

The Florida Bibliophile

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November newsletter deadline: October 31, 2024 (see p. 24)

Membership in the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies is included with your FBS membership. The FABS Journal is now electronic as well as in print. Access a PDF of the Winter 2024 FABS Journal [here](#).



ANNUAL DUES for the 2024–2025 FBS Season are due by December 31, 2024!

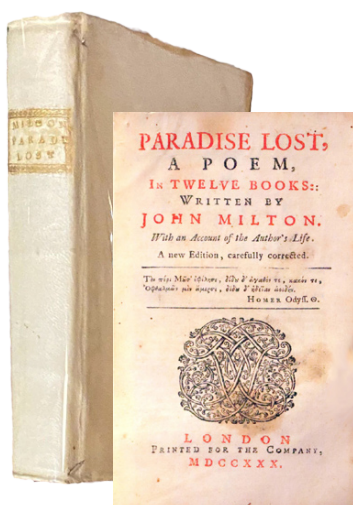
Membership is \$50 U.S. per household per year. Send inquiries and payments to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg FL 33747. Dues may also be paid using our PayPal account: floridabibliophiles@gmail.com.



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the September 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society by Sean Donnelly, FBS Recording Secretary

Nearly two dozen members and guests attended the inaugural meeting of the 2024–2025 season at Seminole Community Library on Sunday, September 15. President Charles Brown made welcoming remarks, noting two tables heavy-laden with books for the raffle, before inviting members to share stories about books they had acquired or read during the summer hiatus.



Milton's *Paradise Lost* in vellum; At right, title page.



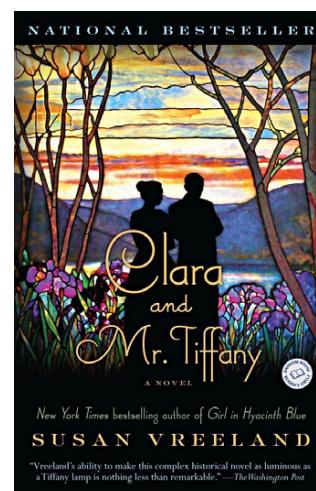
Dante's *Divine Comedy* in a 1902 binding in quarter leather with a marbled panel. English translation by Norton.



Martin Luther's response to the Catholic Church (1521), bound in tooled leather. At left, Luther's preface.

Rare bookseller **Bill Hale** kicked things off in high style with several treasures, including a 1730 copy of Milton's *Paradise Lost* in a handsome vellum binding, a 1902 edition of Dante's *The Divine Comedy* with a cover hand-painted by the Gianni family, and Martin Luther's response to the Catholic Church from 1521. These elicited many oohs and aahs from the audience!

Stephanie Montor followed with a historical novel called *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland, based on the true story of Clara Driscoll, who headed a team of female artisans at Tiffany's studios. Driscoll headed a team of women who cut and assembled glass of the objects that made Tiffany famous. Driscoll was responsible for the idea of making lamps and designed many of them. Her contribution was unacknowledged for decades because Tiffany, ever the showman, claimed to be the source of all the firm's designs.

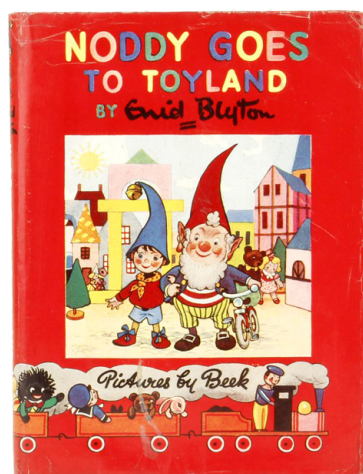


At right, the Tiffany wisteria lamp, one of the company's most famous, designed by Clara Driscoll.

Minutes, continued

Frances Glisson Doyle, attending her first FBS meeting, introduced herself as a collector of antique children's books. She spoke particularly about her collection of Book House books and their bookcases. This summer, she bought a rare one nearby in Tampa. She also shared her love of Enid Blyton, an English author she became acquainted with during her childhood in India after the partition.

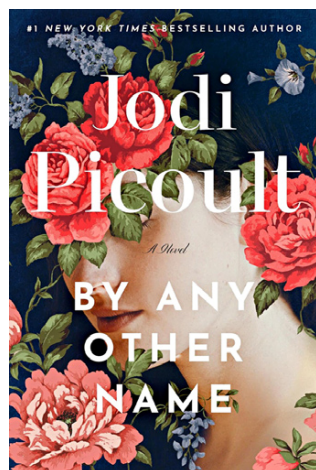
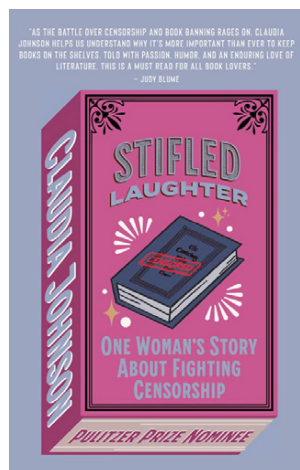
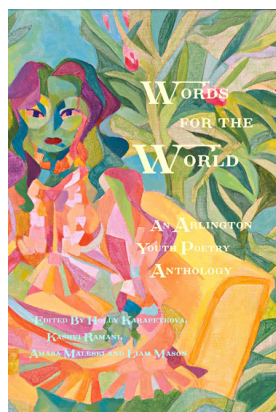
Noddy Goes to Toyland was one of the most famous of Enid Blyton's many books, starring one of her most famous characters. Among her other series were the Famous Five, Secret Seven, the Five Find-Outers, and Malory Towers books. Between 1922 and 1968, Blyton wrote around 800 books, read and loved by children throughout the British empire and Commonwealth for decades. It is estimated that over 500 million copies of her books were printed.



This boxed set of books was issued in 1925 in a house-shaped box. the Six books to the right are The Bookhouse Books, and the three to the left are the Travelship series. This is representative of the Bookhouse books, not the one that Frances shared at the meeting.

Roxanne Rhodes took this opportunity to share news about a new book by her friend Holly Karapetkova. *Dear Empire*, a collection of poems that recently won the Barry Spacks Poetry Prize, awarded annually for a full-length collection of poetry. The prize is given in honor of Santa Barbara's first Poet Laureate. Congratulations, Holly! *Dear Empire* will be released by Gunpowder Press in 2025.

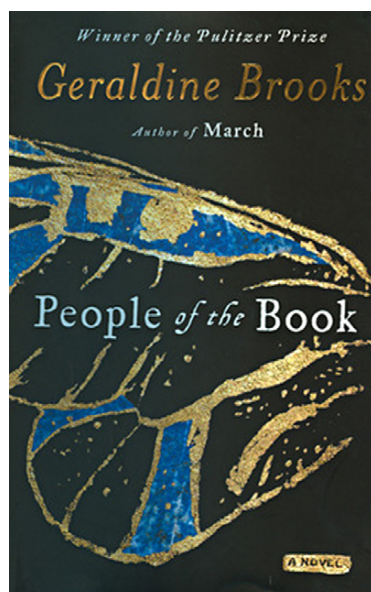
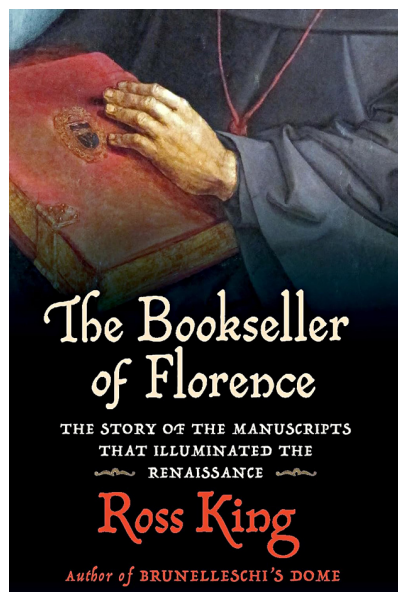
At right, Words for the World: An Anthology of Arlington Young Poets is Karapetkova's most recent book.



Jeannie Simons had two books to tell the group about. *Stifled Laughter: One Woman's Story About Fighting Censorship* is an older book but timely again because it is about banning books: in 1986, the school board in Lake City, Florida, banned *Lysistrata* and "The Miller's Tale." Fast forward to 2024 and books are being banned by the hundreds at a time. Is that a twisted kind of progress, from two books to hundreds of books? Jeannie's other book was a Jodi Picoult novel, which she described as Chic Lit Plus.

Minutes, continued

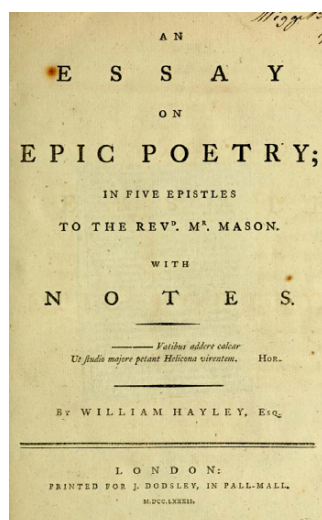
David Hall also brought two books. *The Bookseller of Florence* by Ross King is a historical work about the making and selling of Renaissance manuscripts. While reading that, David came across *The People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, a novel that tells the story of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in 15th-century Spain.



At right, a page from the the Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated manuscript of the text the accompanies the Passover Seder. It was created in Spain, probably Barcelona, around 1350, and is one of the oldest of its kind in the world. Its perilous journey from Spain to Bosnia took 400 years. It was sold to the Bosnian National Museum in 1894. It faced more dangers in the 20th century.

Russell Spera eschewed the microphone when he took to the podium. As a teacher at Dunedin High School, he can speak easily to a roomful of people without electronic assistance.

Russell has a passion for Dante, which he shares on his own Substack, russellspera.substack.com. He brought in a first edition of William Hayley's *An Essay on Epic Poetry* (1782), which includes an English translation of the first three cantos of Dante's *Inferno*. His copy was handsomely rebound by David Barry at Griffin Bookbinding.



Sean Donnelly followed with a poetry manuscript by Ralph Hodgson. This summer, he purchased the manuscript with three poems Hodgson had handwritten as a gift for his third wife, Aurelia. Sean read part of "The Song of Honour," a poem that celebrates the wonder and awe inspired by the natural world.



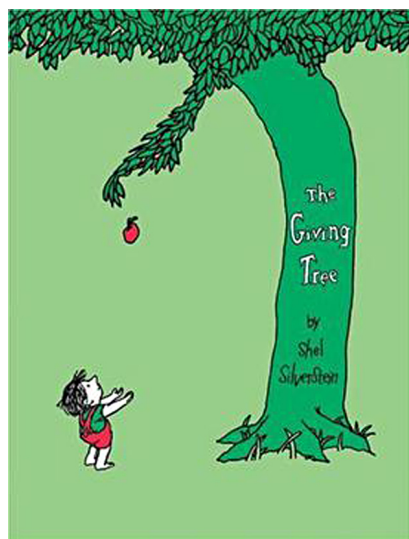
English poet Ralph Hodgson (1871–1962) was a member of the Georgian poets, including Siegfried Sassoon and A. E. Housman among others.

I CLIMBED A HILL as light fell short,
And rooks came home in scramble sort,
And filled the trees and flapped & fought
And sang themselves to sleep;
An owl from nowhere with no sound
Swung by and soon was nowhere found,

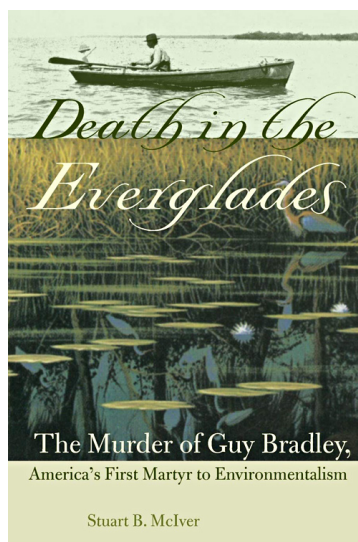
Opening lines of "The Song of Honour" (1913)

Minutes, continued

Irene Pavese delighted the group with a heartfelt reading of *The Giving Tree* (1964) by Shel Silverstein. The book has been controversial because the story can be taken two ways, one that is endearing and another that is quite sad. Silverstein had difficulty finding a publisher. Harper & Row took the chance but with a small first edition. Now, with millions of copies in print, the rare, true first edition can be valuable.

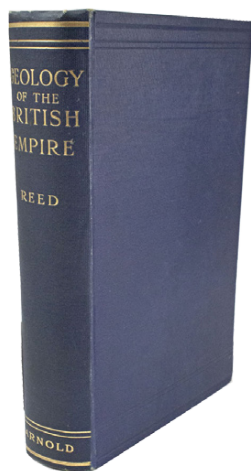


Lois Bradshaw told us about *Death in the Everglades*, the story of Guy Bradley, the first Audubon warden, who was killed while trying to protect birds that were being hunted to extinction – killed by the millions – for their feathers, which were used throughout the world in hats.

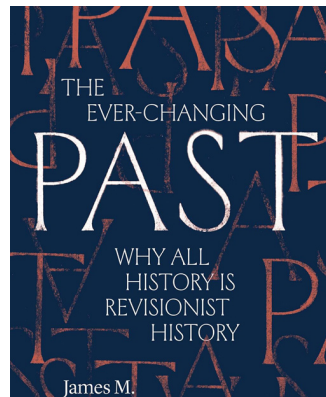


Guy Bradley (1870–1905), one of America's first game wardens, covered the Everglades and the Keys

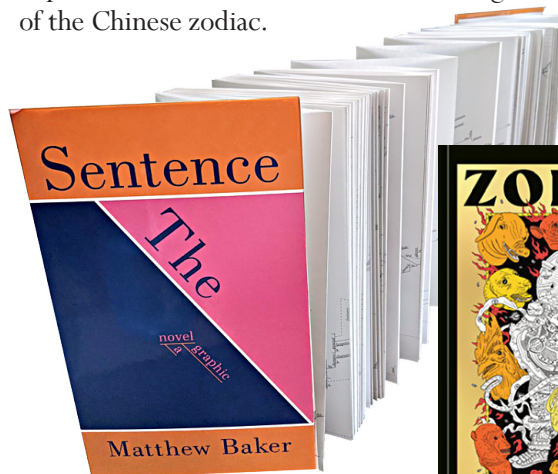
Lois was followed by her husband **Carey Gordon**. He told us how he acquired *The Geology of the British Empire* (1921) by F. R. C. Reed from a seller in South Africa. Carey admitted that it might sound like a dry subject, but as someone who has lived abroad, he delighted over the descriptions of places he knew.



Charles Brown took the stage to share *The Sentence*, a 7,000- word graphic novel in leprello format by Matthew Baker. This dystopian story consists, remarkably, of a single sentence, diagrammed! He also shared *Zodiac*, a graphic novel memoir written by dissident Chinese artist Ai Weiwei and illustrated by Gianluca Costantini. Weiwei explores the connection between artistic expression and intellectual freedom through the lens of the Chinese zodiac.



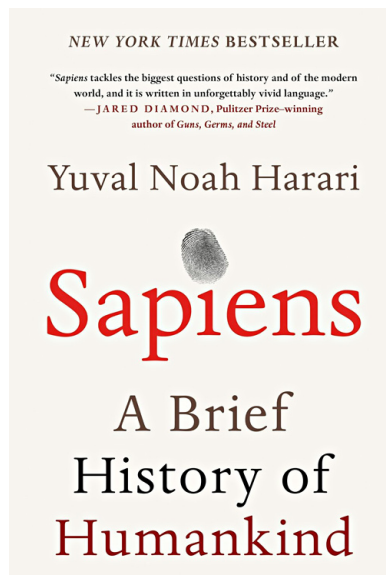
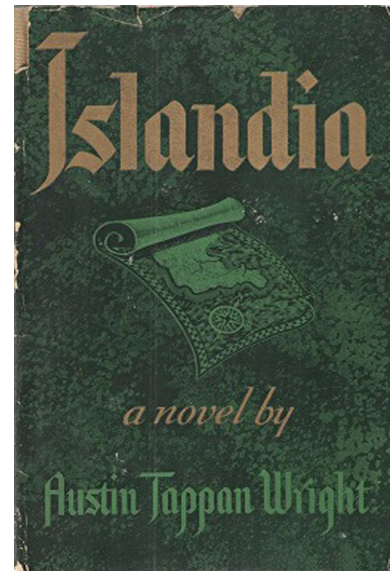
The second book he shared, *The Ever-Changing Past* (2021) by James Banner, discusses how all histories are revisionist because history is rewritten by each generation in light of new knowledge and perspectives.



Minutes, continued

Gary Simons brought in *Islandia* by Austin Tappan White, which Gary learned about from a book of essays by Lawrence Clark Powell that he purchased during a summer trip to Cooperstown, New York.

The novel was published posthumously in 1942 after the author's family discovered he had spent years working on a manuscript about an imaginary continent in the southern hemisphere.



Ed Cifelli rounded out the presentations. He first talked about the pleasures of reading in general and finally finding the time to read classics like *Middlemarch* and *Moby Dick*. The book he brought to share, though, was *Sapiens* (2018) by Yuval Noah Harari. One idea discussed in the book suggests that the use of fire for cooking allowed human brains to evolve and grow because the energy previously used by the body to digest uncooked food could be re-directed to the brain.

Ben Wiley spoke about a year's worth of reading one can experience with Chapter Chat, a book discussion group Ben moderates at Largo Public Library. See page 7 for Ben's list.

To conclude the show and tell, **Rob Norman**, joining us via Zoom from Houston, shared that he had also read *Sapiens*, and one point made in the book that impressed Rob was the fact that humans can create and believe in stories that help us progress culturally and socially. Rob made a lovely observation that our meeting, where we were gathered to share stories, is not unlike the gatherings held around communal fires by the earliest humans millennia ago.

On that note the formal part of the meeting ended and the books were raffled off.

A dozen members met after the meeting for dinner at Outback to continue the lively conversation inspired by the show and tell.

Minutes, concluded

CHAPTER CHAT, 2024-2025, 2nd Wednesday, 5:00pm. — YEAR 8!
The Juice Box, 325 W. Bay Dr. (formerly Evermore Cafe)—

Ben Wiley <bwiley@tampabay.rr.com>

September 11, 2024—1984, George Orwell (1949) (Banned Book Week, 9/22-28, 2024), a dystopian novel, the most banned book in America

October ²³9, 2024—THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY (2021), Amor Towles
Novel of 3 jailed young men transition to adulthood with conflicting moralities

November 13, 2024—I MUST BETRAY YOU (2022), Ruth Sepetys
Novel of 17 year old boy in Communist Romania dreams of becoming a writer

December 11, 2024—THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SAM HELL (2018), Robert Dugoni Novel of friendship, growing up with a genetic abnormality

January 8, 2025—MERCURY PICTURES PRESENTS (2022), Anthony Marra
Big, messy, ambitious, rambling novel set in WW2, Hollywood and Italy

February 12, 2025—STRANGERS AND COUSINS (2019), Leah Hager Cohen
Novel of sprawling family encounters, wedding, culture, memory and community

March 12, 2025—TIN MAN (2017), Sarah Winman
Novel, essentially a love letter to human kindness and friendship, loss and living

April 9, 2025—THE BETRAYAL OF ANNE FRANK (2022), Rosemary Sullivan
Nonfiction, cold case investigation, who betrayed the Frank family in Amsterdam

May 14, 2025—LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY (2022), Bonnie Grams
Novel, fired female chemist who becomes wildly successful cooking show host

June 11, 2025—GRANDMA GATEWOOD'S WALK (2014), Ben Montgomery
Nonfiction, Florida author's true story of Emma Rowena Caldwell Gatewood who saved the Appalachian Trail



Momento of Revolutionary Times: A Rare Paul Revere Engraving

On March 5, 1770, an altercation between a British guard and a Bostonian became a riot which drew several British soldiers who fired into a growing crowd of colonists. Five killed and six wounded in what would be called the Boston Massacre. The event was quickly committed to print by a young engraver named Paul Revere. More than 250 years later, only 30 of the 200 original prints are known, and one will soon be offered at auction.

In 1770, tensions between the British and the Massachusetts colonists had been steadily increasing. A disastrous war – the Seven Years’ War – had seeds in a regional conflict between the British and the French over their territorial claims in North America. Shifting alliances in Europe brought the war there in 1756. As more European powers entered the war on either the English-Prussian side or the French-Austrian side, the conflict spread to their colonies in Africa and India. It became the bloodiest conflict of a bloody century. Winston Churchill called it “the first world war.”

When the war ended in 1763, the British had benefitted but at huge cost. They were in serious need of cash and decided to increase taxes on their American subjects in an effort to replenish their coffers. A series of taxes and tariffs became an increasing burden on the colonists. The phrase “taxation without representation” was born. Demonstrations became more frequent and more violent. In 1768, the British occupied Boston, an additional insult that reminded Americans that they were subjects not citizens.

These events set the stage in 1770 for the Boston Massacre, or as it was called in England, the Incident on King Street.

It was common at the time for such events to be memorialized and communicated through prints. Revere followed a sketch by Henry Pelham (brother of Early American artist John Singleton Copley) to engrave the scene in copper. Two hundred

copies of *The Bloody Massacre perpetrated in King Street, Boston on March 5th 1770* by a party of the 29th Regiment were printed.

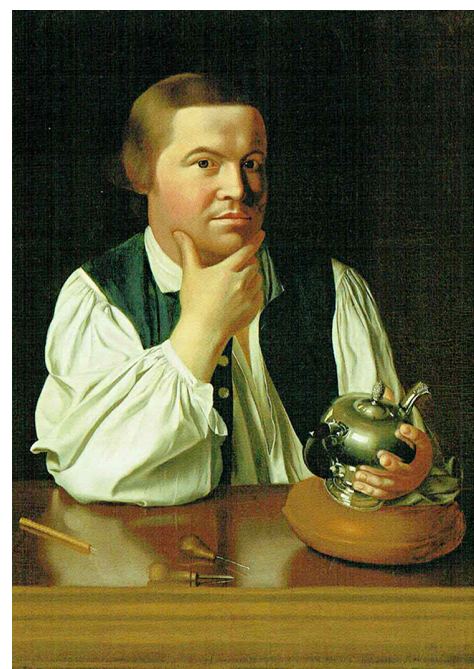
Then as now, it was important to be the first with the story. Revere completed the engraving and printed it before the end of March.

Pelham printed a version of his own a few days later and wrote an angry letter to Revere accusing him of “stealing” the sketch.

The print shows a line of Redcoats firing into a dozen colonists, almost like an execution. In reality, a few British soldiers were scrambling to protect themselves and their comrade from an angry mob of 60 armed men. In simplifying the action, Pelham and Revere amplified the message, and that was important thing to the fiercely patriotic Revere.

The print to be offered by Early American History Auctions, probably at the end of October, comes from the collection of J. William Middendorf, who served as Secretary of the Navy and in several ambassadorial posts. Middendorf was described by the auction house as one the “foremost collectors of historic Americana.”

In addition to the Revere print, Middendorf is releasing a selection of about 100 prints from his collection. The offering celebrates Middendorf’s 100th birthday, which occurred on September 22. Apropos of the occasion, his book *On My 100-Year Watch: Tyrants and Patriots* has just been published by the Naval War College Foundation.



Paul Revere (1768), portrait by John Singleton Copley

Boston Museum of Fine Art

Paul Revere, *concluded*

Revere's Bloody Massacre is full of touches that portray horror and injustice. At the right, the smaller sign reads "Custom House," while the larger one comments "Butcher's Hall." Among the scene men falling dead and wounded, a woman forlorn woman clasps her hands. In the foreground, a small dog remains strangely passive though with its tail between its legs. At the bottom, Revere lists the dead. Shown at original size. Hand-colored.

Image of an Era: The Photo Albums of Queen Mary

Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes was born in May 1867. She was known formally as Victoria Mary but in her family as May, after her birth month. She will be more familiar to many readers as the wife of King George V, when she was Mary, Queen of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions and Empress of India, or Queen Mary.*

Her marriage to George V and her two sons who became kings – Edward VIII and George VI – represented a restoration of sorts because her grandfather’s marriage to a commoner had cut off her father, her siblings, and herself from royal succession.

Getting to Know May

The kings and queens of England had close ties to the nobility of Germany dating back to the 17th century, specifically the powerful House of Hanover. When England’s Queen Anne died in 1714, she was succeeded by her second cousin, Georg Ludwig, who had just become the Elector of Hanover after the death of his mother, Sophia, Electress of Hanover. In 1714, he held two titles: Elector of Hanover and George I, the first king of Great Britain from the House of Hanover.

Let’s fast-forward through the Georges – I, II, III, and IV – to William IV and his niece, who became Queen Victoria in 1834.** And here we are in the 19th century.

May’s father was Francis, Duke of Teck (in Germany) and held a title in Austria. Her mother was Mary Adelaide of Cambridge (but born in Germany). Mary Adelaide was a granddaughter

* Names, names, names 1 – It’s enough to drive one a little batty, but let’s clarify. It was very common for the nobility to have multiple first names to honor relatives and ancestors from both the mother’s and father’s heritage. So, the same names reappear in successive generations, often causing confusion. Therefore, it was also common for these people to have a family name or nickname. Names could change again if someone became a king or queen, at which point, they chose a regnal name, i.e., the name they would rule under.

Sources: Royal Collection Trust; dearest-mama.com; European Royal History; Steve Donoghue



Infant Victoria Mary of Teck with her parents, Mary Adelaide and Francis Duke of Teck in 1867

of George III and first cousin to Queen Victoria. However, Francis’s father, the Duke Alexander of Württemberg (also in Germany) had married a commoner. A marriage between a member of the nobility and a commoner is called morganatic; the spouse and children of the noble may not inherit the position or privileges of the noble. Thus, despite Mary Adelaide’s pedigree, Francis and his children had no right of inheritance among British nobility. Francis and Mary Adelaide were of lower status at the British court, and though they associated with the royal family, they were “poor relations” who nevertheless overspent and whose debts forced them

** Names, names, names 2 – Victoria’s father, William IV, was the last British monarch who was House of Hanover. Victoria married Albert, who was a Prince of another German territory, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, and that was Victoria’s “House.” In 1917, during World War I, King George V decided to break with his German heritage and declared that henceforth his family and all relations would be House of Windsor, which applies to his successors Edward VIII, George VI, Elizabeth II, and Charles III.

Queen Mary's Photo Albums, *continued*

Wedding of Prince George, Duke of York (later King George V), and Princess Victoria Mary of Teck (later Queen Mary), at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, in London, England. Painting by Laurits Tuxen.

leave Britain to save money. They lived in Florence for several years.

It was Queen Victoria who first saw promise in May as a match for her grandson Albert. He had been involved in a number of scandals. May's financial and social status and Albert's reputation made it difficult for either of them to find appropriate suitors. Victoria was eager to see Albert settled in marriage, and when Victoria convinced Albert to propose, May was eager to improve her station; Albert was acquiescent. They were engaged in December 1891.

Six weeks later, Albert died of pneumonia during the global flu pandemic of 1889–1895. May's prospects were suddenly shattered, and though she had not been in love with Albert, she grieved as did the entire royal family. However, she stayed at court, and she and Albert's younger brother George became close. They married in 1893, and by all accounts enjoyed a long and devoted marriage.

May's husband, George, was crowned George V in 1910, and May became Queen Mary, choosing not

to use her famous first name, Victoria.

Her husband guided Great Britain through the First World War, her son George VI guided the nation through the Second World War, and she lived just long enough to see her granddaughter Elizabeth become queen. Her son Edward abdicated the throne less than a year after his coronation to marry an American – and a twice-divorced one at that – Wallis Simpson. It was the scandal of the century. The marriage went against Edward's role as head of the Church of England and became a major disruption for a nation on the eve of war. Mary never lost affection for Edward, but she never forgave him for abandoning his royal duty, and she never acknowledged Mrs. Simpson.

In the popular imagination, Queen Mary was seen as a “formidable, upright, even magnificent figure, an austere presence at court functions, always stiffly jeweled and unsmiling.” But in private, one couple apprehensive of her visit shortly after the death of George V, reported:

I found her absolutely delightful, indeed I

Queen Mary's Photo Albums, *continued*

have never liked anyone so much so quickly . . . We then walked up to the Library, the drawing room, even to our bedroom, and climbed to the nursery, and the Queen picked up Paul and played with him. He clutched the royal nose, to her amusement, and tried to tug at her earrings.

The same contrast between public and private is found in her letters, diaries, and photo albums.

Queen Mary's Photo Albums

Beginning in 1880, Mary documented the next 73 years of her life in photo albums, 33 in all, containing more than 12,000 photos that she collected, arranged and captioned. Despite the many tumultuous times Mary encountered, her albums are not a candid record; they focus on official engagements, family gatherings, and travel. They portray the confidence, integrity, and strength of the royal family and, above all,

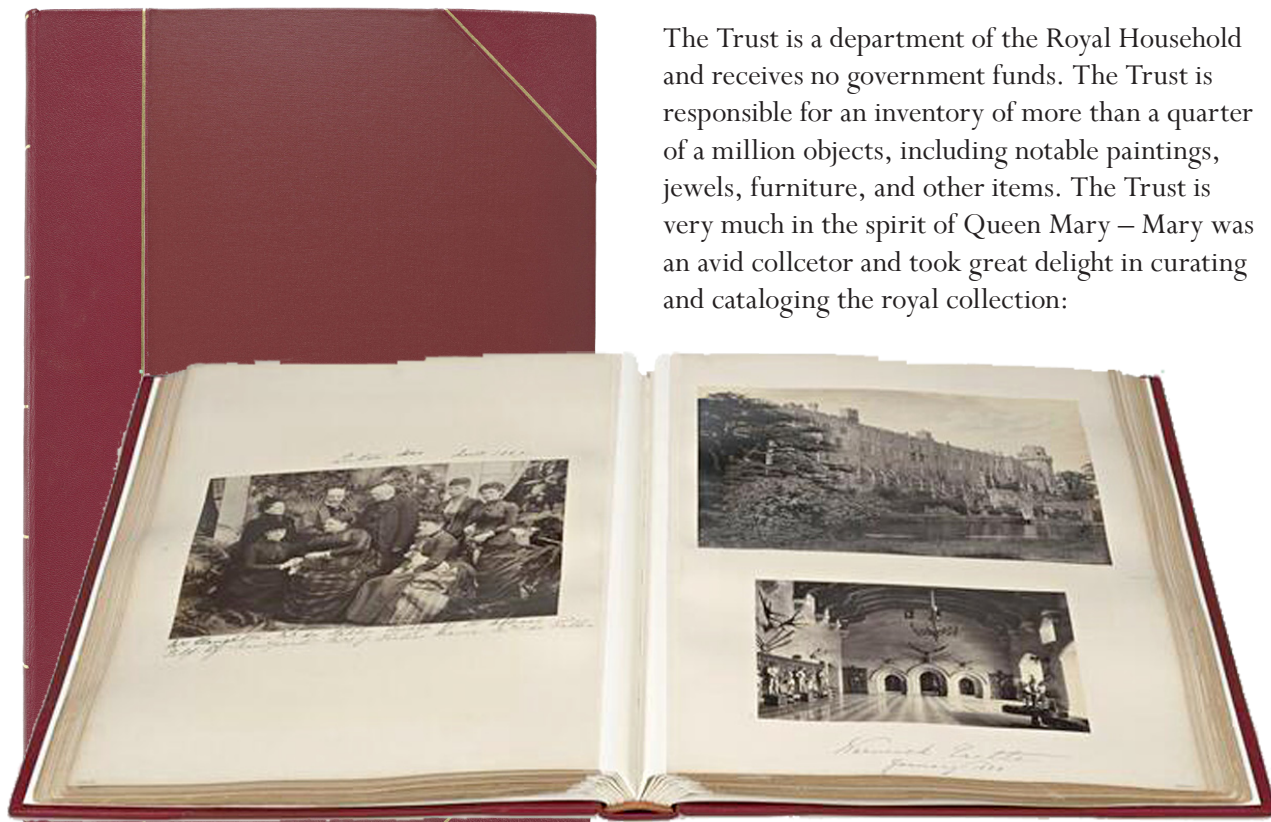


Queen Mary and King George V in 1914, at the beginning of World War I

stability. Anything else would have been considered inappropriate and disrespectful.

While the albums are carefully curated in how they portray the royal family, they are important documentation of an era. As such, they are held and cared for by the Royal Collection Trust, established in 1993 after a major fire in Windsor Castle. The Trust has the duty “to conserve the works and enhance the public’s appreciation and understanding of art.”

The Trust is a department of the Royal Household and receives no government funds. The Trust is responsible for an inventory of more than a quarter of a million objects, including notable paintings, jewels, furniture, and other items. The Trust is very much in the spirit of Queen Mary – Mary was an avid collector and took great delight in curating and cataloging the royal collection:



Queen Mary's photo albums comprise 33 volumes, each about 21 inches high and 15 inches wide when closed. Altogether, they contain over 12,000 photos, each on placed and labeled by Queen Mary.

Queen Mary's Photo Albums, *concluded*

There is no doubt that Mary (who reigned from 1910 to 1936) was obsessed with collecting, restoring, and reorganizing royal artifacts for the House of Windsor. "My one great hobby," she called it. (*Vanity Fair*, Nov. 16, 2021)

The Trust recently completed a major project to conserve Queen Mary's albums.

The albums' conservation treatment included cleaning, repairs to the paper and binding and in some cases, rebinding. The Royal Trust's goal was to make the albums safer to handle so that they can be digitized and displayed. Making the albums safer to handle will also make them more accessible and facilitate research.

Even the format of the albums is "royal" at about 21 inches tall by 15 inches wide. The album pages are heavy paper, but they date to a period when most paper of this type was made from wood pulp, which tends to become brittle with age. Some pages had split at the binding, and decisions had to be made about how to repair them. Some pages had chipped, and the pieces, when available, were reattached, or "reconsolidated." The conservators decided that the adhesives used in these repairs should be traditional adhesives that have proven themselves

over centuries, rather than modern adhesives which might cause deterioration over time.

Bindings required various levels of repairs. Replacement materials were generally new and acid-free. New leather bindings were tooled, embossed, and gilded to match the originals, many of which featured Queen Mary's signature in the upper right corner of the front cover. Rebinding must take into account a major principle of conservation, which is to rebuild the piece to make it easy for future conservators to do any needed work.

In addition to the paper and binding, the photographs were also carefully examined for any conservation work. The conservators were reluctant to alter the books in any way, but protective sheets were added between some pages where the facing photographs should not be in direct contact.

The Trust's annual report documents the completion of the conservation and the ongoing effort to digitize this time capsule. The full value of the conservation will become apparent as Queen Mary's photos are made available to the public and as they become a source for researchers shedding new light on the royal family and its times. For the conservators, these irreplaceable albums are preserved for the next 100 years.



Queen Mary
Prince Richard,
Mary's grandson

Princess Elizabeth,
Mary's granddaughter

Prince Charles,
Elizabeth's son

Queen Elizabeth,
Elizabeth's mother,
Mary's daughter-in-law

Princess Margaret,
Mary's granddaughter

Unknown photographer, 1951



Crime Group Steals Rare Books from European National Libraries

The locales read like a James Bond thriller: Riga, Vilnius, Berlin, Munich, Helsinki, Paris. The plot involves the ingenious theft of rare books, mostly rare editions of the works of Alexander Pushkin and other Russian authors. In the past two years, 170 books with a total value of \$2.6 million have been taken – not so much taken as replaced in most cases.

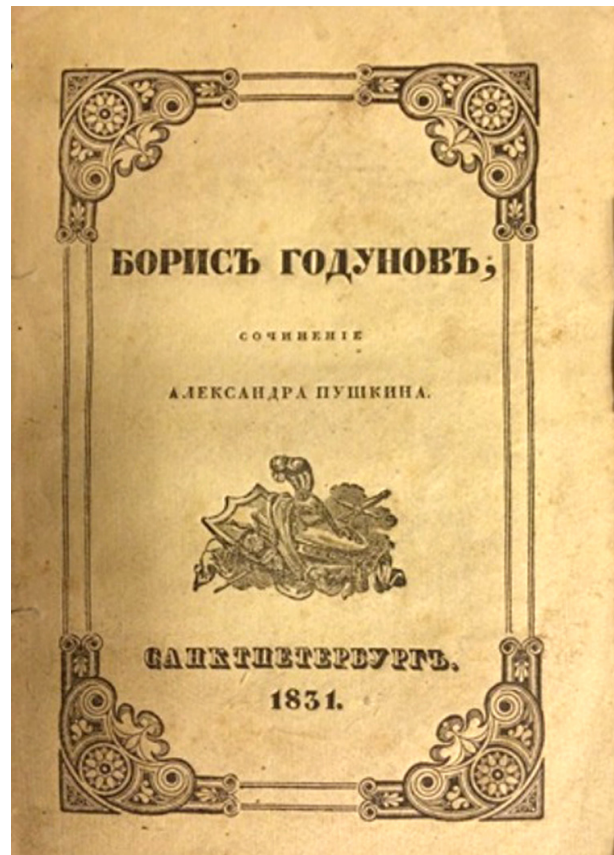
Well, these values may not be Goldfinger levels, but for the book world, they are very significant, and the theft of these books from national libraries across Europe is a great cultural loss. A professor at the University of Warsaw compared it to “gouging out the crown jewels.”

Pushkin, Lermontov, and Gogol may not be household names in these parts, but they are among Russia’s most respected authors. Alexander Pushkin is widely considered the greatest Russian poet and the founder of modern Russian literature. He is held in great reverence, his works are still widely read, and early editions of his works are highly prized. So central is he to Russian literature that he is called the Shakespeare of Russia.

The *New York Times* reported that the first of the thefts occurred at the University of Tartu in Estonia in April 2022. A man and his nephew, speaking Russian and claiming to be Ukrainian refugees, asked to see first editions of Alexander Pushkin and Nikolai Gogol. They returned over the next few days and studied the works closely. They claimed the nephew was applying for a scholarship in the U.S. so the librarians were eager to help. But a few months later, during a routine inventory, the theft was discovered. Eight rare books had been replaced with facsimiles.

Thefts from libraries in Paris and Lyon prompted the French authorities to contact Europol, an agency of the European Union (EU) whose “mission is to support its Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international and organised crime, cybercrime, and terrorism.”

Sources: New York Times; Europol; France 24; British Library; The Guardian



Title page of the first edition of Boris Godunov. Written in 1825, the play uses an episode from Russian history to comment on contemporary politics. It was a controversial play, not published until 1831 and not performed until 1870. It identifies “Aleksander Pushkin” as the author and St. Petersburg as the place of publication.

Europol began an investigation. What seemed like an isolated case began to connect with others. Similar crimes had been committed across several countries, including Georgia, which is not an EU nation. The modus operandi was key. As time went on, more thefts of rare books were identified – 170 in all – with features connecting them to the Tartu theft identified at various libraries in Europe, notably, the University of Warsaw, which had lost 78 books. Europol, which investigates, and Eurojust, which coordinates criminal investigations across national borders, identified the elements of an organized crime group, or OCG.

A few were simply stolen, but in most cases, the stolen books were replaced with facsimiles as had been done in Estonia. The thieves would visit the

Crime Group, concluded

library repeatedly, studying, measuring, and photographing the books. Then finally, they would return with the facsimiles and make the substitution. Some of the facsimiles were so precisely copied that only an expert would notice the differences.

Additional investigation and coordination by Europol and Eurojust with police organizations across several countries resulted in arrests of three suspects in Estonia, France, and Lithuania. Another two were detained in France. Finally, on April 24, 2024, Europol and cooperating authorities hit 27 locations in Georgia and Latvia in an operation called an “action day.” Four Georgians were arrested in Georgia and Latvia.

Radio Free Europe’s Georgian News Service reported that “dozens of individuals, their residences, and related book sales sites were searched. A large amount of cash and hundreds of books were recovered.” The recovered books numbered over 150; their provenance is being determined. One of the books is believed to be among those stolen from the French libraries that sparked the investigation.

It has been reported that this was the biggest theft of rare books since the Second World War. Early editions of Russian writers, mainly Pushkin, have been lost from the libraries of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, France, Germany, Switzerland and Finland. Several of the books have been identified with items sold in auctions in Moscow and St. Petersburg. These are probably irrecoverable.

“The librarians of the University of Warsaw, risking their lives during the war, secretly built a double ceiling and hid the books so that they wouldn’t disappear or burn down,” a professor told Agence France-Presse. “And we couldn’t protect them from looting.”



In a coordinated “action day,” authorities searched 27 locations in a half dozen countries. In one Georgian location, they found caches of rare books, as shown in these Europol images from the seizure. Over 150 rare books taken from national libraries in the European Union were found. Included was a book believed to be from a French library that initially alerted Europol to the thefts.

The Search for Sappho

Homer has enjoyed fame as one of the greatest poets for over 2500 years. Even in ancient times, his *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were regarded as the high points of literary achievement. But he was not alone in this singular regard, the Greek poet Sappho was held in equally high esteem. Plato called her “the tenth Muse” and her likeness appeared on coins.

From a modern point of view, the main difference between them is that all of Homer’s roughly 30,000 lines of poetry have survived whereas only a few hundred of the 10,000 lines Sappho is believed to have writtarn are known today.

Like Homer, little is known of Sappho outside her reputation. In her native Greek dialect, Aeolic, she was Psappha, probably born around 620 BCE to an aristocratic family on the island of Lesbos. We have names of possible brothers and a husband.

Sappho refers to a daughter named Kleïs, but the Greek word can also refer to a servant. Sappho



This ancient coin shows a draped bust of Sappho (obverse; left) and a poet’s lyre (reverse; right). Shown at about twice its actual size, the copper alloy coin was minted at Mytilene, the primary city of the island of Lesbos. It was struck in the 2nd century BCE, about 400 years after Sappho is believed to have lived on the island. The bust is accompanied by the word ΨΑΠΦΩ (PSAPPHO), and the lyre by “Mytilene.” Most of Sappho’s work was lyric poetry, which as the name suggests, was intended to be sung while playing the lyre.

may have been headmistress of a school of her own. Political problems may have resulted in exile to Sicily. She may have lived to age 70, or she may have killed herself at a young age over unrequited love. Many colorful tradtions survive, but few can be confirmed.

Like many famous authors, Sappho was a victim of Athenian comedy of the 5th century. Surviving references from these works add to the confusion. She was depicted in a comedy by Menander (340–290 BCE) as jumping off a cliff in an emotional frenzy over being rejected by a ferryman Phaon. The story is now considered fictional but it was influential for centuries.

Sappho often writes poems of love for men or women in the first person. Whether this is literal truth or poetic strategy, she was parodied as promiscuous in Athenian comedy, but in the hands of a comedian is this an exaggeration of her licentiousness or her prudery? This ambiguous reputation continued for centuries and may have influenced church leaders beginning in the 4th century to condemn and even destroy her work. Waves of this kind of repression and destruction may explain why her work diasappeared over time.

Sappho’s poetry may have been compiled in Athens



This Greek vase, dated to around 440 BCE, shows Sappho reading a poem while another woman plays the lyre.

Sources: British Library; Artnet; theconversation.com; Poetry Foundation; poets.org

Sappho, concluded

in the 5th century BCE. Alexandrian scholars probably compiled the 10,000 lines of her poetry into eight or nine books – the exact number is not certain – divided by their poetic meter. Her poems were included in anthologies of the Hellenistic period, roughly 300–30 BCE.

Five Sappho almost-complete poems are known:

- The Tithonus poem (12 lines)
- Ode to Aphrodite (21 lines)
- Fragment 16 (20 lines)
- Fragment 31 (17 lines)
- The Brothers Poem (20 lines)

From this list, it is clear that most of the 650 known

fragments of Sappho's poetry are small, some as small as one word – for example, fragment 169A, a word meaning “wedding gifts” (*athremata*), survives as part of a dictionary of rare words by Hesychius of Alexandria, *Alphabetical Collection of All Words* (c. 600 CE). With a total of 50,000 words, Hesychius was the late Roman period's guide to the centuries of Greek literature that had come before.

Below is the “Brother's Poem” in the very modern translation of William Logan. It may not be the most representative of Sappho's poems, but it has some topical connections.

The search for Sappho will continue.



Charaxos and Larichos

Say what you like about Charaxos,
that's a fellow with a fat-bellied ship
always in some port or other.

What does Zeus care, or the rest of his gang?

Now you'd like me on my knees,
crying out to Hera, “Blah, blah, blah,
bring him home safe and free of warts,”
or blubbing, “Wah, wah, wah, thank you,

thank you, for curing my liver condition.”
Good grief, gods do what they like.
They call down hurricanes with a whisper
or send off a tsunami the way you would a love letter.

If they have a whim, they make some henchmen
fix it up, like those idiots in the *Iliad*.
A puff of smoke, a little fog, away goes the hero,
it's happily ever after. As for Larichos,

that lay-a-bed lives for the pillow. If for once
he'd get off his ass, he might make something of himself.
Then from that reeking sewer of my life
I might haul up a bucket of spring water.

— William Logan, translator; *Poetry* July-Aug. 2016



Lights Out!



Just another Saturday night at Jacksonville's Chamblin Bookmine – except tonight it's **Lights Out!**

Ron Chamblin founded the Bookmine in 1976, and in the nearly 50 years since, he has built it into one of the largest used bookstores – if not the largest – in the Southeast. The current home of the Bookmine is a former furniture store on Jacksonville's Westside, attached outbuildings, and two warehouses. It's vast and labyrinthine – a bibliophile's dream. There's a smaller version with a cafe and coffee shop in downtown Jax.

On Saturday night, the Bookmine is open until 9 p.m. Business is steady with customers filing in the front door and others lining up at the sales counter.

Off to the side is a doorway into the darkness, now a giant maw with enormous

teeth – abandon all hope, ye who enter!

It is then that you notice the witches and fairies and superheros and generically caped creatures that populate the Bookmine tonight willingly entering the fearsome portal! It's **Lights Out!**

Half the Bookmine plunged into darkness. Explore at your own risk! If you forgot your flashlight, Chamblin's will loan you one. Book browsing in the dark with a few Halloween surprises to greet you!

The cashier explains that one night, the lights went out, and rather than closing, the staff offered flashlights. Many people used their phones. The customers loved it, and the staff thought that this could be a great tradition. And by all spooky appearances, it is!

Please bring your purchase to the sales desk before . . . aaaaarrrrrggggghhhh!



ESTHER INGLIS

Special Events, UK and U.S. October, 2024 – January, 2025



Esther Inglis (Dieppe, France, c1570 – Leith, Scotland, 1624)
National Galleries of Scotland

Florida Bibliophile Society Honors Esther Inglis

Among the talented women of the Renaissance, Esther Inglis was a case apart. Born into the artisan class, she achieved high prestige during her day as a gifted calligrapher, book illustrator, painter, and creator of miniature books.

Special Events Commemorating the 400th Anniversary Of Inglis's Death:

University of Edinburgh, October 19-20, 2024

Transnational Conference: *Esther Inglis in Context and Culture*

<https://llc.ed.ac.uk/english-literature/events/esther-inglis-contexts-culture>

Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. Oct. 25, 2024-Jan. 19, 2025

Exhibition: *Little Books, Big Gifts: The Artistry of Esther Inglis*

Selected Manuscripts, Houghton Library, Harvard; Folger Library, DC.

<https://estheringlis.com/>



Contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, Princeton Research Forum, NJ.
Member & 2012-2015 VP, Florida Bibliophile Society. Senior Editor, *Scriblerian*.

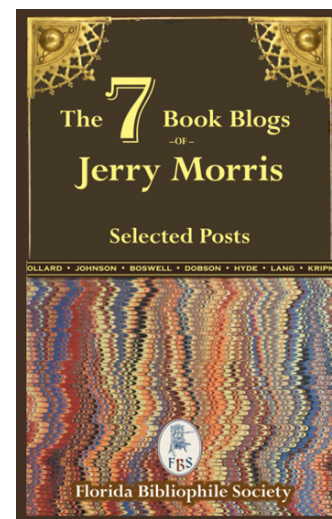


FBS Publications

The 7 Book Blogs of Jerry Morris

FBS. May 2023. 312 pp. \$50.00 (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 Jerry's devoted readers, these posts display the range of Jerry's bibliophilic interests and his many contributions to the history of books and bibliophiles such as Mary and Donald Hyde, J. O. Halliwell-Phillips, Adrian H. Joline, and Madeline Kripke. Larry McMurtry and his famous bookshop, Booked Up, in Archer City, Texas, and John R. Lindmark and his ill-fated shop in Poughkeepsie, New York, as also included. And of course, Jerry's personal passions: Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, Charles Lamb, and William Strunk, author of *The Elements of Style*. Jerry's meticulous research throughout the world of bibliophiles allows him to illuminate many fascinating individuals and publications. Available on Amazon: [hardback](#) & [paperback](#).



"I Contain Multitudes...."



Selections from the
Ed S. Centeno Walt Whitman Collection



"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. This book contains photographs, descriptions, and history of 100 items in Ed's collection, including editions of *Leaves of Grass*, Whitman ephemera, period collectibles, and commissioned works of art. This is an excellent introduction to Whitman, with information on his creative process and output and his

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

The Florida Bibliophile

Nine issues per year, September–May. \$75.00 per year with membership.

Among the best bibliophile newsletters in the U.S., the digital edition of *The Florida Bibliophile* is received by hundreds of book lovers. We now offer a print edition for members. Each month's issue contains 30–40 lavishly illustrated pages of news, book events, book history, original articles, and much more. As convenient as digital is, there's nothing like print. Beautifully printed on quality paper, it's a book lover's delight!

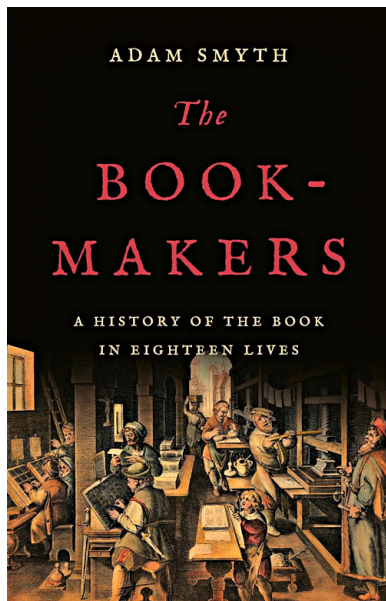
Order from the Florida Bibliophile Society by sending a check for \$125.00 to cover membership and subscription. Send your membership form and check to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg FL 33747. You may also request a subscription via email at floridabibliophiles@gmail.com and use the same address to pay through PayPal.



Books in Brief

The Book-Makers: A History of the Book in Eighteen Lives

Adam Smyth
Basic Books
400 pp., May 2024



Scholar and bookmaker Adam Smyth tells the 500-year history of printed books through the people who created them.

We read books for the stories they tell, but each book in our hands has a story of its own. Through 18 people who contributed to the many forms of the book over five centuries, *The Book-Makers* is a new approach to the story of Western

culture's most important object, the book.

Smyth's telling of the history of the book begins not with the well-known Johann Gutenberg but with the lesser known but equally innovative Wynkyn de Worde. Where Gutenberg produced a majestic Bible for the few, de Worde printed bestsellers and made literature widely available.

From de Worde in the 15th century to the small press of Nancy Cunard and the zine movement in 20th century, Smyth reminds us that behind every book we read are human hands. We meet printers and binders, publishers and artists, paper-makers and library founders who took the book into new

directions, some who established a reputation and others who emerged to play their role and then quietly slipped out of history.

Adam Smyth is a professor of English literature and the history of the book at Balliol College, University of Oxford. He also runs the 39 Steps Press in a barn in Oxfordshire.

Sources: Basic Books; Marmot Library Network



The Untold Story of Books: A Writer's History of Book Publishing

Michael Castleman
Unnamed Press
270 pp., July 2024

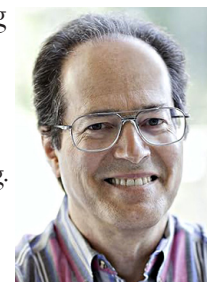
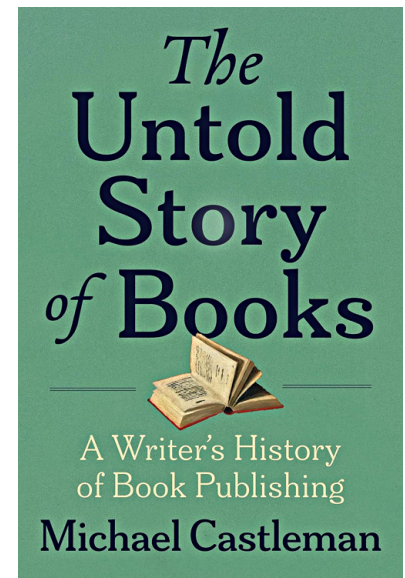
Another history of the book? Yes, but from a special point of view: the history of publishing and the business of books.

From Gutenberg to Amazon, Castleman tells the history of publishing from a veteran author's point of view. Witty, entertaining, and full of remarkable new insights, it is a deeply researched, fascinating history of the idiosyncratic book business — aimed at authors, aspiring authors, booksellers, industry professionals, and everyone who loves to read books.

Castleman organizes his history by three distinct book businesses, all defined by the evolution of printing. He explores how each new book business upended its predecessor, forcing authors, publishers, and booksellers to adapt to ever-changing circumstances. It's a story full of surprises: how books became favored Christmas presents; why New York is the nation's publishing capital; and why book endorsements are called "blurbs." Arriving at the present day, Castleman paints a compelling portrait of an evolving book business full of new promise and peril.

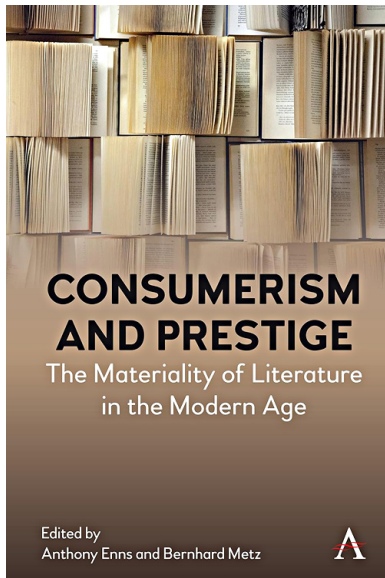
Michael Castleman is a journalist by training. Former editor of *Medical Self-Care Magazine*, he has published widely in magazines and online. *The Untold Story of Books* is his 20th book.

Source: Unnamed Press



Books in Brief, *continued***Consumerism and Prestige: The Materiality of Literature in the Modern Age**

Anthony Enns and Bernhard Metz, eds.
Anthem Press
253 pp., July 2022



It has been said that the first battle for a publisher is get the consumer to look at a book, pick it up, read the blurb, and scan the pages. Each of these acts engages the book as a physical, visual, and even olfactory object.

Consumerism and Prestige examines how the material aspects of literary texts, such as the cover, binding,

typography, and paper stock, reflect or even determine their cultural status.

It's a matter to taste. In many cases, for example, the distinctions between "highbrow" and "lowbrow" taste have little to do with the text of the books themselves, as books often function as markers of socioeconomic status, like clothing or home décor. One might even go so far as to say that the concept of literary taste is more closely related to fashion sense than critical judgment. The anthology seeks to address this claim by examining how the tensions between consumerism and prestige reflect

fundamental historical changes with regard to the development of technology, literacy, and social power.

Anthony Enns is an associate professor in the Department of English at Dalhousie University.

Bernard Metz is an associate director of the online edition of the reviews and letters of Albrecht von Hallers (1708–1777) at the University of Bern.

Source: Anthem Press

**Early English Periodicals and Early Modern Social Media**

Margaret J. M. Ezell
Cambridge University Press
75 pp., June 2024

Cambridge's Elements series continues with this exploration of a print genre that was introduced and rapidly gained popularity in England in the late 17th and early 18th centuries: the periodical.

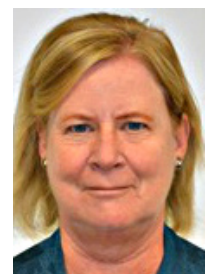
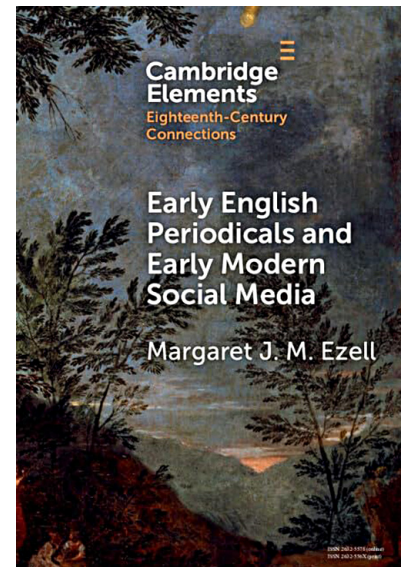
Traditionally, literary history has focused on only one aspect of the periodical: the essay. This Element examines the periodical in its original, complex, literary ecosystem as a disposable text competing for an emerging audience in the context of a new phenomenon: the literary celebrity.

The relationship between authors, publishers, and audiences in the early periodicals is a dynamic one in which each group played a part. New formats, new content, new audiences – we are having a similar experience in our continuously evolving digital environment, for example, the transition from print to digital, the emergence of social media, and perhaps we are starting another cycle with the introduction of artificial intelligence. The periodical also experienced a shift from its original stress on sociability to a more commercially driven media culture.

This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

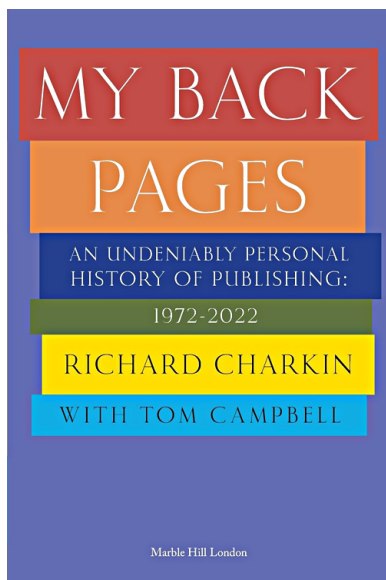
Margaret J. M. Ezell is a Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University and the Sara and John Lindsey Chair of Liberal Arts.

Source: Cambridge University Press



Books in Brief, concluded**My Back Pages: An Undeniably Personal History of Publishing, 1972–2022**

Richard Charkin and Tom Campbell
Marble Hill Publishers
178 pp., April 2023



Richard Charkin's experience as a publisher is unique among his generation.

Over the past half century, Charkin has been (at different times) a scientific and medical publisher, a journal publisher, a digital publisher, and a general publisher. He has worked for family-owned, publicly-owned, university-owned companies, and start-ups.

In this memoir, he uses his unrivalled experience to illustrate the profound changes that have affected the identity and practices, but not the purpose, of publishing.

Of course, there are stories about well-known personalities he has encountered in his career, such as Madonna, Jeffrey Archer, Robert Maxwell, Paul Hamlyn, Mohammed Al-Fayed, and many more. But his primary purpose is to provide an insider's account of the social, technological, commercial, and geographical developments in publishing as

seen through the eyes of a gifted all-round publisher who has made a very significant contribution to the profession.



Richard Denis Paul Charkin OBE has held important position at all major UK publishers among other achievements.

Tom Campbell is a novelist. He read history at Edinburgh University. He is the author of *Fold* and *The Planner*.



Source: Marble Hill Publishers; Bloomsbury Publishing

[Bookish fiction]

The Booklover's Library – A Novel

Madeline Martin
Hanover Square Press
432 pp., September 2024

A heartwarming story about a mother and daughter in wartime England and the power of books that bring them together, by the bestselling author of *The Last Bookshop in London*.

In Nottingham, England, widow Emma Taylor finds herself in desperate need of a job. She and her beloved daughter Olivia have always managed fine on their own, but legal restrictions prohibit widows with children from most employment opportunities. She's left with only one option: persuading the manageress at Boots' Booklover's Library to take a chance on her with a job.

When the threat of war in England becomes reality, Olivia must be evacuated to the countryside. In the wake of being separated from her daughter, Emma seeks solace in the unlikely friendships she forms with her neighbors and coworkers, and a renewed sense of purpose through the recommendations she provides to the library's quirky regulars. But the job doesn't come without its difficulties. Books are mysteriously misshelved and disappearing, and the work at the lending library forces her to confront the memories of her late father and the bookstore they once owned together before a terrible accident.

Madeline Martin is *New York Times*, *USA TODAY*, and international bestselling author of historical fiction and historical romance translated into over 20 different languages.

Source: Hanover Square Press

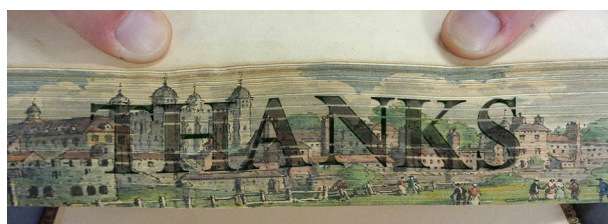


“‘Vanity of Vanities,’ saith the preacher, ‘all is vanity’” – so says the writer of Ecclesiastes* and so say makers of allegorical paintings called *vanitas*. In this context, “vanity” means futility or pointless effort. In these paintings, each element symbolizes a different worldly pursuit that is useless to the greater pursuits of peace or salvation.

At the right is a painting by Juan de Valdés Leal (1622–1690), *Allegory of Vanity*, one of several *vanitates* he painted. The painting is full of symbols common in this genre: the skull, withered flowers and foliage, and the extinguished candle (the brevity of life); coins, jewelery, and rich fabrics (the emptiness of worldly wealth); cards and dice (the deception of vice); the watch (the relentless progress of time); and religious garments (earthly power). At the painting’s right, an angel pulls back a curtain to reveal the alternative: a spiritual world which should be every person’s primary aim.

Another set of symbols common in the *vanitas* refer to the futility of pursuing earthly knowledge at the expense of spiritual wisdom. In this painting, they are the armillary sphere (astronomy) and calipers, a divider, and a triangle (mathematics). Also we see an assortment of books. Among them are two of the most highly respected works of the Renaissance: the *Republic* of Plato and *On the Art of Building* of Alberti. The open book displays an illustration of a blank sheet of paper and a Latin phrase about the “*tabula rasa*” – the blank slate of our minds at birth, suggesting in this context the influences and choices that will shape our lives, hopefully for the good. At right, a cherub comments on these profound works by blowing a bubble.

* Eccl. 12:8, King James Version (1611)



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, to submit or for assistance in preparing your article.

Join FBS!

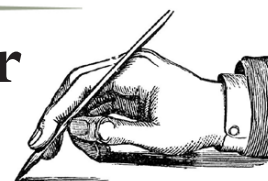
Love books? Take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, fun group.



It’s easy to join – just send an email with your name, mailing address, and phone number to Floridabibliophiles@gmail.com. Annual dues are \$50 for membership or \$125 for membership plus print subscription. Use Paypal to send your payment to the gmail 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

October 2024



Sean Donnelly: Tales of a Bookseller

Macdonald-Kelce Library
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL
October 20, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

Sean has been engaged in bookselling in the Tampa-St. Pete area for over 20 years, including 12 years at Macdonald-Kelce Library.

LATE NOTICE:

We will meet on October 20th as planned.

However, due to Hurricane Milton, Sean's presentation has been postponed.

Another great afternoon of bibliophily is being planned.

Sean's teenage son, who was a book lover, began his career as a bookseller at Macdonald-Kelce Library. He has a very colorful history of books and memories of the books, the places, and the people and might spark a few memories of your own.

November 2024



Russell Spera: Dante for Collectors

Seminole Community Library
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL
November 17, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

If your question is "How many English translations of Dante are there?" then Russell Spera is exactly who you are looking for!

Russell is co-author with Barry Tullett of *Danteggiare* (2021), in which they collected the opening stanza of every English version of Dante's *Inferno* – every known version, that is! Russell's personal collection contains 300 English versions of Dante – if there are more, he knows about them and is looking for them. A teacher of literature and writing by day, Russell's students have heaped praise on him as an engaging and devoted teacher. Meeting Russell one time would make you suspect this is true and maybe wish he had been one of your high school teachers.



Book Events and Podcasts

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

Florida Book Events

For the numerous library book sales in Florida, visit www.booksalefinder.com/FL.html.

— October 18–20 —

Florida WritersCon

Hilton Orlando, Altamonte Springs, FL
(www.floridawriters.org/florida-writerscon)

— October 26–November 14 —

JCA Jewish Literary, Film, and Arts Festival

Jacksonville, FL (jcjax.org/jcafest/)

— October 26–30 —

Alachua Co. Friends of the Library Book Sale

Gainesville, FL (folaclid.org/)

— November 1 —

National Authors' Day

(www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-authors-day-2024/)

November 1

National Authors' Day (est. 1968)

— November 8–9 —

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

Florida Gulf Coast University,
Sanibel Island, FL (www.fgcu.edu/siwc/)

— November 13–14 —

Cracker Storytelling Festival, Homeland, FL

(crackerstorytellingfestival.com/)

— November 17–24 —

Miami Book Fair

Miami Dade College -- West Campus, Miami, FL
(www.miamibookfair.com)

— December 4–8 —

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

Rare Book Cafe Coffee Break

RBC was begun several years ago by Florida booksellers and FBS members Steve and Edie Eisenstein. It continues as “Coffee Break,” 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. 75: Ed Lemon on

upcoming Fine Book Fairs: NY, Buffalo,

Philly – Ed and Lee chat with Ed Lemon

about the rare book business and shows coming up in Sept.–Dec. They discuss some of the guest speakers planned for the shows: Candice Bushnell, creator of *Sex in the City* (NY), children’s author Lois Lowery (NY), and Kermit Roosevelt III, Theodore Roosevelt descendant (Buffalo).

COFFEE BREAK No. 76: Jim Crotts on a bookseller’s journey –

Lee chats with old friend and North Carolina bookseller Jim Crotts about how he entered the rare book business. Like many sellers, Jim was a collector first. In fact, he was a traveling salesman, and he would stop by Lee’s home book room in Calhoun, Georgia, and often departed with great purchases.

COFFEE BREAK No. 77: Bookseller and songwriter Joe Maynard –

Ed and Lee join bookseller and book fair promoter Richard Mori, The Road Warrior, to welcome New York bookseller Joe Maynard, a songwriter, hiker, and art and music lover. Joe shares unusual experiences in the book trade. They discuss the phenomenon of combing through dead people’s collections, something familiar to book and paper sellers and collectors, discovering a WW II internment camp in Oregon, and exploring the Beat movement in 1950s’ San Francisco.

See p. 27 to learn about *Book Lovers’ Paradise*, the new magazine from the producers of RBC.

Book Events and Podcasts, *continued*

Coffee with a Codex

Every Thursday at noon, the Kislak Center at the University of Pennsylvania presents [Coffee with a Codex](#), an informal virtual meeting with Kislak curators about a manuscript from Penn's collections. Events are free but require registration to receive a Zoom link. CWAC is recorded, and past events are available on YouTube.

October 17, 12-12:30 p.m. – Ms. Codex 722: Latin Dictionary of Grammar – Curator Dot Porter will share Codex 722, a 14th-century French dictionary of grammatical forms and definitions of theological, religious, and secular terms, arranged alphabetically; it includes Latinized Hebrew words and gives equivalents in Old French in various instances.

October 24, 12-12:30 p.m. – LJS 387: Dictionary of the Arabic Language – Curator Dot Porter will bring out LJS 387, an illuminated 14th- or 15th-century copy of *al-Qāmūs al-muhīt*, a dictionary of the Arabic language originally compiled between 1368 and 1392.

October 31, 12-12:30 p.m. – Ms. Codex 1677: Occult Collection for Halloween – Curator Dot Porter will bring out Ms. Codex 1677, a collection of occult texts copied and compiled by Charles Rainsford and mainly comprising prayers, lists of divine names for invocations, and instructions for conjurations taken from works attributed to well-known occultists such as John Dee and Richard Napier.



Kislak Center at Penn Library, main reading room

Book Lovers' Paradise – Magazine for Bibliophiles Releases Issue 2

Wearing the slogan “Produced in Paradise for Book Lovers Everywhere,” the second quarterly issue of *Book Lovers' Paradise* was released in July.

A joint effort of T. Allan Smith, producer of *Rare Book Café's Coffee Break*, Mike Slicker, a founder of FBS and 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 Issue 2 include:

- In pursuit of your passion: In the bibliosphere, there are many roles
- Collecting fine bindings: what you should know
- Collecting appliance ephemera
- How old are the maps in your collection?

Book Lovers' Paradise is published quarterly and electronically, free of charge. To receive a link to each new edition, send an email to bookloversparadisemagazine@gmail.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject field. Also available on Issuu.

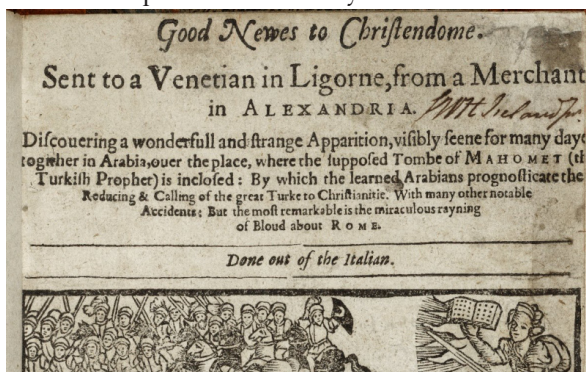


Book Events and Podcasts, *continued*

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. The most recent episode is:

Brendan Dooley: Renaissance Transmission of News – Dooley, professor of Renaissance Studies, College of Arts, University College Cork, lectures on one of the Renaissance’s great forgotten inventions: regular public transmission of written news. Exchanging information of general interest about daily events has been a feature of European societies throughout history; however, an influential Renaissance novelty was the creation of specific writing genres (manuscript and print) for telling about the news each week. Drivers of this development, apart from sheer curiosity, included state officials seeking opportunities, merchants seeking markets, and writers seeking jobs. Traditional settings for news conversations – in homes, at court, and in public squares – were thus supplied with topics originating not only from local occurrences but from far away, not only from books, pamphlets, and private letters but also from periodical news sheets covering major events of the day, with significant effects on widespread ways of thinking and behaving. Dooley’s examples will show how Renaissance news evolved from manuscript newsletters into printed newspapers, with long-term consequences still keenly felt.



Renaissance news sheet reporting a vision seen over Mohammad’s tomb in 1620 – “Done out of the Italian.” [Folgerpedia]

Cambridge Elements Podcast

The Elements Series from Cambridge University Press aims to present serious but accessible and affordable texts that cover a wide range of topics in the ever-expanding study of The Book. In the podcasts, authors in the Elements series discuss their books.

[Angus Phillips and Miha Kovač: Is This a Book?](#) – Is this a book? is a question of wide appeal and interest. With the arrival of ebooks, digital narratives and audiobooks, the time is right for a fresh discussion of what is a book. Older definitions that rely solely on print no longer work, and as the boundaries of the book have been broken down, this volume offers a fresh and lively discussion of the form and purpose of the book. How does the audiobook fit into the book family? How is the role of reading changing in the light of digital developments? Does the book still deserve a privileged place in society? The authors present a dynamic model of the book and how it lives on in today’s competitive media environment.

Princeton Ideas Podcast

[Paul North, Paul Reitter, and Simon Vance: Karl Marx’s Capital](#) – Karl Marx (1818–1883) was living in exile in England when he embarked on an ambitious, multivolume critique of the capitalist system of production. Only the first volume was published in Marx’s lifetime, but it became one of the most consequential books in history. A magnificent new edition of *Capital* from Princeton University Press is a translation of Marx for the 21st century – the first translation into English based on the last German edition revised by Marx himself, thus authoritative. It features extensive commentary and annotations by North and Reitter that draw on the latest scholarship and provide valuable perspective on the book and its complicated legacy. Precise and readable, this *Capital* captures the scale and sweep of Marx’s thought and the elegance and humor of the original source.



... and More

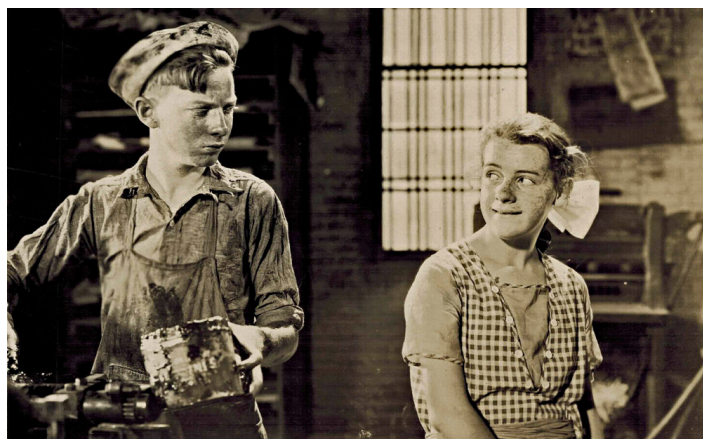
Printer's Devil

Children in the Middle Ages were expected to work. In the country, they worked on the farm, but in the city, many children would begin as soon as they found a job. At 12 or 13, the guilds that governed each specific craft would allow children to join a shop as an apprentice and be trained in the shop's work.

When printing was introduced in Europe in the 15th century, it was only natural that apprentices became part of printing shops. They were assigned basic tasks such as sweeping, mixing ink, and “distribution,” cleaning and sorting pieces of type and returning them to their storage cases to be ready for their next use. The work was dirty, and the apprentices were often stained with ink. These apprentices were called “printer's devils.” In the early 20th century – over 400 years later – this role began to disappear, but as late as the 1920s, it was the subject of a newspaper comic strip, *Mickie the Printer's Devil* by Charles Sughroe (see next page).

Many famous people were once printer's devils, including Benjamin Franklin, Walt Whitman,

* Orville owned a small hand press, and he and a friend set up shop – they were in the sixth grade. In the eighth grade, the friend left the business. Soon, Wilbur joined Orville to operate as Wright and Wright, printing miscellaneous print jobs and publishing two newspapers, the *West Side News* and the *Evening Item*. They published the paper until 1890 when they sold the business to a local printer. The mechanical knowledge they gained in printing fed into their bicycle business and later the invention of the airplane.



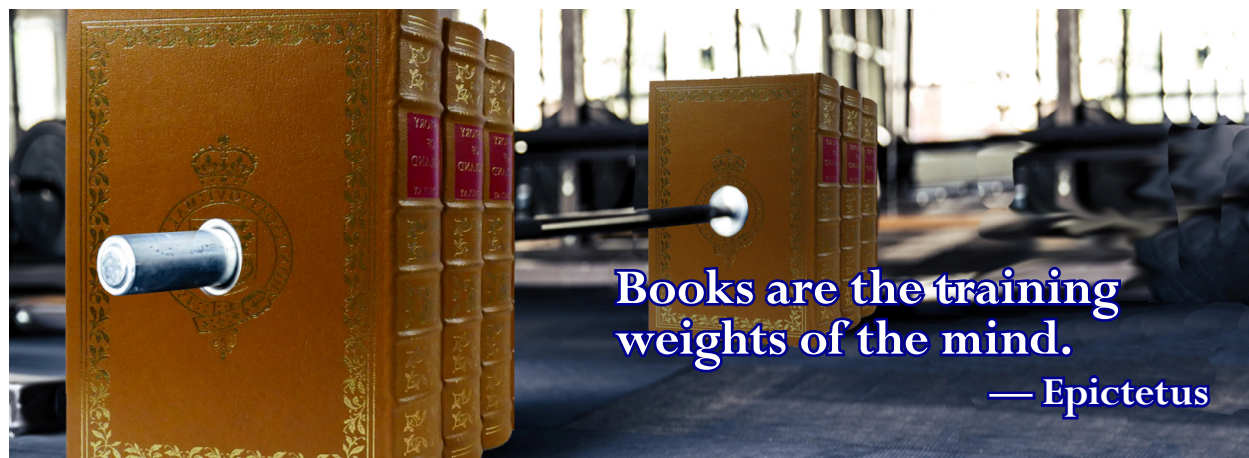
Wesley Barry as Brick Hubbard, a printer's devil (left) and Kathryn McGuire as his love interest Vivian Gates in the 1923 silent film *The Printer's Devil*. Barry wears the characteristic smudges of his trade that likely gave rise to the phrase by which it was known.

Ambrose Bierce, Bret Harte, Mark Twain, and Orville Wright of airplane fame.*

It is not clear how the term “printer's devil” came about, but there are plenty of theories. There are reports that printing itself was associated with the “black arts” because of the rapid reproduction of so many identical copies of a book – as if by magic. Martin Luther praised the invention of the printing press as God's gift to promote the truth. Perhaps those who opposed him took the opposite view.

When a print job was finished, the type was emptied into a box from which the young apprentice would clean and distribute it. This box was called a “hellbox,” perhaps because of the horrible jumble

... continues next page



Books are the training weights of the mind.
— Epictetus

Printers devil, concluded

of type. Maybe a young imp who is assigned to distribute the jumbled type in the hellbox back to its place in the cases would be a devil – a printer's devil.

Stories about the origin of “printer's devil” often involve assistants of famous printers, even asserting that the printer was in league with the Devil.

Several Catholic saints are claimed as the patron saint of printers, including St. John Bosco, St. Augustine of Hippo, and St. Lucy. But printers also have a patron demon, Titivillus. This demon was said to haunt printshops and bring about inexplicable errors such as inverting type, misspelling words, and removing entire lines of completed type.

Naturally, Titivillus would need a human agent to accomplish these fiendish deeds, and who better than the susceptible young apprentice?

Even before printing, errors in hand-copied manuscripts could be a Titivillustian prank. He was said to collect loose words spoken by clergy as evidence for Judgement Day. After the introduction of printing, he famously caused an omitted “not” in the 1631 Authorized Version of the Bible – the King James Bible – that resulted in the seventh

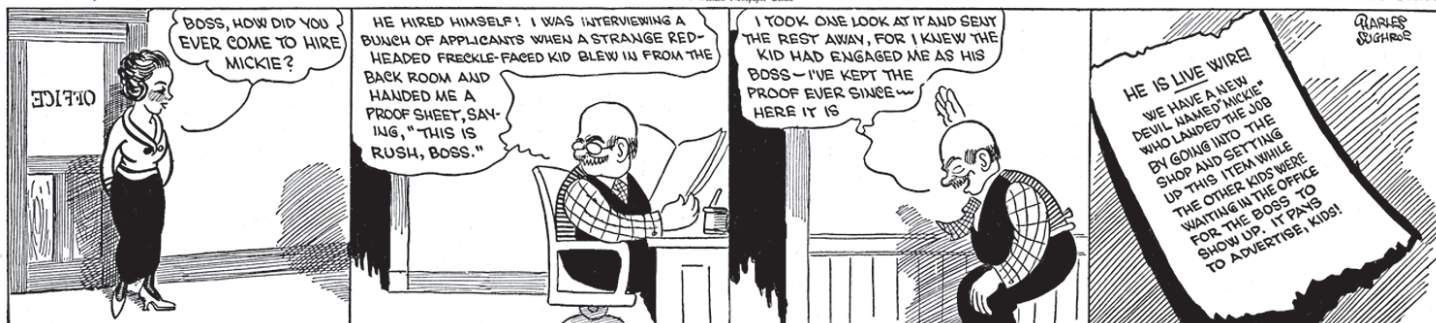


Titivillus (left) stands patiently by the desk of a monk writing a manuscript, ready to cause a dropped letter or word or to spill the ink or break the quill, in this image from a 16th-century book of hours.

commandment reading “Thou shalt commit adultery.” Clearly, the work of Titivillus and his willing servant, the printer's devil.

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughrue
© Western Newspaper Union



How Mickie Got His Start

MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughrue
© Western Newspaper Union



Friend Boss Gets Economical

Florida Bibliophile Society 2024–2025 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 15 • FBS Members – September Show and Tell: Members brought a wide variety of fascinating books. It was a great afternoon!

October 20 • Sean Donnelly*: Tales of a Bookseller – Sean has been in the book business one way or another for almost 30 years. He will share stories about books and dealers – you're likely to know a few. Let's stroll down Memory Lane together.

October 26–30 • Gainesville Getaway: Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale is held twice a year, in October and April. The sale features over 500,000 books, CDs, and other media. Join us for a fun day of book shopping and sampling Gainesville's culinary fare. Stay tuned for details!

November 17 • Russell Spera*: Dante for Collectors – Russell speaks from the authority of years of collecting and researching Dante. His personal collection contains over 300 English versions of the *Divine Comedy*. Engaging speaker, fascinating topic!

December 15 • FBS Holiday Party: Always a great time for members to celebrate the holidays! Details to be announced.

January 19 • Field Trip to Olde Mill House Print Museum in Homasassa, Florida – Owner Jim Anderson will guide us through his extensive collection of letterpress equipment. A must if you have any interest in letterpress printing. Featured on *Atlas Obscura*. Lunch to follow at a nearby cafe.

February 16 • Field Trip to Ersula's History Shop – Owner and writer Ersula Odom* will introduce us to her museum/shop featuring books, memorabilia, primary source documents, black history, and more. Located at 1421 Tampa Park Plaza, Tampa.

March 1–2 (Sat.–Sun.) • Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, one of the largest antiquarian book fairs in the U.S., held at the historic St. Pete Coliseum. FBS will be represented at our hospitality table in the foyer and at our table in the fair. Meet dealers from across the U.S., see amazing books, make new friends! The ultimate book party.

March 16 • Field trip to the Jack Kerouac House, St. Pete – Kerouac helped define the mid-20th century Beat movement. His wanderings ended up in St. Pete, and his final home is becoming a museum. Join us for a tour and an afternoon of reflection on this American original, led by owner Ken Burchenal.

April 27 • Irene Sullivan: Studies in Juvenile Justice – A retired juvenile judge, Irene is author of two books, *Born and Raised to Murder* and *Raised by the Courts*, which explore Florida's courts and their impact on the state's youth.

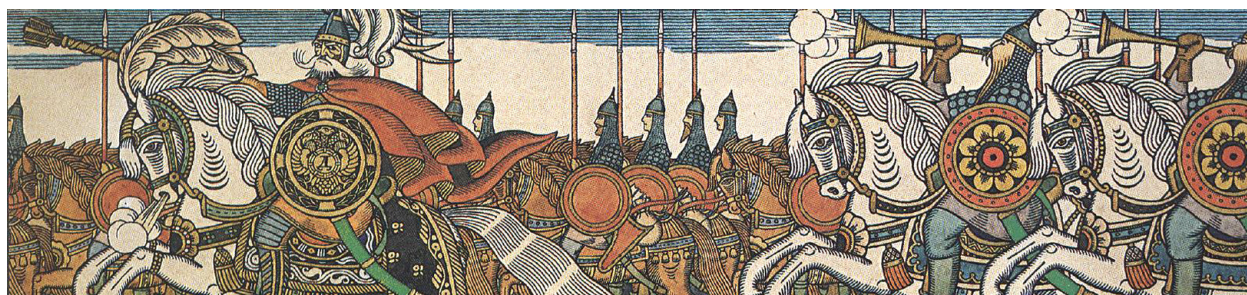
April 26–30 • Gainesville Getaway: Spring edition of the Florida's biggest library book sale. Stay tuned for details.

May 18 • Annual Banquet: Our annual May banquet is always a highlight! This year's event is still being planned. Watch this space!

* FBS member



Endpaper • Further Adventures in the Realm of Books Await!



Our new FBS season is off to great start! As usual, our members and guests brought a fascinating and *unusual* assortment of books to our Summer Treasures show and tell. From antique to modern and from classic to avant garde, we are exploring every corner of the book world. Maybe world is not the right word. The realm of books is so vast, and I am constantly discovering new corners of it that I had not known existed. Even more interesting are the people who are interested in those corners.

As we shared about our books, we also shared about the life experiences that brought us to our interests, and one begins to see both the books and people in a new light. There's much more to the show-and-tell than showing off books; there's also the getting-to-know-you aspect. It's a great time to learn a little more about each other and appreciate the years of experience and knowledge that each collector or

reader brings to the society.

Special thanks to our new recording secretary Sean Donnelly taking on the challenge of summarizing our meeting in the minutes that are a highlight of these newsletters. I'm sure you'll agree from his write-up in this issue that we can look forward to a first-class continuation of Gary's minutes and excellent documentation of FBS's activities.

The past few weeks haven't been all about books, by any means. We hope that all readers of this newsletter are safe and well after the two recent hurricanes, which affected most of our members in one way or another. Many have faced evacuations and property losses. Teams are working day and night to restore power, and help is available for any circumstance you might encounter.

When possible, see you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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