

The Florida Bibliophile

September 2022 • Volume 39, No. 1



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October newsletter deadline: Sept. 28, 2022 (see p. 21)

Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FABS newsletter is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the Spring 2022 FABS Journal [here](#).



ANNUAL DUES for the 2022–2023 FBS Season are due by **December 31, 2022!**

Membership is \$50 U.S. per household per year. Send inquiries and payments to Ben Wiley at 3911 McKay Creek Dr. Largo, FL 33770. Dues may also be paid using our PayPal account: floridabibliophiles@gmail.com.



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Florida Bibliophile Society Annual Banquet, May 2022

The FBS Annual Banquet was held in May at Brio Tuscan Grille in Tampa's International Plaza. We've held the banquet there for several years now, and it has always been an ideal venue. The room has plenty of space for us and yet feels intimate. The staff is always helpful and responsive. The food is tasty and served family-style and in generous portions.

It was a great pleasure to be together again after the many months of Covid separation. Seeing old friends and meeting new ones made it seem that we had never been apart. The auction tables were stocked with wonderful books and book-related items.

We opened the meeting by welcoming all gathered and introducing the afternoon's events. A moment of silence has held for all of us to remember Jerry Morris.

Our special treats were the presence of our guest speaker, Sarah Penner, with her husband Mark, and this year's Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest winners Andrea Rinard, Allison Duque, and Mandy Trotti.

After lunch, Sarah spoke about her bestselling book, *The Lost Apothecary*, and how it came to be. It was her second book, and if you are wondering what her first book was, wonder on. It was never published. Sarah explained that she spent years writing her first book about two women in late 18th-century London and their conflict. She sent it to over 100 literary agents and was rejected by one after another. However, some made useful comments. Briefly, her plot made her main characters victims of their circumstances, and the resolution of their conflict was brought about by a man. The critique: Disempowered women whose problems are solved by men won't fly anymore.

Sarah took this advice and more and turned the formula upside-down: women take control of their lives. At the heart of the story is a woman apothecary in late 18th-century London who covertly supplies women with poisons they want in order to deal with troublesome men in their lives. The main characters are women who make decisions and face their fates squarely.



*After lunch, Sarah Penner, author of *The Lost Apothecary*, speaks to FBS members and guests.*

Minutes, continued

Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest 2022 winner Andrea Rinard (right) and runners-up Allison Duque (center) and Mandy Trotti (left).

The result was *The Lost Apothecary*. It debuted at #7 on the *New York Times* Bestseller List and spent three months on the *USA Today* and *Publishers Weekly* bestseller lists. It was on the IndieBound bestseller list for five months, became an international bestseller in Canada, Belgium, Sweden, and Spain (and perhaps more by now), and was a Book of the Year Top 5 finalist. Yes, it's that good.

Sarah shared with us that the book has been optioned by Fox for a miniseries. Pretty exciting! But she cautioned that there are many steps between option and broadcast, all of which have to go perfectly. So we must be patient.

Brio Tuscan Grille is not far from Tampa International Airport – convenient for Sarah and Mark who were headed out to London, a city that Sarah truly loves. Despite impending international travel, Sarah was generous with her time and answered many questions with ease and humor.

Sarah's next book, *The London Séance Society*, is scheduled for release in April 2023.

It was a delight to meet our three Harrer essay contest winner Andrea Rinard and runners-up Allison Duque and Mandy Trotti. (They were profiled in *The Florida Bibliophile* for April 2022.)

Per our tradition, we asked the three to stand, introduced them to the group, and invited an ovation. Also per tradition, we presented each attendee with a keepsake booklet containing the three essays and biographical information about each writer. Then Andrea went to the podium and read her essay, which is included in this newsletter.

Our afternoon concluded with more conversation as the results of the silent auction were announced.

Around 4:30 p.m., the last of us were working our way toward the door, lingering over plans to get together and wishing each other a good summer.



The Lost Apothecary in (left to right) English, Spanish, German, French, Chinese, and Dutch

Minutes, concluded

Andrea Rinard's First-Place Winning Entry for the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest

I've watched an episode or two of *Hoarders*, so I have a basic layman's knowledge of the psychology behind a hoard. Items are kept because they represent memories, sentimental moments, wishes for a life not being lived. But collecting books is not the same as hoarding with all the negative connotations of that term. Or at least, that's what I tell myself. I can't deny, though, the idea of books being emotional portals hits me very close, and I like having all the roads and paths to so many feelings and experiences around me.

I've always been a reader. As far back as I can remember, books were a part of my daily life, and I wanted my favorites to stay with me in case I needed to travel in a particular one again. I went to Uriel, Avonlea, Concord, and the Big Woods over and over. Later, I journeyed to West Egg, Tralfamadore, Pemberley, 124 Bluestone Road, and Macondo so many times that those locations were no more exotic to me than St. Augustine, Ybor City, Ft. Lauderdale, Jacksonville, or Sarasota.

Keeping my books is not only a way to revisit the people and places I know and love, but the practice also helps me remember the stories I love so much and reconnect with who I was when I first fell into them. Maintaining my collection is a way of maintaining myself as a child and young adult. I can look at a spine and immediately know not only the lives within the pages but the life that held them in her hands. As I grow older, I drift farther away from the person I used to be, but my books are beacons shining from shores within my reach. They guide me back to discovered strengths, shared realities, and ineffable longings.

My collection also serves now to guide me forward. As a graduate student and aspiring writer, I look within my shelves to find a beautiful image I remember, a quintessential gesture, the perfect word. There are master classes available to me within my own home without having to touch a

keyboard or click a mouse. My books are the most perfect and complete database of craft I could ever find. I've never been comfortable with writing in my books, but sticky notes peek from pages like pastel flags across the shelves, calling me to see what my faithful teachers still have to share.

Although I covet sumptuous libraries, both public and private, my own collection is no less dear. Battered paperbacks snug next to hardbound copies I've gleaned from flea markets and Friends of the Library sales. I have books that have never been featured on any bestseller list but are as precious to me as anyone else's leather-bound first editions. There is one special shelf of books I waited in line at readings to have signed by luminaries such as Margaret Atwood, Michael Cunningham, Toni Morrison, and Seamus Heaney. However, those share space with a faded copy of the picture book my grandmother used to read me and another book a new friend gave me that was so perfect for the time in my life she gifted it to me that it makes me ache anytime I think about how discovering that story made me feel seen and understood.

As I keep adding to my collection, I have started culling... just a little. I give books to friends I think will enjoy them, hoping as I press each little rectangular universe into another pair of hands that I'll never get it back – that it will mean something wonderful to its new keeper.

Also, I need the space because my daughter has started her own collection. Some of my books find their way to her, but most of her shelves are filled with her own discoveries. Despite the differences in our tastes and titles, the collections link us, and I know that sharing the love and appreciation for books and reading is a priceless gift we give one another. When missing her while she's away at college becomes too unbearable, all I have to do to find her again is browse the books that she keeps and see her – and discover a new part of myself – between the pages.



There's More Than One Way to Ban A Book

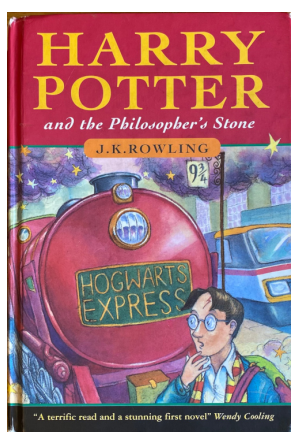
by Charles Brown

September 18–24, 2022 is this year's **Banned Books Week**. This year's theme is **"Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us."**

The American Library Association (ALA) says:

Books reach across boundaries and build connections between readers. Censorship, on the other hand, creates barriers. Banned Books Week is both a reminder of the unifying power of stories and the divisiveness of censorship, and a call to action for readers across the country to push back against censorship attempts in their communities.

Specific books have been objected to for many reasons. Our first thoughts might be ideological or moral offense. For example, according to the ALA, the *most challenged books* from 2000 to 2009 were J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. The complainants demanded the removal of these books from public libraries because of depictions of witchcraft and magic, the presence of "actual curses and spells" in the text, and the use of "nefarious means" to accomplish goals. Is Harry Potter the type of book that comes to mind with the description "banned books"? Who has the right to prevent our access to Harry Potter?



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (1997), first edition, first issue. With its sequels, the series was the most challenged book from 2000 to 2009.

Many countries have government censorship boards, but we are fortunate in the U.S. that there is no official mechanism to ban books. Therefore, Americans with a complaint against a book must apply unofficial pressure by mounting campaigns to arouse the outrage of interest groups, often with appeals to protecting children. Such campaigns may provoke a useful discussion about the ideas in the book in question. They may actually promote sales of the books and have the opposite of the intended effect.

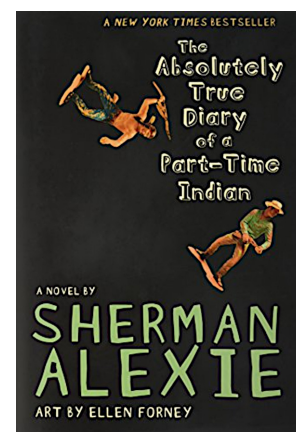
Many complaints about books focus on books for

school-age children. Perhaps it is not surprising that the focus of these objections is often that they undermine a traditional perception of U.S. history or that they reflect emerging views of American culture, such as race or sexuality, both of which are touchy subjects in American culture – even saying this out loud is an offensive critique for some ("Who you calling 'touchy'?"). Portraying the U.S. in a negative light often draws calls for book banning.

As Americans look more closely at their history, we are forced to wrestle with contradictions between the guarantees in our founding documents and the realities of inequalities and discrimination – a conflict between what we wish was true and what is true for many Americans. Books that present these questions may become targets for banning. Why should we be afraid of these questions? To paraphrase Adam Laats, a historian of American education, these questions force us to ask "Who are we as Americans."

Just as some books make Top 10 bestseller lists, some books make the Top 10 Most Challenged Books. The most challenged book from 2010 to 2019 – often in the top 10 – was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. The book is a first-person narrative told by a Native American teenager that reflects the harsh realities of reservation life and coming of age as a Native American. The main character in the novel, nicknamed "Junior," is encouraged by a teacher in his reservation school to attend a wealthier (and much whiter) mainstream high school over 20 miles away. Junior's poor family supports this choice, and he benefits. Along the way, he observes the difference between reservation culture and mainstream culture.

Diary was praised by numerous reviewers and won many awards, including the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, American Indian Library Association Best Young Adult Book, American



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (2007), first edition. One the most challenged book from 2010 to 2019.

Ban a Book, continued

Library Association's Best Books for Young Adults, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Fiction and Poetry, Odyssey Award as the year's "best audiobook for children or young adults", California Young Reader Medal – Young Adult Book... should we go on?

Nevertheless, demands to remove this book from libraries have been based on the following objections:

- Acknowledging poverty, alcoholism, and sexuality
- Allegations of sexual misconduct by the author
- Offensive language/Profanity
- Cultural insensitivity
- Deemed anti-family
- Depictions of bullying
- Gambling
- Racism
- References to drugs, alcohol, and smoking
- Religious viewpoint (anti-Christian content)
- Sex education
- Sexual references
- Unsuitable for age group
- Violence

Note the first word in the list: Acknowledging. After love, what do young adults need more than this?

The conflict between what we wish was true and what is true.

As the longest running democracy in modern history, the intentions of America's founders have proven extremely durable, but over 200+ years, cultural changes, technological changes, geopolitical changes – feel free to add some categories to this list – have challenged Americans and their governments to consider new ideas, debate their value, and adapt. Some have commented that the rate of change has increased in the last 40, 30, 20, 10 years so that many of us are challenged to keep up. Our cellphones are a great example! Many of us did not grow up with apps, and now they are essential to our lives. Yet, we happily purchase cellphones and enjoy their many functions. Well, most of us do. There are those who refuse to tie into the types of networks that cellphones represent out of concern for government control, invasion of privacy, etc.

There have been other changes as well as Americans continue to move forward and find more ways to live out the promises of our founding documents. In that effort, those who have been disadvantaged are moved to the front so that we can address the issues that affect them. These efforts can threaten existing power structures, and when the status quo is threatened, people may personalize this threat and ask "Who are we as Americans?"

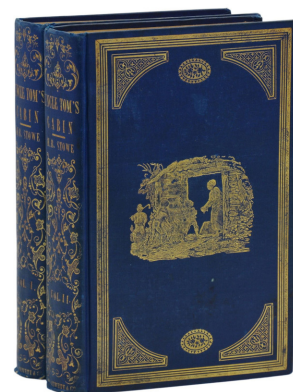
The reaction to change can be a backlash(es) that looks closely at all aspects of American life to locate and condemn what it sees as the sources of this destabilization: "Someone is rocking our world, and we need to make them stop."

Books and other media become prime targets because they are so visible and because they are so effective at distributing what some may regard as damaging messages.

Ultimately, book banning is an exercise in power. For example, a religious leader in a distant country calls for the death of an author who has written a book that he feels criticizes his religious beliefs. This call is taken up by individuals here and there who are more extreme in their views about these beliefs, and this demonstrates the leader's power. The responding individuals also feel a sense of power and a deeper connection to the objects of their belief. Book banning can be seen as a similar effort to exercise power and gain the affection of followers.

In a recent opinion piece entitled "There's More Than One Way to Ban a Book" in the *New York Times*, author and editor Pamela Paul examined the more subtle ways through book banning is creeping into the publishing process itself.

She begins by describing American publishers that have taken courageous stands to publish material even in the face of significant controversy. Paul says this is



Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life among the Lowly, by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852), first edition. This book's fierce advocacy for the abolition of slavery made it one of the most banned books of 19th-century America and one of the best selling, in fact, the bestselling American book of the entire century, second only to the Bible.

Ban a Book, continued

part of an American tradition in publishing:

The American publishing industry has long prided itself on publishing ideas and narratives that are worthy of our engagement, even if some people might consider them unsavory or dangerous, and for standing its ground on freedom of expression.

Paul's first example is the decision of Walter Minton, president of publishing house G. P. Putnam's Sons, to publish the first American edition of Vladimir Nabokov's controversial novel *Lolita* in 1958.

Briefly, the book concerns a middle-aged man who becomes obsessed with and then sexually involved with a precocious 12-year-old girl. The first third of the book describes this relationship, then the girl

abandons him, and the remainder of the book is about the man's efforts to recover.

When Nabokov completed the novel in 1953, he sought an American publisher. Despite his reputation as an author, he was turned down by Viking, Simon & Schuster, New Directions, Farrar, Straus, and Doubleday. He published in France in

1955, making a hasty deal with a publisher later found to be unsavory. Copies found their way to England where the influential author and critic Grahame Green reviewed it as one of the three best books of the year, but there were reviewers who found the book deeply offensive. When the book came to the attention of the British censors, it was condemned and customs officers were ordered to seize all copies entering the U.K. France quickly followed.

Minton accepted the book for publication in 1958, and it was released in August of that year. *Lolita* became the first book

since *Gone with the Wind* (1936) to sell over 100,000 copies in three weeks! In 1962, *Lolita* was released as a U.S. film, starring James Mason and directed by Stanley Kubrick. *Lolita* is widely regarded as one of the best novels of the 20th century.

Lolita has been challenged, removed, and condemned from time to time. In earlier days, these responses were based on moral grounds, i.e., on the fact that it contained sexual content and of a particularly unsavory type. In more recent years, *Lolita* has been challenged from other points of view, for example, for its insensitivity to child sexual abuse. When *Lolita* was published, child sexual abuse was not talked about openly – now we acknowledge the frequency of this abuse and are eager to protect children from it and provide resources for adult survivors. In this new environment of sensitivity to these individuals, the story in *Lolita* may present difficulties.

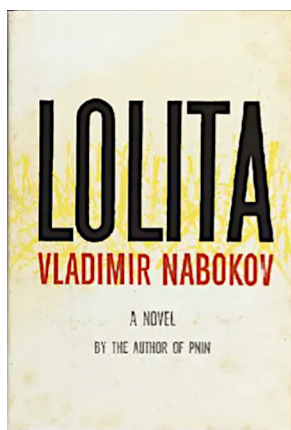
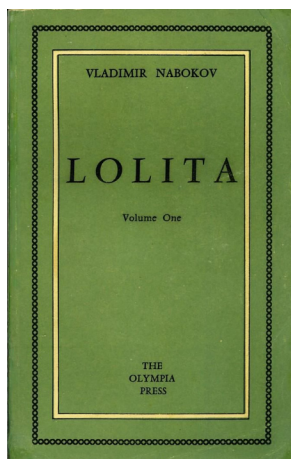
In her article, Paul shows how this kind of sensitivity has begun to lead to a suppression of works that deal with a number of issues that American culture is confronting. Paul says that books are now under pressure from both ends of the political spectrum – she quotes John Sargent, chief executive at Macmillan until last year and “widely respected in the industry for his staunch defense of freedom of expression”:

On the right, it's going through institutions and school boards, and on the left, it's using social media as a tool of activism. It's aggressively protesting to increase the pain threshold, until there's censorship going the other way.”

In the face of broad attacks launched on social media, print media, etc., publishers have become wary. Paul cites the 2020 novel *American Dirt*, the fourth book from author Jeanine Cummins.

Cummins's book tells the story of a bookseller in Acapulco, Mexico. When her journalist husband is killed for printing an expose of a drug lord, the bookseller must flee with her son and make the arduous journey through Mexico and across the border to the U.S.

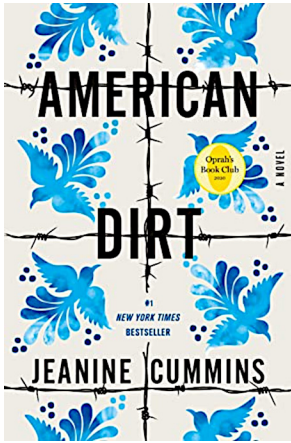
Far from having difficulty in finding a publisher,



Lolita: first edition (France, 1955; top); first American edition (1958; bottom). One of the most controversial books of the 20th century for its treatment of a middle-aged man obsessed with a teenage girl.

Ban a Book, continued

American Dirt was the object of a bidding war among publishers. The winner was Flatiron Books, which reportedly paid Cummins “a seven-figure advance.” Flatiron conducted a massive publicity campaign and sent boxes of books to libraries near the Mexican



American Dirt, (2022), first edition. This book became an object of controversy, on one side, for those who disapprove of its portrayal of immigration and, on the other, who criticize its authenticity.

border, held a release party, and obtained blurbs from Stephen King, Sandra Cisneros, Don Winslow, and John Grisham. Oprah Winfrey selected the book for her book club. *American Dirt* debuted at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list.

However, *American Dirt* was uniquely positioned to inflame passions on all sides of the immigration debate, and reactions came from many corners. Some emphasized the importance of the issue the book treats or its emotional engagement. Others criticized it for its lack of authenticity and exploitation.

Reviews were written and retracted; one review commissioned by *Ms.* was so negative, that the magazine declined to publish it.

Paul refers to this episode as the “*American Dirt* imbroglio.” She explains that this is what publishers are hoping to avoid.

We are all trying to find a way to understand and engage with emerging attitudes about immigration, race, and sexualities in an environment where these topics are the subjects of intense feeling, study, and

publication (in the broad sense, including social media and television). For many, the solution is ideology – unwavering stands that can answer questions before they are even asked. It is difficult to resist this ideologization (a form of radicalization) in the charged atmosphere of modern America.

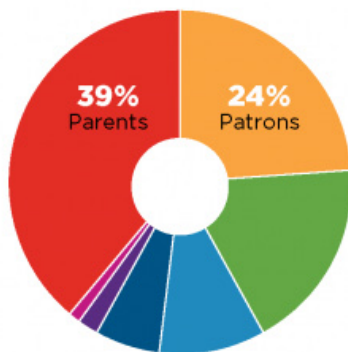
Paul says, “We shouldn’t capitulate to any repressive forces, no matter where they emanate from on the political spectrum. Parents, schools and readers should demand access to all kinds of books, whether they personally approve of the content or not. For those on the illiberal left to conduct their own campaigns of censorship while bemoaning the book-burning impulses of the right is to violate the core tenets of liberalism.”

She illustrates this point with resistance, both in-house and out, to Simon & Schuster’s book deal with former Vice President Mike Pence. One suspects that Mr. Pence is unlikely to write an outright screed, and he is entitled to explain, and even defend, himself. Mr. Pence deserves to be heard, and anger over his policies or statements should not influence professionals in the decision to publishing.

Our most famous stories about America are based on the toleration that permits individual freedom. We can be proud of this tradition. As we expand individual freedom into areas that were previously largely unknown, much less mentioned, our toleration must increase. We must replace “Don’t tread on me” with “Live and let live” and find common values that allow reasoned debate even about objectionable materials.

Who are we as Americans?

WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES?



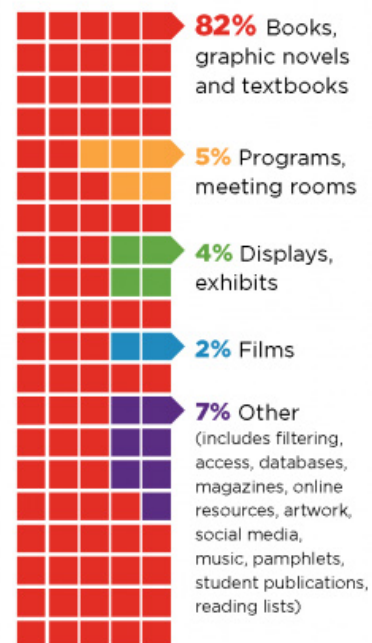
- 18% Board/administration
- 10% Political/religious groups
- 6% Librarians/teachers
- 2% Elected officials
- 1% Students

WHERE DO CHALLENGES TAKE PLACE?



BOOKS AND BEYOND

The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked **729 challenges** in 2021. Here's the breakdown:



REASONS FOR CHALLENGES

HOMOPHOBIC OR TRANSPHOBIC
 LOW LITERARY VALUE
 RACIST CONTENT
 BLEAK
 TOTALLY EVIL
 LGBTQIA
 NON-TRADITIONAL VALUES
 ANTI-POLICE
 SEX EDUCATION
 WOKES
 GROOMING
 ABORTION
 WHITE PRIVILEGE
 PEDOPHILIA
 DRUGS
 POLITICAL VIEWPOINT
 POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION
 RAPE
 MAKES WHITE BABIES FEEL SAD
 GENDER DYSPHORIA
 ANTI-SEMITIC
 PROBLEMATIC AUTHOR
 NOT A HAPPY ENDING
 RACIALLY DIVISIVE
 SEXUALIZATION OF WOMEN
 MASTURBATION
 VIOLENCE
 POLARIZING
 BIASED AND UNBALANCED
 DANGEROUS AND DETRIMENTAL
 PROMOTES RACISM
 HATEFUL
 USE OF DEROGATORY TERM FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS
 INDOCTRINATING KIDS
 CRITICAL RACE THEORY
 PROFANITY
 SUICIDE
 UNSAFE OR CAUSES HARM
 HATEFUL MISREPRESENTATION
 RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINT
 OFFENSIVE CHINESE STEREOTYPES
 NUDITY
 PORNOGRAPHY

Each word and phrase in this graphic is cited from 2021 censorship reports

CENSORSHIP
STATISTICS
COMPILED BY:



OFFICE FOR
Intellectual Freedom
American Library Association

Ban a Book, concluded

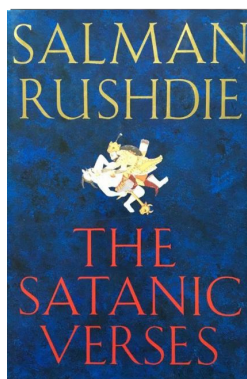
The Top 10 Banned Books of 2021

as tracked by the American Library Association

1. ***Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe** – Started as a way to explain to eir family what it means to be nonbinary and asexual, *Gender Queer* is more than a personal story: it is a useful and touching guide on gender identity—what it means and how to think about it—for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere.
 2. ***Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison** – “Jonathan Evison’s voice is pure magic. In *Lawn Boy*, at once a vibrant coming-of-age novel and a sharp social commentary on class, Evison offers a painfully honest portrait of one young man’s struggle to overcome the hand he’s been dealt in life and reach for his dreams. It’s a journey you won’t want to miss, with an ending you won’t forget.” – Kristin Hannah, author of *The Nightingale*
 3. ***All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M. Johnson** – Both a primer for teens eager to be allies as well as a reassuring testimony for young queer men of color, *All Boys Aren’t Blue* covers topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, structural marginalization, consent, and Black joy. Johnson’s emotionally frank style of writing will appeal directly to young adults.
 4. ***Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez** – “This book presents a range of human nature, from kindness and love to acts of racial and sexual violence. The work resonates with fear, hope, love, and the importance of memory....Set against the backdrop of an actual historical event, Pérez...gives voice to many long-omitted facets of U.S. history.” – *School Library Journal*
 5. ***The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas** – Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.
 6. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie** – See page 5.
 7. ***Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews** – The *New York Times* bestseller that inspired the Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning film. The funniest book you’ll ever read about death.
 8. ***The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison** – In Morrison’s acclaimed first novel, *Pecola Breedlove* – an 11-year-old Black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others – prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.
 9. ***This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson** – YA author Juno Dawson gives an uncensored look at what it’s like to grow up as LGBT. Including testimonials from people across the gender and sexual spectrums, this frank, funny, fully inclusive book explores everything anyone who ever dared to wonder wants to know - from sex to politics, how to pull, stereotypes, how to come-out and more. Spike Gerrell’s hilarious illustrations combined with funny and factual text make this a must-read.
 10. ***Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin** – In interviews with six transgender or gender-neutral young adults, Kuklin represents them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference. The photographs that grace the pages augment the emotional and physical journey each youth has taken. The teens differ in family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition they made, but alike in the candor and courage displayed in search of one’s true self.
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THE FLORIDA BIBLIOPHILE SOCIETY
STANDS WITH SALMAN RUSHDIE

In August, 2022, All People Of The Book Were Called To Bear Witness.



Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* (Viking Penguin, 1988). Whitbread Prize, 1988.
 A novel which ignited a culture war, a death *fatwa*, and attempted murder of the author.



Rushdie Solidarity Event, NY. August 19, 2022. Photo, AP for *New York Post*.

On the morning of August 12, 2022, Sir Salman Rushdie was savagely assaulted at a public reading hosted by the Chautauqua Institution, NY; he may lose an eye and the use of an arm: [<NY Times>](#). His 24-year-old assailant, charged with second-degree attempted murder, became radicalized during a recent trip to the Middle East; the attack is thought to have been religiously motivated. Within a week, PEN America, the New York Public Library, Penguin Random House, *et al.*, organized ***Stand With Salman***, a public event on the steps of the NYPL, with comments and readings on censorship, tolerance, and the role of writers in the 21stC. **Speakers:** Paul Auster, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Tina Brown, Kiran Desai, Amanda Foreman, Roya Hakakian, A.M. Homes, Siri Hustvedt, Hari Kunzru, Colum McCann, Gay Talese: [<Video, NYPL event>](#).

[<Breaking News Coverage: Al Jazeera>](#) / New York, August 12, 2022.

[<Sunday Observer>](#) / Sri Lanka, August 21, 2022.

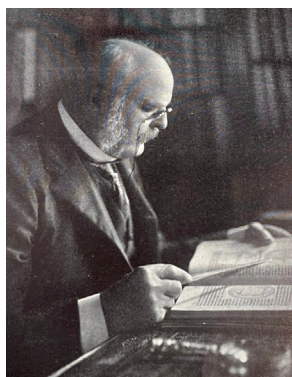


Galileo Letter Is Confirmed Forgery

In 1934, the University of Michigan acquired an original letter by the famous physicist and astronomer Galileo Galilei (1564–1642). This document has been a prized possession of the university's library, until now...

The Suspect

The letter was part of the collection of Rev. Dr. Roderick Terry (1849–1933), a Presbyterian minister born in Brooklyn, who served in New York churches, as a chaplain in the Spanish-American War, and retired to Newport, R.I. His collection



Rev. Dr. Roderick Terry

was auctioned by American Art Association—Anderson Galleries in three sales in 1934 and 1935. It was described by the *New York Times* as “One of the most important auctions of rare books, manuscripts, and autographs to be held here in several years.”

The sale included “illuminated manuscripts, incunabula, rare first editions of important books

in English literature from the 16th century to the 19th century, autograph letters and manuscripts of English and American authors, rare Americana, including early printed books, broadsides, and historical autographs, and autograph letters and documents of historical personages, musicians, artists, etc.” A detailed list of the items offered is astounding, including leaves from a Gutenberg Bible and Shakespeare folios. The original *New York Times* article from April 29, 1934, appears in the following pages.

“An Autograph Letter Signed by Galileo Galilei to Cosimo de’ Medici” appeared as Lot 92 in Part 1 of the sale. The letter was accompanied by a “certification of genuineness” by Cardinal Pietro Maffi (1858–1931), Archbishop of Pisa, claiming that the letter had been found authentic by comparison with others in the collection at Pisa, Galileo’s hometown. The letter is described as a draft document containing about 200 words in Italian with

several diagrams. Letters of Galileo are extremely rare, and the catalog states that this one is believed to be the first offered for sale in the U.S.

At the top of the letter is a message dated August 24, 1609, to Galileo’s patron, Cosimo de’ Medici, describing Galileo’s new invention, the telescope. In the lower portion of the page, dated a few months later in January 1610, are diagrams that document one of Galileo’s most important discoveries with the telescope, observations of the moons of Jupiter. Together, these items make the single-page document significant in the history of science. The final versions of this draft are held in the Archivio di Stato di Venezia (the letter to Cosimo de’ Medici) and in the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (notes on the moons of Jupiter) as part of the Sidereus Nuncius Dossier. Thus, the document has been rightly described by the University of Michigan as “one of the jewels at the University of Michigan Library.”

The University of Michigan did not buy the letter. It was purchased by Tracy McGregor, a Detroit businessman and bibliophile. After McGregor’s death, his trustees bequeathed the manuscript to the university in 1938, in special recognition of the services to astronomy by Heber D. Curtis, professor of astronomy.

The Sleuth

In May 2022, Nick Wilding, a historian at Georgia State University, had the occasion to examine the Galileo letter online because he is writing a biography of Galileo. He is well acquainted with Galileo manuscripts and noticed some irregularities in letter forms and word choices. Also, though the top part was written months before the bottom



Nick Wilding

part, the ink seemed very similar, considering that ink was then made by hand, and the two parts of the letter would likely have come from different lots of ink. Wilding is a specialist in forgeries, and so has a keener eye than most for these irregularities.

Galileo, continued

He questioned the provenance of the Galileo letter, but could find no record of it in Italian archives. Its first appearance was in the 1934 purchase record at the Terry collection auction. The clues were beginning to add up.

Wilding contacted the University of Michigan library and asked for their provenance information and for an image of the letter's watermark.

Pablo Alvarez, the curator at the library's Special Collections Research Center, retrieved the document from storage and photographed its watermark, a circle with a three-leafed clover and the monogram, "AS/BMO."

Alvarez knew Wilding's reputation for detecting forgeries, so when he saw Wilding's name on the request, he became uneasy.

The provenance as given in the auction catalog told Wilding that the letter had been authenticated by Cardinal Maffi by comparison to "other originals in the collection at Pisa." Wilding pursued the "other originals" and found that they had been given to the cardinal by Tobia Nicotra, well known to Wilding as "a notorious 20th-century counterfeiter in Milan."

Meanwhile, Alvarez asked the university's conservation laboratory to examine the document. They returned reassuring information: the ink and paper were consistent with the Galileo's time.

Wilding continued to follow up on each element of the document. The AS/BMO monogram turned up in another Galileo document, this time at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York. While the monogram was the same, the watermark was slightly different. The document was a letter dated 1607, and Wilding recognized it as uncannily similar to a letter he had seen in Italian archives. He suspected another forgery and reported his findings to the Morgan Library.

Wilding found that "BMO" was an abbreviation for the Italian city of Bergamo. With this information, Wilding found the final piece of the puzzle in the reference "The Ancient Paper-Mills of the Former Austro-Hungarian Empire and Their Watermarks."

Wilding contacted both the Michigan and Morgan libraries with this result.

Alvarez examined the reference. No paper watermarked AS/BMO was known before 1770. Galileo, living 150 years before that, would have been most unlikely to have used this paper, a detail the forger had missed.

The Michigan manuscript is one of a handful of Nicotra forgeries that have been identified. Hundreds more remain to be discovered.

* * * * *

Returning to 1934, Walter Toscanini, son of the famous conductor Arturo, purchases a Mozart manuscript from one Tobia Nicotra, well known as a source of manuscripts. The younger Toscanini is an authority on antiquarian manuscripts and upon close inspection, believes the manuscript to be a forgery. He sends the manuscript to the Mozart University in Salzburg, Austria, where it is authenticated.

Toscanini is not convinced. With further investigation, he determines that the document is a forgery and approaches the Milan police. Detective Giorgio Florita and Toscanini catch Nicotra selling forged documents to Hopeli, a Milan publishing house. Nicotra is arrested for failing to produce an identity document when asked.

A search of Nicotra's apartment reveals a virtual "forgery factory," with endpapers and other book materials taken from Milan libraries and many forgery projects in progress for personages including Christopher Columbus, Warren G. Harding, Tadeusz Kosciuszko, Leonardo da Vinci, Abraham Lincoln, the Marquis de Lafayette, Martin Luther, Michelangelo, and George Washington. Many of these names reflect the popularity of Nicotra's work in the U.S. — a rich field for his toil — where he sold hundreds of documents to



Tobia Nicotra in 1934, courtroom sketch

Galileo, continued

knowledgeable collectors in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1932, he was wined and dined during a tour of the U.S. with a small orchestra, posing as Ricardo Drigo, Director of Music for the Imperial Ballet of Saint Petersburg, Russia. Drigo had died in 1930. At the time, Nicotra was well known in the U.S. for his well-received and widely read 1929 biography of Arturo Toscanini.

A further search of Nicotra's apartment revealed a large and luxurious salon with black velvet walls and seven shrines, each decorated with flowers and photographs and paintings of the "seven loves" that

made his life at 53 — to him, an unbearably old age — bearable. As he said when asked about the reason for his crimes: "I did it to support my seven loves."

On November 9, 1934, Nicotra was sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of 2,400 lire (about 3,100 dollars today). Despite some secrecy in the trial's conduct to avoid embarrassment, the trial and its sensational revelations were widely reported in U.S. newspapers.

Nicotra was paroled early by the National Fascist Party that ruled the Kingdom of Italy from 1922 to 1943. They needed a master forger.

New York Times
pub. April 29, 1934

RARE MANUSCRIPTS TO BE PUT ON SALE

Collection of Late Dr. Terry
to Be Offered on Wednesday
and Thursday.

One of the most important auctions of rare books, manuscripts and autographs to be held here in several years will take place Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon and evening when part one of the library of the late Rev. Dr. Roderick Terry of Newport, R. I., will be offered at the American Art Association-Anderson Galleries, Inc.

Dr. Terry, who was an antiquarian and historian, was president of the Newport Historical Society and of the Redwood Library. His collection is the result of more than half a century of persistent and careful effort, during which he was able to acquire many important rarities.

Rare Autograph Collection.

One of the important items in the collection is a complete set of the autographs of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, including the rare signatures of Button Gwinnett and Thomas Lynch Jr., the latter being an excessive rarity, since it is believed to be the only extant 1776 document signed by Lynch except the Declaration.

The sale will comprise illuminated manuscripts, incunabula, rare first editions of important books in English literature from the sixteenth to

the nineteenth century, autograph letters and manuscripts of English and American authors, rare Americana, including early printed books, broadsides, and historical autographs, and autograph letters and documents of historical personages, musicians, artists, &c.

Included in the incunabula are twenty-four leaves, practically the entire Book of Genesis, from a Gutenberg Bible. Cicero is represented in these early first editions by his "De Officiis et Paradoxa," 1465, apparently the first copy to be offered at public sale in this country, and by his "Rhetorica nova et vetus," printed at Venice by Jenson in 1470, one of six extant copies on vellum.

First Editions Included.

Among the other rarities are a set of the first five editions of Izaak Walton's "Compleat Angler"; Thomas Gray's own copy of his "Odes" with manuscript annotations and a verse transcript by the author; a group of Goldsmith first editions including his "Vicar of Wakefield," "The Deserted Village" and "The Haunch of Venison"; the "Poems" of Robert Burns and other Burns items; a Shelley group including a complete story of "Queen Mab," a presentation copy of "Alastor," and rare editions of Robert Herrick, Samuel Johnson, Byron, Lamb, Tennyson, Fitzgerald and others.

One of the most important items of Americana is a letter by Roger Williams of more than 2,500 words, regarding the purchase of Rhode Island, written from Providence, Aug. 25, 1659, old style.

Two historical letters of interest were written by Queen Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots. Elizabeth's letter was written to Henry III of France and related to Mary Queen of Scots. Mary's letter, signed "Marie R maintenant prisonniere," was written March 31, 1568, to the Archbishop of Glasgow, invoking his aid.

Galileo, continued

Catalog entry for lot 92, "An Autograph Letter Signed by Galileo Galilei to Cosimo de' Medici" from *The Library of the Late Rev. Dr. Roderick terry of Newport, Rhode Island, Part 1* (1934)

92

AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED BY GALILEO GALILEI TO COSIMO DE' MEDICI

GALILEI (GALILEO). A. L. s., 1 p., small folio. Padua, n.d. To Cosimo de' Medici. About 200 words, several diagrams. In Italian.

A REMARKABLE HISTORICAL LETTER BY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SCIENTISTS OF ALL TIME. BELIEVED TO BE THE FIRST SIGNED AUTOGRAPH LETTER BY GALILEO TO BE OFFERED FOR PUBLIC SALE IN AMERICA. AUTOGRAPH LETTERS BY GALILEO GALILEI ARE OF THE GREATEST RARITY.

The letter is addressed to Galileo's patron, the second Cosimo de' Medici, through whose influence the astronomer had recently been appointed to the chair of mathematics at the University of Padua. It was written from Padua at the height of Galileo's prosperity, probably in the year 1600, and relates to one of the astronomer's most important discoveries, the Galilean telescope. The value of this discovery in naval warfare is explained in the letter. At the conclusion of the letter is a chart or diagram explaining Galileo's observations with the telescope of the movements of the planet Jupiter and its satellites.

A certification of genuineness by Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, accompanies the letter, written on a visiting card. It attests that Cardinal Maffi has compared the letter with other originals in the collection at Pisa and found it to be authentic. Galileo was a native of Pisa, and some of his more important experiments were conducted in that city, particularly from the leaning tower.

The letter reads as follows (in translation): "Most serene Prince. Galileo Galilei most humbly prostrates himself before your Highness, watching carefully, and with all spirit of willingness, not only to satisfy what concerns the reading of mathematics in the study of Padua, but to write of having decided to present to your Highness a telescope ["*Occhiale*"] that will be a great help in maritime and land enterprises. I assure you I shall keep this new invention a great secret and show it only to your Highness. The telescope was made for the most accurate study of distances. This telescope has the advantage of discovering the ships of the enemy two hours before they can be seen with the natural vision and to distinguish the number and quality of the ships and to judge their strength and be ready to chase them, to fight them, or to flee from them; or, in the open country to see all details and to distinguish every movement and preparation." Beneath the letter are diagrams and notes explaining the position of Jupiter on several nights.

Galileo, concluded

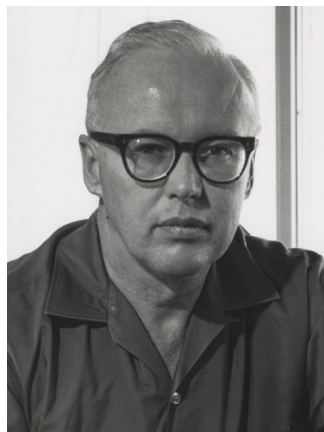
Letter of Galileo Galilei to Leonardo Donato, Doge of Venice, August 1609, University of Michigan Library

91
 Ser^{mo} Principe.
 Galileo Galilei Humilis^o Seruo della Ser.^a V.^a inuigilan-
 do assiduam^e, et d'ogni spirito p^o potere n^o solam^e satifare
 alcarico che tiene della lettura di Mathematici nello stu-
 dio di Padoua,
 Inuere d'auere determinato di presentare al Ser^{mo} Principe
 l'occhiale et d^e p^o essere di giouamento inestimabile p^o ogni
 negozio et impresa marittima o terrestre stim^o di tenere quel-
 lo nuovo artificio nel maggior segreto et solam^e a disposizione
 di S.^a Ser.^a L'occhiale cauato dalle piu^e edite speculazioni di
 prospettiva ha il uantaggio di scoprire Legni et Vele dell' inimici
 p^o due hore et piu^e di tempo prima d^e egli scuopra noi et distinguendo
 il numero et la qualita^e dei Vasselli giudicare le sue forze
 p^o allestirsi alla caccia al combattimento o alla fuga, o pure anzi
 nella campagna aperta uedere et particolarmente distinguere ogni suo
 moto et preparatione.
 Adi 7. di Gennaio
 Gioue si uede ari^e 4 * uoci: 10. 11.
 Adi 8 ari^e 4 * * * * *
 4 * * * * * era d'ug^e diretto et n^o retrogrado
 Adi 12. si uede in tale costituzione * * * * *
 Il 13. si uedono vicini^e a Gioue 4 stelle * * * * * o meglio ari^e
 Adi 14 è rugolo * * * * *
 Il 15 * * * * * la pross^a a 4 era la mi^e la 4^a era di-
 stante dalla 3^a il doppio l'altra
 Lo spazio delle 3 ouedute n^o era
 maggiore del diametro di 4 et e-
 rano in linea retta.
 4 long. 71.38 Lat. 1.13

Publication of John D. MacDonald Letters

In March 2016, FBS members Cal and Nola Branche wrote in the pages of this newsletter about events being planned for the centennial of John D. MacDonald's birth. They also wrote about a remarkable collection found among MacDonald's papers at the University of Florida library:

Nola and I were hired back in 2007 to help reorganize the 472 boxes comprising the John D. MacDonald Collection at the University of Florida Smathers Library. Included in the collection was a box of WW2 letters, totaling 373, which provided a window into the thoughts and feelings of two people separated by the war. We made copies of the letters and then digitized them so over time they will be preserved. We had to use magnifying glasses often since Dorothy wrote in such a way as to cram as much into what space she had as she could.

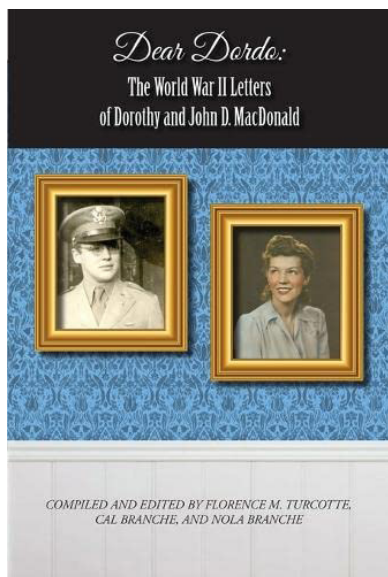


John D. and Dorothy "Dordo" MacDonald. A selection of the 373 letters they wrote to each other during World War 2 are the basis of the book *Dear Dordo: The World War II Letters of Dorothy and John D. MacDonald*, compiled by Cal and Nola Branche and Flo Turcotte.

Among the contents of over 470 boxes of John D. MacDonald's papers were 373 letters exchanged between John and his wife Dorothy during a two-year period of the the Second World War. John was first in India and then in Ceylon. He was attached to the OSS, but he was not a spy. Dorothy wrote first, on May 12, 1943, and shortly thereafter, John sent his first letter. However, given the conditions of wartime, they did not enjoy regular postal delivery — John might get four letters at once, and then go weeks before getting another; the same was true for Dorothy. They were both good writers, but John's letters, of course, were heavily censored and may seem plainer in tone. Any details that would truly describe his war experience have been removed, and picking a letter to illustrate the war is not easy.

Fans of MacDonald and many others will likely feel as Maynard did: grateful for the opportunity to participate in this remarkable period of the lives of Dordo (Dorothy) and John as well as for this view of the period itself, during which so many couples were separated by thousands of miles and the uncertainty of war.

Our congratulations to Cal, Nola, and Flo on the publication of *Dear Dordo*!



Cal and Nola, avid collector's of MacDonald, shared these letters with MacDonald's son Maynard, who had never seen them and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity. Cal and Nola also embarked on a project to organize a selection of the 373 letters into a book.

Working with University of Florida archivist Flo Turcotte*, the Branches accomplished this goal, and the result of the

trio's work was published in May 2022 as *Dear Dordo: The World War II Letters of Dorothy and John D. MacDonald*.

The *Florida Bibliophile* for March 2016 includes three letters from the MacDonalds' correspondence. Cal wrote this introduction to them:

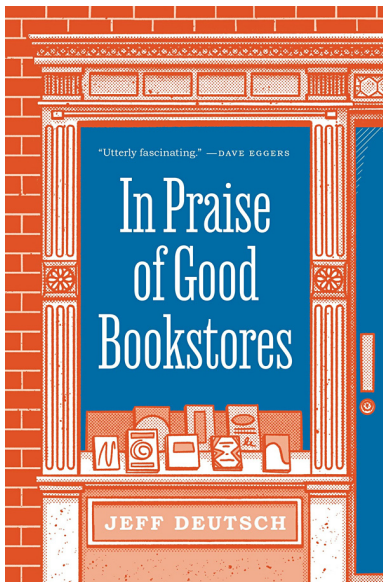
*Flo is known to many FBS members for her presentation about Marjorie K. Rawlings in October 2015.



Books in Brief

In Praise of Good Bookstores

Jeff Deutsch
Princeton University Press
216 pp., 2022



Do we need bookstores in the twenty-first century? If so, what makes a good one? In this beautifully written book, Jeff Deutsch – director of Chicago’s remarkable Seminary Co-op Bookstores – pays loving tribute to one of our most important and endangered civic institutions. He considers how qualities like space, time, abundance, and

community find expression in a good bookstore. He also predicts – perhaps audaciously – a future in which the bookstore not only endures, but realizes its highest aspirations.

In exploring why good bookstores matter, Deutsch draws on his lifelong experience as a bookseller, but also his upbringing as an Orthodox Jew. This spiritual and cultural heritage instilled in him a reverence for reading, not as a means to a living, but as an essential part of a meaningful life. Central among Deutsch’s arguments for the necessity of bookstores is the incalculable value of browsing – because, when we are deep in the act of looking at the shelves, we move through space as though we are inside the mind itself, immersed in self-reflection.



Jeff Deutsch is director of Chicago’s Seminary Co-op Bookstores, the first not-for-profit bookstores in the United States whose mission is devoted to bookselling. He is the first bookseller to sit on Princeton University Press’s Board of Directors.

Source: Princeton University Press

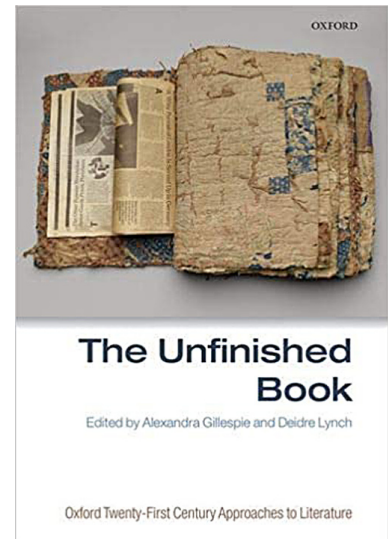
The Unfinished Book (Oxford Twenty-First Century Approaches to Literature)

Alexandra Gillespie and Deidre Lynch, eds.
Oxford University Press
528 pp., 2021

This collection argues that the physical book is unfinished – it still has much to offer as informational medium, art object, or conceptual resource.

The chapters work together to demonstrate how much book history has to gain from emerging literary-critical interests of the 21st century, such as scholarship on empire, environment, disability, and African-American and Indigenous studies.

The chapters span terrain from the earliest Indus Valley writings to Cicero’s 1st-century BCE library to the latest videogames, with new ways of thinking about the form, edges, and boundaries of the book. Overall, this collection launches a new generation of scholarship as it introduces provocative new approaches about the nature, place, and time of books.



Alexandra Gillespie is Professor of English at the University of Toronto and a member of Toronto’s Collaborative Program in Book History and Print Culture and its Centre for Medieval Studies.

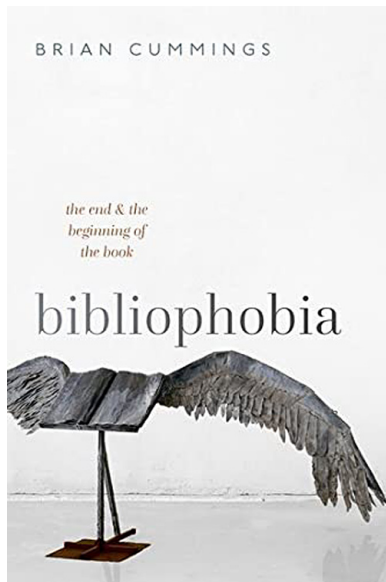
Deidre Lynch is Ernest Bernbaum Professor of English Literature at Harvard, with numerous publications on 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century literature, culture, and reading communities.

Source: Oxford University Press



*Books in Brief, continued***Bibliophobia: The End and the Beginning of the Book**

Brian Cummings
Oxford University Press
592 pp., 2022



Bibliophobia is about material books, about their care and destruction during 5000 years of writing, from Sumeria to the smartphone. It begins with the modern idea of “the death of the book” implied by the rise of digital media and traces the twin phobias of the book’s omniscience and oblivion across that same time span. Books imply cognitive content

embodied in physical form, and at its heart, this relationship of body and mind – or letter and spirit – always retains a mystery. Religions are founded on holy books, which are also sites of transgression, so that writing is simultaneously sacred and profane.

Bibliophobia is a richly illustrated global history. It discusses topics such as the origins of scripts; the development of textual media such as scrolls, codices, printed books, and artificial intelligence; the collection and destruction of libraries; the use of books as holy relics, talismans, or shrines; and literacy in the history of slavery, heresy, blasphemy, censorship, and persecution. It proposes a theory of writing, how it relates to speech, images, and information, or to concepts of mimesis, personhood, and politics.



Brian Cummings is Anniversary Professor at the University of York. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Source: Oxford University Press

The Wordhord: Daily Life in Old English

Hana Videen
Princeton University Press
296 pp., 2022

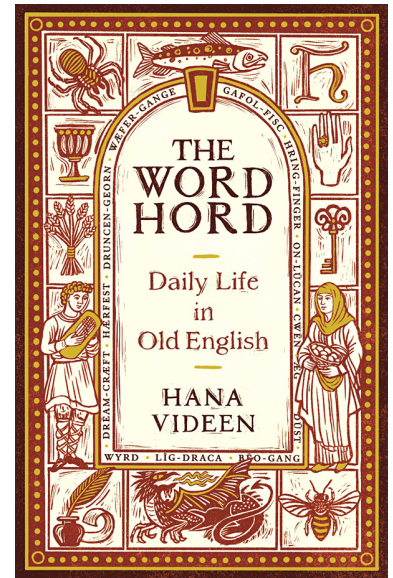
Before Shakespeare’s English or Chaucer’s Middle English, Old English – the language of *Beowulf* – defies comprehension by untrained modern readers. Used throughout much of Britain more than a thousand years ago, it is rich with words that haven’t changed (like “word”), others that are unrecognizable (such as *neorxnawang*, or paradise), and some

that are mystifying even in translation (*gafol-fisc*, or tax-fish). In this delightful book, Hana Videen gathers a trove of these gems to illuminate the lives of the earliest English speakers and the origins of the language you are now reading. We discover a world where choking on a bit of bread might prove your guilt, where fiend-ship was as likely as friendship, and where you might grow up to be a laughter-smith.

The Wordhord journeys through Old English words and customs related to practical daily activities; relationships and entertainment; health and the body, mind, and soul; the natural world; locations and travel; mortality, religion, and fate; and the imagination and storytelling. Each chapter ends with its own “wordhord” – a list of its Old English terms, with definitions and pronunciations.

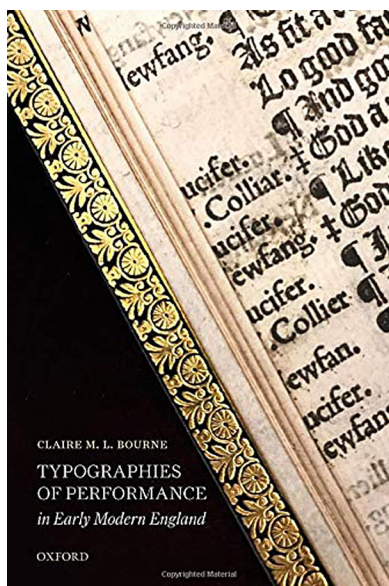
Hana Videen holds a doctorate in Old English from King’s College London and is now a writer and blogger based in Canada, where she translates curiosities of history into engaging narratives.

Source: Princeton University Press



*Books in Brief, concluded***Typographies of Performance in Early Modern England**

Claire M. L. Bourne
Oxford University Press
352pp., 2020



Typographies of Performance in Early Modern England is the first book-length study of early modern English playbook typography. It tells a new history of the period's drama by considering the page designs of plays by Shakespeare and others printed between the late 15th and early 18th centuries. It argues that typography was used

creatively by printers, publishers, and playwrights to make the effects of theatricality – from the most basic, such as change in speaker, to more complex, such as movement on stage – intelligible on the page.

The product of these experiments was a uniquely dramatic typography, constantly responsive to performance effects, that made it possible for ‘plays’ to be marketed, collected, and read in the 16th and 17th centuries as a print genre distinct from other imaginative writing. It has been said, “If a play is a book, it is not a play.” *Typographies of Performance in Early Modern England* shows how the “play” and “book” worked together: it was the very bookishness of plays printed in early modern England that allowed them to be recognized by their earliest readers as plays in the first place.



Claire M. L. Bourne is Assistant Professor of English at the Pennsylvania State University. Her research focuses on early modern drama, the history of the book, and theatre history.

Source: Oxford University Press

The Cat Who Saved Books: A Novel

Sosuke Natsukawa, translated by Louise Heal Kawai
HarperVia
208 pp. 2021

From the #1 bestselling author in Japan comes a book about a young bookseller and a talking cat – a cat with a mission: rescue books from mistreatment, misappropriation, and general misuse.

Bookish high school student Rintaro is about to close the secondhand bookstore he inherited from his bookworm grandfather when a talking cat appears with an unusual request – or demand – that the teenager help him to save lonely books left unread and unloved. The cat and Rintaro must liberate them from their neglectful owners.

This odd couple embark on an amazing journey through a series of mazes to set books free. They meet a man who leaves his books to perish on a bookshelf, an unwitting book torturer who cuts the pages of books into snippets to help people speed read, and a publishing drone who only wants to create bestsellers. Their adventures culminate in one final, unforgettable challenge – the last maze leads Rintaro into a realm that only the bravest dare enter . . .

Sosuke Natsukawa is a doctor in Nagano, Japan. His prize-winning first book, *God's Medical Records*, sold 1.5 million copies and was adapted into a film.



Source: Amazon



Louise Heal Kawai resides in Yokohama, Japan, and has translated Japanese literature in many fiction genres since 2005.





The Library at Pergamum (now Bergama, Turkey) was one of the greatest of the ancient world. In the second century BCE, Pergamum was a thriving city and a major cultural center of the Western world. The library was part of the temple complex on top of the Pergamum acropolis, with commanding views of the city and the enormous amphitheater constructed on the hillside next to the acropolis. The library was said to hold up to 200,000 volumes, each written on specially prepared animal skins. Pergamum gave its name to this type of writing material: parchment. In the late second century BCE, Pergamum fell to the Romans, and reportedly, Marc Antony gave the contents of the library to Cleopatra. Many volumes were returned to Pergamum at a later date, and the library existed well into the Common Era, but it was never again the renowned intellectual center it once was.



This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

Cal and Nola Branche
David Hall
Linda Morris
Maureen E. Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Elenora Sabin
Gary Simons
Lynn Weiss
Ben Wiley

Have an idea for an article for *The Florida Bibliophile*? Contact Charles Brown, cbrown@atlantic.net, to submit or for assistance in preparing your article.

Join FBS!

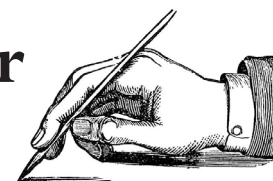
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group. You will find contact emails on the last page of this newsletter.



Membership is \$50 per year. You can find a membership form on our website. It will give you the address to which to send your filled-out form and payment.

Joining FBS also makes you a member of our national organization, the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.

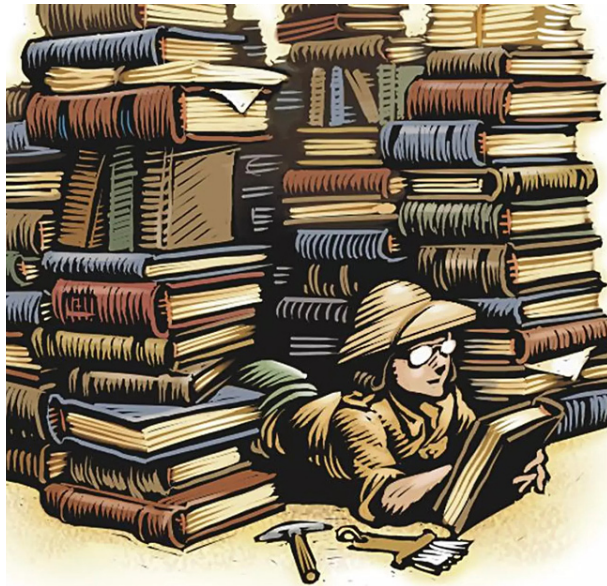
Write for Your Newsletter!



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

Upcoming Events

September 2022



Tim Foley for Chronicle Review

Summer Treasures: Show and Tell

Macdonald-Kelce Library
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL
September 18, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

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.

October 2022



Art Adkins: From the Beat to the Book: A Policeman Writes Detective Novels

Macdonald-Kelce Library
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL
October 16, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

Art Adkins’s career as a police officer spanned over 30 years in Ft. Lauderdale, Los Angeles, and Gainesville, Florida. His experiences with the LAPD were embodied in Slade Lockwood, the lead character of his first book, *The Oasis Project*, in which a retired LAPD detective returns to Cedar Key to find mysteries that require his unique skills. The sequel, *Power Grid*, was published in 2022. Art is already at work on the third novel in this series.

Art’s books are a blend of his experience and intensive research. He will speak about the transition from law enforcement to mystery writer and what he has learned along the way.



Book Events and Podcasts

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

Florida Book Events

— September 8–11 —

Books at the Beach

St. Pete Beach, FL

(www.booksatthebeach.com/)

— September 18–24 —

Banned Books Week

Look for events near you.

— September 23–25 —

38th Annual Necronomicon

Tampa, FL

(necronomicontampa.org/)

— October 22–26 —

Alachua Co. Friends of the Library Book Sale

Gainesville, FL

(folaclid.org/)

— October 28–29 —

Other Words Literary Conference

Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida

(www.floridalitartsco.org/words-conference)

— October 28–30 —

Florida WritersCon

Altamonte Springs, FL

(www.floridawriters.org/florida-writerscon)

— November 1 —

National Authors' Day

— October 3–November 16 —

JCA Jewish Literary, Film, and Arts Festival

Jacksonville, FL (jcajax.org/jcafest/)

— November 3–5 —

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

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

— November 11–13 —

Life to Paper Book Festival

At The Bookshop by Life to Paper

190 NE 46th Street, Miami, FL 33137

(<https://lifetopaperbookfest.com/>)

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:

October-29 – Collecting John Le Carré

Steven Ritterman's collection of more than 300 John le Carré books includes first editions, signed copies, galleys, and variants. Le Carré (1931–2020) worked for British security services in the 1950s and 1960s and is best known for his spy novels, particularly *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. Steven describes his quest for the complete le Carré collection, which includes meeting the author at a New York book signing event and comparing notes on le Carré's debut book with a fellow collector. We discuss the Cold War, mundane spying processes, and the rising prices of rare le Carré books.

July-26 – Cornwall poet Charles Causley

Charles Causley's peers in the 1970s regarded his poetry to be on par with Ted Hughes and John Betjeman. Our guest, Nicola Nuttall, is acting director of the Charles Causley Trust, a registered charity that preserves Causley's legacy. The Trust's 2022 Causley Festival of Arts and Literature took place in Launceston in Cornwall from July 29–31.

July-13 – Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull

Two of the greatest leaders in Native American history, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, were members of the Sioux Nation. They led native forces at the Battle of Little Big Horn where General Custer famously met his end. Our guest, Mark Lee Gardner, is author of a new book, *The Earth Is All That Lasts: Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull and the Last Stand of the Great Sioux Nation*, a biography of the two chiefs and a look at the decline of the Sioux Nation.

July-02 – Where Great Writers Write

Author Alex Johnson returns. He has just released *Rooms of their Own: Where Great Writers Write*. It's a beautifully illustrated book that describes the writing locations used by 50 famous authors: attics, hotel rooms, huts, bedrooms, and basements where great literature was created. We discuss George Bernard Shaw's revolving hut, W.H. Auden's slum in New York, Roald Dahl's child-free hut, and much more.

*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:

August 27 – Elisabeth Ruge, Germany's leading literary agent: Ruge is a German editor, publisher and literary agent. She discusses the roles she has played over her career. We talk about the importance of "attention" in the book editing and publishing; about letting go; about spin and elevator pitches; about James McBride's *The Color of Water*; and much more.

August 19 – Jonathan Landgrebe on Suhrkamp Verlag, Germany's Faber & Faber: Landgrebe is the publisher of Suhrkamp Verlag. We talked about his role as head of one of Germany's most revered publishing houses, and to riff off Siegfried Unseld's book *The Author and His Publisher*.

August 13 – Pamela Paul on her role as books editor at *The New York Times*: We talk mostly about the role that book editors play in the lifecycle of "the book." I also whine a fair amount about how I don't like the fact that she left her position, plus we diverge into discussion about Pamela's recent opinion piece "There's More Than One Way to Ban a Book."

Elling Eide Library Events

September 26, 11:00 a.m. – Yanning Wang: Late Imperial Women Writers and the Image of the Female Immortal. Late Imperial China (c. 17th to early 20th century) witnessed an explosion of women writers and a flourishing religious culture. Wang will focus on how these writers created various images of the female immortal.

October 6, 11:00 a.m. – Ann Walther: When Your Daughter Is Your Teacher: The Family of Tanyangzi. Tanyangzi (1557-1580) was born into a proper Confucian family of the Ming dynasty, but from an early age she chose a strict religious practice, drawing on Daoist and Buddhist traditions.

**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. AAS focuses on pre-1876 events and holds the "largest and most accessible collection" of related print materials.

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:

September 15, 2 p.m. – Daniel Diaz Crouch: *American Fragments: The Political Aesthetic of Unfinished Forms in the Early Republic* – During 1776–1820, Americans consumed a myriad of literary texts called "fragments." Crouch recovers this archive to raise pressing questions about the relationship between aesthetic and national realities: What kind of artistic creation was a fragment? And how and why did deliberately unfinished writing emerge alongside a country that was itself still unfinished?

October 27, 2 p.m. – Michael D'Alessandro: *Staged Readings: Contesting Class in Popular American Theater and Literature, 1835–1875* – *Staged Readings* studies the social consequences of 19th-century America's theater and popular literature. Among watershed events – waves of immigration, two financial Panics, increasing wealth disparities, and the Civil War – American theater and literature developed rapidly. Playhouses were crowded with new spectators, best-selling novels flew off the shelves, and, all the while, distinct social classes began to emerge.

November 17, 2 p.m. – Marcy J. Dinius: *The Textual Effects of David Walker's "Appeal" Print-Based Activism Against Slavery, Racism, and Discrimination, 1829–1851* – David Walker's *Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World* (1829–1830) is recognized as one of the most politically radical and consequential antislavery texts ever published, yet its impact on North American 19th-century print-based activism has gone under-examined. Dinius offers the first in-depth analysis of Walker's argumentatively and typographically radical pamphlet and its direct influence on five Black and Indigenous activist authors.

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,” featuring articles on book collecting, modern first editions, typography, national libraries, etc. Fleming died in 1964, as did the journal’s editor John Hayward. After a brief hiatus, the journal was reborn in the hands of new owner and editor, Nicolas Barker. In 2016, Fleming’s nephews, James and Fergus Fleming, took over the journal, and in 2020, they created a podcast, featuring readings from the journal’s archives. There are now [56 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:

[The Hertford Bookshelf](#) (6 episodes) – Professor Emma Smith meets Hertford writers to find out more about their work, influences, advice for would-be writers, and memories of the college.

[The Paratexts Podcast](#) (4 episodes) – Dr. Dennis Duncan looks at literary paratexts: the parts of a book that aren’t the main text: indexes, prefaces, footnotes, errata lists...

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:

July 20 – Collector’s Showcase

June 29 – “Tracks: Images Documenting the Building of the Railroads”

June 6 – Special Functions Lecture: Mary Catherine Kinniburgh on “20th-Century Counterculture Poets’ Libraries”

June 3 – Special Functions Lecture: V. M. Braganza on “The Secret Codes of Lady Mary Wroth”

May 13 – Special Functions Lecture: David Alan Richards on “Kipling’s Kim: The Great Game and the Real Spies”

May 6 – Virtual Panel Discussion: “Photographs at the Edge: Vittorio Sella and Wilfred Thesiger.”

May 3 – Special Functions Lecture: Sarah McCoy on American 18th-Century Women Printers

Princeton University Library

[Princeton podcasts](#) cover a wide range of topics. Search for “book,” “text,” etc. and check search results. Related videos will appear at the right of individual podcasts.

May 18 – Gillett G. Griffin Memorial Lecture: “The Post -Typographic Private Press?” with Russell Maret

September 27, 2021 – Evyn Kropf | Introduction to Arabic Manuscripts- Overview, Terms, Methods, Special Challenges

October 20, 2020 – The Books and Prints of Anaïs Nin and her Gemor Press



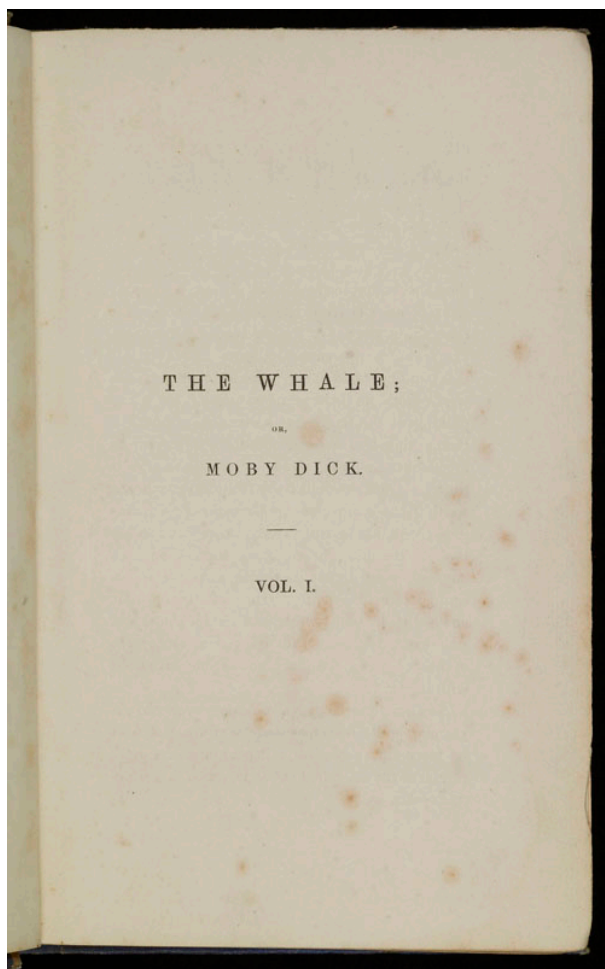
...and *More*

Half-title – On opening a hardback book, one finds the front paste-down, which is the page glued to the inside of the front cover, and the front fly leaf, the first free page of the book, usually attached to the paste-down. The next page is often printed with only the title of the book, and this is the half-title.

The half-title emerged early in the history of printed books. Unlike manuscripts, which were produced one at a time, printed books were produced in editions. For an edition of 1000, the printer printed 1000 copies of page 1, then 1000 copies of page 2, etc. (This is a simplification, but we'll deal with "imposition" and how books are really printed onto pages in future installment.) The pages are then assembled into text blocks where they await binding into covers. The half-title protected the text block and identified the book. Very handy.

As book manufacture evolved, printers began to put the title on the spine of the book, and some binders began to remove the half title. By then, buyers regarded the half-title as a regular part of a proper book, and thus the half-title has been largely retained over the centuries. Modern books may omit the half-title for a variety of reasons, but it is still common.

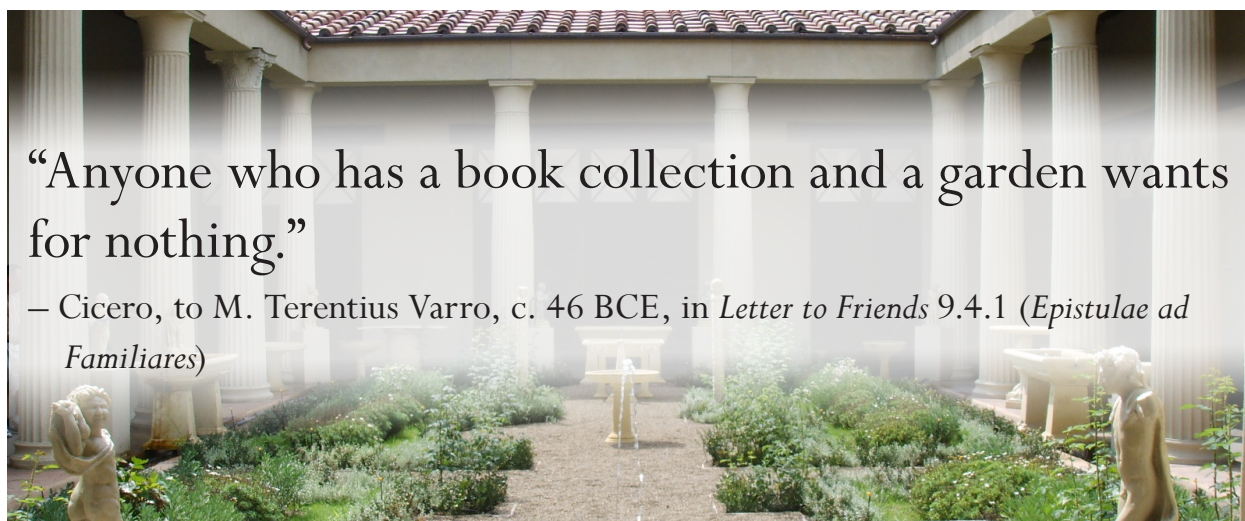
As to whether the half-title and the bastard title are the same thing, we remain silent for time being.



Half-title from the first British edition of Moby Dick (October 1851), published in three volumes ("triple decker"). The first American edition, published in a single volume in November 1851, had no half-title.

"Anyone who has a book collection and a garden wants for nothing."

– Cicero, to M. Terentius Varro, c. 46 BCE, in *Letter to Friends* 9.4.1 (*Epistulae ad Familiares*)



Florida Bibliophile Society 2021–2022 Season



David Hall

FBS meetings will be held both in-person and via Zoom. Check the Upcoming Events page for details.

September 18 • FBS Members—September Show and Tell: Excited about a recent acquisition? Bring 1–3 of your favorite new books, and tell us about them.

October 16 • Art Adkins – From the Beat to the Book: A Policeman Writes Detective Novels: Art was a Los Angeles police officer in for many years before “retiring” to Micanopy, where he owns and operates the Antique City Mall. In his “spare” time, he writes detective novels. His second novel, *Power Grid*, was published in 2021.

November 20 • Gareth and Griffeth Whitehurst – Field Trip to Whitehurst Gallery and Library, Tarpon Springs: Father and son Whitehurst will welcome FBS to visit their remarkable library housed in a replica of the Jefferson Memorial.

December 18 • FBS Holiday Party: Always a special get-together! Food, fun, books, laughter. Details to be announced.

January 15 • David Hall – Memories of a New York City Bookman: David’s thirty-year career as an editor for was spent in the intense world of New York publishing. He knows book publishing in a way that few do, and he will take us inside.

February 19 • Carey Gordon – From the Nile to the Silk Road: A Life in Books: Carey’s career in

the foreign service took him to many exotic locations. During his time in each, he learned local culture and collected books. Carey will share his experiences and selections from his remarkable library.

March 19 • Irene Pavese – The Evolution of Margaret Armstrong: Botanist, Illustrator, Book Designer: She collects the work of Margaret Armstrong (1867–1944) whose illustrations for books, especially covers in the Art Nouveau style, are inspired by her botanical background.

March 10–12 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is one of the largest book fairs in the U.S. It will be held as usual at the St. Pete Coliseum. FBS will host a table at the entrance where we answer questions and hold parcels for visitors. We plan to have a booth dedicated to FBS where we can spend more time with guests. On Sunday, we usually offer free book evaluations.

April 16 • Greg Byrd – The Art and Architecture of Constructing the Poetry Book: For National Poetry Month, we welcome Greg Byrd. Greg is a professor of English at St. Petersburg College where he teaches American Literature, Creative Writing, English Composition, and Literature. He is the author of two novels and several books of poetry,

May 21, 1:30 p.m. • Banquet: Watch this space. Planning for the 2023 FBS Banquet is underway.

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



Endpaper • Stepping Up



Our banquet in May was a wonderful occasion. The brief report in this newsletter doesn't capture the joy of being together again – it made this special event that much more special.

Of course, a significant presence at the banquet was an absence. We were all too aware of the loss of Jerry Morris, whose devotion to FBS has been so important in sustaining the work of the organization for several years. As an admired bibliophile and dear friend, there were many moments when I thought "I wish Jerry could see this."

We knew that Jerry did a lot, but when he wasn't there to do his normal magic, we learned how much he had been doing. The executive committee met more than once to fill Jerry's big shoes. I'd like to say how impressed and grateful I am for the way my fellow members of the executive committee stepped up to the occasion, examining the gaps in our operation and filling them so willingly. To our

secretary Gary Simons with abounding enthusiasm and many skills; to our archivist, Zoom specialist, and man of many hats, Carl Nudi; to Irene Pavese, a former officer, advisor, and an important part of our institutional memory; and to our new vice president Ben Wiley, who has dazzled us with his scheduling, I extend my deepest appreciation. For many, the transition from May to September will be seamless, and that's how it should be, but I want you know that mighty work has been done to make it so.

To our treasurer, Linda Morris – she has been a perfect treasurer (and baker and hospitality chair). She is taking an understandable and much deserved break. We can't thank her enough and are so grateful that we will continue to see her at our meetings.

I'd like to dedicate the 2022–2023 season to these six people. I hope you'll join me in thanking them.

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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The Florida Bibliophile is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983. It is published monthly from September to May. Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to: Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net. www.floridabibliophilesociety.org © 2022 Florida Bibliophile Society

Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor.

The Florida Bibliophile Society is a 501c3 organization. All contributions to FBS are tax deductible.