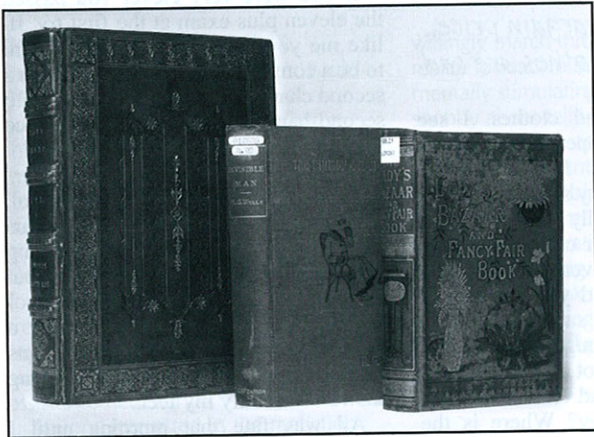


News.....

Get bookish this holiday season



With the tagline 'A book is for life not just for Christmas! Adopt a book and save it for the nation,' the British Library is promoting its Adopt a Book scheme as the ideal ethical – not to mention unique – gift: while spoiling others with presents this season you – and your recipient – can help to protect and conserve the Library's wonderfully eclectic collection for future generations.

The British Library has a few seasonal-appropriate suggestions such as Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Adopt a Book raises vital funds and helps us to look after the books for future generations.

with Gordon Ross illustrations (1934), or *Christmas Numbers of all the Year Round*, an 1868 collection of Christmas short stories by the likes of Wilkie Collins. But you may also consider tailoring your choice appropriately to the recipient's personal interests: Nigella Lawson wannabes will appreciate *The British Baker's Selected Recipes* (c1900), while Becks could woo Posh with *The Lady's Bazaar and Fancy Fair Book* (1875); a sci fi nut will thrill to a first edition of H G Wells' *The Invisible Man* (1897); or fire some disgruntled teen's imagination by associating them with a first edition of 1993's supergrime and grunge hit *Trainspotting* by Irvine Welsh.

You can select your choice from categories ranging from Art and Architecture to Gardening, Children's Books to Music, Sports to Natural History – or have the Library choose a book for you from their neediest leather-bound orphans.

'I have been delighted to see Adopt a Book raise the profile of the conservation needs in the Library,' says Senior Conservator Rick Brown. 'As a conservator and working so closely in the conservation and preservation of

our national heritage, it's rewarding to see how much public interest there is in this area. The British Library contains some 12 million volumes within its incomparable collections. Adopt a Book raises vital funds and helps us to look after the books for future generations.'

It's a nifty idea, and with more than 150 million books, manuscripts and other items in its collection, this is one shop that won't run out of stock.

The gifts that keep on giving

Gift package options offer a generous and varied range:

- £25 earns a certificate recording the giver's name and the book they have adopted
- £75 includes a voucher for a public tour of the British Library for two
- £150 buys a permanent personalized bookplate inserted into your adopted book
- £250 gets you a meeting with the conservators who worked on your book
- £500 has the book adopter's name inscribed on the British Library's List of Conservation.

80,000

The number of visitors that Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books, enticed through its doors during its first delightful year.

[From the 'If you build it, they will come' dept.]

The Best of Luck

Enterprising writer and novelist Yang-May Ooi has set up a canny interactive project on Fusion View, her East/West blog about writing, culture and the arts. After collecting a series of questions from Malaysian and British writers about the process of submitting a manuscript for publication, Yang-May interviewed UK literary agent Lucy Luck, right. The upshot: a no-nonsense insider's view on everything from what to put in your covering letter to an agent to how costs and payments break down to what's hot in the publishing world right now. To hear the entire interview – and to read Yang-May's own experiences of submitting to agents – go to www.fusionview.co.uk and click on the Getting Published category.



QWF relocates; Good prize stays

Quality Women's Fiction (QWF) Magazine has a new home across the pond. Founder Jo Good has passed on the reins to Kathie Giorgio who runs the AllWriters Workplace and Workshop in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Giorgio, published several times over in QWF is an adept hand, 'committed to publishing short stories from women all over the world,' with a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and an MFA in Fiction Writing from Vermont College. The biggest ripple? The quarterly is now biannual, with the 50th issue due out January 2007. All outstanding subscriptions will be honoured and the new editor is committed to publishing stories previously accepted by Good in the upcoming issues.

However, Good will continue to run the Phillip Good Memorial Prize competition from this side of the Atlantic. The top prize stays steady at £300, 2nd prize is £150 and 3rd prize is £75. The entry fee is £5 per story and short stories of up to 5,000 words can be submitted in any style or genre.

Overseas entrants note: for those of you without a UK bank account, payment is possible via Paypal on the QWF website (www.qwfmagazine.co.uk). The closing date for this year is 31 December.

Good will be judging this year's competition, and plans to publish an anthology featuring the prize-winning stories. She is also offering optional appraisals of entries by experienced writers; these will be available for £15 per story.

For more information – including results, updates and shortlisted entries – and a complete set of rules and regulations about the competition, go to the QWF website. Entry forms are downloadable from there; they are also available by emailing jo.good@ntlworld.com, or by sending an SAE to:

The Phillip Good Memorial Prize
1 Blake Close,
Bilton, Rugby
CV22 7LJ

For more information on QWF, go to <http://www.allwriters.org/qwf.asp>