

May Newsletter

We are excited to announce that we have a new name! We will now be known as the **Ann Arbor Book Society**.

You will notice that the term 'booksellers' has been removed from our name. This was not done to exclude the bookstores, but instead to be inclusive of all book lovers who we've always aimed to engage with. Advocating for our independent bookstores has been, and will continue to be, an integral part of our vision, as they are the foundation for the rich and expansive history that makes up the book culture we are proud to celebrate. We have changed our name to better align with who we are here to serve—all the book lovers in our community.

May Book Event Highlights

Saturday, May 6th from 10 am to 10 pm: [Free Comic Book Day](#) at Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St.

Sunday, May 7th at 3 pm: Amor Towles, author of *A Gentleman in Moscow*, at [Nicola's Books](#), 2513 Jackson Rd.

Thursday, May 11th at 7 pm: Poet Lew S. Klatt, [Bookbound Bookstore](#), 1729

Plymouth Rd.

Sunday, May 14th at 6 pm: Jo Nesbo, author of *The Thirst*, sponsored by [Literati Bookstore](#), Ann Arbor Distillery, 220 Felch St.

Wednesday, May 17th at 7 pm: Author Steve Hamilton kicks off his tour for his new book, *Exit Strategy*, at the downtown AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Sponsored by [Aunt Agatha's](#).

Saturday, May 20th from 10 am - 4 pm and Sunday, May 21st from 1 pm to 4 pm: Special sale at AADL's [Friends of the Library Book Shop](#), in the Multipurpose room of downtown AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave.

Sunday, May 21st from 11 am to 5 pm: 39th annual [Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair](#), Michigan Union Ballroom, 530 S. State St.

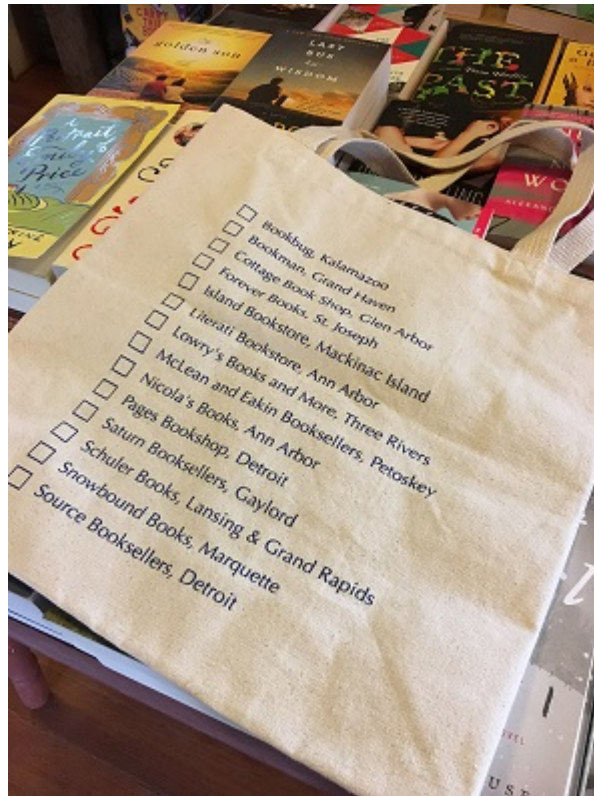
For more book events during the month of May, check out our all-inclusive events calendar at [a2books.org](#).

Community Book Award Winners



Congratulations to Robin and Jamie Agnew, owners of Aunt Agatha's, who are the recipients of Kerrytown BookFest's 2017 Community Book Award! (This year also marks the 25th anniversary of Aunt Agatha's!) Read more about them and the award [here](#).

Michigan Bookstore Tourism



Sue Boucher, owner of [Cottage Book Shop](#) in Glen Arbor, had an idea. After noticing a local group of knitters doing a Shop Hop to area knitting stores, she decided bookstores could do the same! Last winter, at an annual booksellers meeting, she and several booksellers brainstormed the idea. Sue contacted Michigan bookstores that are members of the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association (GLIBA) and invited them to participate. The booksellers met again this winter and decided to commit to this great idea. Now you can too!

Fourteen Michigan independent bookstores came together to create the 'Michigan Tote.' The tote can be purchased at any participating bookstore for \$15.95. Owners of the tote will then receive 10% off one item at each bookstore listed on the bag. This discount offer can only be used once per location, and the bookstores will check off their name once it's been used. Best of all, this offer doesn't expire!

The participating bookstores are:

[Bookbug](#), Kalamazoo

[Bookman](#), Grand Haven

[Cottage Book Shop](#), Glen Arbor

[Forever Books](#), St. Joseph

[Island Bookstore](#), Mackinac Island

[Literati Bookstore](#), Ann Arbor

[Lowry's Books & More](#), Three Rivers

[McLean and Eakin Booksellers](#), Petosky

[Nicola's Books](#), Ann Arbor

[Pages Bookshop](#), Detroit

[Saturn Booksellers](#), Gaylord

[Schuler Books](#), Lansing and Grand Rapids

[Snowbound Books](#), Marquette

[Source Booksellers](#), Detroit

Happy traveling!



In the News

HuffPost just named four Michigan
indies among the [top 50](#)
[independent bookstores in the](#)

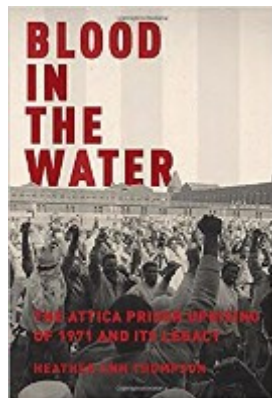
On the Shelf

[country](#). Congratulations to Ann Arbor's own Literati Bookstore!

Award Winners

Mystery Writers of America just announced the winners of the 2017 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, which honors the best mystery writing of 2016. Check out the nominees and winners [here](#).

The Man Booker International Prize 2017 shortlist was recently [announced](#). The winner will be announced on June 14th.



Congratulations to University of Michigan professor and historian Heather Ann Thompson for winning the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in history for her book, *Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy*.

Save the Date!

June 15th-17th
[Ann Arbor Book Festival](#)

July 15th and 16th:



If you, or a kid in your life, was a fan of Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson Series, I definitely suggest his newest series on Magnus Chase and the gods of the North. Magnus Chase is the narrator for all three books (*The Sword of Summer*, *The Hammer of Thor*, and yet-to-be-released *The Ship of the Dead*). As someone who loves Norse mythology, these books were a wonderful twist on the gods. Riordan has an interesting sense of humor in his characters that is somewhat dark in places and sarcastically toned, but perfectly aligned with their experiences.

I enjoy reading young adult books that let you escape into a different world. While there are times that these characters are existing in current-day Boston, they are just one step away from a portal to the famous tree: Yggdrasil, and back in Asgard. If you like Marvel's take on Norse myths, or you're a fan of the original myths, be ready to take on a new, but still loyal, viewpoint of some of the major deities, and get an introduction to some you may not have heard of as much.

[Friends of the AADL Book Shop](#)
[Bag Sale](#)

July 16th

[Detroit Festival of Books](#)

September 8th-10th

[AAUW Annual Book Sale](#)

September 10th:

[Kerrytown BookFest](#)

September 24th and 25th:

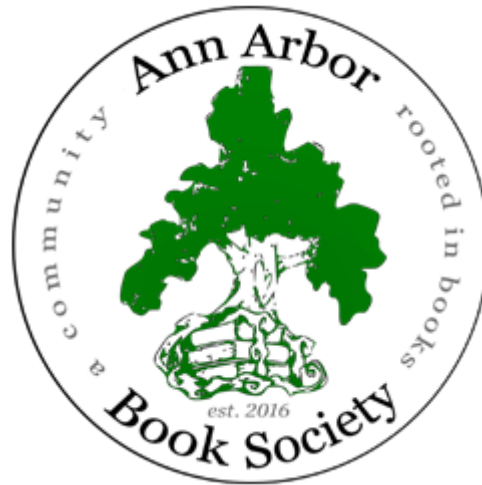
[Friends of AADL Book Shop Special](#)
[Sale](#)

December 2nd and 3rd:

[Friends of AADL Book Shop Holiday](#)
[Sale](#)

--Melanie Baldwin

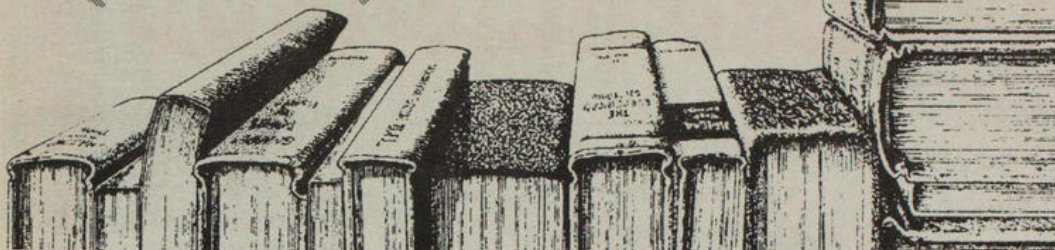
Friends of the AADL Book Shop Director



Do you know any book lovers who would appreciate learning about local and regional book news? Please pass along this email and encourage them to sign up for our monthly newsletter at a2books.org.

Snapshot of the Past

Antiquarian (Used) Books



If the number of bookstores in a community is a measure of its quality of life, Ann Arbor is truly blessed. In addition to the chain bookstores (which you can also visit in New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles) we have many fine locally owned independent shops. The icing on the cake, however, is that we have one of the highest number of used or "antiquarian" book shops per capita in the country.

A visit to one of Ann Arbor's nearly one dozen antiquarian book shops is akin to a treasure hunt. If that best-selling pot boiler or "cutting-edge" title in post-modern thought is your prey then you may have to look elsewhere, but browsing through the carefully chosen stock (the wheat from the chaff, if you will) of the antiquarian book dealer may yield greater rewards. Whereas the new book dealer is limited to "books-in-print," the used book trade has the whole history of the printed word as their potential stock.

The antiquarian book trade is made up of dealers in used, out-of-print, and rare books. Used books are second-hand copies of titles that are still in print or common titles that are out-of-print. They are generally priced at half the new price or less. Books that are no longer available from the publisher are out-of-print and are priced somewhat higher than "used" books. The "rare" book market runs the gamut from 15th century printed books (incunabula), to modern first editions by "collectible" authors and prices can run into thousands of dollars.

Whereas new book dealers can order their books directly from the publisher or through a book distributor, antiquarian dealers must cast a wide net to gather their books. The dealer with a walk-in shop will have people bringing in books to sell "over the transom." Estate sales, auctions,

book sales and book scouts are other sources that the dealer can draw on.

The price a dealer can pay for a book depends largely on the supply and demand for that particular title and edition. There are thousands of books that are well over 100 years old that are worth very little—on the other hand, there are recent books, such as the first editions of Cormac McCarthy, that can be worth hundreds of dollars. Condition is an important factor

ing to find a valuable book that is underpriced and sell it to their advantage to an antiquarian book dealer. It takes a thorough knowledge of the book trade and book values along with a little luck to be a successful book scout. A number of full-time book dealers got their start in this manner.

Most book dealers will have, in addition to a general stock, one or two areas in which they are particularly strong—such as travel, history of science, first editions, or regional Americana. These dealers will be more likely to pay a better price for books in their specialty than for general stock. A few dealers—primarily those who do not depend on the walk-in trade—will handle books on a single subject or genre and become known as an expert in that field.

Most full-time book dealers have an open shop. However, there are a growing number that primarily sell their books through the mail by issuing catalogs. Another avenue open to the book dealer is the antiquarian book fair. The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), the professional organization for the antiquarian book trade, sponsors the major book fairs in the country and only ABAA members may exhibit at them. Other fairs are more regional in scope such as the upcoming Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair. The economics of the trade often dictate that all three methods of selling be used for the book dealer to stay in business.

A guide to the Ann Arbor area antiquarian book shops can be picked up from any member of the Ann Arbor Antiquarian Booksellers Association.

Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair

The 17th annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair and benefit for the William L. Clements Library will be held in the Michigan Union ballroom on Saturday, May 6th, and Sunday, May 7th. A gala champagne opening will begin at 5:30 pm on Saturday and end at 9 pm. A \$5 donation is requested and is good for both days of the fair. On Sunday the fair opens at 11 am and closes at 5 pm. The requested donation for Sunday only is \$3.

Over 40 antiquarian book dealers from throughout the midwest will be offering thousands of used, out-of-print, and rare books; antique maps; and prints for sale. Everyone attending the fair should be able to find something that interests them and fits their budget.

The Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair has become a tradition among Ann Arbor area book lovers and is eagerly anticipated each year. It also points to the fact that Ann Arbor is one of the most active book markets in the country and a mecca for bibliophiles from throughout the United States and Canada.

—Jay Platt

in determining the value of a book. Books that have missing pages, lack covers, and are worn and soiled will have almost no value unless they are quite scarce and in high demand.

The mystique of antiquarian books can lie in their association to the period in which they were published. An example would be a copy of Jack London's "Call of the Wild" or Virginia Woolf's "To the Lighthouse" that was printed during the author's lifetime. Pictorial bindings, marbled endpapers, engraved illustrations all add to the charm of older books.

Book scouts, mentioned earlier as a source of books, haunt the used book sales, garage sales, and book shops hop-

By JAY PLATT
Owner of West Side Book Shop

Courtesy of AADL's [Old News](#) site

The 39th annual Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair is May 21st from 11 am to 5 pm in the Michigan Union Ballroom, 530 S. State St.



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