



**FRIENDS  
of the Oakland  
Public Library**

# Off the Shelf

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## Bibliomania: A Perfectly Fitting Description

by *Sophie Fynland Souroujon*,  
Member, FOPL Board of Directors

*“Styli am I besy bokes assemblynge,*

*For to have plenty it is a plesaunt  
thyng*

*In my conceyt, and to have then ay in  
honde;*

*But what they mene do I nat  
understande.”*

*From Ship of Fools, edited 1509*



*Darryl and Jan Van Fleet*, co-owners, explain that the logo for Bibliomania bookstore depicting a man with a mad passion for books, is a graphic originally appearing in the 1494 edition of “The Ship of Fools.” It was reproduced on the title page of the 1809 first edition of “Bibliomania” by *Thomas Frognall Dibdin*.

Daryl van Fleet said that his first used bookstore was started in 1974, in the North Beach area of San Francisco (between Stockton and Powell) and was aptly named “P.M.” since the store was only open in the P.M.! This was the time of the remnants of Bohemia, where jazz was performed at the Keystone Corner, where poets performed in the evenings and booklovers converged. A heady time!

In 1977, the Van Fleets moved their

bookstore to Berkeley and remained on Telegraph Avenue (across from the Center for Independent Living) until 1987, when they moved to San Pablo Avenue in Oakland, adjacent to City Hall. In 1995, the Van Fleets moved to Telegraph Avenue and 19th Street, their current location.

This is an all-age destination (though more young readers would be most welcome), including newcomers to the area, pedestrians who stroll by, or drivers (like myself) who are on their way to someplace else and see a sign for “Bibliomania” and decide to stop by at a later date.

People know about Bibliomania via word-of-mouth, through website connections, and collectors with unique and special interests. Seekers of old magazines, books by a particular author, old covers advertising products such as Quaker Oats or Cream of Wheat, etc., can find something of interest. Interested in a magazine called “The Queen of Fashion” from 1893, 1903, 1905? Bibliomania has them.

In a **6,000** sq. ft. space, Bibliomania has over **90,000** books and **100,000** pamphlets (including international ones) in stock plus approximately **30,000** listed on line. Items are packed and shipped worldwide. Special collecting interests or a want list may be sent by email to: *books@bibliomania.ws*. The Van Fleets check their stock and quote or keep the information on file for future reference.

A large section is devoted to various social movements - labor, socialism, union files of newspapers, convention proceedings, pamphlets and tracts. Daryl calls this section his “vertical file materials.”

*Continued on page 3*

## News from the Friends and the Library

### 'BookFriends' Members

enjoy 10% discounts at:

#### *Bibliomania*

1816 Telegraph Ave.

#### *Book Zoo*

6395 Telegraph Ave.

#### *Laurel Book Store*

4100 MacArthur Blvd.

#### *Marcus Books,*

3900 M.L.K. Jr. Way

#### *Montclair Book Tree,*

6123 LaSalle St.

#### *Pendragon,*

5560 College Ave.

(Used Books),

#### *The Spectator,*

4163 Piedmont Ave.

#### *Walden Pond,*

3316 Grand Ave.

And a 20% discount at our

#### *Bookmark Bookstore,*

721 Washington St.,  
in Old Oakland

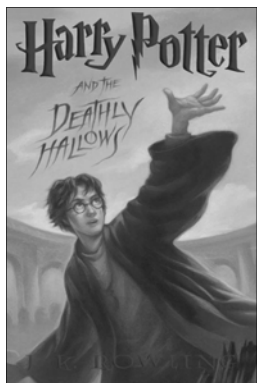
#### "Off the Shelf"

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### *The Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Knight Bus Tour*



The final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, will be released to the world at midnight, **Saturday, July 21st**, and Oakland Public Library is where the best magic is happening! Starting with the *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Knight Bus tour*, we've got movies, crafts, and tons of copies of the new book, so don't miss out on these special festivities:

Based on the purple, triple-decker bus described in the Harry Potter books, Scholastic Corporation's Knight Bus will be stopping at the Oakland Main Library, 125 14th Street, on **Wednesday, July 11, 2007 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Young people will have a chance to board the bus and make a video about why they love the Harry Potter books. Oakland is one of just 37 libraries across the nation who will host the Knight bus in the days leading up to the book's release on July 21.

Kids need to pre-register by calling the Main Library's Children's Room at (510) 238-3615.

### *Midnight Release Party*

Come in costume for an evening of incredible entertainment, including live bands. Come make wizard hats and wands with MOCHA artists. There will be a free raffle for 100 winners who will be able to check out the new book that night! Copies of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* will be checked out starting at midnight.

Also, patrons who are among the first 100 to place a hold reserve on the book will be able to check it out that night.

**Friday, July 20th, 8 pm**, until just-after Midnight, **Saturday, July 21st**

Main Library 125 14th street (enter through the Children's Room on Oak street) (510) 238-3615.

### *Harry Potter Release Party for Early Risers*

If you want your book early, come join the fun and festivities! We'll have crafts, games, prizes, refreshments and more! Come dressed as your favorite Harry Potter character.

**Saturday, July 21, 8 to 10 am**, Dimond Library, 3565 Fruitvale Ave. (510) 482-7844

### *Harry Potter Read-Aloud!*

Listen to *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* read aloud at your library for an hour every day. Begins **Monday, July 23**, and runs every day at **4 pm** at all of these branches:

Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., (510) 597-5017

Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., (510) 615-5728

M.L.King, Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., (510) 615-5728

**And there's more!!** Go to: [www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org) for more events.

### *Next Board Meeting*

The F.O.P.L. Board of Directors next meets on **Monday, July 9, 2007, at 5:15 p.m.** at the Rockridge Branch Library, 5366 College Avenue. FOPL members and friends are encouraged to attend. For more information contact us by email at: [info@fopl.org](mailto:info@fopl.org).

## Bibliomania (contd.)

Books by German Exiles (1933 – 1950) such as Lion Feuchtwanger, Bertolt Brecht and other, less-famous authors are available as well. Various books are available in German, French, Spanish, and a good-sized selection in Yiddish.

Bibliomania carries a large selection of African-American and African literature, fiction and non-fiction, including children's books.

A number of catalogues of special items that are available from Bibliomania:

- Social Movements, (400 items) – with a bright red cover showing the 1st Workers' Olympiad, Cleveland, Ohio, July 3-4-5, 1936.

- Women's Studies, (300 items) – with a pale brown cover showing various women's activities.

- Southern Literature, (234 items) – with a light blue/gray cover titled John Henry by Roark Bradford, with 25 woodcuts by J. J. Lankes.

- Black Studies, (300 items) – with a green cover titled Bandages and Bullets: In Praise of the African Revolution by Antar Sudan Katara Mberi.

- Vietnam War, (200 items) – with a bright blue cover titled The LBJ Brigade and an image of a soldier with sealed lips.

To browse the books, please click on: <http://antiqubook.com/books/bookseller.phtml/bibman>

To check online, please click on: <http://antiqubook.com/books/bookseller.phtml/bibman> and then scroll down to view the subjects listed on the right.

### *Remember:*

BookFriends members receive a **10%** discount at participating BookFriends stores!!

### *Hours & Location*

1816 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612-2110 - at the corner of 19th and Telegraph, one short block from the 19th & Broadway Oakland Bart Station.

Open: **Monday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Phone: (510) 835-5733

Email: [books@bibliomania.ws](mailto:books@bibliomania.ws)

For the complete interview with *Darryl and Jan Van Fleet*, go to: [www.fopl.org](http://www.fopl.org)

### *Found at the Bookmark*

Recently, the sale of a single book raised **\$1,750** for the library. The book was the only signed limited edition that Beatrix Potter ever issued, *THE FAIRY CARAVAN*. New York: David McKay, 1929. The edition was limited to 100 copies.



The book was part of a donation to the Bookmark Bookstore and was in rather shabby condition. Fortunately manager **Bob Frey** noticed something special about this particular book. Upon further inspection, he found a signed limitation sheet and asked volunteer and rare book expert, **Vic Zoschak**, if it was real. Fortunately, it was! Vic, owner of Tavistock Books in Alameda, marketed the book for the Bookmark and made the sale.

According to Vic, “the signature was actually on a separately printed sheet that Potter numbered and signed, then was tipped-in (a term that means “carefully glued in”) near the front of the book.”

### **New Books from Your Old Vehicle**

Your Car, Boat, Motorcycle, Recreational Vehicle, or other old vehicle can earn money for our public library.

**Charity Connection**, a service of Volunteers of America, will sell your vehicle with a portion of the proceeds going to F.O.P.L.

Call 1-800-559-5458. Tell them you want to make your vehicle a tax-deductible gift to the *Friends of the Oakland Public Library!*

“An Englishman is a person who does things because they have been done before. An American is a person who does things because they haven't been done before.”  
- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

