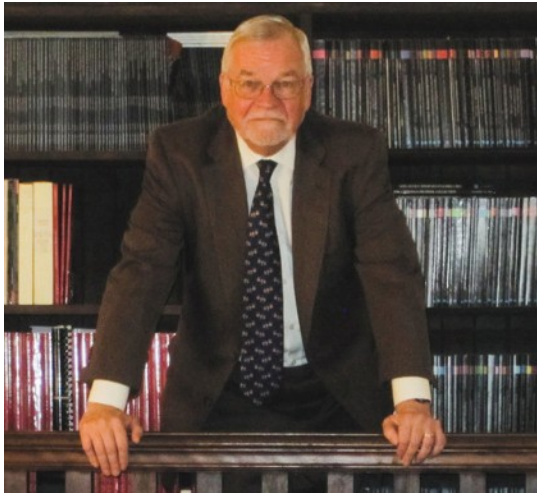




**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
Invites you to its meeting, **March 27, 2024, at 11 am** at  
**First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT.**  
The program will also be shown on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/30IBj21>

## **David Richards**

### **“Collecting Shakespeare’s First Folio in America”**



If we make an analogy between rare book collecting in this country and American whaling in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then there are *two* white whales in bibliomania, not one. The first is the Gutenberg Bible, printed in Mainz, Germany, between 1454 and 1456. Between 150 and 180 are thought to have been produced, and there are just 48 surviving copies. The other white whale is Shakespeare’s First Folio, published in 1623, which one bibliophile has in a different metaphor called the “Stradivarii of books.” Of 750 copies printed, 233 are recorded as extant.

Fifty-five percent of all copies are in four places: Washington, D.C., the London area (including Eton and Windsor), Tokyo, and New York City; today, 90% are owned by institutions. In this talk David Richards traces the history and importance of this treasure trove, how so many copies made their way from England to the USA, and the colorful (and rich) collectors who made this happen.

David Alan Richards is a member of RMA and has spoken to the Association on previous occasions, including about the donation of the High Line railroad viaduct for a New York City park, and on the British author Rudyard Kipling. He holds history degrees from Yale College and the University of Cambridge, where he was a Keasbey Scholar, and then attended Yale Law School. He is the recently-retired chair of the Yale Library Associates, the alumni support group for the university’s Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, and is the author of seven books.

**Our next speaker, on April 3, will be Fred Camillo, First Selectman, Town of Greenwich, on “Greenwich: Knowing the way. Showing the way. Leading the way.”**

*The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at **10:40 am** followed promptly by our presentation at **11:00 am**. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam Ave. in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org).*