

The Florida Bibliophile

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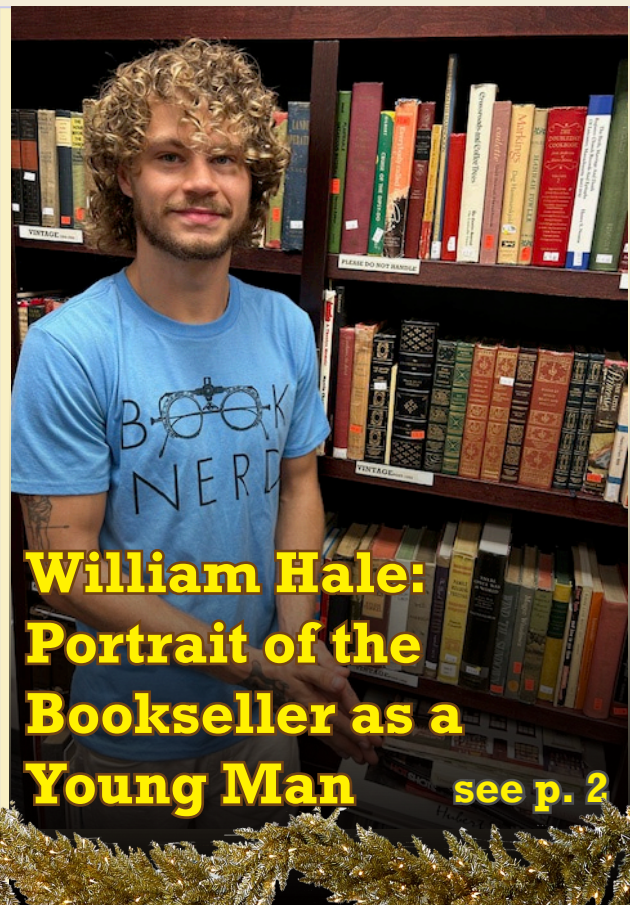
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Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FABS Journal is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the Spring 2023 FABS Journal [here](#).



**William Hale:
Portrait of the
Bookseller as a
Young Man** see p. 2

Florida Bibliophile Society

40

1983–2023



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the November 2023 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

Overall, the November meeting followed its usual outline. We gathered around 1:30 p.m. and enjoyed coffee and pastries provided by our hospitality chair Wes Brown. Our president, Charles Brown, opened the meeting with a welcome and a few news items – notably that members sign up for this year’s Holiday Party to be held at the home of Ben and Joyce Wiley (members who are reading this can send Ben an email: bwiley@tampabay.rr.com). Charles then called on Ben Wiley to introduce our speaker, Bill Hale – we’ll come back to that shortly. We held our usual book raffle, but unusually there were three tables full of books! After we adjourned, several of us went to Outback to top off the afternoon with an early dinner.

Now, the main event – our speaker. Bill Hale is one of FBS’s newest members. Bill is in his mid-20s, a writer, a bookseller, and a promoter of arts and culture in the St. Pete area. It’s unusual enough that someone this young has become a bookseller, but the path that led Bill to his current activities is equally unusual. It’s a story of second chances that Bill entitled “Portrait of the Bookseller as a Young Man,” paraphrasing James Joyce’s well-known book title. We’ll let Bill take it from here in his own words.

As a kid, I grew up without a lot of money or the best education in a small town of Alabama. My single father passed away right before Christmas when I was 10 years old, and his death was followed by mother’s the following summer.

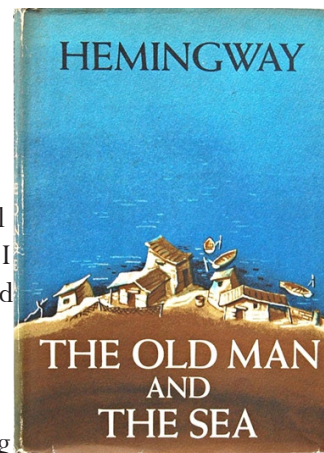
I was taken in by a much older cousin – a workaholic and emotionally disconnected. He was a very strict legal guardian, an ex-cop who was in many ways a polar opposite of my father the biker. Money wasn’t really an issue living with my older cousin, but it seemed everything I did was a problem. I had trouble staying out of trouble in school, and he would threaten to send me to stay with his mother, an ex teacher, for the summer. As it turned out, his mother made me read and write every day – at the time, it was a punishment.



Bill brought an impressive collection from his book business *Ageless Literature* to share (and they were for sale).

My 7th-grade English teacher noticed my writing skills before I myself did. He tried to get me to enter writing contests, but I rebelled and refused to do so. Later, in my freshman year of high school, I fell in love with a piece of literature for the first time: it was *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. During high school, I began writing, recording, and producing music and performed in the Sarasota area many times as a teenager. I even made it to my first radio interview as a 17-year-old music artist. Not too long after my 18th birthday, my cousin gave me a 30-day notice to move out for smoking weed, and coincidentally at the end of those 30 days, I graduated high school.

So the night of my high school graduation was the first night I slept on a friend’s sofa. I stayed for about six months until I saved up enough to move to St. Pete, which was about an hour away. It seemed like a big cool city with a lot of young people doing cool things.



The Old Man and the Sea (Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1952) by Ernest Hemingway. First edition.

Minutes, continued

So I moved to St. Pete with a friend, and we ended up in a pretty rough area – not at all what the real estate agent said it would be. I was in a bad environment with very bad guidance and felt I was stuck between a rock and a hard place for a very long time. My friend moved back in with his parents, and I was left with \$1,500 a month in rent.

I found another roommate, but he was much older and had just served 10 years in prison for various crimes he committed in his early 20s. He was sort of crazy, and I wasn't too happy living with him, but I needed the help with the rent.

With his encouragement, I began selling drugs. At the same time, I began reading in order to gain some insight or knowledge that would help with my emotional, environmental, and economic struggles. I was a 19 year old in a new city with no money, no family, no friends, and very little hope.

A couple of years into selling cannabis, I had amassed what I thought at the time to be a great deal of success. I was 21 and making a few thousand dollars a week and had just been given a \$15,000 car. I was still stuck in a bad neighborhood off of MLK Street in south St. Pete. It wasn't the people that were bad – many of them were pretty cool, but a lot of them were into things that weren't so cool.

I was having a great time traveling around the country with the business. My "friend" and business partner was making around six figures every couple of weeks and was at the point of turning over the entire business operation to me. Then we both got stopped by a state trooper while I was driving a U-Haul full of cannabis. Not ideal.

The scariest, most anxiety-filled moment of my life seemed to be the most joyous moment in the lives of the police officers who were unloading pound after pound of weed from our vehicle.



Bill tells the remarkable story that led him to literature and bookselling to an engaged audience.

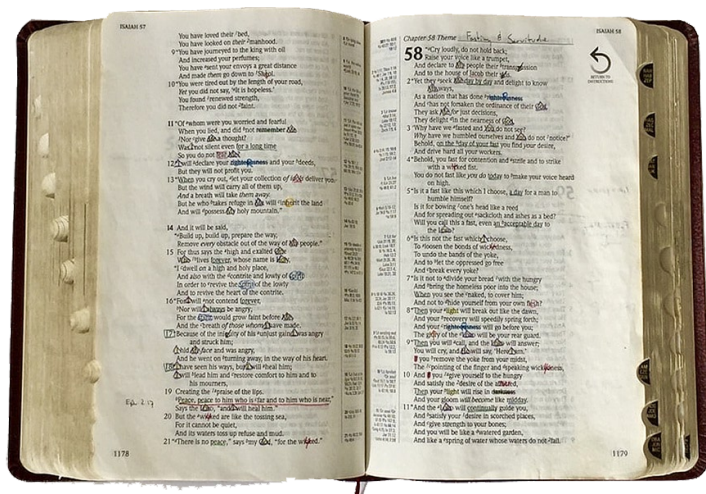
I was arrested and placed in county jail, charged with several felonies and needing a bond of about \$4,000 in order to be released pre-trial. The last thing my co-defendant told me before they split us up was that I would never have to worry about money again and that I would be released the following day. Neither of those statements turned out to be true.

I was supposed to get out of jail that weekend. A friend was ready to put up the \$4,000, which you can do online now. Unfortunately, my friend wasn't real familiar with the process and he got scammed. He lost \$4,000, and I was stuck in jail. I would have about two more months. In jail, that's a lot longer than it sounds.

With more time than I expected in jail, I started reading legal materials, working out, reading the Bible, and making business plans. I truly did not know if I was ever going to see the light of day again; however, I hoped that God had better plans for me. I didn't know if I was going to get out that day, the next day, ten years from then, or never.

It was in this time that God gave me a second chance at life, and I realized that I just needed to seek him in all things to actually see him

Minutes, continued



and experience him. My journey during this time with the Holy Spirit started when I opened a Bible – this Bible exactly [Bill held up a ragged, coverless book] – and it opened to the pages of Proverbs – Proverbs 3. I remember it to this day:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

During those weeks, I often opened the Bible – this one or others – and they always seemed to open up to these very passages. It was like God was trying to get my attention. It gave me hope, and soon I was sharing with other men in the jail – even two or three times my age – encouraging them to look to God. It gave me a faith that I still have and try to share with people around me to help them see their situation in a different way.

During this difficult time of being incarcerated, the country was shut down for Covid. Nearly all of my friends and family wanted nothing to do with me, and sometimes I thought that I had no future.

However, the woman I had been dating still believed in me. She told me that “tough times never last but tough people do.” Coincidentally, the guy in the cell across from me had a lot of

inspirational books in his metal bin,* and he invited me to pick one. I chose a white book with a gold design on the cover, and when I opened, there it was, *Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do*, by Robert Schuller. Of course, I read it, and it completely changed my way of thinking. It was full of stories of people who went through really tough times and felt there was no way out, but God led them to a new life and gave them a second chance.

Schuller also gave advice – the possibility game – where you write down your goal and ten different ways that could happen. My goal was to come up with \$4,000 and get out of jail so I wrote that down with 10 ways it might happen.

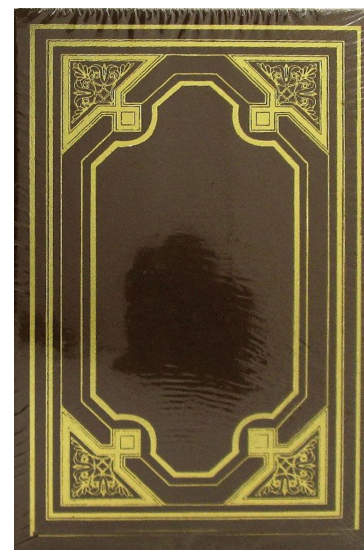
One night, one of the trustees – 70 years old and 200 pounds of solid muscle – came up to me and said, “You’re getting out; your bail has been paid.” I couldn’t believe it! I was jumping up and down, “Are you for real?” He got mad, “Why would I lie to you?”

It turned out that my girlfriend had gone to all these people and gotten a little money here and a little money there. It was like a miracle.

Being out of jail was not as easy as I thought it would be. I encountered many difficult times. I lost the relationship with that girl I had been in love with, I lost my brother to suicide, and a potentially life-changing private equity deal that I worked on for nearly a year fell apart at the last minute.

I was close to desperate. I didn’t have money

* Each person in jail is permitted one metal bin to keep all their possessions in.

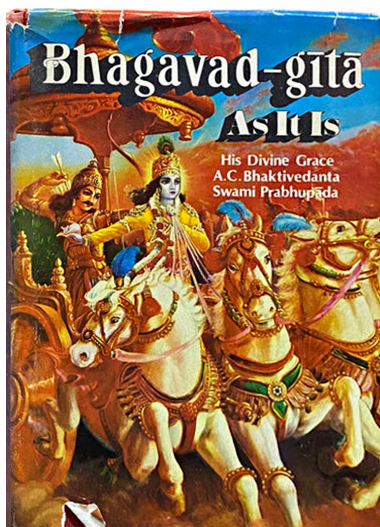


Bill's copy of *Tough Times Never Last But Tough People Do* by Robert Schuller, a leatherbound edition from 1983, the first year of publication.

Minutes, continued

for food. And sure, I considered going back to selling weed, but I kept thinking about something one of the men in prison showed me. It was a quote in the *Bhagavad Gita*: “However you choose to live is how you will die.” I thought, “Is that how I want to die – as a drug dealer?” Because when you sell drugs, that’s all you are to people. You don’t really have friends. You’re just “that guy.” I told God that I would never go back to selling drugs.

And then a series of events led me to get involved in the book trade and start my own firm, Ageless Literature.



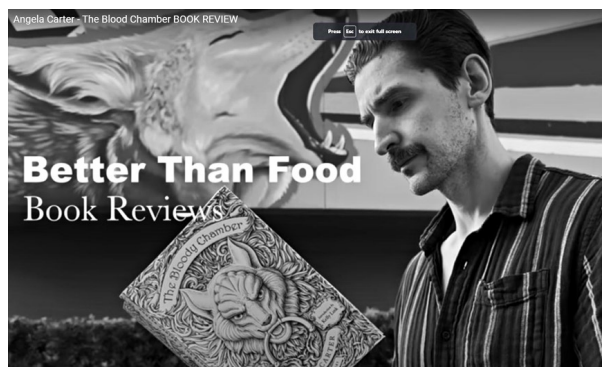
I was working as an apprentice plumber and making enough money to have a nice room – actually an Airbnb – in a good neighborhood. My legal situation had worked out. Because I didn’t have any previous offenses, I was given a few years of probation, and I was able to terminate that early by paying fines and jumping through various hoops.

I left the house one day to run some errands, and who did I see? It was Cliff Sargent. I knew him so well from the videos, and we had corresponded, and there he was. I walked up to him and said, “Cliff?” He said, “No way! This happens in the wierdest places!” Neither of us could believe it. It was a crazy moment.

One day, while I was driving, I saw several

At that time, I was reading a great deal and was watching book reviews on YouTube, especially Cliff Sargent’s “Books Are Better Than Food” videos. I thought that God was calling me to be a writer; I wanted to study the classics and to understand literature better.

I was working as an



Cliff Sargent hosts “[Books Are Better than Food](#)” on YouTube.

signs on the side of the road that said, “Thousands of Books \$1 Each.” I followed the signs for at least a couple of miles, and when I arrived at my destination, I found a very nice man by the name of George. He was just starting his own business called the Book Rescuers.

So I bought about 30+ classic paperback novels from George.

I was still working as a plumber – a job with a future – but I made the decision to take a leap of faith and partner with the Book Rescuers.

“Ageless Literature” came to me, and I immediately set up a website and an Instagram account. I made a few hundred dollars my first weekend in the business.

[Agelessliterature.com](#) was born.

Now, I regularly search through the vast inventory at Book Rescuers and find significant books that I can profitably sell online using Instagram and other tools.

I now have numerous loyal clients around the world. I am able to consistently find books they love for their collections and research purposes, and I’ve gained over 3,000 followers on social media. I hosted a literary event at the Jack Kerouac House in St. Pete in August and will host another similar event later in November.

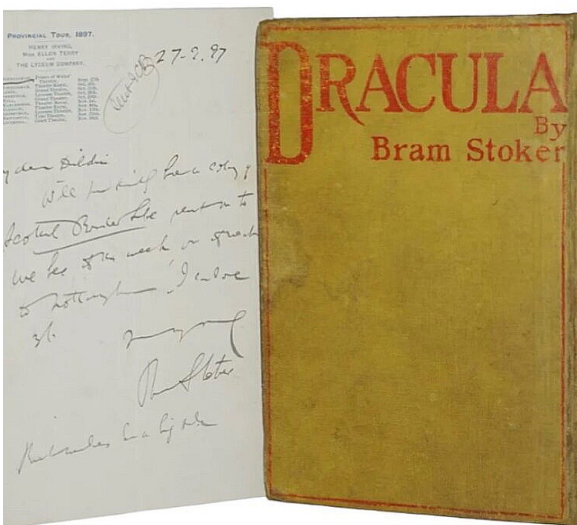
My career as a bookseller is well underway.

Bill’s talk was followed by a spirited Q&A period.

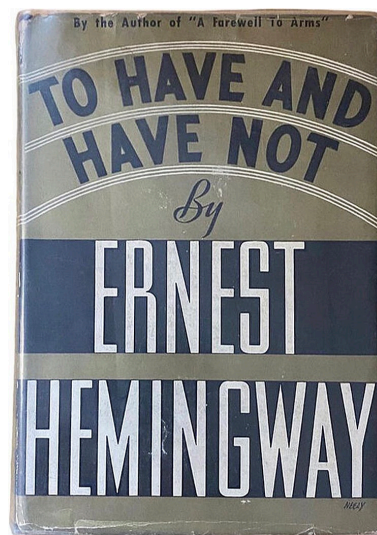
Bill, welcome to the community of bibliophiles!

Minutes, concluded**A Sampling of Ageless Literature**

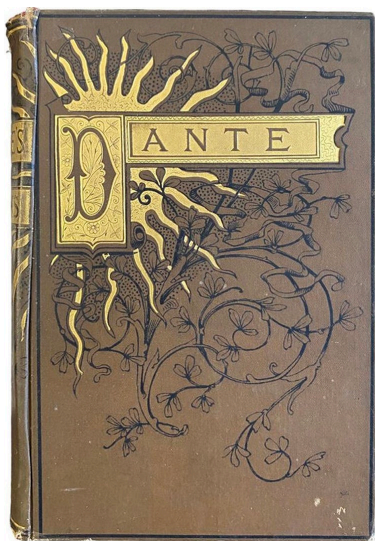
After Bill's main presentation, he introduced us to a selection of books from his bookselling business – a bookshop is still in the future – laid out on two tables. Bill explained several of them, including a unique collection of books by Dale Carnegie, many with signatures and inscriptions. Another interesting aspect of these books is that many of them came from Book Rescuers, currently in Pinellas Park.



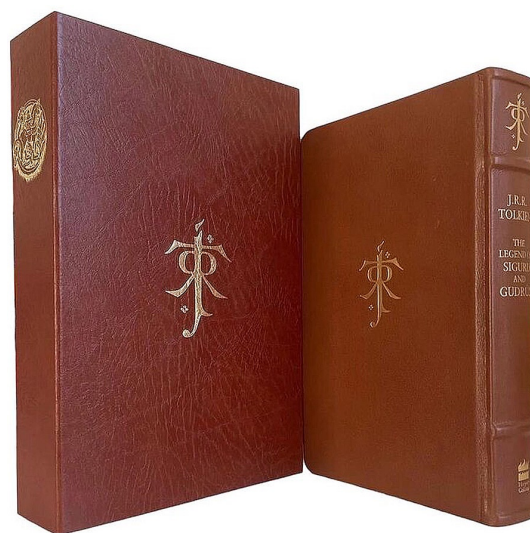
Dracula by Bram Stoker. First printing, 1897. The original cover for *Dracula* seems quite plain by today's standard for such a book, but the red lettering on a bright yellow ground was considered particularly lurid in the late 19th century. It placed this book in the class of "yellowbacks," deliciously sordid and sensational novels. This copy is accompanied by a letter signed by Stoker.



To Have and Have Not by Ernest Hemingway. First edition, first printing (marked "A"), 1937. With original dust jacket. The novel originated in two Hemingway short stories previously published in periodicals and a novella. The narrative is told from multiple viewpoints, at different times, and by different characters.



The Vision; or, Hell, Purgatory And Paradise by Dante Alighieri. Translated by Reverend Harry Francis Cary. Preface dated 1814. This edition, in a uniform edition of great poets by Thomas Crowell, dates from probably the 1880s.

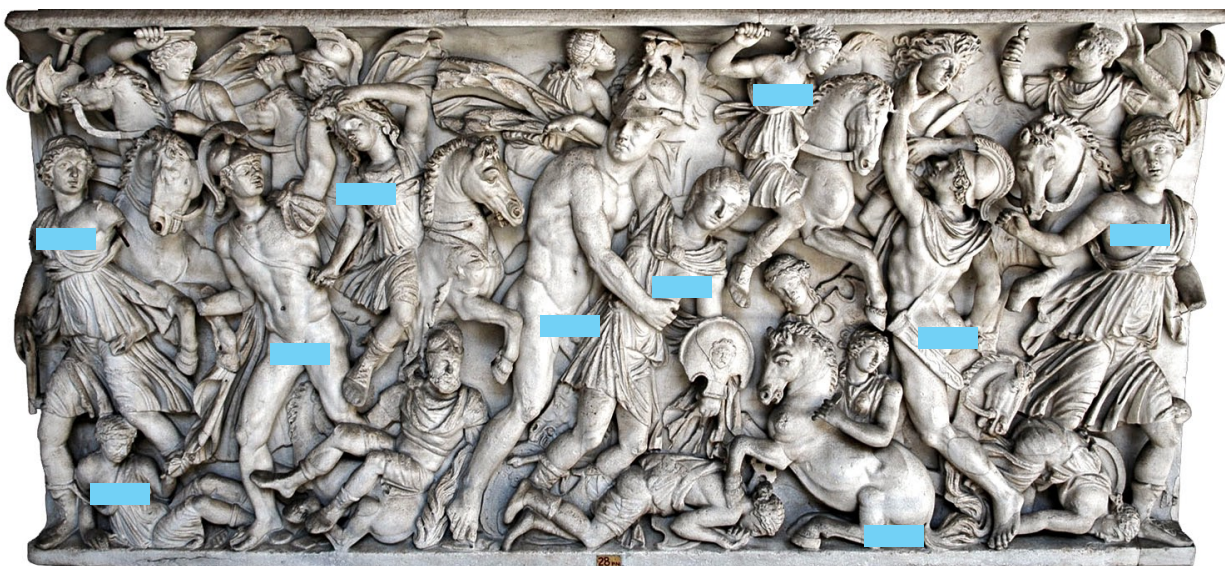


The Legend of Sigurd and Gudrún by J. R. R. Tolkien. First edition, 2009. Edited and signed by Christopher Tolkien. Book and slipcase leatherbound. Number 342 of 500. First publication of a previously unknown work by J. R. R. Tolkien.



A Happy Find

by Elenora Sabin, FBS Member

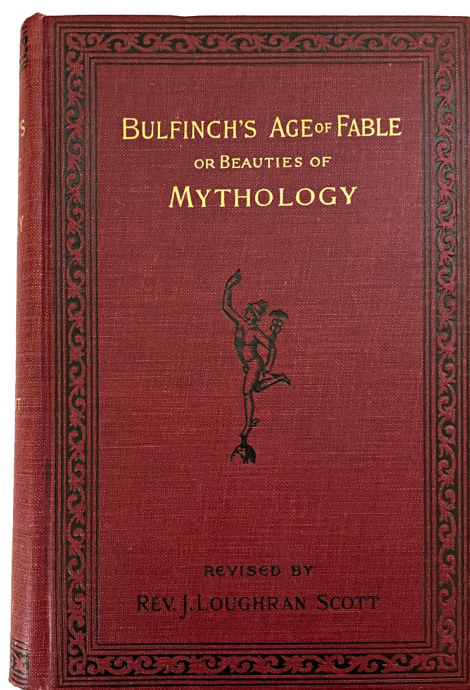


The battle between the Amazons and the Greeks is carved on the side of a Roman sarcophagus held in the Vatican Museum, Rome. It appears on p. 195 of the 1898 edition of Bulfinch's *Age of Fable or Beauties of Mythology*. Gentle readers, we have helpfully obscured any naughty bits.

I didn't get to attend the September meeting, when members showed their recent finds, but if I had attended, I wouldn't have had any special find to report, though I would have enjoyed hearing about other members' proud discoveries. Now, though, I do have a tale to tell of a very special Black Friday find.

When I was five years old, my grandfather died, and the remaining family—my mother, her mother, my father and I—were living in greatly reduced circumstances, though of course as a five-year-old I was not privy to the financial situation. All I knew was that we were leaving our home in Erie, Pennsylvania, and moving to Florida, where my grandfather had left us a small home in Pinellas Park that he had purchased during the Florida boom. My mother would go first, with her mother and with me, pulling

behind the car a U-Haul trailer filled with what we could take from our home. My father was to have come later—he never did, but that's another story. That trailer contained mostly furniture and a box of the few books my mother valued too much to leave behind. I could write an entire article on what books those were, but I'm only going to tell you now about one of them. That book was *Bulfinch's Age of Fable or Beauties of Mythology*, the 1898 edition, published by David McKay.



I'm not sure when I discovered that particular book, but I know that it was long before I actually reached the grade level at which I'd be expected to be able to read such a volume. What fascinating tales it held for a young child: stories of gods and goddesses, of mythical creatures, of mysterious places, some mythical and others real. And the illustrations! Photographs of statues and paintings of gods and

Happy Find, concluded

goddesses, drawings of Egyptian deities, of Hindu gods and goddesses, illustrations of stories from Norse mythology, many of them quite bloody. Those photographs of statues of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses were mostly nudes. The Moms for Liberty would be horrified, but I admired the nude statues, thought them beautiful, not in any prurient way. I was still too young to find those nude statues titillating. I saw them as they were intended to be seen: majestic and powerful.

I read that book so many times that I literally wore it out. I still have it, but it is absolutely in tatters. I bought a later edition of *Bulfinch's Age of Fable*, but it was disappointing, lacking the lovely illustrations, the excitement of my old book. Then, on Black Friday, when Biblio.com was offering a 10% off sale, it occurred to me to go to bookfinder.com and search, looking specifically for the 1898 edition of the book. Several were offered at various prices, but I was

attracted especially to a Biblio.com offering of a “very fine” edition of the book for just \$80 plus shipping. I went to the site, saw the photo of the book, and ordered it, applying my 10% discount coupon. So for just \$70 plus \$10 shipping charge I got an absolutely beautiful copy of the book. It looks brand new, still even has the transparent protective page over the frontispiece, a statue of Apollo Belvedere (yes, nude except for a strategically placed fig leaf). For me, it was the best Black Friday find ever! When I received it in the mail and removed it from the careful packaging, I burst into tears of joy. I called the store that sold it through Biblio, Givens Used Books of Lynchburg, Virginia, to tell them how grateful I was to get the book and what it meant to me. The woman who answered my call may have thought I was a crazy old lady, and maybe I am, but having that particular edition of the book in pristine condition takes me back to my childhood. It feels like being inundated with a flood of sunshine.



Bulfinch's Age of Fable (1898) was illustrated with images of sculpture, painting, and drawing. This illustration from p. 59 shows Prometheus chained to Mount Caucasus for his defiance of the lord of the gods, Jupiter (Jove). Bulfinch describes Prometheus as a friend of mankind who taught civilization and the arts against Jupiter's wishes. Each day, a vulture would attack Prometheus and eat his liver, which was regenerated as fast as it was consumed. The illustration is by John Flaxman (1755–1826), a prolific illustrator and consummate Neoclassical sculptor.



Thomas Bulfinch (1796–1867) was a Massachusetts banker and author of several books, including his trilogy:

The Age of Fable, or Stories of Gods and Heroes
(1855)

The Age of Chivalry, or Legends of King Arthur
(1858)

Legends of Charlemagne, or Romance of the Middle Ages (1863).

These works were later edited into one volume, which was the standard for teaching mythology for 100 years and remains in print. Dedicated to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “the poet alike of the many and the few,” Bulfinch's purpose was to popularize mythology and elucidate the many references in literature and works of art to the classic myths of Greece, Rome, the Nordic countries, and others.



Books as Symbols in Renaissance Art: The BASIRA Database

One does not have to search far to find a book in a work of Renaissance art. Books are featured in paintings, sculptures, illuminations, reliefs and prints, and in contexts both sacred and secular. Unlike other objects that have received their iconographical due, books (perhaps because of their ubiquity) have not yet been commented upon in detail in the scholarly iconographical literature of art history.

—from the BASIRA website



Barbara Williams Ellertson



BASIRA was conceived in 2014 by Barbara Williams Ellertson, who has been a designer of scholarly book for 40 years and founded BW&A Books in 1988 to provide these services.

Fittingly, two of her design projects for Cornell University Press provided the spark that would become the BASIRA Project. The books were *Introduction to Manuscript Studies* by Raymond Clemens and Timothy Graham (Cornell, 2007) and *Opening Up Middle English Manuscripts: Literary and Visual Approaches* by Kathryn Kerby-Fulton et al. (Cornell, 2012).

The BASIRA project was first presented at a meeting of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Durham, North Carolina. The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) coordinated three sessions at the conference. BASIRA was featured in the poster session (in the form of an oversized book) and in a Saturday presentation. The conference theme was

“In Concert: Literature and the Other Arts,” and attendees came from many disciplines, and many were interested in the BASIRA project.

Among the press of other work, Ellertson continued to shepherd the project. She set up a Pinterest page to solicit public contributions and acquired collaborators. Finding the images was just the first challenge. This was followed by organizational and programming challenges. The goal was to create a searchable database that would give scholars access to a vast array of images from Renaissance art.

Ellertson describes her encounter with Emma Cawfield at the 11th annual Schoenberg Symposium of Manuscript Studies (SIMS) in the fall of 2018 as “most significant.” Cawfield is program manager of the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts. She introduced Ellertson to aspects of this operation and similar ones that were crucial for the next stage of BASIRA. This also led to an exploration of common interests and the redevelopment of the BASIRA database for hosting at the University of Pennsylvania, of which the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies (SIMS) is a part.

This led to BASIRA’s most exciting opportunity: the creation of a publicly accessible database. This required transitioning from BASIRA’s previous formulation in a database program called FilemakerPro to an open-source database using MySQL, which powers many accessible database collections on the Internet. This was made possible by a Digital Art History grant from the Kress Foundation to Ellertson and her co-investigator, Dr. Nicholas Herman, Curator of Manuscripts at SIMS.

After much work, the public Web portal for BASIRA was launched at the 2023 Schoenberg Symposium on November 16–18.

The Schoenberg Symposium is an open, free event that gathers scholars, students, and interested members of the public. This year’s theme was “The Image of the Book: Representing the Codex from Antiquity to the Present.” The theme was crafted

BASIRA, continued

in part with the launch of BASIRA, a major new resource, in mind:

The event will also mark the public launch at Penn Libraries of the Books as Symbols in Renaissance Art (BASIRA) project, an innovative, public-access Web database of thousands of depictions of books in artwork produced between about 1300 and 1600 CE. The database, like the symposium itself, aims to engage historians of religion, literacy, art, music, language, and private life, as well as book artists, conservators, and interested members of the public.

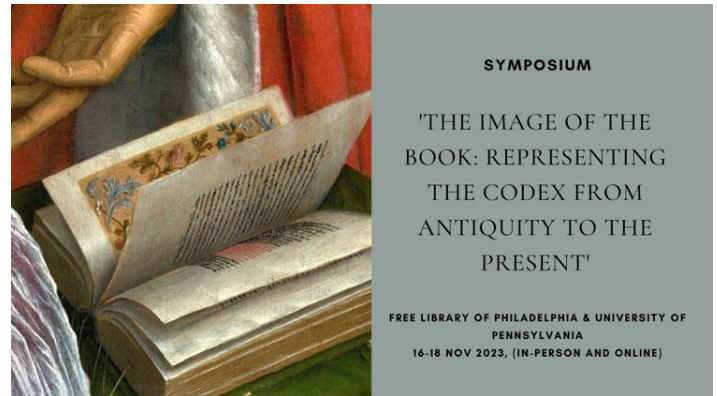
The database can be accessed at the BASIRA project website, basiraproject.org. Images can be located using over 50 descriptors in six categories:

- Artwork
- Visual Context
- Document Details
- Document External Features
- Document Internal Features
- Document Actions

Descriptors within these categories include date, location of origin, creator, binding type and color, structural elements, whether the text is legible, and many others. The images are the book-related portions of larger works, both sculptural and pictorial, and an image of the full object is also provided. For example, the Altarpiece of Saint Nicholas of Tolentino (1495; right) features Saint Nicholas holding a book. The detailed image is shown below it. The book is held open to the Gospel of John 15:10 in the Latin Vulgate, which is shown on the left-hand page (verso):

Precepta
patris
mei ser
vavi i
deo m

This condenses the full passage “Precepta patris mei servavi fideliter ideo maneo” (English: I also have



BASIRA, concluded

kept my Father's commandments, and do abide).

The description of this book in the BASIRA database is very detailed: binding type is boards; sewing supports are visible; two fastenings are seen at the left fore edge, etc.

This level of detail is intended to support detailed comparisons and the detection of patterns, regional trends, etc. Ellerston posed the central question in a 2015 paper "The Painted Page: Books as Symbols in Renaissance Art," co-authored with BASIRA collaborator Janet Seiz. She asks why books are so frequently shown in Renaissance art despite their rarity. While studies of the book and its history have been steadily increasing for several decades and Renaissance art and Christian iconography are among the most thoroughly studied subjects, Ellerston asserts that studies of books in Renaissance art are "missing or elusive." She hopes the BASIRA project will support work that addresses this gap through the opportunity it presents to art historians, European cultural historians, and scholars in media studies, religious history, and the history of reading. The compilation in BASIRA offers data for studies of changing cultural expectations of power, literacy, class, and even knowledge during the European Renaissance.

BASIRA, even by 2015, had revealed interesting patterns. Specifically, Ellerston finds that earlier images tend to portray an open book facing the viewer. Progressing through the 15th century, it becomes more common to see books closed in works of art or open but facing the subject of the painting. A second observation is the number of books that are portrayed as "breathing," that is, the pages appear to be ruffled or turning under the influence of a breeze.

Observations of this type suggest that books in Renaissance art offer a rich and revealing subject for academic study. More casual students of the arts are invited to pay more attention to the books in artworks – and of course, to browse BASIRA for its riches.

A Few Images with Legible Text in BASIRA

Mother of God and Child (c. 1200, Spain)



The Four Evangelists (ca. 1600)



Saint Teresa in Her Cell (c. 1725, Spain)



America's First Bible: The Indian Bible of John Eliot

According to the Guinness world's records folks, the Bible is still the best-selling book of all time, with more than five billion copies sold or distributed. Bibles are ubiquitous. The Bibles produced by Gideons International and placed in every hotel and motel room in America became a symbol of the ready availability of this religious text. And yet, one of the rarest and most significant American books is a Bible.

In the early days of England's American colonies, English immigrants lived alongside Native American communities and territories. Many colonists sought to bring their religion to the native peoples, and they had many successes.

One of these dedicated individuals was John Eliot (1604–1690), a Puritan pastor who immigrated to America in 1631. He established a church at Roxbury, then about five miles from the port city of Boston. In 1645, a few years after the founding of Harvard College, he founded the Roxbury Latin School, which is still in operation. He remained at Roxbury in pastoral service for the rest of his life.

Eliot established good relations with the dominant native group, the Narragansetts. He helped to organize native communities as well as teaching them about Christianity. He was sometimes called “the apostle to the Indians.”

The Narragansetts had no written language yet aids for teaching them about Christianity were needed. Of course, Eliot was also bridging a significant cultural and linguistic divide. Eliot's early experiences convinced him that the native people would learn the scriptures better in their own language. So, in the mid-1640s, Eliot began the process of translating the Geneva Bible into the Massachusetts language, spoken by the Narragansett and other native groups in the region.

First, he had to teach himself a new language. He developed a grammar book and dictionary during these efforts with the assistance of several natives:

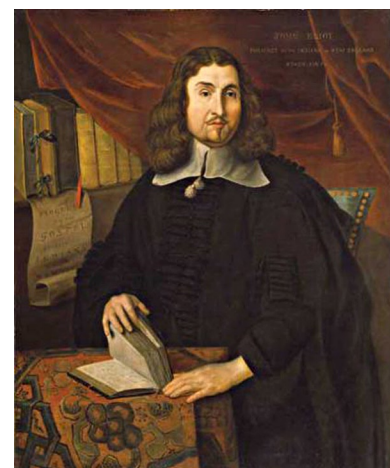
Cockenoe, a Montaukett from Long Island; John Sassamon, an early graduate of Harvard, and Job Nesuton, both of the Massachusetts tribe; and James Printer, also known as Wowaus, of the Nipmuc tribe. These men contributed much to translating the Bible.

By the 1650s, Eliot was ready to publish. There was a press at Harvard — the first printing press in America — that was ready to assist.

First up, in 1653, was a catechism, an introduction to Christianity in the form of questions and answers. This was followed in the mid-1650s with the Gospel of Matthew, the book of Genesis, and Psalms. This set of three books from the Bible also served as a prospectus to the London Corporation, the governing body of the city of London, and a sample of what a full Bible in the Massachusetts language might look like.

The project was approved, and the London Corporation sent a professional printer, Marmaduke Johnson, to the Bay Colony in 1660. He brought with him 100 reams of paper and eighty pounds of new type. To accommodate the native language, extra O's and K's had to be included.

Johnson was given a three-year contract to produce the entire Bible, which contains 66 books. With the aid of James Printer, 1,500 copies of the New Testament were printed in 1661. Two years later, 1,050 copies of the entire Bible were published. At about three quarters of a million words and at 1,180 pages, this was an impressive achievement; in fact, it was the largest single printing job in colonial America. Costs were covered by the London Corporation as well as donations from England and Wales. The total cost was around £16,000 — that



Rev. John Eliot (1604–1690)

Eliot's Indian Bible, concluded

would be about \$1.5 million today.

"Eliot's Indian Bible," as it is commonly known, was the first Bible printed in America. The first English Bible was printed in the U.S. in 1782.

The new Bible and associated learning materials were intended to address the many questions Eliot had encountered in his missionary work, such as:

- If only one parent is a believer, are the children under God's grace?
- If an old man repents, will he be saved?
- Can those in Heaven see us on Earth?
- Will we know each other in Heaven or Hell?
- Why did God make Hell before Adam sinned?
- Are the English risking their souls when they say a thing cost them more than it did?

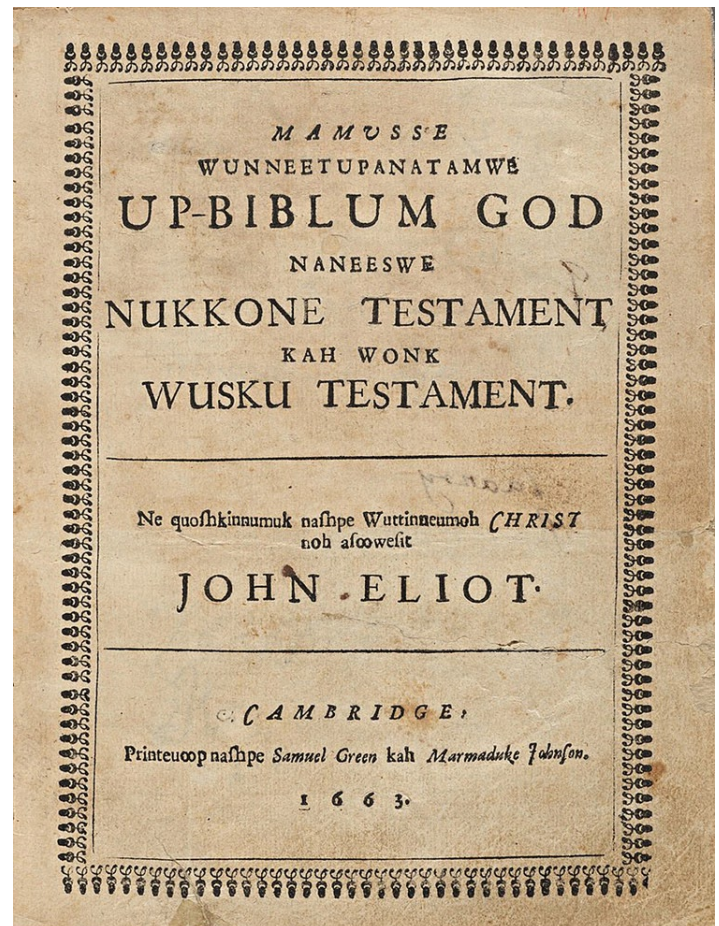
The Bible itself answered a very important question: "How may I gain faith in Christ?" Missionaries would respond, "Read the Bible." Now there was a Bible they could read.

Of the 1,050 copies of the entire Bible printed in 1663, only about 40 survive today, most in poor condition.

In 1775, war broke out between native people and the colonists and their native allies. It was called King Philip's War after "King Philip," a moniker of Metacom, the leader of a Wampanoag band. Land claims between the native people and the colonists had been simmering for many years, but in 1775, three of King Philip's warriors were hanged by colonial authorities for the murder of John Sassamon, whom we met earlier.

In months of destructive battles and skirmishes, thousands of colonists and their native American allies were killed as well as almost three times as many opposing native Americans. As the colonial forces and allies gained the upper hand, they were unsparing in the extermination of their enemies. Whole settlements were destroyed on both sides, and presumably their goods, such as Eliot's Bibles.

Eliot oversaw a second edition in 1685, but the approach to "Christianizing" Indians had shifted from



Title page of the Bible published by John Eliot in 1663, with its Massachusetts title: Mamusse wunneetupanatamwe Up-Biblum God : naneeswe Nukkone Testament kah wonk Wusku Testament (The Whole Holy His-Bible God Both Old Testament and Also New Testament).

translating religious materials into native languages to teaching native peoples to read and write English. The cost of producing native-language Bibles was prohibitive, and there were many native languages and dialects. Many missionaries were suspicious of the native languages and felt that they somehow perpetuated savage attitudes. Anglicizing the Indians was safer and more economical. The last native speakers of Massachusetts died in the late 19th century.

Most of the extant Bibles are in university libraries. Williams College holds a particularly good copy. The one shown above is in the Newberry Library in Chicago. There are copies at Harvard and in the Library of Congress. In 2016, a first edition of Eliot's Indian Bible sold for \$275,000.



How Printing Came to Florida – Part 2

Printing Comes to Florida

In 1783, brothers William and John Wells brought Florida its first printing press. Once it was assembled, they proceeded to publish Florida's first newspaper, the loyalist *East-Florida Gazette* (see p. 15). Only three copies of the *Gazette* survive. They were discovered in the Public Record Office in London by the American historian Worthington Ford (1858–1941). The earliest issue is number 5, dated “From Saturday, February 22, to Saturday, March 1, 1783,” which implies that the first issue of the paper appeared on February 1, 1783. It was “Printed by Charles Wright for John Wells, jun. at the Printing-office in Treasury-lane, where Advertisements and Subscriptions are taken in.” Charles Wright may be the pressman that accompanied William from Charleston. Why John Wells is styled “junior” is not known for sure.

“Treasury-lane” is now Treasury Street, and at about seven feet wide, it is famous as the narrowest street in America. It may have been designed to be narrow because it connected the Spanish Royal Treasury (now the Peña-Peck House) to the waterfront. The exact location of the original print shop is not known, but in 1971, it was reconstructed on Cuna Street in St. Augustine as part of the “living museum” San Agustín Antiguo. A working 18th-century press was set up, and visitors could observe early American printing in progress.

Two books are known that bear the imprint of Wells's press.

The Case of The Inhabitants of East-Florida (1784, 57 pp.) was marked “St. Augustine, East-Florida : Printed by John Wells, MDCCLXXXIV.” The “case” in this book was a presentation of reasons as to why loyalists newly arrived in St. Augustine should be compensated by the Crown for their losses. It opens with these words:

The following pages contain some facts, thrown together by a few gentlemen, residing in St. Augustine, and was originally intended for



A printing press from the late 1700s like the one William Wells brought from Charles-Town, South Carolina, to St. Augustine in the colony of East Florida in 1783. It is shown here in a reconstruction of Wells's print shop on Cuna Street in St. Augustine. Florida's first newspaper, the East Florida Gazette, was printed in the original print shop, whose exact location is not known.

a newspaper. It however. being afterwards suggested, that by adding the proclamations, addresses, and other authentick papers, herewith printed, by way of appendix, it might serve to inform our fellow subjects in Great-Britain more fully, with the conduct of the inhabitants of East-Florida during the war. It makes its appearance as a pamphlet, stating their case, and assigning some reasons, founded, it is humbly conceived, on the principles of the constitution and natural justice, why they should be compensated by the nation, for the losses they must sustain, by the cession of the province to the crown of Spain. Should it answer no other purpose, it will at least serve to shew, that the inhabitants of East-Florida continued

continues on p. 16

Printing Comes to Florida – Part 2, continued

VOL. I. **THE** **No. 5.**
East-Florida **GAZETTE.**
NULLIUS IN VERBA MAGISTER. HOR.
From SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, to SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1783. 842
718
Patio

POLICE OFFICE.
WHEREAS frequent riots and other disorders have happened in this province, and particularly in the town of St. Augustine, for want of regulations and restrictions in keeping taverns, punch-houses and retailing of spirituous liquors, whereby the peace and good government of the province has been disturbed, and the morals of many of the people have been corrupted; for remedy whereof, as much as may be, the General Assembly by an Act passed the 15th day of January last, directed, that no person or persons shall sell any beer, cyder, brandy, rum, punch, fluid or other strong liquors whatsoever, (except wine, where a licence is obtained for retailing the same) in less quantities than two gallons at one time, and to one person, or keep any skittle alley, shuffle board, billiard table, or any other publick gaming place, until he, she, or they shall have first obtained a licence, or licences from the Treasurer, under the forfeiture and penalty of ten pounds sterling for every offence, one half to the informer, and the other in aid of the general tax.
 If any person not having a licence shall sell or dispose of on credit any spirituous liquor in less quantities than two gallons at one time to any one person, the same shall be forfeited and lost, nor shall the person so credited or trusted be liable to any suit on that account.
 Persons obtaining licence to keep a tavern, punch-house, victualling house, or house of accommodation for the entertainment of strangers or to retail spirituous liquors in the town of St. Augustine, or within four miles thereof, shall pay five pounds, and for other parts of the province two pounds; for keeping a skittle alley twenty pounds, a shuffle board twenty pounds, a billiard table thirty pounds; and for any other gaming place ten pounds, all which licences shall continue in force one year only; the sum and qualifications of persons who apply for licences to be certified by two or more Justices of the Peace.
 If any person shall barter, exchange, give or lend any spirituous liquors or strong drink by any deceitful ways and means, in order to evade the intentions of the Act, not having a licence, or having a licence shall retail liquors to slaves (not having tickets) or to any Indian, or barter in exchange for the same with goods of any kind from a soldier, sailor, indentured servant, or Indian slave, the offender shall pay a fine of ten pounds.
 Persons crediting or trusting any mariner belonging to any vessel in this province, having signed the ship's articles, a sum exceeding five shillings, (except by leave of the master) shall forfeit the money or goods so credited or trusted, and if such mariner be harboured or kept by any person, in his or her house, the offender shall forfeit the sum of two shillings for every hour he is so continued.
 Keepers of taverns or tipping houses, or any other person who shall sell spirituous liquor mixed or otherwise to any armed mariner to the amount of more than one shilling and sixpence in one day, or detain, or suffer him to remain in his or her house to drink or tipple therein after nine o'clock at night (unless by leave of the master) shall forfeit the sum of twenty shillings.
 If any person or persons keeping or attending any ferry shall wittingly or wilfully transport or suffer to be transported over such ferry, any fugitive runaway or soldier not having a certificate of his discharge, or a written pass from his officer, shall forfeit five pounds.
 The Governor or Commander in chief for the time being is by the said Act authorized to empower Commissioners to grant licences to such persons as they shall think fit, to sell any kind of wines in less quantities than three gallons, to be drunk and spent within the house of the party so licensed; and such commissioners shall take for every licence the sum of three pounds, where such person has not a licence for retailing spirituous liquors; and where a person has such licence the sum of two pounds; and if any one shall presume to sell any kind of wines in less quantities than three gallons, without having first obtained such licence, every person so offending shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty pounds sterling.
 To the end therefore that so useful and salutary a law may be strictly obeyed, if any person shall be convicted of the least breach thereof before the senior Justice, the party offending will be proceeded against with the utmost rigour by the said Act prescribed.

ASSIZE OF BREAD.
FORASMUCH as the inhabitants of the town of St. Augustine, have been and yet are aggrieved and subjected to great and many inconveniences for want of some wholesome restrictions on the bakers of bread for sale, with regard to the quality, weight, price and assize of an article so essentially necessary to their health and support; and whereas evil disposed persons have taken the advantage for their own unlawful gain and lucre to deceive and defraud his Majesty's subjects, and more especially the poor, being thereby greatly distressed: The Legislature of this province, for remedy in future of a practice so encreasing and oppressive, has required the senior Justice, upon the best information he can get, to make publick once in every month or oftener if he shall think necessary, the ordinary or market price of flour, which shall be taken and deemed the market price from time to time of such flour, for one month after such publication, and also to set forth the separate distinct weights of each of the sizes of bread, that is to say, when when flour is at the rate of fifty shillings per one hundred weight, the sixpenny loaf shall weigh one pound avoirdupois (sixteen ounces) and the other sizes in proportion, diminishing or encreasing the weight of the said loaves according as the flour rises or falls, and according to the aforesaid proportion.
 I have therefore enquired what is the present ordinary or market price of flour this day, and find it to be twenty-five shillings the hundred weight, so that for one month from the date hereof, the three-penny loaf is to weigh one pound, the sixpenny loaf is to weigh two pounds, and the shilling loaf is to weigh four pounds, to be made of good wholestone wheat flour, without any mixture other than what shall be necessary to the well making or baking thereof, to be judged of by the Magistrate trying and examining the same.
 And every baker or other person making bread for sale, or exposing the same for sale, must mark or imprint, or cause to be fairly marked or imprinted on every loaf, so by him or her made, the price of such loaf, together with the initial letters of his or her Christian name, and surname at length, that the baker and price thereof may be more distinctly known.
 The Justices, Churchwardens, or Vestrymen, may in the day time enter into any house, shop, stall, bake-house, or ware-house, or of belonging to any baker or seller of bread, and there search for, view, try and weigh all and any bread of such person or persons, which shall be there found, and they may enquire into and determine all complaints concerning the above offences; and if any such bread so found shall be wanting either in goodness of its materials, or not duly baked, or wanting in its due weight, as by this assize is set, or not marked as aforesaid, or shall be composed of or made up with any other materials than what are by the Act allowed, then and in every such case it shall be lawful for the Justices, Churchwardens or Vestry, or any two of them, to seize and take the bread so found, and cause the same to be given and distributed to the poor of the district where such seizure shall be made, and also to impose a fine on any baker or seller of bread for offending a sum not exceeding five shillings, nor less than one shilling for every loaf so found deficient and seized; and if any person whatsoever shall not permit or suffer such search or seizure to be made, or shall oppose, hinder, obstruct or resist the same, he, she, or they so doing shall for every such offence forfeit the sum of twenty pounds sterling.
 SAMUEL FARLEY, Senior Justice.
 Police Office, Feb. 25, 1783.

(BY PERMISSION)
 On MONDAY, Evening the 3d of March, WILL BE PRESENTED, At the THEATRE, In the STATE-HOUSE, **The BEAUX STRATAGEM,** A COMEDY, To which will be added, **The ENTERTAINMENT of MISS IN HER TEENS,** The Characters by Gentlemen, for the benefit of the distressed Refugees.
 Doors to be opened at SIX o'clock; Performance to commence at SEVEN; no money taken at the door.
 Tickets to be had at Mr. JOHNSON'S Store, formerly Mr. PAYNE'S.
 PITT, 55. 9d. GALLERY, 4s. 9d.

WHEREAS the senior officer of his Britannick Majesty's ships and vessels of war, at the port of Charlestown, having thought proper to transfer the appointment of Commissary for naval prisoners for the southern district, to St. Augustine, East-Florida: All commanders of privateers, letters of marque, armed vessels of every denomination, and prize masters are hereby directed, that in future they do report and deliver their naval prisoners, at the Commissary for naval prisoners, office, St. Augustine.
 Given under my hand and seal of office, at St. Augustine, East-Florida, this 28th day of February, one thousand seven hundred and eighty three.
 CHARLES PRINCE, Commissary Naval Prisoners Southern District.
 By order of the Senior Officer.

EAST-FLORIDA, St. Augustine, February 26, 1783.
Wanted to Charter,
FOR Government use, a VESSEL of about one hundred and forty tons burthen, well sheathed, and in every respect fitted for a naval prison ship. Any persons willing to furnish a vessel answering the above description, are to give in their proposals at St. Augustine, to Lieutenant CHARLES PRINCE, Commissary of naval prisoners or to JAMES FRASER.
 To be sold and possession of the greater part of the Premises immediately granted by the THAT excellent HOUSE and LOTTE on the Bay, known by the name of Drane's Quarter, pleasantly situated for a private family, and equally well for either wholesale or retail business is at present owned and occupied by JAMES WALACAS, to whom any one intending to purchase may apply.
 The premises are extensive and well fitted with back store, kitchen, shed, &c. and room for further improvements.
TO BE SOLD,
 A light, airy **POST COACH,**
 With harness complete for a pair of horses. Enquire of the Printer.

Printing Comes to Florida – Part 2, continued

unmoved in their fidelity and attachment to their parent country, at a time of general revolt; that the strongest cement of civil society, that of their allegiance to their natural prince, was at no period or moment lost sight of or disregarded by them; and that the same sentiments and principles influenced their conduct, throughout all the vicissitudes of the war. It may also tend to awaken in some part of the nation, the emotions of sympathy and regard for men whose loyalty could not be shaken in the day of trial, and who must now apply to the justice of the nation, to receive compensation for the property they are obliged to forego by the peace.

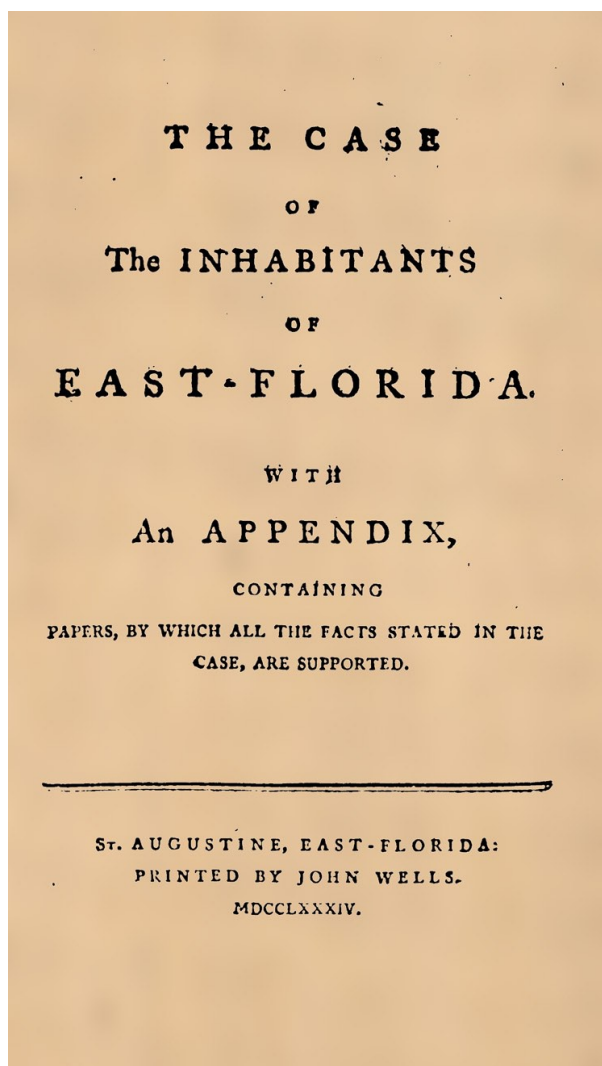
In response, the British government set up a Claims Committee to address the loyalists' concerns.

Essay II. On The Nature and Principles of Publick Credit (1784, 100 copies, 101 pp.) by Samuel Gale was published with the imprint "St. Augustine, East-Florida: Printed, for the author, by John Wells. MDCCLXXXIV." Gale had been an itinerant paymaster for the British in the southern colonies. The end of the war left Gale in a difficult position as it did many loyalists. This essay was part of his effort to claim a pension in regard for his losses, not of property, but of professional income. This purpose may be somewhat obscure in this "complicated treatise" that describes how Great Britain can retire its public debt. Gale wrote two further volumes, in 1785 and in 1787. During this period he began to receive an annual payment £40 and then £100.

Another Change of Fortunes

As the business was just getting off the ground, the war between the American colonies and Great Britain which had ended functionally in 1781 was ended formally in 1783 by the Treaty of Paris. The treaty confirmed the United States as an independent nation and established new borders for the United States, ceding to the new country territory extending to the Mississippi River – more than doubling the size of the original colonies.

The Treaty of Paris gave Florida back to Spain. East



In addition to the East Florida Gazette, William Wells published two known books. Shown above is the title page for The Case of The Inhabitants of East-Florida (1784, 57 pp.)

and West Florida were now Spanish again, and Spain was an ally of the United States. More importantly, Spain was no friend of Great Britain, and there was no room in Florida for a loyalist newspaper.

Once again, Wells's press was forced to move. Along with many St. Augustine loyalists, John Wells and his press moved to Nassau, on the island of New Providence in the Bahamas. He set up the press once again and published a newspaper, the *Bahama Gazette*. He also produced almanacs which were exported to South Carolina and Georgia.

William Wells returned to England to practice medicine in London. He held positions at Finsbury Dispensary and St. Thomas's Hospital. William distinguished himself in scientific research. In 1793,

Printing Comes to Florida – Part 2, continued

he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. In 1813, he read a paper before the Royal Society proposing certain ideas about natural selection, several decades before Darwin. Darwin later acknowledged this as the first proposal of natural selection. By 1800, William's health limited his activity as a physician, but he remained active in medical research.

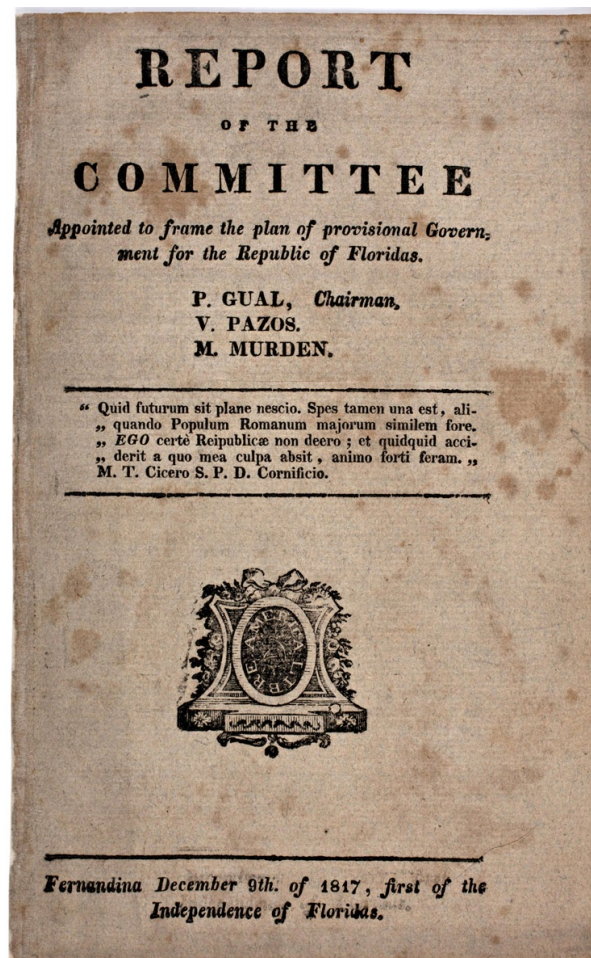
William is best known for his theory on the formation of dew. From antiquity, the formation of dew had been a mystery. Through intricate and ingenious experiments, William proved that dew is a condensation of water vapor in the air. His work was widely praised and cited and led to William receiving the 1814 Rumford Medal, a Royal Society award for outstanding contributions to physics.

William Wells died on September 18, 1817. He is buried near his mother and father at St. Bride's Church on Fleet Street in London.

Printing Returns to Florida

After the Wellses left, there is little evidence of printing in Florida until it was ceded by Spain to the U.S. in 1821. There is some evidence of a press at Amelia Island. A document entitled *Report of the Committee Appointed to Frame the plan of Provisional Government for the Republic of Floridas* by P. Gual, V. Pazos, and M. Murden is the only extant example of printing in Florida between 1784 and 1821. With the Embargo Act of 1807 (to prevent the British from impressing Americans) and the abolition of the American slave trade (1808), Amelia Island, just inside Spanish Florida, became a haven for smugglers and adventurers, hosting up to 150 ships at a time.

In 1817, Gregor MacGregor, a Scottish adventurer active in South America who claimed to have been commissioned by no less than Simón Bolívar, declared himself the "Brigadier General of the United Provinces of New Granada and Venezuela, and General-in-Chief of the Armies of the Two Floridas." On June 29, MacGregor and his ragtag forces assaulted Fort San Carlos on Amelia Island and raised the flag of the Republic of the Floridas, a green cross on a white ground.



Printing left Florida when the Wellses left in 1784. No printer is known until 1821, but this publication is evidence that there may have been a printing press on Amelia Island in 1817.

By September, MacGregor was aware of Spanish plans to retake the fort and fled with his "officers" to the Bahamas, leaving a small contingent to hold the fort. They were joined by another adventurer, Louis-Michel Aury, formerly associated with MacGregor in South America. Aury assumed control and created the "Supreme Council of the Floridas." He directed his secretaries Pedro Gual Escandón (P. Gual) and Vicente Pazos Kanki (V. Pazos) to draw up a constitution. Aury invited all Florida to join him and throw off the Spanish yoke.

Aury controlled Amelia Island for a few months, flying the flag of the Republic of Mexico, another group of revolutionaries fighting Spain for independence. The U.S., already planning to annex "the Floridas," sent a naval force and captured Amelia Island on December 23, 1817.

A newspaper published at Amelia Island in 1817 is

Printing Comes to Florida – Part 2, concluded

attested in a Charleston newspaper but otherwise unknown. Publication may have been brief.

In 1810, American settlers in West Florida rebelled and declared their independence from Spain. President James Madison and Congress used the incident to claim the region. In Europe, Spain was busy fighting Napoleon and had fewer resources to spend quelling a rebellion. By 1819, the Spanish were done. The designs of the United States, the intentions of the settlers, and continuing problems at home convinced the Spanish to cede all of Florida to the United States. The Onís-Adams Treaty of 1819 transferred both West and East Florida to the United States. There was no compensation, but the U.S. assumed \$5 million of damages caused by the settlers. The treaty was ratified by Congress on February 22, 1821.

In June 1821, printing returned to Florida. Richard William Edes, son of a well-established Boston printer, arrived in Florida in 1821, set up a press at St. Augustine, and began publishing the *Florida Gazette* – his family published the *Boston Gazette*, a major outlet for the revolutionaries. Edes also published a broadside to inform the public about the Onís-Adams Treaty and including a statement from the King of Spain that his subjects' last act of devotion to him should be to transfer their allegiance to their new country.

Sadly, Edes died in October 1821. Unknown associates continued publication of the *Florida Gazette* through the end of the year.

The year 1821 also saw the first newspaper in Pensacola, the *Floridian*. Cary Nicholas and George

Tunstall set up shop in the summer of 1821, and began publication of the *Floridian* in August. They were the first official printers of the territory and printed a variety of broadsides for Major General Andrew Jackson announcing ordinances for West and East Florida. They published the acts of the territory's legislative council and many other official publications.

Though Edes had died, printing soon returned to St. Augustine when in 1822, a New Jersey printer, Elias B. Gould, set up shop. He began publication of the *East Florida Herald* that year. In 1829, he changed the name to *Florida Herald*. In 1834, his son James took over management of the paper.

Entry into the United States opened Florida for American printers. One after another, they came. Many started newspapers, and many of which were short-lived, but they were quickly succeeded by others. Official publications, broadsides, and books provided a steady stream of work.

Printing was in Florida to stay.



General Gregor MacGregor seized Fort San Carlos on Amelia Island in 1817 and declared it independent of the Spanish. He was forced to abandon Amelia Island within a few months. By 1821, after a series of failed exploits in the Caribbean, he returned to England, where he presented himself as the leader of a Central American country called Poyais. He gained many investors, and about 250 people emigrated to "Poyais" only to find virgin jungle. The collapse of the scheme and the loss of investments led to a stock market crash in England with repercussions in the U.S. MacGregor tried a similar scheme in France, where he was then tried but not convicted. After several similar failed schemes, he returned to Venezuela, where he was welcomed as a hero and eventually buried with high honors.

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IN A SPIRIT OF COLLEGIAL OUTREACH, the Florida Bibliophile Society raises a glass to the Book Club of Detroit. On December 9th, at its annual meeting and holiday luncheon, the Club celebrates its 65th year. A joyful and festive occasion!

For more information, with several captioned images, view this tribute by an FBS member and former Detroiter: < <https://www.rarebookhub.com/articles/3491> >.

Dating from its origins in 1958, in a History of the Book course at Wayne State University, Detroit, the city's book club personifies the resilient spirit of Detroit. ♦



“The Spirit of Detroit”

by Marshall Fredericks (1958)

A 26-foot Monumental Bronze Sculpture (9 tons),
Woodward Avenue, Downtown Detroit.

Photo, VoxLuna

Webpage Contributed By FBS Member & Former FBS VP,
Maureen E. Mulvihill



FBS Flashback, 1995: “The Old Tampa Book Company”

From Florida Bibliophile Society’s *The Newsletter*, October 1995 —

The Old Tampa Book Company

Dave Brown and Jim Shelton have realized their vision of establishing a fine bookstore in the downtown business district of Tampa, Florida. The renovations to the former Richard Bennett Tailor Shop are done, and the shelves, once filled with bolts of fine cloth, are starting to overflow with books. There are comfortable chairs to sit in and quiet music to listen to as you examine a selection of fine books at prices that will delight you.

The proprietors, James Shelton, former owner of the Hyde Park Book Shop, and David Brown, of the Motorbook Shop, a mail order book sales company, are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of bibliophiles, book collectors and casual readers. The store offers old and nearly new books on almost any subject. Its specialty is the purchase and resale of used, antiquarian, rare and not-so-rare, and once-or-twice-read books. “We offer nearly-new and older books on a wide range of subjects,” says bookseller Brown, “from cookbooks to classics. The stock is an eclectic selection of books that we think have enduring value – old favorites and worthwhile books you never knew were written. Plus there is a lot of fun fiction at bargain prices.”

The services that The Old Tampa Book Company provides are:

- Selling high quality used hardcover and paperback books of all kinds at attractive prices.
- Purchasing book collections, from a single book to an entire library.
- Filling special requests and searching for hard to find out-of-print titles.
- Selling books on consignment.

- Appraising books for insurance, estate valuation and tax reporting for charitable contributions.
- Cataloguing libraries and book collections.

Dave and Jim are eager to share their enthusiasm for books and will speak to groups on book collecting, book preservation and protection, record keeping for collectors, and on what makes a book valuable (or worthless). They also provide impromptu, informal estimates of book values at these meetings.

Current featured collections are automobile and auto racing books, medical books and journals, and military history. The store also has a growing inventory of inexpensive paperbacks, textbooks, and ex-library books. Jim and Dave want to add to the stock more good hardcover books on any topic. They purchase these outright for cash, but will also accept books in trade for store credit.

Curious browsers and avid readers are already visiting the store, searching through the shelves and letting the owners know that the appreciation of literature and the quest for a good read are alive and well in downtown Tampa. Out-of-town visitors have begun to seek out the store and have expressed pleasant surprise at the variety, quality, and the reasonable prices of the books.

The Old Tampa Book Company is open from 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and by special appointment. The phone number of the store is (813) 209-2151. You will find the store at 507 North Tampa Street, north of Madison and south of Twiggs, right next to Jersey Joe’s Sub Shop.



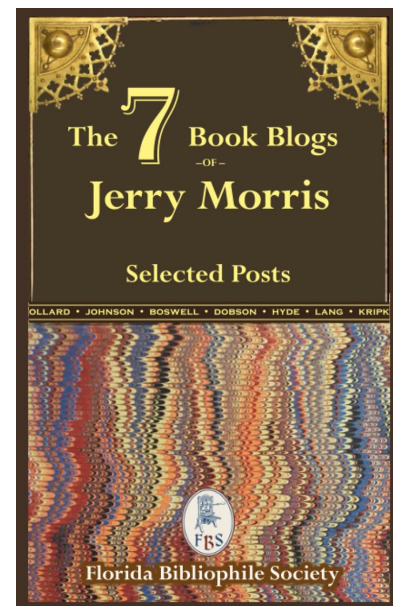
FBS Publications

The 7 Book Blogs of Jerry Morris

FBS. May 2023. 312 pp. \$43.50 (hbk), 30.00 (pbk). Color illus.

The 7 Book Blogs of Jerry Morris collects 29 out of the more than 300 blog posts that Jerry published over a 20-year period. Selected by a committee of Jerry's devoted readers, these posts represent the range of Jerry's bibliophilic interests as well as his many contributions to the history of books and the people that collected them. A few of the bibliophiles Jerry wrote about include Mary and Donald Hyde, J. O. Halliwell-Phillips, Adrian H. Joline, Alfred W. Pollard, and Madeline Kripke. A number of booksellers are also subjects of these blog posts, including Larry McMurtry and his famous bookshop, Booked Up, in Archer City, Texas, and John R. Lindmark and his ill-fated eponymous shop in Poughkeepsie, New York – an infamous “chapter” in bookselling history. Also included, of course, are Jerry's personal collecting interests, such as his extensive work cataloging the libraries of Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and Charles Lamb. Especially close to Jerry's bibliophilic heart was his collection of the editions of William Strunk's (later Strunk and White's) well-known writing guide, *The Elements of Style*. Jerry's meticulous research and wide-ranging relationships throughout the world of bibliophiles allows him to illuminate some overlooked but fascinating individuals and publications.

Available through Amazon Books: [hardback](#) and [paperback](#).

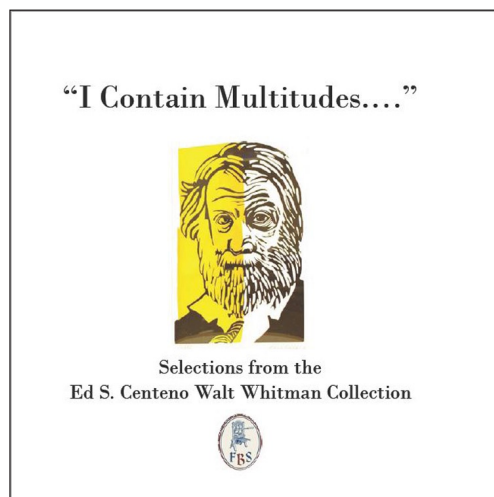


“I Contain Multitudes . . .”: Selections from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection

FBS. April 2022. 58 pp. \$20.00 (pbk). Color illus.

In April 2022, the Florida Bibliophile Society hosted a special exhibition of items from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection at the Largo Public Library in Largo, Florida. Ed opened the exhibition with a slide presentation at the Largo library. This book contains photographs, descriptions, and the history of over 100 items in Ed's collection, which includes editions of *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman ephemera and period collectibles, as well as specially commissioned works of art. The collection is a remarkable and revealing tribute to Whitman. This book is an excellent introduction to Whitman, with information on his creative process and output and his outsized impact on American and world poetry. The book is also an excellent introduction to Ed Centeno, an intrepid and engaging collector whose enthusiasm for life and for Whitman is truly contagious. Only a few copies of this limited edition of 100 books remain.

Order directly from the Florida Bibliophile Society by sending a check for \$20.00 to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg FL 33747. You may also request a copy via email at floridabibliophiles@gmail.com and use the same email address to pay through PayPal.



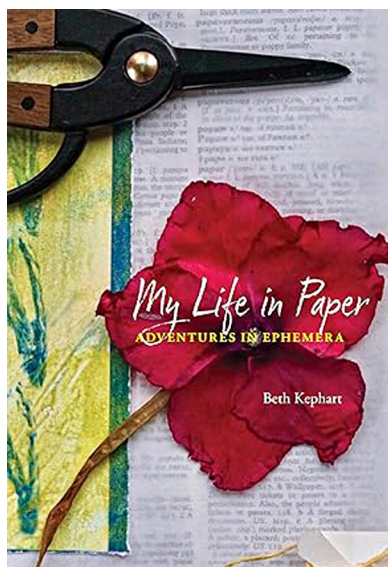
Books in Brief

My Life in Paper: Adventures in Ephemera

Beth Kephart

Temple University Press

336 pp., November 2023



Paper both shapes and defines us. Baby books, diaries, sewing patterns, diplomas, resumes, letters, death certificates—we find our stories in them. *My Life in Paper* is Beth Kephart's memoiristic exploration of the paper legacies we forge and leave.

Kephart's obsession with paper began in the wake of her father's

death, when she began to handcraft books and make and marble paper in his memory. But it was when she read *My Life with Paper*, an autobiography by the late renowned paper hunter and historian Dard Hunter, that she felt she had found a kindred spirit, someone to whom she might address a series of one-sided letters about life and how we live it. Remembering and crafting, wanting and loving, doubting and forgetting—the spine and weave of *My Life in Paper* came into view.

Paper, for Kephart, provides proof of our yearning, proof of our failure, proof of the people who loved us and the people we have lost. It offers, too, a counterweight to the fickle state of memory.

My Life in Paper, illustrated by the author herself, is an intimate and poignant meditation on life's most pressing questions.

Beth Kephart is an award-winning teacher, co-founder of Juncture workshops, and a book artist. She is the award-winning author of more than three dozen books.



Source: Temple University Press

The Book by Design: The Remarkable Story of the World's Greatest Invention

P. J. M. Marks and Stephen Parkin, eds.

University of Chicago Press

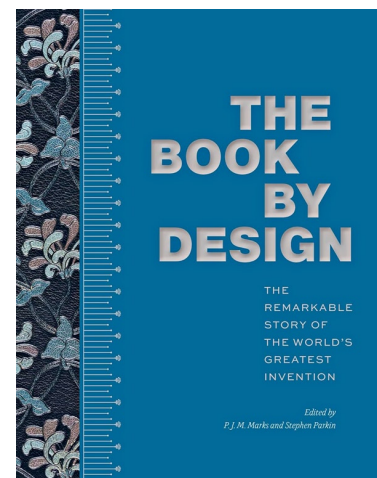
288 pp., November 2023

For centuries and across the world, books have been created as objects of beauty, with bookmakers lavishing great care on their paper, binding materials, illustrations, and lettering.

The Book by Design features books from

the British Library and focuses on the sensory experience of holding and reading these objects. Each selection represents a specific moment in the development of the book, from scrolls and illuminated manuscripts to paperbacks and digital forms. These range from the 7th century to the 21st, with examples from East and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America, Africa, and Oceania. Audubon's *Birds of America*, the works of Chaucer, Russian Futurist books, limited editions, historic copies of the Qur'an and the Bible, mass-market paperbacks, and more tell the visual, tactile, and cultural history of books.

Expert curators and specialists explore these books, offering a wide-ranging look at the creation and use of books. With hundreds of color images, this volume is itself an object of beauty.



P. J. M. Marks (left) is curator of bookbindings at the British Library.

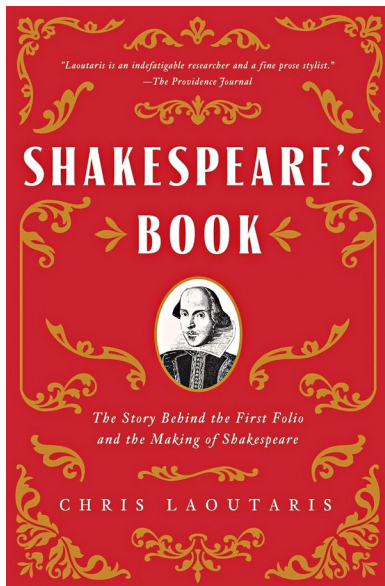
Stephen Parkin is curator of the British Library's printed heritage collections, 1450–1600.



Source: University of Chicago Press

Books in Brief, *continued***Shakespeare's Book: The Story Behind the First Folio and the Making of Shakespeare**

Chris Laoutaris
Pegasus Books
560 pp., April 2023



2023 marks the 400-year anniversary of the publication of *Mr William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies*, known today simply as the First Folio.

When the First Folio was published in 1623, nearly eight years after the dramatist's death, it provided eighteen previously unpublished plays, and revised versions of close to a

dozen other dramatic works, many of which might not have survived without the efforts of those who backed, financed, curated, and crafted what is arguably one of the most important conservation projects in literary history.

But who were the personalities behind the project and did Shakespeare himself play a role in its inception? *Shakespeare's Book* charts, for the first time, the creation of the First Folio against political events and international tensions which influenced the *Folio's* creators. It uncovers the friendships and networks that facilitated the production as well as obstacles. It reveals how Shakespeare himself may have influenced how his public identity would be enshrined in the First Folio.



Chris Laoutaris is a biographer, historian, poet, Shakespeare scholar, and Associate Professor at The Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England.

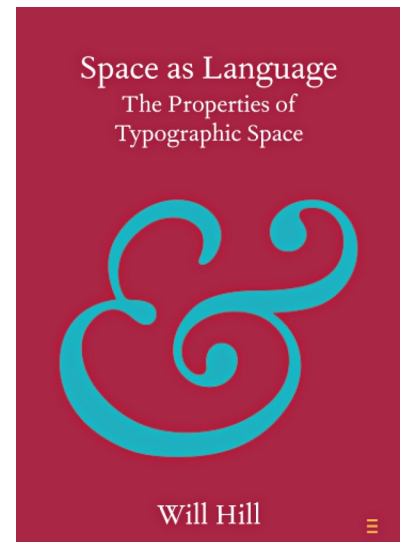
Source: Pegasus Books, Shakespeare Institute

Space as Language: The Properties of Typographic Space

Will Hill
Cambridge University Press
100 pp., August 2023

Space as Language examines the function and significance of typographic space.

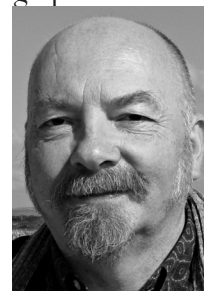
It considers in turn the space within letters, the space between letters, the space between lines, and the margin space surrounding the text-block, to develop the hypothesis that viewed collectively these constitute a 'metalanguage' complementary to the text.



Drawing upon critical perspectives from printing, typeface design, typography, avant-garde artistic practice, and design history, this book in the Cambridge Element series examines the connotative values and philosophies embodied in the form and disposition of space. These include the values attributed to symmetry and asymmetry, the role of 'active' space in the development of modernist typography, the debated relationship between type and writing, the divergent ideologies of the printing industry and the letter arts, and the impact of successive technologies upon both the organisation and the perception of typographic space.

Will Hill is Associate Lecturer at Cambridge School of Art, ARU, specialising in typography and graphic design, typeface design, and print and design history.

Source: Cambridge University Press



Books in Brief, concluded**What is the History of the Book?**

James Raven

Polity Books

202 pp., December 2017

JAMES RAVEN

What is the History of the Book?

James Raven, a leading historian of the book, offers a fresh and accessible guide to the global study of the production, dissemination and reception of written and printed texts across all societies and in all ages.

Students, teachers, researchers and general readers will benefit from the book's investigation of the

subject's origins, scope, and future direction. Based on original research and a wide range of sources, *What is the History of the Book?* shows how book history crosses disciplinary boundaries and intersects with literary, historical, media, library, conservation, and communications studies. Raven uses examples from around the world to explore different traditions in bibliography, palaeography, and manuscript studies. He analyzes book history's growing global ambition and demonstrates how the study of reading practices opens up new horizons in social history and the history of knowledge. He shows how book history is contributing to debates about intellectual and popular culture, colonialism, and the communication of ideas.



James Raven is Professor of Modern History at the University of Essex and a Fellow of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge.

Source: Polity Books

[Bookish fiction]

The Bookbinder: A Novel

Pip Williams

Ballantine Books

448 pp., July 2023

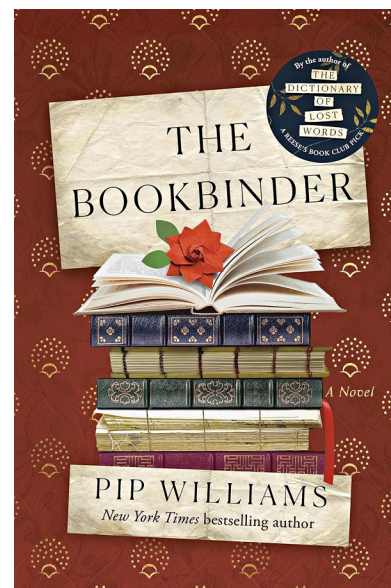
It is 1914. The war draws the young men of Britain away, and women must keep the nation running. Two such women are Peggy and Maude, twin sisters who live on a narrow boat in Oxford and work in the university press bindery.

Ambitious, intelligent Peggy has been told for most of her life that her job is to bind the books, not read them – but as she folds and gathers pages, her mind wanders across the street, where the female students of Oxford's Somerville College have a whole library at their fingertips. Maude wants nothing more than what she has: to spend her days folding the pages of books in the company of the other bindery girls. She is extraordinary but vulnerable, and Peggy feels compelled to watch over her.

The arrival of refugees from the war-torn cities of Belgium sends ripples through the Oxford community and the sisters' lives. Peggy begins to see the possibility of another future where she can educate herself and use her intellect, not just her hands. But as war and illness reshape her world, her love for a Belgian soldier – and the responsibility that comes with it – threaten to hold her back.

Pip Williams's debut novel, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, was a *New York Times* bestseller and a Reese's Book Club pick. *The Bookbinder* is her second novel.

Source: Ballantine Books



Murals in the Library of Congress. John Alexander's "Evolution of the Book" series continues with *Oral Tradition*. Though it is widely accepted now that poems like the *Iliad* were developed in an oral tradition of ancient Greece, at the end of the 19th century this possibility was widely debated. The concept of oral tradition had arisen in the 18th century and was a subject of controversy, but even this signaled an acceptance of the idea that nonliterate people were not mere savages but had complex cultures with valuable cultural knowledge and heritage. It would not be until the 1930s that the oral origins of the *Iliad* were established through pioneering fieldwork by Milman Parry.



Library of Congress

THANKS

This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

Wesley Brown
Sean Donnelly
David Hall
Maureen E. Mulvihill
Carl Mario Nudi
Irene Pavese
Elenora Sabin
Gary Simons
Ben Wiley

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

Join FBS!

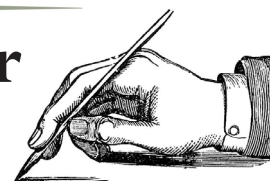
If you love books, take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, enjoyable group.



It's easy to join – just send an email with your name, mailing address, and phone number to Floridabibliophiles@gmail.com. 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, FABS, the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies.

Write for Your Newsletter!



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

Upcoming Events

December 2023



Maria Christensen/Etsy

FBS Holiday Party

December 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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

FBS members are requested to bring an appetizer, side dish, wine, or dessert. Please RSVP to Ben Wiley (bwiley@tampabay.rr.com) by Sunday, December 11, if you are coming, and let us know what you will be bringing.

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

Hope to see you there!



January 2024



Gino Pasi and Sean Donnelly
– University of Tampa's
Macdonald-Kelce Library
Special Collections:

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

January 21, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Special Collections and Archives Librarian Gino Pasi will guide us through the University of Tampa Macdonald-Kelce Library's rare books, manuscripts, memorabilia, and university papers of The University of Tampa. FBS member Sean Donnelly, with his own background at the University of Tampa, will add insights into special aspects of the special collections. Join us for this unique behind-the-scenes tour of the UT Library's most treasured books and ephemera.



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

— December 6–10 —

INK Miami: Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper (www.inkartfair.com)

— December 8–10 —

Art Basel, Miami
(www.artbasel.com/miami-beach)

— December 15 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Featured book: *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict

— January 12–15 —

Annual Key West Literary Seminar: “Singing America: A Celebration of Black Literature”
Key West, FL (www.kwls.org/)

— January 7–27 —

Zora 2023: Spirituality via an Afrofuturism Lens
Eatonville, FL ([www.zorafestival.org /](http://www.zorafestival.org/))

— January 7–8 —

St. Pete Comic Con
St. Petersburg Coliseum
(stpete.floridacomicons.com/)

— January 19 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Featured book: *The Lost Chalice: The Real-Life Chase for One of the World’s Rarest Masterpieces – a Priceless 2,500-Year-Old Artifact Depicting the Fall of Troy* by Vernon Silver

— January 13–20 —

Writers in Paradise (Eckerd College Writers Conference)
St. Petersburg, FL (writersinparadise.eckerd.edu)

— January 25–28 —

Florida Storytelling Festival
(sponsored by The Florida Story Association)
Mount Dora, FL (flstory.com/festival/)

Rare Book Cafe Coffee Break

FBS welcomes the Rare Book Cafe Coffee Break, the new format of the Rare Book Cafe, which was begun several years ago by Florida booksellers and FBS members Steve and Edie Eisenstein. “Coffee Break” is co-hosted by long-time RBC regulars Lee Linn (The Ridge Books, Calhoun, GA) and Ed Markiewicz (Montgomery Rare Books & Manuscripts, Portland, OR). Get a cup of coffee and join [RBC Coffee Break on Facebook](#).

COFFEE BREAK No. 35 (Nov. 9): Get well soon, Lee Linn! We miss you! – After the Books in Boston Shadow Show (Oct. 28), co-host Lee Linn fell and broke an arm and a leg. She is in Massachusetts General in downtown Boston. Before her fall, Lee had interviewed novice bookseller Jared Turner, representing Greg Gibson, owner of Ten Pound Island Book Company of Gloucester, MA. Co-host Ed Markiewicz and RBC regular Richard Mori share some treasures from the Boston show.

COFFEE BREAK No. 34 (Nov. 3): Ed visits Verona’s rare book library – Co-host Ed Markiewicz takes us on a tour of Biblioteca Capitolare, the 1,600-year-old rare book library around the square from Pezzounico, the bindery in Verona, Italy, where he’s in an apprenticeship. What an amazing place it is. Come on along for the ride.

COFFEE BREAK No. 33 (Oct. 25): Ed goes to the Frankfurt Book Fair, plus the Boston outlook – Co-host Ed Markiewicz, currently training in bookbinding in Verona, Italy, sends a video report from the Frankfurt Book Fair. Co-host Lee Linn and Richard Mori (the Road Warrior) share some last-minute details before they head off to Books in Boston Shadow Show (Oct. 28). Richard is a producer of the show and Lee is exhibiting in a show in Boston for the first time.

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:

Nov. 15, 2023 – Andrew Franklin, "the best of the best in U.K. publishing" – James Daunt calls him "the best of the best in U.K. publishing, constantly challenging the industry to move on when it drags its feet." Franklin was founder and erstwhile publisher of Profile Books, an award-winning British independent publishing house which launched in 1996. Its authors include Mary Beard, Margaret Macmillan, Simon Garfield (*Just My Type*), and Lynne Truss, whose *Eats, Shoots, & Leaves* (2003) sold more than three million copies worldwide and won Book of the Year at the British Book Awards in 2004. The imprint Serpent's Tail publishes distinctive, award-winning international fiction, and Viper Books publishes crime.

Nov. 15, 2023 – Michael Schmidt on 50+ years publishing poetry – The Carcanet Press website describes Michael Schmidt FRSL as "poet, scholar, critic, and translator." Born in Mexico in 1947, he studied at Harvard and at Wadham College, Oxford, before settling in England. Among his many publications are several collections of poems and a novel, *The Colonist* (1981), about a boy's childhood in Mexico. He is general editor of *PN Review* and founder and managing director of Carcanet Press. Michael has been publishing poetry and fiction for more than fifty years "discovering" and rediscovering, along the way, many of the greatest writers of our age. We talk about what he does; Germans in Mexico; the love of poetry; *Harvard Advocate*; the importance of the past; and more.

American Antiquarian Society
Virtual Book Talks

AAS Virtual Talks will continue in February 2024.

Elling Eide Library Events, Sarasota

Dec. 12, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (Brunch Reception follows lecture)

Orville Schell: "Xi Jinping and the US-China Faultline"

Schell is the Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society in New York. He previously served as dean of the University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism. Schell's career and many awards are difficult to summarize. His many books and articles have contributed significantly to the understanding of China's culture and ambitions, including the four-volume *China Reader* and many others. As a journalist, he has illuminated many other topics. He has co-produced news, news specials, and documentaries at ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS.

Princeton University Press "Ideas" Podcasts

PUP Ideas Podcast, co-sponsored by the New Books Network and Literary Hub, features interviews with the international roster of PUP authors, across a diversity of subject areas.

Nov. 3 – Victoria Houseman – American Classicist: Edith Hamilton – Hamilton (1867–1963) published her first book when she was sixty-two. But over the next three decades, this former headmistress would become the 20th century's most famous interpreter of the classical world. Today, Hamilton's *Mythology* (1942) remains the standard version of ancient tales and sells tens of thousands of copies a year. During the Cold War, her influence even extended to politics, as she argued that postwar America could learn from the fate of Athens after its victory in the Persian Wars. In "American Classicist," Victoria Houseman tells the fascinating life story of a remarkable classicist whose ideas were shaped by – and aspired to shape – her times.

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 [75 podcasts](#) on SoundCloud, with these recent additions:

Emma Walshe – 100 Seconds to Midnight: The Origin of a Catalogue on Climate Change – When global temperatures soared to a record high in 2021, the Doomsday Clock ticked to 100 seconds to midnight, the closest the Earth has been to total destruction in the 75 years since the clock started ticking. This inspired the title of London bookseller Peter Harrington’s catalogue on Climate Change, created by Emma Walshe. The [catalogue](#) presents a landmark collection of over 800 original printed works charting the history of climate change by the world’s greatest writers, scientists, and advocates from Aristotle to Attenborough.

University of Miami Special Collections

[“Deep Dives”](#) is an online series of webinars offering an informative, enticing, and educational look into a selection of images that are representative of materials in Special Collections.

Sept. 12 – Cristine Favretto – Be a Nuisance Where it Counts: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Her Legacies – Marjory Stoneman Douglas, also known as the “Mother of the Everglades,” was a staunch proponent of conserving the environment. This podcast introduces Douglas as featured in an exhibition at University of Miami Libraries’ Kislak Center. The exhibition opened on November 30.

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:

Nov. 28 – Amy Gore on “Book Anatomy” and Indigenous Authors – Gore is an Assistant Professor of English at North Dakota State University and an affiliate of Women and Gender Studies and Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Studies. In October 2023, she published the groundbreaking *Book Anatomy: Body Politics and the Materiality of Indigenous Book History* (U. Mass.). This book focuses on how illustrations, typefaces, prefaces, appendices, copyright, author portraits, and more effectively shaped how Indigenous literature was read and understood by 19th-century Americans, with profound implications for Native Americans’ fight for control over their own bodies and lands. (See also *The Florida Bibliophile*, Sept. 2023, “Books in Brief”).

Nov. 8 – Alvin Patrick on “Historic First Editions in African American Literature” – Grolier Club member and CBS News executive Alvin Patrick has amassed over 2,000 books during 30 years of collecting. He will discuss some of the highlights from his collection of first editions of 19th- and 20th-century African American literature, and their importance to the story of Black people in America. Examples include *Toussaint L’Ouverture: Biography and Autobiography* by John Rely Beard; *L’Ouverture* (1863, James Redpath); *The Souls of Black Folk* by W. E. B. DuBois (1903, A. C. McClurg); and *The Street* by Ann Petry (1946, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Among his other prized titles are Frederick Douglass’s *My Bondage, My Freedom* (1855), Booker T. Washington’s *Up From Slavery* (1901), Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* (1952), James Baldwin’s *Go Tell It On the Mountain* (1953), and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* (1987).



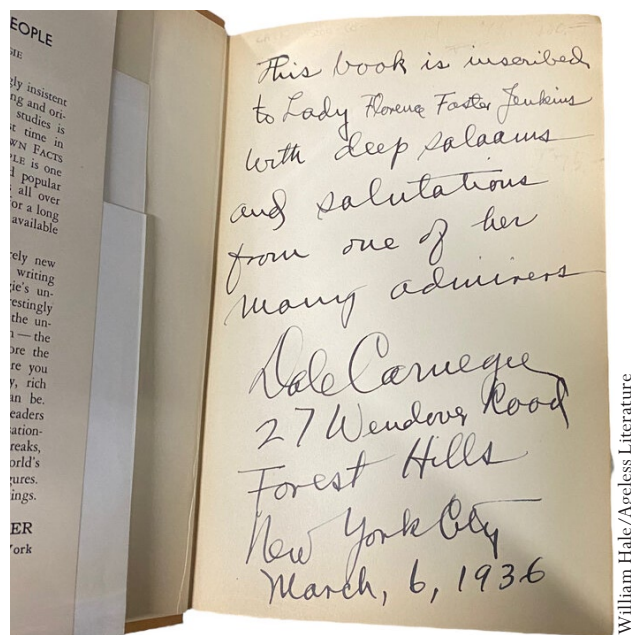
...and More

Provenance is a French word that simply means “origin.” However, this word has acquired a specialized meaning, referring to the path of ownership of historical objects, often objects of fine art. “Origin” is used to refer to the geographical location or perhaps the workshop where an object was made.

Provenance is important for the object itself to help establish its authenticity, connecting the current owner back through time to an original owner and, often more importantly, to a creator. Provenance can help establish an individual’s right to own or sell an object. Provenance can establish that an object was owned by a famous person, which can increase its value or indicate its historical importance. An impressive provenance can make a relatively common object more valuable.

Provenance is usually established through textual or pictorial documentation. All sorts of documents can contribute to the provenance of an object. For example, there may be letters, auction records, wills, or bills of sale which can be used to establish either the ownership of an object or the transfer of an object. Knowing ownership establishes who owned the object at a particular time or period of time, but a sequence of owners can be incomplete. A statement of the transfer of an object confirms the connection between two successive owners.

The provenance of books is a subject of particular interest to bibliophiles. Any of the tools mentioned

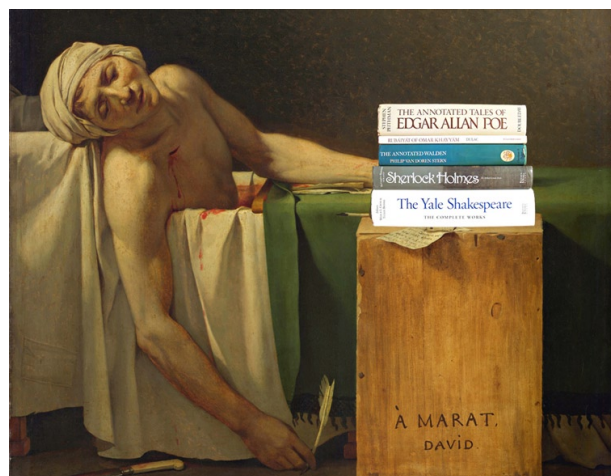


This book, *Little Known Facts About Well Known People* (1934), by famous motivational speaker Dale Carnegie, is inscribed by the author to socialite Florence Foster Jenkins, establishing an element of provenance and a doubly interesting (and valuable) association copy.

William Hale / Ageless Literature

above may be useful for determining the provenance of books, but a book is different from many objects in this regard in that the origin of a printed book is often recorded in the book, and many owners add a signature or a bookplate to their books that provides information about ownership.

Many bibliophiles enjoy collecting books that have either famous or meaningful signatures, such as a book owned by a favorite historical figure or one owned by a loved one or ancestor. These books are often called “association copies.” Researching the prior owners of such books can be a fascinating and rewarding pursuit in itself.



Always read something
that will make you look
good if you die in the
middle of it.

— P. J. O'Rourke



Florida Bibliophile Society 2023–2024 Season



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

September 24 • FBS Members—September Show and Tell: Members brought a remarkable assortment of books to share – each with its own remarkable story!

October 15 • Rob Norman – Skin in the Game: Writer, Bookseller, Dermatologist – We met at Rob’s “Book Lovers Bookstore” in Tampa. It’s a work in progress where we searched for treasures as well as hearing Rob’s presentation about his life in books.

November 19 • Bill Hale – Portrait of the Bookseller as a Young Man – In his mid-20s, Bill Hale is a writer, a bookseller, and a promoter of arts and culture in the St. Pete area. Bill told us the remarkable chain of events that led to his love of books and writing.

December 17 • FBS Holiday Party: Planning is underway for another glittering holiday gala at Ben and Joyce Wiley’s home in Largo. See Upcoming Events on p. 26 for details.

January 21 • Gino Pasi, Carl Nudi, Sean Donnelly – University of Tampa’s MacDonald Kelce Library Special Collections: Under the guidance of Special Collections Librarian Gino Pasi, with additional insights from Sean Donnelly, we will tour the Special Collections and inspect some of its more important books and ephemera.

February 18 • Kaitlin Crockett and Jeff Williams – We will be meeting in Gulfport to visit the letterpress printing facilities of Kaitlin Crockett, one of our May 2023 banquet speakers. We will also visit with muralist and sign painter Jeff Williams in the same building.

March 1–3 • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, one of the largest book fairs in the U.S., will be held at the St. Pete Coliseum. FBS will host a hospitality table in the foyer and staff a booth where we can spend more time with guests and introduce them to FBS. Sunday will feature our free book valuations.

March 17 • Ted Wray – Book Artist. Ted will share some his amazing sculpted book creations and discuss his methods and inspirations.

April 21 • Jason Fortner – Field Trip to Clearwater’s Francis Wilson Playhouse: We will meet at the Francis Wilson Playhouse in Clearwater for a tour, display, and presentation of Jason’s collection of theatre ephemera, including vintage Broadway posters and backstories. We will also be able to enjoy a Sunday matinee production of the award-winning play “The Play That Goes Wrong” by Henry Lewis, Henry Shields, and Jonathan Sayer. Play tickets are extra.

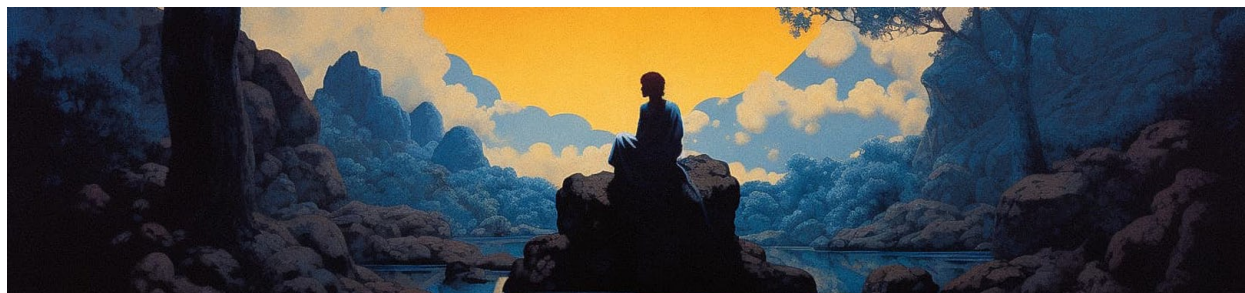
April 20–24 • Gainesville Getaway: The semiannual Alachua County Friends of the Library book sale features over 500,000 books, CDs, and other media in the Friends’ Book House in downtown Gainesville. FBS members often make a day trip on Saturday or make a weekend of it in beautiful North Central Florida.

May 26 • Annual Banquet: Our May banquet speaker will be **Roslyn Franken**, award-winning author and motivational speaker. Roslyn is the Holocaust memoirist of *Meant to Be: A True Story of Might, Miracles, and Triumph of the Human Spirit*.

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



Endpaper • All Paths . . .



Bill Hale's November presentation and his remarkable story had me musing, as I suspect it did others in the room, on my own 20s, often a decade of changes and adventures, and losing your way and finding it again. In some ways, it was a long time ago, and in others, it is like yesterday.

I love the way that books are woven through Bill's story, and how, at key moments, they provide insight and hold out hope. I imagine many book lovers can relate to that as well.

Elenora shares a beautiful story along those lines, about a childhood book full of mystery and adventure and inspiration — do you have a book like that? All you have to do is open it, and it all floods back.

That dilapidated prison Bible — well worn and coverless, a cast-off, except the words are still there — and it's "the one." In real estate, they often say, "Location, location, location!" In the book biz, it's

"condition, condition, condition!" Yet I'm sure that many of us have books on our shelves that are priceless to us despite their condition.

OK. So maybe not all paths lead to books, but FBS is an interesting cross-section of people whose paths have brought them together with these kinds of shared experiences as well as remarkable life stories, some just beginning, and others well furnished.

How books become part of that story — how we find our story in them and how they in turn help shape that story — is part of what makes books so wonderful and book people so special.

As we head into a season of joy and celebration and then of new beginnings, I'm sure books will be part of that, too.

And they make great gifts!

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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