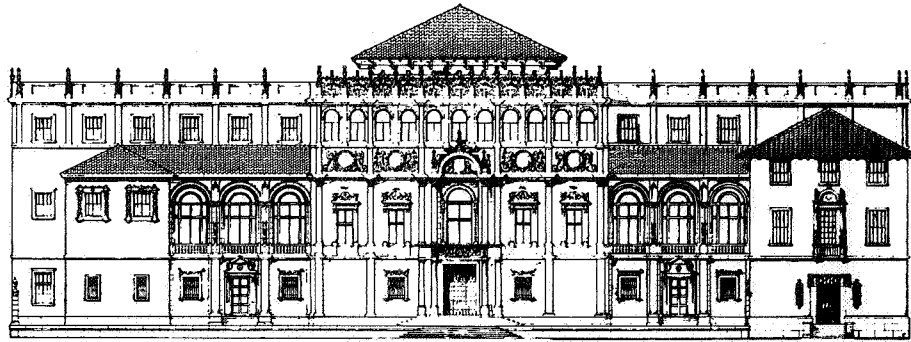


Between Friends

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News about Friends of the Houston Public Library

16th Annual Booksale A Phenomenal Success

New location attracts 4,600 buyers; sale grosses \$80,000

by René Zentner
President of the Board

The April 8-10 Friends of the Houston Public Library Book Sale was a great success. This year's sale grossed more than \$80,000, attracted more than 4,600 buyers and recruited 209 new Friends. The Friends Preview on Friday night attracted a record-breaking 804 attendees.

Although the Sale was held over three weekend days, it was an all year project. Planning for this past sale began in the Spring of 1993. In 1993, the Friends were unlucky enough to lose the warehouse in which they stored and sorted books, so much of last Spring was devoted to locating a new facility in which to work. By August, we had located new warehouse space, and in early Fall, we were able to begin organizing the 1994 sale.

We need a warehouse, because on a good year, we receive and sort around 100,000 books for the sale. Our books come from three sources: most are given to us by the Houston Public Library as discards. The Library is constantly discarding older books or duplicates to make room on its shelves for new books. That is why so many of the books at the sale each year bear the "Discard" stamp.

Some of our books are contributed to the Friends by Houstonians cleaning house. Our volunteers are always ready to pick up books from people donating



Betty Larkin

Board members Hallye Bone and Shona Bascon greet sale attendees at the membership sign-up table during the Friends Preview Night on April 8.

books for the sale, and many contributors bring books directly to our warehouse in the Resource Center at 7026 Old Katy Road. In this way, we acquire many interesting or specialized books which we might not otherwise include in the sale.

Finally, we receive a lot of brand-new books from book reviewers and bookstores. Both the Houston Chronicle and Houston Post provide us with reviewer's

copies of new books. Some Houston bookstores donate surplus books to the sale. In this way, our collection includes quite a few new and timely books in mint condition. Those books come to us in unsorted lumps and mixtures. Patrons of the Friends' Book Sale will recognize that at the sale each year, the books are presented by subject, the Better Books are
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