

The Florida Bibliophile

March 2025 • Volume 41, No. 7



IN THIS ISSUE

Minutes of the February 2025 Meeting of
the Florida Bibliophile Society p. 2

The 42nd Annual Florida Antiquarian
Book Fair Is a Wrap! p. 7

The Red Book: The Magnificent Journal
of Carl Jung p. 14

Books for Little Hands: Children's
Books from the 19th Century by Sean
Donnelly p. 15

Monthly Features

FBS on Facebook p. 18

FBS Club Page p. 19

FBS Publications p. 20

Books in Brief p. 21

Upcoming Events p. 26

Book Events and Podcasts p. 27

... And More p. 30

FBS 2024–2025 Season p. 31

Endpaper • One for the Books p. 32

March newsletter deadline: March 26, 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](#).



History and Books with Ersula Odom

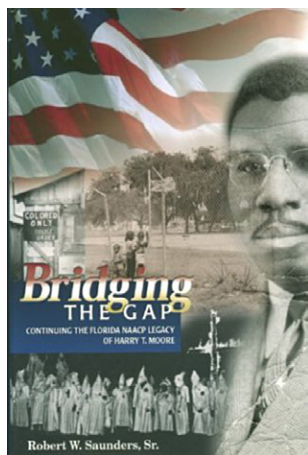
see p. 2



Florida Bibliophile Society
A community of book lovers

Minutes of the February 2025 Meeting of the Florida Bibliophile Society by Sean Donnelly, FBS Recording Secretary

Between downtown Tampa and Ybor City there is a treasure chest called Ersula's History Shop (1421 Tampa Park Plaza).



In 1952, Robert W. Saunders Sr. took over as field director of the Florida NAACP when his predecessor was killed in a Ku Klux Klan bombing. Bridging the Gap is his story of the tumultuous years 1952–1966 and the struggle for civil rights.

It's tucked into a shopping center on Nebraska Avenue, close to the Robert W. Saunders Sr. Public Library, named in honor of the civil rights legend. The shop – part bookstore and part museum, with an emphasis on African-American history and culture – is presided over by FBS member Ersula K. Odom. Every bit of wall and shelf space is crowded with curiosities. As soon as one thing catches your eye, another one distracts you and you want to know, “What is that?” Ersula wants visitors to have “an aha moment.” That’s guaranteed. In fact, a visitor with any curiosity at all will have numerous “aha” moments.

Ersula's interest in the past as seen through documents began when she was a little girl. She crawled under her grandmother's bed and found a Hav-A-Tampa cigar box full of old letters, photographs, and a lock of hair. She wondered, “Who were these people? Why did her grandmother care about them?” The fascination she found in that



Looking for treasure? The “X” in Urban Lux marks the spot. This unassuming sign on Nebraska Avenue in Tampa points the way to a treasure trove of history: Ersula's History



Ersula's History Shop occupies two rooms at Tampa Park Plaza: the book room and the history room. We met in the history room, shown here, where Ersula gave her presentation, surrounded by the many albums and artifacts that she has collected and, in many cases, researched. The cabinets behind Ersula contain more precious and personal objects. At the upper end, is a panel of one of the many “memory walls” that Ersula has designed for Booker T. Washington Elementary School, Tampa; A celebration of Cambodian American dance, Lowell, Mass; C. Blythe Andrews Apartments, Tampa; George Washington Carver Elementary School, Miami; and others.

Minutes, continued

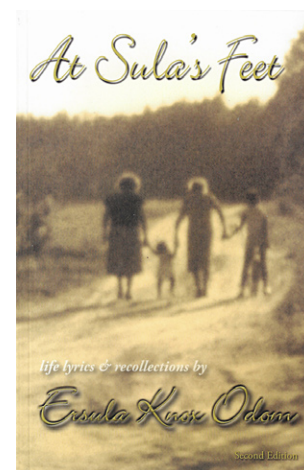


In the history room, some of the Florida Bibliophiles attending Ersula's presentation listen attentively. Against the far wall, a few of her many collections are arranged on shelves, including the baseball collection and the train collection. Her collections include all sorts of memorabilia, ephemera, and documents. They certainly beckoned during the presentation.

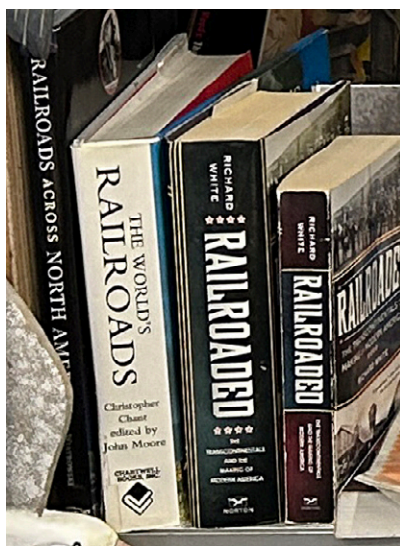
cigar box stayed with Ersula, and years later, she asked her grandmother – also named Ersula, but nicknamed Sula – to tell her those stories again. This time she recorded them. The result was the 2005 book, *At Sula's Feet*.

Ersula's interest in her own family history evolved into a broader interest in what old photos, letters, documents, and artifacts can reveal about other people. A childhood habit of collecting coins and stamps prepared her for the pursuit she began as an adult, collecting historical materials for her business and research. She first collected "dates," as she puts it, to sell items with a particular date or from a specific year that would resonate with a buyer. In this way someone can find meaning in things that are meaningless – until we connect with them.

Ersula's interest and research matured over years. She had a career as a manager with GTE



Ersula's many accomplishments can disguise her roots as a country girl. In *At Sula's Feet*, Ersula takes us back to a simpler time to share the wit, wisdom, and love of a grandmother, Sula, that helped shape her life.



Minutes, *continued*



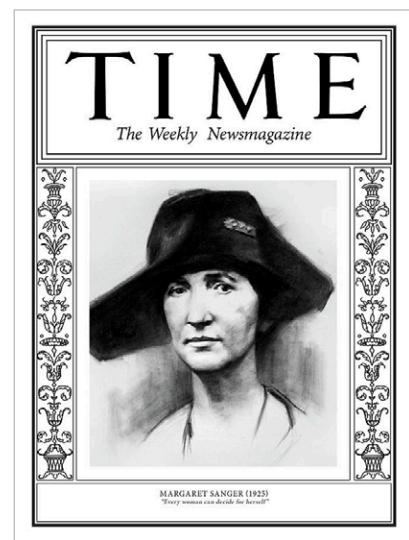
Adjacent to the history room is the book room, the first entered at Ersula's History Shop. Behind the display above are a series of bookshelves (shown below) with books on many subjects related to history, the military, politics, and many other subjects.



Data Services. But when she retired, she began to realize her dream of making history live for others. She was already a published author, and she incorporated as Sula Too LLC and opened Ersula's History Shop as a center for her unique vision.

To acquire inventory, she started going to auctions and thrift stores. At one auction, she bought a box of old papers with all manner of official documents related to the town of New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the 19th century. (How do these things turn up in Florida?) She spent many happy hours doing research to discover who the people named in the papers were. Like most bibliophiles, Ersula enjoys rescuing the past and making sense of it. She even reached out to New Bedford, but apparently, their history museum felt they had enough documents. For the time being, they are safe with Ersula.

Another time, she saw a yard sale sign while driving – she made a U-turn! She was rewarded with a manuscript on contraception from the 1920s that may be by Margaret Sanger or one of her followers. These are the discoveries that keep us out on the trail!

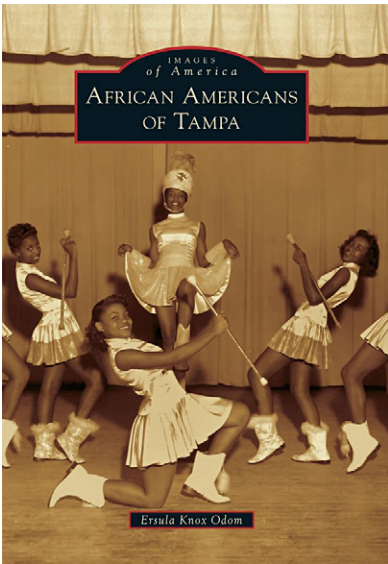


Margaret Sanger (1879–1966) on the cover of Time in 1925. Working as a nurse in the New York slums, she witnessed the results for poor women of not being able to control their own bodies. In 1914, she published *Family Limitation*, a pamphlet that explained how to prevent pregnancy. In 1916, she established first family planning and birth control clinic and would go on to found Planned Parenthood, (1929) and collaborate in the development of the first birth control pill. Her slogan, “Every woman can choose for herself,” was at the core of her activism.

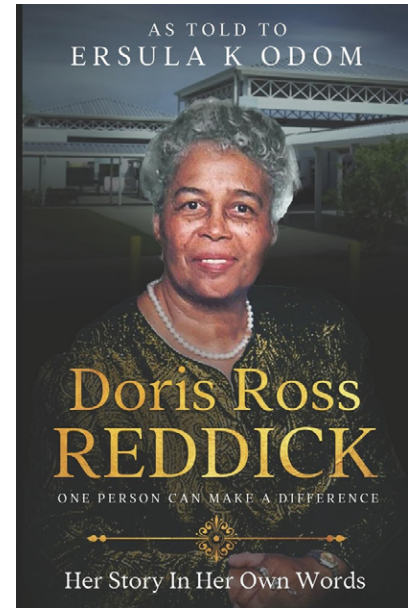


Ersula's shop is packed with interesting objects that reward a second and third look. In the case are documents connected to Frederick Douglass.

Minutes, continued



Unlike some collectors, though, Ersula does not care only about the famous. She is interested in average and ordinary people too. A collection of love letters exchanged in the late 1800s and early 1900s are a valuable “window into another time” for her. And so are the photo albums of a Greek family that she rescued from destruction. To her, it’s a travesty to let old photos be thrown out and lost. This motivated her to establish a nonprofit called Rescuing History, to reunite the things she saves with people who will value them. A book she bought back in 1992 gives her great ideas on how to mat and frame historical items in appealing ways. Since the publication of *At Sula’s Feet*, Ersula has written several others. These include *African-Americans of Tampa* for Arcadia Publishing, which she describes as her most popular. The book is part of the Images of America Series. The format – heavily illustrated local histories – is perfectly suited to Ersula’s love of photographs and documents. Ersula spoke fondly about another book she worked on with Doris Ross Reddick, the first Black woman elected to the Hillsborough County



In addition to her own books, Ersula has worked with others to publish their books. About three dozen are offered at www.sulatoo.com.

Minutes, concluded



Toward the end of Ersula's presentation, her friend Richedean Hills-Akbar joined us. Ersula is working with Richedean to publish a book of her poems. Needless to say, we asked to hear one, and we were delighted. Fresh and frank, look forward to that book!

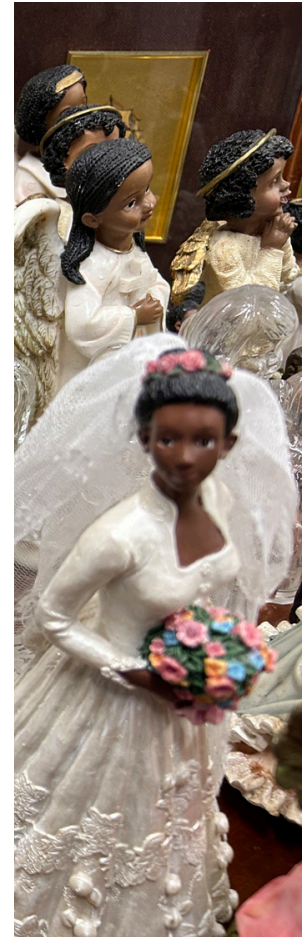
School Board. She helped Mrs. Reddick tell the story of her life as an educator in Florida in *Doris Ross Reddick: One Person Can Make a Difference*.

Ersula's talk to the Bibliophiles showed us all that she is a born storyteller. She moves easily from one story to another. In her hands, the average and ordinary become extraordinary.

Her fascination with things and the stories they can tell informs her belief that "If you're bored, you're boring." Life is too full of wonder to be bored with it. And she has this advice for the shy: "if you need something to talk about, go get some old documents." You'll gain wisdom from them and friendships.

Soon after the Bibliophiles met with Ersula, Larissa Scott did a story about her for [ABC Action News](#).

The interview included a wonderful quote with which to close, for it sums up the work that Ersula does with great passion: "I look for the connection, for we are all interconnected."



The 42nd Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair Is a Wrap!



Arrrrgh, matey! The 42nd Annual Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is in the bag! And we hope your bag is full of all the book treasures you found!

As always – put simply – it was a blast. For bibliophiles, it might be the equivalent of Mardi Gras – with books instead of beads, browsing instead of carousing, and dollars instead of doubloons. *Laissez les bon livres roulez!*

For the Florida Bibliophile Society, the fair began weeks ago as we started making plans for staffing our two tables and gathering or manufacturing the needed materials. Book bags, bookmarks, volunteers, signs, and sign-up sheets – everything was lined up in time for check-in on Friday, February 28.

The book fair is managed by Sarah Smith, daughter of Mike Slicker, founding member of FBS and proprietor of Lighthouse Books, now in Dade City, but for 40 years located in St. Petersburg. All that to say that Sarah has been a part of the local book community for her whole life. She has managed the book fair for many years, coordinating with the city of St. Petersburg, ordering tables, chairs, curtains, porters, advertising, working with dozens of dealers, and more – a myriad of details go into staging this annual event.



Beaming – as she usually is – Sarah Smith welcomes dealers to check-in and setup on Friday, the day before the book fair began.

Book Fair, *continued*



◀ As we have for many years, the Florida Bibliophile Society has staffed a table in the Coliseum foyer where we greet visitors, provide general information, check bags and books, and introduce people to FBS. Here, we've dragged in all the boxes (i.e., followed the porter as he loaded the dolly and moved the boxes from the car to the table). We've put up the banners for FBS and the Book Check, made easier this year because of the curtains and stand behind the table (we now know that this is called a pipe and drape kit). In past years, we've used tape and various other devices to rig these banners. Still some setup to do. At least the FBS logo sign is ready to go!

FBS also has a table inside the book fair where we can talk with visitors in a more relaxed way about FBS, share our annual bookmarks (always popular), booklets from past Harter student book collecting contests, and the journal of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies (the national organization for clubs like FBS). This table also gives visitors another chance to sign up for the FBS newsletter, buy a book bag (did I mention that they're the very best book bags?), and to join FBS, which several people did. Just a note: the FBS table is the one in the back, but booksellers Bill Hale and Madison Lynch of Ageless Literature are more photogenic.



◀ These booksellers are truly dressed in the pirate spirit! They pose here with a beautiful selection of books with Margaret Armstrong covers – a specialty of FBS treasurer Irene Pavese – but I'm betting that Irene already has all of these. (See *The Florida Bibliophile* for March 2023 for Irene's presentation: "Margaret Armstrong – Botanist, Book Designer, Illustrator.")

Book Fair, *continued*

At the inside table, FBS members Wes Brown (Hospitality Chair; left) and Ben Wiley (Vice President; center) talk to a family visiting the book fair. We see many families, and it's great to see so many children with parents that are keenly interested in books – chances are good that their children will grow up as readers and book lovers.



Beyond books, many book-related wares are sold at the book fair. If this won't remove that damn spot, nothing will.



Meanwhile, at the foyer table (left to right), Irene Pavese (Treasurer), Elenora Sabin (published fantasy author), and David Hall (world traveler these days) greet visitors with books bags and bookmarks. Visitors check bags and books here, which are just visible on the table behind them. Visitors often bring books to show a dealer in the show, but they are not allowed to bring the book into the book fair. Instead, they check the book and bring the dealer to the door next to the table where dealer and visitor can discuss the book. Book bags are \$20. (Did I mention that they are the best book bags ever?)

Something tells me that the young woman on the left is already a serious book collector. Every year, FBS sponsors the Lee J. Harrer Student Book Collecting Essay Contest for which college students write about their collections. The essays they write reveal their passion for books and what their collections mean to them. Common themes include books which they have been given by (or inherited) from a parent or grandparent, books that have had an influence on their lives, and books from their childhood through which they fell in love with books and reading. I think I see a future contestant on the left.

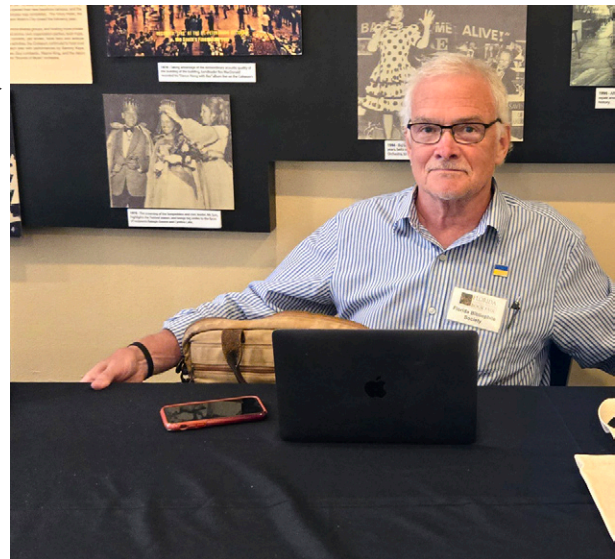


Book Fair, *continued*



◀ Left to right: Terry Shockey (member Rowfant Club, Cleveland, and FBS), Elenora Sabin (with two of her books), and Jude Bagatti (FBS member, writer, and all-around creative person) at the FBS foyer table. It's not clear how many hours Elenora spent at that table. Jude is a perennial volunteer. They have lots of smiles for visitors. Part-time Floridian Terry joins us on Sunday afternoon to assist Irene Pavese and Mark McMurray with book

Mark “Bring on the Books” McMurray waits for the book evaluations to start. Some years bring more surprising books than others. Last year, someone walked in with a book that turned out to be worth a few thousand dollars – can you say “Antiques Road Show”? This year, there were more books that visitors were convinced must be valuable, but were not. Age rarely guarantees value. That’s why people need evaluations. And remember the three most important words of book value: Condition, condition, condition.

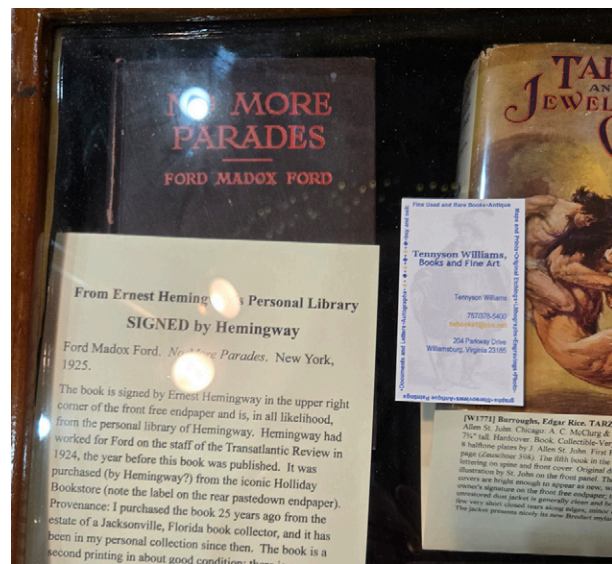
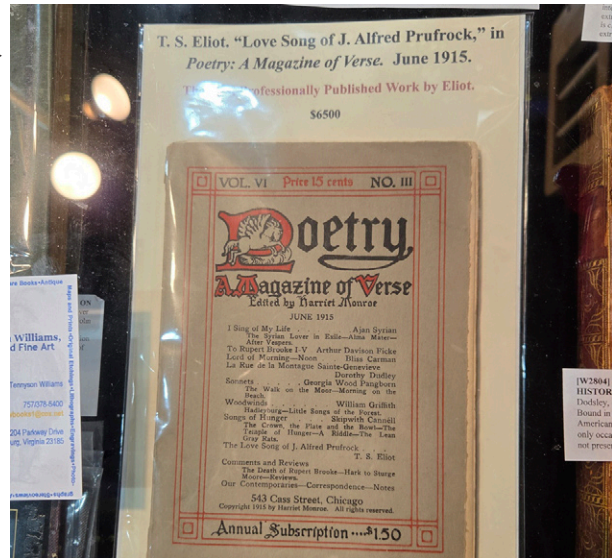


◀ Unsung heroes. Michelle Marshall and Jessica Hughes are two members of Sarah Smith’s staff who help run the book fair. Always smiling, ready to solve any problem – and still wearing headbands tied in with last year’s theme, “Dr. Seuss Extravaganza,” celebrating Theodore Geisler’s (Dr. Seuss) 120th birthday.



Book Fair, *continued*

“Let us go then, you and I, when the evening is spread out against the sky . . .” are the opening words of T. S. Eliot’s poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, first published in *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* in 1915 – and here it is, just one of the many remarkable books at the book fair. One visitor to our FBS table – at her first book fair – was overwhelmed by fine editions she had seen of Dostoyevsky, an author to which her 19-year-old son is devoted. Would love to meet that guy. She was also impressed with a pristine copy of *Moby Dick* illustrated by Rockwell Kent: \$14,000. Bookish people are the best. Remember your first



“Signed by Hemingway” – This is Ernest Hemingway’s copy of *No More Parades* by Ford Madox Ford (1873–1939). It’s the second of Ford’s “Parades” tetralogy. Ford was an important author of the early 20th century. In addition to his novels, which often appear on “must read” and “100 best” lists, he published *The English Review* and *The Transatlantic Review* which were instrumental in the development of English and American literature. The book fair is truly an educational experience.

How to handle a book (especially older books):

1. Don’t flop it open. Book spines get stiffer with age (like people spines) and become easier to damage (ditto).
2. Hold books open at an angle to minimize stress on the spine.
3. Though tempting, try not to pull on the top of the spine of older books. The result is often a torn dust jacket or spine.
4. To view an older book, place it on a table, open it at an angle, and turn the pages carefully.



Book Fair, *continued*



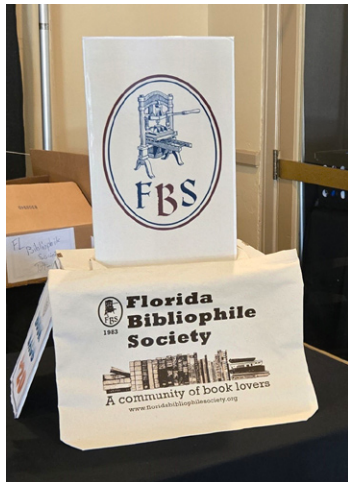
So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Adieu! Sunday at 4 p.m., and the book fair is closed. Time for book dealers to pack up the thousands of books they brought (less the many they sold) as well as the many book shelves, crates, and even large glass display cases. The Coliseum empties out. In another day or two, more equipment will arrive for the next event in this remarkable space. The book fair will return in 2026!



Book Fair, concluded

Florida Bibliophile Society Book Fair Roll of Honor

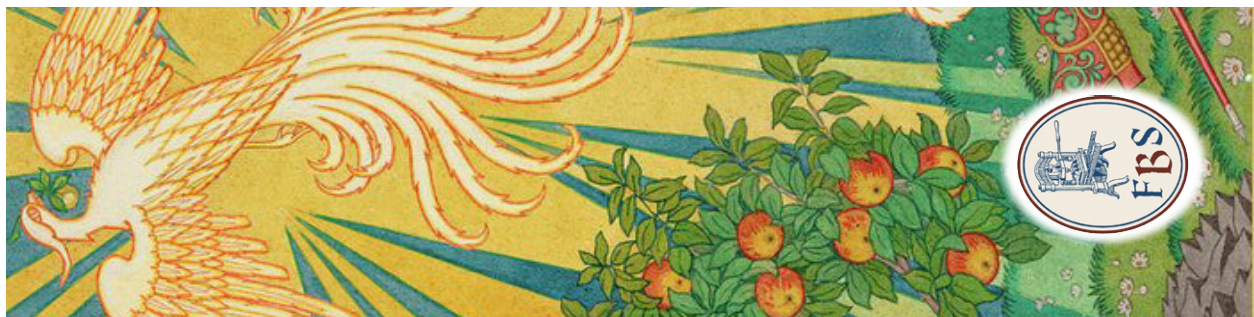
Florida Bibliophile Society participation in the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair is only possible because of our wonderful members who contribute their time, energy, talent, and hospitality to staffing our tables. Very special thanks to these FBS members. OK, they also got free admission to the book fair – by any definition, that’s a win-win!



Carl Mario Nudi – 2026 Staffing Coordinator

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Jude Bagatti | Ersula Odom |
| Charles Brown | Irene Pavese |
| Wesley Brown | Roxanne Rhodes |
| Ed Cifelli | Elenora Sabin |
| David Hall | Barbara Shockey |
| Mark McMurray | Terry Shockey |
| Stephanie Montor | Ben Wiley |
| Maureen Mulvihill | |

Missed the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair? Print out this page, and cut out one of our bookmarks.



Every year, FBS produces a series of bookmarks based on famous illustrators. For 2025, we chose Ivan Bilibin, one of Russia’s most famous and beloved illustrators, who also worked in set and costume design. Bilibin was active in the first half of the 20th century and drew upon Russian medieval art and Art Nouveau styles. One of a set of five, the image shown here is from one Bilibin’s most well-known works and a famous Russian fairy tale, “The Firebird,” which in turn became a famous ballet by Igor Stravinsky.

The Red Book: The Magnificent Journal of Carl Jung

Carl Gustav Jung (1875–1961) became one of the most influential thinkers in the history of psychology. A close friend of Sigmund Freud, the two parted ways as Jung’s concept of human psychology grew.

Jung and Freud had become friends in 1907. Freud saw the younger man as a possible successor in the association of psychoanalysts that Freud had formed. They corresponded frequently (Freud in Vienna and Jung in Zurich), often sharing their dreams and interpretations. This process was moving Jung further away from Freud’s concept of the human psyche, and in 1913, Jung separated himself from Freud. It was a painful decision, but Jung felt that he had to move more deeply into his own unconscious through a process he would later label “mythopoetic imagination.”

Though Jung continued to see clients, teach, and conduct research, he withdrew from professional organizations to conduct what he called his most difficult experiment: this intense introspection to understand his own psychology. During these years – roughly 1911 to 1930 – Jung maintained his busy daytime schedule, but at night, he worked on his journals, recording what he variously called “visions” or “fantasies” or “imaginings.” He was often flooded with thoughts and visions, but he remained determined to understand the meaning of these psychic “assaults.” This period was so intense that some have called it a period of psychosis, but Jung himself rejected this label. We could compare Jung’s journey at this point to Dante in the *Divine Comedy*, “Midway through life’s journey, I lost my way.” Like the *Divine Comedy*, the Red Book is Jung’s story of the journey through mysterious realms – both internal, in other cultures, and in Dante among other authors – through which he found his way back.



Carl Jung, about 1935

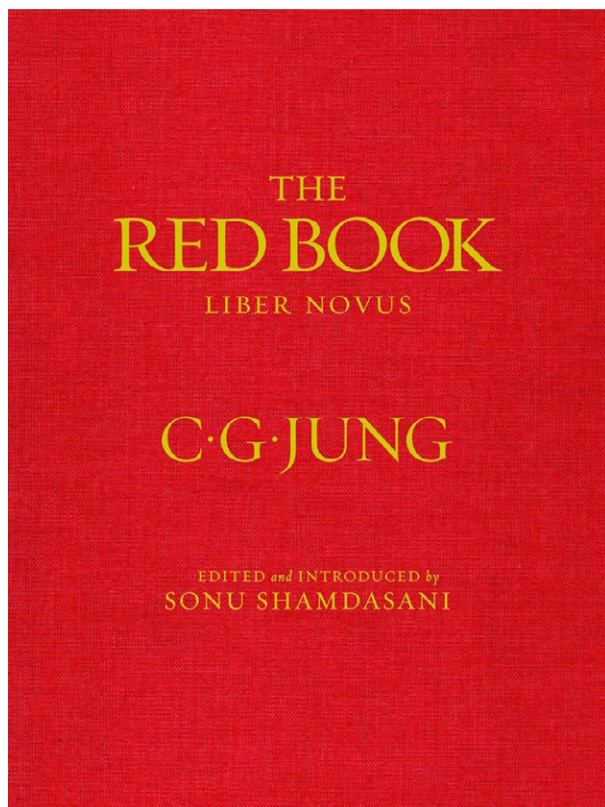


The original Liber Novus, Carl Jung’s “Red Book”

With the beginning of World War I, Jung began to see additional significance in what he was recording in his journals and began a new project developed from them but which would take on a life of its own. In it he wrote out material from other journals with additional interpretation.

In 1915, he began to transcribe this into a new journal, a large book covered in red leather, that he wrote out in calligraphy and illustrated. Jung gave it the title *Liber Novus* – Latin for The New Book – but he often referred to it by a nickname: the Red Book. In it, Jung developed many of his most important theories that helped him move from a psychology focused on illness to one based on self-development and growth – concepts that are now part of the fabric of our culture.

Jung never published *Liber Novus*, and only a handful of people ever saw it. After Jung’s death, *Liber Novus* was deposited in a vault in Zurich, where it remained for decades.

Red Book, continued

The Liber Novus, facsimile edition

The Red Book became legendary. The opinions of the very few people who had ever seen or read parts of this book, written and illustrated like a medieval manuscript and full of wildly imaginative interpretive drawings, ran the gamut from “infinite wisdom” to the “work of a psychotic.” The speculation only grew over the many decades when no one had access to the book. In an interview late in his life, Jung described the book as the product of the most important part of his life and that all later work was an elaboration of the work of that period.

The occasional request to see the Red Book was met with adamant refusal by the family – it was a personal document and would remain so.

The Right Time

In the 1990s, Jung expert Sonu Shamdasani was researching the background of Jung’s theories. He kept running into references to the Red Book. Then, he discovered two partial transcriptions of the Red Book: one on a shelf in the home of the daughter of one of Jung’s transcriptionists and the

other in the miscellaneous papers of a German publisher, found in the Yale University library. He began to believe that it was time to publish the original work and that the existence of partial transcriptions would be an important argument.

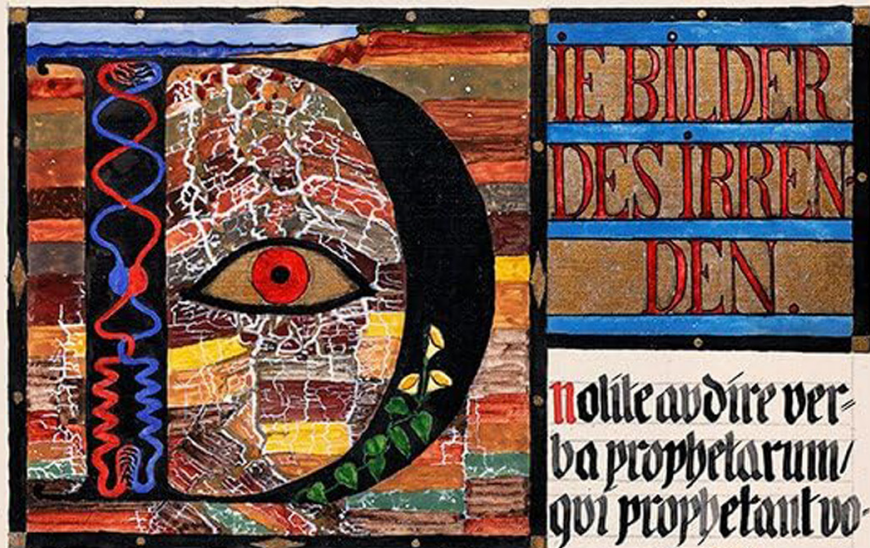
He approached the family – Jung’s children – at what turned out to be an opportune moment. One of the five children and the most resistant to publishing the Red Book had recently died. A biography of Jung that the family felt was distorted and insulting had recently been released. When Shamdasani explained that partial transcripts were out there, they agreed that it was time to publish a full and authoritative edition. The Philemon Foundation, dedicated to publishing Jung’s unpublished work, was also on board.

In 2000, an agreement had been reached with publisher W. W. Norton. The family made the book available for high-resolution imaging. Shamdasani began transcribing the German, English, and Latin texts in the book. Translators were hired. Shamdasani began the multiyear process of understanding the book and preparing what would become hundreds of footnotes detailing both Jung’s journey and Shamdasani’s journey to follow it.

In 2009, Norton published *The Red Book*, a leather-covered, 16 × 12-inch, 8-pound book containing Jung’s original text, an English translation, three appendices, and Shamdasani’s copious notes. A smaller volume was also created with the English translation, the appendices, and the notes.

Jungian discussion groups often recommend starting with the smaller volume and finding the book’s illustrations on the Internet, but there’s an argument to be made (especially by a bibliophile) for diving into the facsimile. It’s a magnificent book, and the sense of the intellect and emotion behind the pages makes it all the more remarkable.

In conjunction with the publication of the facsimile, the original Red Book was exhibited in New York, Los Angeles, and in Washington, D.C., at the Library of Congress.



**IE BILDER
DES IRREN
DEN.**

nolite audire ver-
ba prophetarum/
qui prophetant vo-
bis et decipiunt vos: visionem cordis sui loquun-
tur/non de ore domini. **a**udivi quae dicebant
prophetantes in nomine meo mendacium/ atque
dicentes: somnivi/ somnivi. **v**sque quo istud
est in corde prophetarum valicmantium men-
dacionem et prophetantium seductionem cordis sui:
qui volunt facere ut obliuiscatur populus meus nomi-
nis mei propter somnia eorum/ quae narrat unusquis-
que ad praeiurium suum: sicut obliuisci sunt patres eorum no-
minis mei propter baal. **p**ropheta/ qui habet somnium/
narret somnium et qui habet sermonem meum/ loqua-
tur sermonem meum vere: quid paleis ad triticum?
dicit dominus.

Carl Jung
1875-1961

The opening page of the Red Book shows the combination of calligraphy and illustration that Jung used throughout the book, which is full of the many drawings he used to express and examine his visions. The large text at the top of the page is in German. The rest is in Latin.

Books for Little Hands: Children's Books from the 19th Century

by Sean Donnelly

The Largo Public Library kindly invited me to put together a third display, for the month of February. What to do this time, I wondered?

If you work at the library you can't help but notice how popular children's books are. They are checked out in towering stacks and staggering armloads.

Today, colorful picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, and board books keep kids reading. But what were young people reading generations ago?

The display I made shows the great variety of books read by kids in the decades before the Civil War: fairy tales, historical works, textbooks, stories from the Bible, ABC books, and animal stories. Many are illustrated with woodcuts or chromolithographs. And they are bound in a remarkable variety of styles, and sizes – leather, decorated cloth, sewn wraps, and illustrated boards and big to little.

I hope visitors to the library will be as charmed by them as I have been.

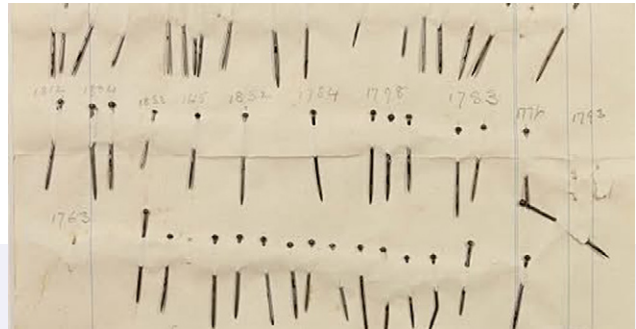


FBS on Facebook

CLICK ON THE PIC



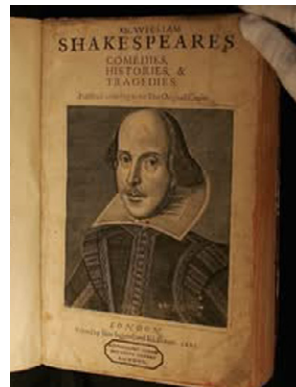
Why a California Couple Gave Millions to Rare Book School



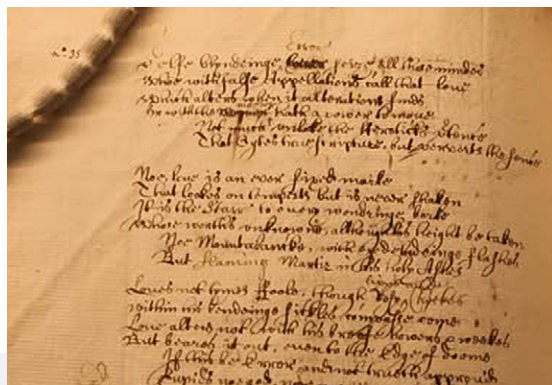
Jane Austen Used Pins to Edit Her Manuscripts: Before the Word Processor & White-Out



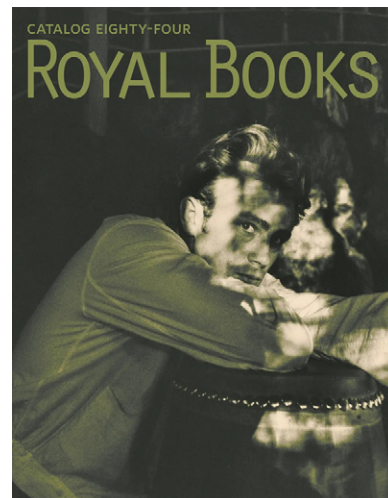
Rare medieval rolled manuscript found in York Bar Convent archive



'Wolf Hall' Screenwriter Peter Straughan Sets Tale of Shakespeare's First Folio as Next Feature



Forgotten Copy of Shakespeare Sonnet 116 Unearthed in Oxford Library



Royal Books, Catalog 84



FBS Club Page

FBS welcomes our newest members!

James Culp – interested in Masonic and Victorian era explorers

Karen Doherty – Loves to read!

David Flack – A collector of history, politics, maps, and religion

Joanne Johnston – Interested in fashion, religion, world travel, poetry, and short stories

Betty Lambert-Blue – Loves to read!

Lee Phelps – Ancient history

Nominations for FBS officers are coming up in a few weeks. Consider joining the merry band of members who run the society.



We are looking for members who have a little time to join an FBS committee – or help create one.

Committees are how we get projects done. Help us expand our scope. Ideas welcome!

New Date! FBS member Terry Seymour to speak on his latest book at Princeton

Wed., May 7, 4–5 p.m.



[Virtual access available](#)

Terry will speak about his book *Edmond Malone's Tempest Theory: An Account of the Creation, Distribution, and Survival* (2024). Terry's book is a census of a pamphlet published by 18th-century Shakespeare scholar Edmond Malone concerning the origin and date of *The Tempest*. Malone privately printed 80 copies of the pamphlet, each inscribed to a specific recipient. Terry will discuss the extensive research (and travel) needed to develop his book and provide background on Malone and the controversy about *The Tempest*.

Hosted by Friends of the Princeton University Library

Book evaluations with Irene Pavese

Thurs., April 24, 1 p.m.
Gulfport Library



Trash or Treasure? – Irene will be visiting the library to help visitors determine if their old books have more than just sentimental value. She will help them identify and understand the value of their books. Her first visit to Gulfport Library was so popular, she was invited back.

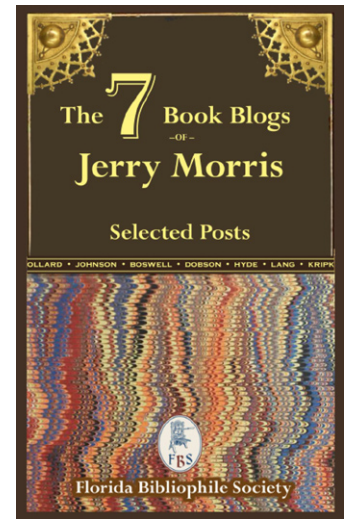


FBS Publications

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 print 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 to 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!

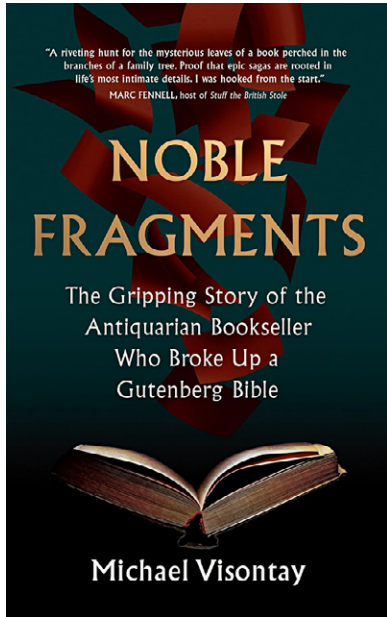
Order from the Florida Bibliophile Society by sending a check for \$125.00 to cover membership and subscription. Send your membership form and check to Florida Bibliophile Society, P.O. Box 530682, St. Petersburg, FL 33747. You may also request a subscription via email at floridabibliophiles@gmail.com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



Books in Brief

Noble Fragments: The Maverick Who Broke Up the World’s Greatest Book

Michael Visontay
Scribe US
272 pp., March 2025



Part detective story, part memoir, *Noble Fragments* takes the reader into the arcane world of book collectors and their passions. In particular, it follows a bookseller’s gamble that set off a chain of events that changed a family’s destiny.

A century ago, Gabriel Wells, a New York bookseller, committed a crime against history. He broke up one of the

world’s greatest books, the Gutenberg Bible, and sold it off as individual pages. This is the story of Australian journalist Michael Visontay’s hunt for those pages and their connection to his family.

Wells’s audacity scandalized the rare-book world. The Gutenberg Bible, as the first substantial book in Europe printed on a press, represented the democratization of knowledge and was the Holy Grail of rare books.

The tycoons of the 1920s were in a frenzy to acquire items that would prove their refinement. Wells’s ‘Noble Fragments’ sold like hot cakes.

In the 1970s, Michael Visontay stumbled upon a mysterious legal document linking Wells to his own family. Thus began the quest that led to *Noble Fragments* the book.

Michael Visontay is author of several books, has worked as a journalist and senior editor at *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Australian*, and taught journalism at university.



Source: Scribe US

The Notebook: A History of Thinking on Paper

Roland Allen
Biblioasis
416 pp., September 2024

We see notebooks everywhere. But where did these indispensable tools come from? How did they revolutionize our lives? And how can using a notebook help change the way you think?

In this first history of the notebook, Roland Allen reveals how a simple invention changed the way the world thinks.

Allen tells the notebook stories of Leonardo and Frida Kahlo, Isaac Newton and Marie Curie, and writers from Chaucer to Henry James; shows how Darwin developed his theory of evolution in tiny pocket books and Agatha Christie plotted a hundred murders in scrappy exercise books. A host of cooks, kings, sailors, fishermen, musicians, engineers, politicians, adventurers, and mathematicians all used their notebooks as a space to think and, in doing so, shaped the modern world.

In an age of AI and digital overload, the humble notebook is more relevant than ever. Allen shows how bullet points combat ADHD, journals ease PTSD, and patient diaries soften the trauma of awakening from coma. The act of moving a pen across paper can have profound consequences, changing the way we think and feel, making us more creative, more productive, and maybe even happier.

Roland Allen studied at Manchester University and works in book publishing. His writing covers many topics. He has kept a diary for decades.



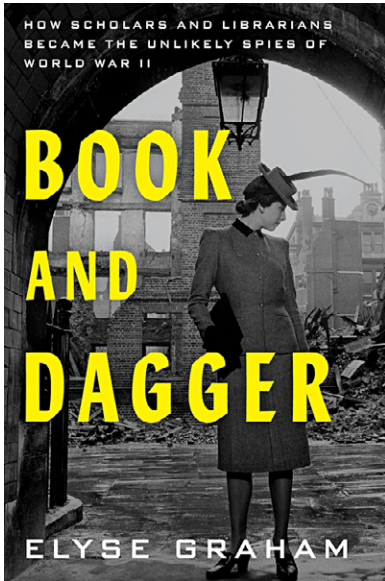
Source: Biblioasis; Profile Books

Books in Brief, *continued*

Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II

Elyse Graham

Ecco, 400 pp., September 2024



At the start of WWII, the U.S. found itself in desperate need of an intelligence agency. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was quickly formed, and, in an effort to fill its ranks with experts, the OSS turned to academia for recruits.

Literature professors, librarians, and historians trained to perform undercover operations

and investigative work. These surprising spies would go on to profoundly shape both the course of the war and our cultural institutions with their efforts.

In *Book and Dagger*, Elyse Graham draws on personal histories, letters, and declassified OSS files to tell the story of a small but connected group of humanities scholars turned spies. These professors and librarians would ultimately help lay the foundations of modern intelligence and transform American higher education when they returned after the war.

Thrillingly paced and rigorously researched, *Book and Dagger* is an inspiring and gripping true story about a group of academics who helped beat the Nazis – a tale that reveals the indelible power of the humanities to change the world



Elyse Graham is a historian and professor at Stony Brook University. She is the author of three academic books, including *You Talkin' to Me?* (Oxford University Press).

Source: Ecco

I Give These Books: The History of Yale University Library, 1656–2022

David Alan Richards

Oak Knoll Press

360 pp., 2022

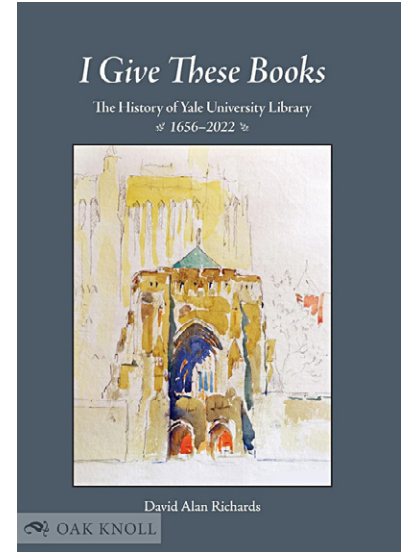
In *I Give These Books: The History of the Yale University Library, 1656–2022*, David Alan Richards tells the story of the founding, growth, organization, and expansion of Yale's University Library over its 350 years.

This history is a first of its kind, bringing together the fragments that have appeared, filling in the gaps, and producing the story of a major university library from its first gift in 1656 – 50 years before the founding of Yale University and 150 years before the Declaration of Independence. Richards follows the library's development through tumultuous periods in the nation's history as well as the growth of the library's collections and changes in the librarian profession. He provides a rich context for all this, creating a model history of a major institution.

Richard Ovenden, Librarian of Oxford University's Bodleian Library, writes, "Yale is one of the world's great libraries. Its long history tells the story of how the library has been at the leading edge of innovation in the domain of knowledge. Richards account is full of wonderful stories and will surely become an essential tool for scholars charting the contribution of libraries to the worlds of learning, ideas, and culture."

David Alan Richards is Senior Counsel with Steptoe & Johnson LLP. He is an officer of the Grolier Club and serves on the legal committee of the Yale Club of New York City.

Sources: New Books Network; Oak Knoll Press

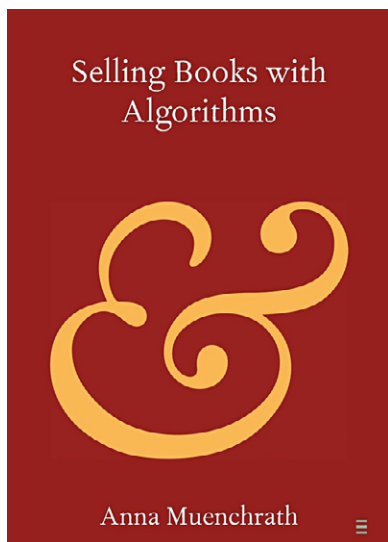


Books in Brief, *continued***Selling Books with Algorithms**

Anna Muenchrath

Cambridge University Press

96 pp., November 2024



In 1997, Amazon started as a small online bookseller. It is now the largest bookseller in the U.S. and one of the largest companies in the world, due in part to its implementation of algorithms and access to user data.

This entry in Cambridge's Element series is about how algorithms, and

particularly search and recommendation algorithms, affect the acts of book selling and book buying. Although algorithms exist across different phases of book production and consumption and are implemented in both online and brick-and-mortar bookstores, this Element focuses on the rise of Amazon.com and its use of algorithms and recommending books to readers.

Selling Books with Algorithms is not directly interested in the distinction between selling ebooks and physical books or the rise of self-publishing, which has taken place on, among others, Amazon's Kindle Direct publishing platform. It also examines the role of algorithms on platforms like YouTube and Instagram that influence the book sales through marketing. This Element asks what is at stake for book buyers and sellers when readers take recommendations from book selling algorithms online.

Anna Muenchrath is assistant professor of English at the Florida Institute of Technology. Her work has appeared in *American Literature*, *Post-45*, and *Journal of World Literature*.

Source: Cambridge University Press

[Bookish fiction]

Days at the Morisaki Bookshop

Satoshi Yagisawa

Translated By Eric Ozawa

Harper Perennial, 160, pp. July 2023

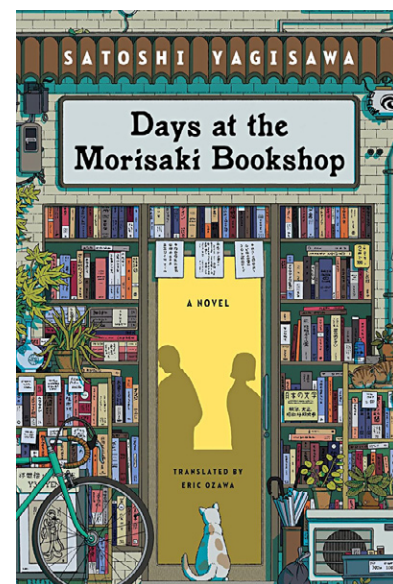
The wise and charming international bestseller – and hit Japanese movie – is about a young woman who loses everything but finds herself. It's a tale of new beginnings, romantic and family relationships, and the comfort that can be found in books.

Takako has enjoyed a relatively easy existence – until her boyfriend, whom she expected to wed, announces he's been cheating on her and is marrying another woman. Takako, now in freefall, loses her job, her friends, and her acquaintances, and spirals into depression. In the depths of her despair, she receives a call from her distant uncle Satoru who runs a second-hand bookshop in Jimbocho, Tokyo's famous book district.

Takako grudgingly must accept the many changes forced upon her, thinking that all this is temporary. But in the bookshop, Takako falls in love with Japanese literature and begins to make friends at the local coffee shop, including a young editor who's going through his own messy breakup. The reappearance of her boyfriend forces Takako and her uncle to draw upon the wisdom they have gained through their relationship and through the bookstore.

Satoshi Yagisawa's *Days at the Morisaki Bookshop* was his debut novel, which won the Chiyoda Literature Prize. He lives in Japan.

Source: Harper Perennial



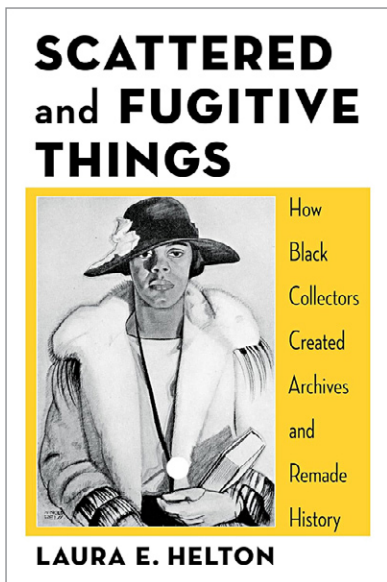
Books in Brief, *concluded*

Scattered and Fugitive Things: How Black Collectors Created Archives and Remade History

Laura E. Helton
Columbia Univ. Press, 328 pp., April 2024

Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance

Ellen Gruber Garvey
Oxford University Press, 320 pp., Nov. 2012



During the first half of the twentieth century, a group of collectors and creators dedicated themselves to documenting the history of African American life. It was a time when doubt was cast on the value or even the idea of Black history. Yet, these bibliophiles, scrapbookers, and librarians created enduring African

diasporic archives – they also reshaped Black public culture, animating inquiry into the nature and meaning of Black history.

Scattered and Fugitive Things tells the stories of these Black collectors, traveling from the urban north to the Jim Crow south. Helton chronicles six key figures, drawing on overlooked sources such as book lists and card catalogs, she reveals the risks collectors took to create Black archives. She also explores the social life of collecting, highlighting communities that used these collections. In each case, Helton argues, archiving was alive in the present, a site of intellectual experiment, creative abundance, and political possibility. Offering new ways to understand Black intellectual and literary history, *Scattered and*

Fugitive Things reveals Black collecting as a radical critical tradition that reimagines past, present, and future.

Laura E. Helton is Assistant Professor of English and History at the University of Delaware. She writes about collections and how they shape our world.



Source: Columbia University Press

Men and women 150 years ago grappled with information overload by making scrapbooks – the ancestors of Google and blogging. From the powerful to the poor, people cut out and pasted down their reading. *Writing with Scissors* opens a new window into the feelings and thoughts of these scrapbookers.

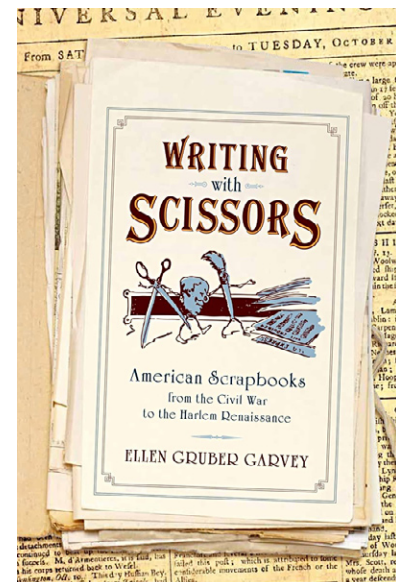
Garvey reveals an unexplored layer of American popular culture, where the press touched people’s lives. Scrapbookers documented their feelings about great public events like the Civil War, mediated through newspapers. African Americans and women’s rights activists collected, concentrated, and critiqued accounts from a press that they did not control to create “unwritten histories” in books they wrote with scissors. Whether scrapbook makers pasted their clippings into blank books, sermon collections, or the pre-gummed scrapbook that Mark Twain invented, they claimed ownership of their reading. They created their own democratic archives.

Writing with Scissors argues that people have long had a strong personal relationship to media. Like newspaper editors who enthusiastically “scissored” and reprinted attractive items from other newspapers, scrapbook makers passed their reading along to family and community.

Ellen Gruber Garvey is Professor of English at New Jersey City University and author of the award-winning *The Adman in the Parlor: Magazines and the Gendering of Consumer Culture*.



Source: Oxford University Press





Winslow Homer's *The New Novel* (1877) was a product of a decade in which he often painted the pastimes of women and children. The scene seems chaste enough, but to the “moral authorities” of the day, the novels preferred by young women were “garbage,” “moral poison,” and incitements to “carnal passion.” Homer painted this unknown model several times, and she was thought to be a paramour, but she disappears from his paintings in 1878. There's a probably a new novel in there somewhere. Homer began as a printmaker and was hired by *Harper's Weekly* to sketch Civil War scenes at the front. He rapidly graduated to oils and watercolors, largely self-taught and demonstrating a mastery of all media.



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!

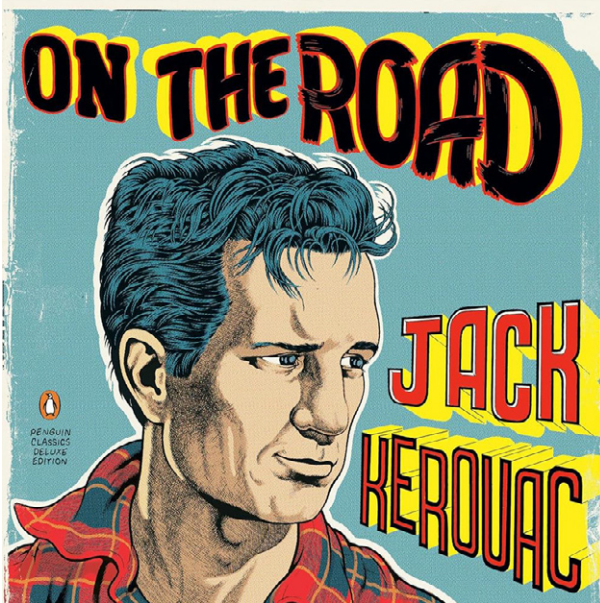


Your input and content are needed. FBS is about participation, about discoveries, about passionate interests, and sometimes the deliciously obscure. Why not write about it!?



Upcoming Events

March 2025



Field Trip to the Jack Kerouac House of St. Petersburg

Jack Kerouac House
5169 10th Ave N
St. Petersburg, FL

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

(also available on Zoom)

Jack Kerouac is one of the most famous names in American literature. The book of his wanderings across the U.S., *On the Road*, has captured the imagination of generations and sent many on their own road trips of self-discovery.

What many readers will not know is that Kerouac spent much of the last decade of his life in central Florida and the last two years at an unassuming home in St. Petersburg. That home is now a museum and guest house. Join us at the Kerouac House for a special presentation and a meditation about life on the road led by the house's owner, Ken Burchenal.

April 2025



Irene Sullivan: Studies in Juvenile Justice

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

April 21, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

(also available on Zoom)

Irene Sullivan was a juvenile judge for 20 years in the Clearwater area. She is recognized nationally as an expert on juvenile justice and has written two books on the subject: *Born and Raised to Murder* and *Raised by the Courts*.

If the titles seem grim, it's because the subject is serious. Irene will speak to us about Florida's courts and their impact on the state's youth. Juvenile judges make decisions that they know are likely to shape a child's entire life. They must balance the law and compassion for children who often come to their courts having already lived difficult, compromised lives.



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.

— On Hiatus—

BookMania! (est. 1994)

Jensen Beach, FL (www.libraryfoundationmc.org/programs-/bookmania-festival/)

— New Format—

Palm Beach Book Festival

West Palm Beach, FL Author interviews will be posted occasionally through Florida Atlantic University. (www.palmbeachbookfestival.com/)

— No Date Yet —

Univ. of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels

Gainesville, FL (est. 2002)
(www.english.ufl.edu/comics/conference.shtml)

— March 14 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the month: *The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession* by Michael Finkel
(www.ringling.org/event/literati-book-club/)

— March 14–15 —

Venice Book Fair and Writers Festival

Venice, FL (venicebookfair.com/)

— March 15 —

Sunrise Comic Con, Sunrise, FL

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

— April 15 —

Ringling Literati Book Club, Sarasota, FL

Book of the Month: *Dwell Time: A Memoir of Art, Exile, and Repair* by Rosa Lowinger
(www.ringling.org/events/literati-book-club)

— April 24–26 —

4th Annual Lakeland Book Crawl

Lakeland, FL
(www.lakelandbookcrawl.com)

Rare Book Cafe Coffee Break

RBC was begun several years ago by Florida booksellers and FBS members Steve and Edie Eisenstein. It continues as “Coffee Break,” the brainchild of T. Allan Smith.

“Coffee Break” is co-hosted by long-time RBC regulars Lee Linn (The Ridge Books, Calhoun, GA) and guest co-host Richard Mori (Mori Books, Franklin, New Hampshire). Get a cup of coffee and join RBC Coffee Break on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

COFFEE BREAK No. 97: Co-host Lee Linn Chats with Two Tampa Bay Young Book Lovers – Lee chats with two Tampa Bay area readers, Ava Allison, 15, and Audrey Morgan, 13, about their love of books and their philosophies on the books they choose.

COFFEE BREAK No. 96: Mike Slicker – See you at the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair – Mike owns Lighthouse Books ABAA in Dade City, Florida and is a longtime bookseller in the Tampa Bay region. He is chairman of the Florida Antiquarian Book Fair. Mike shares some of the items he’s bringing to the book fair, including books illustrated and signed by Arthur Rackham Co-host Lee Linn also shares some of the titles she’s bringing.

COFFEE BREAK No. 95: Sandi Silverman Shows Such Beautiful Books – Sandi Silverman, a Florida Antiquarian Book Fair regular, has a shop in Lakeland, Florida, a short trip from The Coliseum where the Book Fair will be held. We have a lively conversation and look at some of the beautifully designed items Sandi’s bringing to the Book Fair.

COFFEE BREAK No. 94: Ephemerist Barbara Loe Returns with Murder on Her Mind – Ephemerist Barbara Loe is back and she has murder on her mind – as purely an intellectual pursuit, of course. Barbara, who owns Cardtique Inc. in Osprey, Florida, recently visited London, where she collected some fascinating dime-novel style material about murder and mayhem in jolly old England.

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

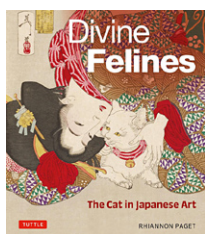
Feb. 15 – Michael Erdman on the history of magazines (and women's rights) in Turkey – Michael Erdman is Head of Middle East and Central Asian Collections at The British Library with overall responsibility for all manuscript holdings in Arabic, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Chagatai, Coptic, Hebrew, Kurdish, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, and Syriac. I talked with him about my recent magazine hunting exploits in Istanbul, and how what we found fits into the overall history of magazine publishing in Turkey. Esoteric, I know, but hey, this is where passion takes you.

Elling Eide Center, Sarasota

April 4, 1 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Rhiannon Paget: "Feline Muse: The Cat in Japanese Art"

– Paget is Curator of Asian Art at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Florida State University. She has published research on paintings, textiles, popular visual culture, and especially woodblock prints. Her book *Divine Felines: The Cat in Japanese Art* (2023) explores the long history of Japan's extraordinary relationship to cats as vividly depicted in centuries of



Japanese art and visual culture. Depending on the context, they may elevate the mood, invite good fortune, prompt the viewer to meditate on a tale, or provide evidence of an unseen world of magic and supernatural happenings.

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 Cafe'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.

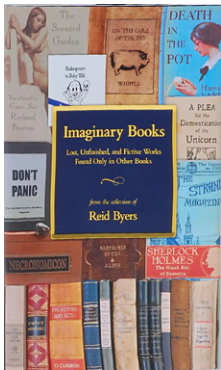


Book Events and Podcasts, *concluded*

Grolier Club of New York Videos

The Grolier Club of New York has posted [many book-related videos on Vimeo](#), including virtual exhibition openings, tours, talks, and show-and-tell episodes. The most recent episode is:

Reid Byers: “Collecting the Imaginary (in which all will be revealed)” – In this video, Byers “reveals all” about his collection of imaginary books, recently exhibited at the Grolier Club in New York City. *Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books* featured 100



books that do not really exist. Byers worked with printers, bookbinders, artists, and calligraphers to create books that have no surviving example, e.g., books planned but not finished and works that exist only in fiction. Highlights included Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Won*, the lost sequel to *Love’s Labour’s Lost* and Hemingway’s first novel, stolen on a French train in 1922. The accompanying (very real) book has been published by Oak Knoll and Club Fortsas.

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.

March 13, 12–12:30 p.m. – Genealogy of Christ & a newly discovered example of the Speculum Theologiae diagram series – Curator Lynn Ransom will bring out Ms. Codex 2243, a 14th-century copy of the 12th-century pedagogical text *Compendium historiae in genealogia Christi* & the *Speculum Theologiae* diagram series. We’ll see if a video view will help to show how these books would have originally been used.

University of Miami Special Collections

[Robin Potter – The Visual Commonplace: Collecting Memories and Constructing Identities within Photo Albums and Scrapbooks](#) – The commonplace book is a journal in which one keeps scraps of information, photos, memorabilia, souvenirs – whatever sparks a memory. Many of us have one or more. The scrapbook is a specialized commonplace book which is often dedicated to the story of a person, a family, or an experience. Increasingly, these books are being collected and interpreted, and they often tell fascinating and important stories.

Dive into this captivating world with Special Collections Librarian Robin Potter through the scrapbooks and photograph albums housed within Special Collections at the University of Miami Libraries. Discover how individuals and families have used photographs, captions, found objects, and ephemera to creatively weave their personal narratives. Potter describes how scrapbooks serve as a powerful mode of self-expression, bridging meanings across time. Viewers will learn how to interpret these personal artworks and uncover the stories they tell.

Public Libraries Podcast

[FYI Podcast 82: Navigating Difficult Situations in Public Libraries](#) (20:24 min) – As a public space, libraries invite all, and unusual situations can sometimes occur. Skills to deal with these situations are vital. In this episode, Dr. Margaret Ann Paauw, author of *Navigating Difficult Situations in Public Libraries*, discusses this crucial topic that intersects social work and library services – how libraries can navigate crises and ensure the safety of both staff and patrons through trauma-informed de-escalation techniques.



... and More

Paratext

You are headed to the bookstore to find a copy of *Macbeth*. When you get there, you find a dozen editions, and you begin inspecting them. You find one with an agreeable cover, introductory material by a well known scholar, attractively laid-out pages, and so on. None of these is *Macbeth* or Shakespeare, yet they determine which book you buy. These are the paratexts of the book – everything that is not the actual text of *Macbeth* but which profoundly affects your experience of *Macbeth*.

The term “paratext” was introduced by the literary theorist Gerard Genette (1930–2018) in 1987. At first, he focused on running heads, page numbers, appendices, and the like. But if the term seems obtuse, it has become a major focus of book and literary studies in the past 30 years. It has been extended by others, notably by Nicholas Basbanes, to include all aspects of a book beyond the central text, including dust jacket, paper, typefaces, etc. Genette and Basbanes considered elements of the book, but others have extended the concept to materials about the book, such as advertisements, reviews, and interviews. All of these things can influence a reader’s experience of a book, in fact, many people rely on external materials to even consider approaching the book itself.

An important aspect of paratexts is that they are

rarely the author’s work. An editor may choose a title and specify chapter titles, headings, and other additions to the text. A book designer may select fonts and design the layout. An illustrator may interpret the text in images. The marketing department may control the cover design. A blurbist will write copy for the back of the dust jacket and its flaps. Any of these elements are subjects of study, but after reading this, you will at least notice them and think about the role they have in the total production – the book – that you hold in your hands.

A very important paratext is marginal notes, or marginalia. These comments by readers often control our understanding of ancient texts when the text itself is not clear (or missing). In manuscript copying, margin notes have, from time to time, worked their way into the text itself, and scholars must work back through the editions to recover the original. In earlier times, adding to the text was not considered the violation of authorial intent and meaning that it would be today.

In one case, a marginal note was the most important text in the book. In 1637, the mathematician Fermat made a note in the margin of his copy of the *Arithmetica* of the ancient author Diophantus. In that note, he described a theorem about numbers so profound that it would not be solved until over 350 years later, in 1995.

Paratext: Marginal Note

It is impossible for a cube to be the sum of two cubes, a fourth power to be the sum of two fourth powers, or in general for any number that is a power greater than the second to be the sum of two like powers. I have discovered a truly marvelous demonstration of this proposition that this margin is too narrow to contain.



The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of the past centuries.

— René Descartes

Paratext: Illustration

Paratext: End Mark or Tombstone

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 FBS's future and enjoying special presentations by Gary Simons and Charles Brown. Sean Donnelly's presentation, "Tales of a Bookseller," has been postponed.

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 – Our trip to Homasassa was cancelled when museum owner Jim Anderson informed us that he was still recovering from hurricane damage. Instead, we met at Book Rescuers in Largo and were introduced to their new digs where books abound. The print museum will be rescheduled for the FBS 2025–2026 season.

February 16 • Field Trip to Ersula's History Shop – Owner and writer Ersula Odom* introduced us to her museum-shop which features books, memorabilia, primary source documents, black history, and more. Located at 1421 Tampa Park Plaza, Tampa. Fabulous!

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 hosted a hospitality table in the foyer and a table just for us inside the fair. FBS greeted hundreds of visitors, providing general information and introducing many to FBS. Great books, great people – it's always a blast!

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 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 guest speaker will be Jim West, President of the Manuscript Society – we're very excited! Watch this space for more details!

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

* FBS member



Endpaper • One for the Books



Another Florida Antiquarian Book Fair has come and gone – and what a great time we had! Once again, the shelves and display cases were filled with treasures and discoveries.

Of course, it's odd what counts as a treasure.

One of the fun aspects of book collecting is that there is room for everyone, both high dollar and low dollar. I've had friends who collected the Ford Motor Company cookbooks and another who collected old menus. These types of books and ephemera not only speak to the collector, they speak to a particular time and place. Their value may be hard to estimate, but as anyone will tell you: the secret to successful collecting is to collect what you enjoy.

Collectors often have a natural curiosity about aspects of things that other people don't think about.

They often seek deeper insight into the things they collect and conduct research. And through these efforts they make discoveries – sometimes very obscure discoveries. This is something bibliophiles understand about each other that sometimes other people do not.

We enjoy sharing these discoveries because the world of books is so vast – as vast as fiction and nonfiction and everything in between – that our discoveries open doors for other bibliophiles. In addition to the fun we have, being a bibliophile is about learning, and there is much to learn.

A whole year until the next Florida Antiquarian Book Fair, but there are a lot of books between here and there. Join us on this journey!

See you at the bookstore! — Charles

The Florida Bibliophile Society

OFFICERS

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

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

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

Recording Secretary: **Sean Donnelly**
sdonnelly_bookseller@yahoo.com

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



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

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

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

The Florida Bibliophile is the newsletter of the Florida Bibliophile Society, established 1983. It is published monthly from September to May. Correspondence regarding the newsletter and submissions should be sent to: Charles Brown, cmbrown@atlantic.net. www.floridabibliophilesociety.org © 2025 Florida Bibliophile Society

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

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

Printing and mailing of *The Florida Bibliophile* print edition is provided by M&M Printing Co., Ruskin, Florida.
