Simplified book tent will make it easier to browse .. and to buy

PHOTO BY ERIN YOUNGMAN/THE DALLAS POST

Fred Krohle, chairman of the book tent at the library auction, prepared books in advance. He has simplified the categories to make for easier browsing.

Weeks before the Library Auction stacks of books — marked to sell — already filled the corners, closets and back rooms of the Slightly Read Bookshop in the basement of the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

In between customers perusing the shop's shelves, often filling bags to the brim with books of every type, manager Fred Krohle has been sifting through the shop's holdings in search of picks to fill this year's book booth at the 57th annual library auction.

"It's a lot of fun, you just can't believe how enjoyable it is to be out there," he said.

"This is an event with a capital E in quotation marks!"

This is Krohle's second year as chairman of the book booth. He said the experience of working the tent last year taught him to keep things as simple as possible.

Krohle has done away with dividing the books into numerous separate categories. Initially he thought having a variety of sections would be helpful, but he said they actually caused more confusion than assistance.

"There will be a few categories like cookbooks and home decorating, but beyond that everything will be mishmoshed together."

This year for instance, a book on President Eisenhower, a biography, would be interfiled with its subject, American History, rather than a smaller biography section.

Krohle said the change will make the 20'x30' tent easier for volunteers and patrons to navigate.

About 15 tables will be filled with everything from children's books and mysteries to fiction, non-fiction, videos and puzzles. Non-fiction volumes have been selected based on their publication dates. This year, books between 1940/50 and 1990 have been chosen as well as others that the shop has duplicates of.

A selection of paperbacks has been added, an honor bestowed only on classic paperbacks in previous years.

Some less common subjects can also be found. One example, a box full of books on Native American spirituality and history has been selected to make its way to the tables.

Books sell for $1 a piece or three for $2.

"For the auction we get people from out of the area and they think this is great stuff," said Krohle.

— Erin Youngman

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We congratulate the Back Mountain Memorial Library on its 57th Annual Auction.

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