in the World.

Nov. 16 – Prague bookseller **Dan Morgan** on Czech Modernist Book Design.

Nov. 3 – Princeton University Library librarian and book historian **Emma Sarconi** on judging the excellence of Library Exhibition Catalogues

Oct. 25 – Author and publisher **Jordi Nadal** reflects on a career that has included work for Spanish publisher EDHASA and Random House.

*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:

Dec. 2, 2 p.m. – Mark Rifkin: *Speaking for the People: Native Writing and the Question of Political Form*. Rifkin’s book examines 19th-century Native writings to reframe Indigenous recognition, refusal, and resurgence. Works by Native authors (William Apess, Elias Boudinot and Zitkala-Ša) illustrate the challenge of representing Indigenous political identity and placemaking, highlighting the complexity in negotiating the character, contours, and scope of Indigenous sovereignties under ongoing colonial occupation. This examination sheds light on Indigenous governance then and now.

Jan. 28, 2022, 2 p.m. – Matthew G. Kirschenbaum: *Bitstreams: The Future of Digital Literary Heritage*. What are the future prospects for literary knowledge now that literary texts – and the material remains of authorship, publishing, and reading – are reduced to strings of digital ones and zeros? What are the opportunities and obligations for book history, textual criticism, and bibliography when literary texts are distributed across digital platforms, devices, formats, and networks? Indeed, what is textual scholarship when the “text” of our everyday speech is a verb as often as it is a noun?

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 [51 podcasts](#) available on SoundCloud. Recent additions include:

- Portrait of a Bibliophile XIV: Marx and Engels
- My Uncle Ian, by James Fleming
- Collecting Ian Fleming, by Jon Gilbert

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.

[Textiles in Libraries: Context & Conservation series](#) – Many textiles are found in libraries. What are their conservation needs, and what do they teach us?

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.

Recent episodes:

[Special Functions Lecture: Gary Goodman on “The Last Bookseller”](#)

[Special Functions Lecture: Gabrielle M. Dudley on “Black Women Writers”](#)

[Special Functions Lecture: Cynthia Johnston on “The Collection of Robert Edward Hart.”](#)



Florida Bibliophile Society 2021–2022 Season



David Hall

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 the 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: Kurt, founder and president of the Book Hunters Club of Houston, shared 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: Ben and Joyce Wiley will once again open their home to us for our holiday party. Cocktails, Christmas crackers, gifts, good food, and great company! Please contact Jerry Morris to sign up.

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.”

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



Endpaper • If It's Books...



Many thanks to our guest speaker Kurt Zimmerman for a fascinating presentation. His story of rescuing the reference collection of Dorothy Sloan was a tale of true bibliophile heroism! The Conroe-Concord run alone...

I was reminded of this when I was reading the story of Luther Brewer (see "About Table Talk" in this issue). When the Brewers made a decision to collect, they skipped Shelley, Keats, and Byron, authors that were already drawing significant auction prices, and instead focused on a minor personality, which is to say someone quite important in the 1830s but largely ignored by the 1930s. They enlisted bookdealers on both sides of the Atlantic to assist them, collecting books, manuscripts, letters ... everything Leigh Hunt. In the process, they assembled a world-class collection, one that would not exist without a touch of bibliomania.

Kurt joins the Brewers and many other bibliophiles who preserve elements of history that others may not be interested in, but once the collection exists, it becomes the mine that others will toil in. These collections become the basis of academic programs. They give students and scholars access to primary materials in a single location.

Speaking of table talk, thanks to Jerry Morris for allowing us to include an article based on one of his many book blogs... honestly, I've forgotten how many there are. His article shows the bibliophile at work, having assembled a significant and focused collection that yields its own discoveries, which Jerry generously shares through his prolific writing.

Whatever your collection is, it makes you part of this community of inquisitive minds and as Nicholas Basbanes writes, the gently mad.

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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