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On Your Bookshelf - What Are We Reading?

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On Your Bookshelf — What Are We Reading?

By Joanne Schmidt (Emerson College Library)

Books recently read by library staff, booksellers and publishers. Titles to be included in future columns can be sent to Joanne Schmidt at the Emerson College Library; 148 Beacon Street; Boston, MA 02116, or, via Internet to "ecl_jms@-flo.org".

The private bookcases of the Emerson College Library staff are filled with books for holiday reading. Paul Twist, the most voracious reader I know, divides his shelves into two categories: fiction and non-fiction. By the time you read this he'll probably have finished these non-fiction titles: *Winchell: Gossip, Power, & the Culture of Celebrity* by Neal Gabler (Knopf, 1994) and *As Seen on TV: The Visual Culture of Everyday Life in the 1950s* by Karal A. Marling (Harvard University Press, 1994). The new compilation of Pauline Kael's film reviews is also on his reading list. Paul's list of "good new fiction" includes: *The City Below* by James Carroll (Houghton Mifflin, 1994); *Bird Artist* by Howard Norman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1994); *In the Lake of the Woods* by Tim O'Brien (Houghton Mifflin, 1994); *Open Secrets* by Alice Munro (Knopf, 1994).

Liz Bezera is enjoying Lauren Bacall's *Now* (Knopf, 1994) "a nice continuation of her autobiography" and Barbara Kingsolver's *The Bean Trees* (Penguin Library, 1989). Liz also recommends *Colored People: A Memoir* by

Henry Louis Gates (Knopf, 1994).

Mickey Zemon, Emerson's Library Director, may be able to read some of these during semester break: *Sunday's Child* by Ingmar Bergman (Arcade, 1994); *Train Go Sorry: Inside a School for the Deaf* (Houghton-Mifflin, 1994); *Joseph Papp* by Helen Epstein (Little, Brown, 1994); *The Shipping News* by E. Annie Proulx (Wheeler, 1994); *Novemberfest* by Theodore Weesner (Knopf, 1994); *The Language Instinct* by Steven Pinker (Morrow, 1994); *Please Stand By: The Prehistory of Television* by Michael Ritchie (Overlook Press, 1994).

The staff of the Burlington Public Library, in Burlington, MA, always gives great advice when asked for recommendations. They haven't steered me wrong yet.

Debra Hindes referred me to *Bone People* by Keri Hulme (Louisiana State University Press, 1985). Debra is also currently reading: *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years* by Sarah Louise and Annie Elizabeth Delaney (Kodansha International, 1993); *True North: A Memoir* by Jill Ker Conway (Knopf, 1994); and the medical thriller, *The Edge* by Mark Olshaker (Crown, 1994).

Cara Thissell, who works in the Children's Room, suggested *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* which was

written by Jon Scieszka and illustrated by Lane Smith (Viking Kestrel, 1989). The wolf's version of this classic tale is worth checking out. Cara, and many of her co-workers, are reading *The Primrose Way*, a young adult novel by Jackie French Koller (Gulliver Books, 1992).

Brita Flemming recently finished *Sanctuary* by Faye Kellerman (Morrow, 1994). It's one of the Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus mysteries. She liked it so much she's ready to read more fiction by Faye Kellerman and her husband, Jonathan Kellerman.

The Burlington Public Library staff also turned me on to Barbara Kingsolver. Like Liz, I'm a new fan. *Animal Dreams* (Harper and Row, 1990) and *Pigs in Heaven* (HarperCollins, 1993) are on my night stand. Also waiting for my holiday break when I hope to be able to read are: *Interview With the Vampire* by Anne Rice (Ballantine Books, 1977), *Disclosure* by Michael Crichton (Knopf, 1994) and *In the Name of the Father* by Gerry Conlon (Plume, 1993). I didn't get to read them when first published, but there's something about the way movies get advertised that makes me want to read these! ☺

In Search of Used Bookshops

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Hibberd's

I will end this all too brief review of some of the used bookshops of Philadelphia with a look at what was once the crowning glory of bookselling in the City of Brotherly Love — Sessler's. A March, 1974 article in *Publishers Weekly* titled "Philadelphia: A Thriving Book World All Its Own" called Sessler's a store "as well known for its services as it is for what

one bibliophile calls the top lady bookman in the country," Mabel Zahn." Sad to say, Sessler's is no more — but their old location on Walnut Street, just four blocks from the Convention Center, now houses Hibberd's Books. Their yellow page ad says, "Hibberd's Books — owners and staff formerly of Sessler's." Established in 1986, Hibberd's holds about 25,000 volumes, mostly used, rare and remainder books. They also carry a very small selection of new books. For the most part, Hibberd's specializes in the humanities, with a good size collection of books on literature and the arts.

Shop Information: Hibberd's Books, 1310 Walnut Street. Hours: 10:00 am — 6:00 pm Monday — Saturday. 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm Sunday. Telephone: (215) 546-8811. ☺