

Fall '10 and Spring '11

To veterans of 30 Book Sales or more, it might seem that one sale is much like another...

The Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 Book Sales exceeded the budgeted income goals and were all around successes!

Despite the first beautiful weather in some time and the bad economy, attendance was good, and at both sales there were many interesting and amusing happenings, which made working at these sales memorable. This issue highlights some of these events.

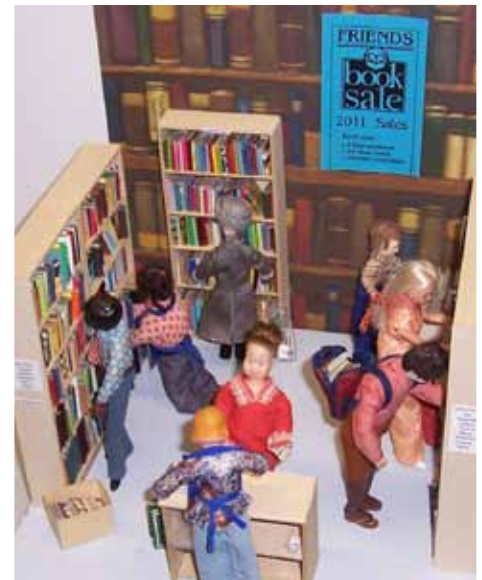
As usual in recent years, in the fall the line started to form late on Thursday and by Friday evening there were 30 customers in line, including two families with children. Of these only three were from Ithaca, 10 from other parts of New York State and 17 from out of state.

In the spring there was one new record set--the first customers arrived on Thursday morning! Dealers from New Jersey, they specifically arrived this soon

in order to be ahead of the family who have been first in the line for most sales by getting there on Thursday evening.

The number of out of town customers does seem to indicate that our sale is indeed, famous. One shopper from Cleveland exclaimed, "I've never seen such organization at a Booksale. Look, these are alphabetized by title!" Her husband added; "I'm a third grade teacher and I feel like a kid in a candy store. You can be sure we'll be back next fall." When I told them about the Spring Sale, the response was, "Then we'll be back in the spring!"

In the Fall sale there were 279,255 items, of which 85% sold; in the Spring there were 293,060 items of which 80% sold. The best of the remaining books filled 24 gaylords (huge packing boxes), completely filling a high semi truck, and were sent to Better World Books. Categories which sold 95% or



Volunteer Dick Tabor's miniature of the book sale – on view in the lounge.

more of their items in the fall sale were audio books, childrens, DVDs, music CDs, comics & graphic novels, 100 best fiction, paperback mysteries, ephemera (magazines and cards), small books, pets and animals, large print, trade paperbacks, fiction videos, science fiction, and vintage books. In the spring the top selling categories were DVDs, music CDs, comics & graphic novels, 100 best fiction, romance, science fiction, trade paperbacks, VHS videos, and vintage books. 📖

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All cleaned up after the fall sale... for about two seconds!

Sale News and Anecdotes

Bag Sale Day

Bag Sale Day is a relatively recent innovation, which has become extremely popular. One fan was seen loading mysteries into a bag without even checking titles (perhaps he was a dealer whose customers who are not at all particular?) One reason that the bag sale does so well is that volunteers work hard to keep everything organized. A

customer commented that she had expected to see a mess, after so much frantic buying, but that instead the shelves were impressively neat. The picture shows Tony Speicher laying out Horizon magazines on the paperback fiction table. All but two sold! (Tony and his mother come in several times during each sale, and Tony always asks if he can be of help) 📖



The last shopper at the Spring Sale was very happy with his finds.



This customer bought all the remaining National Geographics at the Bagsale. He said he was sending them to an orphanage in Indonesia, because the children love to look at the pictures.



Tony Speicher laying out Horizon magazines

Tidbits

A grandmother asked a floater to help her to find the thickest book at the sale. She was delighted to be shown the unabridged dictionaries and chose the largest; she could hardly carry it to the front. She was taking it home to cover with contact paper as a booster seat for her granddaughter.

While stashing of books behind others, in order to retrieve them at a cheaper price, is obviously a deplorable practice, it is probably not illegal. However, one stash found in Hobbies made us wonder if the stasher might

be an actual or potential criminal—two thin pamphlets: “How to Pick Locks” and “Safecracking”.

The Mystery of the Wandering Philosopher: Rich found volume 39 - The Works of Emmanuel Kant, from Literary Sets, in his Encyclopedia Section across the room. This would not be unusual except that after being replaced in its proper spot, it turned up in Encyclopedias again. This sequence was repeated three times, until it finally disappeared altogether, taking volume 40 with it.

One worker discovered that “Romance” is to be found at the Booksale other than in aisle 3. While working her section, she overheard a middle-aged man and woman discussing their favorite books. It was obvious from their conversation that they had not known each other previously. Since they were standing in front of the shelf she needed to work on, she went to the kitchen for coffee. When she returned 15 minutes later, they were still there, but had just decided to go over to the bakery to continue their acquaintance. 📖

(Book Sale News and Anecdotes continues on the back page.)

Profiles – Three Book Sale Guys

The choice of men for this article was easy – we had three great pictures and nowhere to put them. Fortunately the three chosen in this random fashion are long term, hard working, interesting volunteers.



Eric Humerez is an outstanding and cheerful worker. He works under the most uncomfortable conditions, at least during the summer months. Eric sorts Music CD's on the balcony –the hottest place at the sale! Eric is a computer specialist in the Department of Economics in Uris Hall at Cornell.



Peter Fraissinet has sorted the huge record section for many years. He feels so much at home in the Booksale building that he came in when he needed a place to tune his fiddle before a performance. Peter has been an entomologist, a librarian, a performing musician and most recently has become Assistant Curator of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Hortorium Herbarium. This is one of the largest collections of pressed plants in the world.



Nate Fawcett sorts Literary Criticism and is Treasurer of the Friends. Nate has served on all three TCPL boards: The Friends, The Library Foundation, and the Library Board. He was recently elected trustee of the year. Nate is also considered by many to be the best dressed male volunteer!



In Memoriam



In the past year members of the Friends have been saddened by the unexpected loss of four of our active volunteers.



Dee Buell

Dee Buell, a school nurse at Caroline School, was a mainstay of the Booksale from 1975. Dee spent many, many hours presorting the Mass Market paperbacks and was in charge of Paperback Fiction A-L. She spent many hours during the sales standing at the end of the table to help customers find the books they were looking for. At other times, Dee also sorted biography and romance.



Ken Robinson

Ken Robinson was a professor of agricultural economics at Cornell for 36 years. At the Booksale he sorted Agriculture and helped his wife, Jean, with Paperback Mystery. However Ken and Jean did far more than this. They volunteered for a great variety of tasks – from painting shelves to planting and caring for the plants next to the parking lot. Ken is greatly missed; Jean continues as one of our most valued volunteers.



Julie Webster

Julie Webster took on the Inspiration section about five years ago. It is one of the most difficult and frustrating sections. Her daughter said Julie enjoyed the challenge of clarifying what books actually belonged in the section, and determining a logical format for organizing them. A fellow worker described her as an unusually helpful and pleasant person to learn from and work with.



Ruth Windmuller

Ruth Windmuller volunteered at the Booksale since 1969. She spent a lot of time sorting the German portion of the Foreign Language section to get it absolutely perfect, and could be seen fixing up the section many times a day during the sales. She was happy to translate articles from German to English for volunteers. Ruth had a passion for books in Yiddish; she often purchased all of them to donate to a special Yiddish library in New York City.



Sarah Hatcher's quilt "Buzzsaw" is machine pieced and quilted.



Book Sale Quilters – the picture taken at the wrap-up dinner in the fall includes all the quilters who were present: Eleanor Abbott, Betta Hedlund, Virginia Fenton, Mary Berkelman, Nancy Cool, Sandra Kisner, Marianne Mellinger, Sarah Hatcher, Margaret Shephard, Tammy Kubinec, and Phyllis Rappaport. Other volunteers who quilt are Diana Lawrence, Jean Reese, Judy Kennison, Andrea Volckmar, Frances Fawcett, Beryl Barr, Alice Linton, Nancy Morgan, Jean Robinson, and Marcy Rosencrantz. We apologize if we have omitted anyone.

Friends, Quilters, and Books

The inspiration for this article did *not* come from the appearance of Laura Stanton's wonderful Book Sale quilt over the office door...



Virginia Fenton's "Giggle of Geese" quilt was on display at the Ithaca Visitor's Center during August. It will be auctioned Oct 1st for the benefit of the Ithaca Quilter's Guild.

Instead, it came several weeks earlier when Sarah Hatcher was showing a volunteer pictures on the computer of the many quilts which she has completed in the last year. Since so many workers are avid quilters, it seemed that an article on quilting might be of interest.

Phyllis and Tammy contributed interesting information about the recent history of quilting. Its current popularity began in 1976, with the Bicentennial. Beginning with quilters who used primarily traditional patterns and techniques, there has been a trend toward modern designs and techniques such as Nancy Cool's "neo-reverse appliqué" and modern technology such as rotary cutters. Many of our quilters prefer traditional ways, while others alternate between the new and the old.

Mary Berkelman reported on a quilting class which she took in Switzerland. Although conducted in French everything about the class came from America—patterns, fabric, terminology. They even used English rather than metric measurements.

At least three of our quilters work primarily for the pleasure of helping others. Betta Hedlund and Jean Robinson belong to a local group which has made over 1200 knotted quilts in the last eight years for Lutheran World Relief to send to needy children. They

Quilters! Are you interested in helping create a quilt for the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra to auction off at their Spring 2012 fundraiser? If so, please email Sarah Hatcher: (shatcher@twcny.rr.com)

heard that one group of orphan boys in Kenya were so happy with their quilts, because each boy now owned something different from all those of the other boys. Eleanor Abbot who made beautifully crafted prize-winning quilts for years, now does simpler ones for foster children.



The cover of *Fool's Puzzle* by Earlene Fowler. A number of books in the mystery section include a quilting theme.

The Crafts Section, sorted by Elaine LaRocque, has many exciting quilting books, both art and how-to-do-it volumes. Elaine is not yet a quilter herself, but hopes to be one in the future.

Other less likely sections have books about quilting. In the Mystery section, for example, Earlene Fowler, takes most of her titles from quilt patterns and those patterns appear on each dust jacket. Sarah H. Frommer's – *Buried in Quilts* is about a murder over the possession of a quilt made by Abraham Lincoln's mother. In *Death on the Drunkard's Path* by Jan Hager, an amazing number

Nancy Cool designed and quilted this squirrel logo wall hanging for the opening of Kyllikki Inman's antique store.



A quilted illustration from the Children's Book *Arctic Memories* by Normee Ekoomiak

of quilters were either murderers or victims. By contrast, our volunteers who quilt are usually sweet and gentle and never (as far as we know) homicidal.

Children's frequently receives books about quilting. Our favorite was *The Patchwork Quilt*, about a cat who was so fond of the old quilt he slept on, that he rescued it from the garbage truck and dragged it back home. Another is *Arctic Memories* a wonderful book by an Inuit author, written in English and Inuit, which he illustrated with pictures of his childhood appliquéd on quilts.

Even the Games section contained a Quilting version of Monopoly called "Quiltopoly".

To see more quilts by book sale volunteers, click the link at the bottom of the home page on the Book Sale web site: www.booksale.org

The center star of one of Eleanor Abbott's beautiful quilts.



Each year brings more and more quilting books to the crafts section.



Beryl Barr made this quilt for a friend's graduation in 2004.

Marianne Mellinger – "This is an Underground Railroad quilt, 71"x73", in which each block gives information to the slaves who were trying to escape to the north."



(News and Anecdotes continued from page 2)



Children's Section

A toddler, in a stroller, was clutching a thick paperback. She looked up, tore off the cover and handed it to Laurel, who looked at it and started laughing. Her mother said, "She pulled it off the shelf herself." The title?--- Spock's Infant and Child Care, from the Parenting section.

Collector's Corner

Two customers in Collectors Corners were especially memorable: At the front of the line in the fall, after the tents of the omnipresent dealer, was a young girl sitting propped up against the wall (she didn't even have a pillow or a sleeping bag!). She was there to purchase a book from Collector's Corner for her father-- Medical Plants, published in 1887. He had seen it featured on Google (When Sarah Hatcher heard this, she exclaimed—"Google, we're famous!") After thirty-six uncomfortable hours and \$500. the book was hers.

Nancy Ramage, who was on duty in Collectors Corners the first day in the spring, sent us this account later from her archeological dig in Turkey. - "A lady came in and asked if there happened to be a book called Hortus. I pointed to a thick book of that title and she grabbed it off the shelf, and held it tightly to her chest, as if someone were going to take it from her. She had been

A small child was very disappointed to find that all the Garfield books were gone. Fortunately, there is a small stash of popular, but unsellable books in the back storage room ... He was as delighted with his ripped, coverless Garfield as though it had been a mint copy.

A very small girl asked a worker for a Star Wars book. When it was suggested that she might like something easier, she replied, politely but firmly "I'm only three years old, but I want Star Wars!"

A kindergarten class walked over from BJM. Each child received one free book, and to pay for a second book, each child handed the worker a quarter (given to them by their teacher). One five year old asked, "What are you going to do with all that money?" It was explained that it would be used to buy children's books for the library. One boy interrupted, "Oh then we bring the books back after we read them and you sell them again and you get more books to sell again" – a little confused but he had the general idea. 📖

looking for it for years." (Hortus is a gigantic, early horticulture book.)

Book Sale Noises

Books and Games that talk are becoming popular, but they don't always function as intended. This spring a worker passing through the Games section was startled to be informed: "Oregon--Capitol Salem". The source was a puzzle which was supposed to impart information when a piece was correctly placed. All the pieces are missing, but the board still gives the capitols of various states when you walk by (blocking the light for a moment).

Another out-of-control item - The Very Quiet Cricket. A volunteer pushed a button to see if it still worked. Not only did the cricket cease to be quiet--it could not be shut off. Cheerful as the sound was, it soon became annoying and the only solution was to throw the book out of the back door.

Overheard at the Sale:

"Richard Wagner was not a good man." (not in the Music section!)

"This place makes me so happy, but my mom's going to kill me – coming home with more crocheting books!" – in the Crafts Section.

A customer in front of Vintage books said, "I just can't pass up any signed book."

Serious about Recycling

Sarah Hatcher reported that the Booksale received a package of donated books from Maryland, the postage was \$19.00!

Book Sale Transportation

A few years ago, one of our customers arrived to wait in line on Friday after bicycling 65 miles. However most come by car. This year one was worthy of special note---a magnificent 1957 Mercedes-Benz Cabriolet 220S, pictured here on Esty Street. There was also a school bus with 50 children and 14 adults, which came to "School Day" and then continued on to Grissamore Farms. (School buses are rare because field trip funds are so limited.) However, far rarer was the means of transportation used by Jay Leeming and his girlfriend who canoed down Six Mile Creek from their home on Center Street and tied up across Route 13 from the sale (Reported by Nancy Leeming a volunteer who is his mother)



Arriving in style - a 1957 Mercedes-Benz Cabriolet 220S