Finding and Identifying Collectibles

One of the newer categories of books in the Friends of the Library sale is the Collectibles, a program started in July 2006 as a response to the number of books that were being donated which seemed to have special value. These books were usually out of print books from the late 19th and the early 20th centuries, first editions, books signed by the author, or particularly unique and beautiful works. Rather than mix these books in with the general sale, they have been put in a special section to make it easy for our customers to find.

How do we identify and price the collectibles? When the FOL staff screens all the incoming donations and puts them in categories, the books they feel might be collectibles are put in a special area for further investigation.

First, they are checked for physical condition, and any that are in poor condition are rejected. Next, each title is checked on BookFinder.com which contains descriptions and pricing for books carried by 150,000 booksellers around the world. If the book is of value, a printout is run of the data. We evaluate the range of prices for a book in BookFinder to determine what we will charge; our price is generally set at or below the lowest prices in BookFinder. A card is then prepared which lists the author, title, publisher, publication date, price and other pertinent information. Each collectible includes the BookFinder printout and the card, so the customer can see the market prices and our price. Since the program began, the collectibles have made over $8,000 for our sale.

Collectible books are displayed on flat racks near the sale table and on regular racks on the right, just past the Children’s section. Around 250 new titles are added at each sale, and we currently have around 1,000 books. The books are reduced if they have not sold after two sales, so real bargains can be found. To make the Collectibles section easy to search, the books are divided by category: Fiction, Poems, Plays and Essays, History, Science, Animals and Plants, Sports, Humor, Biography, Religion, Crafts, Art and Music, Texts and Reference, and Non Fiction. The Children’s collectibles are kept in the Children’s section.
Let’s Meet Laura

I am a native of Blount County and received my education at Maryville High School, Maryville College (B.A.) and the University of Tennessee (Master of Library Science). I began as a part-time employee at the Blount County Public Library literally in the basement of the library on Harper Avenue. The Children’s Department was located in the basement and part-time employees spent much time there. I was hired full-time in 1980 and during these years, I have worked in every department, including the positions of Circulation Supervisor and for many years, Assistant Director.

After relinquishing Assistant Director duties, I have come into my dream job of Director of Collection Development, which doesn’t mean that I collect unpaid bills as many people believe. I order the books for adult, young adult, large print, and all adult AV materials (DVD and audiobooks).

I am often asked how do I know what to order? It’s really very simple: I READ profoundly with a sense of responsibility and an eye for entertainment but I also don’t do this job alone. In order to connect with the public, I read what they read: “People” magazine, Time, Newsweek, American History, etc. and several journals targeted to the review of books. However, my favorite “journal” of all is “Entertainment Weekly” which is up-to-the minute and helps me with the AV collection. Every single person who works at the Blount County Public Library helps me do my job. My colleagues often leave me notes about books and other entertainment and our Library patrons send me many written suggestions that I tackle before anything else.

My insatiable need to know and my belief that knowledge is power have led me to this present position. I can only say what better job could there be but one in which you are allowed to read all day?

### Donations and Gifts for July—September, 2008

**Donations**

- George & Margie Pickens
- Betty Cazzoria & Dan Carey
- Ron & Judy Owens
- Joan Lyndon
- Louis & Marlene Milliken
- Kenneth Cooper
- Marty Miller
- Norman & Wanda McKinnon
- Bernice & Wayne Forshay
- Catherine Beals
- Bart & Lou Peak
- Sylvia Cappa

In memory of John C. Crawford, III
- Frank B. Bird

In honor of Gary Fowler’s 70th Birthday
- Mohan & Laura Iver

**Donations for Books for Soldiers**

- Kay Waters
- Marion & Norma Stokes

*Thank You!*
Lynn and Haroldine (Byerley) Shasteen were born in Blount County and Knox County respectively, and both spent their early years in Blount County. Haroldine and Lynn graduated from Friendsville High School and Maryville High School, respectively. Haroldine attended Knoxville Business College and Lynn the University of Tennessee.

In 1958, Haroldine and Lynn were married and moved to Chattanooga, TN, where they raised their three daughters and spent their working careers. After retirement they moved back to Blount County in 2002. While both had utilized services of the Library during their early years in Blount County, they were introduced, in early 2005, to the 'Friends of the Library' by their friends Bob and Marie Harris, the hard-working duo of the basement book group. They began shelving books and videos and worked in the BCFOL quarterly book sales. At first, these activities were just 'something to do' on a few days during the week, but soon they realized the value of the BCFOL activities to the Library and the community.

They continually find books that provide entertainment and reference material for varied interests and hobbies, such as bird watching and local history. Lynn has especially used the opportunity of working with the used books to enhance a collection of reference books for Christian studies. Haroldine and Lynn enjoy being with their three daughters and their four grandchildren when the children's busy schedules permit. The couple's interests include their church activities, light hiking and picnicking in the Smokies, and traveling when they can. The friendliness of their fellow volunteers has made working with the 'Friends' a pleasure.
Welcome to your “Between Friends” Fall Trivia Quiz

Several responded to our Summer trivia contest with the answer Isaac Asimov. The two winners drawn from the entries were Robin Marshall of Louisville and Darrell Terrell of Maryville. Both selected their choice of eight books from our FOL collection. This quarter FOL Vice President Larry Moore draws us again into the realm of mysteries. From his list below of nine crime solving heroes he wants you to supply us with the name the author.

Spenser  
Stone Barrington  
Sam Spade  

Jack Reacher  
Harry Bosch  
Mike Hammer  

Travis McGee  
Jason Bourne  
Lincoln Rhyme

Send your responses to:  
Editor, Blount County FOL  
508 Cusick St.  
Maryville, TN 37804

Responses must arrive no later than one week after the last day of the Quarterly FOL book sale, Saturday, October 18. Again two winners will be drawn from correct entries and each will be able to select eight books from the FOL regular collection. The answer will be included in your next issue.
Do you want to try something truly different?
Volunteers are needed in the Bookmark Café right now!! Related experience is recommended. The Bookmark Café volunteer is a fast-paced position that keeps you on your toes! Excellent customer service skills, ability to multi-task, and cash handling knowledge are a plus! Please contact Jennifer 273-1407 or Kathy 273-1406 for details.
The President’s Corner

Dear Friends,
I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support of the Blount County Friends of the Library. Keeping your membership active goes a long way in helping the Friends of the Library provide some unique programs that you won’t find in every library. For instance, I hope you were able to join us for the conclusion of the Shakespeare performance in September. Your membership and contributions help us provide programs like this one.

We are pleased to announce that Barbara Myers has been appointed our new Volunteer Coordinator. Barbara has been a long time volunteer with the used book committee. All of the Friends are volunteers (we have no paid staff) dedicated to a high quality library for this community. We hope you might consider joining our active group. There are many types of jobs available, from sorting and shelving books to helping in the Café. If you can spare a little time, contact Barbara at the library.

Mark your calendar for October 16-18, the dates for our next book sale. During our last sale we raised over $14,000. Considering that 95% of the books sold were donated by all of you in the community, this is phenomenal! We probably average 200-300 donated books per day, so you’re going to have a great selection to choose from.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome Jane Bennett, Marilee Fogleson, Melanie Tucker, and Garry Ernsberger as new members of the Board of Directors. We know they will provide some fresh ideas for us to consider. You’ll be hearing more about all the Board members in future issues of the newsletter.

Phil Baker, President

Collectibles Story continued from Front Cover

Working with collectibles is really fascinating, for you never know what you will find among all the book donations. In the past some of our greatest finds included a book with a signed dedication by President Lyndon Johnson, 19th century McGuffey readers, Picturesque Egypt, a 2 volume set dated 1878, and a number of rare Appalachian books. Some of the titles available for the October sale include Hiking the Appalachian Trail, a first edition 2 volume set, The Life of Our Savior Jesus Christ, a 1899 four volume set with beautiful illustrations, The Art of Walt Disney, and some Gone With the Wind memorabilia.

If you are not already checking out the Collectibles Section, give it a try. There are titles there for everyone from the serious book collector to the casual shopper.

Who knows what you may find?
When Barbara and Wayne Zurl moved to Maryville in 1994, Barbara looked in vain for a book discussion group. When she approached Kathy Pagles at the library, Kathy said, “Why don’t you start one?” So Barbara did. Barbara persuaded the Friends of the Library group to supply seed money for the purchase of ten copies of “The Joy Luck Club”, by Amy Tan, and invited several friends to join her. That first meeting was in May of 1994.

The Friends could not continue to supply books, but Lauren Hutchens of the library staff ordered them for the group at library rates, and Barbara took responsibility for distribution and collection and acted as facilitator of discussions. She did an excellent job of researching the book and the author, and insured that discussions stayed focused. All ideas were accepted as valid, especially when there was disagreement. The group stayed together even during the upheaval of building the current library. They met in the community room of Kroger’s until a member made arrangements to meet in the library of Lady of Fatima Church. After six years Barbara became overwhelmed with other projects, so the members took over, obtaining books on their own and rotating discussion leadership duties. There are currently about 20 participants. They suggest books in June and make final choices in July. The only requirement for suggestion is that at least one copy be in the library and that the book be readily available in paperback. They don’t necessarily read best-sellers but look for books that will generate discussion, may even be controversial. Some that were read last year were: “Devil in the White City” by Erik Larson, “The March” by E.L. Doctorow, and “Presidential Courage” by Michael Beschlos.

By Vivian Selectman

The book discussion group currently meets the second Wednesday of each month, at 10:15 AM in the board room of the library. Any woman who loves to read and talk about books is welcome to join in.

Upcoming Book Selections

Nov. 12 The Female Brain..... Louann Brizendine
Dec. 10 Redbird Christmas.............. Fannie Flagg
Jan. 14 Through a Glass Darkly .....Donna Leon
Feb. 11 The Good Earth................. Pearl Buck
Mar. 11 The Tavern on Maple St.. Sharon Owens
Apr. 8 the Alchemist ............... Paolo Coehlo
May 13 On Hitler’s Mountain .......... Irmgard Hunt
June 10 Three Cups of Tea....Mortenson & Relin

2009 Book Lover’s Calendar’s

The Friends of the Library have purchased Book Lovers Calendars which are now at the Bookmark Café or at our next used book sale.

They are being sold at the reduced price of $10. These same calendars are on sale in major book stores for $11.99. All profits from the sale of these calendars will go back to the library so we hope you will consider these for Christmas gifts or any other kind of gift for the book lover in your family.
Remember the Book Sale!
October 16, 17 and 18

National Friends of The Library Week
National Friends of the Library Week is October 19-25, 2008. The Blount County Friends would like to encourage you to participate in recognizing the many things that we do for our library. In honor of this week you could purchase a book in memory or in honor of a loved one to donate to the library. You could donate your time by volunteering either in the library, at the used book sale or in the Bookmark Café. As always, you can help by coming to the used book sale and purchasing the many things that are for sale. Remember that all proceeds go directly to the library for purchases that are vital to its growth.

Check out our new and improved web page!
If you still haven't had a chance to check out our improved website I would encourage you to do so. It is filled with much useful information about our Blount County library and has many links to other sites which deal with books. You can view past newsletters and events that are being sponsored by the library. Our book sales are well advertised and the dates are always posted so you can mark that on your calendar. You can read about the many things that the Friends of the Blount County library are involved in and can sign up to join or volunteer right on the website. Please take a look at the following website, and please consider joining the Friends in our support of the best library in Tennessee.

www.discoveret.org/bcfol