

# The Florida Bibliophile

April 2023 • Volume 39, No. 8



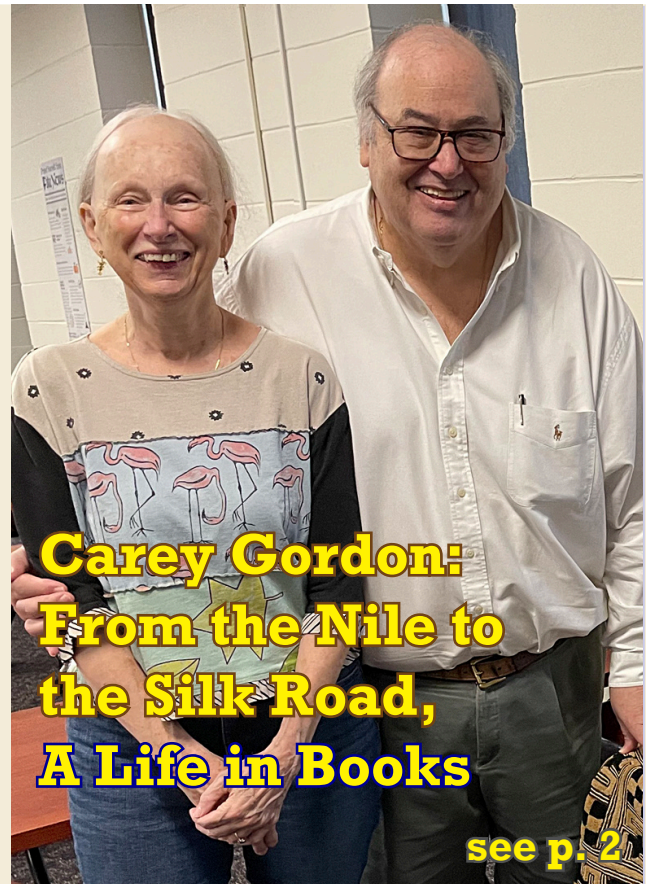
## IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the March 2023 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society	p. 2
FBS Goes to the 40 <sup>th</sup> Florida Antiquarian Book Fair!	p. 13
15cBOOKTRADE: An International Project to Understand the Printing Revolution	p. 17
Coming to a Terminal near You?	p. 20
Books in Brief	p. 22
Upcoming Events	p. 26
Book Events and Podcasts	p. 27
...and More	p. 30
FBS 2022–2023 Season	p. 31
Endpaper • It Takes a Society	p. 32

*Join FBS! See p. 25*

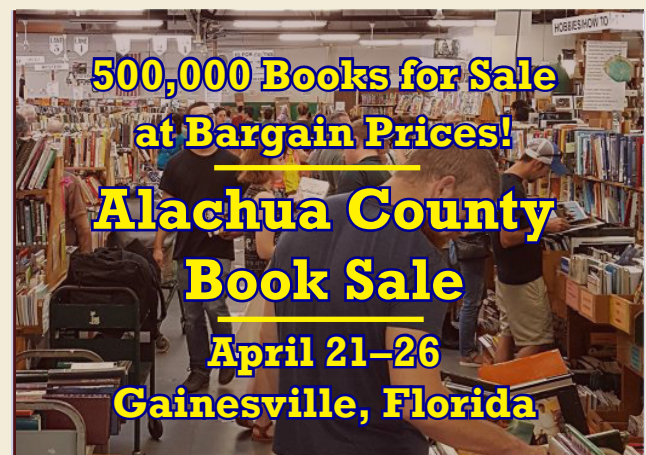
*May newsletter deadline: April 27, 2023 (see p. 25)*

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



**Carey Gordon:  
From the Nile to  
the Silk Road,  
A Life in Books**

see p. 2



**500,000 Books for Sale  
at Bargain Prices!**

**Alachua County  
Book Sale**

**April 21–26  
Gainesville, Florida**



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

## Minutes of the March 2023 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

**A**fter President Charles Brown opened the meeting, Vice President Ben Wiley came to the podium to introduce our speaker, Carey Gordon, whose talk was entitled “From the Nile to the Silk Road: A Life in Books.”

Ben began by noting that Carey Gordon, and his wife, Lois Bradshaw, both had had long careers in the U.S. Foreign Service. Although the term “foreign service” might for some bring to mind old movies about the French Foreign Legion, in fact the U.S. Foreign Service is a quite different but much more well-traveled and certainly far more important organization. Under the aegis of the U.S. Department of State, Foreign Service Officers serve in embassies and consulates worldwide. These thousands of professionals carry out the foreign policy of the U.S. and aid U.S. Citizens abroad.

Carey was educated at Ohio State, Cleveland State, and the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), one of the world’s leading institutions for study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He also spent a year at Cambridge University in Britain studying Chinese.

Carey practiced law in Cleveland, Ohio, for about seven years before moving to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, in the 1980s. He spent the next 30 years serving in various long-term appointments with USAID – United States Agency for International Development. With USAID, he had postings in Africa and Asia, including Zaire (Congo), Ivory Coast, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Thailand, and Kyrgyzstan.

He started collecting books at the age of 10 and never stopped throughout his extensive Foreign Service travels. Ben announced that Carey’s presentation would highlight those amazing travels and his related, amazing book collections from the Nile to the Silk Road and back home to America.

**Carey began by calling his presentation in part an autobiographical tour of the countries where he and Lois had served.**

He added that it was not easy to cut down this



presentation to a suitable length, as “he loved all the countries he had served in, and had bought a lot of books” and souvenirs. Carey pointed out a table of souvenirs that Lois had assembled for us to view.

His outline listed his and Lois’s nearly thirty years of Foreign Service travel, starting from his home in Cleveland and zigzagging through Africa and Asia. He told us that he and Lois each had had wonderful careers, but that from their early days together, they used to joke, semi-seriously, that they were “on our way to China,” and, in fact, so they were.

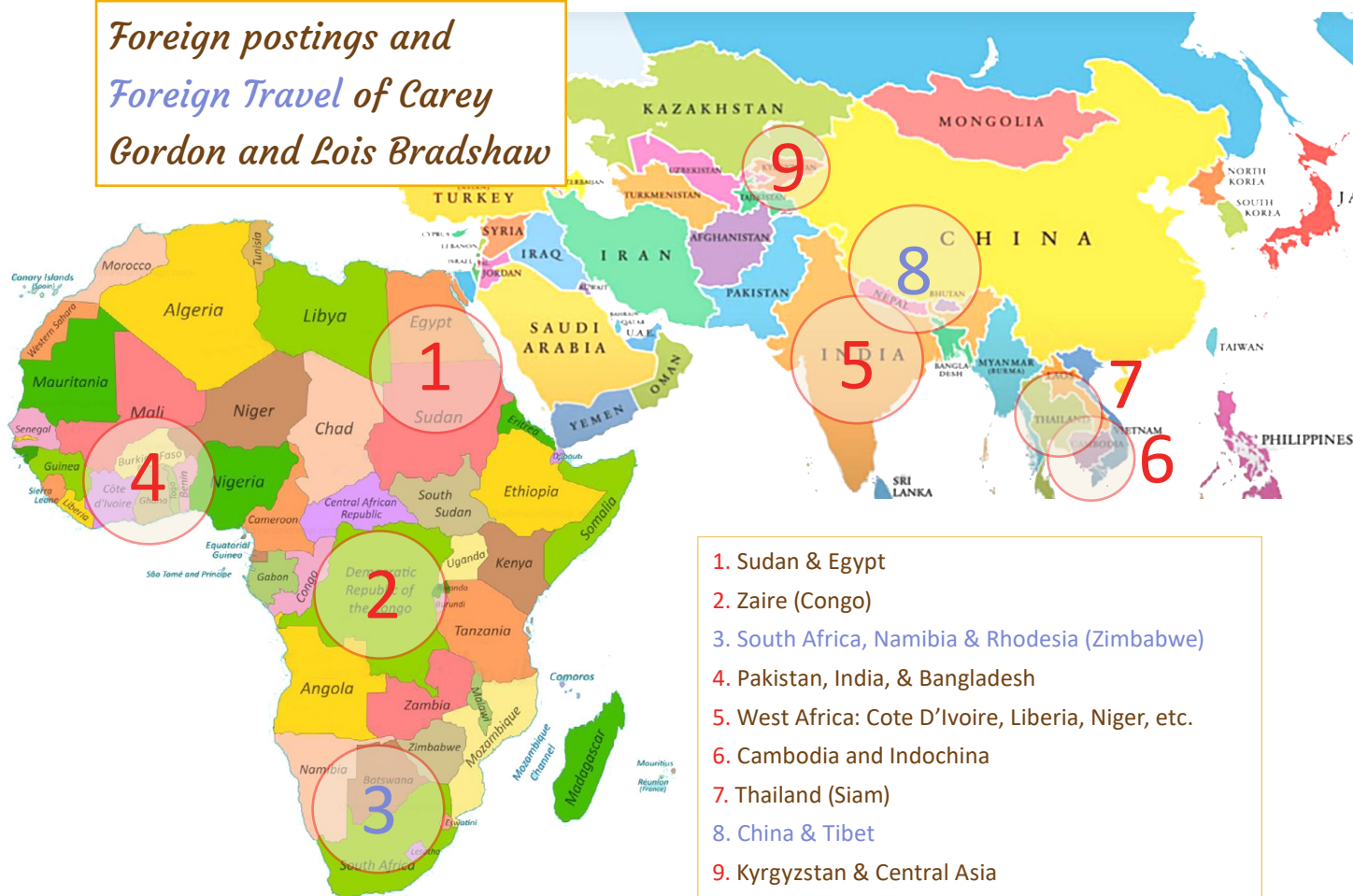
Carey started collecting books as a child in Cleveland, so it was fitting that his first graphic was a picture of a rather spectacular Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Atlas from 1874. His next two slides were, respectively, maps of Africa and Asia, which Carey used to point out the locations of the countries and areas that he would mention in his talk.

The flow of Carey’s talk followed the chronology of his travels. For each country or area he would first show some photographs [the photographs were wonderful! –GS], perhaps with a few comments about the history and general nature of the country, then he would show pictures of some books from his collection that were related to that country [the books were wonderful!], and then tell some anecdotes about the books’ authors, contents, or how the books were acquired [the stories and anecdotes were wonderful!].



## Minutes, continued

*Foreign postings and  
Foreign Travel of Carey  
Gordon and Lois Bradshaw*



The pyramids of Meroë were built by the Kushites in what is now northern Sudan between 2700 and 2300 years ago. The pyramids are numerous but less spectacular than their Egyptian cousins hundreds of miles north.

**Minutes, continued****Sudan and Egypt**

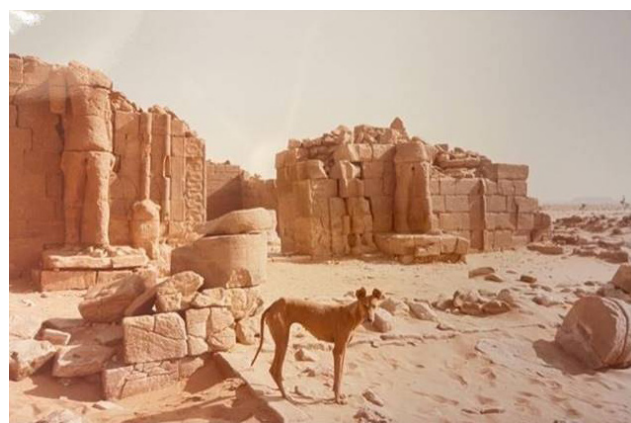
First up was Sudan, and Carey began with pictures of the Omdurman Market in 1984 and the Meroe Pyramids (located about 100 miles north of Khartoum, and the site of the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kush). His first Sudan book was the *Journals of Charles Gordon*, published in 1885. As Carey recounted, Gordon fought in the Crimean War, suppressed a rebellion in China in the 1860s, was a Governor General in Sudan in the 1870s, and ultimately was killed in Khartoum in 1885 when the British government did not provide timely support to put down the Mahdi rebellion. Carey showed us two other fascinating memoirs of the Sudan – *Fire and Sword in the Sudan* by Rudolf C. Slatkin Pasha (1896) and *Travels in Nubia* by John Lewis Burckhardt (1819) – and told us each author's backstory.

Carey has collected local law books throughout his travels as well. When Carey and Lois first arrived in Sudan, Lois had a government assignment but Carey did not, so he was free to travel and explore. Accordingly, he had time to get to know some senior officials in the Sudanese Attorney General's chambers, and he "stumbled upon a trash room . . . with all these sets of old Sudanese books." He asked if he could have them and the answer was yes. "Like a kid in a candy store," Carey hauled away as much as he could, and he showed us some of the rescues from that haul.

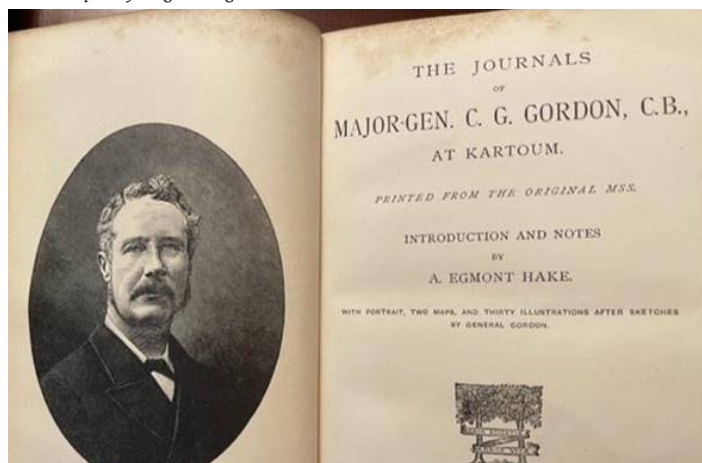
After Sudan, Carey spent a few months in Cairo, where he acquired a particular taste for books on Sudan and Egypt written by E. A. Wallis Budge. Budge was a famous English Egyptologist who became the Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum. He has recently become a controversial figure because he brought antiquities back to England, sometimes without local approval. Now the antiquities' countries of origin want them back. Carey showed us pictures of several books by Budge, including a two-volume *Egyptian Hieroglyphic Dictionary* (1920), which Carey called "an amazing work of scholarship."



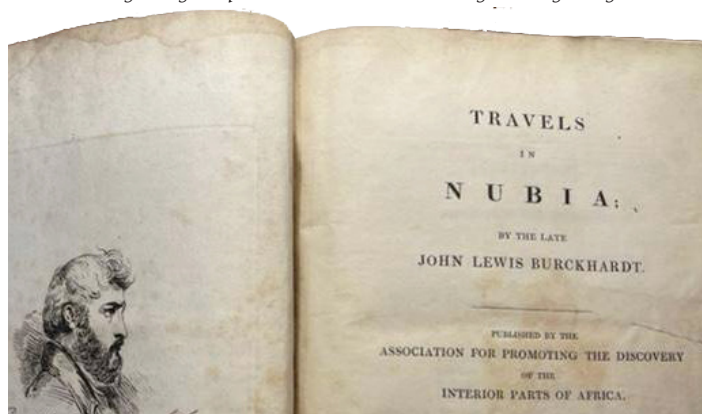
Omdurman Market in Khartoum, Sudan, 1984



A contemporary dog among ancient ruins



C. G. Gordon, famed for exploits in China and heroic, but failed, defense of Khartoum



Burckhardt was the first Westerner to see the ancient wonders of Petra and Abu Simbel



**Minutes, continued****Zaire**

From Sudan, Carey and Lois moved on to Zaire, now known (again) as the Congo. He showed us pictures of (1) the capital, Kinshasa, which perhaps unexpectedly to American eyes is actually a major city with modern skyline; (2), the rather beautiful house that Carey and Lois lived in; and (3) the back country in Bandundu Province, where travel was always an adventure on unpaved roads, usually far from any help.

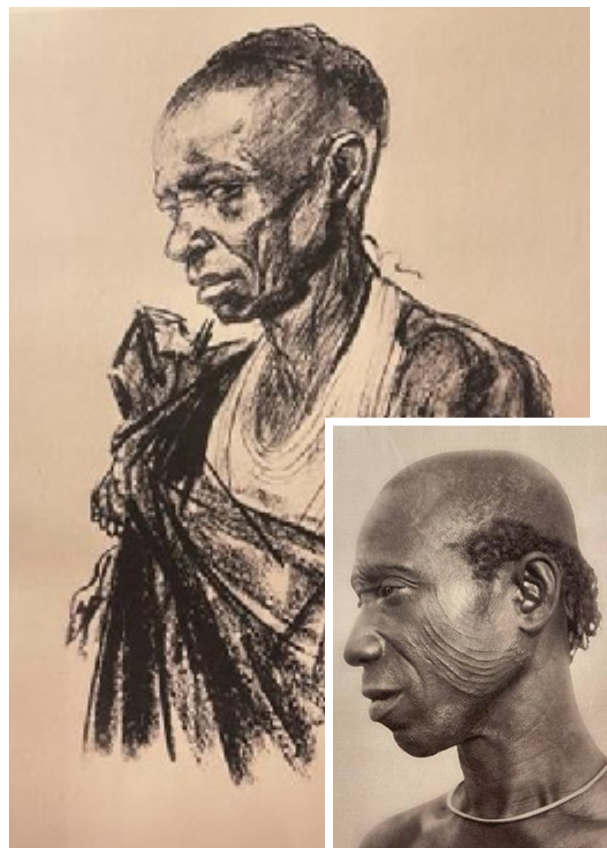
Carey's first Congo book was *The River Zaire* (1818) by Captain Tuckey, which he described as a fascinating and very readable memoir. Tuckey was an Irish-born British naval officer who had been sent to see if the Zaire (or Congo) River linked up with the Niger River (they don't). Next, Carey showed us pictures of *Le Miroir du Congo Belge* (1929), which contained spectacular photos and drawings. Of course, Carey proudly showed us a picture of his set of the *Statutes of the Belgian Congo* (1903).



Kinshasa, bustling capital of Zaire, 1988



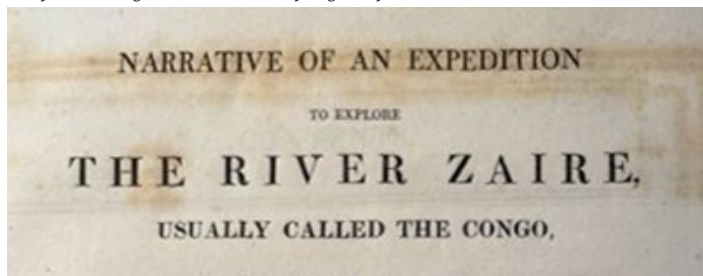
Carey and Lois's home in Zaire — a favorite during their travels



From *Le Miroir du Congo Belge* (1929)



Carey and some friends who love to pose for a picture — Bandundu Province



In 1816, Tuckey made an ill-fated trip up the Congo River.

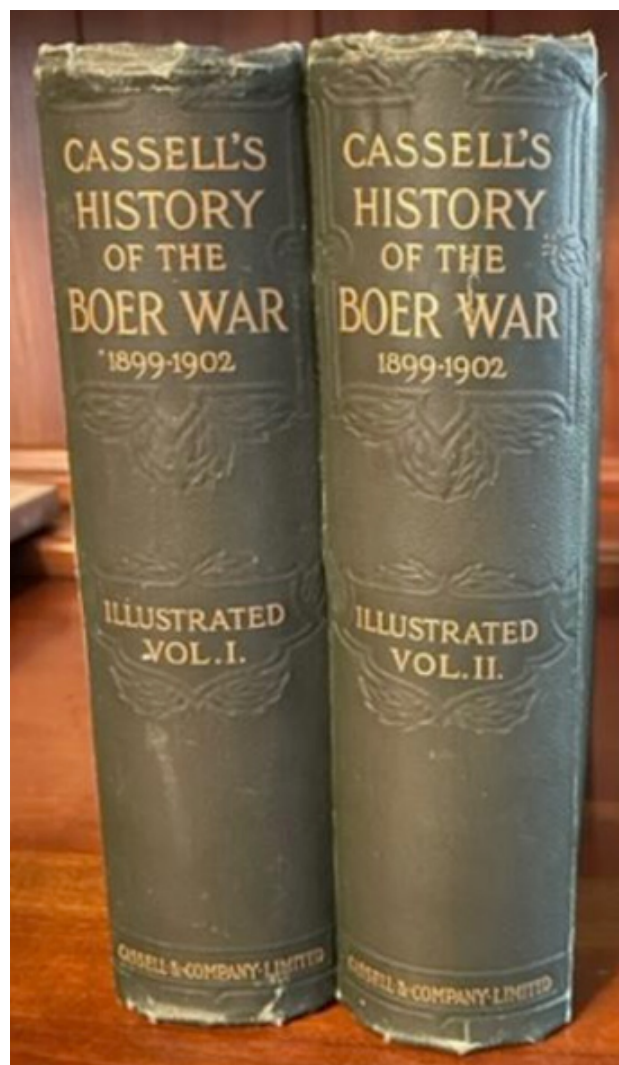
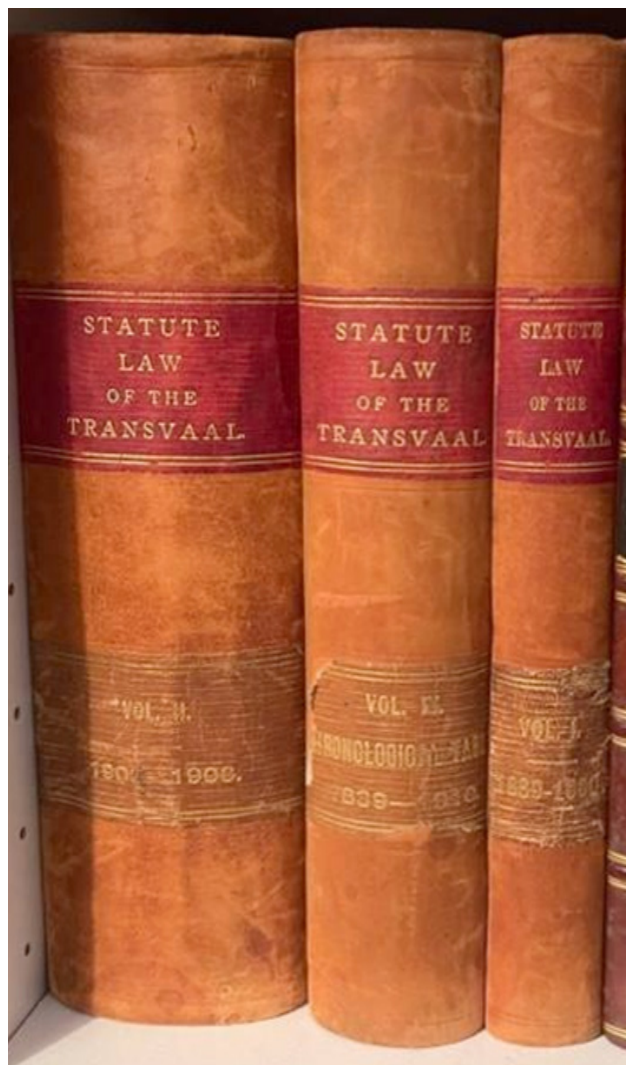


**Minutes, continued****South Africa**

Carey and Lois had an opportunity to visit South Africa, and he showed one of his favorite books on that region: *Cassell's History of the Boer War* (1903). As part of his presentation, we learned a bit about the Boer Wars, fought between Britain and South African Dutch farmers. The Dutch had begun to immigrate to South Africa as early as 1652. And, of course, Carey showed us his copy of a local law book – in this case, Volume 1 of *Statute Law of the Transvaal 1839–1910*. Even with his extensive collection, Carey, like all book collectors, wants and needs to fill gaps: he is still searching for volume 3 of this multivolume set.



"The Dutchmen had covered their retreat by setting fire to the grass."





**Minutes, continued****India, Pakistan, Bangladesh**

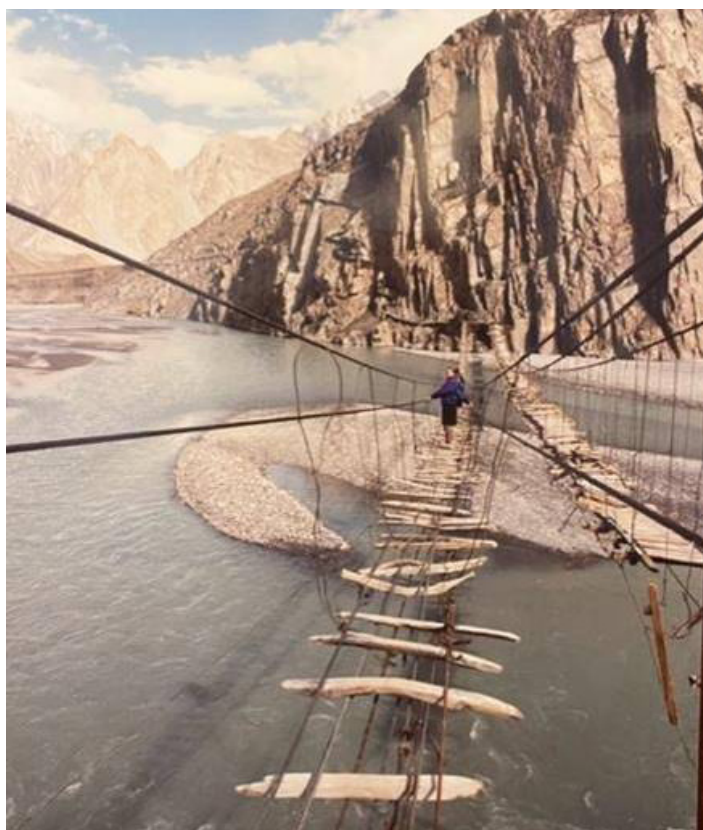
In the early 1990s, Carey and Lois were reassigned to the Indian subcontinent – “within sight and smell of China.” Carey showed us some pictures taken in Pakistan of local boatmen on the Indus River, Lois on a rope bridge in the Hunza Valley, vehicles on a narrow mountain road (the Karakoram Highway which runs into China), and the old Derawar Fort. Each picture had its accompanying story.

Carey’s collection of books about Pakistan includes a series of books of the speeches of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a President and later Prime Minister of Pakistan, who was subsequently hanged! We also saw a montage of Carey’s books, including a series called *Makers of India* (1890–1910), and an extensive set of books on the Pakistan legal code, which he had acquired at a bookstore in Islamabad called “Mr. Books.” Carey fondly reminisced about the many hours he spent in this Islamabad bookstore which he described as “sanctuary during the years in Pakistan.” The legal code volumes were originally in soft cover, but Carey had a friend in Cairo who was able to get them inexpensively bound in leather. We could see how he savored these bound books from the look on his face and the glint in his eyes. With a hyperbolic bit of joking self denigration, he added “I now have the only complete Pak Code in the housing development we live in, in Florida.”

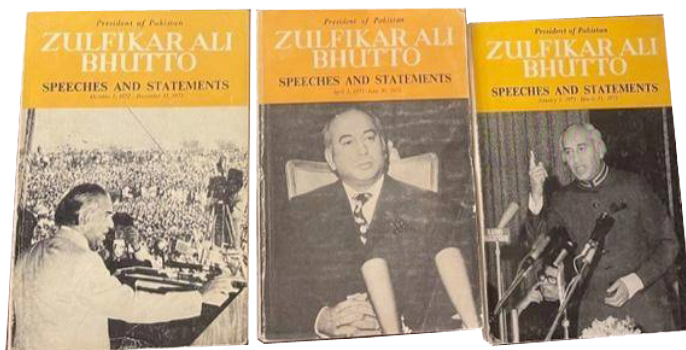
Next Carey displayed his copy of *Essays in Classical and Modern Hindu Law* (1976) by Duncan Derrett. This book has a special resonance for Carey because as a student he had known Derrett, and he still considered him something of a mentor. Carey also showed us his copy of *Bangladesh Documents*. Bangladesh became independent in 1971, breaking away from the rest of Pakistan. Carey talked a bit about the way the great powers – the U.S., Russia, China – chose sides during Bangladesh’s war of independence, and opined that the U.S. managed to get on the wrong side of everybody.



Pakistan, Indus Valley, 1993. That’s Carey in the green shirt and broad smile.



Lois ventures out on rope bridge as Carey snaps a photo from solid ground.



Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President, 1971–1973, Prime Minister of Pakistan, 1973–1977

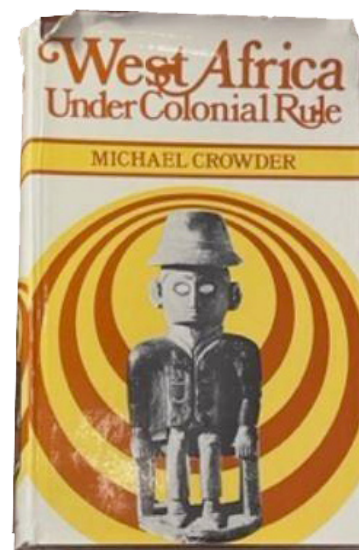
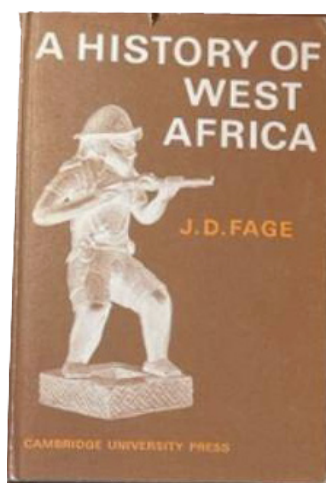


**Minutes, continued****West Africa: Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, and Niger**

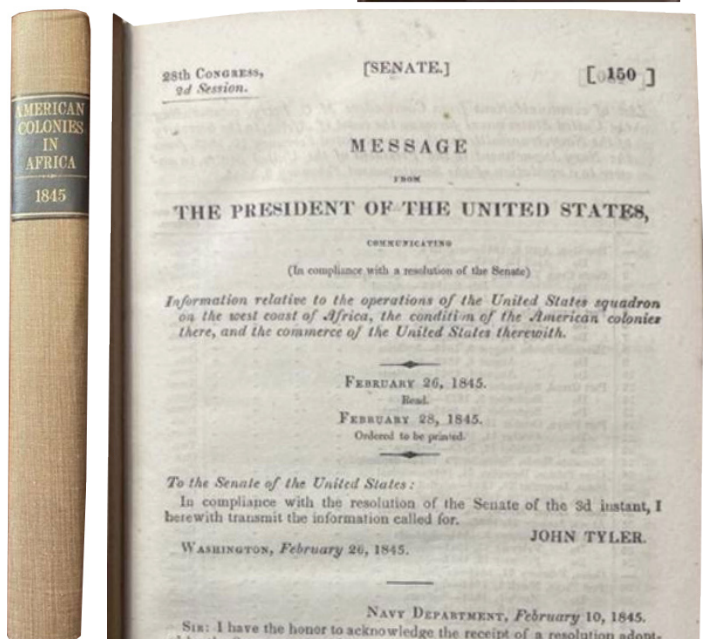
In the mid '90s, Carey and Lois returned to Africa, this time to Abidjan in the Ivory Coast. Carey began this segment of his presentation with photographs of the Niger River Valley. The Niger River was a dangerous place, but it also was a magnet for early explorers such as Mungo Park (1771–1806) and John (1806–1839) and Richard (1804–1834) Lander. Carey showed a potpourri of books associated with the Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Niger, including several colonial histories, a volume by Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka, and *Trade Winds on the Niger*, the story of the Royal Niger Company. Carey also owns a report on Liberia by President John Tyler that was sent to Congress in 1845. Not without controversy, Liberia had been established to be an African “home” for returned American slaves. President Tyler’s report includes some 250 pages listing the names of ships and the names of travelers, with their races, whether they were free or not, their occupations, and when they died (most of them died young). Carey also possesses a multivolume set of the Liberian Code of Laws from 1956, which he purchased in Monrovia in 1996. The acquisition of these law books had an adventurous aspect: as Carey was departing from Monrovia, his plane was temporarily held hostage at the airport in the midst of civil turmoil!



Indigenous architecture, Niger River Valley, 1996



Painted boat on the Niger River



Report concerning American Colonies in Africa of U.S. President John Tyler, 1845



**Minutes, continued****Cambodia and Indochina**

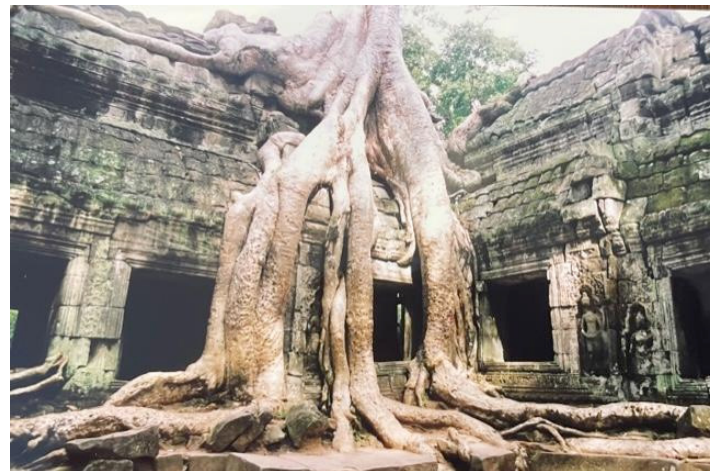
From 1997–2003, Carey and Lois were stationed in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. He showed us pictures of Angkor Wat, which in the '90s was often fairly empty of tourists and thus readily accessible; now the crowds have arrived. His picture of the Ta Prohm Temple showed it rather famously overtaken by trees. Carey also showed us pictures of two of his Cambodia books, one from 1924 and one from 1928. He noted that most of the best books on Cambodia are in French.

**Thailand**

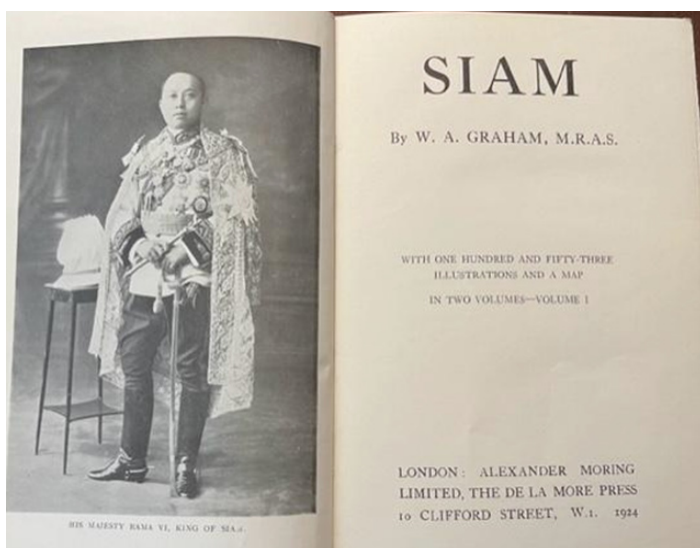
Our intrepid Foreign Service officers moved to Bangkok, Thailand, in 2004. To introduce this part of their journey, Carey presented pictures of bustling Chinatown in Bangkok and of a visit to a village of the Kayan Longneck Tribe. Carey owns a rather encyclopedic book on Siam written by W. A. Graham in 1924.



*Rice farming in northern Cambodia*



*Trees of Ta Prohm enveloping the temple*



*Cover detail of Siam*



*Bangkok is a very cosmopolitan city. Shown here: Chinatown.*



## Minutes, continued

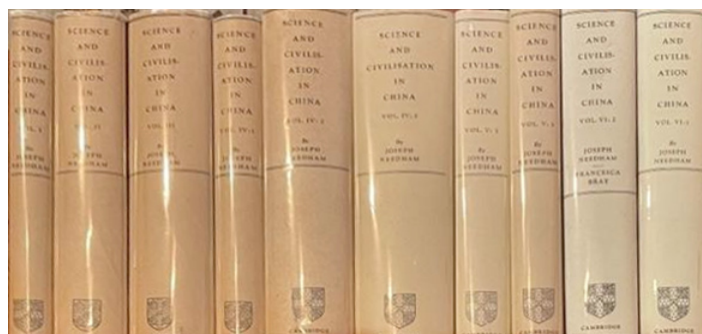
## China

The greatest part of Carey's library is devoted to books on China. He shared with us an 1801 book, *Punishments in China*, which includes 22 drawings of various punishments, "some of which are pretty gruesome." This book influenced Western perceptions of Chinese law and culture and thereby buttressed the Western doctrines of extraterritoriality in their spheres of influence in China. A two-volume set, *The Junks and Sampans of the Yangtze* (1947–1948), has amazing photos and drawings of watercraft and river scenes. This work was published by the Chinese Maritime Customs, an agency of the Chinese government that was actually run by foreigners from 1854 to 1952. For many years, this agency was run by an Englishman, Sir Robert Hart.

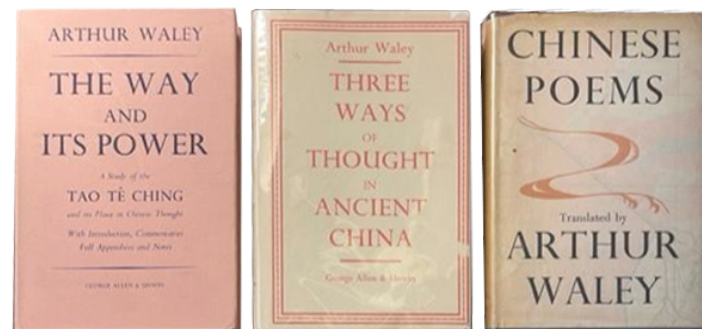
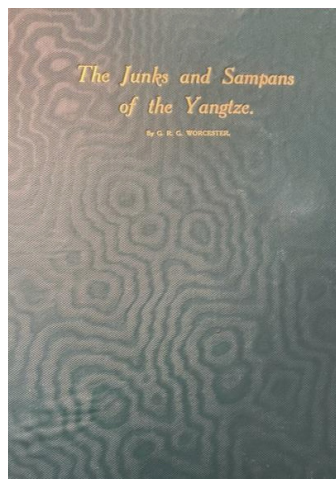
Carey particularly likes the books on China written by Arthur Waley. Waley was a highly regarded Orientalist and China scholar. He translated many works from Chinese or Japanese but, surprisingly, could speak neither language and never travelled to the Far East. Carey also collects works on China by William Soothill (a missionary who became a Professor of Chinese at Oxford) and Joseph Needham who worked for the British government in 1942 on foreign aid. Needham was a Professor of Biochemistry at Cambridge. He is best known for a series of books entitled *Science and Civilization in China*. Carey also mentioned Owen Lattimore as a favored writer on China and Mongolia who was unfairly targeted as a Communist by Senator Joseph McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee (1945–1975).



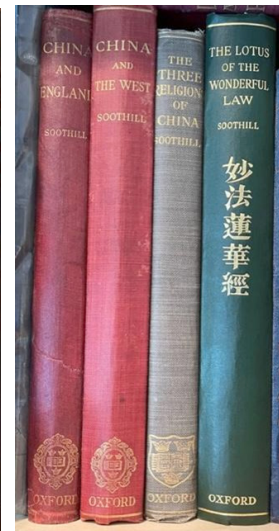
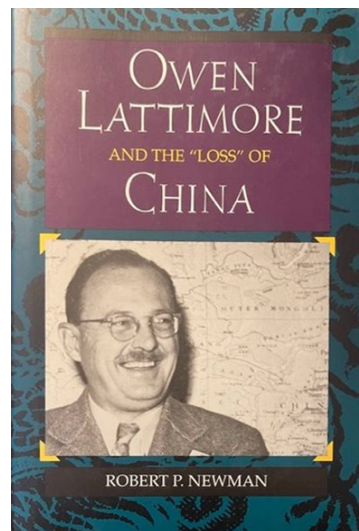
Plate 12 from *Punishments in China*, attributed to George Mason



*Science and Civilization in China, an ongoing series now comprising 27 books*



*A few books by China scholar Arthur Waley*



*A selection of Carey's books on China*

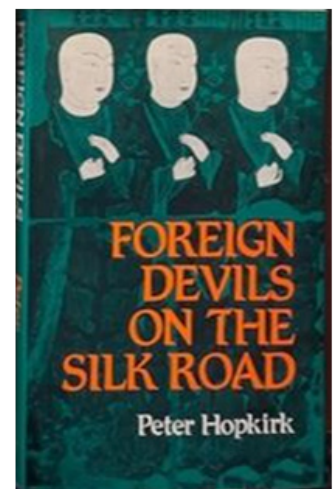
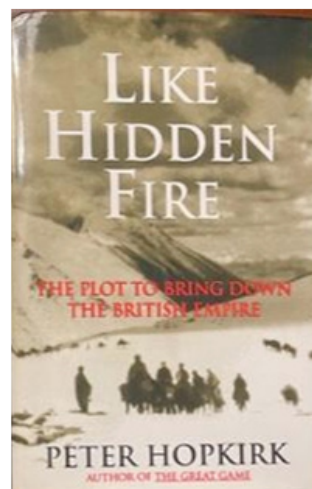


**Minutes, continued****Kyrgystan and Central Asia**

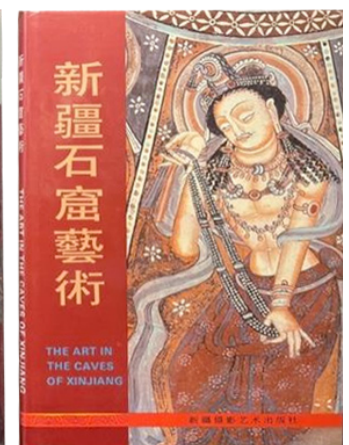
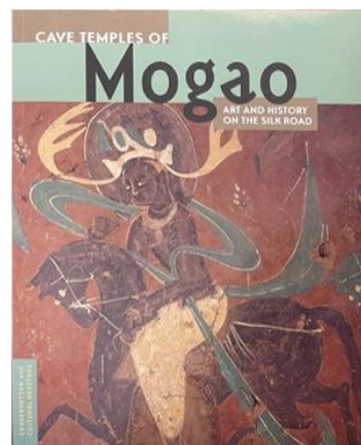
Carey and Lois's last port of call as Foreign Service officers was in Kyrgystan in Central Asia. The so-called Silk Road (actually there were at least two silk roads) ran through central Asia and served as an essential artery of commerce and ideas between the Western and Eastern worlds. Two of the great scholars of the Silk Road were Sven Hedin and Aurel Stein, and Carey showed us pictures of books in his collection by each author. Although essentially apolitical, Hedin became controversial in his later years because of his association with senior figures in the Nazi movement. Stein was a Hungarian who became a British citizen — his books are now quite expensive. He also became controversial because he brought old Chinese manuscripts to the British Museum.

Carey also mentioned Peter Hopkirk, who is best known for his book *The Great Game*, about the struggle between England and Russia for control of Afghanistan, but who has also written excellent books about Western China and Tibet.

Finally, Carey showed us some books about the Buddhist caves in Western China that he and Lois had been able to visit. The paintings in these caves, which date from 600 to 900 CE, are, as Carey stated and as we saw, “just fantastic.”



*A few books by British journalist, author and historian Peter Hopkirk*



*On the art-filled caves of Mogao (Xinjiang Province) and Dunhuang (Gansu Province)*



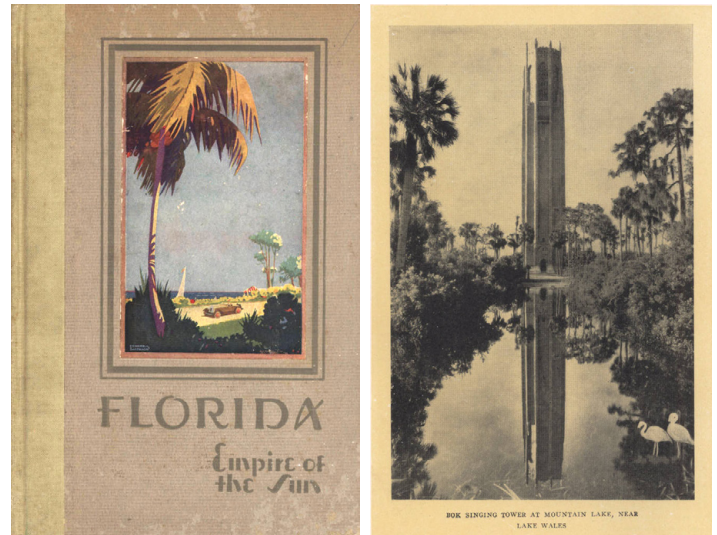
*Detail of a mural from the Mogao caves*



**Minutes, concluded****Finally, Florida...**

Coming back to the U.S., Carey concluded his presentation with a cover picture of the book *Florida, the Empire of the Sun*, a 1930 production of the Florida State Hotel Commission.

During the question-and-answer session, Carey estimated the size of his world history and travel library to be ten thousand volumes – one suspects that at the drop of a hat, he could provide fascinating details about any or all of them. What a wonderful life Carey and Lois have lived, what a wonderful library they have built, what a wonderful breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding, and what a wonderful presentation!

**and FBS!**

Lois and Carey stand next to a display of carving, paintings, books, and fabrics acquired during their years of travel with the U.S. Foreign Service.





## FBS Goes to the 40<sup>th</sup> Florida Antiquarian Book Fair!

**F**orty years! Congratulations to the many who over four decades have made the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair one of the U.S.'s premiere book events!

The 40<sup>th</sup> Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is “in the books.” As one the largest book fairs in the U.S., it was a fabulous event, expertly run by Sarah Smith and her staff, who remained amazingly positive and hospitable at all times (in period costume!). The venue – the St. Petersburg Coliseum – was sparkling. In booth after booth, the books and artwork dazzled and did not disappoint, and attendees left happier than they arrived with armfuls of new books (and even happier if they were carrying their books in their new FBS book bag!).

As we did last year, FBS staffed two tables: a hospitality table in the foyer and booth of our own on the floor of the fair. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our members who volunteered to make FBS an integral part of the fair. We'd like to extend our special thanks to these members, many of whom pulled multiple “shifts” and worked at both tables, and some who, with your officers, virtually camped out at the fair for two and a half days. We're grateful for all this generosity and so happy to show off our wonderful members! I think they'll all agree it was great fun!



*Overview of the fair – Ninety exhibitors from many states brought an impressive variety of books to this year's fair. Browsing was accompanied by soft live music. The white arrow points to FBS's booth, and I believe, Gary Simons!*

### *FBS Book Fair Honor Roll*

Jude Bagatti	Stephanie Montor	Terry Shockey
Laura Bricker	Irene Pavese	Gary Simons
Charles Brown	Kymberlee Rau	Jeannie Simons
Wes Brown	Jonathan Schork	Ben Wiley
David Hall	Shannon Shane	

Special thanks to Gary for coordinating our volunteers and to Gary, Ben, and Irene for coordinating innumerable other details that made our presence at the fair so professional and effective.

## FBS Goes to the Fair! continued

### A Tale of Two Tables

As we have for many years, the Florida Bibliophile Society worked a table in the foyer of the Coliseum to greet visitors, hold parcels, answer questions, and tell about FBS.

For the second year, FBS had its own booth inside the fair where we could speak with attendees at their leisure. Conversations at the foyer table tend to be rushed because people are eager to get into the fair and our FBS volunteers are often pulled away by other tasks.



**Booth #43** — FBS was originally offered a table in the concession area, which we would have happily taken, but a last-minute cancellation made booth 43 available. At the end of the center aisle and next to the stage, FBS had good visibility and the opportunity to speak with many fair-goers.



**FBS Hospitality Table** — In the Coliseum foyer, visitors must walk right by the FBS Hospitality Table to enter the fair. They were greeted by FBS volunteers who offered to hold parcels, provided information, offered bookmarks and brochures, and signed up interested people for the FBS newsletter.



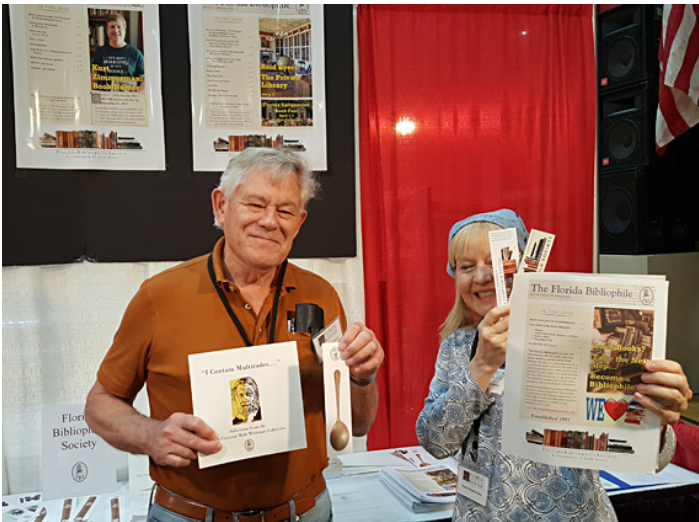
Shannon and Gary are ready to greet visitors at Booth #43.



The winning smiles of Stephanie, Irene, and "Two-Places-at-Once" Shannon



**FBS Goes to the Fair! continued**



*Dave and Kimberly proudly display FBS publications and giveaways.*



*Laura and John, masked up and ready to help*



*Shannon chats with some visitors about mutual book interests and FBS.*



*Wes assists a visitor with a book as Jude stands by. Is that Ben in the back?*



*Brochures, bookmarks, and the Whitman book on display in the FBS booth.*



## FBS Goes to the Fair! concluded



*The FBS Hospitality Table in the Coliseum foyer, all set up and ready for guests.*



*Who wouldn't feel welcomed by the smiles of Ben and Jude?*



*The line forms to the left for Irene's expert (and free) book evaluations.*

**The 40<sup>th</sup> Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is now a happy memory. We look forward to next year's 41<sup>st</sup> fair, and we already have dates – March 1–3, 2024! It will be here before we know it.**

**Make your plans to join us!**

**... and one final word of book fair wisdom** 





## 15cBOOKTRADE: An International Project to Understand the Printing Revolution

In 1455, Johann Gutenberg published a Bible in Mainz unlike any bible or book that had come before: it was printed on a press using movable metal type. Gutenberg carefully crafted the type and hand finished the book with illuminations to resemble the manuscript bibles that had preceded it (a shrewd business decision in light of the many challenges to the Catholic Church's authority at the time). As a book central to European culture, it was a fitting beginning to a revolution of Western culture and the first in what would become an explosion of print.

In the remaining half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, millions of books were printed and distributed throughout Europe. These earliest printed books are often called incunabula (singular: *incunabulum*, often Anglicized as “incunable”), a Latin word that refers to swaddling clothes and, by extension, to the infancy, in this case, of printed books, especially those printed before 1501.

The term “incunabula” was first used by Bernhard von Mallinckrodt (1591–1664), a

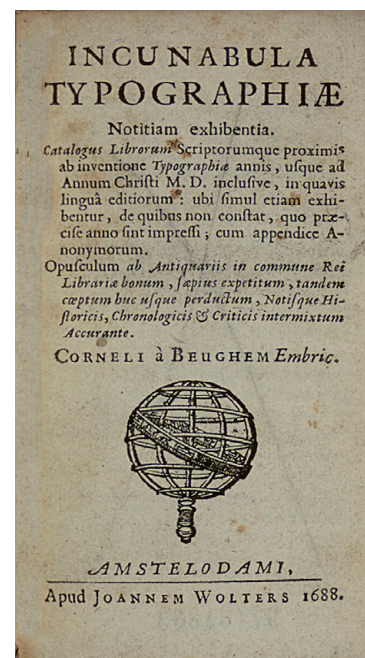
German philologist. In his book *De ortu ac progressu artis typographicae dissertatio historica*, published in Cologne, 1640, to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of printing, he called the period of printing prior to the “annus saecularis 1500” (year of century, 1500) “prima typographicae incunabula.” C. van Beughem's *Incunabula typographiae*, published by J. Wolters in

Amsterdam, 1688, was the first catalogue of incunabula that used the term and included about 3,000 titles of incunabula.

—National Diet Library, Japan

Like any technological revolution, development is more important to innovators and potential end-users than documentation. In the midst of the revolution, when development is proceeding rapidly along many lines and in many places, methods and sources of documentation may not exist as one idea, one project, or one method is abandoned and replaced by another. In our own time, the digital revolution has gone through a very similar process, and many projects have been launched to recover its history.

A major difference is that for the digital revolution, the relevant information is a few decades old, but for the printing revolution, the information is hundreds of years old. In that time, the early books have moved around quite a bit, and most are lost, either through common neglect or through the numerous wars, conquests, and plunders that have taken place on the European continent in that time. Records of their production and the shops that produced them are in almost all cases long gone.



This incunabulum was published in 1499 and exemplifies the way that printing allowed the rapid dissemination of knowledge (including disinformation!) that powered the Renaissance and the scientific revolution. It is a compilation of the works of Aristotle often called the *Physicorum*, from the full title *Copulata circa VIII libros Physicorum Aristotelis cum textu iuxta doctrinam doctoris sancti Thomae de Aquino* (Copies of about eight books of Aristotle's *Physicorum* with the text according to the teaching of the doctor Saint Thomas Aquinas). Note the hand-colored initials and the many notes facilitated by the wide margins.

Sources: Oxford University; Edizioni Ca Foscari; The Library; Traditio; Incunabula Greece (blog)

**15cBOOKTRADE, continued**

In 2014, the European Research Council funded a five-year digital humanities project centered at Oxford University in the U.K. Known in full as “The 15<sup>th</sup>-Century Book Trade: An Evidence-Based Assessment and Visualization of the



*Cristina Dondi*

Distribution, Sale, and Reception of Books in the Renaissance,” the project is usually known by the shorter name “15cBOOKTRADE”. The project was led by Dr. Cristina Dondi, Professor of Bibliography and Library Studies, University of Udine, and based in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages of the University of Oxford.

Despite the comments above, Dondi has pointed out that the problem for study of 15<sup>th</sup>-century printed books is not too little information but too much. She explains that because there is so much to analyze, most studies have taken a partial approach to the information, leading to less than accurate conclusions. New digital tools make it possible to assemble the data and examine it more effectively. 15cBOOKTRADE intended to do just that.

The total production of incunabula is estimated in the millions, and these early books survive in the hundreds of thousands. The project website reports: “Some 30,000 editions are known today, in some 450,000 surviving copies, located in about 4,000 different public libraries, mostly in Europe and North America.” 15cBOOKTRADE created a network of several hundred institutions to collect information and physical data on tens of thousands of incunabula. The project ended in 2019, but the database is still open and growing.

The project’s work was given a boost by the discovery of a remarkable document: the daily journal of a Venetian bookseller, Francesco de Madiis. The journal records the sale of 25,000 books over a four year-period, 1484–1488, as well as a year of stock lists. Through this and other information, the project will develop an understanding of the histories of books and their flow around Europe.

The 15cBOOKTRADE website explains that the project was designed to address questions related to the following five topics:

**1. Distribution, Use, and Reading Practices**

– Surviving incunabula often bear marks of their history, such as marks of ownership, prices, manuscript annotations, binding, and decoration styles. A database conceived by Dr. Dondi has been established, the Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), to gather together this kind of evidence for thousands of surviving 15<sup>th</sup>-century printed books. This has made it possible for the first time to track the circulation of books, their trade routes – both national and international – and the collections they moved through across Europe and the U.S. throughout the centuries.

In addition to the many identifying marks that have been recorded, the project has also created better descriptions of incunabula collections by bringing together records from hundreds of library catalogues.

**2. The Books’ Contemporary Market Value –**

Detailed study of the remarkable de Madiis journal was the cornerstone of groundbreaking work on prices of books in the 1480s, which provides insights into the printing costs, book prices, client activity, etc.

Cristina Dondi and Neil Harris, Professor of Bibliography and Library Studies, University of Udine, are working on a transcription of de Madiis’s journal with an accompanying critical apparatus.

**3. The Transmission and Dissemination of the Texts Incunabula Contain –**

The 15cBOOKTRADE project also created the Text-inc database to research all texts printed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is modelled on the Bodleian Library’s Catalogue of Incunabula (Bod-inc). This work will enhance many other catalogues.

**4. The Circulation and Reuse of Illustrations**

– Anyone who has used the Internet has noticed the frequent reuse of illustrations. This has



## 15cBOOKTRADE, concluded

occurred through the history of printing because the production of images is labor intensive. The 15cBOOKTRADE project experimented with use of image-matching software developed at Oxford to detect reuse of images. Matilde Malaspina in Oxford works on capturing Venetian illustration, producing metadata, and testing an application which, if successful as hoped, could be extended to all 15<sup>th</sup>-century illustration.

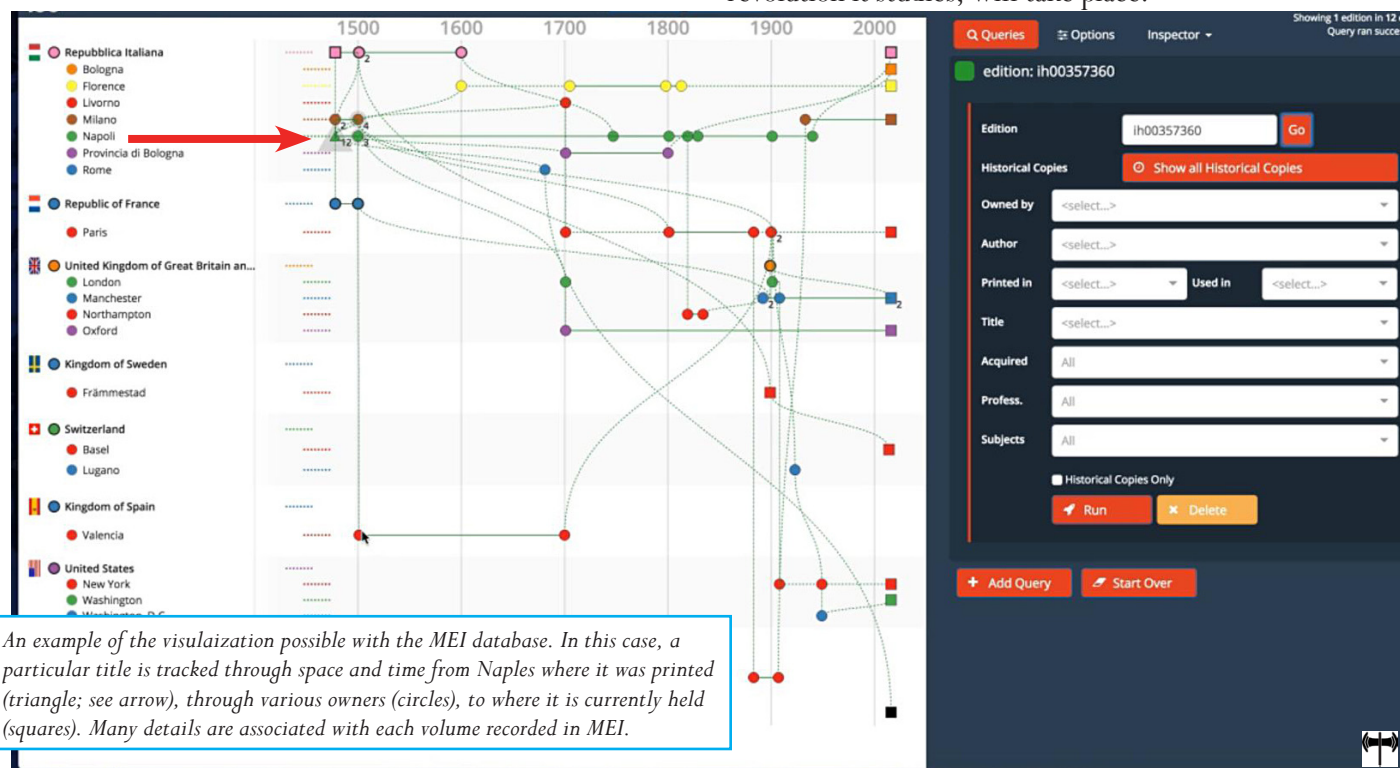
Current catalogs of incunabula, such as the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC), are often weak or lacking in information about illustrations. Some catalogues contain illustrations but are not searchable. Information yielded by this project will help improve this situation.

**5. Visualization** – Information contained in the Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) database can be used to produce graphical visualizations of book and text circulation throughout Europe and elsewhere.

The project raised dozens of interesting research questions which the 15cBOOKTRADE project proceeded to illuminate. Here are a few:

- What books were printed in Venice and exported, purchased, and used in Germany or Poland in the 15<sup>th</sup> century?
- What books were printed in Nuremberg and used in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century? What kinds of books? Who used them and how?
- How much did early printed books cost?
- Were there any female readers?
- What kinds of books were purchased by students, lawyers or priests, in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, or later centuries, in Italy, France, etc.?
- Who was buying Ptolemy in the Renaissance?

The many avenues of research opened up by the project were documented in the proceedings of the conference *Printing R-Evolution and Society, 1450-1500: Fifty Years That Changed Europe* (Edizioni Ca' Foscari, 2019), edited by Dr. Dondi. Perhaps this book's 984 pages indicate the richness of information that had already been collected and the level of interest. As products of this project continue to be enriched and spawn other projects, a research revolution in this area, like the printing revolution it studies, will take place.





## Coming to a Terminal near You?

In 1934, Penguin founder Allen Lane was in London's Exeter St Davids train station looking for something to read. He found only overpriced magazines and reprints of Victorian novels of poor quality. He decided to do something about the situation and founded Penguin Books, which would become known for its inexpensive, high-quality paperbacks. Penguin began publishing classic literature in well-made paperbacks, changing the book market by "legitimizing" the paperback and showing that readers wanted serious literature.

Almost 90 years later, Penguin has placed a vending machine at this exact station where you can "pick up a book for your travels." The machine has been installed thanks to a partnership between Penguin, Exeter Unesco City of Literature, and Great Western Railway.

As *novel* as it seems, this is not Penguin's first book-vending venture. That occurred in 1937 when Penguin installed the "Penguincubator" on Charing Cross Road, dispensing books at sixpence each.





## Penguin, concluded

Allen Lane's family had founded The Bodley Head publishing company in 1887 and named it for the bust of Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford. In 1934, it was being run by Allen and his brothers Richard and John. When the brothers proposed the idea of Penguin Books, The Bodley Head board was reluctant to sponsor the new venture, but when the brothers offered to proceed using their own capital, the board was more agreeable.

On June 30, 1935, Penguin published its first books, a set of ten:

- *Ariel* by Andre Maurois
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *Poet's Pub* by Eric Linklater
- *Madame Claire* by Susan Ertz
- *The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club* by Dorothy L. Sayers
- *The Mysterious Affair* by Agatha Christie
- *Twenty-Five* by Beverley Nichols
- *William* by E.H. Young
- *Gone to Earth* by Mary Webb
- *Carnival* by Compton Mackenzie



*The Penguincubator, 1937*

The rest is history. Penguin paperback became a publishing phenomenon. In 1936, Penguin separated from The Bodley Head and became its own company.

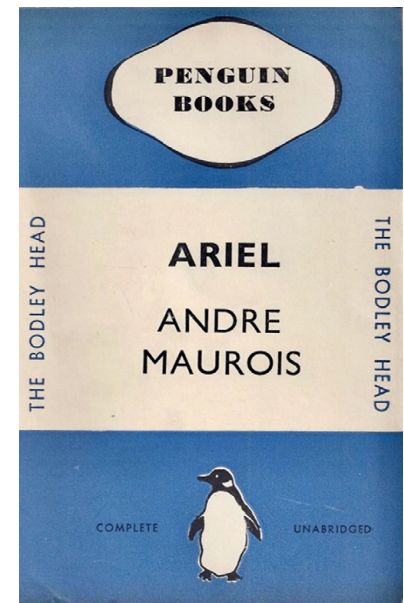
The books were well-made and attractive. The design by Edward Young was strikingly modern and in step with the times. Refinements were added by design legend Jan Tschichold. The thick bands of color at the top and bottom of

the cover were coded: orange for fiction, blue for biography, and green for crime. The covers used the font Gill Sans that had become instantly popular when released in 1928 after a design by sculptor and typographer Eric Gill. It was widely used on railway signs, and its appearance on Penguin covers was a nod to their origins as well as signalling the new Britain.

Lane needed a name for his new publishing venture. Because many design choices for the new books were influenced by the German publisher The Albatross Library (1932–1939), Lane felt encouraged to choose an animal name. The story goes that Joan Coles, Lane's secretary, suggested the penguin, and Edward Young devised the simple, appealing character which has graced Penguin books ever since, with some slight changes.

The Penguincubator was a reflection of Lane's idea to take books beyond the library and traditional bookstore to sell them in railway stations, department stores, and elsewhere to make books and literature more widely available. It was a reflection of Lane's intrepid approach. (He would be the first British publisher of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (through The Bodley Head) in 1936 despite the controversy surrounding the book.)

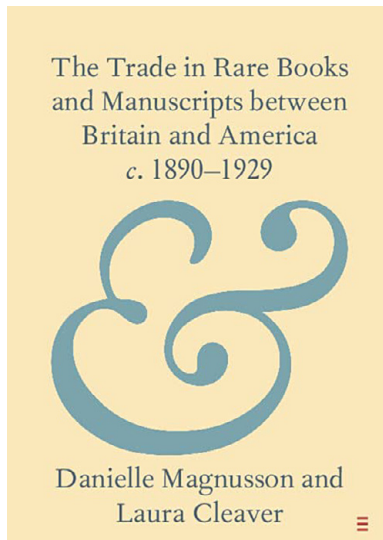
The Bodley Head closed in 1977, but Penguin continued to grow, becoming one of the leading publishing groups in the world and acquiring other publishers, merging with German publisher Bertelsmann and later with its fellow "Big Six" publisher, Random House. It has certainly fulfilled Lane's vision to make fine literature universally available.



## Books in Brief

### The Trade in Rare Books and Manuscripts between Britain and America c. 1890–1929

Danielle Magnusson and Laura Cleaver  
Cambridge University Press  
108 pp., September 2022

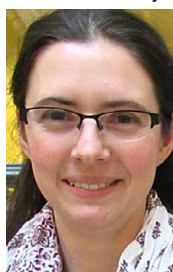
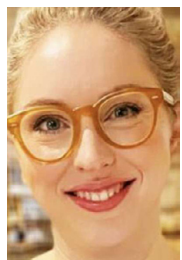


the flow of rare books and manuscripts between Britain and America during this period. Through analysis of contemporary press reports, personal correspondence, trade publications, and sales records, this study contrasts American and British perspectives as rare books passed through the commercial market. The aim is to compare the rhetoric and reality of the book trade in order to assess its impact on emerging cultural institutions, contemporary scholarship, and shifting notions of national identity. By analysing how markets emerged, dealers functioned, and buyers navigated the market, *Trade in Rare Books* challenges accepted narratives about the ways in which major rare book and manuscript collections were formed and how they were valued by contemporaries.

**Danielle Magnusson** is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of London.

**Laura Cleaver** is a senior lecturer in manuscript studies at the University of London.

Sources: Cambridge University Press; University of London



### The Art of the Illustrated Book: History and Design

Julius Bryant, ed.  
Thames & Hudson  
288 pp., December 2022

Throughout history, images have been used to reflect the meaning of words and to enhance our understanding of texts. *The Art of the Illustrated Book* demonstrates the development of illustrated books through 450 color images selected by National Art Library

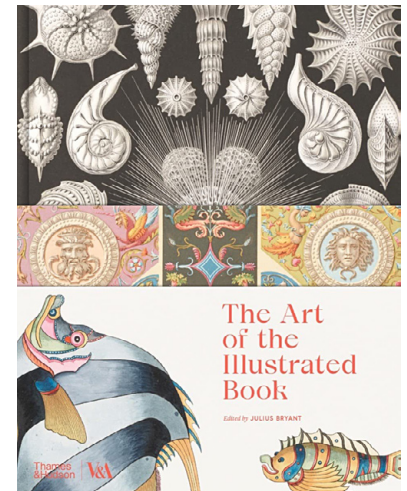
specialists at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Gathered here are some of the most influential, compelling, and striking examples of the illustrated book, arranged thematically in chapters discussing, among other subjects, art history, architecture, and fashion.

From beautiful Psalters and Books of Hours, to Audubon, Chagall, and Owen Jones, this book offers a fascinating overview of some of the finest illustrated books ever created.

*The Art of the Illustrated Book* covers examples from the earliest printed works to the present day. Each chapter starts with an introductory overview of its subject, followed by key examples accompanied by insightful narrative captions. Beyond the illustrations themselves, the narratives also consider the whole book, including its design, typeface, binding, inks, and papers.

**Julius Bryant** is Former Keeper of Word and Image at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, U.K. He is author of *Creating the V&A* (Lund Humphries, 2019.)

Source: Thames & Hudson; CODART

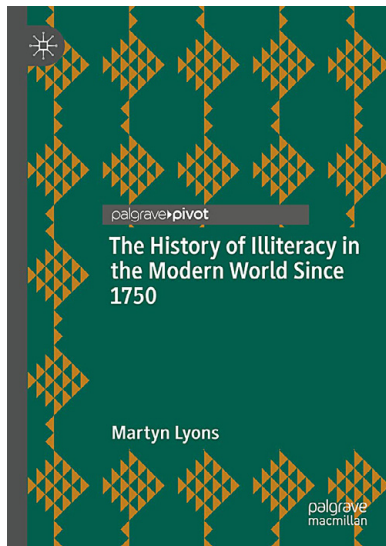




## Books in Brief, continued

**The History of Illiteracy in the Modern World Since 1750**

Martyn Lyons, ed.  
Palgrave Macmillan  
125 pp., November 2022



**This volume in the Palgrave Pivot series examines the history of literacy with illiterate and semi-literate people in mind,** and questions the division between literacy and illiteracy which has often been assumed by social and economic historians. *The History of Illiteracy* focuses on those in between,

millions considered illiterate but having some literacy skills, for whom reading and writing pose difficulties. In offering a historical perspective on the “problem” of illiteracy in the modern world, it also questions some enduring myths surrounding the phenomenon. This book therefore has a revisionist objective: it intends to challenge conventional wisdom about illiteracy.

Palgrave Pivot has enabled authors to publish at lengths of between 25,000 and 50,000 words – longer than a journal article, but shorter than a monograph, taking advantage of a swift and flexible publication process to dramatically reduce publication times. By publishing new research quickly and maintaining high editorial standards, Pivot authors’ research is given the opportunity to have a great impact.



**Martyn Lyons** is emeritus professor of history and European studies at the University of New South Wales, Australia. He is a specialist in the history of the book, Australian history, and French history.

Sources: Palgrave Macmillan; University of New South Wales

**On Browsing**

Jason Guriel  
Biblioasis  
112 pp., November 2022

This small book of essays was born during the pandemic when Guriel’s writing life revolved around his computer screen and his child’s around virtual kindergarten. Scrolling, endlessly scrolling, when he could be strolling. And one day, on a whim, he wandered down to the shops.

*On Browsing*’s begins with a quotation from Thoreau:

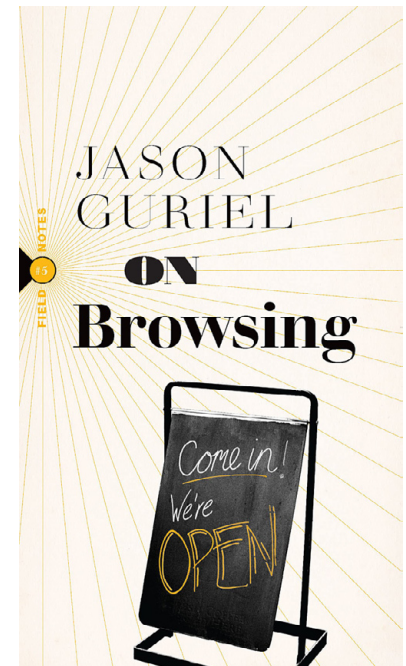
I am still a learner,  
not a teacher, feeding  
somewhat onivorously, browsing both stalk  
and leaves ...”

Guriel proceeds to find value in malls and in boredom and while praising the Internet, he draws attention to its gaps – like those in ancient papyri, but not seen because of digital dazzle. These essays chronicle what we’ve lost through online shopping, streaming, and the relentless digitization of culture. *On Browsing* is an elegy for physical media, a polemic in defense of perusing the world in person, and a love letter to the dying practice of scanning bookshelves, combing CD bins, and losing yourself in the stacks.

Watch the [video interview](#).

**Jason Guriel** is a Canadian poet and critic. He is author of numerous articles and several books, including the verse novel *Forgotten Work*. He lives in Toronto.

Source: Biblioasis; *The Walrus*



## Books in Brief, concluded

**Bedside Companion for Book Lovers:  
An Anthology of Literary Delights for  
Every Night of the Year**

Jane McMorland Hunter, ed.

Batsford

448 pp., October 2022



*Bedside Companion for Book Lovers* contains an eclectic mix of fact and fiction, letters, diaries, essays and dedications, all suffused with the joys of books and reading. The perfect gift for the bibliophile in your life (who might be you!), it contains snippets from some of the greatest writers and book collectors from

throughout history, including:

- Charles Dickens on the smell of books
- Maya Angelou on the pleasures of reading aloud
- Virginia Woolf on finding space for writing
- Nick Hornby on reading for pure enjoyment

and much more. Along the way, you'll find advice on how to look after your most precious volumes, what to do when books start taking over your home, and where to find the most atmospheric libraries and bookshops around the world. Keep this beautifully illustrated book by your bedside and wander into a magical world of books every night of the year.



**Jane McMorland Hunter** works at Hatchards Bookshop when not writing. Her edited or authored books include *Ode to London*, *Favourite Poems of England*, and *A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year*.

Source: Batsford

[Bookish fiction]

**The Lions of Fifth Avenue: A Novel**

Fiona Davis

Dutton

368 pp., August 2020

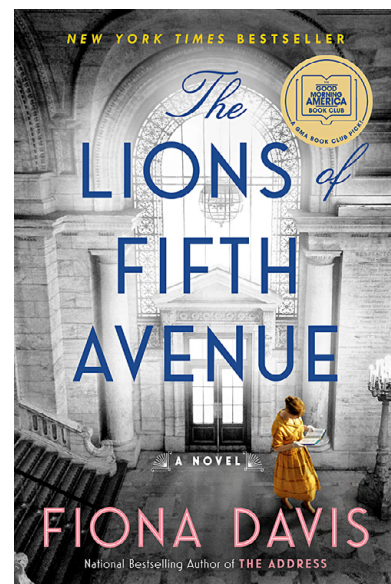
It is 1913. Laura Lyons couldn't ask for more out of life – her husband is superintendent of the New York Public Library. Their family lives in an apartment within the grand building. They have two adorable children.

But Laura wants more and applies to Columbia Journalism School. As her studies take her all over the city, she is drawn to Greenwich Village's new bohemia, where she discovers a radical female group that encourages women to loudly share opinions on suffrage, birth control, and women's rights. Soon, Laura finds herself questioning her role as wife and mother, just as a theft of valuable library books threatens her home and the institution she loves. She must confront her shifting priorities head on and may lose everything doing so.

Now, it is 1993. Sadie Donovan confronts the legacy of her grandmother, Laura, as she takes her dream job at the New York Public Library. When rare manuscripts and books go missing, Sadie works with a security expert to uncover the culprit. This leads her to unwelcome truths about her family heritage and sheds new light on the biggest tragedy in the library's history.

**Fiona Davis**, a graduate of William & Mary and the Columbia Journalism School, is a *New York Times* bestselling author of five novels, including *The Dollhouse*, *The Address*, and *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*.

Source:







Reconstruction of one of the Ulpian libraries



Ruins of Trajan's Forum. The libraries would have been right and left of Trajan's column (center).

**Rome's Bibliotheca Ulpia was one of the most famous libraries of the ancient world.** It was founded in 112 CE, when the Emperor Trajan (Marcus Ulpius Traianus) commissioned a library to be built north of the Roman Forum "at the heart of the Roman Empire," with the traditional arrangement of Greek works in one building and Latin works in the other. The library was part of a complex known as Trajan's Forum, the last and grandest addition to the Roman Forum. Enough is known about Trajan's Forum and the Ulpian library to enable extensive digital reconstructions. At its founding, the Ulpian library was exceeded only by the libraries at Alexandria and Pergamum, and it survived longer than either of them: Alexandria was finally destroyed around 275 CE, and Pergamum had also faded by that time. The Ulpian library survived until sometime in the mid-400s CE (Rome fell in 476 CE). It remains only as the ruins of two buildings on either side of Trajan's column (extant).



### This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

David Hall  
Maureen E. Mulvihill  
Carl Mario Nudi  
Irene Pavese  
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!

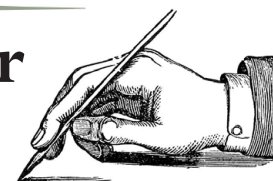
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group.



It's easy to join – just send an email with your name, mailing address, and phone number to [Floridabibliophiles@gmail.com](mailto:Floridabibliophiles@gmail.com). Use Paypal to send your \$50 annual dues to that same address, or mail a check to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg FL 33747.

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

## Write for Your Newsletter!



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

## Upcoming Events

### April 2023



### Greg Byrd – The Art and Architecture of Constructing the Poetry Book

Macdonald-Kelce Library  
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL  
(and Zoom)

April 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

For National Poetry Month, we welcome **Greg Byrd**. Greg won the 2018 Robert Phillips Chapbook prize from the Texas Review Press for *The Name of the God Who Speaks*. He is a Fulbright Fellow, a Pushcart nominee and received Individual Artist Grantee from Creative Pinellas. His recent prose appears in *Apalachee Review*, *Willow Springs*, *Baltimore Review*, and *Saw Palm*. His poems have appeared widely in journals such as *Puerto del Sol*, *Tampa Review*, *Cortland Review*, and *Poeteka* (Albania, in translation). See more of his work at [gregorybyrd.org](http://gregorybyrd.org). Greg has taught writing, literature and humanities for more than 30 years at St. Petersburg College.

### May 2023



### Florida Bibliophile Society Annual Banquet – Guest Speakers: Tyler Gillespie, Poet, and Kaitlin Crockett, Printer.

Brio Tuscan Grille  
International Mall, Tampa, FL

May 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

**Tyler Gillespie** is a widely published poet and author, an award-winning teacher, and writing instructor at Ringling College in Sarasota. **Kaitlin Crockett** is a printer and designer at Print St. Pete, a community studio specializing in letterpress and risograph printing in St. Pete. Together they'll present *Florida Man: Myth, Meme, Meaning/A Conversation Between Poet and Printer*, a delightful interaction between creatives to make art. Join us for this, a delicious meal, a silent auction of books and book collectibles, the presentation of the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Award – a banquet of bibliophilic delights! Members, reserve a place for you and your guests by contacting Ben Wiley ([bwiley@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bwiley@tampabay.rr.com) or phone, 727-215-2276.). Tickets: \$30.





## 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

— April 15 —

#### Orlando Book Festival, Orlando Public Library

([attend.ocls.info/event/5804591#branch](http://attend.ocls.info/event/5804591#branch))

— April 13, 1 p.m. —

*University of Miami Conversations on Cartography*  
Shipwrecks, Treasures, and Maps at the End of the  
17th Century: The manuscript atlases of William  
Hack.

([www.library.miami.edu/about/events.html](http://www.library.miami.edu/about/events.html))

— April 22–26 —

#### Gainesville Book Sale

#### Alachua County Friends of the Library

([folaclid.org/m%5Esale%5Edates.html](http://folaclid.org/m%5Esale%5Edates.html))

\*\* All are invited to participate in our “Gainesville  
Getaway.” Watch your email for announcements.

— April 23 —

#### World Book Day

([www.unesco.org/en/days/world-book-and-copyright](http://www.unesco.org/en/days/world-book-and-copyright))

— April 27, 6 p.m.–9 p.m. —

#### Oxford Exchange Book Fair: A Celebration of Local Authors

420 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa (est. 2015)

([bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/](http://bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/))

— April 29 —

#### Independent Bookstore Day Shop Your Local Bookstore!

([www.indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day](http://www.indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day))

— April 29 —

#### Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival

Tampa (est. 1980) ([tampastory.org/](http://tampastory.org/))

— May 5 & 6 —

#### Apopka Comic Convention

Apopka, FL

### Behind the Bookshelves, the AbeBooks Podcast

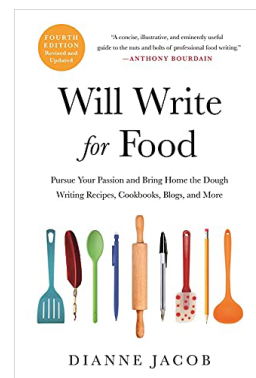
[Behind the Bookshelves](#) offers interviews with authors, collectors, and booksellers covering a wide range of topics.

*Recent episodes:*

#### February 12 – Dianne Jacob: The Food Writing Coach

We're joined by Dianne Jacob, a writing coach who specializes in food writing. Dianne tutors would-be writers on writing and publishing books, and also writing freelance articles, and blogging. Many of her students have signed publishing deals with major publishers. Dianne is the author of *Will Write for Food: Pursue Your Passion and Bring Home the Dough*

— *Writing Recipes, Cookbooks, Blogs and More* — a book that is essential for anyone wishing to write professionally about food. We discuss the most common mistakes made by would-be writers, Anthony Bourdain's impact, the art of writing recipes, and much more.



#### January 24 – Danielle Clode on *Koalas Uncovered*

We go Down Under to learn about koalas with Australian zoologist Danielle Clode, who has written a new book called *Koala: A Natural History and an Uncertain Future*.

Koalas regularly appeared in Danielle's backyard, but it was only when a bushfire came close that she started to pay closer attention to them. Her book shows how complex and mysterious they are. We discuss how koalas are affected by disease, climate change, wildfires, and overpopulation.

## KOALA

A Natural History  
and an Uncertain Future

Danielle Clode



## 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 love books. The website provides podcasts back to 2006, lists of reading, links, etc.

## Recent episodes:

**Mar. 23 – Book Designer Jerry Kelly on What to Do Once You've Written Your Manuscript**

– The bookseller catalogues designed by Jerry Kelly for Jonathan A. Hill, Glenn Horowitz, etc. convince me that he is a truly great book designer. The presentation and choices in all aspects make his work rare. Now that I have a book in mind – eight or nine profiles of my interviewees – I thought it was time to sit down with Jerry – and let you sit in.

**Mar. 7 – Justin Pemberton on How to Adapt an 800-page Bestseller into a Documentary Film** – I found the documentary *Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* riveting, making sense for me of the American economic take-over of Canada. The film, based on economist Thomas Piketty's bestselling 800-page book (Harvard, 2014), tells the story of how fights over capital led to two world wars, a midcentury golden period, and then the animal was unleashed again by Reagan and Thatcher. How did Penberton take this massive book and make this incredible documentary? Listen.

**Feb. 28 – Scott Ferris on Artist and Book Illustrator Rockwell Kent** – Ferris is a specialist in the art of illustrator Rockwell Kent (1882–1971). By 1920, Kent had established himself a preeminent graphic artist. His illustrations for *Moby Dick* proved extremely popular and some of his best-known work. During 1920–1940, he produced advertisements, bookplates, and satirical drawings for *Vanity Fair*, *Harper's Weekly*, and *Life*. In the 1940s, Kent focused on progressive causes, which resulted in problems with the U.S. government that damaged his reputation.

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.

## Upcoming episodes:

**Thurs., April 13, 7 p.m. ET – Susan Schulten on *Emma Willard: Maps of History* (in person and online)**

Emma Hart Willard was part of the first generation of American girls to be educated outside the home. Despite the barriers she encountered in her education and career, she transformed female education as founder of Troy Female Seminary and further as an innovator in education, particularly through maps and graphical representations.

The book: *Emma Willard: Maps of History* (Visionary Press, 2022)

**Thurs., April 27, 7 p.m. ET – Abby Goode on *Agrotopias: An American Literary History of Sustainability* (online)**

The formation of new states was an essential feature of U.S. expansion throughout the long 19<sup>th</sup> century, and debates over statehood and states' rights were waged not only in legislative assemblies but also in newspapers, maps, land surveys, and other forms of print and visual culture. Assessing these texts and archives, Walkiewicz theorizes the logics of federalism and states' rights in the production of U.S. empire.

The book: *Agrotopias: An American Literary History of Sustainability* (UNC Press, 2022).



**Book Events and Podcasts, concluded****The Book Collector Podcast**

In 1952, James Bond author Ian Fleming created *The Book Collector*, a “unique periodical for bibliophiles,” with articles on book collecting, modern first editions, typography, national libraries, etc. Fleming and the journal editor John Hayward died in 1964, but the journal was revived by new owner-editor Nicolas Barker. In 2016, Fleming’s nephews, James and Fergus Fleming, took over, and in 2020, created a podcast, featuring readings from the journal’s archives. There are now [69 podcasts](#) on SoundCloud, with recent additions:

**100 Seconds to Midnight – The Origin of a Catalogue on Climate Change, by Emma Walshe.** In 2021, with global temperatures at record highs, the Doomsday Clock ticked to 100 seconds to midnight, the closest Earth has been to total destruction in the clock’s 75 years. This inspired the title of Peter Harrington’s catalogue surveying 2500 years of climate thought.

**Heywood Hill’s Birthdays, by John Saumarez Smith.** This article looks back at Heywood Hill Booksellers’s 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries in the year it celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> (2011). He includes an account of the creation of the special 1996 catalogue dedicated entirely to books written by Heywood Hill customers.

**The Rosenbach Podcast**

**A. S. W. Rosenbach (1876–1952) was a legendary seller of rare books and art,** regularly handling very valuable cultural property. The Rosenbach Museum and Library continues this tradition and produces a podcast to present and discuss works in the museum’s collections.

**The Celtic Muse: Afternoon Tea, Scones, and Celtic Harp with Dr. Alexander Lawrence Ames (Ep 1.1)**

How can rare books and special collections like those held at The Rosenbach speak to modern-day American life? Why are material artifacts important in understanding our culture’s history and future? Dr. Alexander Lawrence Ames takes us on an evocative voyage into The Rosenbach’s collections of American and British history and literature.

**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 include:

**March 24 – Pattern and Flow: A Golden Age of American Decorated Paper (Parts 1–4).** Patterned papers have played a remarkable role in human history, from marbled papers to wallpapers and beyond, their uses have been varied, and their styles and methods even more so. This series of presentations is based on the Paper and Flow Symposium and the Paper Legacy Collection from the Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**March 21 – Special Functions Lecture: Jonathan Lippincott on Publishing Fine Books on American Landscape History.** The Library of American Landscape History (LALH) is considered the leading publisher of books about the history of American landscape design, from parks to gardens, campuses, and city plans. Jonathan Lippincott, LALH publisher, will discuss its mission, history, and future; the importance of design in its publications; and its preservation impact on landscapes nationwide.

**February 28 – Special Functions Lecture: Rich Dana on “The Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry.”** During their lives, Marvin Sackner, a Grolier Club member, and his wife Ruth amassed a world-renowned collection now housed at the University of Iowa Libraries. Margaret Gamm, Director of Special Collections and Archives at UI Libraries, and Rich Dana, Sackner Archive Project Coordinator Librarian, present “The Ruth and Marvin Sackner Archive of Concrete and Visual Poetry at Iowa: Increasing Access to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Avant-garde.”

## ...and More

**T**itle page – What could be more typical of a book? Yet, books did not have always have title pages. Very brief history of the book: Carved on stone slabs; written on papyrus scrolls; written on *parchment* pages and bound as a codex (traditional book); printed on *paper* pages and bound as a codex. Until printing was introduced, books did not have title pages. They were usually known by the first few words: the incipit, which is Latin for “it begins.” For example, the first book of the Bible is usually known to moderns by the Greek name “Genesis,” which means “origin” or “creation.” In the original Hebrew, this book is known as “*Bereshit*,” which means “in the beginning”: the first words of the book are “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

Johann Gutenberg introduced the printing press to Europe in 1440. Printing changed everything. Suddenly, a book that used to require months of dedicated effort to produce a single copy could be produced en masse in a fraction of the time. Books were no longer produced at a scribe’s desk but in a bustling workshop where several books might be in production at the same time. Books were produced without covers, so a top page that identified the book



Early title pages (dated in image): These title pages show the transition from no title page (left) to simple decorated designs (center) to more complex designs with more words (right).

was useful in the workplace. It was also useful in the marketplace where booksellers and customers could readily identify desired works. As any modern book buyer knows, this also created the opportunity for browsing, an activity in which one discovers previously unknown titles and adds them to one’s cart. You can guess what happened next: title pages became marketing devices, aimed at attracting a buyer’s attention. As the successor of the illuminated manuscript, decoration was a natural choice.

Today, books are sold with covers that protect the book and serve identification and marketing functions. Title pages are now usually simpler, with their decorative function often displaced to a cover and a frontispiece on the page facing the title.

Of course anyone who truly loves books buys more of them than he can hope to read in one fleeting lifetime. A good book, resting unopened in its slot on a shelf, full of majestic potentiality, is the most comforting sort of intellectual wallpaper.

—David Quammen





## Florida Bibliophile Society 2022–2023 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:** Members brought a fascinating selection of books from their collections – a portrait of their interests and experiences.

**October 16 • Art Adkins – From the Beat to the Book: A Policeman Writes Detective Novels:** Art was a Los Angeles police officer 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:** Griffeth Whitehurst welcomed FBS members for a presentation and tour of their remarkable library housed in a replica of the Jefferson Memorial.

**December 18 • FBS Holiday Party:** To coin a phrase: A good time was had by all! We were hosted again at the lovely home of Ben and Joyce Wiley. Thanks for their hospitality! As promised, it was an afternoon of food, fun, books, and laughter!

**January 15 • David Hall – Aspects of Book Publishing, 1971–1985:** David’s thirty-year career as an editor was spent in the intense world of New York publishing. He knows book publishing in a way that few do, and he truly gave us an insider’s view.

**February 19 • Irene Pavese – The Evolution of Margaret Armstrong: Botanist, Illustrator, Book Designer:** Irene 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 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. Our booth (#43) gave us an opportunity to spend more time with guests and introduce them to FBS. On Sunday, our free book valuations were active and some valuable books turned up.

**March 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 in Africa and Asia where he learned local cultures and collected books. Carey shared his experiences and selections from his remarkable library. He and his wife Lois curated a fascinating collection of souvenirs.

**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.

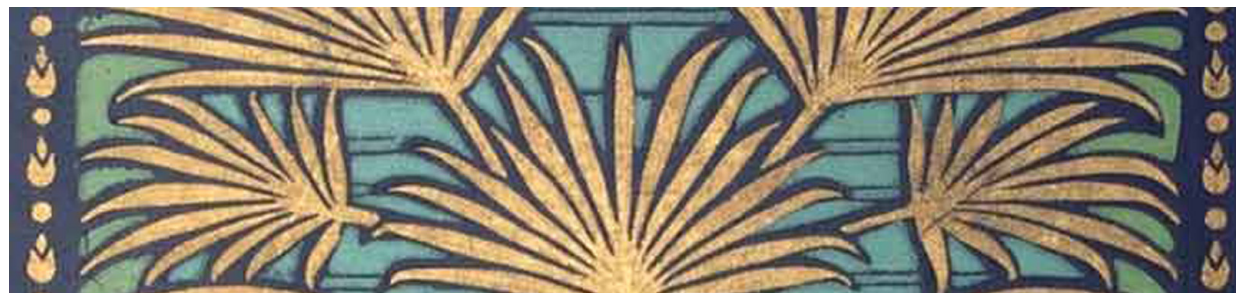
**April 22–26 • Gainesville Getaway:** The semiannual Alachua County Friends of the Library book sale features over 500,000 books, CDs, and other media in the Friends’ Book House in downtown Gainesville. Make a day or a weekend of it. The sale runs for five days, April 22–26.

**May 21, 1:30 p.m. • Banquet:** An exciting banquet has been planned. Watch your email for announcements.

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



## Endpaper • It Takes a Society



**The book fair hasn't warn off yet!** It was a great time all around. So fun to hang out with my bibliophile buddies ... and, of course, all those books! Yeah, I brought a few home.

Let me say again for all the officers how much we appreciate all of you who volunteered to make the Two Tables so successful. As a result, we have several new members, and we look forward to seeing them and getting to know them better at upcoming meetings. You gave away hundreds of bookmarks and brochures and sold a few Whitman books and FBS book bags to boot. And almost 200 people signed up for the newsletter — that's a record. We're so happy to share it with anyone who is interested!

I'm sure you understand that we can plan events and activities, but it's your involvement that makes it all work. The officers are working hard for FBS to do its part in support of book culture in Florida, and the book fair is a good example: the more willing hands the more we can do.

Even though we can't all make it to every meeting, there are many ways that we can work together to make FBS a great experience.

I want to encourage those of you who might be willing to get more involved as volunteers, as committee chairs, or as officers. For example, you'll notice in the list of committee chairs below that we are looking for a hospitality chair, which means someone to coordinate refreshments at our monthly meetings. Ben and Irene have brought cookies, coffee and bottled water to the monthly meetings, but maybe others could offer to share that happy duty.

The officers are working on ways to make the operation of FBS more transparent and more standard so that others can step into any of these roles more comfortably. We just need a few more folks eager to do so. Give it some thought.

See you at the book store! — Charles

## The Florida Bibliophile Society

### OFFICERS

*President:* **Charles M. Brown**  
cmbrown@atlantic.net

*Vice President:* **Ben Wiley**  
bwiley@tampabay.rr.com

*Secretary:* **Gary Simons**  
gsimons1946@yahoo.com

*Treasurer:* **Irene Pavese**  
impavese@aol.com



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*Hospitality:* ----

*Lee Harrer* **Gary Simons**  
*Award:* gsimons1946@yahoo.com

*Social Media:* **Carl Mario Nudi**  
carlnudi@netscape.net

*Archives:* **Carl Mario Nudi**  
carlnudi@netscape.net

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Unattributed material has been prepared by the editor, Charles Brown.

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