



"Fronti Nulla Fides"
(Latin for "Never have faith in the front")
— **Juvenal**, *Satires* 2.8.22

"It is only shallow people who do not judge by appearances.
The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible. . ."
— **Oscar Wilde**, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Cover Story II: Return To The Stacks
An Exhibition Celebrating Glorious Book Covers From Our Historic Collection

March 29- May10, 2022

We return to this, our second annual iteration of Cover Story, with input from staff, volunteers and the library Board adding their choices to the selection curated by Martha Willette Lewis. As with last year the books were selected purely on the basis of their covers, which are by turns odd, beautiful, funny, menacing, topical and intriguing.

Founded before the Civil War, The Institute Library has, over the years, accumulated a surprising and often mysterious collection of fiction, biography, travel, history, drama, and poetry. Perusing the stacks is a perennial delight because of the wild card/ lucky dip nature of this archive.

The origin of the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover" is often attributed to a 1944 edition of the linguistics journal *American Speech*: "You can't judge a book by its binding". The origins are, in fact, much older, with the Roman thinker Juvenal and the Victorian era English writer George Eliot each admonishing against the seduction of superficial appearances. It became further codified in the 1946 pulp novel *The Glass Room* by Edwin Rolfe and Lester Fuller: "You can never tell a book by its cover. " All of which prompts the questions: Should one NEVER judge a book by its cover?

Since rules are made to be broken the Gallery Upstairs at the Institute Library will test this adage empirically and present a smorgasbord of titles from our collection for you to frivolously, shallowly, pick your favorites. This exhibit is meant to please, baffle and delight as it celebrates the libraries holdings. Please join us as we return to the stacks, hunting out buried treasures and dusting off forgotten beauties for your delectation.

Cover Story II is dedicated to Eva Geertz and Ann Marlowe who create such displays year-round in the library below with wit and aplomb. Recontextualizing this practice in the gallery setting drives the point home that what they do is art with the materials at hand, an ongoing conversation with the collection.

" The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance." — **Aristotle**

" We should look to the mind, and not to the outward appearance." — **Aesop**

" The disparity between outward appearances and inner disposition had disturbed me all my life. "
— **Anne Rice**, *Pandora*

"In the old days, books had awful covers and marvelous content; nowadays, the opposite happens. "
— **Giacomo Leopardi**, *Thoughts*

" Yet I have come to distrust book jackets calculated to prick desire like a Bloomingdale's window, as if you could wear what you read. " — **Lynne Sharon Schwartz**

"Never judge a book by its cover; a movie by its book; or a video game by its movie. "
— **Ashwin Sanghi**