

The Florida Bibliophile

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IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the October 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society	p. 2
Great Scott!! By Gary Simons	p. 5
Sir Walter Scott – A Titan of the 19 th Century	p. 6
The Wordless Novel	p. 7
Sprake . . . John Sprake	p. 9
Educational Technology 1775	p. 11
A Miniature Book Fit for an Empress	p. 17
FBS Publications	p. 20
Books in Brief	p. 21
Upcoming Events	p. 25
Book Events and Podcasts	p. 26
...And More	p. 29
FBS 2024–2025 Season	p. 30
Endpaper • Thinking about the Future	p. 31

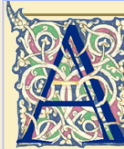
December newsletter deadline: November 28, 2024 (see p. 27)

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](#).

**the
future
is
not
written**

**A Conversation
about FBS**

see p. 2



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 October 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society

by Charles Brown, FBS President

We had a great plan for our recent meeting. FBS member Sean Donnelly, who has had a long love affair with books, including owning a bookstore for over 10 years, was going to share some stories with us from his long experience with booksellers in the Tampa Bay area and beyond. Some of these stories are included in a long essay he has written for the book we are assembling to celebrate FBS's 40 years.

And then in a one-two punch, hurricanes Helene and Milton . . .

So many of our members near the Gulf Coast were in recovery mode – both material and mental – including our intended speaker, we came up with an impromptu plan.

Well, not entirely impromptu. We've been talking about a number of issues in our executive committee that we really felt the membership should be part of at some point. We have so many great Sunday meetings planned that we have always preferred to enjoy those activities rather than interrupt them with club business, but they are much needed.

So on October 20th, we gathered at the University

of Tampa Macdonald-Kelce Library as usual and instead of a speaker, we were all speakers. We circled up some chairs and had a wide-ranging conversation about the Florida Bibliophile Society and its future. Briefly:

We Need Your Help.

Now that we've celebrated our 40th anniversary, we want to ensure that there will be a 50th.

Here are some topics we discussed.

More members are needed to serve as officers. – This is one of our biggest issues. The current officers have been in place for many years. While we are happy to make FBS work, it's a society, and we want everyone to take a turn. Bibliophile societies can disappear because the leadership pool ages out and dries up. It just happened in Rhode Island, and other bibliophile societies are facing this challenge.

Most of the officers have served in multiple offices over many years. – A few years ago, we altered the FBS bylaws to allow officers to serve for more than two years because members were not stepping up, and we certainly want FBS



Minutes, continued

to continue. A larger pool of potential officers strengthens FBS, and it makes the society more meaningful to the people who invest a little time.

I'm sure you'll agree we have great officers, but there are other potentially great officers among our members, and we need for some members to aspire to leadership in the organization and to seek it. With more members participating in leadership, we won't have to worry about the same folks being in place for so long. For over half of FBS's history, leaders were elected every year – everyone took their turn.

There's plenty of support for new officers.

– Outgoing officers could serve on an advisory board to be a resource for new officers to have the advantage of other people's experience.

We're all getting older. – Frankly, there's an issue of age. It's only natural that a bibliophile society should have older members, people who have spent longer developing collections and who may have more disposable time and money. But we want our younger members to be more involved. They are in tune with a different generation. When younger people attend a meeting with so many older people, they might enjoy the meeting but conclude that “these aren't my folks.”



Gareth Whitehurst introduces FBS to the Whitehurst Library at our meeting in November 2022.

Being an officer isn't a part-time job. We can find a way to accommodate anyone who wants to do their part. We're all busy. Serving as an officer or on a committee doesn't have to take a lot of time.

What officers do is not a mystery, but it may seem mysterious. – If you are interested in serving as an officer, why not attend some executive committee meetings and see what goes on? It's fun and rewarding to make things happen.

In recent years, FBS has been growing, and we have ideas for more we could do, but it takes people who are willing to make some of those things happen. – This is an exciting time for FBS. We've had consistent growth in



FBS Annual Banquet, May 2023

Minutes, continued

membership over the past few years. We now have about 75 members. Our newsletter goes out to almost 1,000 book lovers. We're having interesting, varied events. We want this to continue, and there's more we can do, but again – frankly – we can only do more with more people taking an active part. To expand our reach, we need your talent, ideas, and some time.

We need to know what would get you to a meeting. – We want the meetings to be interesting – even compelling – for our members. What are your ideas for meetings, activities, field trips?

How can we make the business of running FBS more transparent? – We want you to know how it all works. Should we add short business meetings to our Sunday meetings, and if so, what is the best way to do that?

With so many colleges and universities in the area, how can we engage their students? – We talked about student groups or student ambassadors. We have found that even with a complementary membership, few of our student essayists attend meetings. Students often have erratic schedules, transportation issues, etc. Do you have some ideas in this area? Is this a good idea? Is there some way you could accomplish this?

Book evaluations have been popular events. – Irene Pavese has conducted a couple at regional libraries to a good response. We could expand this outreach, but we need more people to learn about book evaluation who are willing to conduct an evaluation session. Would you be interested in learning about book evaluation? Would you be willing to lead an evaluation session or participate in one? You can always help by connecting us with a local “friends of the library” or other group where it would make sense to hold an evaluation.

Placing news releases about upcoming events in local papers, especially those small papers near check-outs at convenience stores and other shops. – This seems like an idea worth trying, but we can't just ask the

current officers to do more. We need someone to step up and try this, maybe someone with some communications experience or just plain enthusiasm for books and FBS.

That brought us to the topic of marketing in general. – Bookstores, libraries, library book sales, coffee shops – all of these might be locations where placing some business cards or flyers might get the word out. Again, we need someone to make this happen. We can't be dependent on the same five, six, seven people to do everything.

Finally, what are we missing? Making a suggestion is not making a commitment to make it happen. While that would be great, we need ideas and the discussion it takes to make them practical.

I'm sure this isn't everything we discussed, but these are the highlights. – And we want the discussion that started at the Macdonald-Kelce Library to continue. Surely, you've thought at some point “I wish FBS did X.” Drop us a line. It's important to FBS's future.



After our discussion, Gary Simons and Charles Brown gave minipresentations. Turn the page to get started!

Great Scott!!

by Gary Simons

I recently read a book entitled *Great Bibliographers: David Anton Randall 1905–1975* (Scarecrow Press, 1992).

Randall was a well known antiquarian bookseller who became the first head of the Lilly Library at Indiana University. Before joining Lilly in 1956, Randall was for 21 years head of Scribner's Rare Book Dept. See his *Dukedom Large Enough: Reminiscences of a Rare Book Dealer, 1929–1956*. This book contained a short biography of Randall as well as a selection of his writings. One of his essays,

“Waverley Comes to America,” concerned the Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott who was very popular in the 1820s and 1830s in both Great Britain and in America. Scott wrote a series of novels set in Scotland (such as *Waverley* or *Rob Roy*) as well as medieval romances such as *Ivanhoe*.

Because this was before the introduction of international copyright, American publishers tended to issue their own pirated printings of Scott's works as soon as copies of any of his books arrived in the United States. This was a bit of a race – the first American publishers to be able to issue their own versions of a Scott novel got the highest sales. In a strange way, this has led to new insights into Scott's writings.

The normal process of publication at that time began with the author creating a manuscript. The manuscript was often reworked and modified by the author, but eventually it was turned over to a printer who generated galley proofs – pages printed by hand directly from the type forms, which allowed the author to see how his work would look in print and make further modifications and corrections. The marked-up galley proofs were then used to correct the type forms from which the book was printed on the press. However, even after the type forms had been corrected, errors were found



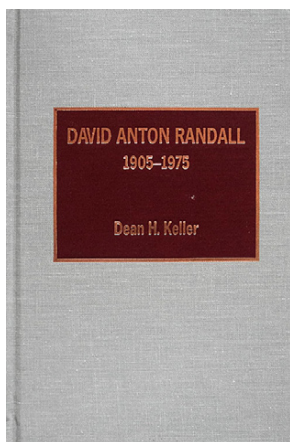
Image of Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet (1771–1832), a detail from a full-length seated portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769–1830). How famous was Scott? This painting was commissioned by King George IV for 300 guineas, a princely sum. From the Royal Collection Trust.

or the author might wish to make further changes. The changed pages (called cancels) were inserted into the final copies before they were sold. This entire process is of interest to literary scholars. Unfortunately, most of Scott's manuscripts and galley proofs have been lost over time, so little is known about what changes the author made during the process of creating his final published texts.

In this case, piracy and greed came to the rescue.

Realizing the importance of being first to publish in America, instead of waiting for copies of the final book to be issued in Great Britain and shipped to America, a Philadelphia publisher, Dublin-born Mathew Carey, apparently bribed one of the Scottish printers to send him copies of the galley proofs! He then issued his own (not entirely correct) versions of Scott's novels based on the galley proofs and received the financial gains of being first to the market.

Today, literary scholars use Mathew Carey's versions of Scott's novels as proxies for the long-lost real Scottish galley proofs to understand and appreciate the process by which the final versions of Scott's novels came to be.



Sir Walter Scott – A Titan of the 19th Century

by Charles Brown

For over a century, Sir Walter Scott was one of the most widely read, published, and adapted authors in the world.

Once called a modern Homer, he is widely regarded as the originator of the historical novel and perhaps its greatest practitioner. Of his 27 novels, only one was set in his times. The rest were set in periods from the 11th to the 18th centuries and in locales ranging from England to Palestine. The most famous of these works, *Ivanhoe*, is considered a classic of world literature. It was highly influential and has been adapted as several operas and films and numerous television productions.

Ivanhoe is perhaps the most famous of a series of 28 novels that Scott wrote, beginning with *Waverley* in 1814 and ending with *Castles Dangerous* in 1831. They were often published as a set, but two definitive editions have been published.

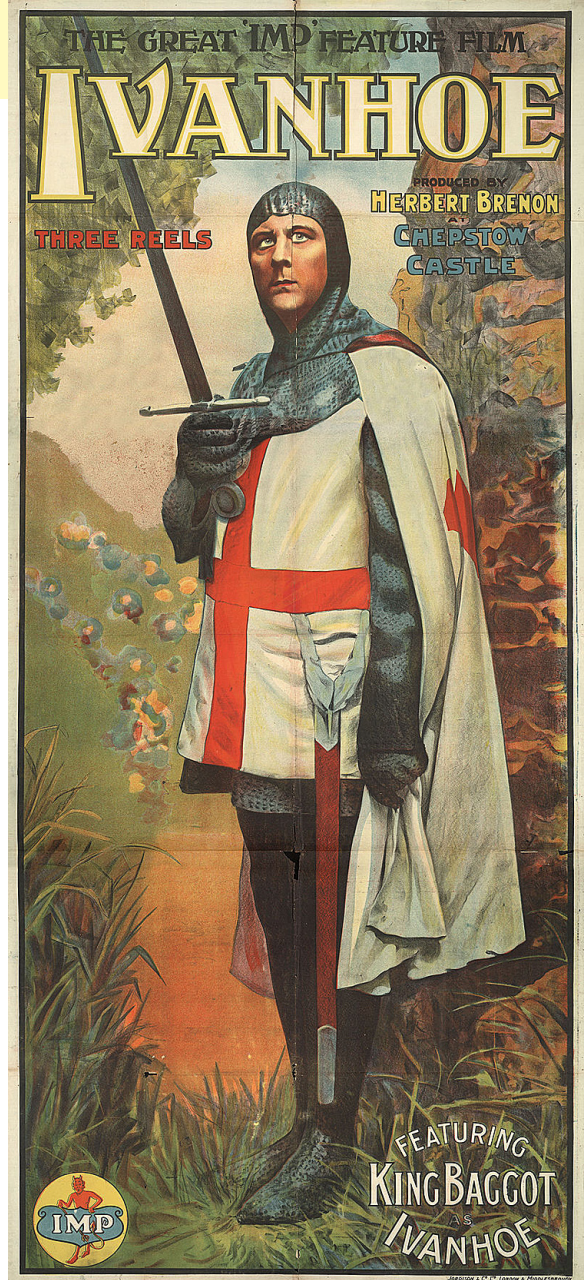
Between 1829 and 1833, Robert Cadell published a 48-volume set called the “Magnus Opus.” It included introductions and notes by Scott. This was the standard for 160 years. In 1993, the University of Edinburgh began publishing its *Edinburgh Edition of the Waverley Novels* in 30 volumes. Completed in 2012, it was the first complete critical edition of the novels, based on early texts and surviving manuscripts.

Scott was also an accomplished and influential poet. He was offered the position of Poet Laureate, but he declined because he felt the position had been debased by previous holders who “churned out conventional and obsequious odes on royal occasions.”

As a historian, his intensive study of Scottish history led him to deduce the location of the Scottish royal jewels, which had been hidden

for over 100 years. In gratitude, King George IV awarded Scott the hereditary title “baronet.”

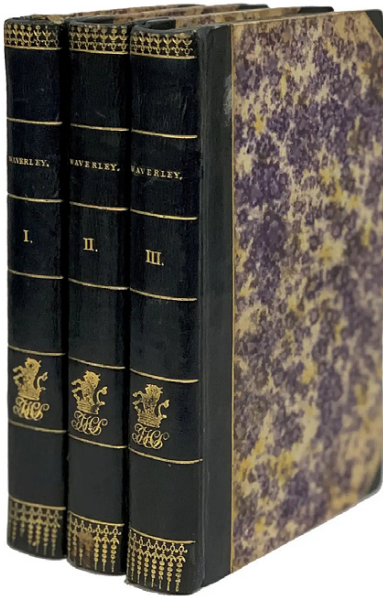
His fame brought him political influence as well, which he often used in causes favoring Scotland, his beloved homeland.



Theatrical release poster for *Ivanhoe* (1913), starring King Baggot (1879–1948), American actor, director, and screenwriter. Internationally famous, he was called “King of the Movies,” “The Most Photographed Man in the World,” and “The Man Whose Face Is as Familiar as the Man in the Moon.” Baggot appeared in over 300 motion pictures, wrote 18 screenplays, and directed 45 movies.

“He that does good, having the unlimited power to do evil, deserves praise not only for the good which he performs, but for the evil which he forbears.”

— The Black Knight in *Ivanhoe*



First edition of *Waverley* (1814) in three volumes – a “triple-decker” – in a unique contemporary binding

The Wordless Novel

by Charles Brown

Alice peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, “and what is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversations?”

What use indeed! But on the other side of the looking-glass, the question might be, “What is the use of a book with only pictures?” We shall see.

Enter Belgian graphic artist and painter Frans Masereel (1889–1972). The early 20th century was a time of revolutionary turmoil, and Masereel used his art to express his fierce idealism. One of his earliest commissions was illustrations for a book of poetry by Émile Verhaeren. Masereel was much in sympathy with Verhaeren’s pacifism. Masereel developed a distinctive woodcut style that he often used for the many books he illustrated. But he also used woodcuts in over forty books he published that had no words. The only commentary on these images was a title. In these, his strong, expressionistic black-and-white renderings create compelling narratives.

The first of Masereel’s wordless novels was *25 Images of a Man’s Passion*, published in 1918. It was well received and went through many editions, especially in Germany, where introductions by writers Max Brod, Hermann Hesse, and Thomas Mann were added. The book is pure Masereel. In it, a young man must take a stand against his employer. The significance and drama of the story told in pictures is reinforced by the religious imagery suggesting the martyrlike struggle of the young man.

This was followed in 1919 by Masereel’s most popular wordless novel, *My Book of Hours*, also known as *Passionate Journey*. In 167 images, Masereel shows the experiences of an early 20th-century everyman in a modern city. It was the longest and most popular of Masereel’s wordless books, treating a common theme of the time, the soullessness of modern industrial society.

Masereel’s work was very influential. He is credited

as the originator of the wordless novel, which inspired practitioners for over a century. With the rise of the graphic novel in the last few decades, Masereel’s work has become more widely and deeply appreciated.

The wordless novel was taken up by the American artist Lynd Ward (1905–1985). Like Masereel, Ward was well-known as an illustrator and, like Masereel, executed a number of wordless novels. However, Ward worked in a variety of media in addition to woodcut. Living in a similar time as Masereel, Ward straddled social activism and American pastoralism. His father was Methodist minister, political organizer, and radical social activist Harry F. Ward, the first chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union when it was founded in 1920.

Ward’s first wordless novel, *Gods’ Man*, was published in 1929, the first wordless novel published in the U.S. Ward had encountered Masereel’s wordless novel *The Sun* during his studies in Germany in 1926. Ward’s title alludes to a famous line in the play *Bacchides* by the ancient Roman playwright Plautus:

He whom the gods favor, dies young.

Ward, then 24, told the story of a young artist who becomes disillusioned by the world around him. The story sprang from Ward’s reflections – “brooding” – on the short but intense lives of artists such as Van Gogh, Toulouse-Lautrec, Keats, and Shelley.

Ward influenced many other artists, including two modern masters of the graphic novel, Art Spiegelman and Will Eisner.

Charles Brown brought a sampling of wordless novels for the assembled group to examine, including work by Frans Masereel, Lynd Ward, William Gropper, and Jim Woodring, and there are many more artists to discover in this genre. For several, it was a first encounter and apparently an exhilarating one. All words on this page; all images (mostly) on the next.

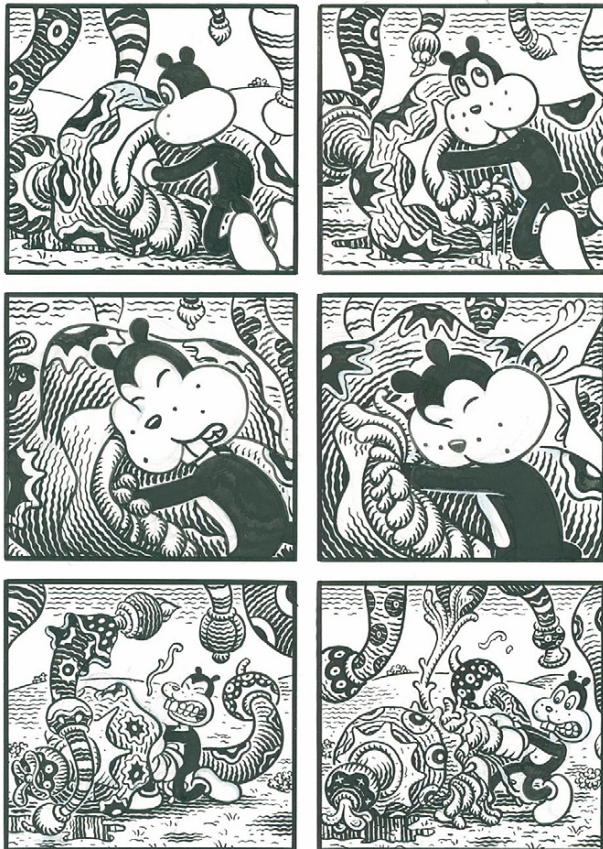
Minutes, concluded



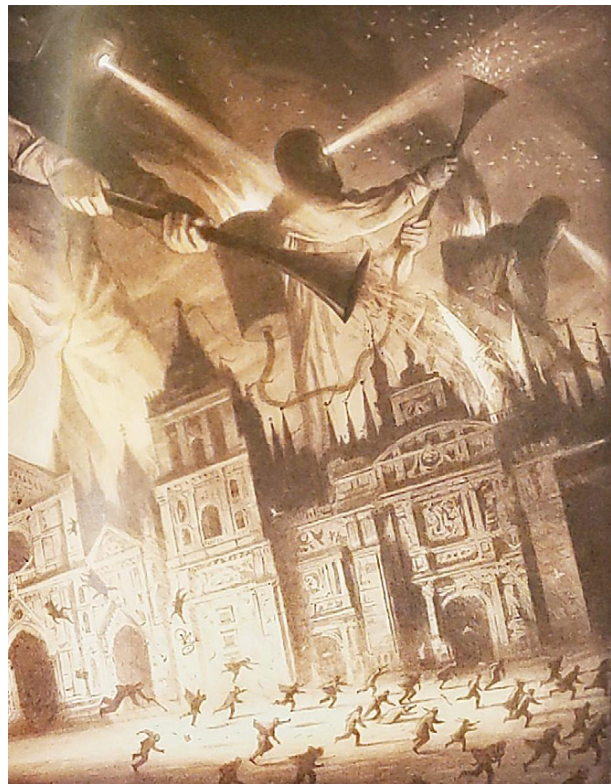
Frans Masereel, *25 Images of a Man's Passion* (1918)



Lynd Ward, *Gods' Man* (1929)



Jim Woodring, *Poochytown* (2018)



Shaun Tan, *The Arrival* (2006)

Sprake . . . John Sprake

As we eagerly await news of who the new James Bond will be (we are all eagerly awaiting, aren't we?), let us pause to realize it could all have been very different. It could have been John Sprake, Gentleman Spy, instead of you know who.

It's well known (among Bond aficionados) that the real James Bond was an ornithologist – at least the name of an ornithologist. The story goes that the book *Birds of the West Indies* was sitting on Ian Fleming's coffee table at his Jamaica estate, Goldeneye. Fleming was beginning to write his first novel featuring a spy, but he needed a name. He was looking for something with a punch, something blunt, but sort of neutral. And there it was, sitting right in front of him: James Bond. The rest, as they say, is history.

For decades, Bond has been one of the most valuable franchises in movie history, earning a net value between \$7 and \$8 billion since the first film, *Dr. No*, in 1962. The publishing history isn't bad either. Fleming wrote 14 Bond books – 12 novels and a couple of short story collections. After Fleming's death in 1964, a series of authors have been authorized to write another 49 novels. Then there are the newspaper strips, the comic books,

and the graphic novels. Worldcat, the ultimate card catalog of the world's libraries, lists over 21,000 books related to Bond.

Ace High is not one of them.

Gus March-Phillips, a colleague of Ian Fleming in the British special services in World War II, published *Ace High* in 1936. It was his third book, and like the first two, *Sporting Print* and *Storm in a Tea-Cup*, it was well received.

Ace High's main character is named John Sprake. Sprake is a “devil-may-care English officer stationed in India,” but before we jump to a conclusion, the book is not about a spy – it's about a horse race and a man with a way with horses.

Now when we say “horse race,” an explanation is needed. Sprake's great ambition is to win the Kadir Challenge Cup. This was a popular competition among British cavalry in India. Not a race, a pigsticking contest. The kadir was a large flat area created by a meandering river. Boar were frequent in the thick grasses of these areas, and men on horseback competed to land a spear in a boar. The goal was not to kill the boar, just set the spear, and the first competitor to do so won the cup. It's an intense and dangerous activity because of the speed, cunning, and ferocity of the boar. It was considered good practice for cavalymen in controlling a horse under extreme conditions. That's John Sprake.

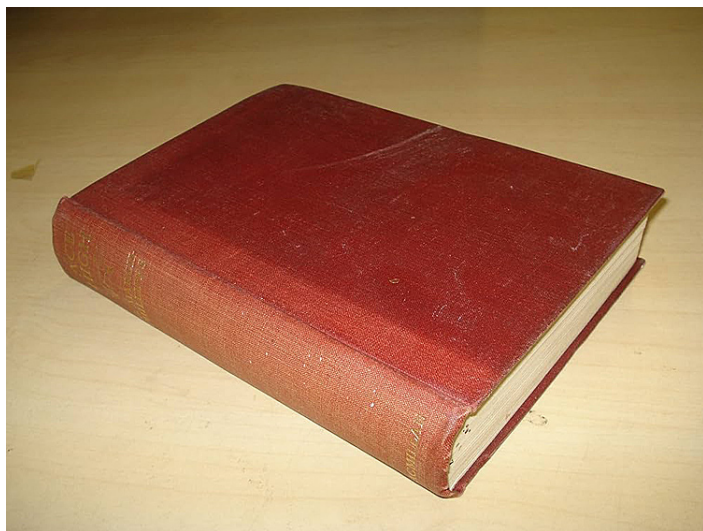
But that is also Gus March-Phillips.



Gus March-Phillips



The Kadir Challenge Cup, awarded to the winner of a pigsticking competition. Drawing by Captain R.S.S. Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, from his book *Pigsticking* (1889, Harrison and Sons).



Ace High (1936, Macmillan) by Gus March-Phillips. One of three novels by March-Phillips written before he re-enlisted. All were well-received. This photo of the book is the only one found on the Internet.

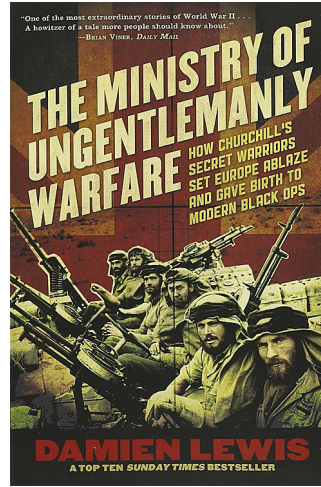
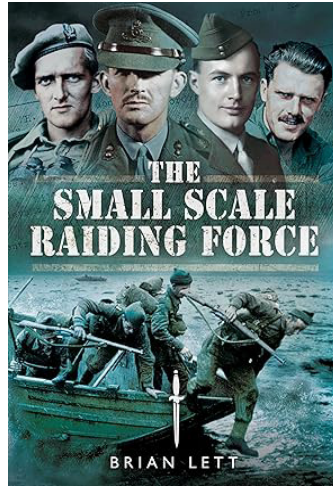


John Sprake, concluded

Near right: *The Small Scale Raiding Force* (2014), book by Brian Lett

Center: *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* (2016), book by Damien Lewis

Far right: *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare* (2024), film starring Henry Cavill (below) as Gus March-Phillips



With the beginning of World War II, March-Phillips re-enlisted. He had served in the cavalry in India from 1928 to 1932. This time he enlisted in the Royal Artillery. His commitment and skill became apparent in his work with the British Expeditionary Forces in 1940 in France and Belgium. He earned a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) medal – a prestigious award for courage and leadership.

As the war intensified, March-Phillips had a vision of a more daring approach to the enemy: a small commando unit that could undertake special missions to benefit the war effort. In 1940, March-Phillips created the No. 62 Commando, or the Small-Scale Raiding Force (SSRF). March-Phillips handpicked 45 men who trained rigorously in unconventional warfare tactics, including sabotage, infiltration behind enemy lines, and hit-and-run attacks. March-Phillips's carefully planned operations relied on speed, surprise, and adaptability.

It was during these years that Ian Fleming met March-Phillips. Fleming was of a similar character as March-Phillips and would go on to lead his own commando unit, No. 30, in 1942.

That was the year that March-Phillips died, age 34, in September 1942, during one of his characteristically daring forays as part of Operation Aquatint, with the goal of harassing German forces along the French coast. Unfortunately, there was

a miscalculation and his small force of 11 men fell under heavy German fire. March-Phillips was one of those killed, and the others were captured.

Despite this tragic loss, the effort March-Phillips had initiated had many successes and led to the formation of the Special Air Service – the SAS – which specialized in the type of operations March-Phillips helped pioneer. The SAS went on to make significant contributions to the war effort in World War II and in the subsequent years.

March-Phillips was a major influence on Fleming in constructing James Bond. It has been speculated that if March-Phillips had survived the war as Fleming did, he might have beaten Fleming to the punch in writing about his wartime exploits or condensing them into a character as he had with John Sprake.

This we will never know, but what we do know is that March-Phillips was featured in a recent book: *Churchill's Secret Warriors: The Explosive True Story of the Special Forces Desperadoes of WWII* by Damien Lewis (2014). The book is the basis for the recent “comedy-action” movie, *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare*, about Operation Postmaster, one of the Small-Scale Raiding Force's most celebrated efforts. Henry Cavill plays March-Phillips in a highly fictionalized version of the true story. So, though Phillips's life was cut short, he has lived on in the SAS, James Bond, a book, and now in a movie of his own.





Johann Peter Hundeiker became an educator out of boredom – not with life but out of sitting in endless classes that he found subpar, believing he could do better.

Hundeiker was the son of a merchant in a small German village and expected to take his father’s place at some point. This he would do, but to earn a living while he started his own school, one that would use the latest methods of teaching.

He taught himself to teach and taught local children as an apprenticeship. Through a friend, he came to know Johan Bernard Basedow, one of the leading figures of an educational reform movement called the Philanthropists. Based solidly on Enlightenment principles, members of this movement sought to establish a new kind of education that would bring about social change. The acquaintance with Basedow and other Philanthropists was deeply influential on Hundeiker, and he began to study new methods of education in earnest.

In 1775, Hundeiker’s father died. He took over the business and started a school in his father’s house. His success was notable and attracted the attention of the forward-thinking Duke Ferdinand of Brunswick, who arranged for the sons of the well-to-do from abroad to be taught in Hundeiker’s school.

In 1804, the Duke helped Hundeiker set up a school for the upper classes in Vechelde Castle, near Brunswick. Within a few years, changing political fortunes during the post-Napoleonic era forced him to close the school – he was given the choice of buying the castle or abandoning it.

Hundeiker eventually returned to teaching, and he had never stopped writing. At 80, he was given an honorary doctorate by the University of Jena, and it is suspected that Hundeiker’s admirer Goethe, the most famous author in the German language then and now, had influenced the award.

Hundeiker is not well remembered today. There is little about him in English, but he lives on in an educational technology he developed probably in the 1750s, during his early years teaching children.

* * * * *

The occasion for interest in Herr Hundeiker was the purchase of a box at the recent Alachua County Friends of the Library Book Sale. There was a price sticker and the word “LESEKASTEN” in neatly printed letters written in the center of the top.

I was immediately intrigued but not immediately able to open it. Two finely made clasps on the front rotated out of very narrow slots to allow the box to open (it seems so obvious now).

Once open, it revealed a piece of cardboard that had been fitted neatly into the top and now lay across the contents of the box. With books cradled under my arm, I juggled the box carefully so the loose piece of cardboard wouldn’t slide off.

Inside the lid, at the top, these words were printed in German:

Schüler-Lesekasten „Lese Freude“
Patent Nr. 841 815 Ausführung „E“

In English:

Student Reading Box “Reading Joy”



Educational Technology 1775, continued

Patent No. 841 815 Model “E”

A webpage summarizing the patent states that it was issued in 1952 to Matthäus Hahn, Lernmittelwerkstätten (“Teaching supplies workshop”).

Underneath these words were instructions for proper use of the reading box.

Written across the instructions in small letters was “HOLGER” – perhaps the student’s name. Written across the cardboard in very big letters was “Bernd,” a shortened form of Bernhard. An uneven line was drawn through the name and below it was written in equally big letters, in all caps, “HOLGER,” written over to make the letters even bolder. (Had Bernd mistakenly written his first name when his last name was wanted?) Thus, the two parts, though separable, will always be kin.

Now, I was pretty much sold at “LESEKASTEN” – I know just enough German to understand “reading box.” The clasps, the carefully made cardboard, and the student’s name would have clinched it. But when I lifted the cardboard and saw the tiny compartments filled with letters, separated by bars with the letters printed on them (you can see this on the previous page and on page 15), that was it. My six-year-old heart soared.

When I got the box home, I did a Google search right away, and of course, this mysterious object became the door to a whole new world. And who answered that door? Johann Hundeiker!

The Internet instantly presented me with many examples of reading boxes. The variety was mesmerizing. Though my reading box was in German, it was in modern lettering – I was a little disappointed that it was not in the Fraktur type that was standard in Germany for so many years:

This is Fraktur type.

Fraktur goes way back. It was designed in 1513 by Hans Schönsperger of Augsburg for the Prayer Book of Maximilian I – a learned and powerful ruler and

Holy Roman Emperor from 1508 until 1519.

Needless to say, I became curious about this prayer book. The Library of Congress explains:

There are six known copies of this prayer book, which was printed on parchment in an edition of only ten copies at the behest of Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I (1459–1519) for knights of the Order of Saint George.



Well, we have to pause here to take a look at this remarkable prayer book: ten copies, hand-lettered and illustrated by the greatest artists of the day. In the Library of Congress’s copy of the prayer book, the illustrations are by Albrecht Dürer, signed with his distinctive “AD” and the date, 1515. The cover of the prayer book and page 17 – the St. George page – are shown on the next two pages.

You can compare the original hand-drawn Fraktur letters on the following pages with the modern, commercial version of Fraktur shown at left.

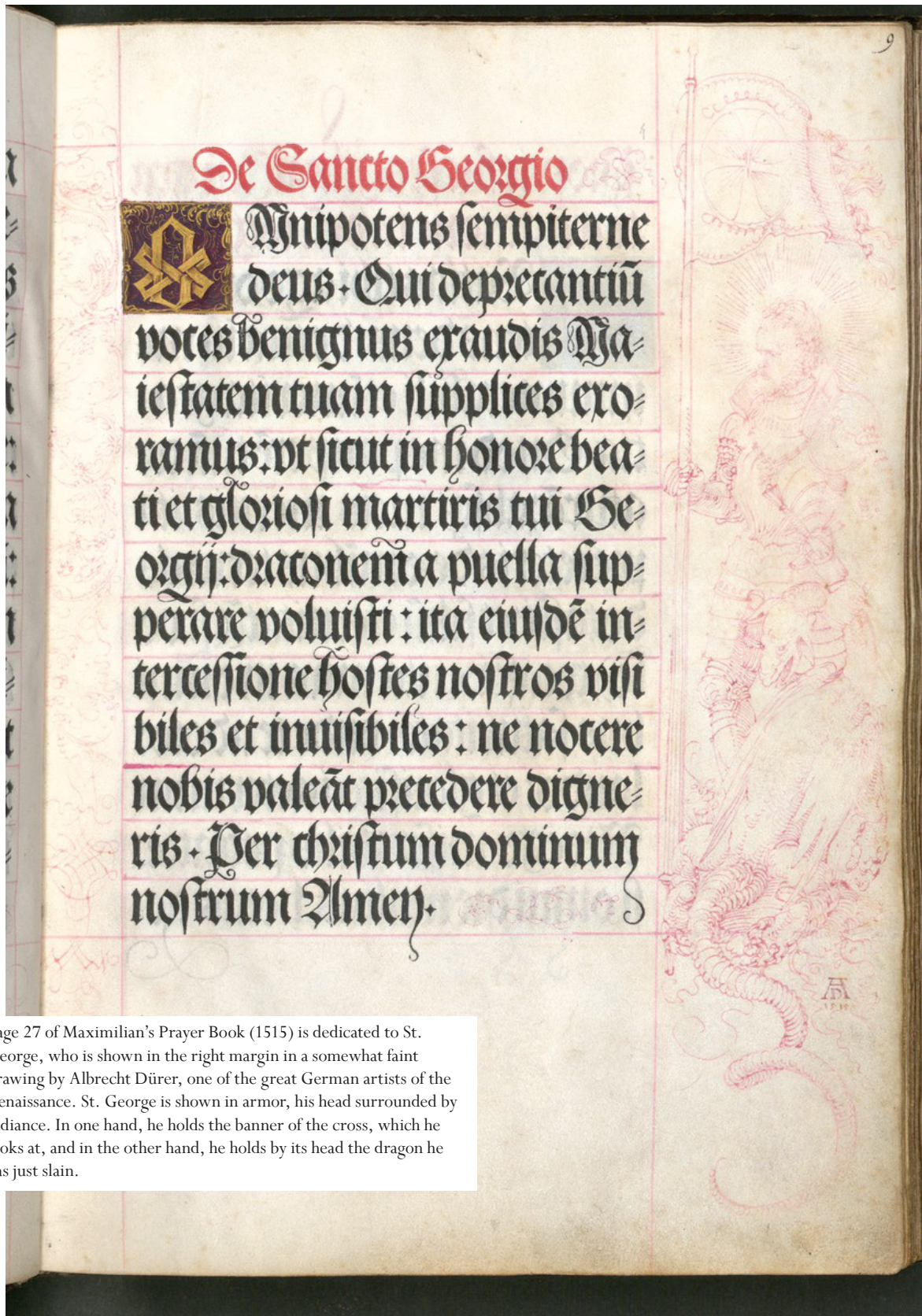
Fraktur is a blackletter typeface related to other blackletter typefaces that should be familiar in appearance from medieval manuscripts. Here is a comparison of some of these typefaces:

	Schwa-		
Textur	Rotunda	bacher	Fraktur
a	ɑ	ɑ	ɑ
ɖ	ɔ	ɔ	ɔ
g	g	g	g
n	n	n	n
o	o	o	o
A	A	A	A
B	B	B	B
H	H	H	H
S	S	S	S

Educational Technology 1775, *continued*



The spectacular tooled leather cover of the Prayer Book (1515) of Maximilian I.

Educational Technology 1775, *continued*

Page 27 of Maximilian's Prayer Book (1515) is dedicated to St. George, who is shown in the right margin in a somewhat faint drawing by Albrecht Dürer, one of the great German artists of the Renaissance. St. George is shown in armor, his head surrounded by radiance. In one hand, he holds the banner of the cross, which he looks at, and in the other hand, he holds by its head the dragon he has just slain.

Educational Technology 1775, concluded

Fraktur remained popular in Germany through the 19th century, but during that century came a movement revive a more classical typeface called Antiqua, a sample of which is shown here:

Quidā eius libros nō ipsius et
lophoniorū tradunt: qui iocā
ponere idoneo dederunt. Fuer
qui de lydis scripsit: Xanthūq
Tertius stratonicus sophista.

The sample above is an Antiqua-style typeface developed by Nicolas Jenson in Venice around 1470. It is a roman typeface based on a manuscript style used in the 15th century. In Germany, the revival of Antiqua was a challenge to Fraktur, and this grew into an intense controversy, the Antiqua-Fraktur dispute.

In 1871, when the German states united to become one nation, with Otto von Bismarck as its first Chancellor of the German Empire. Fraktur became the official typeface of Germany. Famously, Bismarck said that he would not read a book that was not printed in Fraktur. When offered books printed in roman letters, he would decline the gift, saying, “I do not read books in Latin letters.”

The dispute reached a critical point on May 4, 1911, when the German national legislative body, the Reichstag, voted on which typeface would be the official choice in Germany. After a long and sometimes emotional debate, Fraktur narrowly won: 85 to 82.

Fraktur became a marker of German-ness. It coexisted with Antiqua, other roman typefaces, and the modern typefaces that were being developed in the early 20th century, such as DIN 1451, designed for road signs for legibility, beginning in 1931. (DIN is the *Deutsches Institut für Normung*, “German Institute for Standardisation.”)

In 1941, Martin Bormann, a chancellor of the Nazi

Party, declared that Antiqua and other roman types would be used in preference to Fraktur.

* * * * *

If you’re still with me, this brings us back to the reading box and its letters.

The cardboard with Bernd Holger’s name written on it was actually two hinged pieces with cardboard strips that ran lengthwise. The two leaves of the letterboard can spread tentlike and stand up in the lid. The letters in the box can be inserted slightly under the strips to hold them in place as the student makes words or sentences.

In addition to the names written on the letterboard, there were a few scribbles – perhaps the sign of a child’s wandering mind. Several of the letters that marked the compartments for the corresponding letters were traced over or colored.

A funny thing about toys: they are more valuable both when they are in pristine condition – even still wrapped and sealed in the original box – and when they show signs of play. When and how to restore old toys must be a matter of exquisite judgment.

The Matthäus Hahn workshop was located on the outskirts of the German town of Pfettrach, not far from Munich. It was founded in 1935 but is no longer in operation – when this happened is unclear. The building now serves as studio space for eight ceramists, carpenters, a blacksmith, and a circus wagon builder.

It’s not clear who Matthäus Hahn was. The famous Phillip-Matthäus Hahn (1739–1790) – almost a contemporary of our Herr Hundeiker – was mostly an astronomer and sometimes a pastor. He invented several astronomical devices, including the first functional mechanical calculator. Alas, here we must end, leaving some questions unanswered.

* * * * *

Note to Bernd Holger – If you’re looking for your reading box, drop me a line.



Educational Technology 1775, concluded



The Model E Reading Box from Matthäus Hahn Teaching Supplies Workshop in Pfettlach, Germany. At the top is the letterboard (folded) on which students can compose words and sentences. Below is the box, showing the instructions pasted in the lid and the compartments for the individual letter cards, each compartment marked with the letter or type of word it contains (shown in the list at the bottom right of the lid).

A Miniature Book Fit for an Empress

The Mughal Empire, at its height in the early 1700s, controlled most of modern India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The Mughal court exhibited fabulous wealth and produced great works of art, architecture, and literature.

Founded in 1526, the empire expanded steadily under emperors Babur, Humayan, Akbar, and others until the early 1700s. At that point, local political forces – the Afghans and Sikhs in the northwest and the Marathas in central India – began to assert themselves and began to chip away at the Mughal empire.

By the middle of the 19th century, the British had gained control over much of India through trade, conquest, and alliances with local governments. But in 1857, a rebellion against British rule began that would last almost two years. In the middle of

the conflict, the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act which transferred all authority over India from the East India Company to the British Crown. Queen Victoria added Empress of India to her titles. The rebellion was finally put down in 1859.

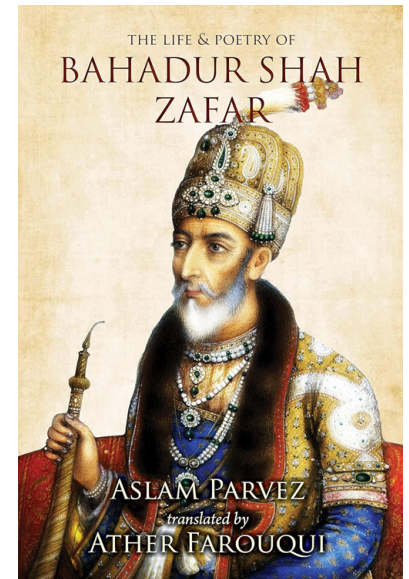
At that time, the 20th and last of the Mughal emperors, Bahadur Shah Zafar – who had participated in the rebellion – was tried for treason, convicted, and exiled to Rangoon, then in British-controlled

Burma. Zafar had been an emperor in name only. The mighty Mughal Empire had dwindled to a single city, Shahjahanbad, built in 1648 as the new capital of the empire – now known as Old Delhi.

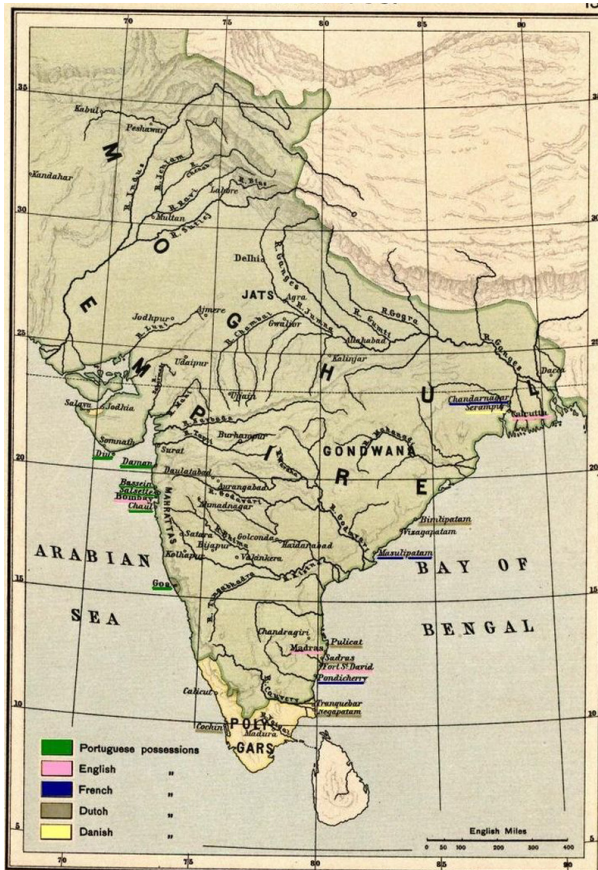
During the 150 years of the empire’s demise, its many riches became dispersed. They were eagerly snapped up by new rulers, invaders, and dealers in fine art. One of these was a Hungarian, Imre Leonard Schwaiger, who had traveled in India and become an expert and foremost dealer in its arts.

Schwaiger built an impressive clientele in Europe. Among them was Jacques Cartier of the famous family of jewelers. Schwaiger acted as agent for the Cartier company in Delhi, purchasing gems, jewelry, and artworks. He also worked closely with both the Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Museum to acquire Indian works of art for their collections. Schwaiger also donated valuable objects to these museums.

It is believed that before the reign of King George V, Schwaiger gave the future Queen Mary a rare



Portrait of Bahadur Shah Zafar on the cover of a biography by Aslam Parvez. Though not the most eminent of emperors, Zafar is revered as a Sufi saint and a fine poet. The child of a Muslim emperor and a Hindu princess, he was a model of religious tolerance.



India in 1700 at the height of the Mughal empire

Miniature Book, *continued*

and beautiful gift of Indian make: a necklace to which was attached an amulet in the form of a small jeweled box. The box, made of gold, was enameled in turquoise and set with diamonds, emeralds, and rubies. The smooth back of the amulet was enameled in a floral pattern of light and dark green.

It is further believed that the necklace and amulet belonged to Zinat Mahal Begum, the wife of Zafar, the last Mughal emperor. After she and her husband were exiled to Rangoon, their property was confiscated. Her jewelry was sent to a British treasury at Calcutta (now Kolkata).

How it came into the possession of Imre Schwaiger is not known, but he apparently gave it to the future Queen Mary around the turn of the 20th century.

A remarkable feature of this amulet is that one of its enameled and jeweled sides slides out to reveal a small book. The book is a Quran, maybe an inch and a half by two inches. It is bound in goatskin. Each page is painted with gold with the text written in black ink.

The book and amulet were recently inspected by the book conservators in Windsor Castle, where the amulet is held. The following from the Royal



Pages from Empress Zinat's miniature Quran. Each page is painted with gold and the text is written in black ink.

Collection Trust website describes the conservation effort.

When book conservators at Windsor Castle carefully examined the tiny manuscript they saw that it had been well used by its previous owners. The goat leather covers and gold painted pages all showed signs of wear and tear from regular handling. Some pages were fused together – evidence of its earlier life in a humid environment. The book therefore required some treatment to make it stable



A cord of fragile silver-covered threads holds a gold box amulet, enameled in turquoise and set with diamonds, emeralds, and rubies. One panel of the box slides out to reveal a miniature Quran, bound in gilded goatskin.



Miniature Book, concluded

enough to be displayed in an exhibition.

Repairing the textblock

First, the conservator detached the spine to allow access to the textblock. The pages were cleaned by gentle brushing, while vulnerable edge tears were repaired using a lightweight Japanese paper and wheatstarch paste as an adhesive. The book's sewing structure was then repaired to realign the pages before reattaching the textblock to the spine. The conservator also restored small areas of the leather binding that had lifted or were torn.

Treatment to the enameled case

The case itself was structurally sound, but some areas of fractured enamel were in danger of detaching from the surface. A Royal Collection decorative arts conservator consolidated the enamel into position using a conservation adhesive diluted with a solvent. When brushed along the sides of the cracked enamel, the solvent carried the adhesive into and under the cracks by capillary action. This

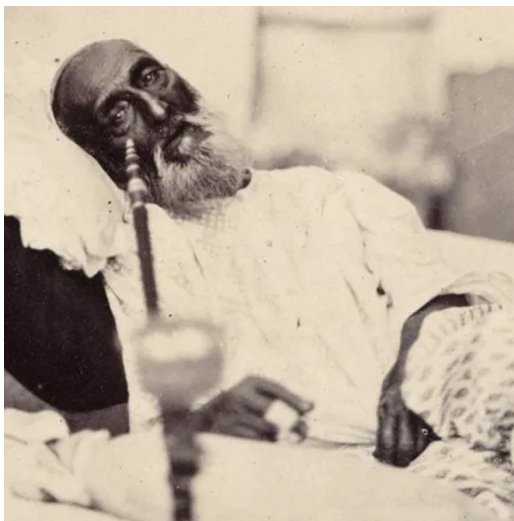


Delicate work to rebind this miniature book.

secured the fragments of enamel in position. Apart from this, the enameled surface simply required a careful clean with deionised (pure) water.

Conservation work on the case required even greater delicacy than usual because the cord of the necklace (made of thin silver foil wrapped around a silk core) is extremely fragile, so touching had to be kept to an absolute minimum.

* * * * *



Bahadur Shah Zafar during his last days. This is the only known photograph of a Mughal emperor.

My heart does not settle in this landscape of ruin
Who can feel settled in this evanescent world?

Tell these longings to go live someplace else
This scarred heart no longer has space.

Asking for long life, I was given only days
Half I spent wanting, the other half waiting.

The nightingale complains against groundsman nor trapper
Being caged in springtime was a matter of fate.

How hapless is Zafar, that even for burial,
He could not get a sliver of land near his lover.

— Zafar

translation by S. Abbas Raza (3 Quarks Daily blog)

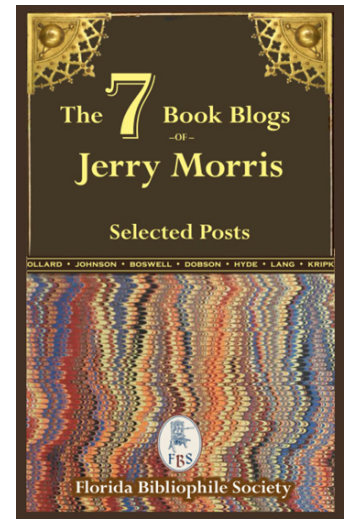


FBS Publications

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, are 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

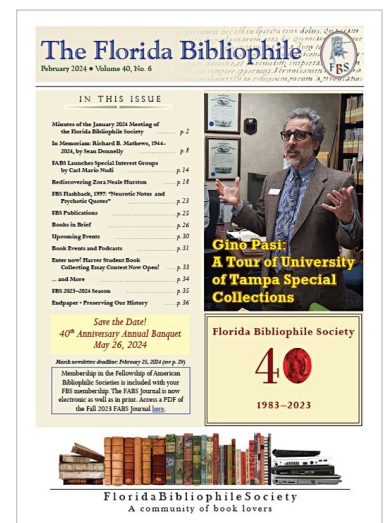
outsized impact on American and world poetry. Order from the Florida Bibliophile Society by sending a check for \$20.00 to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg, FL 33747. You may also request a copy via email at floridabibliophiles@gmail.com and use the same address to pay through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

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Books in Brief

Collecting Memories: Treasures from the Library of Congress

(Exhibit Companion Series)
Library of Congress
176 pp., June 2024



Memory formation, memorialization, collective history, and knowledge of the known world are guided by individuals and their cultures.

Collecting Memories: Treasures from the Library of Congress explores the ways people have

preserved their history, culture, and personal recollections in a variety of artifacts, including letters, diaries, photographs, maps, books, quilts, rugs, murals, scrolls, and monuments.

The official companion to a Library of Congress exhibition, *Collecting Memories* uses vivid photographs and interpretive text to bring context to a wide variety of historic objects, from President Abraham Lincoln’s handwritten draft of the Gettysburg Address to Steve Ditko’s original drawings of the *Spider-Man* origin story. Other highlights include:

- Maya Lin’s original competition drawings for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- The first Italian cookbook, *Libro de arte coquinaria*, published in the late 1400s
- Illustrations from a 39-foot 19th-century Japanese scroll
- Scenes from the 15th-century Washington Haggadah
- A hand-painted scroll, or thangka, given to the Library by the 14th Dalai Lama.

Founded in 1800, **The Library of Congress** is the world’s largest library, the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution, and Congress’s research arm.

Source: Library of Congress



Reading the Room: A Bookseller’s Tale

Paul Yamazaki
Ode Books
100 pp., May 2024

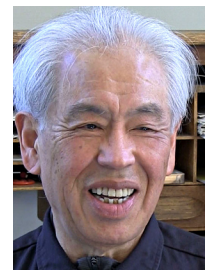
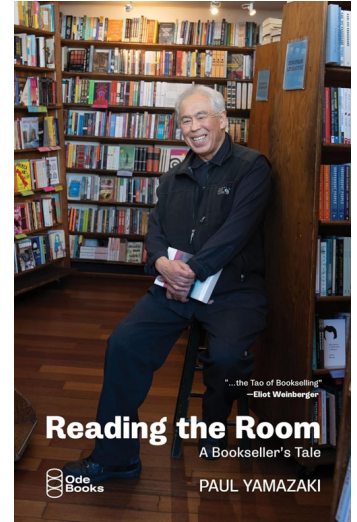
City Lights Booksellers in San Francisco was founded in 1953 by Peter D. Martin and poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The store takes its name from a literary magazine Martin published and in turn from a Charlie Chaplin film. It became symbolic of an era of extraordinary change and the freedom that era sought.

Paul Yamazaki has been the principal buyer at City Lights for more than 50 years. A champion for national and global literature, writers, publishers, and independent bookstores, Yamazaki was the recipient of the National Book Foundation’s 2023 Literarian Award for Outstanding Service to the American Literary Community. He has mentored generations of booksellers across America.

In *Reading the Room*, Yamazaki guides the reader through 24 hours in the stacks of one of the most storied bookstores in the country. We learn about his care and prowess in book buying; his upbringing in a Japanese American family in Southern California and moving to San Francisco at the height of revolutionary foment; working with legendary figures in the book publishing industry like Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Sonny Mehta, and others; and his vision for the future of bookselling.

“All booksellers are the unsung heroes of American literature, but Paul Yamazaki is a superhero.”
—Colson Whitehead

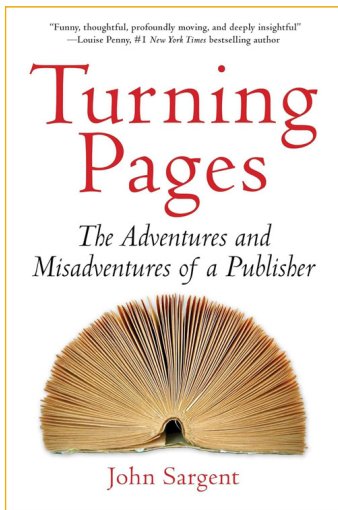
Sources: Ode Books; Wikipedia



Books in Brief, continued

Turning Pages: The Adventures and Misadventures of a Publisher

John Sargent
Arcade
304 pp., September 2023



In *Turning Pages: The Adventures and Misadventures of a Publisher*, John Sargent tells the story of 40 years in the publishing business.

For 24 of those years, Sargent ran one of America’s largest publishing companies, Macmillan. Rather than a straight chronological narrative, Sargent uses the best stories of those years

to give us an intimate look inside book publishing, with triumph and despair that can occur on any day. Sargent introduces his odd publishing family, his interesting authors, and the celebrities with whom he worked. He tells about publishing Monica Lewinsky and recounts what it was like to meet with an author in Buckingham Palace. He recounts Macmillan’s battles with Amazon, the Department of Justice, and President Donald Trump.

From a one-room schoolhouse in Wyoming to the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa and full of humor and grace, this behind-the-scenes look at some of the biggest moments in publishing over the last several decades is a must-read for every person who loves books and has always wondered about the industry surrounding them. Addictively entertaining, moving, and highly unusual, Sargent’s very best stories create a memorable memoir of a remarkable life and career.



Source: Arcade

In addition to Macmillan, **John Sargent** has worked at Simon and Schuster, DK Publishing (CEO), and St. Martin’s Press (CEO) – a remarkable career in publishing.

The Editor: How Publishing Legend Judith Jones Shaped Culture in America Hardcover

Sara B. Franklin
Atria Books
336 pp., May 2024

Judith Jones, the editor behind many top 20th-century authors – Julia Child, Anne Frank, Edna Lewis, John Updike, Sylvia Plath, and others – finally receives due recognition.

At Doubleday’s Paris office in 1949, Jones wades through iffy manuscripts until one catches her eye. She read it in one sitting, then begged her boss to consider publishing it.

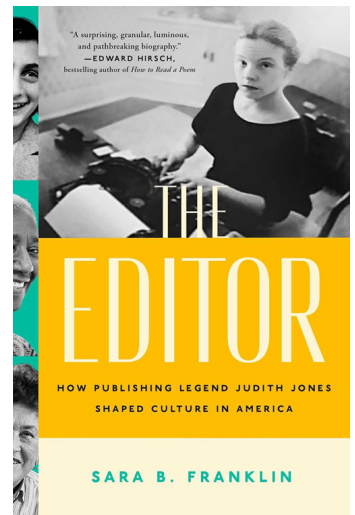
A year later, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* became a bestseller. An auspicious beginning.

During 50 years as an editor at Alfred A. Knopf, Jones nurtured literary icons and helped launch new genres and trends in literature. At the forefront of the cookbook revolution, she published the who’s who of food writing: Edna Lewis, M. F. K. Fisher, Claudia Roden, Madhur Jaffrey, James Beard, and Julia Child. Tenacious work behind the scenes helped Jones turn authors into household names, changing cultural mores and expectations along the way.

Jones’s career spanned decades of dramatic cultural change, from World War II through the civil rights movement and the fight for women’s equality, publishing tools of quiet resistance. Now, based on exclusive interviews, never-before-seen personal papers, and years of research, her astonishing career is explored for the first time in this portrait of an editor.

Sara B. Franklin, writer, teacher, and oral historian, received a 2020–2021 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholars grant for her research on Judith Jones.

Source: Atria Books

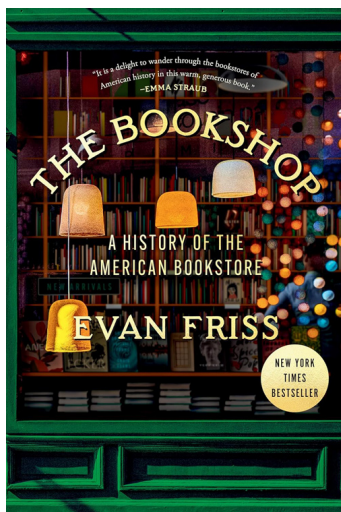


Books in Brief, concluded**The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore**

Evan Friss

Viking

416 pp., August 2024



Bookstores are unlike any other kind of store, shaping readers and writers, and influencing our tastes, thoughts, and politics. They nurture local communities while creating new ones of their own. Bookshops are powerful spaces, but they are also endangered ones.

In *The Bookshop*, we see the stakes: what has been lost and what might have been.

Evan Friss's history of the bookshop draws on oral histories, archival collections, municipal records, diaries, letters, and interviews with leading booksellers to offer a fascinating look at this institution beloved by so many.

The story begins with Benjamin Franklin's first bookstore in Philadelphia and takes us to a range of booksellers, including the Strand, Chicago's Marshall Field & Company, the Gotham Book Mart, specialty stores like Oscar Wilde and Drum and Spear, sidewalk sellers of used books, Barnes & Noble, Amazon Books, and Parnassus. *The Bookshop* is also a history of the leading figures in American bookselling, often impassioned eccentrics, and a history of how books have been marketed and sold over more than two centuries, even by extraordinary

means. For example, Judy, a 3,000-pound elephant was hoisted to the third floor of Marshall Fields to sign books in 1944.

Evan Friss is a professor of history at James Madison University and the author of two other books on the history of the bicycle in America.

Source: Viking

[Bookish fiction]

Murder in the Book Lover's Loft

Ellery Adams

Kensington Cozies

320 pp., July 2023

If you love Rita Mae Brown and Alexander McCall Smith, then *New York Times* bestselling author Ellery Adams is sure to delight you with her newest novel set at Virginia's book-themed resort, Storyton Hall, a perfect getaway for book lovers. But when resort manager Jane Steward takes a break from Storyton, she finds herself in a story of her own and a mystery that's far from relaxing.

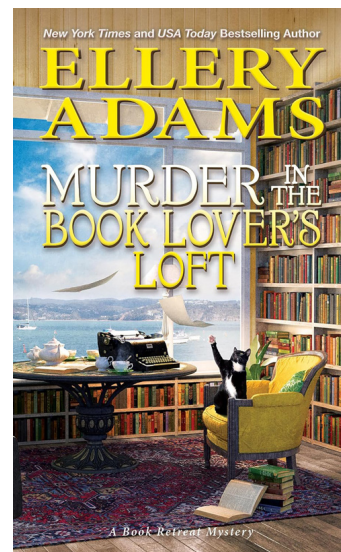
Jane and her fiancé, Edwin, head to the North Carolina coast for a much-needed vacation. Their seaside loft has floor-to-ceiling bookcases and breathtaking views, but Jane's hopes of exploring the town with Edwin are foiled when he steps on a stingray. Then Jane stumbles across a dead body.

Jane is suddenly on a literary chase through time, unearthing a dark secret in her family tree that threatens all she holds dear back in Storyton. And it'll take a whole village to help her make amends for the past – and stop a madman bent on exacting justice in the present.

Suspense Magazine says, "Creating a group of suspects that will keep readers intrigued until the last page, Ellery Adams has proven that this is one series that should and will go on for a long time to come."

Ellery Adams has written over forty mystery novels. When not working on her next novel, she reads, bakes, gardens, and rearranges her bookshelves.

Source: Kensington Cozies



A detail of *The Magdalene Reading* by the Netherlandish painter Roger Van der Weyden is shown at the right. A jar of ointment (not visible in this detail) is an attribute that identifies her: she is described as anointing the feet of Jesus with ointment in Gospel of Luke.

The Magdalene has been the subject of much study and speculation through the centuries, second only to Mary the mother of Jesus. She is shown here reading the *Bible*, the page of which, though not quite legible, is rendered in great detail. The decorative initial at the top of this piece is taken from the book.

The Magdalene Reading was painted in 1438 at a time when Northern European painters were just beginning to use oil paints, which allowed extreme detail in painting (described in the “And More” feature in this newsletter). In addition to the nearly readable page, rendered in both black for the text, red for the notes, and red and dark blue for the initials, Van der Weyden has carefully detailed the gilding on the edges of the pages, the gold clasps that secure the book when it is closed, the headband, and a gold bar that runs across the top of the pages at the spine and to which it can be seen that four bookmarks are attached. The original is 24.5 x 21.4 inches. At full scale, the detail is approximately 8 inches tall.

Another interesting detail of the book is the chemise binding, indicated by the white linen draped around the edges of the book. The chemise was a cloth book cover sewn with pockets into which the book covers slipped.



THANKS

This Month's Writers and Contributors

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

Wesley Brown

Sean Donnelly

David Hall

Maureen E. Mulvihill

Carl Mario Nudi

Irene Pavese

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!

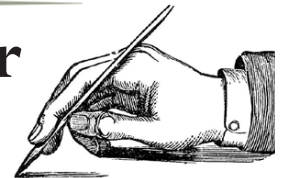
Love books? Take your interest to the next level by joining a group of dedicated book lovers (i.e., bibliophiles). You will meet serious collectors, dealers, scholars, and readers, and you will discover a lively, fun group.



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

November 2024



Russell Spera: Dante for Collectors

Macdonald-Kelce Library
401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL
November 17, 2024, 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 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.

December 2024



Maria Christensen/Etsy

FBS Holiday Party

December 15, 2024, 12:30 p.m.

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

FBS members are requested to bring an appetizer, side dish, wine, or dessert. Please RSVP to Ben Wiley (bwiley@tampabay.rr.com) by Sunday, December 8, if you are coming, and let us know what you will be bringing.

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

Hope to see you there!

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.

— November 8–9 —

Sanibel Island Writers Conference

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

— November 12, 11 a.m.–12 p.m. —

Banned Book Club

This month's book: *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Wells
Bookstore 1, Sarasota, FL

— 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)

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

— 24 January 6–7 —

St. Pete Comic Con

St. Petersburg Coliseum
(stpete.floridacomicon.com)

— 24 January 11–14 —

Annual Key West Literary Seminar: “Singing America: A Celebration of Black Literature”

Key West, FL (www.kwls.org/)

— 24 January 13–20 —

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

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. 78: Richard Mori on

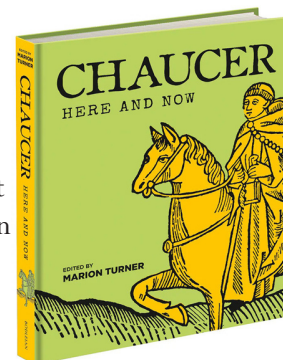
Books in Boston – Bookseller Richard Mori, a regular visitor to RBC, is one of the organizers of Books in Boston, the Shadow Show to the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair. He shares some of the interesting books he brought to Books in Boston on November 9, 2024. Books in Boston will be presented at the Hilton Back Bay, around the corner from the Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair.

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

University of Oxford Podcasts

[Marion Turner: Exploring Chaucer Here and Now](#)

– In this webinar, Professor Turner introduces some of the themes of *Chaucer Here and Now*, an exhibition at the Weston Library, December 2023–April 2024. Focusing on manuscripts and printed books from the 15th century to the 21st, Turner discusses some of the ways in which readers of Chaucer have responded to and reimagined Chaucer's works. From medieval scribes to Zadie Smith, via early printers, Victorian children's authors and William Morris, Turner explores the afterlife of one of our greatest poets. Highlights of the exhibition and Turner's book, *Chaucer Here and Now*, can be investigated on the [Bodleian Library website](#).



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

Oct. 14 – Siegfried Lukatis on Insel Bucherei, the Iconic German Book Series – Lokatis is a retired professor of book history and former head of the University of Leipzig's Institute for Communication and Media Studies. He is the author of *Book Covers of the GDR* and working on a history of the S. Fischer publishing house. We toured Leipzig's Bibliotop to discuss its splendid Insel Bucherei book collection, a staple of German publishing since 1912. Known for their quality production – especially the decorative papers used for their covers – its 2,000 titles (now published by Suhrkamp Verlag) includes well-known and little known texts from world literature, art history, nonfiction, poetry, and fairy tales.

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. Free but requires registration to receive a Zoom link. Past events are available on YouTube.

Nov. 7, 12–12:30 p.m. – Ms. Codex 1604: Hymns and Prayers, Germany 15th c. – Dot Porter will share Ms. Codex 1604, a manuscript collection of hymns and prayers bound with slightly later printed pastoral works. It's a fascinating example of the interplay between print and manuscript through the 15th century.

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*

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 monographs and creative works broadly related to book history and print culture.” Free, but advance registration is required for upcoming presentations.

Recent and Upcoming Episodes:

Sep. 26 – Amy Gore: *Book Anatomy: Body Politics and Materiality in Indigenous Book History* – Indigenous books bear the marks, traces, and scars of colonial survival. Publications of the 19th century authored by Native Americans included many nontextual features – illustrations, typefaces, explanatory prefaces, copyright statements, author portraits, and more – that shaped how they were read and understood. Gore argues that these features are a space colonization where Native authors battle the perception and reception of Indigenous books, negotiate representations of Indigenous bodies, and fight for authority and ownership of their literary work.

Nov. 21 – Sara Johnson: *Encyclopédie noire: The Making of Moreau de Saint-Méry’s Intellectual World* – Lawyer, philosophe, and Enlightenment polymath, Moreau’s (1750–1819) prolific output creates a vital window into the world of the U.S., French, and other revolutions. But his achievements were built on the work of enslaved and free people of color whose labor gave him the leisure to research, think, and write and whose rich cultures fill the his most applauded works. Johnson goes beyond the gilded tomes to explore these cultures to build a communal biography of the women and men who made Moreau’s world.

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.

[Simon Rowberry: The Early Development of Project Gutenberg c. 1970–2000](#)

– Michael Hart founded Project Gutenberg and spun a mythology about it. Rowberry re-examines the historical evidence to challenge some of Hart’s bolder claims and places Project Gutenberg in context in online document delivery and digitisation in late 20th century, especially the Web’s first decade (the 1990s). Through this reappraisal, the author suggests that Hart’s Project is significant as an example of what Millicent Weber has termed a “digital publishing collective,” whereby a group of volunteers engage in producing content and where the process is as meaningful as the final product.

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

Ink, The Secret of

When we consider the innovations that made Gutenberg's press the history-altering invention that it was, perhaps we first think of the ingenious methods he developed to make the tiny pieces of type and the various equipment that made it possible to print from them. But one of Gutenberg's most important inventions was the ink that made printing from metal onto paper possible.

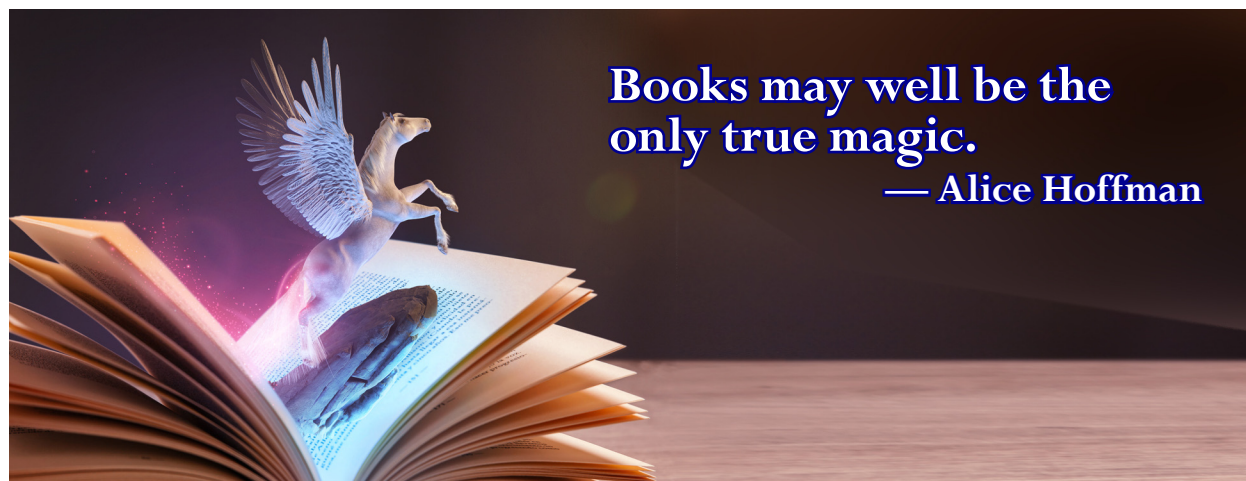
Before Gutenberg introduced the printing press in the 1450s, books were written by hand with quill pens and ink; however, the ink that scribes used was water based. It clung well to the organic material of a quill and flowed smoothly onto parchment and eventually paper. But water-based ink did not adhere evenly to the metal type used in Gutenberg's press. He needed something new. It would have to adhere evenly to the metal type, print cleanly, and dry quickly. Just as he had adapted jewelry making techniques to develop lead type, he drew on another, more recent technology to create the ink needed for the printing press. That technology was oil paint.

Oil paint may date to the 800s, and a formula for making it was written down in the 1100s, but until the 1400s, it was an uncommon material for use in picture painting. Oil paint had been used some time to paint wooden statues, but the Flemish painter Jan van Eyck (ca. 1380–1441) is credited with developing



Flemish painter Jan van Eyck is credited with developing oil paint for fine art around 1400. Oil paints allowed fine details and exquisite effects of light and transparency as in the "Angel's brooch" from van Eyck's impressive group of paintings that form the Altarpiece of Ghent. Note the reflection of window in the an oil paint formula suitable for fine art painting. It allowed a level of detail and subtle effects of light by layering paint and glazing. The use of canvas for painting in the late 1400s and the adoption of oil on canvas in Italy in the 1500s made it the medium of choice for fine painters throughout Europe.

Gutenberg recognized oil paint as a possible ink alternative for his printing press. His formula involved lamp black and linseed oil, with walnut oil, turpentine oil, pine resin, cinnabar, and other substances. These boiled down to produce the right thickness. The procedure – critical to Gutenberg's success – was a closely guarded trade secret – printers made their own ink. The secret was kept for over 200 years until the 1600s when ink became a commercial product and printers no longer had to make their own.



**Books may well be the
only true magic.**

— Alice Hoffman

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 • An Afternoon of Books – We spent the afternoon chatting about the future of FBS and enjoying a couple of special presentations by Gary Simons and Charles Brown. Sean Donnelly’s presentation, “Tales of a Bookseller,” has been postponed.

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! Join us at Largo home of Ben and Joyce Wiley. Call 727-215-2276 to confirm festive dish you’re bringing.

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

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



Endpaper • Thinking about the Future



As we mentioned in the minutes, hurricanes Helena and Milton had a big impact on many of our members and changed our meeting plans. But it provided an opportunity for a much needed conversation. It was productive and informative, and we should have more of them.

It's a question of the future of FBS. We're looking for our own next generation of leaders – presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, archivists – even newsletter editors!

As our membership expands, we should be able to move toward a committee structure for some of our more labor-intensive tasks. For example, our vice president, Ben Wiley, schedules our speakers and

events as did Jerry Morris before him (as president or vice president) and Maureen Mulvihill before that. (Any further back is before my time.) This might be a perfect job for a small committee that could divide the effort and bring more ideas. We can't expect Ben to do this year after year.

Let's work on this together: more members at meetings; more members participating as officers or on committees. I think we already mentioned that if you have some time and interest, we can figure out what works for you and FBS.

Abbreviated but heartfelt.

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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