

# The Florida Bibliophile

March 2024 • Volume 40, No. 7



## IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society	p. 2
Meet the Risograph	p. 6
Meet Me at the Fair!	p. 7
<b>FBS Honors Women's History Month</b>	p. 12
The Most Collected Book Series	p. 13
<i>Cain's Jawbone: A Scrambled Mystery</i> Puzzle	p. 16
Gingerbeer for Three: A Puzzle by Torquemada	p. 20
Paris Booksellers Win Big Victory along the Seine by George Haborak	p. 22
FBS Honors St. Patrick's Day 2024	p. 23
FBS Flashback: The Book Gods Must Be Angry by Norman Tanguay (June 1997)	p. 24
FBS Publications	p. 25
Books in Brief	p. 26
Upcoming Events	p. 30
Book Events and Podcasts	p. 31
...And More	p. 34
FBS 2023–2024 Season	p. 35
Endpaper • Happy Days	p. 36



**Mark McMurray  
and Kaitlin Crockett  
– Book Artists and  
Printers**

*Save the Date!*  
**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Banquet**  
**May 26, 2024**

March newsletter deadline: March 28, 2024 (see p. 29)

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

Florida Bibliophile Society

40

1983–2023



Florida Bibliophile Society  
A community of book lovers

## Minutes of the February 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Gary Simons, FBS Secretary

**T**he cold and the rain clearly reduced attendance, but all those who decided to brave the elements and attend our February meeting at the Print St. Pete print shop wound up smiling anyway.

Print St. Pete is a small community Risograph & letterpress print shop nestled in Gulfport, a community noted for its artists, writers, and musicians, with a walkable downtown and an enticing waterfront. The shop exudes a homey atmosphere that is at the same time both modern and old fashioned: a wall-length display board features colorful contemporary Risograph-printed posters, and venerable 75+-year-old typesetters themselves celebrate the golden age of letterpress printing. Print St. Pete is a work space as well as a show space – we clustered around a large central table which clearly had seen significant use.

FBS Vice President Ben Wiley – newly and happily recovered from heart valve surgery – introduced our two featured speakers: Kaitlin Crockett, who cofounded Print St. Pete in 2013, and Mark McMurray, the printer-publisher of Caliban Press.



*For the March meeting, FBS members traveled to Gulfport, Florida, on Boca Ciega Bay. Gulfport is a quirky, colorful, creative community of 12,000, an appropriate home to Kaitlin Crockett's Print St. Pete.*

Our hostess, Kaitlin, is a printmaker, writer, book artist, educator, librarian, and owner of Print St. Pete. Kaitlin received her BA in Creative Writing from Florida State University and a Masters in Library Science from the University of South Florida. She told us that as a creative writing major, she wanted to print and publish her own chapbooks. As she learned more, she fell in love with printing and associated book arts. She studied letterpress

and bookbinding at Florida State University, Asheville Bookworks, and Penland School of Crafts, and Risograph printing and publication at SVA RisoLab and Outlet PDX. At Print St. Pete, she teaches workshops and classes in letterpress printing and Risograph printing. Additionally, she works as a Reference and Instructional Librarian at St. Petersburg College.

Kaitlin's eyes lit up as she told us how she was able to combine her creative printing and librarian interests when she conceived and then organized the St. Pete Zine Fest & Symposium (which had just been held at the West Community Library at



*Kaitlin Crockett poses before a wall full of projects completed at PRINT St. Pete.*



*Minutes, continued*

the St. Petersburg College Gibbs Campus). Zines, pronounced “zeens” and short for magazines, are self-published booklets. They first entered the publishing realm with science fiction fanzines in the 1930s. The introduction of the copy machine in the 1960s made it possible for virtually anyone to create booklets featuring their creative work. Today zines have become a favored medium for writers, illustrators, comic artists, and printmakers.

Kaitlin’s Zine Fest celebrated zines and the traditions of underground and DIY publishing, with 40 self-published zine and comic makers, authors, and small and alternative presses sharing their work, as well as presentations, poetry readings, demos, live printing, and more. Kaitlin proudly told us that “Outside of Tampa Bay, creatives came from Gainesville, Winter Park, and as far as NYC to share their work at SPZF24.” Collectors benefit, as most zines are priced at \$25 or less.

Turning to the colorful wall display behind her, Kaitlin told us everything we saw had been printed with a Risograph machine, which basically functions as a screen printer. Each color layer is printed separately – every sheet goes through the printer multiple times depending on how many colors are being printed. Inputs can be photos or collages.



A display of Risograph-printed works from the exhibition “Duplicator,” presented May 4–25, 2023, at the Department of Contemporary Art, a gallery and display space in Tampa. The exhibit included works by a number of artists working at Print St. Pete, including Kaitlin. In this portion of the exhibition, we see several zines in a range of sizes, two display sheets on the wall, which show the range of colors the Risograph can deliver, and at the back left of the shelf, two canisters of Risograph ink. See “Meet the Risograph” on page 6.

Kaitlin called this accessible printing, as a final product could be created in an hour or two, as compared to the four or five hours which might be needed for a letterpress project. (On the other hand, Kaitlin has been teaching letterpress printing for several years, and she was a bit emotional as she described the joy she sees in peoples’ faces after they spend several hours setting type and finally produce a beautiful printed product.)

Kaitlin started working with the Risograph during the Covid pandemic. She showed us one zine she had printed on the Risograph using her diary notes from a period when she was suffering with an ankle injury. She is now working on a series of prints and a book that will be on display in an exhibition in May and that describe her experience growing up in St. Petersburg.

Kaitlin also briefly summarized the work of one of her colleagues, muralist and sign painter Jeff Williams, who still uses traditional nondigital techniques and is consequently in high demand. Jeff has a special skill in placing gold lettering on glass.



More examples of Risograph print work (and some letterpress) from Print St. Pete, displayed in the drawers of a former card catalog – typical of this printshop’s charm.



Minutes, continued

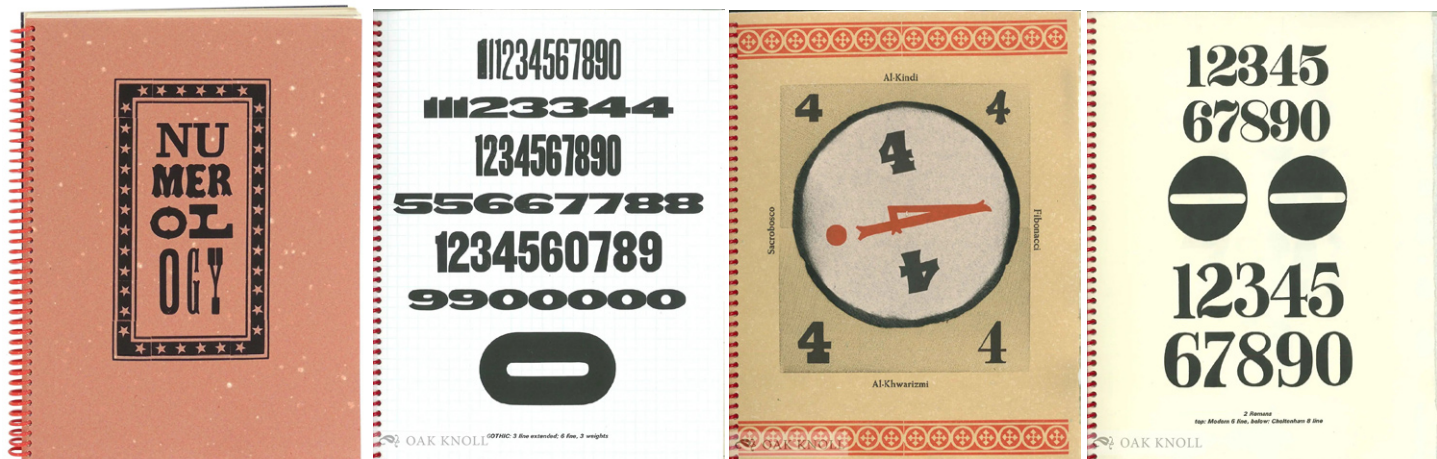
Kaitlin then turned the presentation over to Mark McMurray. Mark is a retired Curator of Special Collections & University Archivist at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York, a newly transplanted Floridian, a new member of the Florida Bibliophile Society (!), and the widely known and well received printer-publisher of the Caliban Press. He has been printing books since 1985. His education credentials include a B.A. in English Literature from Hamilton College and a Master’s in Library Science from Columbia University.

Mark used the terms “fine press” or “private press” to describe his printing background and to indicate he perhaps came from a different part of “Planet Book” then did Kaitlin, but he praised Kaitlin’s Zine Fest as “fantastic and eye-opening” (he was an attendee) and that their interests truly merged as bibliophiles. He added that because zines were inexpensive at the fest “he was handing out five dollar bills like a blackjack dealer with cards.” He showed us one or two of his purchases that he thought were particularly exciting.



Mark brought an impressive selection of his limited edition creations, each one using carefully selected materials and printed and illustrated by Mark. In the foreground, a book using the words of Walt Whitman and structured with layers of paper that illustrate the words. Spirit that form’d this scene, / These tumbled rock-piles grim and red, / These reckless heaven-ambitious peaks, / These gorges, turbulent-clear streams, this naked freshness, ....

Then Mark moved on to a “show and tell” of some of his Caliban Press work. Mark displayed a copy of his edition of Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* (Mark used the subtitle, *A Ghost Story of Christmas*). He talked a bit about the significance of choice of paper, of typeface, and of appropriated images in his edition. We all oohed and aahed – Mark’s attention to detail,



Numerology: Calyban’s Wood Type Whimsy, Volume I (2020) is one of Mark’s creations that draws upon his collection of rare papers and wood type, acquired over many years and used in this work as an exploration of the artistry of type and type composition.



*Minutes, continued*

insistence on quality, and creativity of design were by general consent considered outstanding. If a zine might be a product of a few hours, it was clear that Mark's marvelous work was sometimes the product of months or years. (Copies of some of Mark's stunning works are listed by leading used book stores at prices in the thousands of dollars!)

Then Mark showed another production: a much simpler fold-out book, entitled *What to Do?* He raised the question, "Is it a book, or is it a zine, or is it a pamphlet?"

Mark loves Whitman. He showed us an facsimile of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, which contains the text Mark extracted to create *What to Do?* Mark first read Walt Whitman in high school "and realized that he could spend the rest of his life printing the words of Walt Whitman and not consider it a wasted life." Another of Mark's Whitman books, this time

in accordion-fold style, reprinted some of Whitman's words about Western travel.

Mark showed us a copy of his book entitled *Numerology*, which he pointed out had a point of comparison with one of the zines he had purchased at the zine fest.

Another simply marvelous Caliban Press production was about Thelonious Monk. (Note: Accuracy demands the repeated use of superlatives in describing Mark's work.)

Mark's next work is going to be based on a short Wallace Stevens poem.

Mark ended his talk by noting that there was nothing wrong with being, say, a Stephen King collector, but he also urged us to "allow ourselves to wander a little bit, and keep an open eye, and be looking at what is well done."



FBS members gathered in the Print St. Pete workshop to hear a presentation from Kaitlin Crockett and Mark McMurray



Minutes, concluded

## Meet the Risograph

If it looks like a copy machine, that's because it basically is – except that it uses ink and stencils to produce prints.

The Risograph is manufactured by the Riso Kagaku Corporation, which released it in 1980. A stencil must be cut for each color in the final print; thus prints must go through the printer as many times as there are colors. Between prints, the operator must change the printing drum (shown below right).

The Risograph offers many creative opportunities and produces bright attractive prints that have a handmade quality and a retro feel. It has become very popular for these reasons. In addition, the Risograph is fast and inexpensive – at around 100 copies, it becomes cheaper than other color printing technologies. It's ideal for short run jobs like zines and posters, but it is also capable of producing long print runs.



“My work focuses on the power of the printed word through the creation of posters, postcards, zines, and printed ephemera. Using traditional print methods—primarily letterpress, screen printing, and most recently risograph printing—I create printed media that responds to today’s social, political, and cultural issues.”

—Kaitlin Crockett





## Meet Me at the Fair!

**A**s we have for 40 years, the Florida Bibliophile Society participated in the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. This is only natural because the histories of FBS and FABF have been intertwined since the beginning.

The idea of a Florida book fair was conceived in the early in 1980's, and in 1982, the first Florida Antiquarian Book Fair was held the the University of Tampa. It was the brainchild of several Florida booksellers, including longtime FBS members Lee Harrer and Mike Slicker among others. And now, over 40 years later, and under the management of Mike Slicker's daughter, Sarah Smith, the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is still going strong as one of the top book fairs in the United States.

This year's fair was held March 1–3 in the St. Petersburg Coliseum, where it has been held for almost 30 years. The Coliseum was built in 1924 when St. Petersburg was enjoying the booming economy of the 1920s. Already a tourist

destination, and soon to see the building of the Floridan Palace Hotel (Tampa) and the Don CeSar (St. Pete Beach), which – like the Coliseum – would welcome generations of visitors to the Tampa-St. Pete area.

The expansive dance floor of the Coliseum, its soaring arches, and twinkling lights create a perfect vintage environment for the book fair. Even the concession stand and its hot dogs and sodas add to the experience (you can also now get an arepa or chicken salad) – functional too because a hot dog a cold drink are quick and tasty sustenance during the busy book fair schedule.

FBS once again staffed a table just outside the entrance to the fair where we checked people's bags they did not want to take into the fair or the stack of books they had bought and needed a safe place to stash while they continued their browsing. We also handed out our bookmarks featuring Walt Whitman themes and images from Maxfield Parrish. We also sold our FBS book bags – truly



*St. Petersburg Coliseum, in the year of its opening, 1924. Restorations in 2018 restored the Coliseum to its early glory.*



**Book Fair, *continued***

tough, high capacity canvas bags fresh from Atlas Screen Printing in Gainesville.

Also, this was the third year that FBS was represented inside the fair with our table. Well, it felt like a step down from the alcove we had the first year and the booth we had last year – but we got those because of last-minute cancellations. Nevertheless, we were grateful that Sarah and the fair staff provided a table for us – doubly so because space was at such a premium: the fair received more applications for booths than it could accommodate (reserve early!).



*Coliseum interior with book fair*

The fair table provides a more relaxed setting than the foyer table where people are eager to get inside or pick up their property. At the fair table, we can greet people and tell them about FBS, our meetings, our publications, and of course our fabulous members!

Speaking of our fabulous members, we greeted many of our FBS members who are not able to regularly attend meetings. It was a joy to see them, catch up a bit, and wish them luck in the main business of the day: finding new treasures – and they did!

Many book fair visitors that we spoke with showed great interest in attending an FBS meeting, and several joined on the spot! Over 150 people signed up to receive our newsletter, and we look forward to sharing this publication with them and hope to see them at an FBS meeting.

A special feature of this year's fair was the Saturday celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. Theodore Geisel, known to many millions as Dr. Seuss. The birthday was celebrated with a giant cake, balloons, and a special visit from the Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2.





Book Fair, *continued*

Book Fair

# Honor Roll

*Our very special thanks to these FBS members who gave so generously of their time to make the book fair a success!*

- Jude Bagatti
- Charles Brown
- Wes Brown
- Sean Donnelly
- Bill Hale
- David Hall
- Daniel Harris
- Jordan Lowman
- Mark McMurray
- Stephanie Montour
- Maureen E. Mulvihill
- Carl Mario Nudi
- Irene Pavese
- Kymberlee Rau
- Elenora Sabin
- Shannon Shane
- Terry Shockey
- Gary Simons
- Ben Wiley



Ben Wiley and Jude Bagatti at FBS's foyer table – happy faces ready to greet fair visitors.



Wes Brown, Bill Hale, and Gary Simons are ready to greet fair visitors at FBS's fair table. Yes – we are everywhere!



Mike and Lee Tamares make a "TV" appearance with the Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2.



Book Fair, *continued*



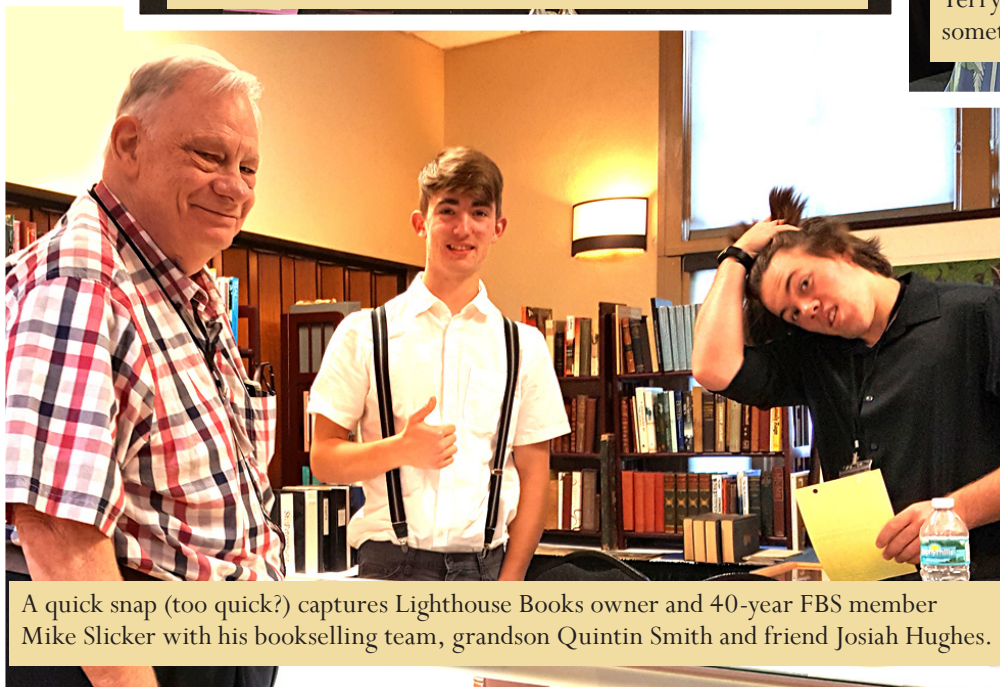
Gary Simons and Elenora Sabin at the foyer table.



Terry Seymour – ever searching for something new in Boswelliana.



New books by Elenora Sabin! Buy 'em! Read 'em!

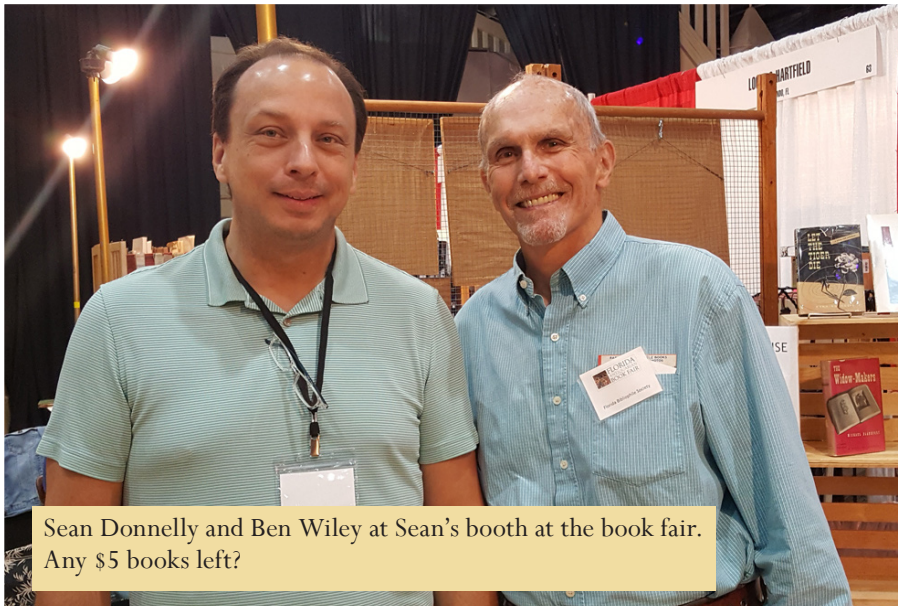


A quick snap (too quick?) captures Lighthouse Books owner and 40-year FBS member Mike Slicker with his bookselling team, grandson Quintin Smith and friend Josiah Hughes.





**Book Fair, concluded**



Sean Donnelly and Ben Wiley at Sean's booth at the book fair. Any \$5 books left?



Stephanie Montour peruses the wares.



Our new friend, Jim West, vice president of the Manuscript Society, shared our end of the foyer at his first book fair. And Jim is a new FBS member!





**FBS Honors**  
**MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
**~ Women & Books ~**

---

**FBS Members May Wish To Visit:**

< <https://www.rarebookhub.com/articles/3567> >

By FBS Member & 2012-2015 VP: Maureen E. Mulvihill

---



Disha Sancheti (permission in progress)

**The Colors of Women's History Month**

Royal Purple: Sororal Power & Dignity

Green: Hope & Vision

White: Clarity of Achieved Goals

**See Webpage by Disha Sancheti**

< [linkedin.com/pulse/colors-womens-history-month-holidaychannel](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/colors-womens-history-month-holidaychannel) >





## The Most Collected Book Series

**W**hat are the elements of a great book series? Intriguing or endearing characters? Exotic settings? Exciting plots? All of these combine with an author's style and often an illustrator's flourish to create a great series. Collecting a favorite fiction or nonfiction series can be one of the real pleasures of collecting.

In addition to the favorite characters, genres, or topics that may provide enjoyable reading (and re-reading), there's the pleasure of the uniform edition that always looks so smart on the shelf as well as the thrill of the hunt as the collector chases down rarer and rarer volumes in the series. These books are among the most often sought online or in bookstores.

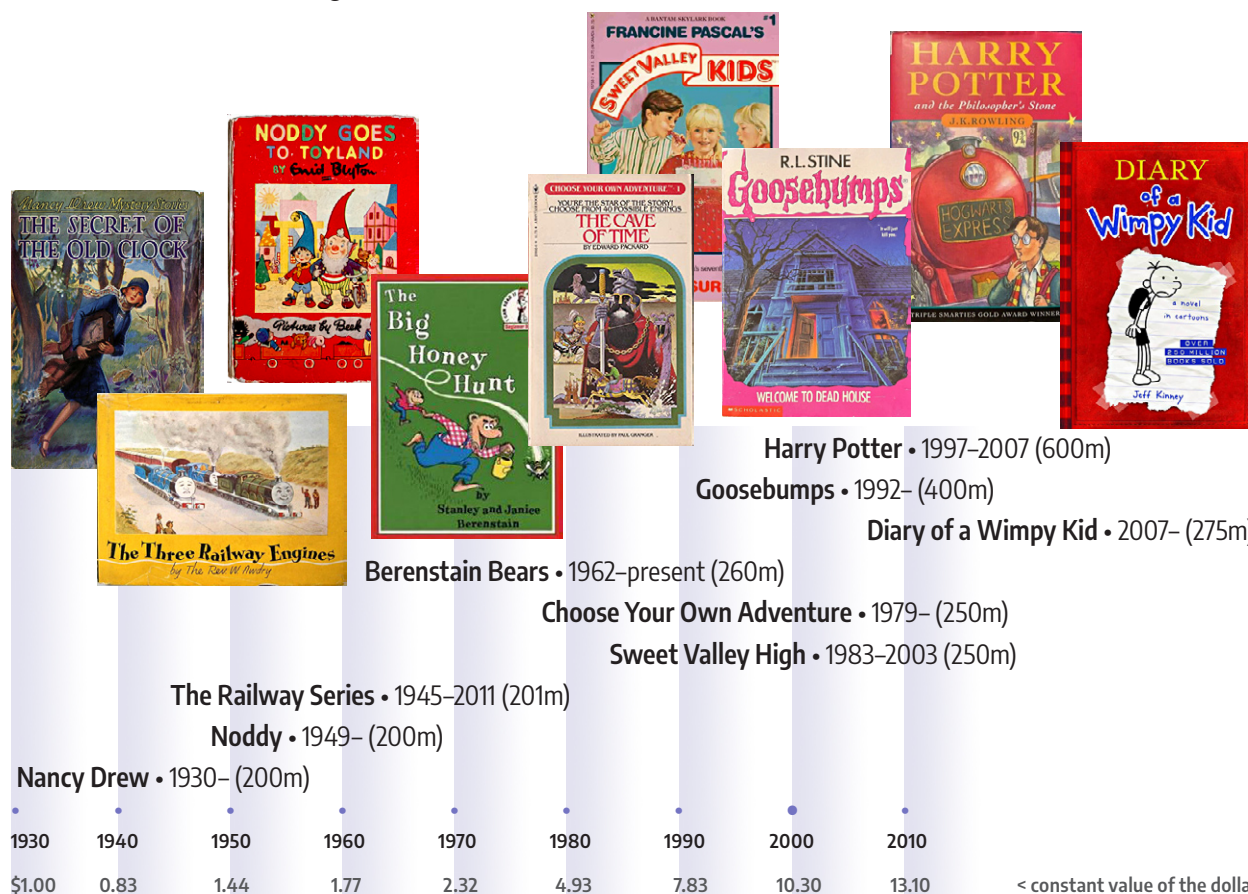
A truly successful series can sell hundreds of millions of volumes. Famously, the Harry Potter series became the mark of a generation and fanned a

worldwide craze among even young readers who could be seen buried in books of several hundred pages, eager for the next one. The successful transfer of Harry Potter to film as a critical and popular success propelled interest in the series as well as an insatiable thirst for Harry Potter merchandise of all types.

Written between 1997 and 2007, approximately 600 million copies of Harry Potter books have been sold to date. A set of the books is the seven original titles, and author J. K. Rowling added three companion books, and four movie scripts have been published. The total value of the Harry Potter franchise has been estimated at over \$43 billion, of which the books represent almost \$8 billion.



*Harry Potter appears in an extensive series of Lego playsets. In 2017, Lego released a gold (plastic) Harry Potter minifigure for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the first book in the series.*



*The most collected book series in order of first release, dates of publication, and stacked in order of number of copies sold*

Sources: Wikipedia; julesbuono.com; IMDB; munhak.com; wordsrated.com; berenstainbears.com

## Bestselling Series, *continued*

Harry Potter came along at a time when the video games, cable television, and the Internet were making many people nervous about the future of books and reading. Not so. Many of the top-selling titles and series of the last 30 years are in the children's and young adult markets.

While Harry Potter reigns at the top of the list, in second place with 400 million books in print



Theatrical release poster for the 2015 film *Goosebumps*, starring Jack Black, with the tag line “The Stories Are Alive.”

is R. L. Stine’s series *Goosebumps*: 62 books and a number of spinoffs. The original series was published in the 1990s, but spinoffs are still being released. *Goosebumps* has reached a broad audience. Its intrepid teen and preteen characters appeal to young audiences, and its well crafted and intriguing stories have attracted older readers and adults as well. The stories are basically horror stories with elements of the supernatural and

paranormal. The books have been translated into over 30 languages and have a following in many foreign markets. *Goosebumps* has been translated as well to television, video games, comic books, and film – and of course merchandise,

Stine works within certain limits. There is no death in the books, and children are never placed in seriously dangerous situations. Stine attributes the success and wide appeal of the series to the absence “drugs, depravity and violence.”

The top ten collected book series are filled out by other books in the genre. All in English (now translated into many languages) and all for children or young adults. Many of these series also appeal to adult readers and are collected by adults because they were beloved early reading. Adults, films, and toys

then introduce these books to a new generation.

4<sup>th</sup>: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney (18 books and five spinoffs; 275 million copies)

5<sup>th</sup>: *Berenstain Bears* by Stan and Jan Berenstain (428 books; 260 million copies)

6<sup>th</sup>: *Choose Your Own Adventure* by various authors (185 books; 250 million copies)

7<sup>th</sup>: *Sweet Valley High* by Francine Pascal and ghostwriters (400 books; 250 million copies)

8<sup>th</sup>: *The Railway Series* by W. Awdry and Christopher Awdry (42 books; 201 million copies)

9<sup>th</sup>: *Noddy* by Enid Blyton (24 books; 200 million copies)

10<sup>th</sup>: *Nancy Drew* by Carolyn Keene and ghostwriters (175 books; 200 million copies)

The chart on the previous page shows that the number of books sold in each series has increased over the past 100 years – 200 million Nancy Drews sold in the 94 years since 1930 (get ready for the centennial!), and 600 million Harry Potters sold in the 27 years since since 1997. Somebody is doing some serious collecting – and reading.

The phenomenon of Harry Potter is even more significant considering that the series contains only 10 books, compared to hundreds of books in some of the other series. For example, the *Berenstain Bears* appear in over 460 books. Stan and Jan Berenstain were already successful adult cartoonists, with work appearing in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers Magazine*, *McCall's*, *Good Housekeeping*, and many others. Their sons Leo and Mike were born in 1948 and 1951. All four family members were big fans of Dr. Seuss, and eventually, Stan and Jan decided to try their hand at a children's books. The first *Berenstain Bears* book, *The Big Honey Hunt*, was released in 1962, with Theodore Geisel – Dr. Seuss himself – as editor and publisher.

*The Big Honey Hunt* was soon followed by one after another new titles. The Berenstains found continual inspiration in the everyday interactions between



**Bestselling Series, concluded**

children and adults, familiar to each generation. Stan died in 2005, when almost 300 books had been published. Son Michael joined Jan to continue producing new books. When Jan died in 2012 at 88 years of age, Michael continued on his own.

**Who’s on Third?**

You may have noticed that the Number 3 bestselling series was skipped earlier, and that is because it is not a children’s or young adult title. It is *Perry Mason*.

This may be surprising considering the number of bestselling mystery writers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.\* It is hard to appreciate now what a juggernaut Perry Mason became.

Erle Stanley Gardner (1889–1970) was a lawyer and a prolific author. In his early years writing for the pulps, Gardner set himself a goal to generate 1.2 million words per year. In addition to the 82 Perry Mason novels, Gardner wrote numerous works of fiction and nonfiction, publishing under his own

name and a dozen pseudonyms, including Della Street! At the time of his death in 1970, Gardner was the top-selling author of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The first Perry Mason novel, *The Case of the Velvet Claws*, was published in 1933. Drawing extensively on Gardner’s experiences and expertise, the novel was rich in detail and cleverly plotted.

Perry Mason was optioned for film immediately by Warner Brothers. Six films were made in the 1930s with three different actors in the starring role.

Mason became a CBS radio program in 1943 and ran in

thousands of 15-minute installments until 1955. In 1955, CBS wanted to transition the radio serial to television. As a daytime soap opera, CBS and sponsor Proctor and Gamble wanted a love interest for Mason, but Gardner disagreed with that and the overall direction of the show and withdrew support. CBS reworked the show as *The Edge of Night*, a thinly disguised version of the radio serial’s world, which ran for 28 years in 7,420 episodes on CBS and ABC.

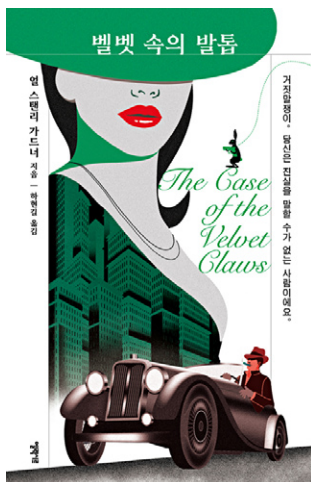
In the meantime, CBS approved production of the now famous primetime version, *Perry Mason*, starring Raymond Burr, then one of Hollywood’s top stars. The show ran from 1957 to 1966 in 271 episodes. When it ended in 1966, Perry Mason was being seen in 58 countries, with subtitles in ten languages and dubbed in ten more.

It was revived in the 1970s for two seasons as *The New Perry Mason* starring Monte Markham, but failing to dominate its time slot, it was cancelled after 15 episodes. NBC revived the original primetime drama in a series of 30 movies, all but four starring Raymond Burr, that ran from 1985 to 1995 (Burr died in 1993). HBO launched another revival in 2020, running six episodes through 2023. This series is a gritty prequel that examined the Mason character before he became the polished courtroom lawyer of the earlier primetime series. Though widely praised, HBO cancelled the show after its second season.

Still highly regarded, *Perry Mason* runs daily on television stations around the world. In 2014, Netflix announced that Raymond Burr was the most popular actor on their service, a fact they were at a loss to explain and which they named “that weird *Perry Mason* thing.”



*Title screen from The Berenstain Bears TV show, which aired for two seasons in 1985. It was revived in 2002 for three seasons.*



*The first Perry Mason novel, The Case of the Velvet Claws, was released in 1933. The Perry Mason Novels were translated in many languages, and sell millions of copies a year overseas. Shown above is the cover of a Japanese edition of The Case of the Velvet Claws from 2022.*

\* In this genre, Agatha Christie, Harold Robbins, Georges Simenon, and others have more total sales, but not in a single series.



## Cain's Jawbone: A Scrambled Mystery Puzzle

The name of Tomás de Torquemada (1420–1498) is infamous for his association with the worst excesses of the Spanish Inquisition. Perhaps it's a bit of black humor that 500 years later, the name should be taken up as a pseudonym by the designer of the devilishly difficult cryptic crossword\* puzzles that appeared in *The Observer* (London) from 1926 to 1939.

The crossword was invented by Arthur Wynne for Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* in 1913. By the 1920s, it had become an international craze. The crossword puzzle was deplored in the British press as a time-waster, reportedly draining the American economy of five million work hours a day! Nevertheless, the virus was sweeping the world, and Britain could be no exception.

In 1924, Edward Powys Mathers (1892–1939) was a literary critic attuned to the puzzle craze. He produced a few puzzles for friends, who without his knowledge, shared the puzzles with the *Westminster Gazette* (London). The editor of the *Gazette* persuaded Mathers to produce puzzles for their Saturday issue's games page. Mathers agreed to do this – under the pseudonym Torquemada. Mathers continued with *The Observer* when it absorbed the *Gazette* in 1928.

At the time, clues for crossword puzzles were mostly simple definitions, but Mathers realized that a puzzle where all the clues were word puzzles in themselves – the cryptic clue – would be more entertaining. While he did not invent the cryptic clue, he was the first to make an entire crossword puzzle based on them. All the clues were rhyming couplets, adding another aspect to the fun.



Edward Powys Mathers, known to his friends as Bill.

Mathers honed his skill until he was producing cryptic crossword puzzles without any black squares. His readers were convinced that there was a Torquemada team, but Mathers worked only with the assistance of his wife, Rosamund.

Mathers would choose a subject and make a list of words, and Rosamund would work them into the crossword diagram. Mathers would then begin writing all the clues. According to Rosamund, the average puzzle usually required about two hours at several sittings.

The puzzles were very popular, and Torquemada received many letters. One solver, who worked



This 1925 cartoon from Ernest Bushmiller (famous for the Nancy comic strip) captures the U.S. crossword craze of the 1920s.

\* A cryptic crossword is one where the clues are related to the answer through a form of wordplay. The wordplay can take many forms, including anagrams, homophones, reversals, deletions, and others.

Main sources: *Washington Post*; *The Guardian*; onwords.substack.com; laurencesternetrust.org; *Public Domain Review*; *Irish Times*



*Cain's Jawbone*, continued

with a friend over the phone to solve the puzzles, wrote to complain about the resulting phone bill. Letters were received from Africa, Alaska, India, and other countries. However, the cryptic crossword never really caught on in the U.S.

Mathers was a fan of word puzzles of all kinds, and in 1934 – eight years and several hundred puzzles into his *Observer* run – Victor Gollancz Ltd. published 4,000 copies of *The Torquemada Puzzle Book*: “24 Crosswords Carefully Graded; Cheats’ Crossword Dictionary; Acrostics & Anagrams {unique variations}; Spooneristic Problems . . . and Torquemada’s Mystery Novel.”

Accounts indicate that the 24 crossword puzzles ranged from difficult to nearly impossible, but the capper of the book was the mystery novel, “Cain’s Jawbone” (dedicated to Dorothy Sayers) that takes up the last 100 pages of the puzzle book, which includes this description:

‘Cain’s Jawbone’, the bald narrative of a series of tragic happenings during a period of less than six months in a recent year, has met with an accident which seems to be unique in the history of the novelette. The pages have been printed in an entirely haphazard and incorrect order, a fact which reflects little credit on somebody. The author assures his readers, however, that while it is now too late for him to remedy the ordering of the pages, it is quite possible for them, should they care to take the trouble, to re-order them correctly for themselves. Before they attempt to do this, they may care to be assured that there is an inevitable order, the one in which the pages were written, and that, while the narrator’s mind may flit occasionally backwards and forwards in the modern manner, the narrative marches on, relentlessly and unequivocally, from the first page to the last.

A space for notes is provided at the bottom of each page.

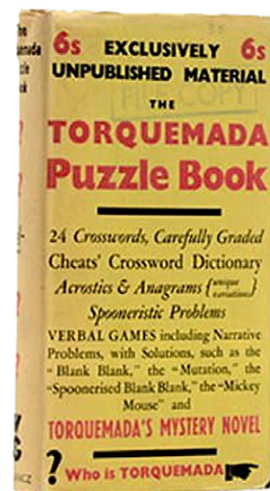
In the “...And More” department of *The Florida Bibliophile* for September 2023, we were introduced to *Composition No. 1* (Simon & Schuster, 1962) by Marc Saporta. The books’ 152 pages were published as separate sheets and sold in a box as a single novel that can be read in any order.

Similarly, “Cain’s Jawbone” was printed in *The Torquemada Puzzle Book* on 100 pages, perforated

so that they could be easily detached and – less similarly – placed completely out of order. A prize of 25 pounds (current value about \$2,500) was offered by *The Observer* for correct solutions. Two correct solutions were submitted the first year, by “W. S. Kennedy” and “S. Sydney-Turner.” The latter is likely Saxon Sydney-Turner, a friend of Virginia Woolf and a minor member of the Bloomsbury circle. Ironically, he was described by one Bloomsbury biographer as “brilliant in a crossword puzzle-solving kind of way.”

Mathers died in his sleep at age 46 in 1939. In addition to the mystery novel and the crossword puzzles he published as Torquemada, he published numerous works of poetry and translation under his own name, including this selection described by Wikipedia:

He translated J. C. Mardrus’s French version of *One Thousand Nights and One Night*. His English version of Mardrus appeared in 1923, and is known as Mardrus/Mathers. He also translated *The Garden of Bright Waters: One Hundred and Twenty Asiatic Love Poems* (1920); and the Kashmiri poet Bilhana in *Bilhana: Black Marigolds* (1919), a free interpretation in the tradition of Edward Fitzgerald, quoted at length in John Steinbeck’s novel *Cannery Row*. These are not scholarly works, and are in some cases based on intermediate versions in European languages. Some of his translations were set



The Torquemada Puzzle Book (1934) in original dust jacket



**Cain's Jawbone, continued**

to music by Aaron Copland.

Just as Francisco Ximenez de Cisneros succeeded Torquemada as director of the Spanish Inquisition, so he replaced Torquemada as puzzle maker for *The Observer*. Ximenez was the pseudonym of Derrick Somerset Macnutt. Regarded by many as the father of the modern crossword puzzle, Macnutt established standards for his puzzles that made them more precise and fairer for solvers. In the meantime, "Cain's Jawbone" was forgotten.

**Fast forward 85 years to 2019.**

Shandy Hall is the home of the Laurence Sterne Trust in Coxwold, a village in York, in northern England. It is not far from Bampton, which served as the village of Downton in *Downton Abbey*. In 1760, Laurence Sterne, who had already completed two volumes of *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* moved to Coxwold to become its "perpetual curate" (an assistant rector). His home was to be High Hall, a timber-framed structure built in 1430. Sterne proceeded to make some changes, one of which was to rename the building "Shandy Hall"; "shandy" was then a dialect word for "wild, crazy, odd, merry." Today, Patrick Wildgust has been curator of the hall since 2004. It is his home.

In November 2019, Wildgust received a visit from his friend John Mitchinson who was then working in BBC television but also had extensive experience in publishing. Wildgust showed Mitchinson a copy of the *Torquemada's Puzzle Book* which had been recently donated to the Trust's collection. Wildgust had attempted to solve the puzzle off and on and shared his research on the book with Mitchinson. Wildgust had been unable to locate a solution in this research, but he had found that only two people were known to have solved the puzzle (we met them earlier).

Mitchinson takes up the story:

Shandy Hall is a favourite trip out for my elderly father, who lives nearby. After tea and cake in the Garden Room, Patrick and I hatched a plan to crowdfund a rerelease

of Cain's Jawbone through Unbound and to reinstate Mathers's original competition, bumping the prize money up from £25 to £1,000.

Mitchinson had started the crowdfunded publishing company Unbound in 2010. He proposed to Wildgust to publish *Cain's Jawbone*, and in September 2019, *Cain's Jawbone: A Novel Problem*, was released as a paperback. They sold about 4,000 copies the first year.

An award of £1,000 was offered for anyone submitting the correct solution by September 19, 2020. Twelve solutions were submitted before the deadline, and one of them was correct!

John Fennimore, a British comedian and puzzle fanatic, had purchased the book in 2020 and made several attempts to solve it.

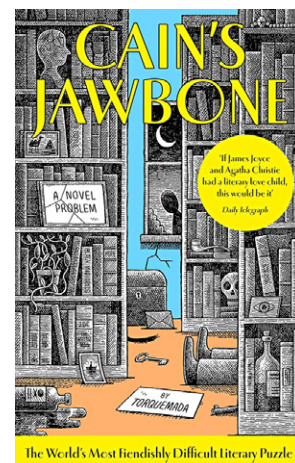
I swiftly concluded that it was way out of my league, and the only way I'd even have a shot at it was if I were for some bizarre reason trapped in my own home for months on end, with nowhere to go and no one to see.

In early 2020, a serious new virus appeared around the world, and by March 2020, Fennimore's wish was granted.

It took him about four months to solve the puzzle. He spread out the pages on the bed in a spare room and spent hours in Internet research to identify the obscure references in the 100 pages. Fennimore has agreed not to reveal the solution, but he has said that there is a key.

**Now we travel 5,400 miles, from London to San Francisco.**

It's around November 2021. Sarah Scannell, who works in documentary film production, saw *Cain's Jawbone* at her local independent bookstore, Green Apple Books. The cover by Tom Gauld appealed



Cain's Jawbone: A Novel Problem (2019)



## *Cain's Jawbone*, continued

to her, but she was not a mystery reader. She left without buying.

But as the days went on, the idea of the book seemed to fit in with her love of logic puzzles, and she returned to the bookstore and bought a copy.

She took the book home, tore out its pages, made notes, and began attaching them to a bedroom wall, building an 8' by 5' "murder wall," something that Sarah said she had always dreamed of doing.

She made a 15-second video of buying the book and her murder wall and posted it to her TikTok account, @saruuuuuuugh.

Within 12 hours, the video had been viewed more than 500,000 times. Tens of thousands of people became followers. Within 24 hours, *Cain's Jawbone* had sold out on Amazon and was back-ordered at Green Apple Books.

The entire print run of *Cain's Jawbone* was exhausted in a few days. Mitchinson printed 10,000 new copies to satisfy demand and arranged for a further order of 70,000. He also reopened the contest with a December 31, 2022, deadline.

### A Puzzling Situation Develops

Unbound announced on X that there was so much interest worldwide that the contest would be extended to December 2023, and though no prizes would be given, winners were to be notified in January 2024.

The Reddit account dedicated to *Cain's Jawbone* competitors showed comments from people in several countries who claimed to have solved the puzzle or even to have been notified of their success, but there seems to be some confusion, and no official announcement from Unbound was located.

Kenna Hughes-Castelberry, a science communicator at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics in Boulder, Colorado, and her husband took a shot at *Cain's Jawbone* and wondered about

using artificial intelligence to solve the puzzle. They approached machine learning company Zindi, and with Unbound's blessing, offered a competition for people to use AI to put 75 pages in order. The deadline for submissions was December 31, 2022. There were several winners, with the top prize (\$300) going to M.G. Ferreira of South Africa. His score of 42 pages was the highest of all contestants. It turns out that the highly stylized language, the lack of page ordering, and the many false leads in the text were a serious challenge even for the much-vaunted AI. Hughes-Castelberry has written about the experience in *Scientific American*.

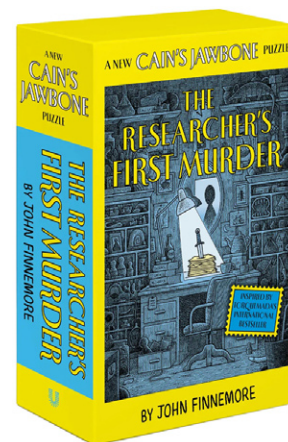
### 2023 and Beyond

In September 2023, Unbound published *Cain's Jawbone Book of Crosswords*, which contains 112 of Torquemada's puzzles. Choose your poison.

In August 2024, Unbound will release a sequel to *Cain's Jawbone*, *The Researcher's First Murder* by John Fennimore, who had solved the original puzzle in 2020. They will offer a £1,000 prize for the first person to solve the mystery within six months. Series potential?

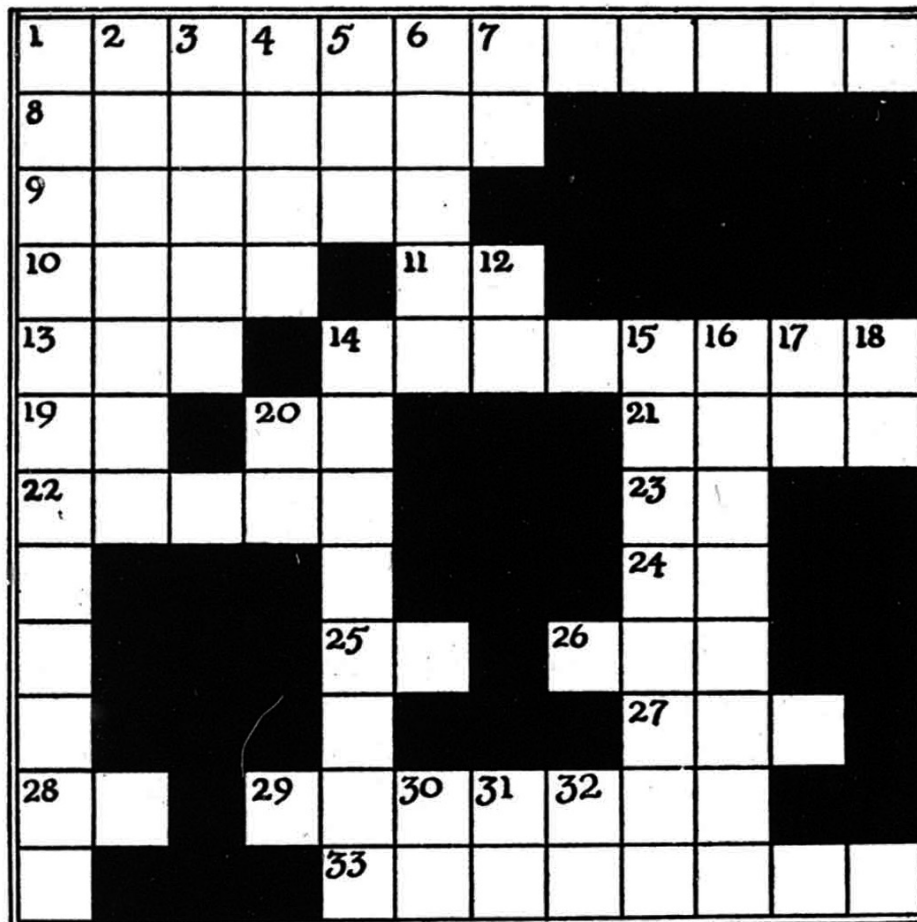
Unbound has announced through social media that an official *Cain's Jawbone Handbook* will be published in 2025. The unofficial one, *Cain's Jawbone: The Annotated Guide to Torquemada's Hoax*, was published by Jack Slade in August 2023. According to the book, Slade is "a literary critic, humorist, historian, and most recent solver of *Cain's Jawbone*."

It's all good news for the Laurence Sterne Trust and Shandy House: Unbound splits the profits from *Cain's Jawbone* and related publications 50/50 with the Trust.



*The Researcher's First Murder* (2024), a sequel to *Cain's Jawbone* by its 2020 solver, John Fennimore.

### I.—Gingerbeer for Three



#### HORIZONTAL.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Though not with Pope's economy defined,<br/>I am the proper study of mankind.</p> <p>8. Ben Gunn was one of us: and we exploded<br/>To warn you that the other guns were loaded.</p> <p>9. To say all mammals may come in is wrong;<br/>For only you and such as you belong.</p> <p>10. They plastered up my ribs before you came:<br/>Old vices warred with weapons of the same.</p> <p>11. A Scottish grandchild you'll not miss:<br/>A recent Galsworthy is this.</p> <p>13. A friendly modern shortening I am<br/>For one whose life was ransomed by a ram.</p> | <p>14. A Glasgow doctor with but frail excuse<br/>Regained domestic freedom by my use.</p> <p>19. Cast out my sister from a green<br/>And watered place, and I'll be seen.</p> <p>20. A chemist's gold,<br/>Less than half told.</p> <p>21. I rule in all lands where Amina's son<br/>Is worshipped as the Prophet of the One.</p> <p>22. We come to you with a request;<br/>Sit down and write it now is best.</p> <p>23. Here is no subtlety,<br/>For I am me.</p> <p>24. On druggists' bottles I may be described,<br/>When viscous liquids are contained inside.</p> <p>25. Kipling, Dunsany, I served both for title:<br/>My fortress looms in a Dumas recital.</p> |
|---|--|

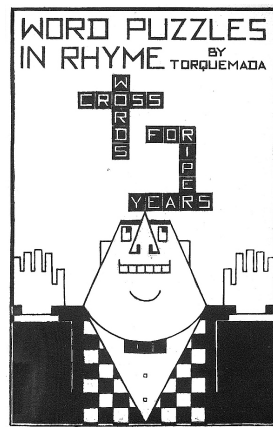


## Gingerbeer for Three

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>26. We know what we me, Ophelia said :<br/>A hundred square metres would do<br/>instead.</p> <p>27. I am that Hirobumi who came West<br/>And then imported what he found the<br/>best.</p> <p>28. I stood up large on Moses' path :<br/>Is not my bedstead in Rabbath ?</p> <p>29. He stays behind. (Perhaps this boy's<br/>not pat in<br/>The second conjugation of his Latin.)</p> <p>33. Stewards or butlers we : without our<br/>son<br/>The Faerie Queene had never been<br/>begun.</p> | <p>7. A written after-thought : when plays<br/>are played<br/>I'm the side nearer to a verbal aid.</p> <p>12. I came before you, Brutus, and<br/>between<br/>Free bread, free circuses ; and . . .<br/>and I mean . . .</p> <p>14. Thunder and lightning, how they<br/>came and whence,<br/>Or table manners of domestic hens.</p> <p>15. We fill the conversation of old<br/>codgers :<br/>We blessed and burned a certain R.C.<br/>Rogers.</p> <p>16. The noblest form that a French egg<br/>can take.<br/>Originally meant " a thin flat cake."</p> <p>17. A chemist writes a Yankee coin this<br/>way :<br/>And Middle English birds in me would<br/>stay.</p> <p>18. The years are overlong, said she :<br/>When one is shortened it is me.</p> <p>20. I'm why the son of Howell became<br/>Powell :<br/>And a Greek prefix used before a<br/>vowel.</p> <p>30. Initials of a kind of public man,<br/>Of a Venetian who met Kubla Khan.</p> <p>31. A mark for third class wooden ships<br/>at sea :<br/>A living Irishman writes over me.</p> <p>32. I was his title, when, to raise a smile,<br/>Bret Harte burlesqued a certain<br/>Gallic style.</p> |
|---|--|

### VERTICAL.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Auto-suggestionists, they say,<br/>Find me each day in every way.</p> <p>2. Eastern Hells<br/>(Nothing else.)</p> <p>3. A way of spelling parley, treat, or<br/>pact.<br/>(The Paston Letters will confirm this<br/>fact.)</p> <p>4. High from the wine<br/>Beside the Rhine.</p> <p>5. Coventry Patmore said that I<br/>Should some day happen to the lie.</p> <p>6. Stevenson said I was the soul<br/>(See <i>Underwoods</i>) of a large bowl.</p> | <p>18. The years are overlong, said she :<br/>When one is shortened it is me.</p> <p>20. I'm why the son of Howell became<br/>Powell :<br/>And a Greek prefix used before a<br/>vowel.</p> <p>30. Initials of a kind of public man,<br/>Of a Venetian who met Kubla Khan.</p> <p>31. A mark for third class wooden ships<br/>at sea :<br/>A living Irishman writes over me.</p> <p>32. I was his title, when, to raise a smile,<br/>Bret Harte burlesqued a certain<br/>Gallic style.</p> |
|--|---|



"Gingerbeer for Three" is taken from *Cross-Words in Rhyme for Those of Riper Years* (Routledge, 1925) by Torquemada. If you want more cryptic crosswords, this book is available on the [Internet Archive](https://www.archive.org/details/cross-words-in-rhyme-for-those-of-riper-years-torquemada).



## Paris Booksellers Win Big Victory along the Seine

By George Haborak,\* Sarasota, Florida; Member, Christopher Marlowe Society UK



Paris's Green-box Booksellers (*bouquinistes*), recently closed down, now joyfully back in business.  
(Photo: *The Good Life France* online; feature by Janine Marsh)

**I**n *The Florida Bibliophile* for October 2023 (p. 17), it was reported that the iconic green boxes along Paris's river Seine were to be dismantled, and the booksellers forced to move.

The article also provided an interesting history of these “regulation-green kiosks”: some 900 stalls scattered along the banks of that famous river. Also mentioned was the French word that best describes the booksellers: *bouquinistes*. Their place of business (their green boxes) “exist only in Paris – outdoors, open every day of the week, from Jan. 1 to Dec 31, for 450 years.”

Why do this? Why shut down Paris's time-honored green-boxes? In a word: Security. For those who do not keep up with sporting events, Paris is the host city of the 2024 Summer Olympics. The police authorities – recently called “enemies of poetry” by Paris writers and bibliophiles – have been concerned about public safety and the possibility of the book-stalls as easy

terrorist targets. The opening ceremony for the summer games will take place on the Seine, and it will attract hundreds of thousands of people. This could become a bloody spectacle.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man! Emmanuel Macron, President of France, recently intervened, deciding that the green-boxes may remain in place and that the *bouquinistes* may continue with their trade: the selling of books, posters, literary ephemera. Macron declared the booksellers a “living heritage of the capital”.

Dating from the founding of the University of Paris (early 13<sup>th</sup> century), the city has achieved a commanding cultural profile. Yet, the people of Paris and its visitors do deserve a successful and peaceful sporting event. We are pleased that this interesting situation resolved amicably: the Olympic Games will be hosted in that great City of Lights, with heightened security, and the green-box booksellers will continue to sell their wares. Berets off to President Macron!

\*FBS Guest Speaker: September 15, 2013, “Revisiting the Shakespeare Authorship Debate”

Thanks to former FBS vice president Maureen E. Mulvihill for editing and coordinating this special contribution.





## St Patrick's Day ~ March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### The Florida Bibliophile Society

extends warm wishes to our Irish and Irish-American colleagues who have contributed to the history and longevity of the book.

### St Patrick's Day

honors writers, scholars, teachers, students, collectors, printers, publishers, booksellers, and book illustrators associated with the Emerald Isle and her proud legacy of talent.



### *THE BOOK OF KELLS*

8<sup>th</sup> Century AD. Trinity College Dublin  
340 folios (680 leaves) on vellum (calfskin),  
4 vols (1953 binding). 330 x 250mm. In Latin.

Though primarily a religious illuminated manuscript of the Four Gospels, *THE BOOK OF KELLS* is an iconic treasure in western literature and a spectacular example of medieval Celtic book design and book arts (Christian symbolism / Celtic motifs). Why, 'tis so lavish and extraordinary a book, some fancy it the work of angels.

< [Video](#), courtesy Trinity College Dublin: Exhibition of TCD MS 58 >

**FBS Flashback, 1997****From Florida Bibliophile Society's *The Newsletter*, June 1997 —**The Book Gods Must Be Angry

by Norman Tanguay

On April 19, Keith Kewley, Art Walker, and I went on our semiannual pilgrimage to Central Florida, more specifically, the Friends of the Library Book Sale in Gainesville.<sup>1</sup> The first inkling of bad things to come was my inability to find more than a handful of vintage paperbacks. The usual stack in the “collectibles” section was absent. When I asked about this apparent oversight, I was informed that there were so few that the staff had not bothered to put them on the shelves. I was also informed that they might appear later in the day. The fact that I had driven all the way from Pinellas County didn't seem to impress them. (By the way, is there anything left in America that isn't collectible?) Art bought absolutely nothing while Keith walked away with a box full of aviation magazines.

Rather than stop for breakfast at the local Bob Evans we decided to try a local greasy spoon: what a disaster. I can't recall the name of the place so I must be repressing it. What I do recall, however, is that the bacon was as tough as shoe leather. While leaving Gainesville, we passed the site of what you used to be Ray the Trader.<sup>2</sup> Some of you may recall that I have mentioned this place before with the caveat: enter at your own risk. We couldn't help but stop and check the sign on the door, which informed us that Ray has relocated to the Waldo flea market, about 12 miles northeast of Gainesville.

Then on to Micanopy. Walt Winter<sup>3</sup> no longer has a bookstore there since he has apparently relocated to

North Carolina. O. J. Brisky now has the only bookstore in town. However, he had nothing for me that day.

Our next stop was a few miles south of Ocala: Lee Nevers Books and Antiques.<sup>4</sup> As usual, there was a handful of books for me here, but barely a handful. Luckily, most of them were reprints of the Phantom adventures, based on original story ideas by Lee Falk, creator of the classic comic strip. These always sell well, as do reprints of all pulp heroes. We then proceeded to Eustace and Raintree Books with much backseat driving coming from Keith. I immediately went to their “collector's room” but found nothing that wasn't there two or three years ago. I'm not certain if Art or Keith found anything.

Then at my insistence, we drove east to Sanford. I had heard of a large flea market called Flea World and wanted to check it out. Big mistake. The fleas may be alive and well but not the booksellers. The first place we checked had nothing for any of us, and the second place could be aptly named Son of Ray the Trader. It was enough to make a bibliophile cry. After a stop at Denny's, we started the long (the very long) drive home.

Where have all the flowers/books gone? Why are some booking trips lucky and others cursed? And lastly, what could Art and Keith have possibly done to make the book gods so angry?

A few historical notes from your editor:

1. The Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale is still semiannual: April and October. FBS members often make this trip, and few are disappointed. I never have been.
2. Ray the Trader — The experience is hard to describe. Ray Cates's crowded shop was in a strip mall on US-441 on the way south out of Gainesville. It was lined with “shelves” — more like giant cubbies, filled with rows, stacks, and piles of books. Poorly lit. Generally dusty. Indiana Jones would love it. According to his website, Ray's main shop was in Ocala, with satellites in Daytona Beach, Port Orange, Gainesville, Merritt Island, and St. Augustine. As of 2012, only the shop in Ocala was open.
3. Walt Winter, Bookseller, was also located on US-441 near Ray the Trader — a small, clean, well-organized book shop, later moved to larger quarters nearby, then to Micanopy, next to the well-known Brisky Books, and then to North Carolina.
4. Actually Marvin Nevers — A terrific book and antique shop south of Ocala. Marvin went online in 2006. Still active.





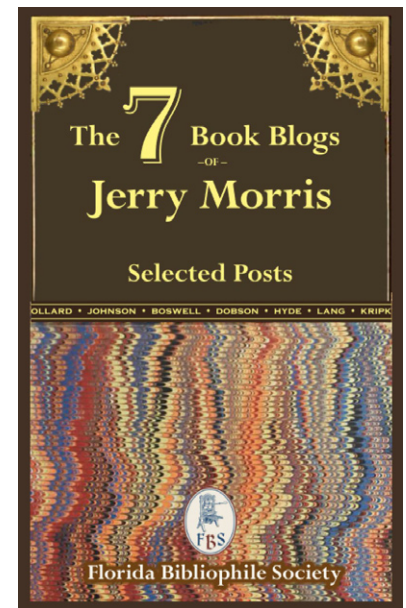
## FBS Publications

### *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 (and later Strunk and White's) well-known 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](#).

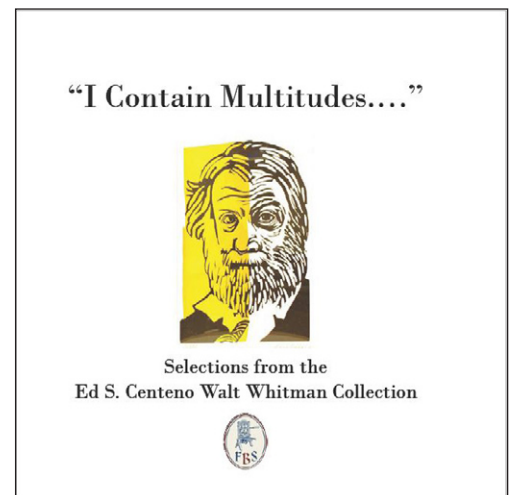


### *“I Contain Multitudes . . .”: Selections from the Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection*

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 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.

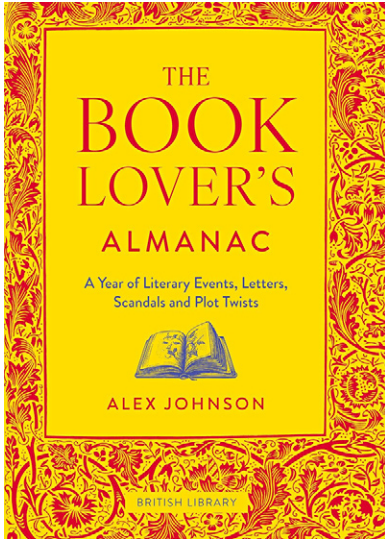
Order directly from the Florida Bibliophile Society by sending a check for \$20.00 to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg FL 33747. You may also request a copy via email at [floridabibliophiles@gmail.com](mailto:floridabibliophiles@gmail.com) and use the same address to pay through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



## Books in Brief

### The Book Lover's Almanac: A Year of Literary Events, Letters, Scandals and Plot Twists

Alex Johnson  
British Library Publishing  
288 pp., October 2023



Alex Johnson was featured in February for his book *Improbable Libraries*, but Alex has produced several books in the book factoid genre, including *A Book of Book Lists*, *Edward Lear and the Pussycat: Famous Writers and their Pets*, and *Rooms of Their Own: Where Great Writers Write*. Each one is two-pound box of bibliophilic bon-bons.

In a familiar reading-a-day format, each entry in the *Book Lover's Almanac* offers one or more literary connections. Book lovers will find extracts from authors' diaries and letters, chance upon the narrative twists and transformative moments in their favorite novels, discover the winners of prestigious awards and losers of creative squabbles, and the delivery of manuscript, first publication, and performance.

Johnson draws on the incredible collections of the British Library to find new, surprising, and entertaining ways to celebrate every day of the year. Each month opens with a list of significant births and closes with a selection of pertinent last words, while entries roam across history from the great classics to modern authors. A sample: On May 27, 1936, John Steinbeck's dog Toby ate most of the first draft of his classic novella, *Of Mice and Men*, setting back the writing by two months.

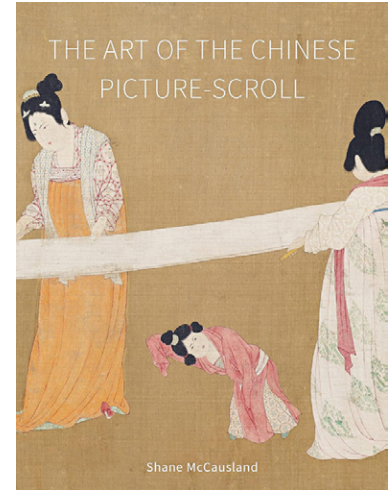
**Alex Johnson** is a journalist and writer. A regular contributor to *The Independent*, he also runs the popular design and lifestyle blogs *Bookshelf* and *Shedworking*.

Source: British Library Publishing; *Interesting Literature* blog

### The Art of the Chinese Picture-Scroll

Shane McCausland  
Reaktion Books  
296 pp., February 2024

What is a picture-scroll? How is it read and by whom? How did it come to be the premier format for the fine art of painting in dynastic China? Shane McCausland responds to these questions by tracing the picture-scroll's early development in medieval China, exemplified by the *Admonitions of the Court Instructress*



scroll attributed to Gu Kaizhi (c. 344–c. 406) and by the emergence of the celebrated 'Xuanhe style' of scroll mounting at the court of Zhao Ji, the Northern Song artist-emperor Huizong (r. 1100–25). McCausland examines how the picture-scroll was uniquely changeable and extendable. This format afforded owners a historical stage on which to act by affixing their seals and inscribing commentaries on or beside the 'painting heart,' as the artwork central to the scroll was known, with results ranging from sublime to contemptible and elegant to vulgar.

This first history of the picture-scroll explores its extraordinary longevity and adaptability: how China's artists grappled with its cultural power, and how collectors and connoisseurs left their marks on scrolls for later generations to judge.

**Shane McCausland** is the Percival David Professor of the History of Art at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He has organized numerous exhibitions and published widely on East Asian and contemporary art.

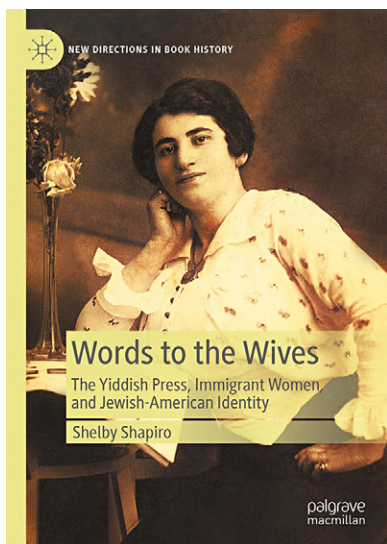
Sources: University of Cambridge; Reaktion Books





Books in Brief, *continued***Words to the Wives: The Yiddish Press, Immigrant Women, and Jewish-American Identity**

Shelby Shapiro  
 Palgrave Macmillan  
 269 pp., March 2024



The Yiddish press flourished in the U.S. during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It reached Yiddish-speaking Jews of every type through its wide range of editorial practices.

In *Words to the Wives*, looks at how the Yiddish press sought to create Jewish-American identities for immigrant women. Shelby Shapiro

focuses on two women's magazines and the women's pages in three daily newspapers, from 1913, when the first Yiddish women's magazine appeared, until 1925, when the Immigration Act of 1924 took effect. Shapiro demonstrates how newspaper editors and publishers sought to shape identity in line with their own religious or political tendencies in this new environment, where immigrants faced a broad horizon of possibilities for shaping or reshaping their identities in the face of new possibilities and constraints. External constraints included the economic situation of the immigrants, varying degrees of antisemitism within American society, while internal constraints included the variable power of traditions and beliefs brought with them from the Old World. *Words to the Wives* studies how publications sought to shape the direction of Eastern European Jewish immigrant women's acculturation.

**Shelby Shapiro** edits *The Independent Scholar*, the journal of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars. His interest areas include the Yiddish press, the labor movement, print culture, jazz, and blues.

Source: Palgrave Macmillan; *The Independent Scholar*

**Decadent Women: Yellow Book Lives**

Jad Adams  
 Reaktion Books  
 400 pp., December 2023

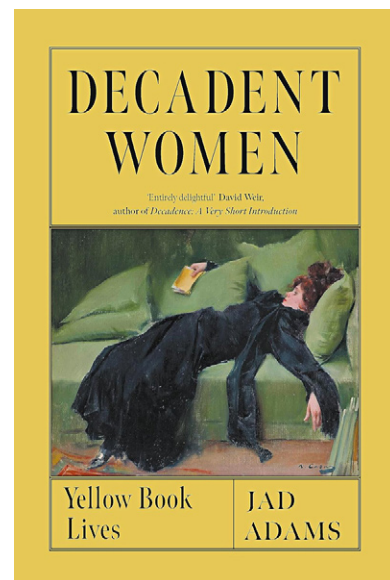
During the 1890s, British women for the first time began to leave their family homes to seek work, accommodation, and financial and sexual freedom. *Decadent Women* is an account of some of these women who wrote for the innovative art and literary journal *The Yellow Book*.

*The Yellow Book* was a leading journal of the British 1890s; that drew its name from its bright yellow cover, chosen for its association with illicit French fiction of the time, often published in yellow covers. The journal was associated with the Aesthetic and Decadent movements and featured the work of many famous Decadents such as Aubrey Beardsley, Max Beerbohm, Charlotte Mew, and many others.

Drawing on original research, Jad Adams describes the lives and work of these women for first time, from well-connected and fashionable aristocrats to the desperately poor. He narrates the challenges they faced in a literary marketplace and within a society that overwhelmingly favored men, showing how they pioneered a new style, complete with rewards and challenges, living lives of lurid adventure and romance, as well as experiencing poverty, squalor, disease, and unwanted pregnancy.

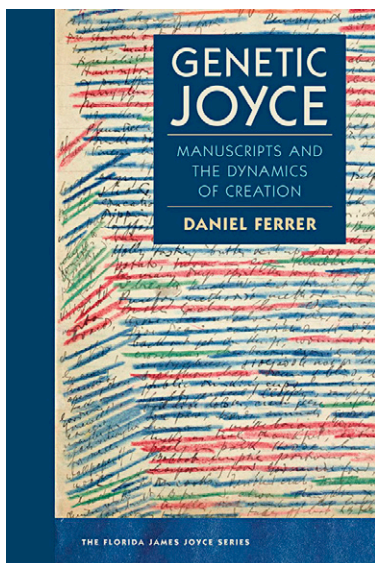
**Jad Adams** is a research fellow at the Institute of English, School of Advanced Study, University of London, and author of many books.

Source: Reaktion Books



Books in Brief, *concluded***Genetic Joyce: Manuscripts and the Dynamics of Creation (The Florida James Joyce Series)**

Daniel Ferrer  
University Press of Florida  
234 pp., May 2023



In this book, Ferrer shows the theory of genetic criticism in action as he studies the manuscript and textual development of a literary text. He shows how the creative process of modernist writer James Joyce can be reconstructed from his manuscripts.

Using specific, detailed examples, Ferrer analyzes the part played by chance in Joyce's creative process,

the spatial dimension of writing, the genesis of the "Sirens" episode, and the transition from *Ulysses* to *Finnegans Wake*. Ferrer studies Joyce's mysterious *Finnegans Wake* notebooks, examining their strange form of intertextuality in light of Joyce's earlier forms of note-taking. Moving beyond the single-author perspective, Ferrer contrasts Joyce's notes alluding to Virginia Woolf's criticism of *Ulysses* with Woolf's own notes on the novel's first episodes.

Ferrer describes the logic of the creative process seen in Joyce's in notebooks, drafts, typescripts, proofs, correspondence, early printed versions, and other available documents. Each change detected reveals a movement from one state to another, challenging readers to understand the reasons for each movement and to appreciate the wealth of information to be found in Joyce's manuscripts.

**Daniel Ferrer**, director of research emeritus at the *Institut des Textes et Manuscrits Modernes* in Paris, is the author or editor of many books.



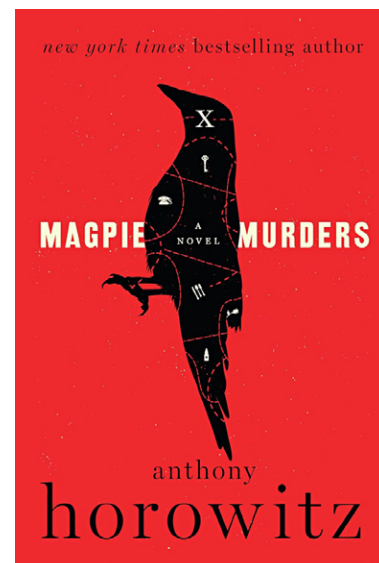
Source: University Press of Florida

[Bookish fiction]

**Magpie Murders: A British Cozy Mystery**

Anthony Horowitz  
Harper Perennial  
512 pp., March 2018

In 1955, Mary Blakiston, housekeeper at Pye Hall in Saxby-on-Avon, is found dead at the bottom of the stairs. Villagers suspect her son, Robert. The next day, newspapers report the murder of Sir Magnus Pye. Famed detective Atticus Pünd and his assistant James Fraser travel to the Hall, where they are greeted by Detective Inspector Chubb.



This begins the first of two plots in *Magpie Murders*. One is the Atticus Pünd mystery novel written by fictional author Alan Conway. In the other, publishing editor Susan Ryeland's searches for the missing final chapter of the novel, as well as investigating the death of Conway.

Horowitz developed the concept of *Magpie Murders* during the first season of *Midsomer Murders*, based on the Chief Inspector Barnaby series, written by Caroline Graham, who cowrote the television series with Horowitz. He wanted the novel to "be more than just a murder mystery story" and to be "a sort of a treatise on the whole genre of murder mystery writing. How the writers come up with the ideas; how these books are formed." The *Guardian* praised the novel's characters, accurate imitation of the Golden Age mystery formula, and the use of the story within a story.

**Anthony John Horowitz** CBE is an English novelist and screenwriter specialising in mystery and suspense.

Source: Harper Perennial; Wikipedia





**Murals in the Library of Congress.** The North Corridor of the Library of Congress features a series of allegorical paintings by Charles Sprague Pearce. The Family and Education Series comprises *Study* (shown at right), *Labor*, *Recreation*, *Religion*, *Family*, and *Rest*, all depicted in a Neoclassical style. Pearce was part of a generation of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century American artists that found their way to Paris, such as John Singer Sargent, Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassat, and James Whistler. Many returned to America, but Pearce settled in France where he became celebrated with medals at the Paris Salon and decorations, including the French Legion of Honor, Belgium's Order of Leopold, Prussia's Order of the Red Eagle, Prussia, and Denmark's Order of the Dannebrog.



Library of Congress



## 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  
Gary Simons  
Ben Wiley

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

## Join FBS!

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



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

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

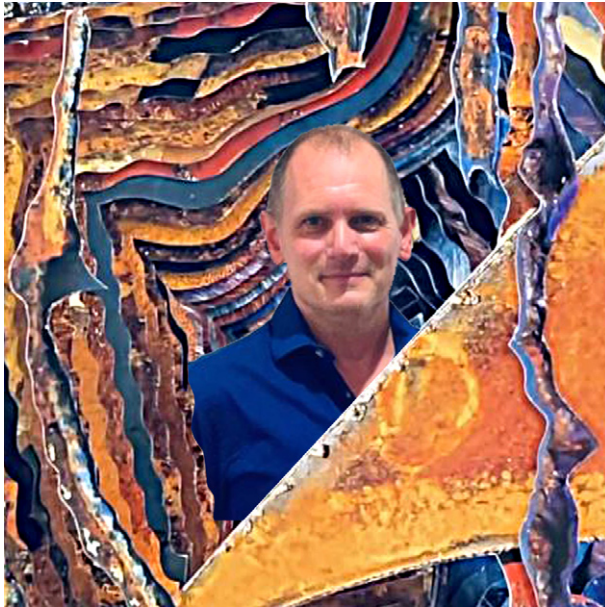
## Write for Your Newsletter!



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

March 2024



**Ted Wray – Book Artist**  
**Macdonald-Kelce Library**  
**401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL**  
**(and Zoom)**

**March 17, 2024, 1:30 p.m.**

Ted Wray shapes books to expose forms in the book or create new forms. His website states:

I turn books into otherworldly realms of exploration and wonder. I think books are magical. They shaped culture, and culture has shaped them. I don't want to see books become obsolete. The same can be said for art. I merge my passions into my unique art form, discovering and revealing even more magical depths. On a shelf, the closed book is often seen as a familiar object, no more remarkable than a box. But an open book offers glimpses into worlds beyond our familiar surroundings.

Ted will share some of his amazing sculpted book creations and discuss his methods and inspirations.

April 2024



**Jason Fortner – Field Trip to**  
**Clearwater's Francis Wilson**  
**Playhouse**

**Francis Wilson Playhouse**  
**302 Seminole St, Clearwater, FL**

**April 21, 2024, 1:30 p.m.**

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. Jason Fortner – a "remarkable performer" in his own right – has served as director at the Francis Wilson Playhouse for over 25 years. He is also steeped in the history of the theatre and has delivered lectures and other presentations on this topic and its many aspects. Jason also has an anecdote or two as well as those behind-the-scenes stories about successes and flops that you can only get from an insider. It promises to be a fun and educational afternoon.





## Book Events and Podcasts

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

### Florida Book Events

— March 2 —

#### Sunrise Comic Con, Sunrise, FL

([www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con](http://www.sunrisefl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/special-events/sunrise-comic-con))

— March 15–17 —

#### Palm Beach Book Festival

West Palm Beach, FL  
([www.palmbeachbookfestival.com/](http://www.palmbeachbookfestival.com/))

— March 15 —

#### Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French* by Harold Holzer  
([www.ringling.org/event/literati-book-club/](http://www.ringling.org/event/literati-book-club/))

— March 22–23 —

#### Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival

Venice, FL ([venicebookfair.com/](http://venicebookfair.com/))

— April 5–7 —

#### Univ. of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels – “Ink and Imagination: Exploring Children’s Comics”, Gainesville, FL (est. 2002)

([www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml](http://www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml))

— April 12 —

#### Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the Month: *Art is Life: Icons and Iconoclasts, Visionaries and Vigilantes, and Flashes of Hope in the Night* by Jerry Saltz  
([www.ringling.org/events/literati-book-club](http://www.ringling.org/events/literati-book-club))

— April 23 —

#### World Book Day

([www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com))

— April 25, 6 p.m.–9 p.m.—

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

420 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa (est. 2015)  
([bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/](http://bookstore.oxfordexchange.com/programming/oe-book-fair/))

### Rare Book Cafe Coffee Break

**FBS welcomes Rare Book Cafe’s new format, “Coffee Break.” RBC was originated several years ago by Florida booksellers and FBS members Steve and Edie Eisenstein. “Coffee Break” is the brainchild of T. Allan Smith.**

“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. 48 (Feb. 21):** Gigi Best, co-owner of the Best Richardson African Diaspora Literature & Culture Museum in St. Augustine, drops in to tell about special event on Gullah Geechee culture of the southern coastal U.S. March 9, 10 a.m.– 5 p.m. at the museum in Historic Lincolntonville at 83 Washington Street, St. Augustine. Festivities include the world-renowned Gullah Geechee Ring Shouters and authors writing about Gullah culture.

**COFFEE BREAK No. 47 (Feb. 6):** We celebrate Black History with historian and author Brian Shellum shares with co-hosts Ed Markiewicz and Lee Linn the backstory for his series of books about the Buffalo Soldiers, the Black troops of the American army who figured in battles all the way back to the American Indian wars.

**COFFEE BREAK No. 46 (Feb. 3):** Richard Oates, retired educator and bookseller and owner of Blind Horse Books in DeLand shares some of the remarkable Florida ephemera he’s bringing to the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair this year, including several beautifully preserved late-1890s and 1920s brochures and other travel-related items from Florida resorts. Richard also reveals the funny backstory about his store name, Blind Horse Books.

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:*

**Feb. 6 – John Sargent on Beating Amazon & Google and saving Books**—John Sargent spent years battling Amazon and Google on behalf of publishers and authors, protecting copyright and defending book prices. Over 40 years, he worked at six publishing companies, including Children's Division publisher at Simon & Schuster, CEO of Dorling Kindersley and CEO of Macmillan. He's the author of three children's books and is currently chairman of The Ocean Conservancy. We met via Zoom to talk about some of the fights he's had over the years and other stories presented in his new memoir, entitled *Turning Pages: The Adventures and Misadventures of a Publisher*.

## Publishers Weekly Podcasts

**Jan. 29 – More to Come 607: James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook**

— This week on More to Come, Calvin interviews comics creators James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook, the artist and colorist that worked in collaboration with the late artist and AIDS activist David Wojnarowicz to create his acclaimed graphic memoir *7 Miles A Second*, originally published by DC/Vertigo in 1996 and later by Fantagraphics in 2013. The book is now available from Romberger and Van Cook's Ground Zero Books.

American Antiquarian Society  
Virtual Book Talks

**Founded in 1812 by Isaiah Thomas, a Revolutionary War patriot and printer, the American Antiquarian Society is the oldest history society in the U.S.**

AAS focuses on pre-1876 events and holds the "largest and most accessible collection" of related print materials. The AAS's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC) was established in 1983. PHBAC sponsors [Virtual Book Talk](#), showcasing "authors of recently published scholarly monographs, digital-equivalents, and creative works broadly related to book history and print culture." Free, but advance registration is required.

*Upcoming episodes:*

**March 14, 7 p.m. ET – Hannah Carlson: *Pockets: An Intimate History of How We Keep Things Close***—It's a question that stirs up passions: Why do men's clothes have so many pockets, and women's so few? Fashion historian Carlson, author of *Pockets: An Intimate History of How We Keep Things Close* (Algonquin Books, 2023), shows us how we tuck gender politics, security, sexuality, and privilege inside our pockets. She delves into the pocket's 500-year history from medieval tailors stitching pockets into men's trousers, igniting controversy and introducing a range of social issues that we continue to wrestle with today.

**March 21, 7 p.m. – Barbara Weisberg: *Strong Passions: A Scandalous Divorce in Old New York***—In 1862, Mary Strong stunned her husband, Peter, the scion of a wealthy and influential family, by confessing to a two-year affair with his brother. Peter sued Mary for divorce, but not before she accused him of forcing her into an abortion and having an affair with the abortionist. Then Mary kidnapped their youngest child. Weisberg recounts the true story of a tumultuous marriage, divorce, and trial, illuminating laws and attitudes related to marriage, gender, and sexuality in the world of Edith Wharton's "old New York."



**Book Events and Podcasts, concluded****Princeton Ideas Podcast**

[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.

**Feb. 21 – Richard L. Hasen – *A Real Right to Vote*** – Too many Americans have been disenfranchised or faced needless barriers to voting. The Constitution is partly to blame: it does not contain an affirmative right to vote. The Supreme Court has failed to protect voting rights and limited Congress’s ability to do so. Voters must take action and push for an amendment to the Constitution that would guarantee this right for all. Drawing on troubling stories of state attempts to disenfranchise military voters, women, African Americans, students, former felons, Native Americans, and others, Hasen argues that American democracy can and should do better in assuring that all eligible voters can cast a meaningful vote that will be fairly counted.

**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:

**Dec. 12 – Mara Frazier on “Capturing Dance on Paper”** – Dance documentarians have devised intricate notations and used varied material formats to represent movement practices, whether ballet, sports, or physical therapy. Printing technology, movement techniques, and aesthetics all influenced physical formats for the description and transmission of movement information. Frazier, Curator of Dance and Movement at the Lawrence and Lee Theatre Research Institute, Ohio State University, delves into resources from the Institute’s treatises, handwritten notes to floor tiles made for readers in motion.

**Fresh from Paradise! New Magazine for Bibliophiles**

**W**earing the slogan “Produced in Florida for Book Lovers Everywhere,” the premiere issue of *Book Lovers’ Paradise* has just been released in conjunction with the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, coming to St. Petersburg’s Coliseum on March 1–3.

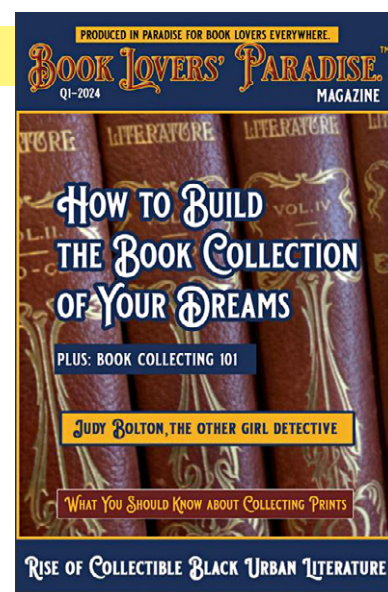
A joint effort of T. Allan Smith, producer of *Rare Book Cafe* in its new form, *RBC Coffee Break*, Mike Slicker, owner of Lighthouse Books in Dade City, Florida, and Sarah Smith, manager of the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, *Book Lovers’ Paradise* is “a labor of love for all of us, and I think the result is something we can be proud of, knowing that we’re offering useful tools for people with an abiding interest in the subjects we cover.”

Allan, Mike, and Sarah view *Book Lovers’ Paradise* as a way to extend the sharing of book knowledge and love of fine books that is enjoyed in encounters with booksellers at the book fair.

Articles in the first issue include:

- Build the Collection of Your Dreams
- Collecting Black Urban Literature
- How to Collect Americana
- Collecting Fine Art Prints the Right Way
- When It’s Time to Sell Your Collection

*Book Lovers’ Paradise* promises to be a beautiful and informative publication. The magazine will be published quarterly and electronically, free of charge. To receive a link to each new edition, send an email to [bookloversparadisemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:bookloversparadisemagazine@gmail.com) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject field.



## ... and More

**B**irds do it. Bees do it. Even educated fleas do it. Let's do it. Let's ask ChatGPT!

So I did. I asked, "What is a pamphlet?"

ChatGPT provided this answer:

A pamphlet is a short printed publication that typically lacks a hard cover or binding. It can take various forms:

- Leaflet: A single sheet of paper printed on both sides and folded in half, thirds, or fourths.
- Saddle-Stapled Book: A few pages folded in half and stapled at the crease to create a simple book.

Pamphlets have been used for centuries as an economical means of distributing information. Due to their low cost and ease of production, they have been employed to popularize political, religious, and other ideas. For instance, during the English Civil War, pamphlets played a crucial role in disseminating arguments and opinions. They were often partisan, aiming not only to inform but also to persuade the reader.

The word "pamphlet" itself has an interesting history. It originated from a 12<sup>th</sup>-century Latin poem called "*Pamphilus, seu de Amore*" (meaning "*Pamphilus: or, Concerning Love*"), which was widely copied and circulated. The name "Pamphilus" comes from the Greek word Πάμφιλος, meaning "beloved of all".

In summary, pamphlets serve as concise vehicles for sharing information, whether it's about kitchen appliances, medical advice, or religious treatises.

Not bad, eh? All that's left for me to do is highlight *Pamphilus*. This poem recounts the obsession of Pamphilus with the beautiful nymph Galatea. After much persuasion, Pamphilus, with the purchased aid of an old woman, is alone with Galatea, and – to put it delicately – he forces his attentions on her, despite her protestations ("It is a crime and a sin; why handle me so?" [l. 688]; translation: Garbaty, 1967).

## PAMPHILUS DE AMORE

COMŒDIA \*

### ACTUS PRIMUS

#### Scena prima

PAMPHILUS (*Solus*)

**Vulneror et clausum porto sub pectore telum ,  
Crescit et assidue plaga dolorque michi ;  
Et ferientis adhuc non audeo dicere nomen ,  
Nec sinit aspectus plaga videre suos.  
5 Unde futura meis majora pericula damnis  
Spero ; salutis opem nec medicina dabit.  
Quam prius ipse viam meliorem carpere possim ?  
Heu michi ! quid facio ? non bene certus eo.**

*The first page of Pamphilus de Amore (Pamphilus on Love) from a study of the poem by Adolphe Baudouin, published by Librairie Modern (Paris, 1874). Pamphilus begins the poem by saying that he has a wound in his breast that he fears no one can heal,*

The poem is one of many produced in the Medieval era in the tradition of Ovid's *Art of Love*, a very popular work of the times. Pamphilus is a verse play in dialogue among its three main characters, with a cameo by Venus. It is labeled a comedy. ChatGPT says "widely copied and circulated." In fact, the poem was wildly popular and very influential. It was often studied by boys learning Latin. It was translated, adapted, and widely quoted. It was source material for Giovanni Boccaccio's *Elegy of Lady Fiammetta* (c. 1344) and was used by Chaucer in "The Franklin's Tale" and in his long poem *Troilus and Criseyde* (c. 1385), a more traditional medieval romance set during the siege of Troy. *Pamphilus's* influence is also seen in the great Medieval French chivalric romance, *Romance of the Rose*.

The word which *Pamphilus* inspired, "pamphlet," entered Middle English as early as 1387, and we continue to use it with the same spelling and meaning over six centuries later.





# Florida Bibliophile Society 2023–2024 Season



Ben Wiley

**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 shared the remarkable chain of events that led to his love of books and writing.

**December 17 • FBS Holiday Party:** We met at Joyce and Ben Wiley’s home for an afternoon of hospitality, delicious food, and conversation. Our book exchange was accompanied by a new game devised by Ben. Truly a highlight of the holiday season!

**January 21 • Gino Pasi – University of Tampa’s Macdonald-Kelce Library Special Collections:** Under the guidance of Special Collections Librarian Gino Pasi gave an introduction and tour of UT’s Special Collections, complete with a display of representative selections from the collections.

**February 18 • Kaitlin Crockett and Mark McMurray** – We met at Kaitlin’s shop, PRINT St. Pete, for on-site introduction to her work as a printer, writer, and illustrator. Jeff Williams, sign painter and muralist, was unable to join us, but Mark McMurray

of Caliban Press – who has recently moved to Florida and joined FBS – was available to fill in a present his impressive limited artisan books.

**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.

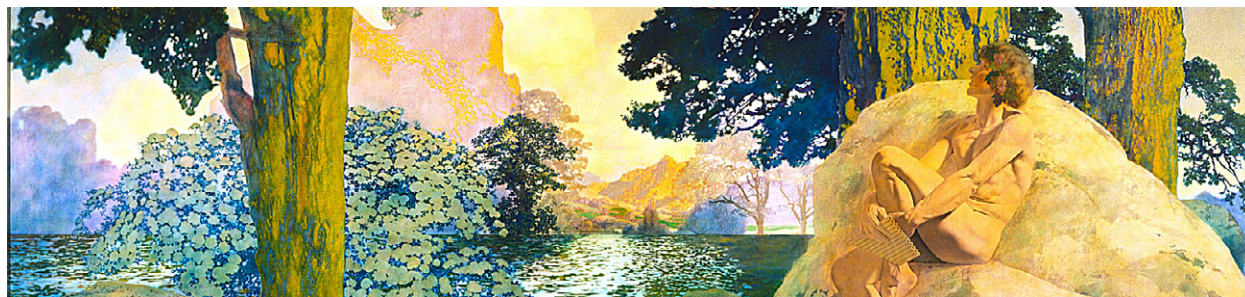
**April 20–24 • Gainesville Getaway:** The semiannual Alachua County Friends of the Library book sale features over 500,000 books, CDs, and other media in the Friends’ Book House in downtown Gainesville. FBS members often make a day trip on Saturday or make a weekend of it in beautiful North Central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



We're having a lot of fun this year in FBS. We always hear from interesting speakers, but we've had quite a mix of venues and activities this year. Special thanks goes to vice president Ben Wiley for putting together such an interesting schedule! I'm sure you know it takes a lot of background work to make this happen, but Ben is a details person and a communicator, staying in touch with our speakers and keeping us all up to date on developments. Thanks, Ben!

All us FBSers love books, but some of us have a special place in our hearts for printing. So it was a treat to be in an actual print workshop with real printers. Kaitlin Crockett is doing something very special at PRINT St. Pete, not just creating her own exciting work, but also introducing others to the craft and its possibilities. You can see from the minutes that the workshop is filled with colorful, creative work. You can be part of it. Check it out!

Mark McMurray was a perfect co-presenter. His workshop is still in transition from upstate New York to sunny Florida, but he had some fascinating samples of his work from a few decades of creative printing practice as Caliban Press. It's like poetry to listen to him talk about papers and their properties, the mystery of printing, and of course, the imaginative and beautiful book forms he creates.

So much to say about the fair! Many, many thanks to our wonderful members who (almost) literally leaped to staff our tables. Thank you so much! Their names are listed on page 9. I was so happy to see FBS members that cannot attend regularly. It was a pleasure to see you and catch up a bit. I missed some, but I hope to see you too before long. I hope you found some wonderful new treasures. I know I did!

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

## The Florida Bibliophile Society

### OFFICERS

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

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

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

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



### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*Hospitality:* **Wes Brown**  
wesleydbrown@yahoo.com

*Lee Harrer* **Roxanne Rhodes Hoare**  
*Award:* rjane714@aol.com

*Social Media:* **Carl Mario Nudi**  
**Irene Pavese**

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

**The Florida Bibliophile** is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983. It is published monthly from September to May. Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to: Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net. [www.floridabibliophilesociety.org](http://www.floridabibliophilesociety.org) © 2024 Florida Bibliophile Society

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

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