

# The Florida Bibliophile

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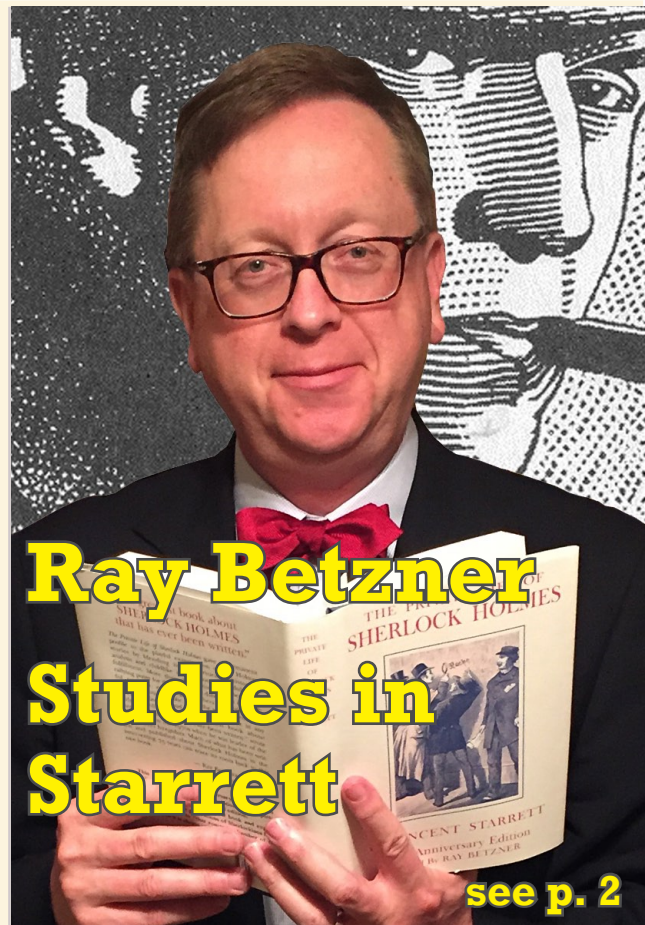


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September newsletter deadline: August 31, 2022 (see p. 23)

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](#).



**Ray Betzner  
Studies in  
Starrett**

**see p. 2**



**FBS Annual  
Banquet  
Preview**

**see p. 17**



**Florida Bibliophile Society**  
A community of book lovers

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

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

**I**n order to avoid a scheduling conflict with Easter, the Society's April meeting was moved to Tuesday evening, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Although many members of the Florida Bibliophile Society were (and still are) shaken by the early-April sudden passing of FBS Vice President Jerry Morris, others picked up the baton on his behalf. Long-term member Carl Mario Nudi ably set up and managed this Zoom-only meeting, and President Charles Brown introduced our speaker, Ray Betzner, who is the author of the blog *Studies in Starrett*.

Ray was born in Pennsylvania and studied journalism at West Virginia University. He spent ten years as a reporter for daily newspapers and then shifted to working in public relations for colleges and universities. Before his retirement, he was Associate Vice President at Temple University in Philadelphia. He has had a life-long passionate interest in Sherlock Holmes and in the writer, bibliophile, and Holmes enthusiast and proponent Charles Vincent Emerson Starrett (1886–1974).

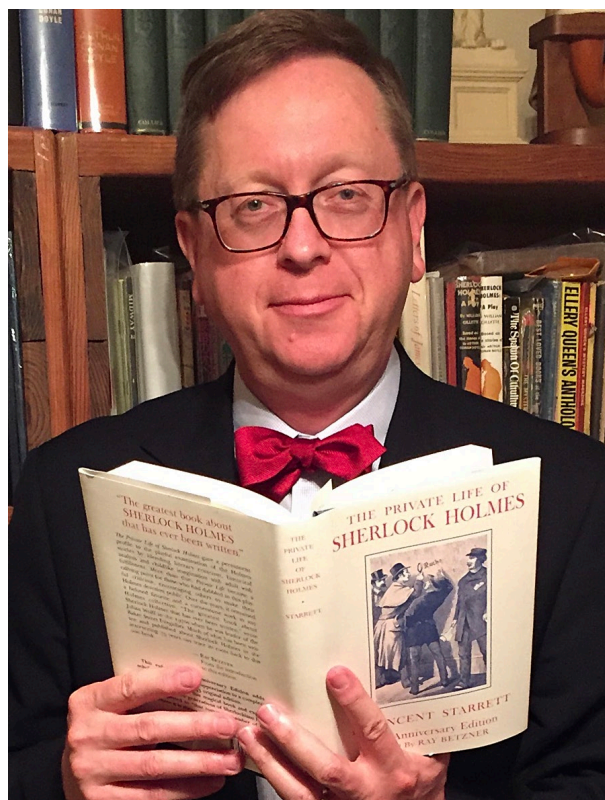
Charles quoted from the introduction to Ray's blog, *Studies in Starrett*:

After failing my drivers' test twice at the age of 15, I finally passed and immediately drove to the McKeesport, Pa., branch of the Carnegie Library. It was here, on a lower shelf where the dust tended to collect, that I found two books that would remain companions for the next four decades: *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* with an introduction by Christopher Morley, founder of the Baker Street Irregulars; and *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* by Vincent Starrett.

In this book, Starrett wrote about Sherlock Holmes in a loving fashion that was childlike,

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\* "BSI" is the Baker Street Irregulars, a Sherlockian club founded in 1934 by Christopher Morley. The name is taken from the band of street urchins that Holmes used as an informal spy network. BSI membership is invitational, and when inducted, new members are given an investiture name derived from the Holmes stories; in Ray Betzner's case, this name is "The Agony Column." Note this passage from "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" (1892): "Sherlock Holmes was, as I expected, lounging about his sitting-room in his dressing-gown, reading the agony column of The Times and smoking his before breakfast pipe ..."



Ray Betzner, Sherlockian and Starrettian, with a copy of *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* by Vincent Starrett

without being childish. He also introduced me to the BSI, a group of Sherlock Holmes devotees who would gather each year in New York to celebrate Holmes's birth. It seemed impossible that the son of a steel worker could one day become a member, and yet, here I am all these many years later happily bearing the BSI investiture "The Agony Column." \*

Over the years, I have gathered up bits and pieces by Starrett in books and magazines. I created this blog to share these discoveries with that small but merry band of fellow Starrettians."

To this introduction, Charles appended the comment "which after today I hope we will all be a part of."

Ray began by offering his condolences on Jerry Morris's passing, and then turned to establishing some vocabulary. He informed us that he was a Sherlockian, a Sherlock Holmes nut; he defined the "canon" as the 60 Sherlock Holmes stories reportedly



*Minutes, continued*

written by Arthur Conan Doyle [but, he noted, we know better, they were really written by Dr. Watson!]; and told us the Baker Street Irregulars is a group of Holmes enthusiasts founded by Christopher Morley, Edgar W. Smith, and Vincent Starrett back in the 1930s, which continues today.

Ray described Vincent Starrett's life as a journey from childhood fascination to adult obsession and as a story of friendships based on admiration of books and Sherlock Holmes.

Starrett was born in Toronto in 1886. His family soon moved to Chicago, but Starrett himself continued to summer in Toronto, where he could roam his grandfather's bookstore. Starrett wrote about his own childhood:

My happiest recollections of books and reading are the hours I spent in Grandfather Young's bookshop in Toronto. My particular playground was at the back, a small room given over exclusively to children's books, where on bright days the sunlight fell through a back window in a warm blaze of friendliness such as I have never experienced elsewhere. . . . It is impossible to describe the radiance of that little room as the sunlight picked out the titles



Charles Vincent Emerson Starrett in a favorite portrait photograph which he called "The Dying Poet." Today, Starrett is known best for his works related to Sherlock Holmes, but he thought of himself first and foremost as a poet.

of the books and brought out the illustrations on their spines — soldiers, horses, cowboys, Indians, gold diggers, frigates, ships in full sail and ships sinking beneath the waves, a stirring panorama of all the traditional scenes of peril and adventure.

Ray suggested that Starrett's life could be understood as an attempt to recreate that childhood room.

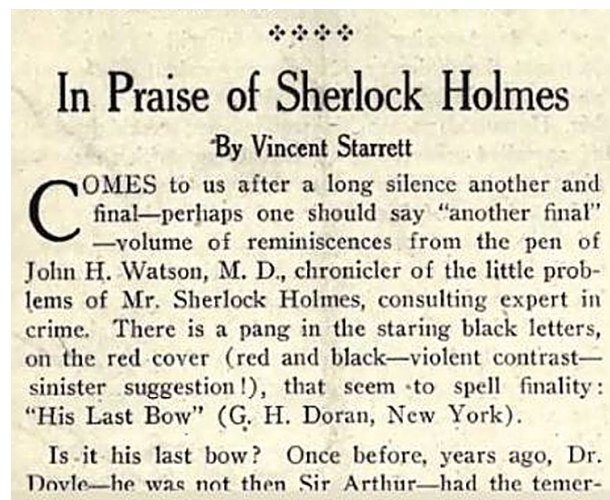
Starrett's aunts introduced him to the Sherlock Holmes stories. Here's how Starrett described the enchantment of reading his first Holmes book:

I sat down with it on the front steps in a blaze of summer sunshine. My aunts came and went on the porch above me but, in the words of the old Biblical writers, I heard them not. I was still reading Sherlock Holmes when the lamps were lit inside the house, and I was called to dinner.

Ray told us that "Starrett began collecting books as a teen and never stopped. After leaving high school, he



Adventure books by G. A. Henty in Ray Betzner's Starrett collection. Young Vincent Starrett would have found these in his grandfather's Toronto Oxford Street bookstore — no doubt more interesting than the ecclesiastical fare that was the main stock of the store. Starrett collected Henty as an adult and often mentioned Henty in his memoirs; one of the books carries Starrett's signature.

*Minutes, continued*

*Starrett's first extended article about Sherlock Holmes appeared in Reedy's Mirror in February 1918. In it he expressed his enthusiasm for the character and collecting any and all materials related to it, which he labeled the “literature of Sherlock Holmes,” becoming the first person to assert in print that there was such a literature.*

went to work on the fast-paced Chicago newspapers of the 19-teens and twenties. He was also putting together authoritative collections of Stephen Crane, Robert Louis Stevenson, Ambrose Bierce, Edgar Allan Poe, and the Welsh writer Arthur Machen.”

In 1922, for a periodical called *Reedy's Mirror*, Starrett wrote his first major article on Sherlock Holmes. The occasion was the publication of a collection of Sherlock Holmes stories entitled *His Last Bow*. Ray described this article not as a book review, but rather as a love letter. Starrett wrote, “It is very probable that Sherlock Holmes is the most popular single figure in contemporary fiction . . . He is the transcendental detective par excellence; an authentic figure in the world's literature; a genuine and artistic creation.”

Ray further quoted from a 1917 letter Starrett had written to the editor of *The Bookman* magazine, asking for a copy of an article about Holmes:

I'm anxious to get the paper now, and I'll be greatly obliged to you if you can help me to it. I'm trying to collect, as faithfully as may be, the ‘literature of Sherlock Holmes,’ who is my favorite character in light fiction, and altogether a delightful creation.

Ray suggested that with the phrase “the literature

of Sherlock Holmes,” Starrett was one of the first to recognize there was a growing body of Sherlockian commentary that existed outside the original stories.

Starrett established his own career as a writer. He wrote a series of stories featuring a character called Jimmy Lavender, his version of Sherlock Holmes. The stories were syndicated and ran in American newspapers throughout the 1930s. He considered himself a poet first — Ray showed us a photograph of Starrett that Starrett described as his “dying poet photo.” Starrett also wrote a series of mystery novels in the “elegant sleuth” style of the day that were popular in their time but did not survive the literary emergence of the “hard boiled” detectives of Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

For Christmas 1920, Starrett wrote a short story that used the conventions of a Sherlock Holmes mystery to gently mock the obsession of book collectors like himself. The story, “The Unique Hamlet,” concerns the rarest Shakespeare folio in the world. The book has been stolen, and Holmes recovers one page of the manuscript. When Watson asks him why he saved only a single page, Holmes explains:

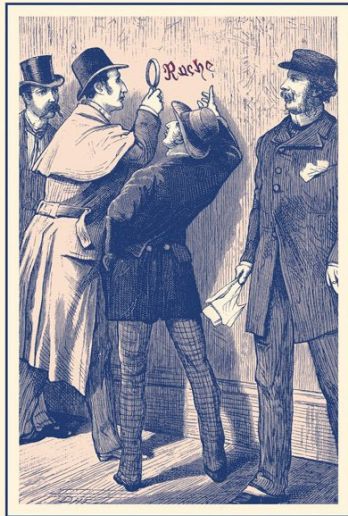
A fancy, to preserve so accurate a characterization of either of our book collecting friends. The line is a real jewel. See, the good Polonius says: ‘That he is mad, ‘tis true: ‘tis true, ‘tis pittie; and pittie it is true.’ A little later Holmes says: “They are strange people, these book collectors.

The Christmas 1930 number of *The Golden Book Magazine* published an essay by Starrett entitled “The Real Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,” which described the ways in which Conan Doyle used Holmeslike methods to investigate real life cases. The article was a great success, and Starrett wrote a follow-on book of essays called *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*. Some of these essays “played the game” and treated Holmes as a living, breathing person. Others discussed Arthur Conan Doyle and his relationship to the great detective. Additionally, there were chapters that traced Holmes's pop culture impact, by looking at the illustrators who had created the images we recognize today, such as the



*Minutes, continued*

## THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES



By VINCENT STARRETT  
75th Anniversary Edition  
Edited By RAY BETZNER

*The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes is Starrett's most well-known and important book. When it was published in 1933, it was groundbreaking and laid the foundation for Holmes collecting. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition uses the 1933 cover design, adding words about the edition and the editor, Ray Betzner.*

deerstalker cap and the curved pipe. The last chapter was a "Selected Bibliography" of major Holmes editions and was essentially a catalogue of Starrett's collection. For generations, this chapter served as a guide for serious Holmes book collectors. The book was published in 1933. Ray exclaimed, "While its revelations would not be surprising to any modern day Sherlockian, the fact is there *were* no Sherlockians at this time." Ray showed us a bookshelf with his collection of the various editions of the *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*.

There is one particular paragraph in *Private Life* that Ray quoted in full:

"But there can be no grave for Sherlock Holmes or Watson ... Shall they not always live in Baker Street? Are they not there

this instant, as one writes? ... Outside, the hansoms rattle through the rain, and Moriarty plans his latest devilry. Within, the sea-coal flames upon the hearth, and Holmes and Watson take their well-won ease ... So they still live for all that love them well: in a romantic chamber of the heart: in a nostalgic country of the mind: where it is always 1895."

Starrett hoped he had written a book that would be as popular as the Holmes stories themselves. And while the book had some success, it slowly slipped from the shelves. But then Christopher Morley, a New York writer, sent a letter to Starrett praising his book and inviting him to attend the first official meeting of a group of Holmes enthusiasts that Morley called The Baker Street Irregulars.

Morley and Starrett became fast friends; according to Ray, "they shared a love of good books, tobacco, and decent booze." Still, Morley was a Rhodes scholar and a classically educated writer, while Starrett



*Christopher Morley (1890–1957) was a journalist, novelist, poet, and essayist. He rose to prominence in the 1910s with his novels Parnassus on Wheels (1917) and its sequel The Haunted Bookshop (1919), both still in print. (See The Florida Bibliophile, October 2018.)*

*Minutes, continued*

didn't finish high school and was a self-educated polymath. Yet, their close friendship — made fast by their shared love of Sherlock Holmes — remained strong for the better part of three decades, until Morley's death in 1957. *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* was instrumental in bringing others from around the country into what today would be called a Sherlock Holmes fandom.

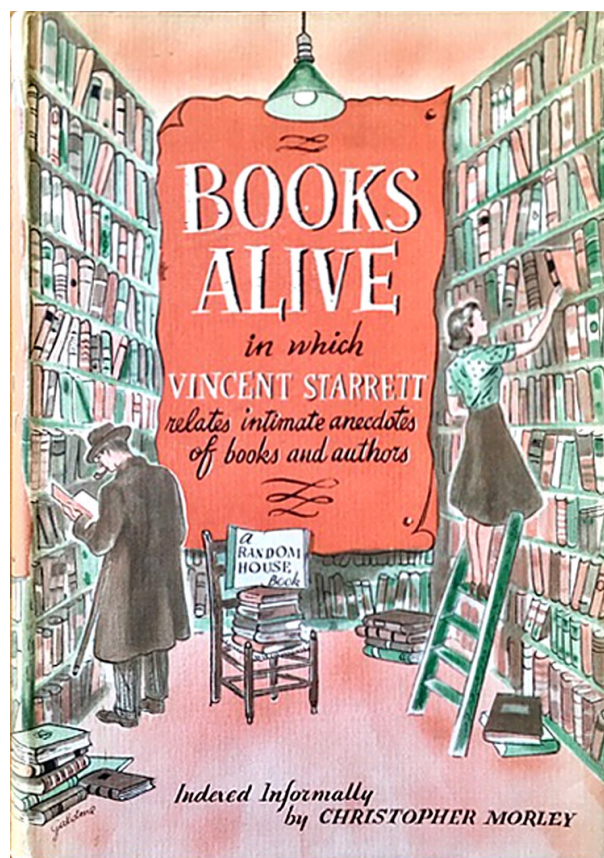
Besides Morley, another important Starrett connection was to a Vice President at General Motors named Edgar W. Smith. Smith wrote to Starrett to compliment him about the book. Starrett told Smith to look up Morley, and the troika was complete. These three men would be the heart and soul of the Sherlock Holmes movement in this country for 30 years.

Even as the Sherlock Holmes movement was gathering steam in the 1930s and '40s, Starrett's career as a mystery and detective writer was floundering. Starrett needed a new career. He had always written about his love for books and collecting, and it was no surprise when he re-invented himself as a book columnist for Chicago newspapers, naming his column "Books Alive."

The German blitz of London in the early 1940s particularly troubled Starrett. He had previously visited London and walked up and down Baker Street, imagining which of these homes had once been 221B. Now whole blocks of Baker Street were burned husks. To deal with his fear and sadness, Starrett wrote a sonnet to a fading age. Ray played for us a recording of Starrett reciting this sonnet, entitled "221B":

Here dwell together still two men of note  
Who never lived and so can never die:  
How very near they seem, yet how remote  
That age before the world went all awry.  
But still the game's afoot for those with ears  
Attuned to catch the distant view-halloo:  
England is England yet, for all our fears—  
Only those things the heart believes are true.

A yellow fog swirls past the window-pane  
As night descends upon this fabled street:  
A lonely hansom splashes through the rain,



Starrett published *Books Alive: A Profane Chronicle of Literary Endeavor and Literary Misdemeanor* in 1940. In the introduction, he described it as a "book of gossip" whose purpose was "to help make literature alive and interesting." Starrett compared it to a famous example of the literary anecdotes genre, *Curiosities of Literature* (1791) by Isaac D'Israeli, with the remark that D'Israeli "did not tell enough." Published by Random House and furnished with "An Unconventional Index" by Christopher Morley, the book gave Starrett's career new life. *Books Alive* was followed by *Bookman's Holiday: The Private Satisfactions of an Incurable Collector* (Random House, 1942) and *Books and Bipedes* (Argus Books, 1947).

The ghostly gas lamps fail at twenty feet.  
Here, though the world explode, these two  
survive,  
And it is always eighteen ninety-five.

Ray summarized, "In less than 100 words, Starrett summed up the hope and joy we feel from the eternal nature of the Holmes mysteries and the equally endless friendship between Holmes and Watson."

Ray also related another anecdote of friendship in Starrett's own words:

Once more when financial disaster threatened,  
I was obliged to sell some of my books. I had  
brought together perhaps the finest collection  
of Sherlockiana in the world, which I prized  
above gold and rubies; but when the rub



*Minutes, concluded*

came, it had to go. I was pretty sick about this catastrophe, and for a time, I thought I never would collect books again.

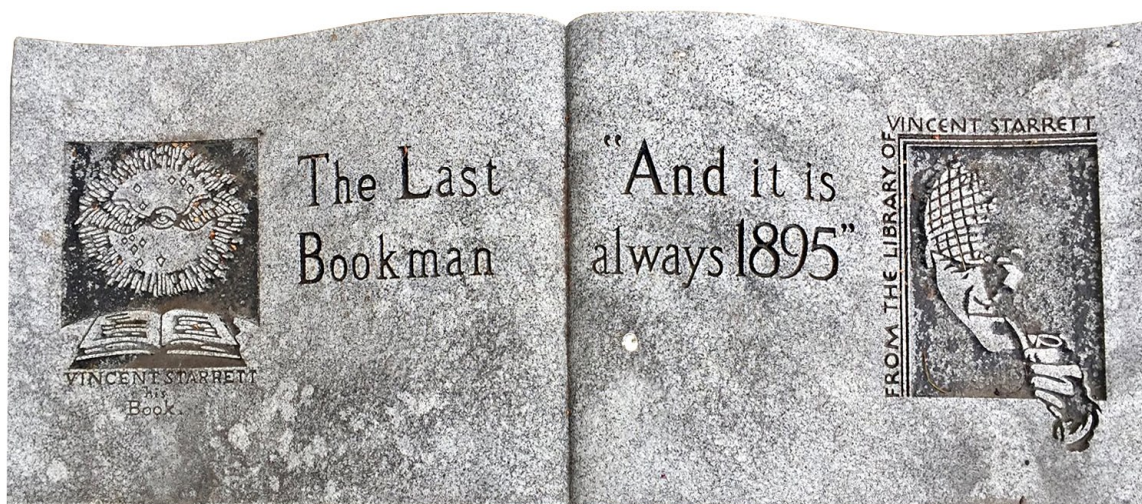
Then a beautiful thing happened. My loss had been well publicized by the appearance of Scribner's fine catalogue of my collection, and one other collector at least knew how I was feeling about it. Inspired by my enthusiasm, (Dr. Logan) Cledening had been making a Sherlock collection of his own; and one day I received a letter from him. It was a casual sort of letter.

'My dear boy,' it said in effect, 'I find that I am not getting as much fun out of my Holmes collection as I had anticipated. I hear that you have just parted with your own collection, and I think you ought to start another. Why not start with mine? It is small but goodish – it contains a number of the better pieces that you might have difficulty duplicating – and I am boxing it up this afternoon and getting it off to you tomorrow morning. You will really take a

load off my mind if you will accept it.'

It is unnecessary to underscore the generosity of the gift or of the doctor's fellow feeling. I suppose no finer thing ever was done for one collector by another. The box contained some twenty of the most desirable items in the field, including the desperately rare first printing of *A Study in Scarlet*. It was the nucleus of a new collection and, touched and overwhelmed by the gift, I began upon it at once.

Charles Vincent Emerson Starrett died on January 5, 1974, at the age of 86. He was buried in Chicago's Graceland Cemetery. He was near penniless when he died and his grave had only a small marker for many years. In 1986, to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, a headstone was placed on the grave. Paid for by his friends and admirers, the stone has an image of an open book at its top. On the left page is one of Starrett's bookplates and the words "The Last Bookman." On the right is Starrett's bookplate, and the inscription, "And it is always 1895."



## Important Alchemical Scroll on Exhibit at Princeton University

**Through a Glass Darkly: Alchemy and the Ripley Scrolls 1400–1700” is an exhibition of alchemical documents and related objects currently on display in the Ellen and Leonard Milberg Gallery, located Princeton’s Firestone Library from April 6 through July 17, 2022.** The exhibition shows how European alchemists built on Greco-Egyptian, Islamic, and late medieval foundations to create a golden age of alchemy from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to the time of Sir Isaac Newton. The centerpiece of the exhibition is a Ripley scroll, a 20-foot-long depiction of the process for creating the philosophers’ stone.

The source of the word “alchemy” is perhaps lost. Our words “alchemy” and “chemistry” both derive from the Arabic *al-kimiya*, which in turn derives from the Greek *khemeia*, which may well have sources in ancient Egypt. Each culture as it flourished – the Egyptians in 1500 BCE, the Greeks in 500 BCE, Islamic science in 1000 CE, and European science in 1300 (using very rough milestones)

– brought forward the knowledge of the earlier one, including beliefs about the fundamental nature of matter and how to operate upon matter to transform it. Today, we think of science, religion, medicine, and magic as quite distinct bodies of knowledge. Separating them was the work of hundreds of years, but before the 1500s, they were all part of one body of knowledge.

Practitioners of alchemy focused on the transforming of physical matter, but they remained deeply aware of the connections among the materials in their flasks, the cosmos, and the spiritual powers. In Europe, during the transition between the Medieval and Early Modern periods – perhaps 1300 to 1500 – alchemists throughout Europe were sharing their knowledge.

Jennifer Rampling, curator of the Princeton exhibition, describes the alchemists’ use of “very elaborate, allegorical language and obscure imagery” to guard their secrets and associate them with ancient traditions. She describes the Ripley scroll as the peak of this “fantastic imagery.” Rampling, an associate



An overview of the Princeton exhibition alchemical documents. The Ripley scroll is in the long glass case in the foreground.



*Ripley, continued*

professor at Princeton, is a historian of medieval and early modern science and medicine who specializes in alchemy.

A famous treatise on alchemy, “The Mirror of Alchemy,” long ascribed to Roger Bacon, recommends that alchemy should be recorded in obscure language to hide “the secrets of wisdom from the common people.”

The Ripley scrolls are 23 known copies of a lost original probably created in the 1400s. The copies vary in color, style, and detail. Princeton owns two Ripley scrolls. They are called “Ripley” because they carry lines of poetry known to be from the writings of the famous English alchemist George Ripley (c. 1415–1490). Ripley is not known to have authored the original scroll, and the use of his words would be a means of authorizing the scroll’s content.

Though the scrolls vary in size, they tend to be around 20 feet long and a foot or more wide. They depict the steps necessary to create the philosophers’ stone, an alchemical substance with the alleged ability to convert base metals into higher metals, especially gold, and rejuvenate the ill or elderly or confer immortality. This description of the philosophers’ stone illustrates the fusion of science, religion, medicine, and magic that set the environment in which alchemists worked. The earliest known mention of the stone appears around 300 CE in the writings by Zosimos of Panopolis, who was perhaps the greatest of the Greco-Egyptian alchemists, but the concept comes from beliefs articulated by the Greeks centuries earlier – with familiar names like Aristotle and Plato as well as others – that the four elements of nature, earth, air, fire and water, were interconvertable and all derived from a single substance, the *prima materia*, “first matter.” Many alchemists believed that alchemical knowledge originated with Adam, the first human.

A procedure to make the philosophers’ stone is thus the most important goal of alchemy. This mythic substance would unlock secrets in many realms of knowledge as well as conferring substantial power and wealth. In the case of the Ripley scrolls, the scroll and length make them impractical laboratory



The first panel of the Ripley scroll shows an alchemist – perhaps Hermes Trismegistus, the legendary founder of alchemy – holding the handles of a large round-bottomed flask, a “philosophers’ egg.” The egg shape is significant for its association with creation. Above the alchemist’s head, a scroll reads in Latin, “This is the hidden stone, buried in the secret fountain.” The handles instruct “You muste make water of the Earth and earth of the Ayre and Aire [sic] of the fier and fier of the Earth.” Inside the flask, a black toad symbolizes the earth, poison, and death. Seven of the eight outer circles connect to seals on the book in the center. Like the seven seals from the biblical book of Revelation; they symbolize hidden knowledge and its discovery. Each circle summarizes a step in making the philosophers’ stone. Subsequent panels of the scroll explain these steps in detail, but only those with deep knowledge of alchemy can interpret the instructions.

## Ripley, concluded

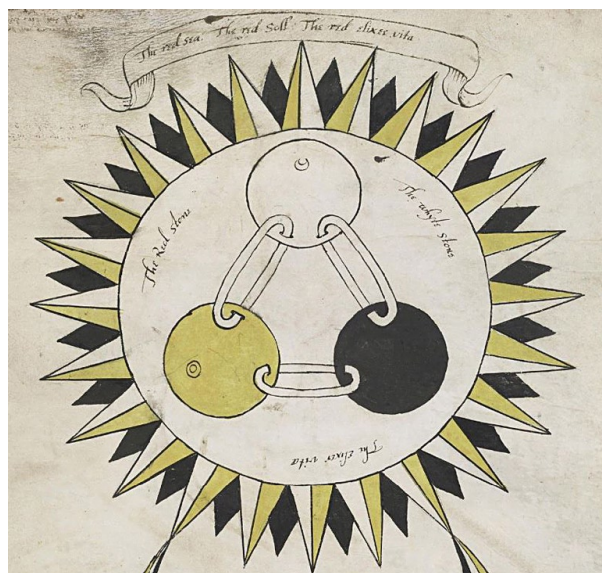
guides, but it has been suggested that a scroll was chosen for this manuscript instead of a book – then common for alchemical texts – because of the scroll’s association with ancient cultures and ancient learning. This, together with the sumptuous illustration of the material, reflects the importance of the document.

Although Ripley may have had nothing to do with the composition of the original scroll, he became associated with it because of lines from his writings that appear on the scroll.

Also, Ripley was an accomplished and influential alchemist – legendary in his own right. His works survive in hundreds of manuscripts in Middle English, Latin, and European languages, exceeding the number of manuscripts of authors that are more highly regarded today such as Roger Bacon or Geoffrey Chaucer.

Ripley is believed to have traveled widely collecting alchemical information. He is believed to have left his native Yorkshire to travel through France, Germany, Italy, and eventually as far as Rhodes in search of this information. As with many legendary personalities, these travels have often been embellished by others, including years of service to the Pope and the contribution of “fabulous sums” for the defense of Christendom.

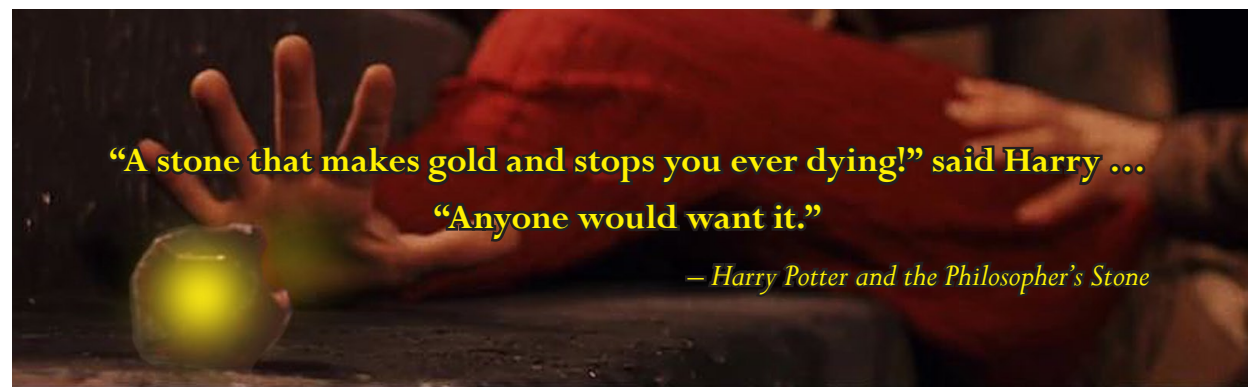
When Ripley returned to England in the 1470s, he wrote several important alchemical works, such as *The Compound of Alchemy or The Twelve Gates* (1471), which describes the processes needed to achieve the philosophers’ stone. This work established Ripley as a



The “white stone,” marked with a crescent moon and the “red stone,” marked with a symbol for the sun are linked with each other and with “elixir vita,” the elixir of life, to produce the philosophers’ stone.

“major alchemical authority of the early modern era.” This reputation was added to by *The Bosom Book of Sir George Ripley*, *The Mistery of Alchymists*, and *Five Preparations of the Philosopher’s Mercury*, which range from those believed to be written by Ripley to those known to not be, but carrying his name. The latter are called pseudepigraphic, or works falsely attributed to Ripley. This was common practice among alchemists because, then as now, a more famous name was likely to lend credibility to a book and gain a wider for it a book.

Altogether, Ripley’s works, including the scroll and others ascribed to him, were highly influential and studied by later alchemists like John Dee as well the founders of modern science such as Robert Boyle (1627–1691; chemistry) and Isaac Newton (1642–1726; physics).



**“A stone that makes gold and stops you ever dying!” said Harry ...  
“Anyone would want it.”**

– *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*



## Bestsellers of 2114: The Future Library Project

**K**atie Paterson is a conceptual artist based in Fife, Scotland. If hers is not a familiar name, she has made a place for herself in the art world through exhibitions, awards, and fellowships. Her work often connects the viewer with realities about time, space, and the environment through simple and conceptual experiences.

For example, her graduation piece from art school was entitled *Vatnajökull*; this is the name of an Icelandic glacier which is about the size of Delaware. In this work, “viewers” could use a mobile phone number to connect to an underwater microphone submerged in a lagoon at the base of the glacier. Listeners could hear the sound of the glacier melting, which is being accelerated by global climate change. It may take a second to connect with the idea of being on the phone with this pristine location, which despite its size and remoteness is imperiled by human activity.



*Katie Paterson and shovel at the site in Nordmarka forest for the planting of 1,000 trees for The Future Library project.*



*Jökulsárlón is the lagoon at the foot of Vatnajökull glacier. It was from here that Paterson broadcast the sound of the glacier melting.*



*Future Library concluded*

Paterson's website provides this description:

Katie Paterson has broadcast the sounds of a melting glacier live, mapped all the dead stars, compiled a slide archive of darkness from the depths of the Universe, created a light bulb to simulate the experience of moonlight, and sent a recast meteorite back into space. Eliciting feelings of humility, wonder and melancholy akin to the experience of the Romantic sublime, Paterson's work is at once understated in gesture and yet monumental in scope.

Her project, The Future Library, which was launched in 2014, is just as conceptual and yet very concrete.

One thousand trees have been planted in Nordmarka forest, a protected area north of Oslo, Norway. In 100 years, in 2114, 100 of these trees will be felled and made into paper, and on that paper, the manuscripts will be printed in limited edition anthologies.

Paterson says, "It began as a scribble on a notebook... making a visual connection between the rings of a tree and the pages of a book." She imagined a book emerging out of a tree, extending out to a whole forest that would grow an anthology of books to be written but not published for 100 years.

At first, she doubted that the project could be accomplished, but one by one, the pieces fell into place. She received a commission for the work from the city of Oslo and the National Library of Oslo. The city of Oslo will work with the Future Library Trust and Bjørvika Utvikling, a public-private partnership guiding development of Oslo's northern district, to ensure the completion of the project. Paterson's team identified an area of the Nordmarka forest that could be dedicated to the project. The foresters worked with Paterson to clear a space and plant the 1,000 trees.

The manuscripts for the 100 books are being collected now, one manuscript per year. Paterson



*Nordmarka forest*



*Future Library continued*

said that Margaret Atwood was her first choice for a writer and that when contacted, Atwood's response was "wonderful."

"She got it really quickly," Paterson said. "She compared it to being asked to donate a kidney! Luckily she said yes."

Paterson's instructions for Atwood were that she "can't just put a photo album in. But it could be any length, one word or 1,000 pages, a story, a novel, poems, non-fiction."

Atwood contributed a manuscript entitled *Scribbler Moon*, which no one has ever read. Atwood prepared written remarks for her handover ceremony, the first of the project:

I am sending a manuscript into time. Will any human beings be waiting there to receive it? Will there be a 'Norway'? Will there be a 'forest'? Will there be a 'library'? How strange it is to think of my own voice – silent by then for a long time – suddenly being awakened, after 100 years. What is the first thing that voice will say as a not-yet-embodied hand draws it out of its container and opens it to the first page? I picture this encounter – between my text and the so-far nonexistent reader – as being a little like the red-painted handprint I once saw on the wall of a Mexican cave that had been sealed for over three centuries. Who now can decipher its exact meaning? But its general meaning was universal: any human being could read it. It said: 'Greetings. I was here.'

The manuscripts are presented to the project in a handover ceremony that takes place in the Nordmarka forest each spring. Covid-19 has canceled this handover for two years, and on June 12, 2022, three authors, Karl Ove Knausgård, Ocean Vuong, and Tsitsi Dangarembga, will hand over their manuscripts.

The Future Library Trust's committee of trustees makes a new selection annually based on the criteria "outstanding contributions to literature or poetry,



Canadian author Margaret Atwood, best known for *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Blind Assassin*, carries her manuscript for *Scribbler Moon*, a work that no one but she has ever read, to *The Future Library* handover ceremony in 2014 in Nordmarka forest.

and for their work's ability to capture the imagination of this and future generations." All authors have so far accepted the committee's invitation. Other authors that have contributed a manuscript (and the name of the manuscript where known) include:

2015: David Mitchell (*From Me Flows What You Call Time*)

2016: Sjóón (*As My Brow Brushes on the Tunics of Angels*)

2017: Elif Shafak (*The Last Taboo*)

2018: Han Kang (*Dear Son, My Beloved*)

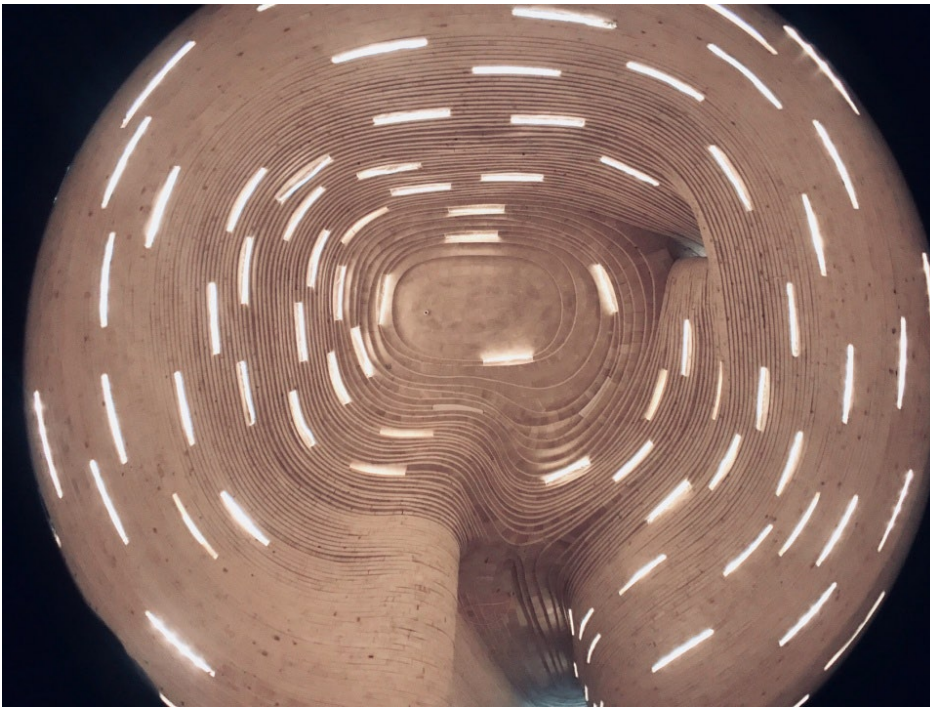
2019: Karl Ove Knausgård

2020: Ocean Vuong

2021: Tsitsi Dangarembga

No one will see or read these manuscripts – fiction, nonfiction, poetry, whatever their form – until they are published in 2114. The manuscripts are held in the new Deichmanske Library in Oslo's Bjørvika district in a special room, "The Silent Room," which was constructed from the trees felled to make room for the project trees. Paterson worked with architects

## Future Library concluded



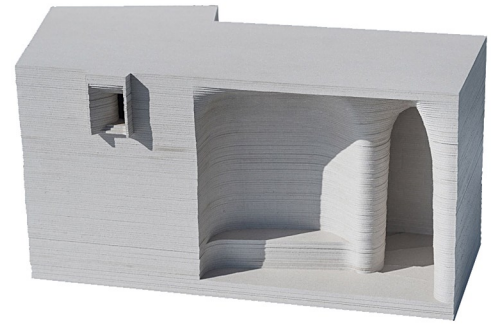
*The interior of the Silent Room which will house the 100 manuscripts of The Future Library project until 2114. This upward view shows the structure of the room, which mimics tree rings. The room is built of 100 layers of wood from the trees in the Nordmarka forest that were felled to make room for the project trees.*

Atelier Oslo and Lundhagem. In this small room on the top floor of the library, the manuscripts will be on display but not accessible for reading.

Who will eventually own the books printed in 2114? One thousand certificates are on sale now which will entitle the holder to the full 100-work anthology. These certificates were originally sold for £625. By 2017, the price had risen to £800. The certificate is a letterpress print in a limited edition of 1,000 printed on paper made from the trees felled to make room for the project trees. The certificate text is on one side of the page, and the 100-tree-ring logo of the project is on the other side. Institutions that have purchased the certificates include Princeton, Stanford, Smith College,

the Berkeley Museum of Art, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, and Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Future Library is essentially a time capsule project, but it is a compelling one because the time capsule will contain meaningful cultural properties. In most time capsules, people deposit known quantities, but the items on deposit in the Silent Room are both known and unknown. For 100 years, the project will raise questions about the future and then, for an unknown number of years beyond the revelation, it will pose questions about the past. In the process, generations of people will be provoked by the project to consider human action in the world. What library – or artist – could ask for more?



*This model of the Silent Room shows the entrance to the chamber shown at the left.*



*The Silent Room is on the top floor of Deichman Bjørvika, Oslo's newest public library. The library system is named for Carl Deichman, who started it in 1785.*

**Imagine if the Future Library had been conceived in 1914 ...**

**What a human highway through time we'd be a part of.**

**– David Mitchell**





## Peter Hargitai Receives the Pro Cultura Hungarica Award

On March 15, 2022, Florida writer Peter Hargitai received the Pro Cultura Hungarica award, which is given by the Hungarian government to Hungarian and foreign citizens who have distinguished themselves in the dissemination of the values of Hungarian culture abroad, as well as in enriching the cultural relations of Hungary and other nations.

Since arriving in the United States as a child in the aftermath of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Peter has been engaged in literature, and created an impressive body of work in original writing and in translation, bringing important works of Hungarian literature into English and vice versa. His efforts have gained many awards. In 1988, a Fulbright grant enabled him to travel to Hungary and Italy to translate the 1937 novel *The Traveler and the Moonlight* (*Utas és holdvilág*) by Antal Szerb, one of Hungary's most important 20<sup>th</sup>-century authors. For this work, he received the Füst Milán Award from the Hungarian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Also in 1988, he received the Academy of American Poets Harold Morton Landon Translation Award for his translation of selected poems of Hungarian poet Attila József in *Perched on Nothing's Branch*.



Peter Hargitai is shown in this poster that accompanied his receiving the Pro Cultura Hungarica award.

In 2006, the American Hungarian Foundation awarded Peter a grant to write the novel *Daughter of the Revolution* in both English and Hungarian. In the novel, Peter revisits his own early days in Hungary through the story of a 14-year-old girl who was one of many girls and women who participated in the 1956 revolution. The American Hungarian Federation presented Peter with its Medal of Freedom in a ceremony at its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In 2009, he won first place in the Miami Gardens MLK Performance Poetry Competition for his poem "Mother's a Racist," from his fierce 2003 collection *Mother Tongue: A Broken Hungarian Love Song*.

In 2015, Peter was appointed first poet laureate of Gulfport, Florida. In 2018, he was reappointed under new rules for a three-year term. The longer term is intended to give the poet time to develop and achieve his objectives.

A former professor at the University of Miami and Florida International University, Hargitai is much appreciated in Gulfport, but far beyond that west



Csaba Latorcai (left), State Secretary for Public Administration, presents the Pro Cultura Hungarica award to Tünde Tálas (right), who accepted the award on behalf of Peter Hargitai. Tálas was director of the award-winning 2017 documentary *Daughter of the Revolution*, based on Hargitai's novel of the same name. Peter was unable to travel to Hungary. (See The Florida Bibliophile, May 2017, for Hargitai's presentation of the documentary and the poetry of József Attila.)

*Booth, concluded*

coast town, he has been widely read and praised for his poetry, novels, and short stories. His work in English has been praised for not only his mastery of English idiom but also his command of Western literature from the classics to pop music. During his entire career he has continued to work in two languages, authoring and translating. His most recent award recognizes the work of an accomplished author who has made available to English readers an important body of literature that would remain otherwise inaccessible.



*The Pro Cultura Hungarica award is accompanied by a certificate and a medal designed by the prominent Hungarian sculptor András Kiss Nagy (1930–1997). It depicts the sowing of seed under the sun at zenith.*

*Regretting that he could not attend the award ceremony, Peter wrote the following to Miklós Kásler, Minister of Human Resources:*

**I regret that I cannot be among you in person to accept the ‘Pro Cultura Hungarica’ Award. I am both greatly honored and humbled. I regard the award as an acknowledgement and a mandate to continue my advocacy of Hungarian literature as one of the great literatures of the world, unique in the magic of the magyar language, at once inimitable and untranslatable. From the anonymous ‘Maria Siralom’ to Márai Sándor, Hungarian literature continues to evolve and to flourish, in tyranny and democracy. There is no state, no government, no political agenda with the power to suppress the Hungarian creative spirit and silence its voice. The state of the arts can never be the art of the state. No matter how vast, how close, and how inhumane the war and forces of darkness gathering around an already dismembered country, the human spirit will prevail, and the soul of Hungary embodied in its poets and writers will never be for sale to one man’s ideology and threats of nuclear annihilation. Today the world is inspired by the resilience and fighting spirit of the Ukrainian people, just as the Hungarian people inspired the world in 1956 and in 1848. The torch that had passed from Petöfi to Ady to Faludy is the ‘fire of March’ whose immortal flame will never expire. It will continue to burn in immortal incandescence in the hearts of Hungarian poets, past, present, and future – for all of us and generations to come – and for the lovers of Hungarian literature the world over. It is in that spirit that I accept the ‘Pro Cultura Hungarica’ Award.**





## Learning about the Alpha-1 Gene Disorder

**O**ur immune systems respond to infection with infection-fighting agents. These agents can attack our own tissues as well, but a protein called AAT (alpha-1-antitrypsin) is produced mainly in the liver and performs an important function in protecting the lungs from our own infection-fighting agents so that they can focus on irritants such as inhaled infectious particles and tobacco smoke.

AATD (alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency) is an inherited genetic disorder, and individuals with AATD lack the protective function of AAT. They are especially vulnerable to lung damage that can lead to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. In addition, the liver may be making AAT, but in a defective form that can build up in the liver and cause damage.

Jerry Morris, vice president of the Florida Bibliophile Society, had AATD. Jerry passed away last month. Like many genetic disorders,

genetic testing that would have alerted Jerry to the risks associated with AATD were not available until recent years. During Jerry's Air Force years, he was exposed to many lung irritants, and like many people in the armed services, he was a smoker. Unknown to him, he was at high risk from these exposures because of AATD, but until this issue was properly diagnosed, his condition continued to advance, and appropriate therapies could not be administered.

The Florida Bibliophile Society joins with Linda Morris and her family in encouraging you to donate to the Alpha-1 Foundation. This will aid AATD researchers in expanding testing, improving early diagnosis and treatment, and discovering new therapies to address the effects of AATD.

To learn more about AATD and efforts to diagnose and treat it, visit the Alpha-1 Foundation, [www.alpha1.org](http://www.alpha1.org), and make your donation in the name of Gerard T. Morris.

## DoraLynn Books Closing after 12 Years in Madeira Beach

**A**fter 12 years, Sean Donnelly, owner of DoraLynn Books, just a few steps from Madeira Beach, has announced that the store will be closing at the end of May.

### **\$1.00 BOOK SALE!**

Sean invites all book lovers to a sale that begins on Tuesday, May 3. All books will \$1.

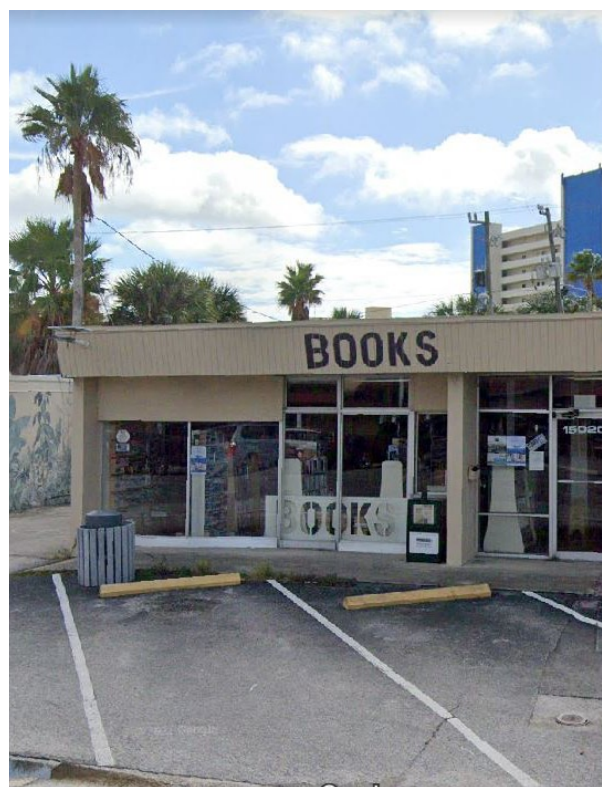
The sale is CASH ONLY. Sean will not be buying books or taking any trade-ins. The sale runs until the end of May or sooner if all the books are sold before the 31st!

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In-store shopping only – no shipping.

Email Sean if you have any questions:

[sdonnelly\\_bookseller@yahoo.com](mailto:sdonnelly_bookseller@yahoo.com)

DoraLynn Books is located at  
15020 Madeira Way, Madeira Beach, FL.



## FBS Annual Banquet Preview

**O**ur 2022 FBS Annual Banquet is only a few days away. We're looking forward to an enjoyable afternoon of food, friends, and books! Highlights will be our guest speaker Sarah Penner, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Lost Apothecary*, our Lee Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest winner Andrea Rinard, and our silent auction, for which we have collected some very interesting books and book-related items. All of that plus Brio Tuscan Grille's delicious food! On these pages, we have a little more information to whet your appetite for all of the above! Sign up before May 13 to reserve your place.

### Sarah Penner

I was born and raised in northeast Kansas, growing up in a small log cabin nestled deep in the woods. This picturesque retreat, where I lived until early adulthood, frames most of my early memories.

I began writing seriously in 2015, after attending a moving lecture given by Elizabeth Gilbert. She was on tour for *Big Magic*, a game-changing book for creatives. Soon after her talk, I enrolled in my first online creative writing class. I haven't looked back.

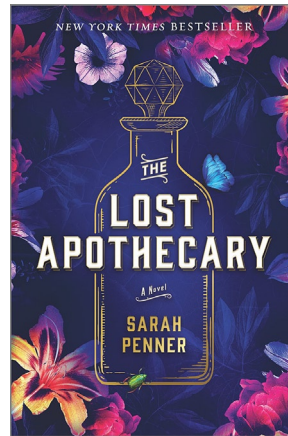
I'm an avid traveler, though my heart is stuck in London. Other favorite destinations include Thailand, Ireland, Germany, Belize, and Grand Cayman.

I graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in finance. In early 2021, after 13 years in corporate America, I left my day job. I'm thrilled now to call myself a full-time writer. When I'm not at the keyboard, you'll likely find me in the kitchen, the yoga studio, or running outdoors in the Florida heat.

I'm married to my best friend, Marc. We're proud residents of the Sunshine State, where we live with our "silky hair" miniature dachshund, Zoe.



### *The Lost Apothecary*



Bestseller: *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *IndieBound*.

International bestseller in Canada, Belgium, Sweden, and Spain.

In this addictive and spectacularly imagined debut, a female apothecary secretly

dispenses poisons to liberate women from the men who have wronged them—setting three lives across centuries on a dangerous collision course.

One cold February evening in London in 1791, in a hidden apothecary shop, Nella waits for her newest customer. Once a healer, Nella now uses her knowledge for a darker purpose: selling poisons to desperate women who would kill to be free. But her new customer turns out to be a precocious 12 year old named Eliza, and an unexpected friendship sets in motion events that jeopardize Nella's world.

In present-day London, Caroline spends her tenth wedding anniversary alone, reeling from the discovery of her husband's infidelity. An old apothecary vial provides a link to murders that haunted London two centuries ago, leading to an encounter that not everyone will survive.

— adapted from sarahpenner.com

**FBS Annual Banquet**  
**Sunday, May 15, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**  
**Brio Tuscan Grille, International Plaza, Tampa**  
**Members \$20, Guests \$30**

**PayPal: payee "FloridaBibliophiles@gmail.com."**  
**Check: payable to Florida Bibliophile Society.**  
**Mail to Carl Nudi, 2503 Florida Blvd,**  
**Bradenton, FL, 34207.**



## Andrea Rinard, Harrer Essay Contest Winner



**Andrea Rinard** is a former 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 work in *Cease*, *Cows*; *The Jellyfish Review*; *Lost Balloon*; and *X-R-A-Y*, among others. 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.

## Silent Auction Preview

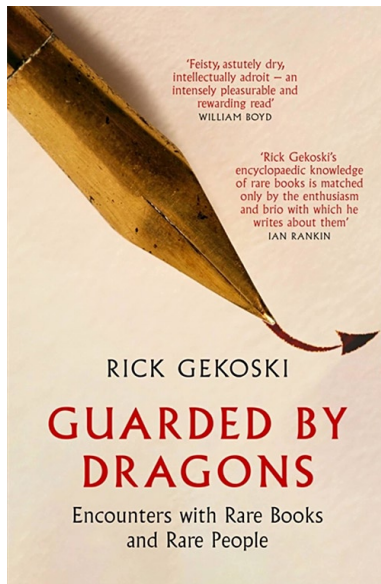


... and many more!

## Books in Brief

### Guarded by Dragons: Encounters with Rare Books and Rare People

Rick Gekoski  
Constable  
256 pp., 2022



In *Guarded by Dragons*, Gekoski invites readers into an enchanted world as he reflects on the gems he has unearthed throughout his career in the rare book trade, including dizzying encounters with literary giants: publishing William Golding, playing Ping-Pong with Salman Rushdie, and lunching with Graham Greene. In a brilliant stroke of luck, Sylvia Plath's personal

copy of *The Great Gatsby* falls into Gekoski's lap, only for him to discover the perils of upsetting a Poet Laureate when Ted Hughes demands its return.

Hunting for literary treasure is not without its battles, and Gekoski boldly breaks the cardinal rule never to engage in a lawsuit with someone much richer than yourself, while also guarding his bookshop from the most unlikely of thieves.

The result is an unparalleled insight into an almost mythical world where priceless first editions of *Ulysses* can vanish and billionaires will spend as much gold as it takes to own the manuscript of J. K. Rowling's *Tales of Beedle the Bard*.



**Rick Gekoski**, a Missouri native, took a Ph.D. at Oxford and taught English at the University of Warwick. In 1982, he became a full-time rare book dealer, specialising in 20<sup>th</sup>-century first editions and manuscripts.

Source: Amazon.com

### Why Modern Manuscripts Matter

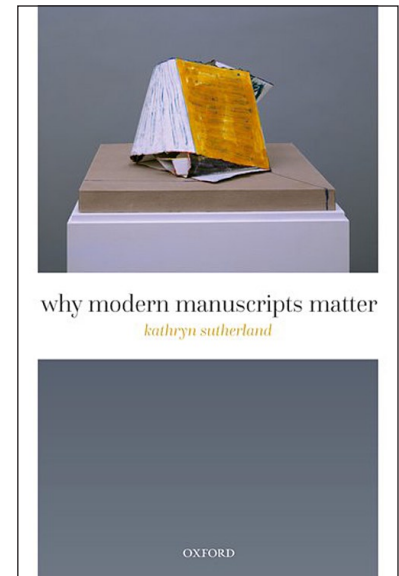
Kathryn Sutherland  
Oxford University Press  
288 pp., 2022

Many manuscripts survive from the past three centuries as, with the rise of print, readers began to value 'the hand' as a mark of individuality and the blotted page, criss-crossed by revision, as a sign of genius. Since then, manuscripts have been fought over, curated, hoarded as investments, studied, and exhibited.

This study of the politics, commerce, and the aesthetics of authors' manuscripts asks why we trade them, conserve them, and covet them. In a series of case studies, Sutherland explores the manuscript's expressive agency and its capacity to provoke passion, even as in this new century and its digital authoring makes manuscripts rarer. Sutherland considers manuscripts as containers of meaning that print is unable to capture. She asks what light manuscripts shed on print. Case studies include Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, Walter Scott, Frances Burney, and Jane Austen. These are interspersed with discussions of William Godwin's record keeping, the Cairo genizah, Katie Paterson's Future Library project, Andy Warhol's and Muriel Spark's self-archiving, Cornelia Parker's reclamation art, and more.

**Kathryn Sutherland** is Senior Research Fellow at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. She is the author of *Jane Austen's Textual Lives: From Aeschylus to Bollywood* (2005) and editor of *Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts* (2018).

Source: Oxford University Press



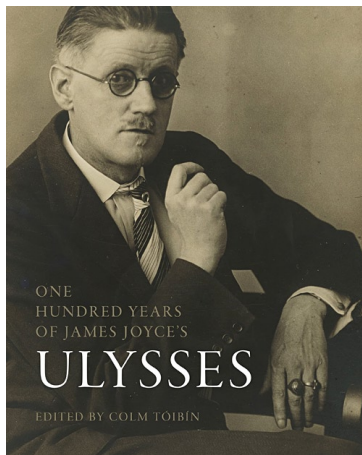


*Books in Brief, continued***One Hundred Years of James Joyce's *Ulysses***

Colm Tóibín, ed.

Penn State University Press

184 pp., 2022



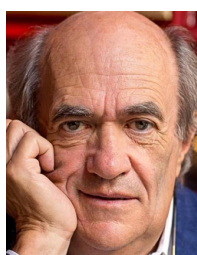
*Ulysses* is widely regarded as the greatest novel of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Commemorating the 1922 publication of this modernist masterwork, *One Hundred Years of James Joyce's Ulysses* tells the story of the writing, revising, printing, and censorship of the novel.

Edited by world-renowned Irish novelist and literary

critic Colm Tóibín, this book presents ten essays by preeminent Joyce scholars and by curators of his manuscripts and early editions, as well as an interview with Sean Kelly, the New York gallery owner who donated his extensive Joyce collection to The Morgan Library & Museum.

Beginning with Tóibín's expert interpretation of the Dublin context for *Ulysses*, the volume follows Joyce in Trieste, Zurich, and Paris from 1914 up through the novel's publication and the international scandal and fame that ensues. It draws on Joyce's notebooks and letters, as well as extant manuscripts and proofs, to provide new insights into Joyce's life, the narrative and place of *Ulysses*, and the printed book. Rich and illuminating, this volume is essential for scholars, fans, and readers of the novel.

[Note: June 16 is Bloomsday.]



**Colm Tóibín** is the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of Humanities at Columbia University and author of ten novels and two collections of stories. He is a contributing editor at the *London Review of Books*.

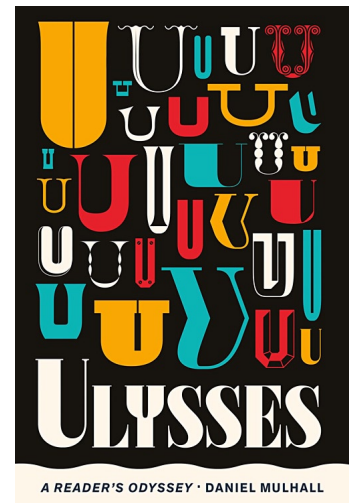
Source: Penn State University Press

***Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey***

Daniel Mulhall

New Island Books

324 pp., 2022



Writing in the *Irish Independent*, Dermot Bolger describes the experience that many readers of *Ulysses* have had: "The novel is an astonishing work of genius. But if you previously abandoned attempts to scale its linguistic cliffs and reach Molly's resounding "yes" on its final page, don't feel too downheartened.

**You're not alone... while W. B. Yeats and G. B. Shaw both recognized it as a masterpiece, it's possible that neither finished it.**

"The opening of *Ulysses* is as stylistically realistic as *Dubliners*. But it grows increasingly complex as Joyce delves into the stream-of-consciousness thoughts of Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus, reinventing the novel in innovative and sometimes bewildering ways."

Both eloquent and erudite, this book initiates the reader into the wonders of Joyce's writing and of the world that inspired it. Mulhall explores the novel's 18 chapters and, using the famous structuring principle of Homer's *Odyssey* as our guide, Mulhall releases *Ulysses* from its reputation of impenetrability, and shows us the pleasure it can offer us as readers. Controversially, he also points out overly complex sections that readers might skip the first time through, relying instead on his summary.

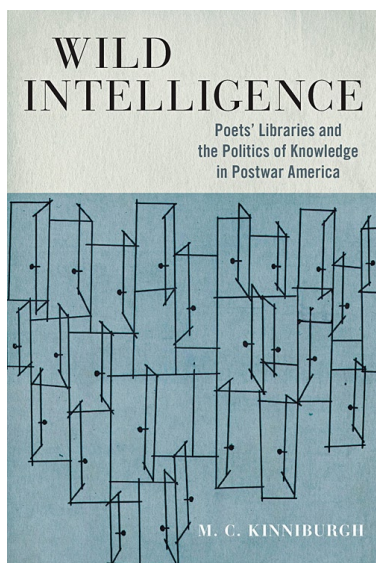
**Daniel Mulhall** is the Irish ambassador to the United States and a global ambassador for Irish literature, working tirelessly to increase the impact and reach of Irish writing around the world.



Sources: New Island Books; *Irish Independent*

*Books in Brief, concluded***Wild Intelligence: Poets' Libraries and the Politics of Knowledge in Postwar America**

M. C. Kinniburgh  
University of Massachusetts  
224 pp., 2022



In the introduction to *Wild Intelligence*, Kinniburgh tells of the efforts of poet Charles Olson in the 1930s to document the library of Herman Melville, which had been distributed after Melville's death. Through this work, Olson found Melville's annotations to Shakespeare, providing insight into *Moby Dick* and leading to Olson's book *Call Me Ishmael*.

In four case studies of poets who began writing during the 1950s and 1960s, including Charles Olson, Diane di Prima, Gerrit Lansing, and Audre Lorde, Kinniburgh shows that the postwar American poet's library should not just be understood according to the individual books within their collection but rather as archives the poets created to manage knowledge in the postwar era of growing information overload. This knowledge in turn became the basis of the poet's practice.

Writers' libraries are often dispersed even when the personal papers of an author are considered extremely valuable. The book highlights the value of a poet's personal library as a source of knowledge for the poet about the world and then for us about the poet. Kinniburgh knows this value through her scholarly work, her work with Granary Press, and her own poetic practice.

**M. C. Kinniburgh** is a scholar, poet, and bookseller. She completed a Ph.D. at the Graduate Center, CUNY, and is rare books and archives associate for Granary Books.



Sources: University of Massachusetts; Granary Books

**The Librarian Spy: A Novel of World War II**

Madeline Martin  
Hanover Square Press  
336 pp., 2022

**From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Bookshop in London* comes a moving new novel inspired by the true history of America's library spies of World War II.**

Ava thought her job as a librarian at the Library of Congress would mean a quiet, routine existence. But an unexpected offer from the U.S. military has brought her to Lisbon with a new mission: posing as a librarian while working undercover as a spy gathering intelligence.

Meanwhile, in occupied France, Elaine has begun an apprenticeship at a printing press run by members of the Resistance. It's a job usually reserved for men, but in the war, those rules have been forgotten. Yet she knows that the Nazis are searching for the press and its printer in order to silence them.

As the battle in Europe rages, Ava and Elaine find themselves connecting through coded messages and discovering hope in the face of war.

"Readers will be on the edge of their seats.... A brilliant tale of resistance, courage and ultimately hope." — Kelly Rimmer, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Warsaw Orphan*

**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







Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930) dreamed of a collected edition of his work. This happened in 1903. Doyle made revisions and added prefaces to each volume; he signed the first volume of each set. The English edition was limited to 1000 sets. The American edition was unsigned. Doyle expected to add to the set over his remaining years, but this did not happen. Later Holmes stories like *The Hound of the Baskervilles* are therefore not included.



### This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

David Hall  
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!

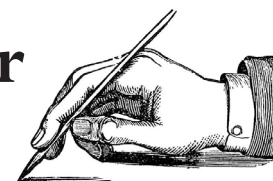
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group. You will find contact emails on the last page of this newsletter.

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

### 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 and 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.

Formerly in finance, Sarah now writes full-time 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.

Contact Carl Nudi at [carlnudi@netscape.net](mailto:carlnudi@netscape.net) to sign up. Members: \$20. Guests: \$30.

### September 2022



**Treasures We Found during the  
Summer Break**

**Seminole Community Library  
9200 113<sup>th</sup> St. N., Seminole, FL**

**September 18, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

When asked, "How was your summer?" A book collector's answer will probably begin, "I found..." Sometime later, an opportunity may present itself for a second question.

September show-and-tell is an opportunity for all of us to answer this question. It's always fun to learn about new books and new authors and new collecting themes. From young adult to rare tomes, it's also a great time for us to learn more about each other and the many areas of knowledge and interest that FBS members bring to the society.

**Also available via Zoom. Details in the  
September 2022 newsletter. See you then!**

Book of Life by David Kracov



## 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 – May–August 2022

– 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

– July 8–10 –

#### Florida Supercon, Miami, FL

(<http://floridasupercon.com/>)

– July 29–31 –

#### Tampa Bay Comic Con, Tampa, FL

(<http://www.tampabaycomiccon.com/>)

– August 13 –

#### Sunrise Comic Con, Sunrise, FL

(<https://www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con>)

### 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:

#### April 13 – Collecting Tolkien

Mark Faith runs Festival Art and Books near Machynlleth in Wales, specializing in rare Tolkien books and fantasy art since 2001. Mark talks about collecting books and art associated with J. R. R. Tolkien, the author who gave us *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. From the impact of American paperback editions to the influence of Peter Jackson's movies, Mark reveals how demand for Tolkien's work has evolved over the decades.

#### March 28 – Berwyn Bookshop Rising from the Ashes

Last November, Emma Littler watched in shock as her employer's warehouse of 400,000 books burned to the ground. The fire devastated Berwyn Books, located in Wales, but a new bookselling business, Berwyn Bookshop, is rising from the ashes. Emma and husband Adam reveal how support from their local community helped to launch this new bookselling venture.

#### 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's latest book is *Read Dangerously: The Subversive Power of Literature in Troubled Times*. In 2003, Azar's memoir *Reading Lolita in Tehran* became a worldwide bestseller about her experiences living, working, and reading under Iran's repressive regime. *Read Dangerously* is composed of letters to Azar's father that address immigration, Trump, *The Handmaid's Tale*, George Floyd, and pandemic existence, as well as her former life in Iran.

*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:*

**April 25 – Laura J. Miller** updates us on the subject of her 2006 book *Reluctant Capitalists: Bookselling and the Culture of Consumption* which documented the transition in domination of the bookselling business from independents to chain stores. As a sociologist, Laura examines the conflict between the business of bookselling and the culture of books, which many feel strongly should be immune to the profit motive.

**April 19 – Jonathan Kay** was editor-in-chief of *The Walrus* magazine and is now a senior editor of *Quillette*. He's also a ghostwriter, best known for Justin Trudeau's memoir *Common Ground*. Jonathan discusses his *Quillette* article, "My Life as a Ghostwriter," about storytelling, anonymity, eliciting details, well-rounded depictions, the truth, and much more.

**April 14 – Kathryn Schulz** joined *The New Yorker* as a staff writer in 2015. In 2016, she won the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing and a National Magazine Award for "The Really Big One," her story on seismic risk in the Pacific Northwest. We talk about *Lost and Found*, her just published memoir, about making the planet less lonely, a sense of the beautiful, math formulas, love, death, etc.

**April 10 – Journalist, author, and teacher, Larry Grobel** has written more than 25 books, including *Conversations with Capote* and *The Art of the Interview*, but most of his books are short story collections; the latest is *The Narcissist*. Larry talks about the new book and his writing process.

**April 4 – James Wood** is a literary critic, essayist and novelist. His books include *How Fiction Works*, the novel *Upstate*, and essay collections such as *The Irresponsible Self*. We talk about James's role as a book critic – how and why he does it – about realism, the canon, 'liveness', sameness, his intro to *Serious Noticing*, our shared love of the Russians, looking for great writing everywhere, Virginia Woolf, and more.

**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 focuses on pre-1876 events and holds the "largest and most accessible collection" of print materials up to that date.

The AAS's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC) was established in 1983. PHBAC sponsors **Virtual Book Talk**, showcasing "authors of recently published scholarly monographs, digital-equivalents, and creative works broadly related to book history and print culture." Free, but advance registration is required.

*Recent and upcoming episodes:*

**July 21, 2 p.m. – Michael L. Dickinson: *Almost Dead: Slavery and Social Rebirth in the Black Urban Atlantic*.** *Almost Dead* argues that urban environments provided barriers to and avenues for social rebirth. Through remembrance, resistance, and communal survival African-descended people rebuilt their lives and communities. In these urban communities, the enslaved found the resources to endure.

**June 30, 2 p.m. – Sarah J. Purcell: *Spectacle of Grief: Public Funerals and Memory in the Civil War Era*.** Purcell shows how large funerals for figures like Henry Clay and "Stonewall" Jackson set patterns for mourning culture and Civil War commemoration; postwar funerals for Lee, Sumner, and Douglass built on these patterns and fostered public debate about war, Reconstruction, race, and gender.

**May 26, 2 p.m. – David K. Thomson: *Bonds of War: How Civil War Financial Agents Sold the World on the Union*.** This fascinating work of Civil War finance and politics shows how the marketing and sale of bonds beyond the Atlantic helped ensure foreign interest in the Union's success. Thomson shows how Europe and many other countries grew deeply interdependent on American finance during and right after the Civil War.

**April 28 (on YouTube) – Jennifer Putzi: *Fair Copy: Relational Poetics and Antebellum American Women's Poetry*.** In *Fair Copy*, Putzi studies all aspects of antebellum American women's poetry. Putzi proposes a novel theory and methodology of relational poetics: focusing on poetry written by working-class and African American women poets and how relationships between and among people and texts shaped the writing, publishing, and impact of the poems women wrote.



**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, and 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:

[Teaching the Codex: Pedagogical Approaches to Paleography and Codicology](#) (22 podcasts)

[Designing English: Graphics on the Medieval Page](#) (11 podcasts)

[Mesoamerican Manuscripts](#) (19 podcasts)

**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”****Princeton University Library**

**March 27 – [Belle da Costa Greene, The Extraordinary Librarian-Scholar Who Created the Morgan Library,” with Daria Rose Foner.](#)** Greene (1879–1950), arguably one of the greatest librarian-scholars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, began her career at Princeton University Library. Within a few years of being hired away by J. Pierpont Morgan in 1905, she became his chief consultant on bibliographic matters, eventually serving as the inaugural director of the Pierpont Morgan Library. The contemporary novel *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict is a fictionalized account of Bella da Costa Greene and her career at the J. Pierpont Morgan Library.



## ...and More

**Paleography** – From two parts rooted in Greek, “paleo” for ancient and “graph” for writing, paleography is the study of ancient handwriting. This study often requires knowledge of ancient languages or early versions of modern languages. These languages can vary considerably by region even in the same period. The “handwriting,” which is often dense, can appear indecipherable to the untrained eye, and at times, even experts may disagree, for example, as to whether four vertical strokes are “mi” or “nu.” Handwriting contains a great deal of information. In the case of medieval manuscripts, nuances in the handwriting can help to identify an individual writer and the monastery or other institution in which the writer worked or was trained. Thus, the date and origin of manuscripts – which have often moved about quite a bit – can be determined. It’s true detective work. Paleographers also provide texts that can be printed in modern type and allow us to read the thoughts and events of hundreds and thousands of years ago, in the original language (if we can) or in our own.



that's a greeting  
card. It just  
says "happy birthday"

well, now you've  
ruined the  
ending for me.

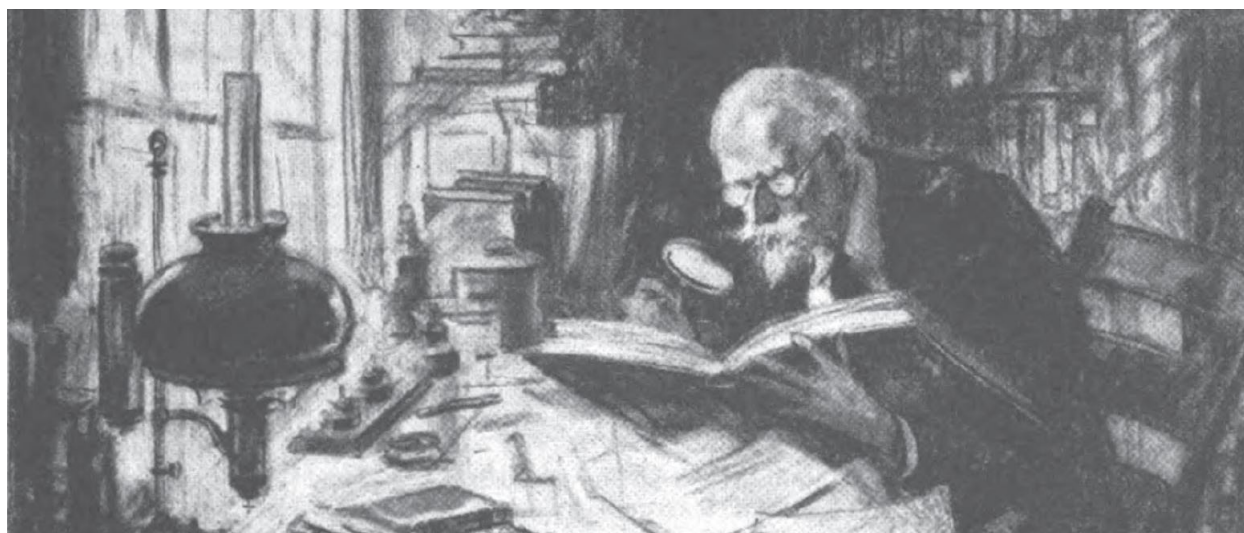


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## um minimum uolunt

Can you read his fragment of 13th-century Latin?



“ . . . when we are collecting books, we are collecting happiness; and if that be not the absolute quested by us all, I do not know what is.”

– Vincent Starrett, “The A B C of First Editions,” *Saturday Evening Post*, June 5, 1926



## 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, 1:30 p.m. • Banquet:** Guest speaker Sarah Penner, author of the bestseller *The Lost Apothecary*, will join us at Brio Tuscan Grille in Tampa. Contact Carl Nudi to sign up. Members: \$20. Guests: \$30.

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



## Endpaper • Believe It or Not



It's hard to believe that another FBS season is almost over – that's nine months and nine meetings (not to mention nine newsletters!) have come and gone. And we're already planning for and looking forward to next year.

The meeting topics were as varied as I can imagine they have ever been: beginning with one poet (Eliot) and ending with another (Starrett) and in between, a rare book hunter, a mystery writer, an architect-historian, a Whitman collector, and a Slovenian blogger. All of this through the work of Jerry Morris – we have our work cut out for us to live up to that!

The world of books, even from the “limited” perspective of collecting, is vast, as vast as what people choose to collect. Reid Byers shared with us that he had documented dozens of ways that people organize their collections, but the themes of those collections must number far beyond that.

Even our personal collections are made up of many subcollections – those of us who catalog our books are made keenly aware of that when we struggle to place a particular book in a single category, something that very few books will allow.

But the many associations a book holds – the subject areas it touches on; its many creators, including authors, illustrators, designers, printers; and the personal associations of where we found it, what that search was like, its previous owners, what we learned from it – every one of these opens new avenues for the collector and provides that special pleasure that book collecting brings. Like many collectibles, books are attractive and interesting objects, but they are also full of all kinds of knowledge.

Let that set the stage for the FBS 2022–2023 season. Hope to see YOU there! And in the meantime...

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

## The Florida Bibliophile Society

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