



# A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books

*Nicholas A. Basbanes*

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The passion to possess books has never been more widespread than it is today; indeed, obsessive book collecting remains the only hobby to have a disease named after it. *A Gentle Madness*, finalist for the 1995 National Book Critics Circle award, is an adventure among the afflicted. Richly anecdotal and fully documented, it combines the perspective of historical research with the immediacy of investigative journalism. Above all, it is a celebration of books and the people who have revered, gathered, and preserved them over the centuries.

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