



THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP
MATCHING BOOKS TO READERS SINCE 1977

1511 South 1500 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84105
801-484-9100

THE

Inkslinger

35th Birthday Issue 2012



SAVE THE DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!

by Betsy Burton and Anne Holman

We'll be celebrating 35 years in business at The King's English Bookshop (TKE) on (appropriately) our 35th birthday by offering a **35%**

DISCOUNT on everything in the store (except special orders) all day (and all night) long. We're doing this by way of saying thank you for helping us survive and thrive over all these years. Please join us **Monday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.** for treats, literary and culinary, and for huge discounts (bigger than our semi-annual sales). From 4-6 p.m. we'll have birthday cake, show off our brand-new Kobo eReader, and collect the last entries for our 35th Birthday Wish List contest (see details page 16). Pat Bagley and Mo Willems made us wonderful bookmarks for our birthday (come into TKE and we'll give you one). Then throughout the week, there'll be a parade of authors (including the Smart Chicks Tour, Mo Willems, Elizabeth George!). You're only 35 once, after all.

Ours is not what you'd call a rags-to-riches story but rather (like that of most independent bookstores) a saga of survival. When we opened the store in 1977, the inventory was small (to put it mildly) and sales even smaller (a \$40 day was a good one back then). We grew year by year, book by book, room by room, bookseller after wonderful bookseller, until the early '90s, when the

chains came to town and we began to realize that our salvation lay in our connection to local—to our community—along with the community of booksellers at the store. We've worked hard to foster the web of connection that makes TKE what it is, to nurture the idea of local, the importance of local business to our community, and to the notion of community itself—inside and outside our store. That web has stood us in good stead. Even in the current lingering economic downturn, our customers' loyalty and their commitment to buying local, the commitment of our booksellers to books, to one another, and to our customers, have been what has kept the doors open in good times and bad.

The fairy-tale ending to our rollercoaster ride is that there's no end in sight. We're still here, despite chains and Internet retailers and a world-class recession, still buying books from publishers, still consuming them voraciously in every format including our new ereader, and still selling those we love with passion to people we think will love them as much as we do. We can't imagine a better life!

But life does get even better sometimes. And change is a constant. So, please read pages 2-3 in our birthday *Inkslinger* to get new (and good) news on the local front concerning local business and our community, on the national front concerning ereaders (and our ability to sell them), and all the pages thereafter to get news of booksellers from TKE's past, what they were reading then, what they're doing now. They were a fascinating bunch then and they still are. We hope their stories make you laugh and cry the way they did us.

So, on our birthday, we want thank them, our booksellers past and present, and all of you, our loyal customers, by welcoming you in for a day-long party replete with good food, great discounts and intriguing "gifts" of various kinds all day long.

Stop in, let us say thank you and let's usher in the next 35 years!



A FEW OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS...



The Rent Collector

Tuesday, September 4, 7 p.m. Salt Lake City author Camron Wright will celebrate the release of his new novel.

Mo Willems

Tues., September 11, 7 p.m.

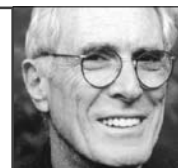
New York Times bestselling and Caldecott Honor-winning author and illustrator will read and sign his new book, *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*.



Elizabeth George

Weds., September 12, 7

p.m. Author of *The New York Times*-bestselling Inspector Lynley crime novels will read from and sign her first book for teens, *The Edge of Nowhere*.



Mark Strand

Thurs., Sept. 27, 7 p.m.

Strand will be at TKE to read from and sign his new book, *Almost*

Invisible. Co-sponsored with the University of Utah Guest Writers Series.



FULL EVENT DETAILS AT WWW.KINGSENGLISH.COM

TWO OF THE BEST...

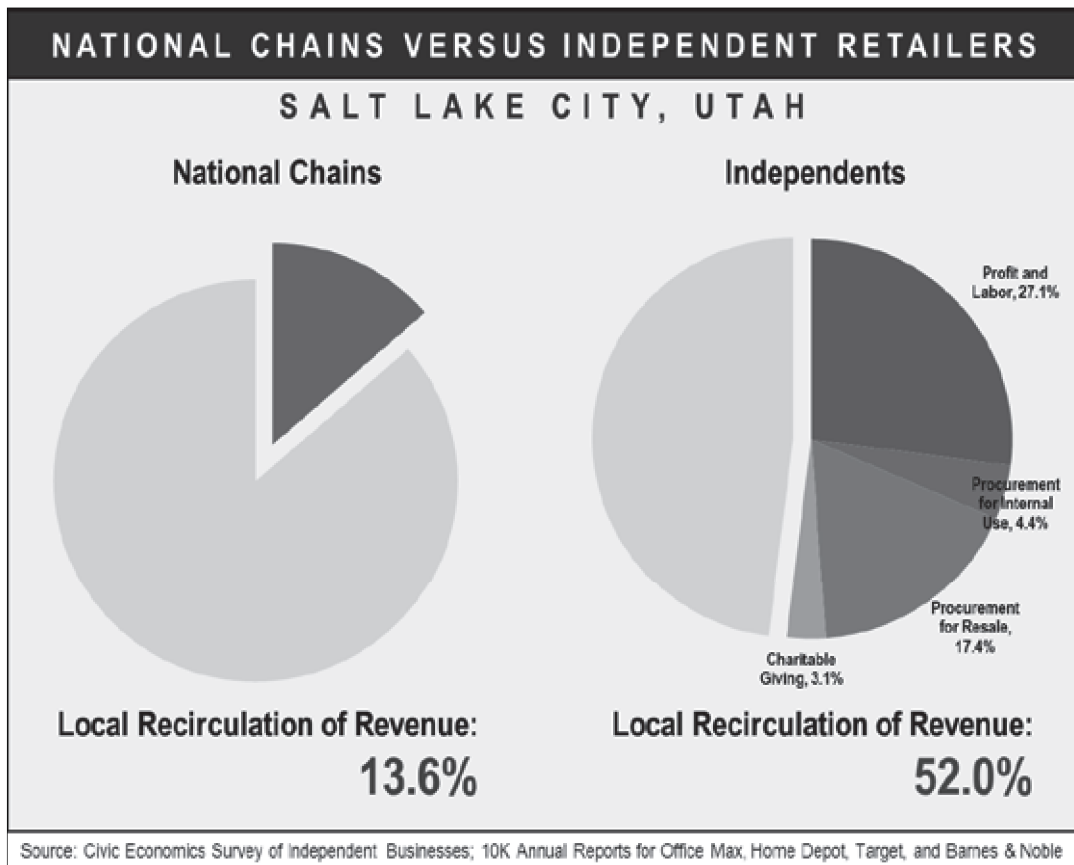
First the good news...

Our life is full of good news in this, our 35th year: business is up, we can now sell you ebooks on our very own ereader device, the Kobo (!!!), print books are selling better than ever, and publishers seem to be sending us more authors than ever.

To add to all of that good fortune, there is wonderful community news. For years, we (we being locally owned independent businesses) have known in our guts that local business is far better than chains for our economy and for our community. For years, studies in other communities have proven this to be true. Now we have our own study, done right here in Salt Lake City—and also in our own neighborhood on 15th and 15th—that definitively proves not only that in our town local business is good for the economy (which it is), but that Salt Lake's (and 15th's) locally owned businesses recirculate more money back in the local economy than almost anywhere else in the country (382% more than chains do)!!!! The study's conclusion? Not only is the local shopping you are doing beneficial to your community, if you shifted just 10% more away from the Internet and chains to local, collectively you could pump an additional half billion dollars back into our economy.

We are NOT suggesting that you never shop online or in chain stores. We are simply suggesting a shift—a 10% shift.

You, our customers, have proven that buying local keeps local alive...

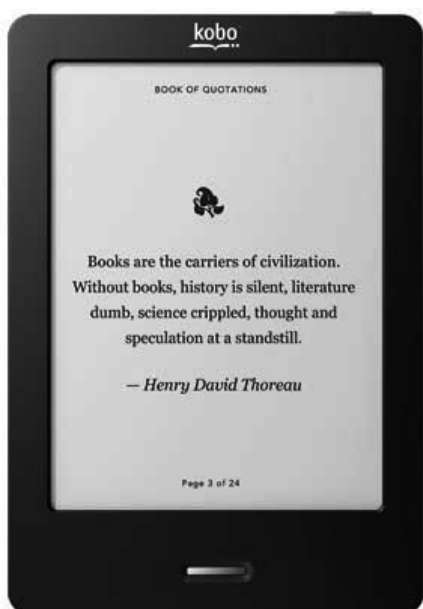


The study was done by Civic Economics and underwritten by The City of Salt Lake, Local First Utah, and The American Booksellers Association. Visit www.localfirst.org for more information and a link to the study.

...BIRTHDAY PRESENTS EVER

...and then some even better news!

News on the ereader front: the Kobo (move over, Kindle), one of the bestselling ereaders in Europe and Asia, is coming to the U.S. and to independent bookstores! Kobo espouses a "Read Freely" philosophy, very much in line with the independent bookstore ethos, and believes that consumers should have the freedom to read any book, anytime, anyplace—and on any device. We agree—the idea of proprietary readers controlled by huge electronic retailers is anathema to anyone who believes in freedom. Now the Kobo brings us a fantastic reader, tried and tested worldwide, which will allow us to sell ebooks to our customers easily. We couldn't be more thrilled.



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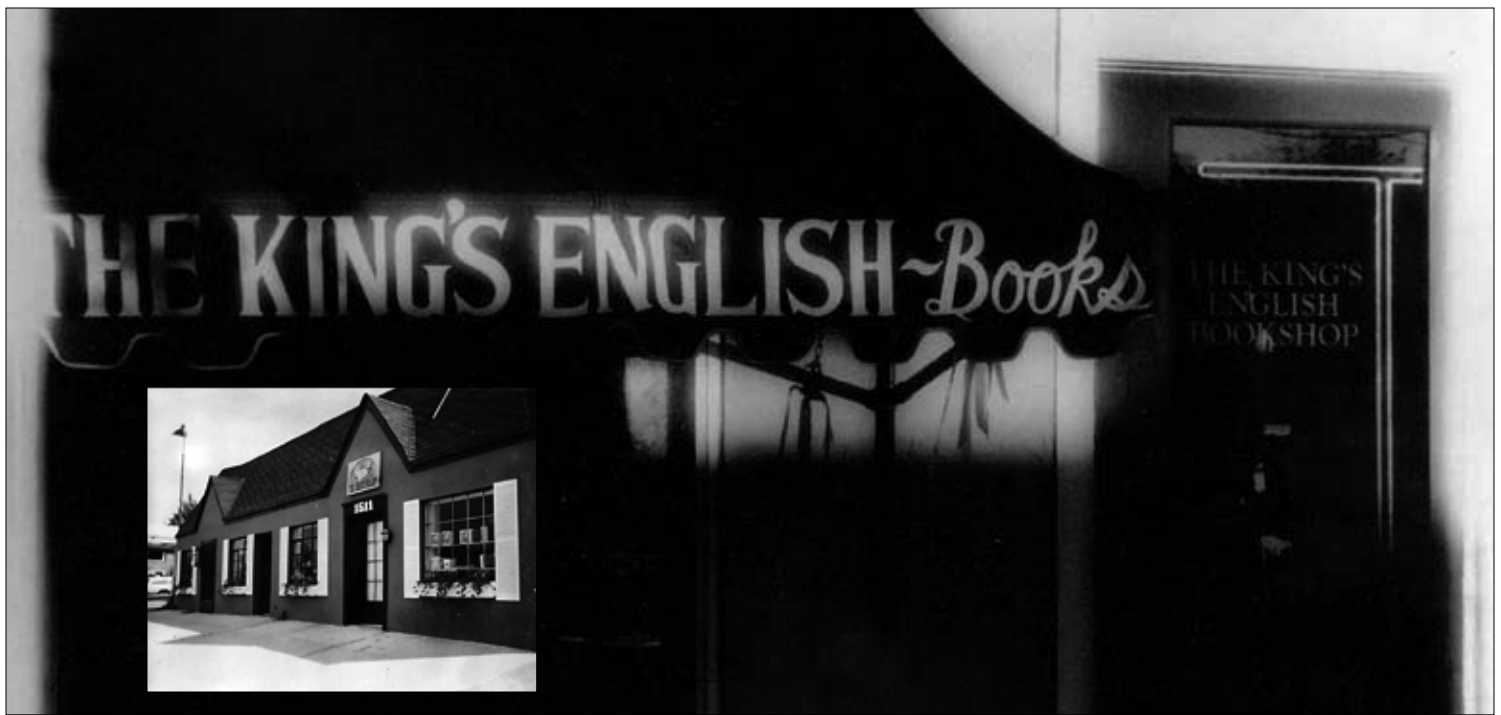
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available on our website.***

What About Google?

- We will continue to offer Google eBooks via our website until the program ends in January 2013.
- You will continue to be able to access your purchased Google eBooks via your Google account. Your previous Google eBooks purchases will also continue to be accessible via our website.
- The IndieBound Reader app was designed specifically to interface with Google eBooks and will no longer be supported after January 2013. Kobo provides well-reviewed apps for both Android and iOS.
- If desired, you can load your Google eBooks to a Kobo device using Adobe Digital Editions.



Inset: The King's English Bookshop circa 1977

THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSELLERS RETROSPECTIVE

What They're Doing Now, What They Were Reading (And Doing) Then

edited (well, read anyway) by Betsy Burton & Anne Holman

In response to an email sent to past TKE booksellers whose addresses we had (and, where we had no address, to their spouses, children, friends and former colleagues), we received the following replies. We hope you enjoy them as much as we have: they remind us of the single strongest strand that connects past and present booksellers (and customers) at TKE: the love of books and of others who love books. Makes us proud to have been their colleagues.

Hello old friend (or not so old as the case may be!):

We are preparing to celebrate our 35th birthday on Monday, September 10 and we want you to be part of the party! After all, it is you who helped (and continue to help) get the store to this auspicious day. We want to publish an article in the *Inkslinger* about past booksellers at TKE. Namely, what are you doing now, what was your favorite book to hand-sell when you worked here, and do you have a favorite or funny memory you'd like to share? We look forward to hearing from you and, of course, the deadline is yesterday...some things never change. And please join us on that Monday when everything in the store will be 35% off. If you aren't close enough to drive in, you can shop online and simply indicate you are shopping the birthday sale. If we have it on our shelves, it's yours. Thank you so much!

Betsy and Anne

ANN BERMAN (who has recently moved to North Carolina to be nearer to her four amazing daughters), **bookseller, blurber, co-founder of TKE**

I just gave someone here *The Letters of E.B. White*—a favorite from just before we opened TKE, and still my favorite book to recommend—so not much has changed. Other old books that I have shared with people here included *The Big House* by George Coxe Howe (Anne Fadiman's husband) and *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* by Ben Fountain—loved it even though I generally do not like short stories (except for Alice Munro).

In terms of how we did it all, I think that we were lucky to have the same vision of books even though we had different ways of operating in the world. And I think we each had respect for the other's views about books and that was so great. Probably our biggest similarity was our absolute joy in words and reading.

Some of the things I remember: the little six-year-old boy who came in one winter afternoon soon after we opened when the children's room was in that middle area; I heard some giggling, and when I went in to see, found him lying on his back, reading *Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day*. "Listen to this," he said, laughing so hard he could hardly get the words out, "and then the marble went down the drain." I remember Katie Pierce, some seven months along, down on the floor looking for a book on a lower shelf; when she stood up, the patron said to her, on seeing her full profile, "Oh, you're pregnant." Katie looked down at her great stomach and said in a tone of surprise, "I am??" I also remember Julie Crouse (our first part-time employee) asking in disbelief, her voice rising as she spoke, "You want me to take the cash box and hide it under the bathroom scale?????" And I remember so well when John Irving came to the store for a signing (I have that photo on my wall here); it had snowed a lot, and we put, as promised, two

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BLURBER: a bookseller who writes the book blurbs for which the *Inkslinger* is known

PORCUPINE: a book bristling with TKE bookseller recommendations

SIDELINES: Anything besides books (glasses, calendars, you get the idea) on the shelves at TKE

HAND-SELL: A book booksellers love enough to praise and place lovingly in a customer's hands

NYRB: A set of "classics" published by the *New York Review of Books*, beloved by nearly every TKE bookseller

VORACIOUS READER: Everyone who's ever worked at TKE (whether on the front desk or in shipping, accounting, receiving...) and pretty-much all our customers as well



HERDING CATS: Trying to manage booksellers, each of whom has his or her own individual way of doing pretty much everything—including following directions (see below). That's why we love them so

AGATHA (SPEAKING OF CATS): Our beloved mouser, TKE resident for nearly 23 years, known for her ability to leap tall bookcases in a single bound, to paw-type midnight mash notes on the computer, and to glare (or worse) at customers who sat in her favorite chair. She continues to keep watch on us from the shelf where the book-club picks reside (inside her urn, of course)



How it all began: Ann Berman, John Irving, Betsy Burton soon after the opening of TKE

six-packs of beer in the snowdrifts at the door. And of course I will remember those days at your family's cabin in the Snowy Range, talking and walking and going through the (three author volumes of) *Books in Print*, page by page, planning our original stock. That was the beginning.

So congratulations on all you have done these last 35 years—Salt Lake has been fortunate to have you, and I feel lucky to have been there for the beginnings. Congratulations to all the wonderful booksellers who have matched books and readers through the years, and thanks to all the readers in Salt Lake City who have kept *The Kings English* so alive. *Editor's note: we miss you too!*



Barbara Hoagland with Elizabeth George

BARBARA HOAGLAND, long-time full-time partner, now part-time partner, bookseller, blurber, who in her time has done literally everything there is to do at TKE from plumbing to bill-paying to psychotherapy.

It's hard to come up with 30 years' worth of favorite hand-sells, but I do have a couple of

authors I would walk across hot coals to read. Just about anything from David Sedaris is hysterical and leads me to one of my bucket list entries—to be his mother, a position I fear has already been taken. Tony Horowitz's *Blue Latitudes* was so easy to sell to anyone interested in quirky histories. The mystery room is like entering a warm and cozy cocoon. Betsy and I are both firm believers in the ability of a good mystery to comfort any ill and ease the pain of a bad patch in life.

One of my favorite funny memories (other than the disaster of our first computer system, but that's another story) is watching our beloved Agatha trotting into the children's room with a mouse tail trailing out of her mouth followed by a horde of children who wanted to play with her. RIP Agatha. *Editor's note: Barbara always*

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

had an itch to travel and now, officially retired and having traded in her house for a huge RV, roams the roads of America (and an occasional foreign country) for over half of each year. She still works via the Internet, sending us blurbs and advice from Mexico, Canada, Connecticut, California and points in between; when in town she goes back to her longtime bookish pastimes at TKE.

"The place itself captures something essential about reading—the solitude of it, but also the sociability of it."

—Henry Morren

MARILYN OSBORNE: children's bookseller, display and sidelines expert

The Exterminator: A Very, Very Short Mystery Novella by Marilyn Osborn

Closing the bookstore at night was a little unnerving...alone in the dim silence broken only by an occasional sigh from Agatha, the store cat, and the counting of coins. It didn't help that I sat with my back to the door and a big front window that faced the quieting street outside.

One dark night as I was about to lock the door, a short roundish man with a disturbing little smile entered the store and approached the front desk. His shiny head reminded me of the Jerusalem crickets we used to find in the garage of my childhood home. Standing before me, he calmly announced in what I clearly perceived as a



Betsy, Tomi de Paola and Marilyn Osborne

chilling serial-killer voice, "I am the exterminator." My heart sank. I stopped breathing. After a seemingly endless silence, he continued, "Betsy said I should show up at closing so customers aren't here while I fumigate the rooms." In that space between hearing who he was and why he was there, I was surely the unsuspecting victim in one of Betsy's favorite murder mysteries. I kept a sigh of relief to myself but repeated it several times on the short drive home, adrenaline still coursing through my veins.

I happily worked at the bookstore for 10 years in the 80s and 90s. Betsy's primary mantra was, "The customer always comes first," and helping them find the right book was what the job was all about. During my time there, I designed the window displays, ordered greeting cards, managed the children's room and ran book fairs in schools throughout the community. It sometimes felt a bit overwhelming, resulting in what Betsy and I refer to as my "expansion

dream," where I entered a larger-than-life King's English and rode an escalator upstairs to the distant children's room (before Barnes and Noble, mind you!).

My favorite children's books to share and sell were those my two young daughters loved at the time. Among them were books by William Steig, particularly *Amos and Boris* and *Brave Irene*, which I currently share with my second grade students at Rowland Hall. I often left work with a stack of my own purchases; clearly I was not in it for the money. It was a privilege and a pleasure to be part of The King's English experience. Thank you, Betsy!



Kenneth Loosli with two admirers

KENNETH LOOSLI, bookseller, blurber

What are you doing now? Defying the predictions of every academic counselor ever, I have a job for which two English degrees have proven profitable: I'm the Communications Manager at Overstock.com. That's just a fancy term for email composer but it's writing nonetheless. I also write noir short stories—you can read my work in *Crime Factory* and *Needle* magazines, but only if you're old enough to drink.

What was your favorite book to hand-sell when you worked here? My heart wants to say whatever NYRB Classic paperback had possessed me at the moment, but I'd bet the numbers would declare *A High Wind In Jamaica* by Richard Hughes the clear winner. I must credit another TKE alumnus, John Merritt, for introducing me to this fantastic novel. That was one of many great things about The King's English—one of us would find some amazing book, pass it around to the rest of the staff and pretty soon we were all pushing it with a passion to the customers. *Editor's note: One of our original "porcupines," although we didn't have a name for it back then.*



Do you have a favorite or funny memory you'd like to share? It's hard for me to narrow it down to one memory because there was a time when everything in my life revolved around The King's English: I worked there, my then-girlfriend worked there, we lived a few blocks away with a dog who was as well-known to our customers as the book clerks, we ate at Mazza six times a week, and it seemed like every day began and ended at the store. If I were to write my own history as a sentimental novel, my TKE days would be the life that got away. *Editor's note: We miss you, we miss Rachel, we miss Harkin, but we're glad you're still writing!*

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued



Kathy Ashton with Ivan Doig

KATHY ASHTON, bookseller, blurber, longtime *Inkslinger* editor

I'm retired now, have been since 2003, but still visit the store often. *Once The King's English* penetrates the blood/brain barrier, you might as well admit your addiction: you've been hooked on all those lovely books on topics familiar and new. The only good thing about being hooked on TKE is that you can freely own up to your problem and it's all legal and aboveboard. Anne and Betsy still ask me to write the occasional blurb and I always just ask how soon and spend lots of happy hours reading.

I have two favorites that I hand-sold until the day I left. One is Sigrid Undset's Nobel Prize-winning trilogy *Kristin Lavransdatter*. The other is Ivan Doig's brilliant ode to the Two Medicine country and the west, *This House of Sky*, my introduction to literary nonfiction. And if I still worked the desk, I would be doing the same thing with his newest novel, another prose/poem, *A Bartender's Tale*, a cautionary tale about our scarcest resource (water) in allegory form, yet wonderfully readable.

The late John Mortimer's only trip to Utah resulted in one of the funniest stories ever to happen to at TKE (ask Betsy, she's the only one who can do it justice). The other occurred when Elizabeth George visited us, her first visit to TKE. Betsy decided for some reason that we should dress in Widow's Weeds so we did. When George's stretch limousine (another first) pulled up, we went to greet her. Her expression said it all, these women are mad as hatters and how could my agent have sent me here? Of course cars were parked all over the neighborhood and the line for the reading stretched round the block, so she had to exit the car. We still have photos.



The Witches Three with Elizabeth George

Betsy's hat was by far the most fetching as she had the only plume. Ms. George did return to the store after that, so she didn't bear us any grudges, and we can still laugh to the point of tears about it,

"Once *The King's English* penetrates the blood/brain barrier, you might as well admit your addiction..."

—Kathy Ashton

nearly thirty years on. *Editor's note: appropriately enough, Elizabeth George will be back to help us celebrate our 35! So will Kathy, who although officially retired, still writes blurbs with all her customary skill and verve and exquisite taste.*



The elusive Henry Morren, in this, the only known photograph of him

HENRY MORREN, bookseller, blurber, nick-named 'Ask Henry' because he knew everything about everything

Dear Betsy! I'm so happy to hear from you, and sorry it's taken me so long to respond to your e-mail. I've wanted to write many times, even a little note, just to let you know we're still alive. Now you've beaten me to it, just as I feared if I waited too long, and I suppose—oh my God, not possible!—18 years could be considered too long.

I'm so happy, too, to know that *The King's English* is still going strong, still there, in that particular place. I hope we can visit Salt Lake sometime soon—the bookstore would be the first place we'd want to go to. I really loved working there. I'd like to remember some great recommendations, but it's difficult to think of a single instance. I think of the books I didn't sell, or didn't have to sell, the piles of stuff in other bookstores. I remember attempting to special order a book for a regular customer, Ernst Junger's *On the Marble Cliffs*, which was out of print. I happened to own the book, and offered to lend it. I can't imagine this being possible in most bookstores, but it seemed perfectly natural at *The King's English*. The place itself captures something essential about reading—the solitude of it, but also the sociability of it. Salt Lake City is truly fortunate to have you.

I will try to send some pictures of our farm. This year's been tricky—frost, drought, all of the horrors of farming—but we usually do okay regardless. We grow fruit, mostly apples, though smaller amounts of different fruits to cover the whole season. I'm also starting a small nursery specializing in propagating rare apple varieties. Well, I hope we can visit one way or another soon. This seems a rather skimpy note after all this time. I will try to send something

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI *continued*

more informative by regular mail. All the best, to everyone. *Editor's note: One of the best booksellers in the universe (or at least our universe), Henry went on to be head buyer at the Union Theological Seminary in NYC, and rumor has it his farm in Wisconsin is a poetry farm! We'll let you know what that means when we hear more about it!*

CHARLOTTE FREEMAN, bookseller, blurber

Congratulations on 35 years! I well remember how lean a few of them were, especially when the big box stores came in and independent bookstores were closing all over town. Your dedication to books, to writers and most of all to your customers is why you're still there in your little white building while Borders is a string of cavernous boxes blighting the landscape.

I tell people that I learned at least as much working in the King's English as I did in the PhD program at the U. While my academic work might have been all about Theory (always with a capital T), at TKE I learned about contemporary fiction by reading every new novel that came through the door for five years. At TKE I learned what's good, what's bad, what the publicists want you to think is good, what your customers want, and most of all, how to hand sell a book you love in the 15 seconds most customers will give you to describe it. There were some hard sells, usually because my idea of a happy ending is a little darker than most other people's. If the academic program was mine to run, I'd insist that all the creative writing students work bookstore jobs, because at some point you're going to have to go out there and pitch your own darling, and you'll need that 15 second training. Also, you'll need to have worked enough readings not to take it personally when two people show up, midday, in San Francisco. One of them is your friend, one is a homeless guy. If you've worked bookstores, you'll know this is perfectly normal and will read to them both, shake hands with all the booksellers, and be grateful there's a table with your book on it at all.



Poets John Schow and Mark Strand

Here's to another 35 years—and to the notion that I will actually finish this nonfiction book I'm working on, and will return to TKE sooner rather than later for another reading on your gorgeous back patio.

Editor's note Charlotte's blurbs for great novels, whether in print or delivered while talking to customers, was infused with the same fire as her flame-red hair. She lit up the store with her passion for books.

JENNIFER ASHTON, bookseller, *Inkslinger* poetry editor and blurber

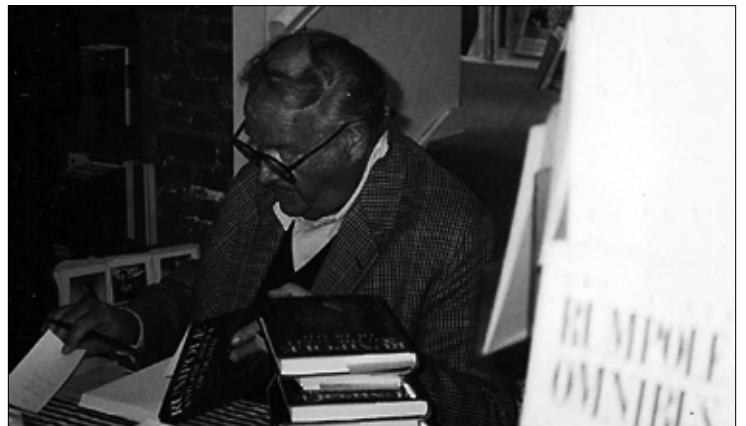
My mom forwarded your message with the questions for your birthday piece. But the first thing that comes to mind is wonder—35 years! I can hardly believe it—congratulations!

I do recall plenty of laughter while I had the good fortune to be working at TKE, but those moments must have all been so engrossing (or the more plausible theory, my brain is a sieve) that now I can't manage to reconstruct any of them. So I'll have to stick to favorites rather than funny.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: Teaching American literature (mainly contemporary poetry) to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

MY FAVORITE HAND-SELL: Don DeLillo's *Ratner's Star* to a woman who wanted to buy some "intellectual science fiction" for her new boyfriend. I'm not even a DeLillo fan, and on top of that I can barely read anything where the lines go all the way across the page, but apparently it helped her score major points with the boyfriend. I saw her in the store later, this time with the boyfriend, and as I recall they spent a good while browsing and left with a nice stack of books.

MY FAVORITE MOMENT OF MY TIME IN THE STORE: There are actually multiple moments, as in whenever John Schow (wonderful poet, lifelong student, loyal TKE customer—rest his soul) would stop by. We'd get to lead him to whatever was newest on the poetry shelves, and he'd share whatever he'd been reading that had gotten him itching to write that week.



John Mortimer signing books at TKE

JULIANNE BASINGER, bookseller, *Inkslinger* poetry editor and blurber

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? I'm currently managing editor of *Continuum*, the magazine of the University of Utah.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE HAND-SELL AT TKE? There were so many, it's hard to choose. But Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* was an interesting phenomenon, because when the book first arrived at the store, it hadn't yet become a blockbuster with an Oscar-winning movie to accompany it. It was a little book by an author who had published a couple of novels but wasn't very well known yet. I read it, told Betsy she had to read it, and the store went on to sell tons of copies. I think it's a book that really shows the power of independent booksellers to make a writer known to a large array of readers, via word of mouth. And it was also fun to sell books that were forgotten (for most people) gems,



Julianne Basinger

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

so that new readers could discover them—books like Isak Dinesen's short stories (including *Winter's Tales* and *Anecdotes of Destiny*). For a certain sort of reader, they're perfect.

AND WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE/FUNNIEST MEMORY OF YOUR TIME IN THE STORE? Again, so many to choose from. I enjoyed the time Octavio Paz came to the store to sign books and people were lined up around the block—for a poet! In terms of funny moments, there was the time John Mortimer visited and didn't like his hotel much, and he was still quite witty about it. And I also remember one early visit by Isabel Allende, when *The House of the Spirits* was being made into a movie, and she told me she wasn't sure how it would all turn out, but regardless, I would still like it because there was this nice-looking young man named Antonio Banderas in it. (Up until that point, he'd only made films in Spain, so he wasn't very well known in the U.S.)

NATHAN STRAIGHT, bookseller, blurber, all-around funny man

After college, I worked at The King's English from 1996-98 while applying to PhD programs in English literature. Obviously, TKE is at least 32% responsible for the fact that I'm currently an English professor at USU.

My most vivid recollections of that happy time revolve around co-workers, and—with apologies to many excellent humans—none holds a dearer place in my heart than the venerable Agatha. She was my mentor in judicious misanthropy and a constant reminder that the good life requires little more than a book and a cat. Of course, a glass of chianti from Fresco at closing time also helps.

Of the many remarkable authors who visited TKE and read next door (a frame shop in my time), Robert Pinsky looms largest in memory. He was touring on behalf of his Dante translation, and his gifts of voice, humor, kindness, and poetry made the evening hum.

Perhaps I should also apologize. During that time I was more than a little obsessed with Cormac McCarthy. As a result, quite a few holiday shoppers carried *Blood Meridian* away with them as a present for family and friends. If I also happened to be the one who gift wrapped the purchase, then the mangled, tortured packaging no doubt amplified the recipient's horror. Still, a few darkened holiday mornings are a small price to pay for such an outstanding novel, as I'm certain the wise folks who have supported TKE all these years will agree.

Happy 35th to The King's English! We are nearly the same age, and I look forward to being outlived by you.

JENNIFER ADAMS, bookseller, blurber

I first met Betsy when I edited her book *The King's English* for Gibbs Smith Publisher. We had a feisty and passionate exchange on many topics, including religion, and women's rights, and politics. There were many things we didn't agree on, and sometimes we

wanted to strangle each other! When we were done, we had crafted her amazing book into something even better than we started with and I thought, "I like this woman. I like this woman a lot. I want to work for her." We define community in many different ways—community as part of nationality, or family, or neighborhood, or religious affiliation. We find groups of people we feel comfortable with, or where we feel like we belong or are understood or accepted or loved. Or we try to become part of a community in which we

want all those things to be the case. But The King's English booksellers, that lovely and diverse group drawn together through books, so far exceeds any expectations of what a loving and supportive community can be that working there as a bookseller changed how I look at my place in the world. I've worked in just about every aspect of the book world—as an editor nearly twenty years, as an author of almost twenty books, and as a bookseller. I

love books. I love the magical connection between a reader and the characters in a book, between a reader and the author, between a reader and all the other readers who love the same book. That's the joy of a book group, of course, and that joy extends to and builds communities of readers to people you might never have known otherwise, to people around the world, and even to people no longer with us. It's one thing I love so much about books—connecting



Jennifer Adams

to other people. And it's what booksellers do best: form relationships between readers and books, between readers and booksellers, between readers and other readers. But the community of friendship bookseller to bookseller at The King's English—the love and acceptance and support, the kindness and open arms I have received from the most intelligent, thoughtful, well-read people you will ever meet—I wouldn't change that experience for anything. *Editor's note: We thought we should catch you up on Jennifer—she's now senior editor at Quirk Books. She lives in Philadelphia. We couldn't be prouder if we were her parents.*

Save the Date!
Save Money (35%!!!) and Eat
Cake Too,
as TKE Turns 35,
Monday, September 10!

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

DEON HILGER, bookseller, blurber, musician, long-time *Inkslinger* editor, not to mention long-distance partner at TKE

Happy Birthday, TKE!! Amazing to think of all these years! And I can remember the 20th birthday celebration like it was yesterday!

Thinking back on my years living in Salt Lake and working at TKE I smile at the memory of selling one book that I loved, an adventure story from the point of view of a woman in her forties running a river in the real wilds with a group of twenty year olds. Funny, hysterical. *Shooting the Boh: A Woman's Voyage Down the Wildest River in Borneo* by Tracy Johnston became a favorite to sell. Of course, I loved and love novels, especially the dense, literary novels. But *Shooting the Boh* was such a fun diversion, such a vicarious adventure!



Deon Hilger (on left) with Betty Fife

My life in Santa Fe continues to be filled with books. Presently I'm rereading *War and Peace* (new translation by Pevear and Volokhonsky) which is a reminder of our blindsightedness, our delusions, our hopes and failures. What a classic! Recently I've read H. C. Robbins Landon's *1791, Mozart's Last Year*—an interesting prelude to the time period of the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812. Also on the recently read list is *Gods Without Men* by Hari Kunzru, *The Map and the Territory* by Michel Houellebecq, and *The Tiger* by John Vaillant. So much out there! I bring back a stack of books to read every time I visit TKE and that stack just keeps on growing! Jerry and I have a very full life in Santa Fe. He works on his writing, I work on my music (lots of chamber music and sometimes, when I'm in town enough, I play in the Santa Fe Community Orchestra). We travel frequently, enjoy wonderful friends and our families. A full life. I miss the fun, enriched atmosphere of TKE, the people who work there, and all those customers who, loving books, come to TKE, and I wish all a special 35th celebration!

JENN NORTINGTON, bookseller, blurber, publicist and events maven

I'm now running events at WORD, an indie bookstore in Brooklyn. A bit of a different crowd from Salt Lake, but I actually see some of the same authors—we just had David Ebershoff in the store for a multi-author reading, and we remembered each other from his SLC launch of *The 19th Wife*!

My favorite hand-sell at TKE, that's a hard one. I remember being really smitten with both *The Gone-Away World* and *The City & The City* (still am, for that matter).



Jenn Northington in her element

The TKE staff Christmas party—in particular the ugly sweater contest and the gift exchange—has never been matched by any other job I've had. I will never forget all of us fighting over Sue's bread. I was also lucky enough to be there for the 30th Anniversary, it was right after I started there. The store was insanely packed, and then Diane Ackerman spoke to a crowd on the patio that spilled out into the street; it was an amazing celebration of community and literature, and probably the best possible introduction to the store and its customers. *Editor's note: We all stay busy, but Jenn could do twenty-seven things at once (all involving books, authors, writing about books and/or authors) and usually did. We're betting she still does. Lucky WORD, lucky Brooklyn!*

BENJAMIN BOMBARD, bookseller, blurber

I can't say—or maybe I just can't remember—that I had a particular book I liked to handsell. I can say that I was always pleased, and a bit anxious, when I'd send somebody home with a copy of a David Foster Wallace book, *any* David Foster Wallace book. But what I really enjoyed most was pairing people with the books they needed, whether they knew they were destined for each other or not.

A woman walks through that creaky door looking for a good read. No special requests. Nothing in mind. Not a particular genre or author or subject, she just knows she's in the market for a book. Those were the moments I genuinely anticipated and enjoyed as a bookseller. Taking the time to actually get to *know* the customer, engaging them personally to help them discover what they actually want—you can't, in good faith, sell someone a book they don't want, even if they might buy it—pulling a handful of books off the shelves, glossing their contents and merits and offering my opinions and those of my fellow booksellers and those of other customers, until she held in her hands a book she couldn't wait to read. *Editor's note: Ben's producing for Doug Fabrizio's show, Radio West, on KUER. Talk about a dream job!*



Benjamin Bombard telling fortunes at a Harry Potter party

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

LYNN KILPATRICK, bookseller, blurber

Now: I'm teaching at SLCC and living a mere block and a half from TKE. What could be better? I'm also doing my best to raise a voracious reader (also a big supporter of TKE!). Also trying to write a novel.

The book I probably sold the most was *The Bird Artist* by Howard Norman. I still love that book and the quiet world Norman created. I remember selling it to people who said they loved birds, people who loved art, anyone really. Of course, I also pushed *Plainsong* on a good number of people as well.



Lynn Kilpatrick with her budding voracious reader

I got to meet a lot of great people at TKE. My favorite moments [now] are probably when I meet new people and they say, "You look familiar." And I say, "Yeah, I used to work at the King's English..." Many of my most favorite people in Salt Lake City are the people I met working there. I still can't believe how many amazing people I worked with: Val! Julie! Jodie! Steve! Jenny! Brenda! Ann C! And, of course, I'm glad I can still stop in and see the friends who still work there, like Betsy, Anne, Margaret, Robert, et al. *Editor's note: Lynn, too modest by half, has also published a collection of stories, In The House.*

"So congratulations on all you have done these last 35 years—Salt Lake has been fortunate to have you, and I feel lucky to have been there for the beginnings. Congratulations to all the wonderful booksellers who have matched books and readers through the years, and thanks to all the readers in Salt Lake City who have kept The King's English so alive. I miss you all."

—Ann Berman

EMILY (FULLER) MANGELSON, children's bookseller, blurber

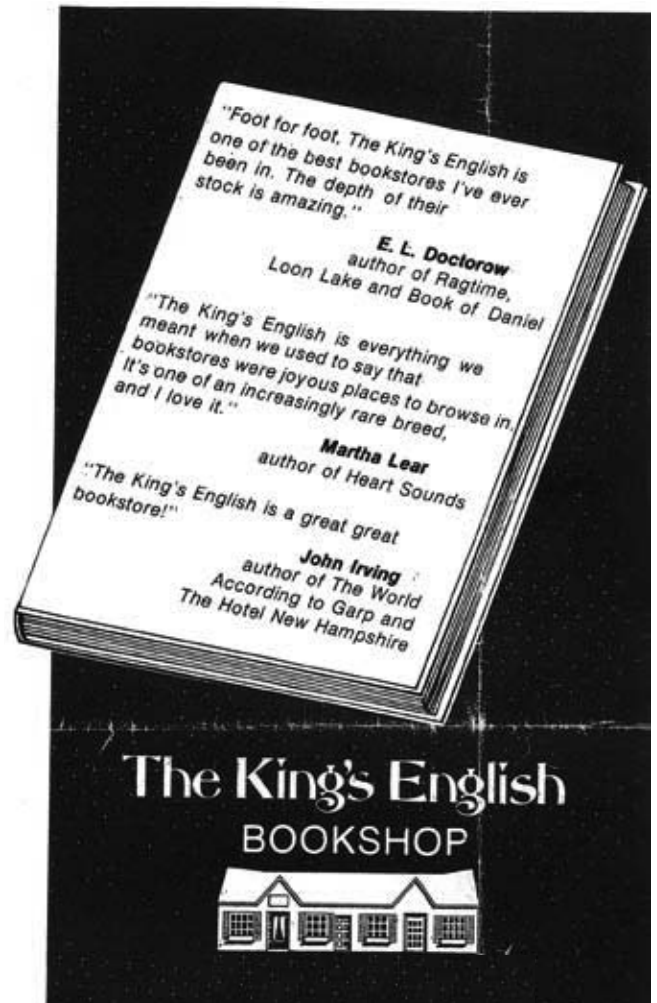
I began working at The King's English in 2001, at the ripe old age of 19 and stayed for nearly five years. It was the perfect college job for a read-a-holic; it kept me in books and laughter, and educated me in ways a University couldn't begin to. I learned about life, love, politics and humanity from my co-workers at TKE. I believe a large part of my soul was shaped while I shelved books there and I am grateful for every single day I spent schlepping heavy hardbacks from the delivery room.

I turned 30 this year. I still live in Sugarhouse, but since leaving TKE I've acquired a career in law, a husband, a house, two dogs and recently, found out my baby is due in January. Already, my favorite hand-sell from my TKE days sits proudly in our nursery—*Skippyjon Jones* by Judy Schachner. Sure, I had my favorite novel to sell, and the



Emily (left) with TKE's Children's Room maven

good-standbys in children's books, but *Skippyjon Jones* was an entirely different animal (in so many ways). *Skippyjon Jones* is a Siamese cat who, in his imaginary world, is actually swordsman "Skippito Friskito" the bandito fighting Chihuahua. Sounds hokey? It may be, but it is also the single best read-aloud children's book currently in publication. It was my story-time fall-back, a sure crowd pleaser that kept parents laughing as hard as their children. I have incredibly fond memories of standing up and reading in my loudest bandito voice, "My name is Skippito Friskito. I fear not a single bandito." Handing this book to a book-buying parent, or child, I knew I was handing them not just a wonderful story, I was handing them a book that would create memories. *Editor's note: we love this—Emily might not work at TKE any longer, but she's still hand-selling like a pro!*



TKE's very first ad

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

DINA DRITS-ESSER, bookseller, blurber

This has been the most exhilarating two years of my life! I finished my PhD in science education and am working at the University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center as an educational researcher. I got married to a wonderful man at the Alta Lodge last July, and lo and behold had a baby 11 months later. Phew.

My favorite book to sell was probably Stegner's *Crossing to Safety*. I can't remember a specific event right now in my sleep-deprived state, but I remember laughing a lot with Jan, Sue, Vivian and the other staff—we had so much fun together. *Editor's note: PhDs, weddings, babies. We echo her sentiment—Phew!*



Dina Drits-Esser

RACHEL OTTO, bookseller, blurber, all-around wunderkind

I'd be so honored to be part of the anniversary edition!

FAVORITE BOOK/S TO HAND-SELL: Siri Hustvedt: *What I Loved*; James Galvin: *X*; Heather McHugh: *Eyeshot*; and pretty much all of the NYRB Classics.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: practicing civil rights & employment law on behalf of plaintiffs.

MEMORIES: too many good ones to count, but a few offhand—

- Reading to Sophia Gener and watching her grow up for a few years
- Spending hours making spines perfectly align with shelves (I'm serious)
- Asking John [Merritt] to track down incredibly obscure out-of-print titles
- Getting harangued by Jan on a daily basis (all in good fun, of course)
- Learning the tastes of regular customers and selecting books I knew they would like, and getting to talk to them about it later.

awww, I miss the bookstore. *Editor's note: awww, we miss you too, Rachel!*



Rachel Otto

ROBERT MORREALL, bookseller, blurber, same-day deliverer along with Nicks Burton (take that Amazon!)



Here's the charming pair who may have delivered books to your door: Robert Morreall, Bookseller Extraordinaire, and Nicks Burton, Volunteer of the Year, Utah Food Bank.

I am back in school at the University of Utah to complete my degree. One of my favorite hand-sells to geek out on to customers was the classic *Stoner* by John Williams. Among my favorite times at TKE was around the holiday season when I occasionally helped out Santa behind the scenes while he visited the neighborhood and made a few appearances at the store. He told me his favorite truffles were the caramel ones in the blue wrapper. *Editor's note: in school or not, we NEED Robert to reprise his role as Santa this Christmas!*

BUNNY KAUFMAN, bookseller, blurber

Since leaving TKE as a bookseller, life has been full, fun and busy. I've spent much of my time painting (mainly watercolors), planting and nurturing my garden, cooking, spending time with family and friends—and, of course, reading. I loved my time as a bookseller at TKE. Their customers are wonderful and their booksellers are the best. It felt like one big family. *Editor's note: Bunny's cards are available for purchase at TKE.*

TRIX DAHL, bookseller, blurber

Best wishes always to your wonderful store and the brilliant people who make it successful!

I have just returned from China where I spent two school years (I did come home for Christmas and summer vacations) teaching spoken and written English to graduate students at the South China University of Technology (SCUT) in the city of Guangzhou. I will be attending and, I hope, teaching OS-HER classes at the U of U starting this fall along with other as yet unspecified literary projects.

My favorite books to sell while I was working at The King's English were classics by Austen, Dickens, the Brontës, Tolstoy, etc. I am not an aficionado of mod-

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

ern classics, so I had little to say when somebody bought Virginia Woolf or James Joyce. I also enjoyed selling mysteries that I had read and enjoyed myself.

I thought it was funny when people came in and asked for a book about such and such, but couldn't remember the author or the title. Sometimes we could actually figure out what it was. *Editor's note: Actually, we can figure it out most of the time, given a hint or two—the color of the cover, for example, or its size. Speaks volumes (no pun intended) for our brilliant band of booksellers!*

LYNDA COOLEY, children's bookseller, blurber

FAVORITE BOOK TO HAND-SELL: During the vast majority of my career as a teacher I read picture books to and with children from preschool to third grade. When I began working at The King's English Bookshop after retirement I naturally gravitated to the children's room and as part of my job needed to spend time becoming familiar with books for middle school and young adult readers too. I think the one I became most eager to sell and excited to talk about was *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z* by Kate Messner, which made the point that we don't all have to be the same or do things in the same way to have a good outcome.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: I volunteer in Title One schools helping struggling readers with their reading skills, and at the Kiwanis Club of Sugar House. They named an award to honor my dad after his death called the Andrew Wood Cooley Teacher of the Year Award. Next year I will be the President-elect. I substitute teach occasionally in the Granite School District, but it's great, after 34 years of teaching where the schedule is totally inflexible, to be able to have lunch with friends, travel, and take some classes on one's own timetable. I love it.



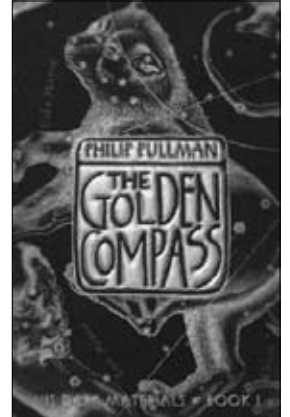
Abraham Verghese speaks to a standing-room only crowd

MEMORABLE EVENT: The King's English has author visits every week, and I enjoyed many of them immensely. However, I will never forget when Abraham Verghese came to speak about his novel, *Cutting for Stone*. There were so many people who wanted to see him that they overflowed the gallery next door where the event was held. His presentation was fascinating and filled with humor, along with insight into his book. I felt like a groupie at a rock concert when I stood in line waiting for him to autograph my copy, and then got to speak with him. I haven't reacted that way since I snuck into the dressing room of The Beach Boys in the sixties, and I doubt if I ever will again. *Editor's note: Likewise!*

PAX RASMUSSEN, TKE's first official computer guru

Here's a thing: I didn't really know kids' books at all—and of course, people would come in and want help with them, frequently, when Margaret wasn't around (Pax did his IT work in the office off the children's room). I figured out quick that folks' kids really liked the *Golden Compass* series, so I started recommending that a lot. And got really good feedback. Well, in grad school (about 2007 or so) one of my cohort was a big fan of the series, and I ended up reading it. In a lot of ways, I wish I'd been able to read it as a kid—easily one of the best kid's series I've ever read. Loved it. Read it twice. Push it on all my friends with kids.

Editor's note: Pax is now the Managing Editor at Catalyst Magazine!



NAN SEYMOUR, bookseller, blurber

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW? Executive Director at Local First Utah

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK TO HAND SELL WHILE AT TKE? I especially loved to sell the poetry of Pablo Neruda, *Fragments of Sappho*, translated by Anne Carson, and of course the poetry of Jaqueline Osherow, a local poet of international acclaim!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE OR FUNNY MEMORY TO SHARE OF YOUR TIME THERE? A conversation with Isabelle Allende about food, love, and dreams.

Long Live TKE!



Nan Seymour

BECKY RICHARD, book orderer, book receiver, blurber

Editor's note: Becky ran the backroom at TKE for many years, keeping things organized (quite a feat!) and running smoothly

My favorite hand-sells were for those customers who came in looking for science titles, Betsy. I took special delight in introducing customers I knew fairly well to authors and topics they'd never heard of or considered before, with confidence that they'd enjoy what I suggested and discover a new interest.

As for memories, I'm sure I could find one in nearly any category you could think of. A funny one (now, not at the time) is the time an employee (whose name I don't remember) reformatted the hard drive on the computer, nearly three days after the last back-up had been done. I had to try to recreate every book received, sold, or returned in those three very busy days for the records.



Becky Richards

BOOKSELLER ALUMNI continued

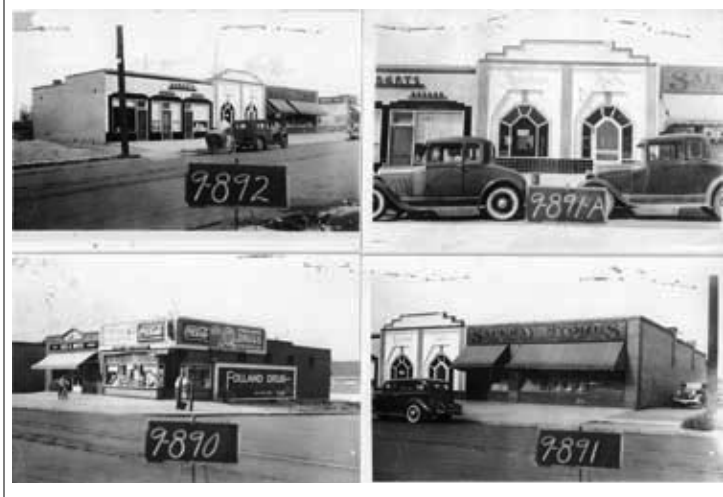
Another personal memory is of Corky hanging out at the bookstore while I worked, when he was really little. He would take a book and find a sunny spot on the carpet or go out to the car to read, with his little legs hanging out the window. It was wonderful to watch him develop as an enthusiastic reader—day by day, even hour by hour!

LAURIE BRYANT, bookseller, blurber

WHAT I'M DOING NOW: preparing a study of the remaining 200+ adobe buildings in Salt Lake City, 1850-1900. They have stories to tell, about their builders, the people who lived in them, their architecture. It's a part of Salt Lake's history that is fast disappearing, and especially important because at one time, virtually every building in Salt Lake was made of adobe bricks.

My favorite book to handsell was Annie Proulx's *Close Range*, followed by *Bad Dirt*. Annie Proulx could speak with a Wyoming voice, full of dark resignation and the bewilderment of being left behind while refusing to move forward.

FAVORITE MEMORY: Having the privilege of introducing Bruce Bab-bitt when he came to read from *Cities in the Wilderness*. Listening to John Merritt explain practically anything, with great authority and absolutely correct information. John recommended the books I liked (and still like) best: *Medea's Children*, *The Book of Ebenezer LePage*, and so on. And of course: anything that involved Jan Sloan. *Editor's note: The Book of Ebenezer LePage is a classic porcupine—we all love it. And anyone interested in history should see the historical work Laurie's done—not just on adobe buildings but also on 15th and 15th circa 1915—we had a 15th and 15th event and she showed the whole neighborhood her work—and their history! (see images below)*



Early 20th century 15th & 15th neighborhood photographs, including The King's English building, as cataloged by local historian Laurie Bryant

AND THE LAST WORD from two old-timers (both young at heart) our beloved John Merritt, all-around-wise-old man who knows every obscure title ever published—and has read it (witness the testimony of so many of the above booksellers), and Jodie Hunt, who'll still agree to come in and wrap packages during the holidays just so we can get a dose of her radiant smile.

JOHN MERRITT, bookseller, blurber extraordinaire

WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER

In 2008, Jill called me at the store and told me I had to come home, that we were putting the house up for sale and moving into a condo. I didn't come home when called, but I did resign as bookseller and I have been in my condo for four years as of August 22. I'm not going to tell you all the interesting things I've learned living in one of these things; I will just say this: there are large expanses of windowless walls suitable for many hundreds of books, and, for the first time in many years, I would be able to find all my books if I had not shelved them all by size.

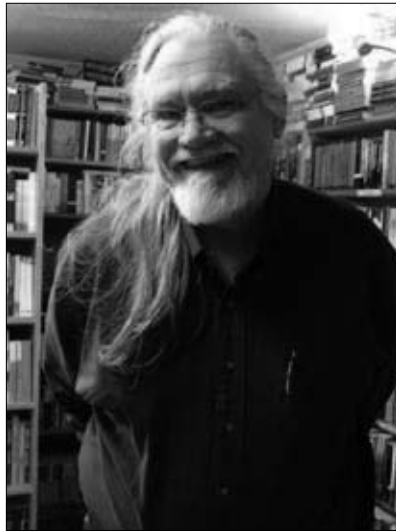
There is an old picture of me in my ponytail in the fiction room, and I imagine my current situation as just like that now, except that it is my library surrounding me, rather than the Bookstore.

Working at The King's English turned out to be a great way to spend some of my retirement days. I could exercise my function as *Shadchen*—the matchmaker fixing up marriages between people and the books they need. It is impossible, because not in keeping with my self-image as Shadchen, to pick out any of the books that I especially liked to match up with customers; every human has different needs, and different needs at different times. But I will say one thing: *The New York Review of Books* publishes a collection they call Classics. These are all "classics" in the sense that they are all quite perfect of their kind, but they are not classics in the sense that they are boring, or classics in the sense that "you've heard of it, but you never read it." You've probably never heard of most of them. But, no matter who you are, or what kind of thing you need now, there is a match in there for you, somewhere.



Two quick stories and I will be done. One day I was working the desk and a beautiful woman wanted help. She was reaching back in her memory for what was not quite present, to a book review that had crossed her path several months before of a novel from a writer of whom she had probably never heard—subject: Pakistanis living in England. "Great," I think. "As though there might be only one of these." A little more conversation and it comes out she is looking for a birthday present for

her step-dad. A few more words—she is very late with it. A little more—the review was in *The New York Review*. Her step-dad is very hard to buy for. I don't recall having seen this woman in the store before, so I didn't realize she had a pretty well-stocked mind herself. He is always very interested in Indian literature. Hmmm, I think. Who is this person? Eventually, as in some tragedy where I am fated to be the hero, I see what book she is reaching for, the review to which she refers, the step-dad who is difficult to buy for; it is



John Merritt when he worked at *The King's English* with Kelly Coffey, who took this photo.

Nadeem Aslam's *Maps for Lost Lovers*, and she wants it for Bill Mulder, one of Jill's favorite professors, and to whom Jill and I had given the book for his actual birthday several months before. I do not remember how I stumbled through my explanation of that or what backup there may have been for the belatedly-recognized perfect birthday present. Whatever the result, the lady could always think the *Shadchen* himself had already picked up the right book for him.

Another day, DawnAnn and I were working the desk, and at some point there wasn't a soul but the two of us in the store. She started asking me about Plato's *Republic* and the parable of the Cave. I briefly described the situation to her. She said "strange people." I told her that was what Glaucon had said to Socrates, and what Socrates had told him. "They're just like us." And so it is; we all see only shadows on the wall. She wanted me to start a book club to read the *Republic*. I pointed out that you had to have a few people to have a book club, but, if she wanted to get together every couple of weeks and read the book together, I would do that. "The minimum number of people is two; you and me."

Deal. That afternoon, she went out the back and met Ann Cannon, who I knew at the time only vaguely, in the Children's Room on the way. Apparently, DawnAnn was full of the news she was going to read the *Republic* with me. Ann said "I want to do that too." So we started to read the *Republic* together, the three of us, and now I know Ann Cannon because of that. You discover, when you have an experience of this kind, that there are only shadows on the walls, and that the Fox was right to tell the Little Prince; one only sees the truth with the heart. What is essential is invisible to the eyes.

JODIE HUNT, bookseller, blurber, wrapper emeritus

Wow!!! 35 years!!! remarkable and thank heavens we are still here... i

There are so many more of you we'd love to hear from and learn about what you are doing now. Send an email to books@kingsenglish.com or call us or better yet, come in if you can and say hello!



Jodie's radiant smile

began working at tke in the early 90s and it was all fun and funny!!! fun and funny staff.... fun and funny customers...delightful, inspiring. i loved selling books about utah and the west esp dale morgan's

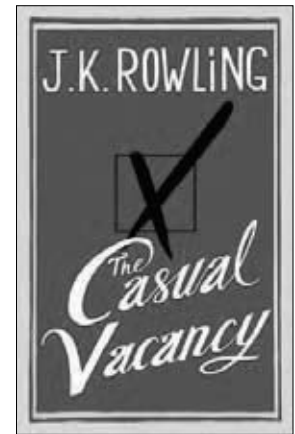
book" the great salt lake"...i am retired now and too busy to read (just kidding).. i am living the good life with husband kay hunt, zen practice, bridge, knitting, tai chi, friends and family and , oh yes,... reading....cheers, mazel tov and a toast with some really good wine...love to all of you and thank you for all the good work!!! xoxo

Editor's note: xoxo to you, too, Jodie. We thank and miss you—along with the many booksellers from whom we didn't hear despite our efforts to track everyone down. We also miss three beloved booksellers no longer among us: Judy Lueders, Kelly Wells and Margaret Godfrey. We recall with love your hard work, your passion for and knowledge of books, your brilliance and your wit; you changed our lives. All of you changed our lives. And collectively, you made The King's English what it is.



INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS PAST AND PRESENT

Jennifer Adams	Jodie Hunt
Jennifer Ashton	Bunny Kaufman
Kathy Ashton	Lynn Kilpatrick
Julianne Basinger	Kenneth Loosli
Ann Berman	Jenny Lyons
Benjamin Bombard	Emily (Fuller) Mangelson
Anne Brillinger	John Merritt
Laurie Bryant	Robert Morreall
Betsy Burton	Henry Morren
Lynda Cooley	Jenn Northington
Trix Dahl	Marilyn Osborne
Dina Drita-Esser	Rachel Otto
Charlotte Freeman	Pax Rasmussen
Deon Hilger	Becky Richards
Barbara Hoagland	Nan Seymour
Anne Holman	Nathan Straight



Pre-order fall's hot titles today!

*Call the store at 801-484-9100 to reserve, or
order online. Either way, you'll be the first
to have these books in your hands...*

Sweet Tooth, Ian McEwan–Nov. 13

The Casual Vacancy, J.K. Rowling–Sept. 27

35 books for our 35th!



**Create Your
Wish List >>>**

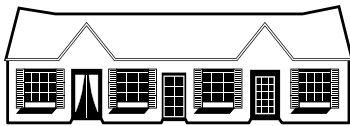
35TH BIRTHDAY WISH LIST

As a special birthday thank you, 35 lucky readers will receive a book of their choice from TKE!

To participate, submit your book wish list in the store or on our website.

We will randomly select 35 lists, then a single book from each list (titles must be in print),
and present those books to the 35 lucky customers.

www.kingsenglish.com/35th-birthday-book-wish-list



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