

# The Florida Bibliophile

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May newsletter deadline: April 30, 2022 (details on p. 25)

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](#).



Florida Bibliophile Society  
A community of book lovers



## Gerard “Jerry” T. Morris

1947 – 2022

Jerry Morris, Vice President of the Florida Bibliophile Society and a long-time member, passed away on April 3, 2022, just as the Sunday session of the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair was opening. He was surrounded by friends and books. Over the past few years, Jerry had a number of health issues and medical procedures, but he remained as devoted as ever to his family, his books, and the Florida Bibliophile Society. In the past couple of years, a compact oxygen generator was hard pressed to keep up with his tireless activity and determination to be present at every event and activity. He has been a pillar of the Florida Bibliophile Society and a prodigious collector and writer in several areas of collecting, most prominently Books on Books and materials related to Samuel Johnson. His network in the book world was extensive and always growing, even bringing a book collector from Slovenia to present (via Zoom) at a recent Florida Bibliophile Society meeting. He described himself as a father of four, grandfather of many, and great-grandfather of five. He retired from two careers – as a Radar Navigation Technician in the U.S. Air Force and then as a Rural Mail Carrier for the U.S. Postal Service – to take on a third as a full-time bibliophile. To his wife Linda, his children and their families, and his many friends – ourselves lucky to be among them – we extend our most heartfelt condolences.

## Minutes of the March 2022 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

**A**t a time when many people have turned their attention to the tragic war in Ukraine, members of the Florida Bibliophile Society also turned their attention to Europe, but in a far happier context, as we listened to Boštjan Petrič, speaking from Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

### Greetings from Slovenia

Our vice president Jerry Morris first read to us an email he had received from Boštjan back in November of 2020:

Dear Jerry,

I'm a book lover and book collector from Slovenia, and a big fan of your book-related blogs, which I first couldn't believe were all the work of one person. Recently, I've gotten around to starting my own blog (in English), which discusses the history of the book and book collecting, with a special interest in bibliomania and libricide. I also try to bring in a Slovenian/Central European perspective, which I think isn't very well represented in the blogosphere. The link to the blog is [thefateofbooks.wordpress.com](http://thefateofbooks.wordpress.com).\* I've included Biblio-Connecting in my blogroll, along with other sites.

So far I've written about an early discussion of bibliomania in Slovenian literature, about the story of the Slovenian Bibliophile Society and its quest to institute a ban on the destruction of books, and I've also reviewed a book about the Nazis' theft of books in occupied Europe. I plan to put up several other posts in the same vein online in the next few months. You're welcome to follow the updates. If any of the posts interest you, I'd be honoured if you mentioned them in your links' collection, or on your Twitter account.

Boštjan also sent Jerry the following comments in advance of his presentation:

In my day job, I'm a chemist. I've been in love

\* [The Fate of Books: Notes on Book Collecting, Bibliomania, and Libricide](#)



Slovenian book collector and blogger Boštjan Petrič is shown in front of a picturesque scene on the Ljubljana River Canal in his hometown.

with books for as long as I can remember, but I only started thinking of myself as a collector around five years ago. I'm also a history buff, so my main interest is historical material (pre-1950) dealing with Slovenia and the neighboring regions. I like to go to auctions and checking out bookstores, but the most rewarding part of book collecting for me has always been rescuing books from piles of trash, dumpsters, abandoned places and the like. In my experience, the most valuable books one finds are found this way—the sort of people who throw books in the trash often know or care very little about the book's importance, and don't do any triage.

When the introduction was over, Boštjan, speaking in clear and almost unaccented English, began his well-organized presentation, *Books and Book Collecting in Slovenia, with a Short History of Slovene American Publishing*, by telling us about his country.

### Welcome to Slovenia

Slovenia is in Central Europe, South of Austria, with a small border on the Adriatic Sea. The area has been home to many peoples from ancient times, but in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Slovene ethnic identity began to emerge. Since that time and as a small country of

**Minutes, continued**

two million people, Slovenia has often been part of larger neighbors: up to 1918, it was part of Austria-Hungary; during the years 1918–1941, it was part of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia; and from 1945 to 1991, Slovenia was part of socialist Yugoslavia. It has been independent since 1991 and is now a member of the European Union.

Slovenian is a southern Slavic language most closely related to Serbo-Croatian, but it is similar to other Slavic languages such as Bulgarian, Polish, and Russian. Even in a small country, there are many dialects. The most distinctive, Prekmurian, is found in the far northeastern part of Slovenia where it is spoken by about 80,000 people and is often considered a separate language.

Boštjan offered a “Recognizing Slovenian for Dummies” guide to aid us in recognizing Slovenian books if we come across them: if the text doesn’t contain Č, Š, or Ž, it is not Slovenian – but if it contains those letters and also contains other specially accented letters that he associated, respectively, with Serbo-Croatian, Lithuanian,

1. Consonants found in Slovenian but not in English: č š ž	
2. Letters found in...	but not in Slovenian
... English	q w x y
... Serbo-Croatian	dž đ lj nj
... Lithuanian	ą ę ė į y ū ū
... Latvian	ā ē ģ ī ķ ļ ņ ū
... Czech	ď ě ch ň q ř ť ů w x y ý
... Slovak	ä ď dz dž ch í ľ ň ô q r ť
... Albanian	ç dh ë gj nj q rr sh th

*Aid in recognizing Slovenian texts – The first line of the table shows that Slovenian has three consonants not found in English. The remaining lines of the table show the many distinctive consonants and a few vowels that are **not** found in Slovenian.*

Latvian, Czech, or Slovak, then it is also not Slovenian! Whew! – to determine if a given book is written in Slovenian, one needs to be meticulous!

**Slovenian Literature, Briefly**

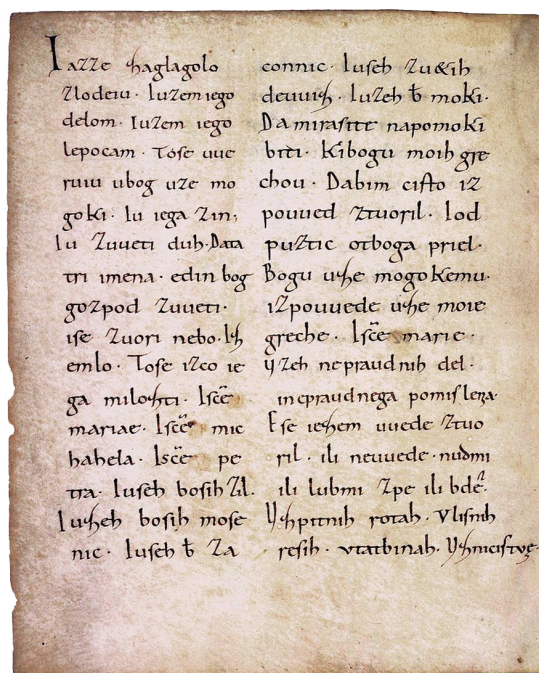
Turning to the history of Slovenian literature, Boštjan noted that Slavs settled in Slovenia around the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but the first known Slovenian written document, “The Freising Manuscripts” (a series of sermons about sin and punishment), is from around 1000 CE. Further, there are very few surviving Slovenian texts from the Middle Ages. At the time of the Reformation, however, there was an explosion of Protestant literature. Primož Trubar, who is considered the father of the Slovenian language,



*Slovenia sits at the northwest corner of the Balkan peninsula and shares borders with Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia.*

*Minutes, continued*

Cover of the Freising Manuscripts



First page of the third Slovene manuscript in the Freising Manuscripts.

The Freising Manuscripts contain several sermons, mostly in Latin, but three are in the oldest Slovenian dialect. The manuscripts were created about 1000 C.E. in Freising in Carinthia, now part of southern Austria and northern Slovenia. The manuscripts are carefully written on parchment in a letterform called Carolingian minuscule. The manuscripts were discovered in the Bavarian State Library in 1807, where they remain. In Slovenian, the manuscripts are referred to as the Brižinski spomeniki, or Brižinj Monuments. Brižinj is a Slovenized form of the German name Freising.

Transcription of the first few lines of the page shown above: *Iazze zaglagolo zlodeiu. luzem iego delom. luzem iego lepocam.*

The lines in modern Slovenian: *Jaz se odpovem zlodeju, in vsem njegovim delom, in vsem njegovim lepotijam.*

The lines in English: *I renounce the devil and all his works, and all his ornaments.*

wrote the first Slovenian primer, catechism, and partial Bible translations. Other figures of the late 1500s created the first full Slovenian Bible translation, and the first Slovenian language grammar. These books were actually printed in Germany and then transported to Slovenia. In the early 1600s, when the Counter-Reformation swept through Slovenia, Protestants were expelled and their books suppressed. To this day, there are very few Protestant Slovenians.

There was little Slovenian publishing during 1600–1750, but the late 18<sup>th</sup>-century period known as the Enlightenment brought a wave of secular Slovenian publications, including plays, poetry collections, and modern grammars. By the late 1830s, a modernized Slovenian alphabet had been introduced.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, France Prešeren (1800–1849) emerged as the Slovene national poet. He wrote

only one book, which was simply entitled *Poetry*, but his influence is almost impossible to overestimate. Even small school children in Slovenia learn about Prešeren! The first two modern publishing houses in Slovenia started in the 1850s–1860s, and the first Slovenian novel was published in 1866. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ivan Cankar (1876–1918) took center stage as the greatest Slovenian writer and playwright. Cankar was part of the younger generation that introduced modernism into Slovenian literature. He is sometimes compared to Franz Kafka and James Joyce.

There was a boom in publishing after World War I, as well as a growth in academic publishing associated with the founding of the University of Ljubljana in 1919. During World War II, the Slovenian language was suppressed and many Slovenian books were destroyed. Even then, however, there was

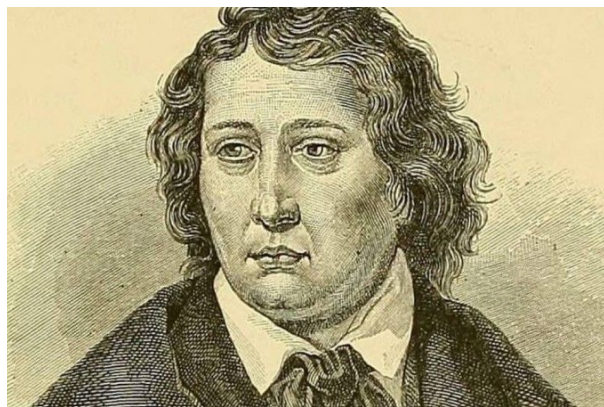
*Minutes, continued*

*Primož Trubar (1508–1586) is considered the father of the Slovenian language. He wrote the first Slovenian primer, catechism, and partial Bible translations.*

underground publishing by the resistance; some of these works now survive as highly collectable publications. After World War II, publishing again boomed in what Boštjan described as “the age of high print runs.”

### **Book Collecting in Slovenia**

Book collecting in Slovenia is different from book collecting in large countries. First of all, in Slovenia, age actually does increase the value of a book because books before 1900 are rare. Because of that rarity, both book dealers and collectors tend to focus on modern books. Additionally, Boštjan pointed out that, given the relatively small number of books published each year as compared to large countries, “it is (almost) possible to be acquainted with the entire Slovenian book production.” In 1860, for example, only 20 new books were published in



*France Prešeren (1800–1849) in an etching based on an 1830 portrait.*

Slovenian. And even fairly rare books are not that expensive. Because there are a limited number of Slovenian books, Slovenian book auctions are always general, never specialized. There are no appointment-only bookstores, no stores that only deal with rare books, and no antiquarian book fairs.

Most Slovenian books are only published in one edition, thus collectors in Slovenia do not emphasize the importance of first editions as do American collectors. A national online catalogue (Cobiss) makes it easy to identify and even borrow volumes in libraries. Slovenian book collectors have to be multilingual because book auctions typically include books in foreign languages. For example, Boštjan’s collection of books regarding the exploration of Slovenia’s mountains includes books written in Italian, German, and English, as well as Slovenian. At present, there is no Slovenian bibliophile society.

### **Slovenian-American Literature**

The last major topic of the presentation was Slovene American literature. Over 200,000 Americans claim Slovenian descent. The main wave of Slovenian immigration occurred between 1880 and 1920; Chicago, Cleveland, and New York all had large Slovenian communities. Some of the first Slovenian American publications were by missionaries – Bishop Friderik Baraga, “revered in Slovenia to the present day,” actually published books in the Ottawa and Ojibway languages in the 1830s and 1840s! The first Slovenian language American newspaper was begun in 1891, and even into the 1940s there were Slovenian American daily, weekly, and monthly publications. Slovenian publishing houses thrived in Chicago and Cleveland.

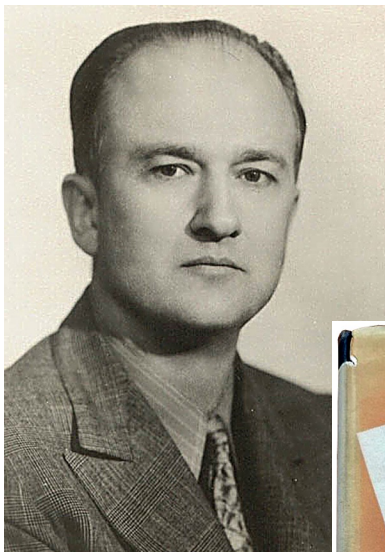
Boštjan discussed some Slovenian American

**Minutes, concluded**

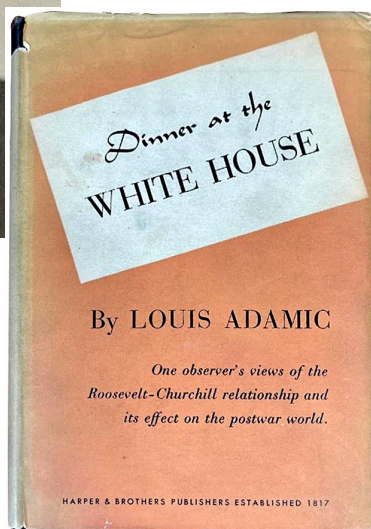
works from his own collection, including a 1904 Slovenian-English pocket dictionary (“with poor spelling, questionable translations, and abysmal pronunciation”); an *American Family Almanac* which was published in Chicago from 1915 to 1950 and espoused Socialist politics; and newspapers in the Prekmurian language which were published in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in Chicago. One of the most unusual volumes in Boštjan’s collection was a Slovenian book published in 1941 whose title translates in English to *Hauptmann was Innocent*. The book discusses the sensational disappearance of Chicago newlywed Agnes Tufverson in 1933\*, and alleged that Tufverson was connected to the Lindbergh baby kidnapping!

Boštjan showed a 1946 book by Louis Adamič entitled *Dinner at the White House*, based on a White House dinner Adamič and wife attended in 1942. In the book, Adamič offered views on the Roosevelt-Churchill relationship to which Churchill took

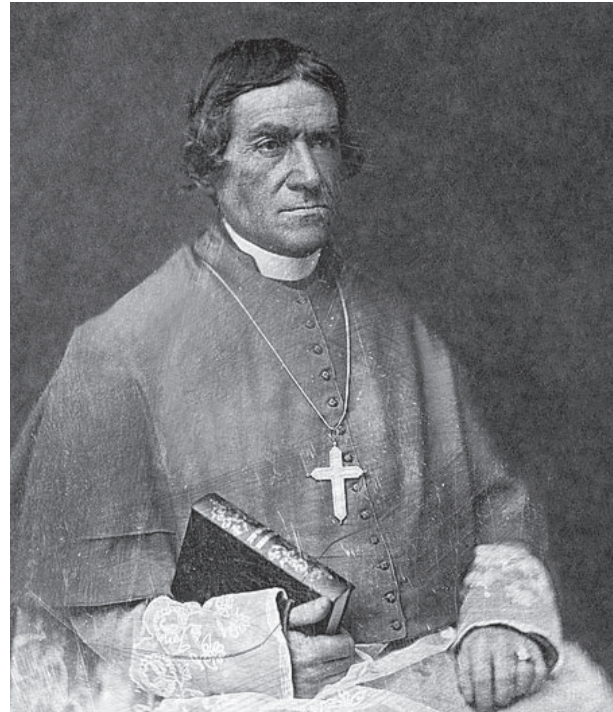
offense and successfully sued Adamič. Probably the most important Slovene-American writer, Adamič is best known for a series of nonfiction works in the 1930s and 1940s that were largely supportive of the



Prolific author Louis Adamič (1898–1951, in Slovenian, Alojz Adamič) wrote *Dinner at the White House* (1946) to oppose certain policies of Winston Churchill. His insinuation that Churchill’s policy was a quid pro quo for a bankruptcy bailout drew legal action from Churchill and damages from Adamič.



\* Subject of the 2017 book *Missing or Murdered: The Disappearance of Agnes Tufverson* by R. Barri Flowers.



Ireaneus Frederic Baraga (1797–1868; in Slovenian, Irenej Friderik Baraga) was a Slovenian Roman Catholic missionary to the U.S. and the first bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette, Mich., where he is buried under the St. Peter Cathedral. He worked closely with Native Americans, publishing *Otawa Anamie-Misinaigan* (1837), a catechism and prayer book and the first book written in the Ottawa language. He also worked with Ojibway (Chippewa) Indians at La Pointe, Wis., and earned the nickname “the Snowshoe Priest” for traveling hundreds of miles each year on snowshoes during harsh winters. He worked to protect Indians from forced relocation and published a dictionary and grammar of the Ojibway language. His letters about his work were widely circulated in Europe and encouraged others to emigrate and imitate his efforts.

Yugoslav communists before and during World War II.

Next, Boštjan showed a bound volume of a magazine, *Rodna Gruda*, whose title translated into English is *Native Soil*, which was published by the Slovenian Emigrant Association from 1954 to 2004. The magazine offers a mixture of advertisements for tourism in Slovenia, articles connecting emigrants with their roots, and propaganda by the Yugoslav and then Slovenian governments. In contrast to its rich past, nowadays Slovenian American publishing is small-scale and infrequent.

Boštjan ended by inviting FBS members to contact him at his “The Fate of Books” blog. Those of us who were previously unfamiliar with him and his work are encouraged to take him at his word.



## War Stories of a Bibliophile

by Jerry Morris

*Editor's note: A few weeks ago, Jerry told me about a former FBS member, writer, and fellow airman, Colonel Edward T. Imparato. He was very excited about the books Colonel Imparato had written about some remarkable World War II experiences, which were part of Jerry's aviation collection. In late March, Jerry sent me this piece. At one time, it honors a generation that engaged in the largest conflict in history and is now gradually disappearing and whose stories are increasingly important; it honors our late founding member Lee Harrer; and of course, it honors our own FBS airman, Jerry Morris.*

I like to write about the books that I collect, and the late Lee J. Harrer enjoyed reading about them in one of my blogs. He particularly enjoyed reading my May 2019 post, "A Sentimental Airman's Second Aviation Collection." After reading this article, Lee told me about a good friend of his, a retired Air Force colonel, a resident then of Clearwater, and an FBS member at that, who wrote several books about his wartime experiences. Edward T. Imparato (1917–2000) was his name. And he wrote not one, not two, not three, but four books about his WWII experiences in the South Pacific.

Col. Edward T. Imparato had several claims to fame. At one time, he was the youngest Air Group Commander and the youngest full colonel in the entire Armed Forces of the United States during WWII. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on November 1, 1943, and to full bird colonel by Gen. MacArthur on December 11, 1944, at the age of 27. His greatest claim to fame, however, was that he piloted the first American plane to land in Japan after Emperor Hirohito surrendered.

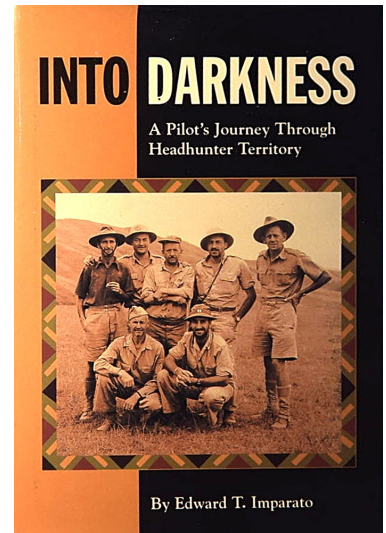
They used to say that the two worst places to fight during WWII were Burma and New Guinea. If the constant Japanese air attacks didn't get you, the bugs and the rain and heat would. And New Guinea was said to be the worst. That's where Edward T. Imparato was stationed, with the Japanese situated seventeen miles away from the base.

In 1995, Imparato wrote *Into Darkness* about a rather unique and dangerous mission that his commander, Col. Beam, assigned him to complete.



(Col. Beam was no stranger to danger himself. He refused to take cover in a foxhole when Japanese planes attacked the base.)

American B-24 Liberator bombers were literally falling from the sky during clear weather in the Pacific and without any signs of enemy hostile action. When a B-24 disappeared in New Guinea without cause in April 1943, Col. Beam assigned then Maj. Imparato to determine the cause of the crash. Unfortunately, the aircraft crashed in what was still headhunter territory in New Guinea! And there were no maps of the area. *Into Darkness* details Imparato's quest to locate the B-24 and to determine the cause of the crash. Undertaking the journey were four junior U.S. officers, two Australians, and 150 Papuans to carry supplies and provide protection during the journey.





**Imparato, concluded**

The mission was a success. They located the aircraft and determined the cause of its crash, but not everyone survived. The Japanese attacked again the day after they returned to base. And again, Col. Beam refused to hide in a foxhole. But this time, Japanese bullets ripped his body to shreds.

By 1945, the war had shifted north closer toward Japan. General MacArthur's Far East Command had moved from Melbourne, Australia, to Hollandia, located on the north coast of New Guinea. On a routine flight to Hollandia from Port Moresby, New Guinea, Col. Imparato's Wing Commander, Col. Elsmore, discovered a hidden valley surrounded by 14,000-foot mountains. He dubbed it Shangri-La, after the beautiful valley in James Hilton's *Lost Horizon*. Administrative personnel were given weekly recreational flights to see Shangri-La. But on May 13, 1945, a C-47 aircraft carrying

20 passengers and four crew members crashed into a mountain top near the entrance to Shangri-La. There were three survivors. And Col. Imparato was assigned to develop a rescue plan.

Col. Imparato's 1997 book *Rescue from Shangri-La* details the plan. Rescue by land was quickly ruled out. It would have taken 30 days and 150 Papuans

to clear the way through the dense jungle. Rescue by water was ruled out because the closest river was 50 miles away. The only possible rescue was by air, but there wasn't enough clearance in the valley for an airplane to land or take off. Finally, a plan was devised to use glider planes to perform the rescue. The glider planes would be snatched from the valley by C-47 aircraft. The rescue mission was a success!

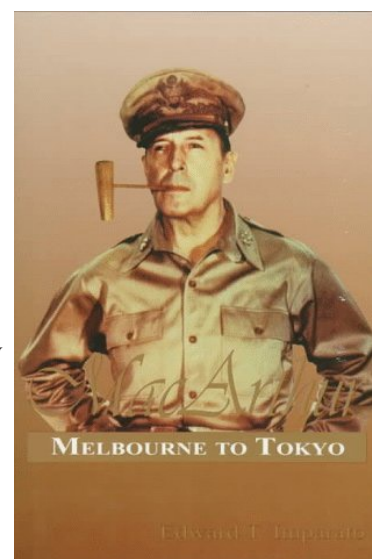
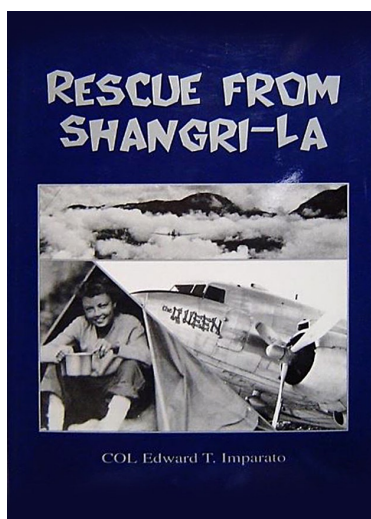
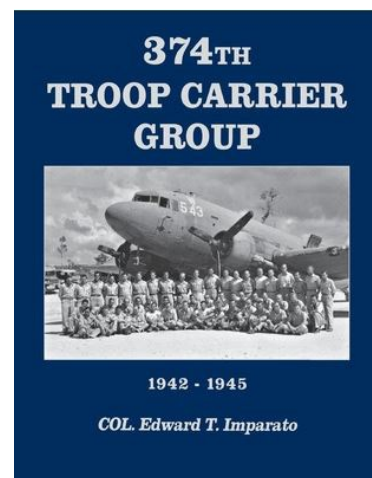
The next book, *374<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group 1942–1945* (1998), is a complete history of that group,

\* The crash and rescue is the subject of the 2011 book *Lost in Shangri-La* by Michael Zuckoff. *Ed.*

rated as the most decorated unit of its size during the war. Col. Imparato calls the book a labor of love that was fifty years in the making, and not just by Col. Imparato. A separate appendix the size of a book would be required to identify all the former members of the group who contributed to gathering official documents and submitting first-hand accounts of how the missions were accomplished when the group was stationed in Australia, in New Guinea, and in the Philippines. Numerous appendices provide lists of assigned personnel, awards and decorations, battles and campaigns, and aircraft losses.

*Melbourne to Tokyo* (1997) details Gen. Douglas MacArthur's war from his arrival at Melbourne in March 1942 to his entry into Tokyo in August 1945. This book traces the troop carrier and airborne operations of the 374th Troop Carrier Group that supported MacArthur's mission. It also provides a detailed description of Col. Imparato's flight to Tokyo to make advance preparations for the formal surrender of the Japanese. Gen. MacArthur himself called this flight "one of the greatest gambles in history." No one knew for sure if the Japanese military would abide by Emperor Hirohito's surrender order.

Col. Imparato's son, Edward T. Imparato, Jr., has created a website, colonelimparato.com, as a tribute to his father. He still has the boxes of documents and pictures that his father used to write these books.



## FBS Hosts Walt Whitman Presentation Featuring Collector Ed S. Centeno

On March 31, members of the Florida Bibliophile Society gathered with about 40 guests at the Largo Public Library to hear Ed S. Centeno talk about his Walt Whitman collection, in the presentation *Walt Whitman: Leaves of Grass—Still Relevant to Modern Times*.

A reception was held at 5:00 p.m. for FBS members to enjoy light refreshments and meet Ed and his partner Ken who had flown down from Connecticut for a week in St. Pete which culminated with the presentation and a couple of days at the book fair.

A series of tables were set up at the rear of the room on which were laid out 40 to 50 treasures from Ed's collection, including signed documents and commissioned artworks, allowing visitors to view

close up the range of items in the collection and range of uses of Whitman's image, some clearly honorary and some that seemed exploitative. Whitman's name and image were used on a number of commercial products, ranging from cigars to canned salmon, beginning during his lifetime, without his permission.

Ed's collection of items related to Walt Whitman, started over

30 years ago and now including over 2,000 pieces, runs the gamut from fine editions to match books and from theater programs to compact discs. The collection shows the many aspects of Whitman's impact on American and international culture as well as the many ways that the Good Gray Poet's image—both figurative and literal—have been appropriated over the more than 165 years since he published the groundbreaking classic *Leaves of Grass* in 1855.



Ed S. Centeno speaks about his Walt Whitman collection at the Largo Public Library. He wears a lapel pin made from a Walt Whitman stamp. Stamp collecting led Ed into Whitman collecting.

Poster for the FBS Walt Whitman event at the Largo Public Library

At the front of the room, images of items in the collection were projected to give even more views.

At 6:30 p.m., the screen rolled up, and Ben Wiley, FBS member and president of the Friends of the Largo Library, took the podium to introduce Ed and the presentation. However, before Ed came up to speak, Ben had organized a reading of non-Whitman 19th-century poets. Jude Bagatti began in great style with a dramatic interpretation of the Emily Dickinson poem "Wild Nights, Wild Nights". Then nine more FBS members came up in turn to read selections from Paul Dunbar, John Greenleaf Whittier, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and others, providing a context and a contrast to the poetry of Whitman, which had been so original in form and content. Great literary figures like Ralph Waldo Emerson praised *Leaves of Grass*,

"I greet you at the beginning of a great career .... [*Leaves of Grass*] has the best merits, namely, of fortifying & encouraging."

**Whitman Event, concluded**

In contrast, Whittier, a most respected poets of his era, is said to have burned his copy of *Leaves of Grass* in disgust at its perceived obscenity.

With that background, Ben invited Ed to the podium.

With his characteristic humor, sometimes self-effacing, Ed talked about his path to becoming a Whitman collector, which started with his first passion, stamp collecting. He talked about the hunt for items and the many individuals in libraries, academia, auction houses, and others that he has met in the course of 35 years of collecting Whitman. An unusual and interesting part of this talk was his sharing of some of the unusual and interesting questions he has received at presentations over the years. One example came in a question he’s had many times about the artworks he has commissioned: How long did that take to make? Ed told us that he usually tells the questioner that artists often have many projects going at the same time, and work a little here and then a little there, and they may not have an hours-and-minutes estimate of the time it took to make any one piece in particular. Ed concluded his talk and then responded to audience questions in lively and jovial exchanges.

[See also Ben Wiley’s essay in the February issue of *The Florida Bibliophile*.]



Ed S. Centeno and a display of some items from his Walt Whitman collection set out for presentation attendees to examine at the Largo Public Library.

**“I Contain Multitudes....”**



Selections from the  
Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection



Florida Bibliophile Society has published a 60-page full-color book to accompany Ed S. Centeno’s presentation *Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass: Still Relevant to Modern Times*. The book, *“I Contain Multitudes....”: Selections from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection*, contains Ben Wiley’s essay discussing the continuing influence and relevance of Whitman and how the Centeno collection illustrates them. It contains many images of items from the Centeno collection as well as descriptive and historical information. There is much information which provides a fuller picture of the impact and reception of Whitman up to the present day. The book is available from FBS for \$10 plus \$5.00 s+h. Contact Charles Brown, [cmbrown@atlantic.net](mailto:cmbrown@atlantic.net).

## FBS Goes to the Fair!

**I**t wasn't quite a county fair with a midway, amusements, colorful lights, exotic hand food, exhibits from the everyday to the amazing to the freakish, and thrills, chills, and prizes – lots of prizes... Or maybe it was! After two years of Covid-cancelled book fairs, that's exactly what the St. Petersburg Coliseum felt like when we entered it on Friday night for the first time in two years.

The Florida Antiquarian Book Fair had all the features of a county fair, tastefully scaled for the bibliophile set but nonetheless exciting. It was great to be back – back in St. Pete, back in the Coliseum, back among the books! Acquaintances were renewed and others were made as almost 70 booksellers came from 20 states and as far as away as England. We'd like to point out our FBS members who are booksellers and had booths at the fair, including Mike Slicker of Lighthouse Books in Dade City, Steve Eisenstein of A-Book-A-Brac in Miami, Sean Donnelly of Doralynn Books in Madeira Beach, and William Chrisant of William Chrisant & Sons' Old Florida Book Shop in Ft. Lauderdale.

Even with a lapse of two years, everything ran as smoothly as ever under the seasoned direction of Sarah Smith, who has managed the book fair for several years. Of course, books are in Sarah's blood: her father is Mike Slicker, proprietor of Lighthouse Books, which was a fixture of the St. Petersburg book scene for almost 40 years before Mike relocated to Dade City in new and more spacious quarters (be sure to stop by sometime!). Sarah and Mike now run Lighthouse Books together. Even Sarah's son Quinton is part of the operation, helping to staff his grandfather's booth at the book fair.

By all accounts, attendance at the fair was high. Saturday morning was especially busy, but business was steady throughout the fair, from its opening on Friday night to its closing on Sunday afternoon.

As always, the Florida Bibliophile Society was well represented – doubly so. In addition to the Hospitality Table that we staff at the entrance to the fair, this year we also took a booth at the fair, where we could set up displays and materials about FBS and chat with interested visitors.



*The lull before the storm – Friday afternoon – Waiting for the opening bell of the 39<sup>th</sup> Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. A firmament of lights are reflected in the polished floor of the St. Petersburg Coliseum. Built in 1924 and billed as the “Best Ballroom in the South,” the Coliseum harkens back to a boom time after the opening of the Gandy Bridge gave an increasing population and its automobiles easier access to the St. Pete area and the coastal beaches.*



“Pictures of an Exhibition”

## FBS Goes to the Fair! FBS Greet and Assists Book Fair Guests at Its Hospitality Table

For many years, the Florida Bibliophile Society has staffed a table – the Hospitality Table – at the entrance to the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, and this year was no exception.

One of the primary purposes of the hospitality table is to check bags and other items that are not permitted in the book fair. Over the years, many FBS members have taken a turn at the Hospitality Table. It's a chance to spend some time with other FBS members in an enjoyable service activity. Of course, it's an opportunity to assist guests by answering questions about the fair and to introduce them to FBS.

In each of the past several years, we've offered book fair visitors bookmarks with different themes, including beautiful marbled papers, endpapers, and the illuminations by Joris Hoefnagel for the *Mira Calligraphiae Monumenta* (1561–1562).

This year's bookmarks feature items from Ed S. Centeno's Walt Whitman collection, to accompany the special event FBS hosted at the Largo Public Library on March 31 featuring Centeno: a silver spoon from the Walt Whitman Hotel in Camden, N.J.; a cigar bearing a Walt Whitman cigar band; a bottle of "Walt Wit" beer; a bookmark printed in Germany featuring a portrait of "Whitman" (the printer mistakenly used a portrait of another aged and white bearded poet of the era, William Cullen Bryant); and a famous photo of Whitman posing with a butterfly perched on his extended finger – Whitman claimed the butterfly was real to suggest his oneness with nature, a major theme of *Leaves of Grass* (the butterfly was actually made of cloth and wired to his finger).

In 2016, we sold the new FBS book bag, a large canvas bag that many members (and we assume other purchasers) still find useful (especially at book fairs!).

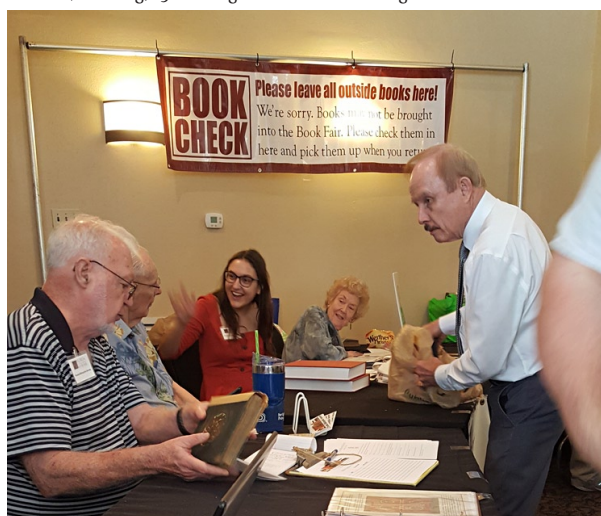
Over the years, we offered a number of informational pieces about FBS, such as the yellow trifold brochure *A Congenial Organization of Book Lovers, Collectors, Readers, Buyers, Sellers, and*



FBS Hospitality Table 2016 – Left to right: Irene Pavese, Elenora Sabin, Joan Sackheim, and Linda Morris

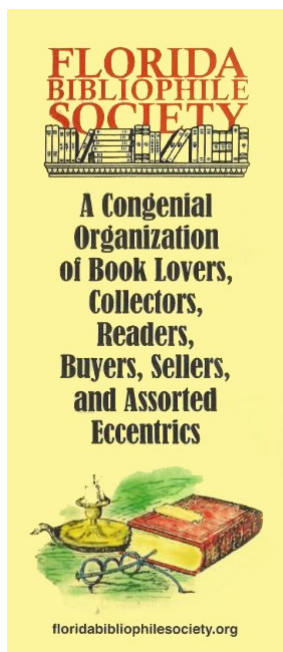


FBS Hospitality Table 2018 – Left to right: Joan Sackheim, Jerry Morris (standing), Jude Bagatti, and Peter Hargitai



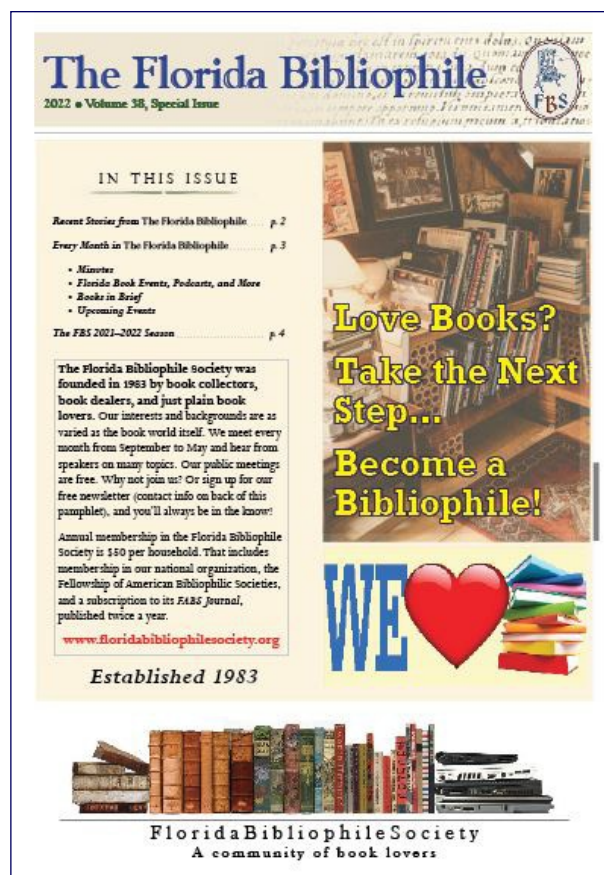
FBS Hospitality Table 2019 – Left to right: Jerry Morris, Lee Harrer, Autumn Howard, Elenora Sabin. Jerry evaluates a guest's book.

*Hospitality Table, concluded*



*Assorted Eccentrics.* The brochure included a membership form. This year, in a similar vein, FBS produced a four-page brochure (included with this newsletter) in the style of the FBS newsletter that contains information about joining FBS, excerpts of articles and departments in a typical newsletter, and the list of events we held in the 2020–2021 season. These pamphlets give interested book lovers a better idea of what FBS is all about as well as directing them to the website. What it can't explain is how much fun it is to be an involved member, but that's

what was personified by the FBS members who so enthusiastically greeted book fair attendees.



*In this photo from 2019, Lee Harrer (nearest), Jerry Morris, and Irene Pavese (farthest) provide free book evaluations for book fair visitors.*

Two important functions of the Hospitality Table are closely related to the business of the book fair. First, the table is situated to facilitate meetings for visitors who have brought books for specific booksellers. The books cannot be carried into the book fair, but they can be left safely at the Hospitality Table while the visitor brings the bookseller out to examine the books.

Second, on Sunday afternoon, the last day of the book fair, the Florida Bibliophile Society has traditionally offered free book evaluations. We set up a second table in the Coliseum's front entryway and two or three of our members, now usually armed with computers, assist visitors to determine whether their books are valuable editions or just treasured mementoes.

Visitors can also join FBS on the spot. Membership forms were available, and payments could be taken. Many people opted to sign up for the newsletter, and this year over 140 people signed up to receive it. We're always delighted to share our newsletter with news about the book world and the many activities and interests of the FBS and its members.



## An FBS First: A Booth of Our Own at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair

**When veteran FBS members Carl Nudi and Gary Simons first proposed to the executive committee that FBS should have its own booth at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, it was an exciting idea and one that raised questions.**

Carl and Gary fielded questions about cost, about what would be in the booth, and who would staff it. Of course, they were fully committed to staffing the booth even if no one else was available. Carl and Gary led the way, and other FBS members (see the “Extra Special Thank You” page in this newsletter) stepped up beautifully and provided the staffing needed for both our usual hospitality table at the fair entrance and the FBS booth. Carl and Gary set the pace, brilliantly engaging visitors in conversation, explaining FBS, and introducing them to the available materials.

Our “booth” was actually an alcove that gave us extra room to mingle with visitors and wall space to mount posters and show video recordings of several of our recent meetings, which are now recorded

through Zoom. The posters featured covers of four of our newsletters and provided points of interest in the booth and topics of conversation for our booth staffers.

The tables were filled with FBS items. This year’s bookmarks were decorated with items from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection, a silver spoon, a Walt Whitman cigar, a bottle of “Walt Wit” beer, a “Walt Whitman” bookmark, and the famous butterfly photo of Whitman, all more fully described on page 10.

Also on offer was a four-page pamphlet in the style of the FBS newsletter that contains information about joining FBS, excerpts of articles and departments in a typical newsletter, and the list of events we’ve held in the 2020–2021 season. These pamphlets give interested book lovers a better idea of what FBS is all about as well as directing them to the website. What it can’t explain is how much fun it is to be an involved member, but that is exactly what was personified by the FBS members who so enthusiastically greeted book fair attendees.



*Carl Nudi chats with a visitor to the fair from his vantage point on the platform outside the FBS alcove at the book fair. In the background, Gary Simons speaks with a couple about FBS as they examine the selection of bookmarks and information about FBS.*



## Booth, concluded



Gary Simons in the FBS booth at the book fair. Behind him, a table displays the FBS logo and giveaways in the form of bookmarks and pamphlets. The video of Reid Byers's recent presentation to FBS is projected on the wall between two posters of recent newsletters.

Another first this year was the books published by FBS and offered for sale. Two books were available. The first was our book of remembrances of Lee Harrer, a consummate bibliophile, a founding member of FBS, a tireless supporter of the society, and a dear colleague. The second was the book we produced for the Whitman event, *"I Contain Multitudes...": Selections from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection*.

Gary explained that the book virtually sells itself. Not all of his carefully worked out sales techniques can be revealed here, but Gary could often be observed attracting visitors to the Whitman book and then fanning its pages, which apparently gave a very appealing impression.

Carl thoroughly enjoyed his experience, saying that it felt good to explain what FBS has meant to him and to describe how much fun it is to hang with other book people. His overall impression was that this maiden voyage was quite successful – "it all came together well in planning and execution" and provided an "interesting and inviting area that book fair attendees seemed to appreciate."

Plans are already under way for next year's booth. Carl, standing on the platform that extends from the alcove FBS was in and armed with bookmarks and pamphlets, was very effective at attracting fair-goers into a conversation and into the booth. But Gary has said that he would like to try next year for a regular booth on the floor of the fair and compare the kind of traffic a booth gets to the alcove. As Gary put it, "It's just too easy to walk by."

Carl wants more display items – more materials to show and more for visitors to look at and chat about – perhaps, member collections under glass or some hands-on exhibit. Maybe FBS could offer gin and tonics at 4:00, but we would have to check the fair's rules.

All in all, the booth was a great idea, well carried out, and quite effective. A number of visitors joined FBS after conversations in the booth, and we look forward to getting to know them and their book interests better.



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## *39th Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair*

April 1st – April 3rd, 2022

The Coliseum

St Petersburg, Florida

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For a detailed feature article by FBS member, Maureen E. Mulvihill, with a Gallery of Images, visit <<https://www.rarebookhub.com/articles/3158>>

**Hosted by Rare Book Hub (San Francisco)**

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 upload

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## Very Extra Special Thank You Page

In any organization like the Florida Bibliophile Society, it is dedicated members who make it possible for us to do what we do – to hold meetings, to have banquets, to print books, and to staff tables! The officers of the Florida Bibliophile Society are so appreciative of our wonderful membership, their camaraderie, their passion for books and reading, and their willingness to make wonderful things happen!

Special Event at the Largo Library featuring Ed S. Centeno presenting “Walt Whitman’s Leaves of Grass: Still Relevant to Modern Times.”

Ben Wiley, organizer and emcee of the event

Ed S. Centeno, presenter and generally all-around great guy

Casey McPhee and Geri Remming, Largo Public Library directors

Hunter Pylant, event poster designer

Tammie Sewell, Largo Public Library, event registrar

Nick Pastis of RG’s Bookmark Cafe at Largo Public Library, caterer

FBS Hospitality Table and Sunday Book Evaluations

Jude Bagatti

David Hall

Jerry Morris

Linda Morris

Irene Pavese

Elenora Sabin

Anne Shockey

Terry Shockey

Jeanne Simons

Ben Wiley

First-Ever FBS Booth at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair

Gary Simons

Carl Nudi

Ben Wiley

Charles Brown

Ed Cifelli

Maureen Mulvihill

“The FBS Players,” for Their Creative Interpretations of 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Poetry  
 Jude Bagatti, Ed Cifelli, Elenora Sabin, Gary Simons, Irene Pavese, Charles Brown,  
 Linda Morris, David Hall, Jerry Morris, Carl Nudi, Ben Wiley

Here they are! Our special thanks to these members (and some nonmembers) for making our Whitman event, Hospitality Table, and FBS Booth so successful!

## Congratulations to the Winners of the 2022 Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest

**The Florida Bibliophile Society established the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Contest in 2017 to promote the art and science of book collecting among college students.**

The Executive Board named the contest after Lee J. Harrer, an eminent book collector, a founding member of the Florida Bibliophile Society, and an active member from 1983 until his death in 2019. The choice is most appropriate also because of Lee's generous donation of thousands of volumes from his own collection related to the printing arts to the University of Tampa where they will enrich

the education of generations of college students in many disciplines, perhaps most significantly those studying book arts.

Competitors for the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Prize are asked to write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words about their book collection or book collecting interests. This year, entries were received from 23 students, all passionate about their book collections and who wrote eloquently about their treasured volumes. From these entries, the committee selected the following students as the winner and runners-up. Our congratulations to these writers and bibliophile colleagues.



**Contest winner Andrea Rinard is a former long-time English teacher and now full-time student in the University of South Florida's MFA program.** Her YA manuscript won the Key West Literary Seminar's 2020 Marianne Russo Award for a novel-in-progress. She was nominated for Best of the Net in 2020 and 2021 and Best Small Fictions in 2020 for her flash fiction and has worked in such places as *Cease, Cows*; *The Jellyfish Review*; *Lost Balloon*; and *X-R-A-Y*. She loves the work of Lauren Groff, Margaret Atwood, and Kazuo Ishiguro, and she's also a reader for *Fractured Literary*. A native Floridian who wears shoes against her will, Andrea lives in Tampa with her 1988 prom date in what would be an empty nest if the kids would quit coming back.

**Allison Duque is a Ph.D. student specializing in literature at the University of South Florida in Tampa.** She is currently working toward a dissertation centered around Shakespeare and Fan Fiction as adaptation. Allison wants to see what Fan Fiction has to say about the plays, identify trends in contemporary amateur response to the plays, and do some close readings to investigate what Fan Fiction can tell us about the plays that other adaptations or traditional approaches cannot.



**Mandy Trotti is an upcoming graduate from the University of South Florida.** She will be finishing her degree in English literature, hoping to start a career where she can continue to pursue her love of reading and writing. Mandy has published some of her favorite poems in the University's literary magazine, *Thread* and a forthcoming issue of *Sunday Mornings at the River*. She continues to work on her craft by reading every novel and poem she can find and writing down ideas in one of the many notebooks she has also collected over the years. When she isn't reading or writing, she enjoys spending time with her rescue pup and taking care of her growing succulent garden.



# BOOK CLUB OF DETROIT



*- Founded & Established, 1957 -*

In its continuing spirit of outreach, the **Florida Bibliophile Society** is pleased to announce:

**JON BULLER**  
**MASTER HAND BOOKBINDER,**  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Former Owner, Bessenberg Bindery



## **A Presentation with Images, Demonstration, Q&A**

Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Ferndale District Library  
222 East 9 Mile Road. Ferndale, Michigan 48220  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**JON BULLER** will highlight some of the world's most distinguished bookbinders, with special attention to their achievement in the craft of bookbinding. His demonstration will show the fine art of the craft -- its tools, supplies, challenges, and artistic opportunities. Drawing upon a successful career of over 40 years, Mr Buller has much to say about bookbinding, book repair, and book arts. (A public event, all welcome.)

Page contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill,  
Book Club of Detroit; Florida Bibliophile Society.



## Books in Brief

### Along Came Google: A History of Library Digitization

Deanna Marcum and Roger C. Schonfeld  
Princeton University Press  
232 pp., 2021



A HISTORY OF LIBRARY DIGITIZATION

DEANNA MARCUM AND ROGER C. SCHONFELD

The Internet has created a sticky situation, if not a crisis, regarding intellectual property rights. Once a text, image, or film is in digital format, it can be shared almost instantly around the world. For books and other printed matter, the dream of a universal library via access to all texts came into conflict with the system that creates them.

When Google announced in 2004 that it planned to digitize books to make the world's knowledge accessible to all, questions were raised about the roles and responsibilities of libraries, the rights of authors and publishers, and whether a powerful corporation should be the conveyor of such a fundamental public good. *Along Came Google* traces the history of Google's book digitization project and its implications for us today through in-depth interviews with those in many sectors who embraced or resisted Google's plans. Marcum and Schonfeld examine earlier digital initiatives for open access to knowledge, Google's case for a universal digital library, and the legal responses.



**Deanna Marcum** is an American librarian and a former Associate Librarian for Library Services at the Library of Congress.

**Roger Schonfeld** leads a strategic consulting and research program at Ithaka S+R for academic libraries, scholarly publishers, learned societies, and museums.

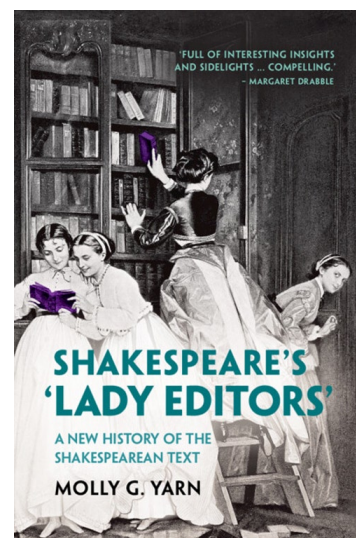


Sources: Princeton University Press; Ithaka S+R

### Shakespeare's 'Lady Editors': A New History of the Shakespearean Text

Molly G. Yarn  
Cambridge University Press  
352 pp., 2021

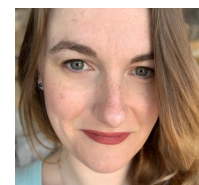
During Shakespeare's lifetime, only about half his plays were published. They were published in small quarto editions. When his complete works were published after his death in impressive folio editions, the texts of some plays had changed significantly. Later generations of editors and researchers wrestled with these differences to give us the relatively stable texts that we have today.



As Shakespeare's reputation grew, so did the reverence accorded the texts and the honor that accrued from working with them. This created a system of privilege that admitted only the select, mostly white and financially privileged, with access to private and restricted libraries where they worked out their versions of Shakespeare, monuments to his greatness and their reputations.

In this bold, alternative version of Shakespearean editorial history, Yarn recovers the lives and labors of almost 70 women editors. She challenges the received wisdom that the Shakespeare editorial profession was entirely male-dominated until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, transforming our understanding of the history of editing, of the nature of editing as an enterprise, and of how we read Shakespeare in history.

**Molly Yarn.** Yarn is a book historian and theatre practitioner. She came to this synthesis through a series of endeavors that led to her doctorate at Cambridge and in turn to *Shakespeare's 'Lady Editors.'*

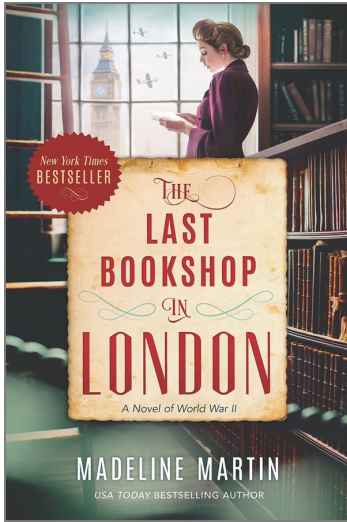


Sources: Cambridge University Press; mollyyarn.com

*Books in Brief, continued*

**The Last Bookshop in London: A Novel of World War II**

Madeline Martin  
 Hanover Square Press  
 320 pp., 2021



“A love letter to the power of books to unite us, to hold the world together when it’s falling apart around our ears,” says Karen Robards, author of *The Black Swan of Paris*, about *The Last Bookshop in London*.

August 1939: Grace and Viv, two young women from Norfolk, travel to London on the eve of World War II to lodge with Mrs. Weatherford, the best friend

of Grace’s mother. Viv is hopeful of a job at Harrods; Grace doesn’t have proper references, so she must content herself with a job at the local shop Primrose Hill Books (she’s not much of a reader). Primrose Hill’s owner, Mr. Evans, grudgingly hires Grace at Mrs. Weatherford’s behest. Mr. Evans sets out some conditions: Grace may stay for only six months, after which he will provide her with references and she can seek employment elsewhere. He didn’t count on Grace’s entrepreneurial and community spirit, or the imminent war, or people’s insatiable need for words and stories during hard times. Grace’s first task is to make effective blackout curtains for the shop, as the war and air raids begin. Decency prevails in Martin’s historically accurate book, despite the horrors of the London Blitz, which Grace, as an air raid warden, witnesses firsthand.

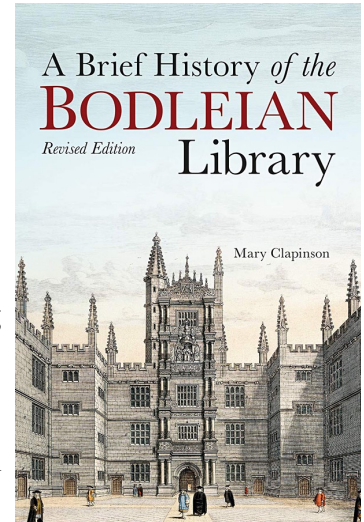


**Madeline Martin** is an international bestselling author of WWII historical fiction as well as historical romance that spans from medieval castles to Regency ballrooms. She lives in Florida with her fiancé, two daughters, and her spoiled cat.

Sources: Hanover Square Press; madelinemartin.com

**A Brief History of the Bodleian Library**

Mary Clapinson  
 Bodleian Library  
 288 pp., 2021



How did a library founded over four hundred years ago grow to become the world-renowned institution it is today, home to over 13 million items? From its foundation by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1598 to the opening of the Weston Library in 2015, this illustrated account shows how the Library’s history has been involved with the British monarchy and political events throughout the centuries. The history of the Library is also a history of collectors and collections, and this book traces the story of major donations and purchases, making use of the Library’s own substantial archives to show how it came to house key items such as early confirmations of the Magna Carta, Shakespeare’s First Folio, and the manuscript of Jane Austen’s earliest writings, among many others. The book also appries readers of present concerns, including building individual subject libraries across Oxford and the perennial search for more space.

This revised edition brings the history of the Bodleian Library up to the present moment. Beautifully illustrated with prints, portraits, manuscripts, and archival material, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of libraries and collections.

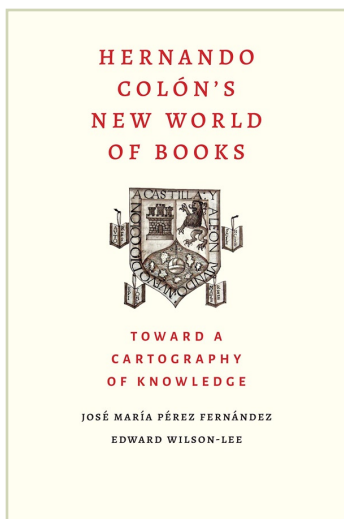
**Mary Clapinson** was on the staff of the Western Manuscript Department in the Bodleian Library for 35 years. In 1986, she became the first woman to hold a Keepership in the Bodleian.



Sources: University of Chicago Press; goodreads.com

*Books in Brief, concluded***Hernando Colón's New World of Books: Toward a Cartography of Knowledge**

José María Pérez Fernández and Edward Wilson-Lee  
Yale University Press  
344 pp., 2021



**Hernando Colón was a son of Christopher Columbus, and he used the wealth that came to him to further his scholarly pursuits and build a remarkable library.**

This engaging book offers the first comprehensive account of the extraordinary projects which culminated in the creation of the greatest library of the Renaissance,

with ambitions to be universal – that is, to bring together copies of every book, on every subject, and in every language. Pérez Fernández and Wilson-Lee situate Hernando's projects within the rapidly changing landscape of early modern knowledge, providing a concise history of the collection of information and the origins of public libraries, examining the challenges he faced and the solutions he devised. The two authors combine "meticulous research with deep and original thought," shedding light on the history of libraries and the organization of knowledge. The result is an essential reference text for scholars of the early modern period, and for anyone interested in the expansion and dissemination of information and knowledge.



**José María Pérez Fernández** is professor of English at the University of Granada.

**Edward Wilson-Lee** is fellow and lecturer in English at Sidney Sussex College, at the University of Cambridge.

Source: Yale University Press

**An Accidental Bookseller: A Personal Memoir of Foyles**

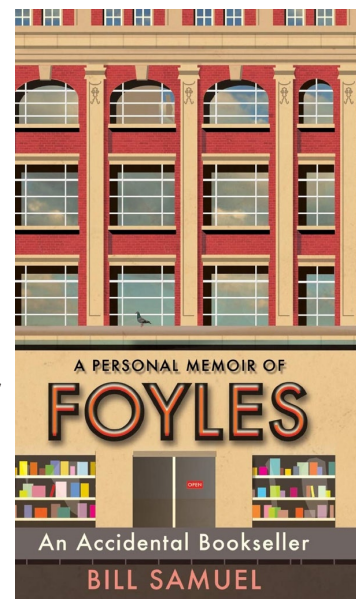
Bill Samuel  
Puxley Productions Ltd  
174 pp., 2019

W & G Foyle, Ltd. – usually called simply Foyles – is a bookseller with a chain of seven stores in England. It is best known for its flagship store on London's Charing Cross Road, well known for its specialty and second-hand bookshops. Foyles once held a place in the *Guinness Book of Records* for its 30 miles of shelf space and for the number of titles on display. Foyles was once known for its eccentric practices, and over the years has faced generational changes of leadership, ownership (it was purchased by Waterstones in 2018), and modernization.

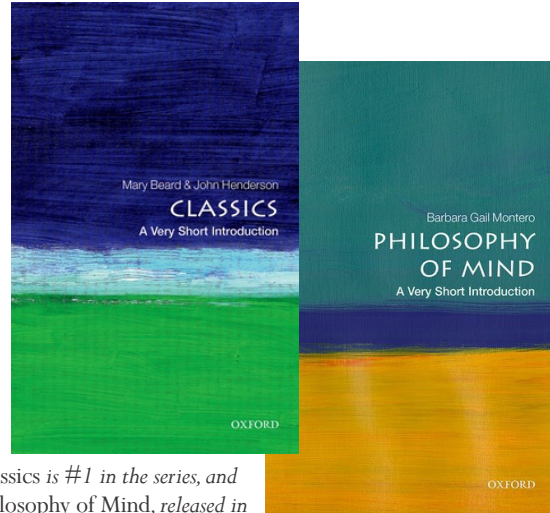
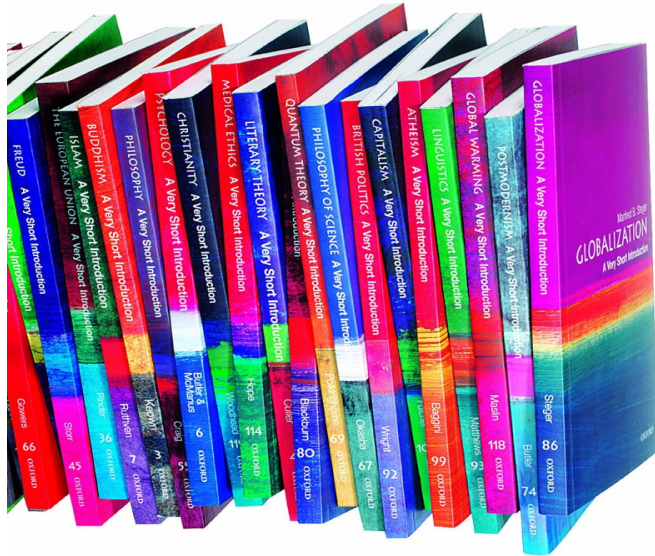
In this very personal memoir, Bill Samuel, grandson of founder W. F. Foyle, describes his relationship with the iconic and much loved bookstore. From fond childhood memories of his eccentric and brilliant grandfather William Foyle, 'the Barnum of Bookselling' and his aunt, the beautiful, charming, witty, self-centered and at times utterly ruthless Christina Foyle, to the 21<sup>st</sup>-century rejuvenation of a dying family business, *An Accidental Bookseller* will appeal to all who have their own memories of Foyles.

**Bill Samuel**, a chartered accountant, was born into Foyles, but his path to rebuilding it took the long way, via Denmark, East Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, where he undertook a number of business ventures that would provide a fascinating story in their own right. Now semiretired, he serves on the boards of several charitable organizations.

Sources: Amazon; Wikipedia







Classics is #1 in the series, and Philosophy of Mind, released in early 2022, is #691.

In 1995, Oxford University Press launched the Very Short Introduction series with the title Classics by Mary Beard and John Henderson, instructors in Classics at the University of Cambridge. Similarly, each title in the series is written by specialists for a general audience. Writing in the New Yorker, Kathryn Schulz confirms the success of the series, which has sold over eight million copies in 49 languages. She attributes this to a yearning for mastery (or at least the illusion of it) making “a basically nerdy series from a basically nerdy publishing house impressively popular.” Over 700 are now in print, with another 50 planned for release in the next 12 months. Schulz, writing in 2017, states that the list of planned titles was over 1200, but conceptually, the series, like knowledge itself, is limitless.



### 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](mailto:cbrown@atlantic.net), to submit or for assistance in preparing your article.

## Join FBS!

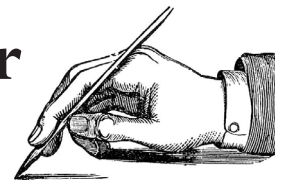
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group. You will find contact emails on the last page of this newsletter.



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.

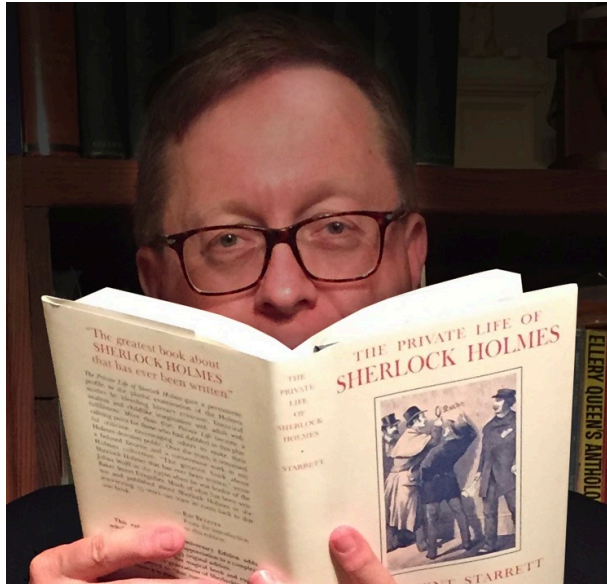
## Write for Your Newsletter!



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

### April 2022



### Ray Betzner: Studies in Starrett Virtual Meeting via Zoom Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Sherlock Holmes is a name we all know; Vincent Starrett perhaps less so. But we should know about Starrett as a fascinating author and bibliophile in his own right and as the writer who laid the foundation for serious Sherlock Holmes studies and who kicked Sherlock mania into high gear.

Starrett (1886–1974) was fated to be a bibliophile – he was born in the rooms above his grandfather’s bookshop. He became a Chicago newspaper reporter in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and then began to write mysteries for various pulps in the 1920s and 1930s. He even wrote a Sherlock Holmes adventure. But his most famous work was *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* (1933), which combined his investigative nature as a reporter and his love of Holmes and mysteries. Ray Beltzer became a Holmes addict at an early age and from there discovered Starrett, which has become a subject of long-term study and the fascinating blog, *Studies in Starrett*. For Zoom link, contact **Carl Nudi**, [carlnudi@netscape.net](mailto:carlnudi@netscape.net).

### May 2022



### Florida Bibliophile Society Annual Banquet – Guest Speaker: Sara Penner, Author of *The Lost Apothecary*

**Brio Tuscan Grille  
International Mall, Tampa, FL**

**May 15, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**

Sarah Penner’s debut novel *The Lost Apothecary* was a *New York Times* bestseller the first week of its release in March 2021. It has become an international bestseller and is scheduled for translation into 40 languages. It has already been optioned for development as a limited television series.

Sarah works full-time in finance and is a member of the Historical Novel Society and the Women’s Fiction Writers Association. She and her husband live in St. Petersburg, Florida. Sarah’s presentation promises to be informative and entertaining. Maybe she’ll even give us a clue as to what’s next.



## Book Events and Podcasts

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

### Florida Book Events – March–April 2022

– April 22, 6–9 p.m. –

**Oxford Exchange Book Fair** (est. 2015)  
420 West Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa ([bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/](http://bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/))

– April 25, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival: Next Steps** (est. 1980) ([tampastory.org/](http://tampastory.org/))

– April 30 –

**Independent Bookstore Day**  
Shop Your Local Bookstore!  
(<https://www.indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day>)

– April 30 –

**Orlando Book Festival**  
Orlando Public Library  
(<https://attend.ocls.info/event/5804591#branch>)

– May – Dates not announced –

**Univ. of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels**  
Gainesville, FL (est. 2002)  
([www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml](http://www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml))

– May 1, 8, & 15, 6:30 p.m. –

**Little Haiti Book Festival 2022**  
May 1, in person, Little Haiti Cultural Complex  
May 8 & 15, online  
(<https://www.miamibookfair.com/littlehaiti/>)

– May 13, 6:30 p.m. –

**Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival: Online Festival Celebration**  
Tampa (est. 1980) ([tampastory.org/](http://tampastory.org/))

– May 20, 10:30 AM –

**Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL**  
Book of the month: *ArtCurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd and Strangely Wonderful in Art History* by Jennifer Dasal

### 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:

#### March 16 – The Insect Crisis

Journalist Oliver Milman discusses his new book, *The Insect Crisis: The Fall of the Tiny Empires that Run the World*. Oliver, environment correspondent for *The Guardian* newspaper, addresses the shocking decline in the number of insects due to the loss of their natural habitat, pesticides, and climate change. He outlines the overall importance of insects from the pollination of plants to their vital role in the food chain.

#### March 11 – Read Dangerously

Iranian American author Azar Nafisi has written a book called *Read Dangerously: The Subversive Power of Literature in Troubled Times*. In 2003, Azar's memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran* became a worldwide bestseller as she shared her experiences of living, working, and reading in Iran under its repressive regime. *Read Dangerously* is composed of letters to Azar's father. Azar addresses immigration, Donald Trump, *The Handmaid's Tale*, George Floyd and James Baldwin, and pandemic existence, as well as her former life in Iran.

#### March 5 – David Ruggles Book Collecting Prize

We learn about the David Ruggles Prize, a book-collecting contest designed to encourage and support young collectors of color. Our guests are Sara Powell, who is one of the prize judges, and Pat Olson, who is Assistant to the Prize Jury.

#### Feb. 28 – On Gold Mountain

*On Gold Mountain* by Lisa See was published in 1995. It's a remarkable memoir that tells the story of one Chinese American family and their immigrant experience. The book is still making headlines today. It has been adapted into an opera with a new production planned for May, and it has also become a teaching resource. Lisa explains how the memoir has impacted her own family and influenced her career.

*Book Events and Podcasts, continued***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:*

**March 23 – Booker Prize winner Damon Galgut on how he writes novels.** Galgut is a South African novelist and playwright. He was awarded the 2021 Booker Prize for his novel *The Promise* and shortlisted for the prize in 2003 and 2010.

**March 17 – Brendan Sherar on Biblio.com's Used Book Marketplace and first ever Virtual Book Fair.** Biblio.com started as a price comparison engine for new and used books in 2000. Later, this price comparison engine became SearchBiblio.com, famous for several years as the Internet's fastest "metasearch" site for books. In the summer of 2003, Biblio.com launched as a used books marketplace.

**March 12 – Glenn Horowitz on being a "notorious" bookseller & archives dealer.** Horowitz is an agent in the sale and placement of culturally significant archives to research institutions throughout the United States. Authors, artists, musicians, designers, and photographers represented include Bob Dylan, Norman Mailer, James Salter, Eve Babitz, Deborah Eisenberg, David Foster Wallace, etc.

**March 4 – John Sargent on his career in book publishing.** Sargent is an American book publisher; until recently, he was the CEO of Macmillan Publishers USA and Executive Vice President of the Georg von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group where he oversaw global trade operations; he was also responsible for Macmillan Learning, the company's U.S.-based higher education business.

**Feb. 28 – Jerry Kelly on book and bookseller catalogue design.** Jerry Kelly is a book designer, calligrapher and type designer. Before starting his own design business in 1998, he was Vice President of The Stinehour Press. Prior to this, he worked as a designer at A. Colish. Jerry's work has been honored frequently.

**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.

*Recent and upcoming episodes:*

**Mar. 31, 2 p.m. – Hannah Farber: *Underwriters of the United States: How Insurance Shaped the American Founding.*** Unassuming but formidable, American maritime insurers used their position at the pinnacle of global trade to shape the new nation. The international information they gathered and the capital they generated enabled them to play central roles in state building and economic development. During the Revolution, they helped the U.S. negotiate foreign loans, sell state debts, and establish a single national bank. Afterward, they increased their influence by lending money to the federal government and to its citizens. Deeply and imaginatively researched, *Underwriters of the U.S.* uses marine insurers to reveal a startlingly original story of risk, money, and power in the founding era.

**Jan. 28, 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?

**Book Events and Podcasts, concluded****Rare Book Cafe**

**Rare Book Cafe** 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, RBC streams on most Saturdays. View on [Rare Book Cafe website \(on Facebook\)](#) or YouTube, or listen to *Rare Book Cafe Raw* on podcast sites.

Rare Book Cafe returns soon, and it will include, among other fascinating topics from the world of books, an interview with FBS member Ben Wiley speaking on the recent Walt Whitman presentation by Ed S. Centeno.

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

- Portrait of a Bibliophile XIV: Marx and Engels
- My Uncle Ian, by James Fleming
- Fred Bason’s Diary, Episodes 4 and 5
- Fred Bason’s Diary, Episodes 6
- Some Uncollected Authors XLIII: Gilbert White

**University of Oxford Podcasts**

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

[Textiles in Libraries: Context & Conservation series](#)  
[Fantasy Literature](#) – Fantasy literature has emerged as one of the most popular and influential genres in the world.

**Grolier Club of New York Videos**

The Grolier Club of New York has posted [many book-related videos on Vimeo](#), including virtual exhibition openings, tours, talks, and show-and-tell episodes.

*Recent episodes:*

**March 25 – Tattoo Books Panel Talk**

**March 18 – Exhibition Tour: “Photographs at the Edge: Vittorio Sella and Wilfred Thesiger”**

**March 12 – Special Functions Lecture: “Revival of Plain Wrapper Press” Week Lecture – The Daniel Press**

**March 11 – Special Functions Lecture: Holly Smith on “Archival Treasures of Historically Black College and Universities”**

**March 11 – Special Functions Lecture: Andrew Pettegree on “Private Collecting and the Salvation of the Library Ideal”**

**March 11 – Special Functions Lecture: Ross King on “Vespasiano da Bisticci”**

**March 11 – Special Functions Lecture: Dennis Duncan on “The History of the Index”**

**March 11 – Special Functions Lecture: The “Bristol Merlin”**

**Princeton University Library**

**Feb. 7 – [Shannon Mattern: Case Logics: A Catalog of Intellectual Furnishings](#)**. Chairs, desks, shelves, cabinets, commodes, and credenzas: much of the furniture we design and build – or buy, or appropriate, or kludge together – serves to store, organize, and preserve our media. These media-furnishings are material supports for the delivery of and engagement with information. They frame organizational logics, access policies, and technical protocols. In this talk I’ll provide an overview of my ongoing “case logics” research project.



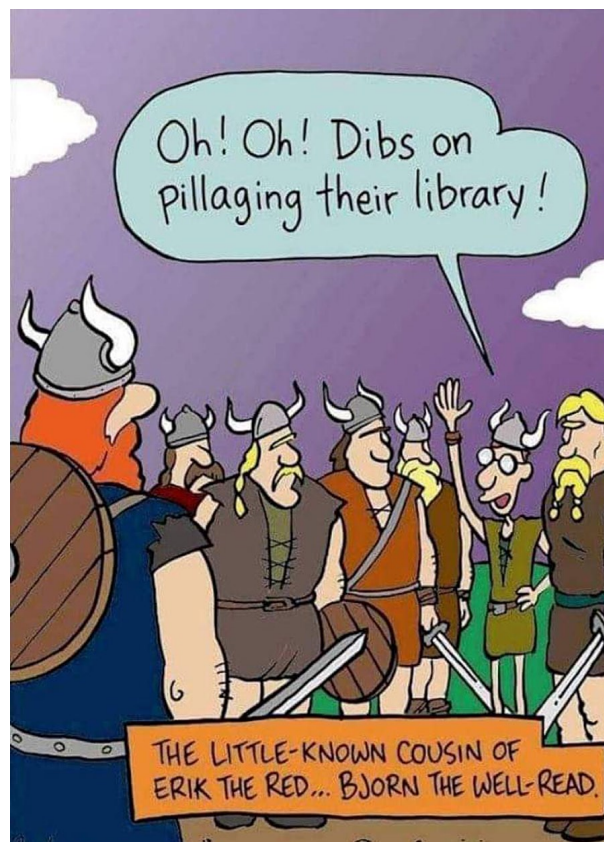
## ...and More

**Codex** – A codex is what most people know as a traditional bound book.

Why the fancy name? There are two reasons.

First, historically, “books” were recorded on clay tablets and then scrolls made from papyrus, animal hide, or tree bark. Because relatively few people could read or write for most of human history, much of what was written was administrative, legal, or religious. Fortunately, not that many copies were needed, because reproducing these texts often required lengthy preparation of the writing surfaces and intensive labor to copy the texts onto them.

Second, in ancient Roman and Egypt, a single literary work might occupy several scrolls, and the parts of it, in Latin at least, were called “*liber*,” or book. We tend to use the word “book” for an entire literary work as well as its compact, pages-with-covers form. The word *codex* gives us a way of speaking about a specific physical book form without ambiguity. Of course, there are many ways to bind a book, but that is another “*liber*” in the story.



At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book – that string of confused, alien ciphers – shivered into meaning. Words spoke to you, gave up their secrets; at that moment, whole universes opened. You became, irrevocably, a reader.

– Albert Manguel, *A History of Reading* (1996)

## 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:** Another gala occasion was experienced at the home of Ben and Joyce Wiley. Our appetizers and cocktails were followed by a delicious buffet of members' specialties, dessert, and coffee. We lingered over conversation, Christmas crackers, and a surprise gift exchange.

**January 16 • Elaine Togneri – What if? Writing Short Fiction for Fun and Profit:** 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 – The Private Library:** 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 shared insights and selections from his outstanding Whitman collection.

**April 1–3 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair** is one of the largest book fairs in the U.S. It was held as usual at the St. Pete Coliseum. FBS hosted a table at the entrance where we answered questions and held parcels for visitors. Many visitors signed up for our newsletter, and some joined FBS! On Sunday, FBS members provided free book evaluations.

**April 19 (Tues., 7 p.m.) • 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 banquet is possible and advisable. Stay tuned!

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



**Endpaper • By the time you read this...**



Originally, I thought this title would fill out simply as “...the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair will be over.” But the weekend was more eventful than that, and the loss of our friend Jerry is foremost in many minds and casts a shadow over the weekend’s events, and yet, as many have observed, Jerry left while doing something he truly loved.

In fact, it would be appropriate to dedicate the weekend and its activities, beginning with the Whitman event and FBS’s participation in new ways at the book fair, to Jerry who worked so hard to make FBS a success in general and was delighted to see the recent plans come together in such a great way.

As I’ve mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Florida Bibliophile Society has many devoted members, each of whom makes a special contribution to the group’s success. Their appreciation of books

varies from avid reading to avid collecting to avid research – I’m sure you see the common theme. We’re a bit passionate about what we do and the books we love and what we contribute to each other, and over time, we grow as readers, collectors, or researchers, and we grow as individuals. Our fellow members contribute to that growth, and we develop an affection for each other that makes our participation all the more rewarding.

Jerry has been a big part of that. In true bibliophile fashion, he has been very generous with so many of us, sharing his knowledge, his time, and while “infectious enthusiasm” may seem cliché, it nonetheless truly applies in Jerry’s case.

In all of this, we have much to be grateful for, and so our sadness is leavened with appreciation, gratitude and many happy memories of departed colleagues, and FBS carries on as a tribute to them. — Charles

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## The Florida Bibliophile Society

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