

The Florida Bibliophile

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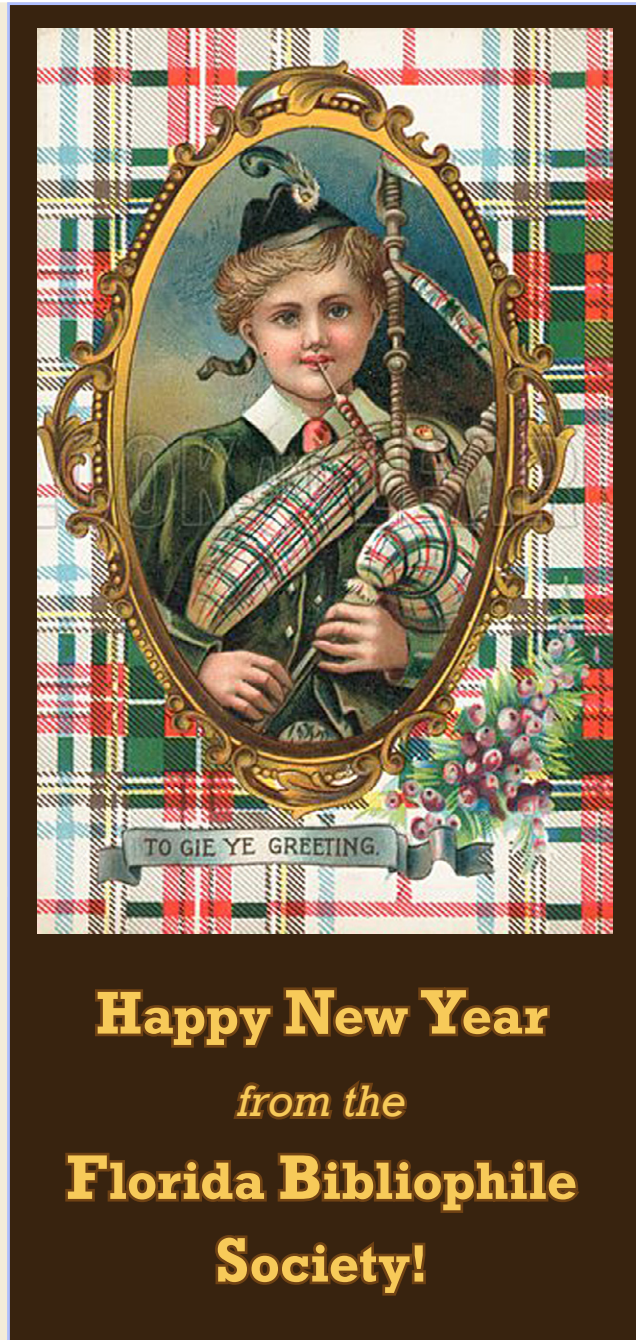


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February newsletter deadline: January 29, 2025 (see p. 25)

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](#).



Happy New Year
from the
Florida Bibliophile
Society!



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the December 2024 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society by Charles Brown, FBS President

T*was the night before Christmas . . .* Or it might have been a magical Sunday afternoon when we gathered at the Largo home of Joyce and Ben Wiley for our annual holiday party. *And all through the house . . .* Or most of the house – tables were set in grand style, and the house was decorated for the holiday. *Not a creature was stirring . . .* Well, someone was stirring prosecco cocktails while others bustled about, setting up the buffet as guests arrived with bowls and platters of holiday specialties. *Not even a mouse . . .* Of course not – the theme at the Wiley home is set by their outstanding and always fascinating collection of pears. From cocktails to luncheon to crackers and gifts, it was lovely time together and a beautifully bibliophilic kickoff to the holiday season!



To begin, Stephanie Montor, Jude Bagatti, and Wes and Carol Brown offer a holiday toast –



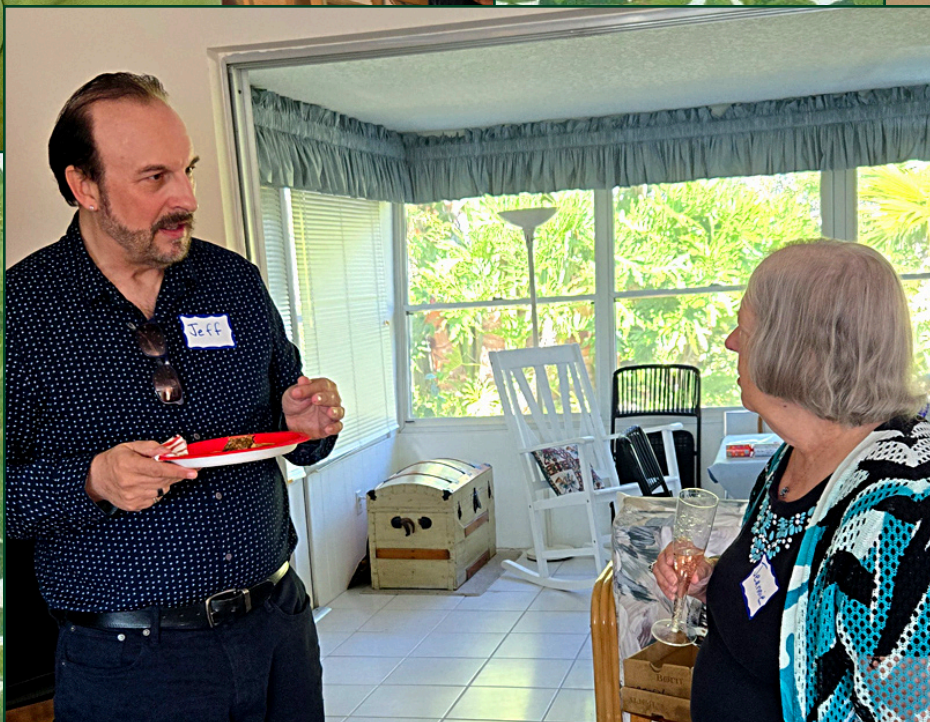
HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



After lunch, Patty McMurray, Ed Cifelli, Mark McMurray, Charles Brown, and Jeanne and Gary Simons, adorned in paper crowns, share the traditionally horrible puns in their Christmas crackers.

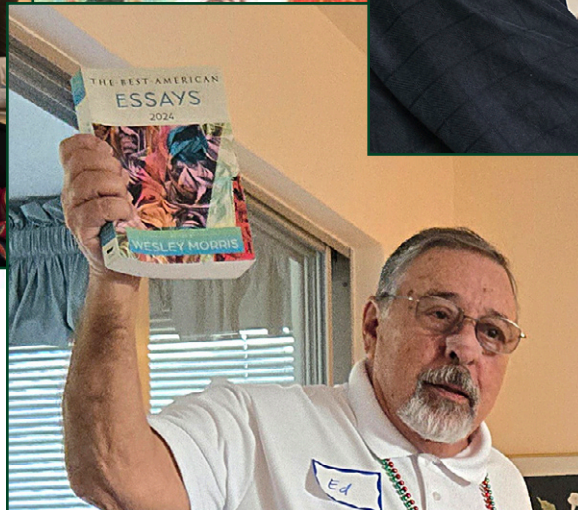


Clockwise from upper left: Bill Hale and Madison, all smiles; Adam Wiley gives lunch a thumbs-up; Irene Pavese notices the camera: Jeff Fitzgerald and Jeanne Simons discuss the fine points; Sean Donnelly ponders prosecco.





Ben Wiley introduces this year's gift exchange. Everyone brings a wrapped book. Ben will pass the basket, and we pick numbers to decide the order of picking a gift.



Left to right: Jeanne Simons with *The Bookshop* by Friss; Ed Cifelli with *Best American Essays 2024* by Morris; Bill Hale with *Bibliophile Diverse Spines* (puzzle).



Top left: Sean Donnelly with *Free Fall in Crimson* by MacDonald; Right: Joyce Wiley with *A Return to Love* by Williamson; Center: Roberta Cifelli with *Becoming Belle Da Costa Greene* by Parker; Bottom left: Wes Brown with *Out of Africa* by Dinesen; Right: Madison with *Cape Cod* by Thoreau

The party dwindles as we bid our adieus . . .



At the end of the party, each sprang to their sleigh . . . or maybe an early 21st-century conveyance. And flew away like the down of a thistle . . . or carefully negotiated a few labyrinthine streets down to Indian Rocks Road. But we heard them exclaim as they drove out of sight,

“HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL, AND SEE YOU IN 2025!”



Books about Bibliophilic Book Clubbing

by Gary Simons, FBS Corresponding Secretary

In the December 2024 issue of *The Florida Bibliophile*, our editor Charles Brown wrote about “Books about Books.” As Charles explained, this term not only refers to books about the physical nature of books or the histories of important books but also encompasses books about book publishers and publishing, book collectors and their collections, book sellers and book stores, and other bookish subjects.

But bibliophilic book clubbing is different. While many book-related activities are innately solitary, book clubbing is social. Book clubbers join together to embrace the role and significance of books and book-loving friends in their lives. Book clubbing is about connection and sharing.

Just as we in the Florida Bibliophile Society welcome new members, meet and share our enthusiasms, listen to speakers, enjoy field trips, contribute to and mutually read articles in our newsletter, exhibit our finds, and sometimes issue publications, so do members of roughly two

dozen other bibliophilic book clubs and societies spread around the United States. The history and cultural practices of book clubbing within these organizations are embodied in the details – the whos, whats, wheres, and whens – of club or society start-up; membership; governance; meetings; presentations; publications; exhibitions; travel; establishment and maintenance of club libraries; and other activities.

An article scheduled to be published in an upcoming 2025 issue of the *Journal of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies* reports on the yearbooks, newsletters, journals, and travel narratives which record these past and present inner workings of American bibliophilic organizations. To complement that article this listicle cites bibliophilic club histories, bibliographies, anniversary volumes, and related materials that may be appropriately described as “Books about Bibliophilic Book Clubbing.” The publications themselves range from elaborate, beautiful, and lengthy volumes to simple yet informative brochures.

General

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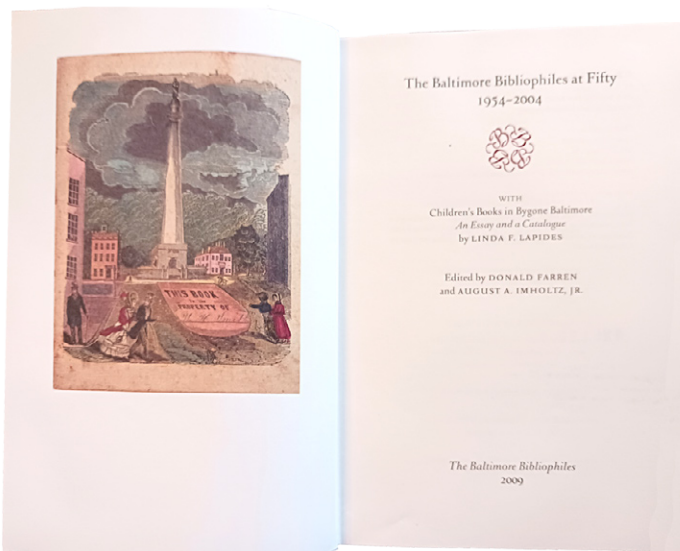
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Book Club Books, continued

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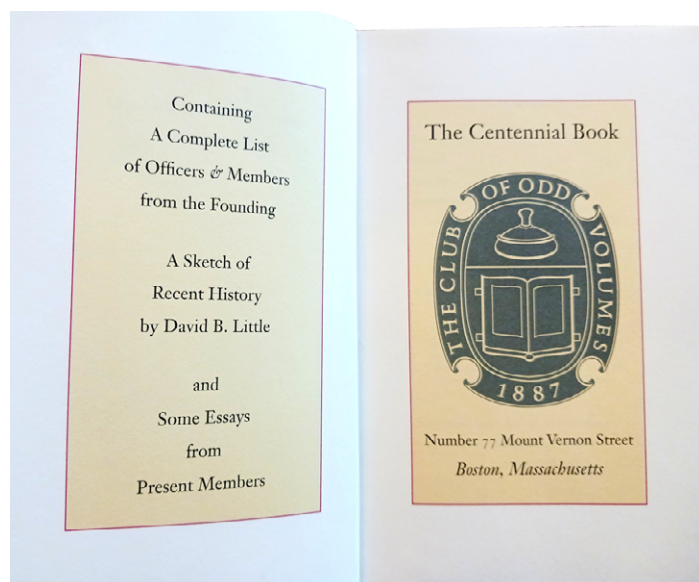
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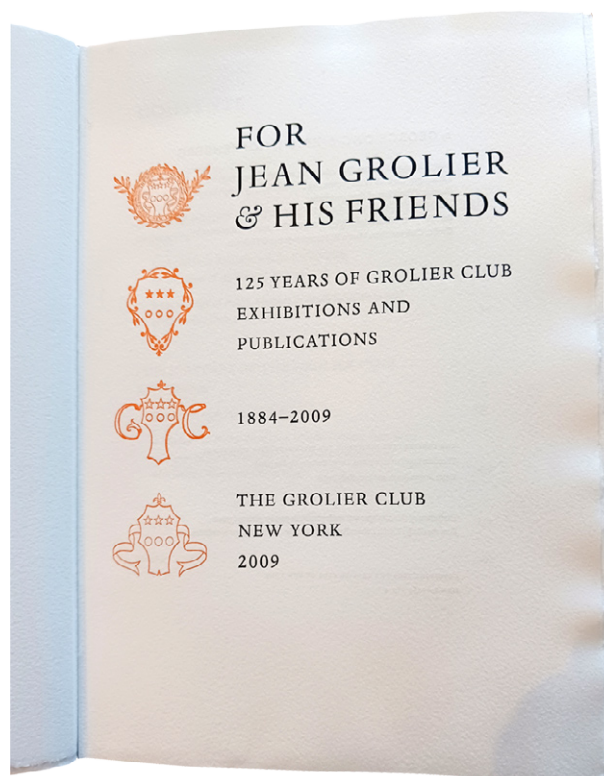
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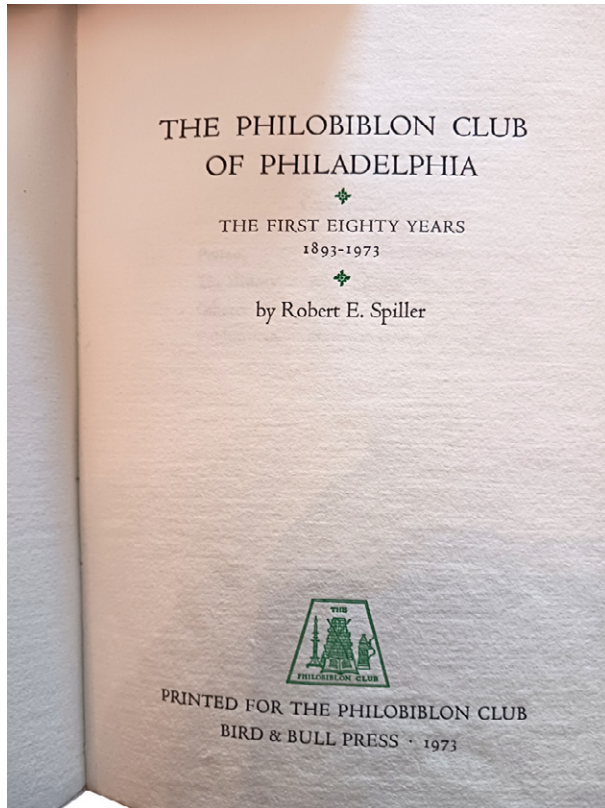
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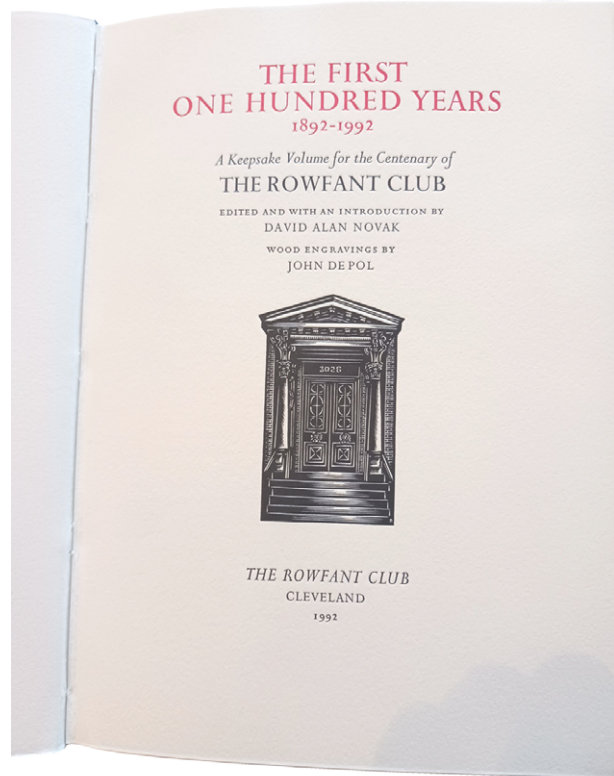
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The Zamorano Club, 1929 (Zamorano Club, 1929).

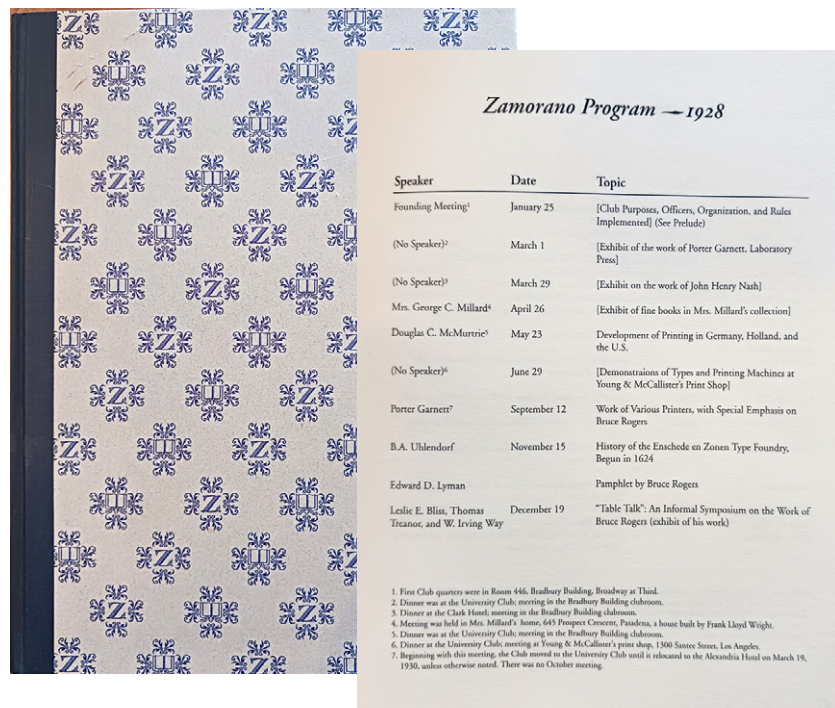
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Sir Hans Sloane and the Founding of the British Library

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the largest libraries in the world. With holdings that number up to 200 million items, the “BL” had its beginnings in a 1753 bequest from the physician, naturalist, and collector Sir Hans Sloane.

The Collecting Life of Sir Hans Sloane

Of Scots ancestry, Sloane was born in 1660 in Ulster, the northernmost province of Ireland, comprising nine counties, six of which now form Northern Ireland. As a youth, he was an avid collector of natural objects, which led him to study botany in London. During subsequent travels in Europe, he studied medicine in Paris and Montpellier and then took an MD at the University of Orange-Nassau in the Netherlands in 1683. He returned to London, and within a year, he was elected to the UK’s premier scientific association, the Royal Society. He would later succeed Sir Isaac Newton as that body’s 13th president, serving from 1727 to 1741.

In 1685, Sloane was elected to Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and that same year, he went to Jamaica as personal physician to the Island’s governor, Christopher Monck, 2nd Duke of Albermarle. Sloane returned to England after the duke’s death about 15 months later.

Sloane’s time in Jamaica was the turning point in his collecting. During his time there, he visited numerous islands and collected over 1,000 plant specimens. (His collection of 265 volumes of pressed plants and many boxes of related material are housed in specially designed storage in the British Natural History Museum. It is the largest botanical collection that survives from the Early Modern period.)

In 1695, Sloane married Elisabeth Rose Langley, daughter of a wealthy Jamaican plantation owner. This provided additional funds with which to enlarge his collections through the purchase of other collections, including William Courten,



Sir Hans Sloane, carved by Michael Rysbrack. Terracotta, 1736. (Image: Linda Hall Library, British Museum)

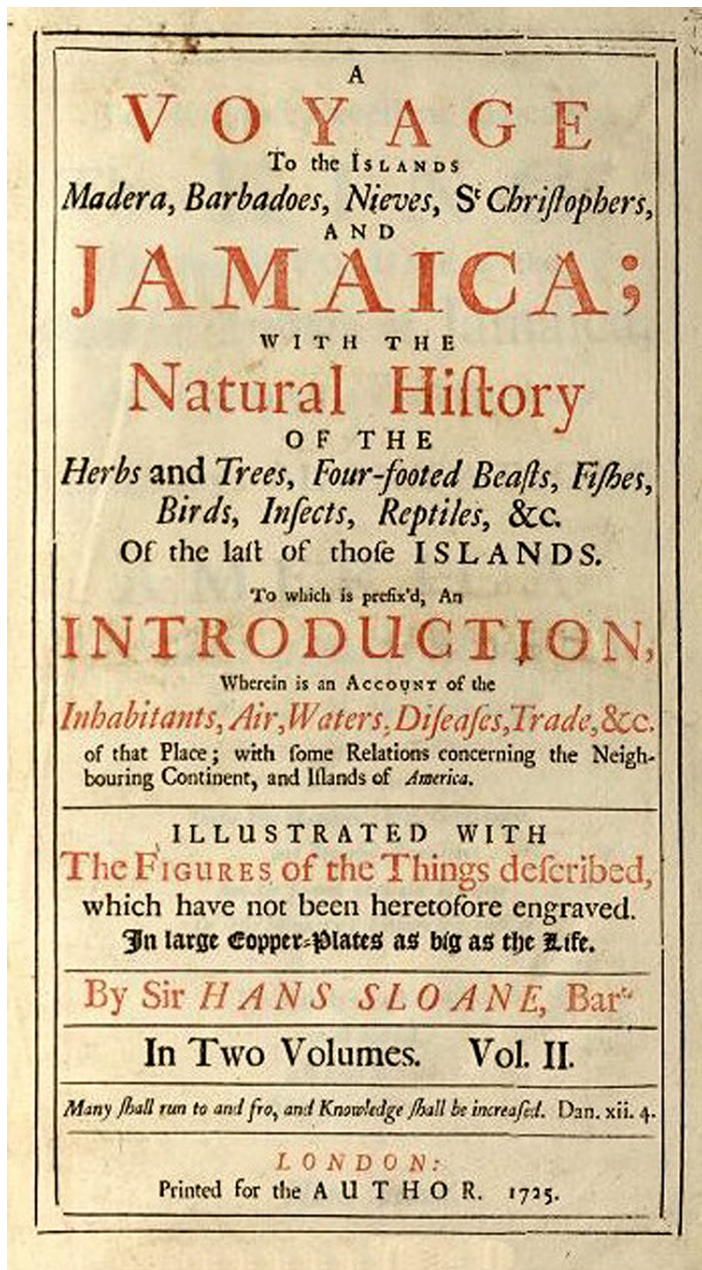
James Petiver, and others. Of note are 13 watercolors by Maria Merian which appeared in her *Metamorphosis* (1705).

Sloane’s wealth allowed him to purchase significant property, the manor house at Chelsea, which had been owned by Henry VIII. The property was large, with numerous buildings. Sloane used the main building, the manor house itself for his collections, which provided space for their display and for visitors to enjoy them.

Another notable accomplishment of Sloane during this period was the fusion of three very important food products: chocolate, sugar, and milk. At the time, “drinking chocolate” was a luxury drink of the upper classes in Europe because cacao beans only grew in South America. Roasted cacao beans were powdered and combined with a number of spices and hot water to make a spicy bitter drink

Text continues on page 15.

Sloane, *continued*



Title page of *A Voyage to the Islands Madera, Barbados, Nieves, S. Christophers and Jamiaca . . . , vol. 2*, by Hans Sloane. The first volume was published in 1707 and focused on Sloane's botanical discoveries. Volume 2 treated botany and a variety of other topics, including wildlife, climate, diseases, and trade in the Caribbean. (Image: Wikipedia)

Figure 1 from *A Voyage to the islands Madera, Barbados, Nieves, S. Christophers and Jamiaca . . . , vol. 1*, by Hans Sloane. Both volumes are accompanied by extensive engravings and maps. This figure shows a "rough, shining coral found on a shipwreck near the island of Hispaniola (now occupied by Haiti and the Dominican Republic). (Image: Internet Archive)

Sloane, continued

(often served cold) that was regarded as an acquired taste. (Sugar is not native to the New World; it was introduced by Christopher Columbus in the 1490s.)

Sloane encountered drinking chocolate in Jamaica and found it quite unpleasant, but by adding milk and sugar, the bitterness of the chocolate was lessened. Sloane brought this innovation back to England, establishing the drink often enjoyed for the past 300 years. For this reason alone, “Sloane” ought to be a household name. Many formulas for sweet drinking chocolate were circulating in Europe, but Sloane’s high position in London society may have associated his name with his concoction. He advocated drinking hot chocolate made with milk for its health benefits.

Sloane’s interests in botany and medicine were natural companions. He lived in an era when every new plant was considered a potential source of a miracle drug. Local use of and lore about plants was considered particularly important – a practice now called ethnobotany – and many plants enjoyed years or decades of fame until they were displaced by other plants or found to be less effective than advertised.

New Successes; New Opportunities

In London, Sloane used the proceeds of his medical career – he attended Queen Anne, King George II, and King George III as well as other aristocrats – his London properties, and English overseas trading companies to add to his collections. They were growing to include plants and other natural history specimens, books, maps, coins, cultural objects, and antiquities.

In his time, Sloane’s collecting outshone his scientific or medical accomplishments, which were regarded as slight by comparison. Although he had a flourishing and lucrative medical practice, he only published once on medical practice, and that was late in life, after his retirement.

Sloane’s collecting (including the management of collections) and his positions in the Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians left little time for science. During his time as secretary and then



London’s Foundling Hospital in a 1753 engraving. Sloane was a founding governor of the hospital for children, the first of its kind in the UK. The hospital relocated to a healthier rural location in the 1920s. Various schemes for reuse of the original building did not materialize, and it was demolished in 1928. The charity continues to this day as the Coram Group of children’s charities.

president of the Royal Society, he breathed new life, as editor, into the Society’s journal, *Philosophical Transactions*, the world’s first and longest running scientific publication.

Sloane worked diligently for the Royal Society, soliciting donations and pursuing members with unpaid accounts. He corresponded with scholars worldwide and promoted knowledge sharing between British and French scholars, fostered by his travels and studies in France earlier in his life. He was named a foreign associate of the *French Académie Royale des Sciences* and the academies of science in Prussia, Saint Petersburg, Madrid, and Göttingen.

One of Sloane’s most significant contributions to the scientific establishment was using his high position in British society to act as a “conduit” between science, politics, and high society. His collections were significant and drew visits from people like Carl Linnaeus and Benjamin Franklin.

Sloane continued to accrue honors. In 1716, the British Crown made him a baronet, a hereditary title that could be passed to his descendants and which qualified him to be called “Sir.” He was the first medical practitioner to receive a hereditary title. Three years later, he became president of the Royal College of Physicians and served in that role until 1734. In 1722, he was appointed physician-general to the army, and in 1727, first physician to George II.

Sloane was well-known for his philanthropy. He

Sloane, *continued*

supported Christ's Hospital and the Royal College of Physicians' dispensary that supplied medications at reduced cost and operated a free daily surgery.

Along with luminaries including artist William Hogarth and composer Georg Friedrich Handel, he was a founding governor of London's Foundling Hospital, established in 1739 to care for abandoned children – the first such institution in the UK. As a forward-thinking physician, Sloane was a supporter of inoculation to prevent smallpox, which he had administered to his own family and the royal family. It was required for children in the Foundling Hospital's care.

Sloane retired in 1741. Over the next decade, he continued his collecting and philanthropic activities. In 1752, he developed an unrecorded ailment that was accompanied by some paralysis. He died in January 1753. Numerous locations in London bear his name, including Sloane Street, Sloane Square, and Hans Street. He is remembered in his hometown of Killyleagh with a full-length statue on a pedestal.

A Bequest to the Nation

Sloane's philanthropy extended well beyond his life. In the July 1749 codicil to his will, he designated as a gift to the nation:

All my library of books, drawings, manuscripts, prints, medals and coins, antient and modern, antiquities, seals, &c. cameas and intaglio's, &c, precious stones, agates, jaspers, &c. vessels, &c. of agate, jasper, &c, chrystals, mathematical instruments, drawings and pictures, and all other things in my said collection or musæum, which are more particularly described, mentioned and numbered, with short histories or accounts of them, with proper references in certain catalogues by me made, containing thirty-eight volumes in folio, and eight volumes in quarto, except such framed pictures as are not marked with the word (collection)

His original intent was that the collections should be kept together and remain in the Chelsea manor

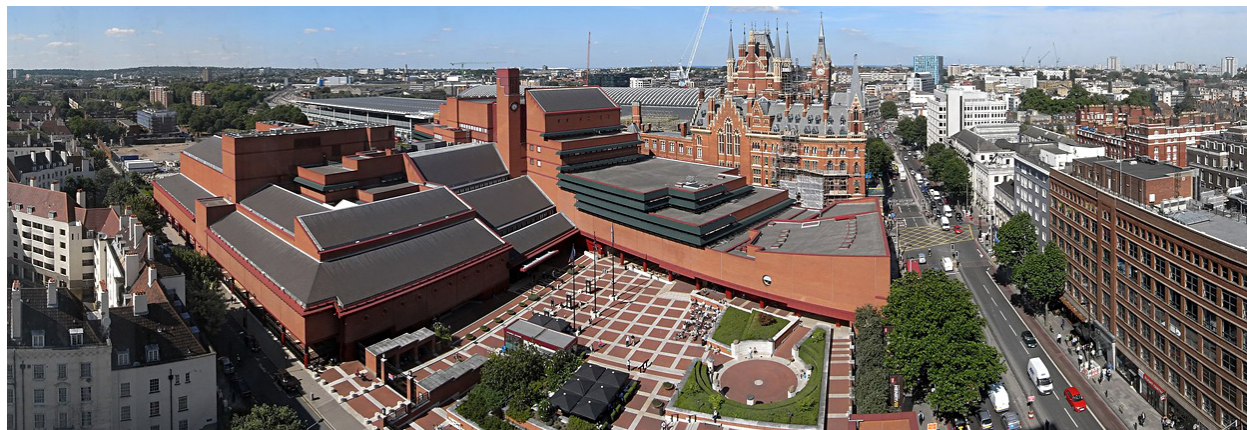


Statue of Sir Hans Sloane in his hometown, Killyleagh. A marble copy stands at the National History Museum.

house and that they should be freely available for viewing by anyone that desired to see them. He explains his motivation:

Having had from my youth a strong inclination to the study of plants, and all other productions of nature; and having through the course of many years with great labour and expence, gathered together whatever could be procured either in our own or foreign countries that was rare and curious; and being fully convinced that nothing tends more to raise our ideas of the power, wisdom, goodness, providence, and other perfections of the Deity, or more to the comfort and well being of his creatures than the enlargement of our knowledge in the works of nature, I do Will and desire that for the promoting of these noble ends, the glory of God, and the Good of man, my collection in all its branches may be, if possible, kept and preserved together whole and intire in my manor house, in the parish of Chelsea . . .

His only condition was that Parliament should pay his heirs £20,000, less than half the value of the collections and possibly much less; the estimates varied considerably.

Sloane, concluded

The modern buildings at the center of this picture and extending to the left were begun in 1997 and are the main buildings of the British Library.

Parliament accepted the condition and passed the necessary legislation. Sloane's collection, itemized by groups in the codicil amounted just under 130,000 items, of which 50,000 were books.

Parliament added to this the royal library of George II, which added about 9,000 books and valuable manuscripts. The 1753 act that purchased Sloane's collections was also used to purchase the Cotton and Harley libraries.

A New Kind of Public Institution

Altogether, the collections became the foundation of a new kind of public institution, the public museum, to be called the British Museum. The books comprised the British Museum's library, and the many natural objects formed the natural history collection.

Despite Sloane's wishes, the curators of the new museums felt that only scholars and the upper classes should be given access to the collections. They felt that lower classes were not worthy and that education was the province of the privileged.

Access was restricted by the limited hours that the museums were open and a ticketing system. In the 1830s, management of the British Museums natural history collections had become a scandal, so much so that Parliament would not give any government-procured samples into their care. Restrictions were also more severe, and the public was not encouraged to visit the natural history museum.

However, this was also a time when attitudes

about education were changing, and by 1856, when paleontologist Richard Owen became superintendent of the British Museum, the environment was ready for change.

Owen wanted the museum to belong to the people and be fully accessible to them. He began the effort to overhaul the cramped natural history division and began plans to build it a large spacious building of its own. In describing Owen's program of change, author Bill Bryson (*A Short History of Nearly Everything*) has said that Owen "transformed our expectations of what museums are for."

Since that time, the British Museum and the Natural History Museum London have grown significantly and become centers of learning as well as repositories. The Museum's library holdings also increased significantly through the purchase or donation of additional collections over the years. The library is also the repository for all written works created in the UK as well as all newspapers (since 1840).

After World War II, the need for additional space for the library's burgeoning holdings required a separate building, and this has been described as the beginning of the road to independence. With such a large collection and many specialized services needed to maintain it, a series of changes led to the idea of separating the library as an institution of its own.

On July 1, 1973, an act of Parliament created the British Library, which took its place as one of the



Mozart Letter Discovered in French Archive

It seems absurd now that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart would have trouble getting his music published, but there was a time. That time is the context of a recently discovered letter that Mozart wrote to the Paris musician Jean-Georges Sieber in April 1783.

In 2024, a “prominent French family” discovered a long-lost letter by Mozart in which he promotes recent work to a Paris publisher. The letter’s content was known and has appeared in books about Mozart, but the original document disappeared many years ago, apparently more than 100 years ago. It was first published in 1921 from a facsimile, then the only known copy.

The Sieber letter was discovered in a family archive and joins other Mozart discoveries of 2024: a string trio, Serenade in C (also called *Ganz kleine Nachtmusik*, “Very little night music”), and a piano piece, *Allegro in D major*.

Today, Mozart is one of the most celebrated and performed composers of the Classical period, but during his life, he faced many obstacles. His music was often criticized for breaking rules of composition, excessive ornamentation, and complexity for both performer and listener. Nevertheless, he was brilliantly gifted and widely acknowledged as a master of his art.



Louis d'or, the main coin of France, was introduced by Louis XIII in 1640 to replace the Spanish double escudo (“doubloon”) that had become the most common gold coin in France. It was last minted under Louis XVI in 1792 when the French revolution replaced it with the 20-franc coin bearing the image of Napoleon. Shown here at about 50% larger than actual size, the 25-cm coin weighed 6.75 grams in 22-carat gold.



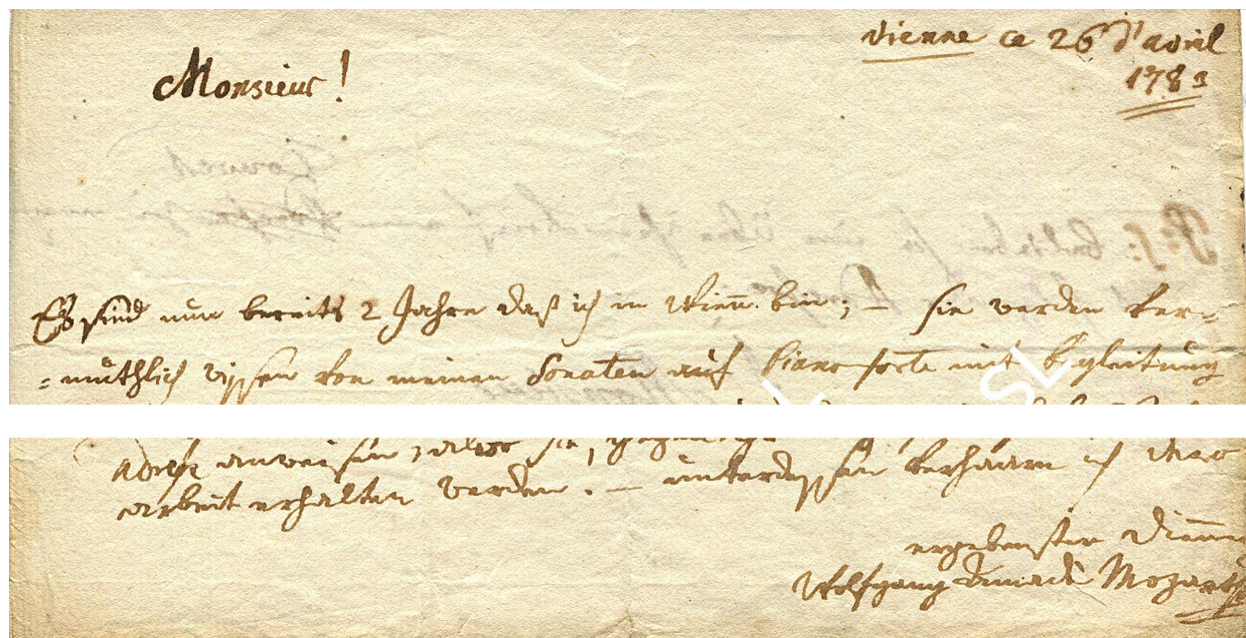
Portrait of 13-year-old Wolfgang Mozart by Giambettino Cignaroli, 1770.

But that did not mean that his work was automatically accepted for publication. In his letter to Sieber, Mozart offers three concertos for full orchestra or chamber group. He explains that although Artaria & Co. of Vienna (who became Mozart’s most frequent publisher) would like to publish these, he has not been satisfied with their engraving. “To avoid any further discussion,” Mozart offers the concertos to Sieber at “the lowest price,” 30 Louis d’or – about \$16,000 today.

Mozart goes on to mention a set of six quartets that he is writing which he will also give Sieber. However, Mozart says that he “cannot let these go as cheaply,” but will accept 50 Louis d’or. These would eventually be published as his *Opus 10*, dedicated to Joseph Haydn – they are now usually referred to as the Haydn quartets.

In a postscript written on the reverse of the letter, Mozart provides an address to which Sieber can deliver the payment and receive the manuscripts.

At the time of the April 1783 letter to Sieber, Mozart had only completed the first quartet, *String Quartet No. 14 (K387)*, composed December 1782. Mozart frequently perfected musical works in his mind, for which he had a tremendous capacity. It is likely that at the time of writing, the remaining five quarters in the set were already in his mind.

Mozart, concluded

Letter of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Vienna) to Jean-Georges Sieber (Paris), dated April 25, 1783, showing salutation, the first two lines, the last two lines, and signature. The show-through between the salutation and the first line is the postscript written on the reverse. The writing is sharp, and the condition of the paper is very good. Designated “ALS” in the trade for “autograph letter, signed.”

Though we do not have Sieber’s response to Mozart, history makes it clear that the offered works were not accepted for publication. Composition of the remaining five quartets was completed between June 1783 to January 1785. Artaria & Co. announced publication of the six quartets in September 1785. They had paid Mozart 100 ducats (about \$29,000 today).

The three concertos that Mozart offered in his letter were not published until 1931 by B. Schott’s Söhne (Mainz). These three concertos are early works of Mozart and are called “pasticcio” (pastiche). They are based on movements from three of Johann Christoph Bach’s Opus 5 sonatas: No. 2 in D; Sonata No. 3 in G; and Sonata No. 4 in E flat. They were designated K107 in the catalog of Mozart’s work published by Ludwig Ritter von Köchel in 1862 (thus, Mozart compositions are designated either K or KV, where the K stands for Köchel). They were not included in the first complete edition of Mozart’s work, published by Breitkopf & Härtel between 1877 and

1883.

The Sieber letter was auction on December 5, 2024 by International Autograph Auctions Europe S.L. in a four-part event. The letter was estimated to sell for between \$100,000 and \$150,000, but the final hammer price was almost \$450,000, reflecting the significant appetite for original documents.

The other star of the auction was a September 1971 letter from John Lennon (The Beatles) to Eric Clapton (Cream, The Yardbirds, etc.) inviting Clapton to join a new rock supergroup. Lennon was embarking on a solo career after the Beatles’ breakup, and had planned to involve musicians Klaus Voormann, Jim Keltner, Nicky Hopkins, and producer Phil Spector. Lennon wanted to bring back a certain style of rock. He also wanted to find a new way to do concert work – without “night after night of torture.” It might be an ironic twist that the supergroup never happened and the letter about it did not sell.

Children's Lit Meets Fashion Publishing

The first thing to know is the it's big. At 17 by 25 inches, it makes an impression. Based on the 2013 edition of Richard Scarry's *Biggest Word Book Ever!*, luxury fashion house Bottega Veneta has slightly enlarged the original and covered it with leather in their trademark in fine calfskin, *intrecciato* style (i.e., woven).

Every detail of the book has been duplicated. This is no mere fashion icon; it is truly a child's book of words, all accompanied by the Scarry's original illustrations, including the front cover, featuring Scarry's Lowly Worm, and the back cover, with a very cute grasshopper proclaiming, "It's back and it's bigger than ever!"

Many fashion houses have a publishing program, releasing the occasional gift book, often with creative content and using creative book forms. Christian LaCroix has an entire stationery, books, and puzzles division. The

Hermès website has an "Office and Writing" page which links to luxury desk appointments crafted in the company's beautiful leather and to a Books page, with beautiful and much more affordable books.

Why Scarry? Creative director Matthieu Blazy has cited Scarry as an influence since a childhood, and the elements of nostalgia and community evoked by the *Biggest Word Book Ever!* fit Bottega Veneta's Pre-Spring 2025 collection.

While the clothing collection retains Bottega Veneta's sophistication,

Scarry gets a small collection of his own in a series of goods that use the book's colorful palette and the apple shape of Lowly Worm's sub-sub-sub-compact car.

Many of these goods use *intrecciato* leather, including a sketchbook that matches the word book, a card case, wallet, mini-pouch, and belts.

Start with the book. It's a snip at \$4,400.

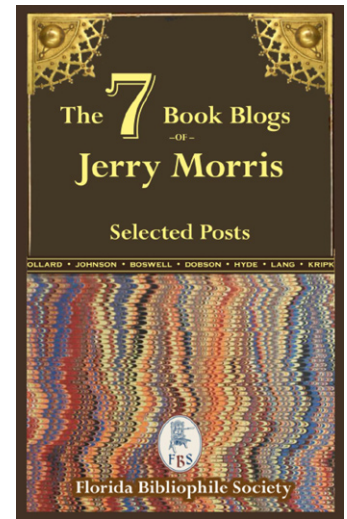


FBS Publications

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!

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

That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America

Amanda Jones

Bloomsbury Publishing

288 pp., August 2024



As a small town librarian, Amanda Jones values most books for how they can affirm a young person’s sense of self. In 2022, when she learned of a local public hearing to discuss “book content,” she knew the stakes. Schools and libraries nationwide have been bombarded by demands to purge books with LGBTQ+ references, discussions of racism. Amanda decided

to stand against banning books representing minority groups. She spoke out at the meeting and days later woke up to a nightmare that is still ongoing.

Amanda has been called a groomer, a pedo, and a porn-pusher; she has faced death threats and attacks from strangers and friends. Her decision to support books with diverse perspectives made her a target for extremists using book banning campaigns-funded by dark money organizations and advanced by hard right politicians-in a crusade to make America more white, straight, and “Christian.” But Amanda wouldn’t give up without a fight: she sued her harassers for defamation and urged others to resist.

Mapping the book banning crisis occurring all across the nation, *That Librarian* draws the battle lines in the war against equity and inclusion, calling book lovers everywhere to rise in defense of our readers.

Amanda Jones has been an educator for 23 years. She has served as President of the Louisiana Association of School Librarians and won numerous awards for her work in school libraries.

Source: Bloomsbury Publishing

The Year That Shaped the Victorian Age: Lives, Loves and Letters of 1845

Michael Wheeler

Cambridge University Press

280 pp., February 2023

What was special about 1845 and why does it deserve particular scrutiny?

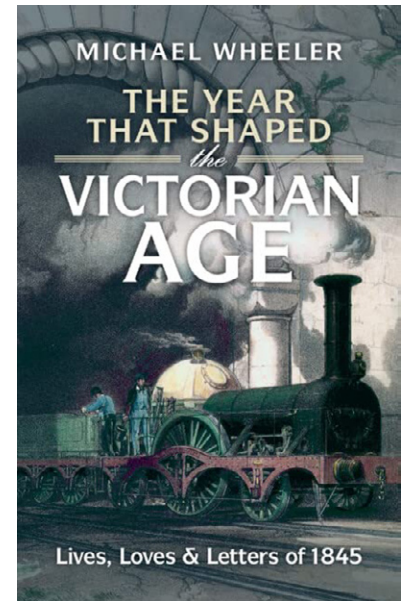
In his much-anticipated new book, one of the leading authorities on the Victorian age argues that this was the critical year in a decade which witnessed revolution on continental Europe, the threat of mass insurrection at home and radical developments in railway transport, communications, religion, literature, and the arts.

The effects of the new poor law now became visible in the workhouses; a potato blight started in Ireland, heralding the Great Famine; and the Church of England was rocked to its foundations by John Henry Newman’s conversion to Roman Catholicism.

In previous work on the religious crises of 1840s England, Wheeler was struck by the wide range of crises affecting both England and continental Europe. He began to see the 1840s as a pivotal decade in European history. What Victorian England became was molded, says Michael Wheeler, in the crucible of 1845. Exploring pivotal correspondence, together with pamphlets, articles and cartoons, the author tells the riveting story of a seismic epoch through the lives, loves, and letters of leading contemporaneous figures.

Michael Wheeler is a leading cultural historian of the Victorian age. He has published several prize-winning books with Cambridge University Press .

Source: Cambridge University Press

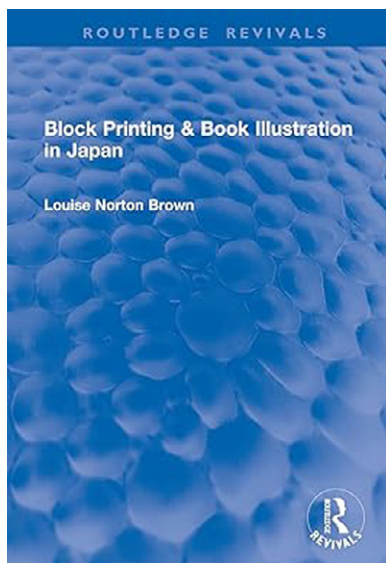


Books in Brief, continued**Block Printing & Book Illustration in Japan (Routledge Revivals)**

Louise Norton Brown

Routledge

276 pp., November 2024



On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, Routledge has reissued *Block Printing & Book Illustration in Japan*.

It was one of the first guides to Japanese illustration and remains indispensable to this day. The author travelled widely in Japan and made the acquaintance of many Japanese collectors, persuading them to open their archives to her for

study, and here compiles a wealth of unique research.

In this book, Brown explores the history and development of art in Japan, in particular looking into block printing and book illustration from their beginnings up to the 20th century. Illustrated in monochrome and color, this book covers all the major periods of printmaking in Japan, including illustrated books of the seventeenth century, master of the art like Moronobu, Itcho, Korin, and their followers, Osaka as an art and publishing center, the impressionists, the late Ukiyo-e illustrators, and more.

Brown (1865–1923) was also a passionate collector of Japanese prints. Her impressive collection of books and prints was acquired by philanthropist Martin A. Ryerson, who donated the collection to the Art Institute of Chicago, of which he was a major

Louise Norton Brown, born in 1865 in Lockport, Illinois, was acknowledged as an expert in Japanese art and wrote about the subject, for example, in Scribners. She also wrote about current events in the Far East.

Sources: Routledge; Newspapers.com; Ebay

The Cambridge Handbook of the Dictionary

Edward Finegan and Michael Adams, eds.

Cambridge University Press

801 pp., October 2024

There is no such thing as “the dictionary.” Rather, there are innumerable kinds of dictionaries that respond to their authors’ aspirations and their users’ needs.

In each case, the negotiation among a dictionary’s material, its authors, and its readers tells a rich cultural story. Bringing together cutting-edge research from an international team of experts, this interdisciplinary Handbook provides an all-encompassing account of dictionaries in context.

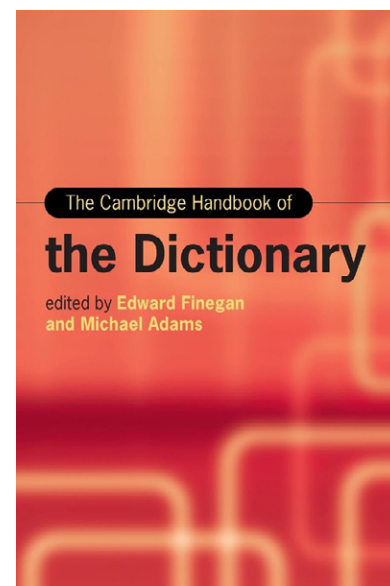
Dictionaries are considered in five thematic areas:

- Types of Dictionaries
- Dictionaries as Books
- Dictionaries and Ideology
- Dictionaries and Domains of Use
- The Business of Dictionaries

Chapters include topics like the place of dictionaries in intellectual, cultural, and book history, dictionaries as material objects, and their visual design. A select group of special fields where words especially matter (e.g., law), the business contexts in which dictionaries are made, and finally the future of dictionaries are covered. There is no fuller or more compelling overview of dictionaries available today.

Edward Finegan is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Law at the University of Southern California. **Michael Adams** is Provost Professor in the Department of English at Indiana University at Bloomington.

Source: Cambridge University Press

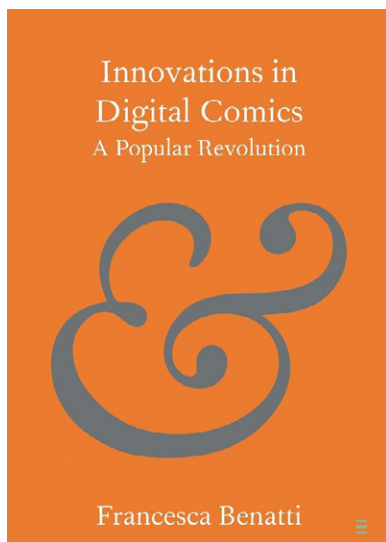


Books in Brief, concluded**Innovations in Digital Comics: A Popular Revolution**

Francesca Benatti

Cambridge University Press

100 pp., October 2024



The success of popular webcomics (comics produced and read entirely digitally) is the greatest revolution in the comics medium of the last two decades.

Webcomics exploit a socio-technical convergence between digital platforms and participatory cultures, enabling global authors to work together with global

audiences to transcend established print comics structures.

After defining digital comics, webcomics, and webtoons, this installment of the Elements series presents a case study of Korean platform WEBTOON, which achieved 100 billion global page views in 2019. The study analyses data from their website, including views, subscriptions and likes, to quantify and assess whether WEBTOON's commercial and critical success is connected to its inclusion of a wider range of genres and of a more diverse author base than mainstream English-language print comics. In so doing, it performs the first Book Historical study of webcomics and webtoons. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.



Francesca Benatti is a member of the School of Arts and Humanities and the English and Creative Writing Department. Her focus is promoting Digital Humanities.

Source: Cambridge University Press; Open University

[Bookish fiction]

The Book That Wouldn't Burn

Mark Lawrence

(Book 1 in the Library Trilogy)

Voyager

576 pp., May 2023

The Library at the center of Crath City is both a sanctuary and a prison. Its secrets are at the heart of the Library Trilogy and this first book in the trilogy, *The Book that Wouldn't Burn*.

The book follows the story of Livira and Evar.

Livira is a young and brilliant orphan from the desolation outside of Crath City called the "Dust," and Evar is one

of five children separated from their time and raised together in an immense and inescapable library.

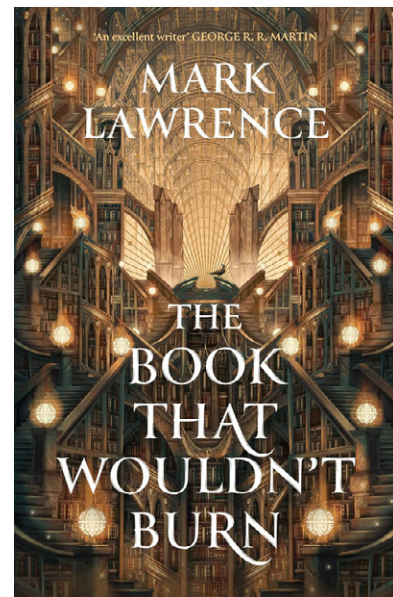
At the center of the city, a mysterious library contains the complete knowledge of ages before the Dust, when humanity could cure disease and reach into the stars. For Livira's people, this library holds the potential for salvation – if only the right books can be found amidst endless shelves.

For Evar and his siblings have been sucked out of their own times by the Mechanism, a device that lets people enter the world of whatever book they are carrying, they have been raised in inescapable isolation within the library by the dispassionate Assistant and protected from the dangers of the Mechanism by the lethal Soldier.

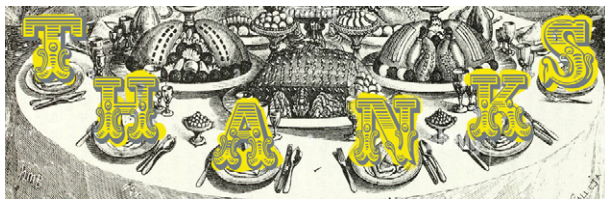
Livira and Evar struggle to find their rightful place in the right world.

Mark Lawrence is a research scientist by day focused on tough problems in the field of artificial intelligence. He is author of six fantasy trilogies and many short stories.

Source: Voyager



Vincenzo Foppa was a leading painter of Lombardy, a district of northern Italy. He was already well-known when he was commissioned in 1463 to paint a series of murals for the Medici Bank of Milan, a palazzo given by Francesco Sforza to Cosimo de' Medici. The frescoes were part of a program of lavish redecoration ordered by Cosimo. Completed in 1467, the frescoes included eight Roman emperors and a portrait of Francesco Sforza and his family. At right is a detail of the only surviving Foppa fresco from the palazzo, entitled "Young Cicero Reading." Behind the boy is written "M. T. CI / CERO" for Marcus Tullius Cicero, the famous Roman statesman, orator, and writer. The fresco was viewable in the palazzo's open courtyard for 400 years. Around 1863, it was removed and framed. The choice of subject indicates the respect Cicero and his works commanded in the early Renaissance. The boy in the picture may be intended to represent Cicero as a boy or it may be a portrait of a Francesco Sforza's grandson. The fresco is now in the Wallace Collection in London. Note that the bound books in the image are a anachronism – they did not exist in Cicero's day.



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 – 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 *The Florida Bibliophile* 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

January 2025



Field Trip to Old Mill House Print Museum in Homosassa, Florida – Owner Jim Anderson

Old Mill House Gallery & Printing
Museum

10466 West Yulee Drive

Old Homosassa, Florida, 34448

January 19, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Jim Anderson opened the Old Mill House Gallery & Printing Museum in 1995 as a place to showcase his collection of vintage printing tools and share the history of the printed word. This is more than a display, Jim maintains all the machines, and they are in working order. If you don't know what a Linotype or a Heidelberg is, you will. If you do know, here's your chance to see them in operation. Jim has a deep connection to the Homosassa area: he is descended from workers in the local sugar mills and preserves some the area's local history. Much to see and learn! Lunch to follow at a nearby cafe.

February 2025



Field Trip to Ersula's History Shop – Owner Ersula Odom

1421 Tampa Park Plaza
Tampa Florida 33605

February 16, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

Have you ever visited a museum and thought, “I wish I could own one of those”? Well, at **Ersula's History Shop, you can do just that.**

In addition to display items with an interesting past, Ersula's History Shop has a great stock of books, memorabilia, and a wonderful collection of primary source documents, many related to Tampa or the Black experience. And Ersula – legacy writer, workshop leader, FHC Mary McLeod Bethune chautauquan, motivational speaker, prize-winning life lyricist, and author several books – is there to explain it all.

Whether as a shopping or learning experience, Ersula's is a place to visit again and again. If you've never been there, you are in for a treat!



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.

Happy New Year!

— January 7–February 2 —
Zora 2025: Tribute to the Legends

Eatonville, FL (www.zorafestival.org)

— January 9–12 —

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

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

— January 17 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Featured book: *Last Light: How Six Great Artists Made Old Age a Time of Triumph*

(www.ringling.org/event/literati-book-club/)

— January 18–25 —

Writers in Paradise

(Eckerd College Writers Conference)

St. Petersburg, FL (www.writersinparadise.com)

— January 23–26 —

Florida Storytelling Festival

(sponsored by The Florida Story Association)

Mount Dora, FL (flstory.com/festival/)

— January 31–February 1 —

Sunshine State Book Festival

Gainesville, FL

(www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/)

— February 6–9 —

Tropic Boun Artists’ Book Fair

Miami Design District, Miami, FL

(www.tropicboundfair.org)

— February 6–9 —

Savannah Book Festival

Savannah, GA (www.savannahbookfestival.org/)

— February 14 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL
Book of the month: *Hidden in the Shadow of the Master: The Model-Wives of Cezanne, Monet, and Rodin* by Ruth Butler

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 – Holiday Edition 2024 –

Every Christmas, Rare Book Cafe co-host Lee Linn assembles her 140-plus piece Dickens’ London Christmas Village. It’s a 38-year tradition. In this edition of RBC, Lee takes us on a guided tour of Victorian London – in miniature – populated by scenes and characters from Dickens.



The village’s downtown, only one of the many areas in the tiny village.



In the village’s “Harley Street,” we see Charles Dickens (right) seated in front of a hospital he supported, reading to a child. At center is Florence Nightingale. At left, is the Battersea Home for Dogs, established in 1860 (moved to Battersea in 1871) and still in

See p. 28 to learn about *Book Lovers’ Paradise*, the new magazine from the producers of RBC.

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.

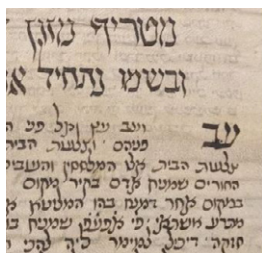
Most recent episode

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.

Jan. 23, 12–12:30 p.m. – Biblical Lexicon in Hebrew – Louis Meiselman, Judaica Special Collections Cataloging Librarian, will introduce us to CAJS Rar Ms 375, a 13th-century copy of a Biblical lexicon in Hebrew.



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, *concluded*

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.

Upcoming Episodes:

Feb. 27 – Bryan Sinche: *Published by the Author: Self-Publication and Nineteenth Century African American Literature*

– Many Black writers bypassed white gatekeepers and editors by self-publishing their life stories. Based on extensive research and brimming with new discoveries, Sinche recovers long-forgotten authors and shows how they capitalized on the economic and social possibilities of authorship and bookselling. This is the first book to analyze African American self-publication as a historical and literary phenomenon. It offers new ways of thinking about African American autobiography and 19th-century print culture.

Mar. 27 – Ben Bascom: *Feeling Singular: Queer Masculinities in the Early United States* – Bascom’s latest book looks at the paradox of masculine self-promotion vs. individuality in the early U.S. Much of U.S. culture since the 20th century has celebrated the singular individual, from Huck Finn to John Wayne and Clint Eastwood, but that tradition obscures how “singular” in America previously marked the unwanted, outcast, excessive, or weird. Through singular life narratives, Bascom uses a queer studies approach to uncover how fraught private desires shaped a public masculinity at odds with norms of republican public culture.

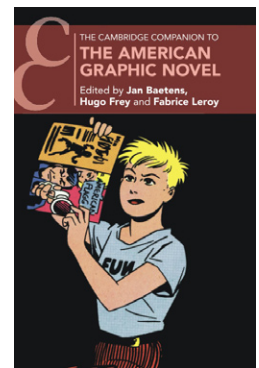
Cambridge University Press

[Contours: The Cambridge Literary Studies](#)

[Hour](#) is presented by Ato Quayson, Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Stanford University. Each episode of *Contours* will address a pressing issue, theme or concept in the field of **Literary Studies from Medieval Literature to the present day.**

The Graphic Novel (ep. 10)

– Hosted by Professor Ato Quayson (Stanford University) delves into the graphic novel. Quayson and panel members Martha Kuhlman, Hugo Frey, Maaheen Ahmed and Fabrice Leroy discuss *The Cambridge Companion to the American Graphic Novel*, which explores how the graphic novel portrays America through its many communities, subverting the message of traditional action and superhero comics. The *Companion* is part of the Cambridge Studies in Graphic Narrative series.



Public Libraries Podcast

[FYI Podcast 79: The Role of Libraries in Navigating an AI-Empowered Future](#)

(May 20 2024; 17 min) – In this episode of FYI, the Public Libraries Podcast, we delve into the potentially transformative impact of AI on public libraries. Our guest is Juan Rubio, Digital Media and Learning Expert at the Seattle Public Library. Juan provides insights from his article, “The Role of Libraries in Navigating an AI-Empowered Future,” featured in the May-June 2024 issue of *Public Libraries* magazine. Rubio explores how AI can revolutionize library services, ethical considerations, and the importance of AI literacy among both library workers and patrons.



... and More

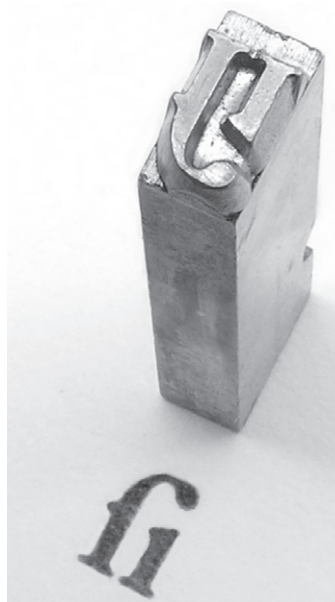
The Hype about Type

From the 1430s to the late 20th century, printing was accomplished by placing hundreds of small metal pieces of type in a frame, locking them in tightly, applying ink to them, and then lifting the ink off onto a piece of paper.

There were the elements that Johann Gutenberg brought together to create the printing press that revolutionized European culture. For the system to work, each one – the metal, the ink, and the paper – had to have specific qualities and discovering these was part of the ingenuity, if not genius, of Gutenberg.

In November, we discussed the ink and the special properties it had to have to stick to the metal type, come off cleanly on paper, and then dry quickly. This month, we look at the metal that was developed to make the small metal pieces, each of which carries a letter, a punctuation mark, a space, or other printing symbol. Virtually every mark you see in a book was once printed from one of these small metal pieces. And for the record, each metal piece was called a “sort.”

Each sort is made by pouring molten metal into a mold. at the bottom of the mold is the form of a letter cut into metal, so the character on each sort will look exactly the same. Nature offers several metals that have low melting points that are convenient for this process, including the well known lead and tin and a less well known metal, antimony.



This picture shows a single sort for the combined characters “f” and “i.” Note the crisp edges of the sort that make a well-defined image on paper, shown below the sort. Note also that the character is in reverse on the sort so that it prints the right way on paper.

This character is from the typeface Garamond, one of many similar fonts based on a 17th-century typeface developed in Paris. Claude Garamond was a well-known typecutter (sculptor of type) of that time, and his name is associated with this kind of typeface.

It was found that lead by itself shrank too much when it cooled, so the letter on the sort would be rounded and not have sharp, clear edges. Tin or antimony alone were too brittle to use over and over again in the press. But with experimentation, the right combination of lead, tin, and antimony was found to produce a metal that have the necessary requirements. And while most printing today is done without metal type, the same formula for metal type has basically been in use for almost 600 years.

In fairness, Gutenberg was not first to use metal type. It had been developed by the Koreans in early 1200s, but it is considered unlikely that Gutenberg would have known about this invention because there was no contact between Europe and the very distant Korea in Gutenberg’s day. In Korea, the most common metal used for type was bronze.



The most technologically efficient machine that man has ever invented is the book.

— Northrop Frye



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 spoke enthusiastically about his years of collecting and researching Dante. His personal collection contains over 300 English versions of the *Divine Comedy*; he brought several examples. His answers to the many audience questions added much to the presentation.

December 15 • FBS Holiday Party: Another glittering occasion! We enjoyed the gracious hospitality of Ben and Joyce Wiley, accompanied by good friends and all the varieties of holiday cheer: a warming cocktail, delicious food, Christmas crackers, an exchange of gifts, and of course, a few books were involved.

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.

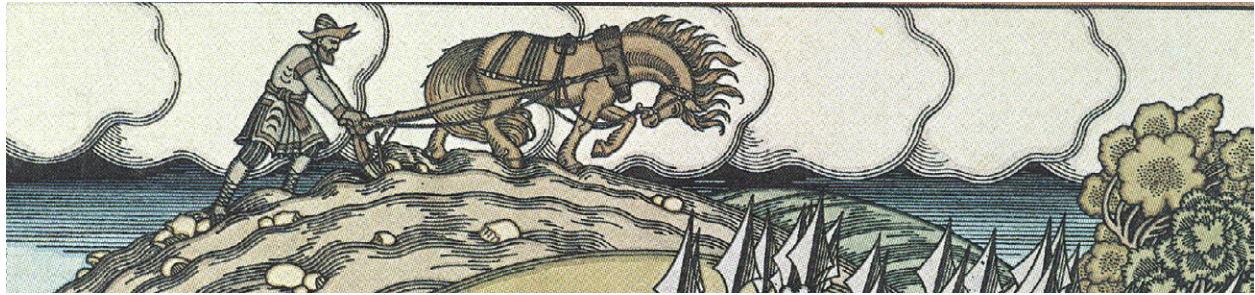
May 18 • Annual Banquet: Our annual May banquet is always a highlight! This year’s event is still being planned. Watch this space!

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

* FBS member



Endpaper • Every Year about this Time



I'm detecting a pattern: every year about this time, things get a little crazy, busy, fun. Another delightful FBS holiday party is in the bag. Many thanks to Joyce and Ben Wiley for hosting the party, i.e., cleaning, moving, setup, cooking, etc., plus all those special touches that guests rarely know about but add to the occasion. Most of us have been there and know what it takes, and it makes us all the more appreciative!

We've already popped a couple of corks at the holiday party, but as I write this on December 31, many more corks will soon be popping! On behalf of FBS, let me wish me everyone a healthy and happy New Year! Let's look forward to more peace, more joy, and more time with family and friends. I certainly hope to see more of you at our meetings this year – some amazing events have been planned – opportunities to hear, see, and learn things we did not know before, and doing all this together, makes it

even more memorable and special.

To those members that are facing health challenges, we wish you all the best in your treatments and recovery and look forward to seeing you whenever we can.

And did I mention books? Of course, we wish you a year filled with wonderful books – old favorites and new discoveries. We hope to lead you to some wonderful new ideas, authors, and books through our meetings and through our publications. The limitlessness of the book adventure never ceases to delight and amaze me, and if you feel the same, you are in the right place!

Again, best wishes for the New Year, and as always: See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

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