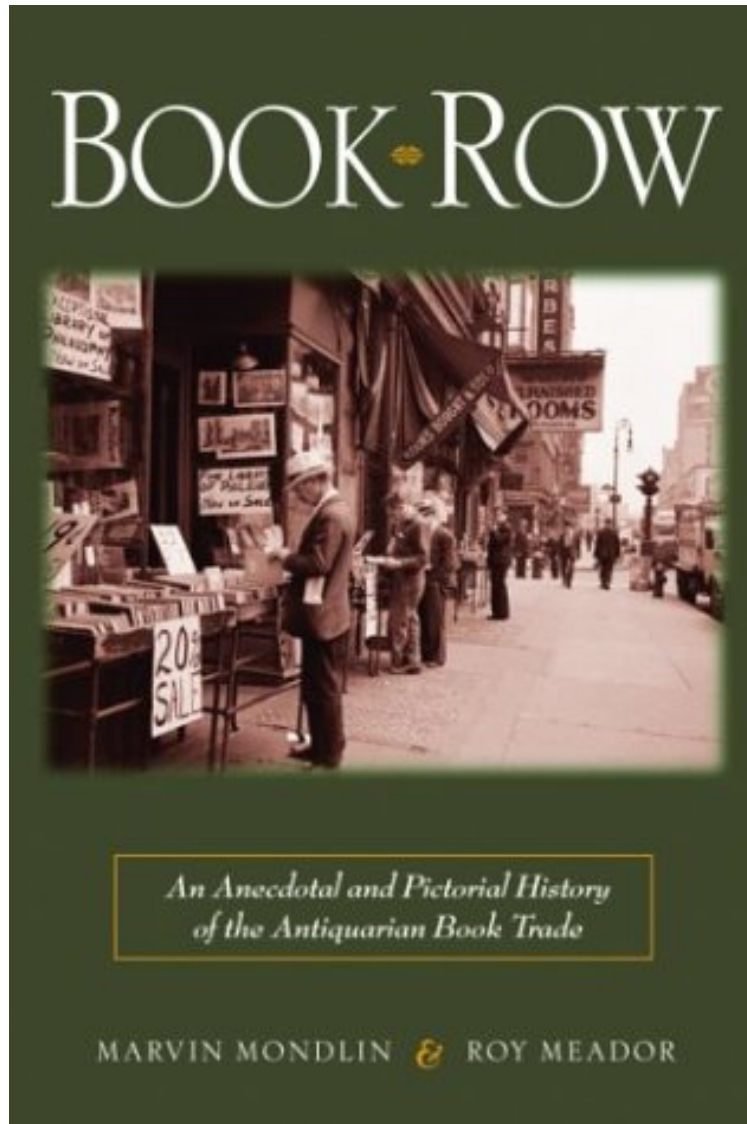


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Book Row: An Anecdotal and Pictorial History of the Antiquarian Book Trade

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Marvin Mondlin, Roy Meador : Book Row: An Anecdotal and Pictorial History of the Antiquarian Book Trade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Book Row: An Anecdotal and Pictorial History of the Antiquarian Book Trade:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A NOSTALGIC TRIPBy Philip LeibfredA wonderfully researched and well-written work. Reading this took me back to the mid-60s, when I traveled down with a friend to the East

Village every Saturday to check out all the stores on Book Row, primarily searching for the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs. All the stores are here, with tales of their histories and owners. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. My grandfather was a book dealer on Book Row, ...By ShulamitMy grandfather was a book dealer on Book Row, so I bought it to learn some more about his business. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Joe NYCExcellent.

The city has eight million stories, and this one unfolds just south of 14th Street in Manhattan, mostly on the seven blocks of Fourth Avenue bracketed by Union Square and Astor Place. There, for nearly eight decades, from the 1890s to the 1960s, thrived the New York Booksellers' Row, or, more commonly, Book Row. This illustrated memoir features historical photographs and is richly anecdotal, and as American as the rags-to-riches tale of the Strand, which began its life as a book stall on Eighth Street and today houses 2.5 million volumes in twelve miles of space. A story cast with colorful characters: like the book dealer George D. Smith; the irascible Russian-born book hunter Peter Stammer, the visionary Theodore C. Schulte; Lou Cohen, founder of the still-surviving Argosy Book Store; gentleman bookseller George Rubinowitz and his legendarily shrewish wife, Jenny, Book Row remembers names and places that all lovers, readers, buyers, sellers, and collectors of books should never forget. Rising rents, street crime, urban redevelopment, television are many of the reasons for the demise of Book Row, but in this volume, based on interviews with dozens of the people who bought, sold, and collected there, it lives again.

From Publishers WeeklyBetween 1890 and the 1960s, a bustling trade in used and rare books flourished in New York City along Fourth Avenue, between Union Square and Astor Place. Although the stores that once prospered on this little stretch of street have long since closed, the memories of the halcyon days of the bookselling trade in the city still live in the minds of former customers and store employees. Drawing on interviews and on seminal articles published in the early- and mid-20th century, Mondlin (estate buyer at the Strand) and book collector Meador vividly re-create the passion, wonder and adventure of the book trade as it developed along Book Row. The authors paint portraits of the booksellers who established the Row and who secured its reputation among book lovers. There is George D. Smith, the shrewd but gentlemanly book collector who helped Henry E. Huntington build his own library. Called by many "the greatest American bookdealer," Smith provided an example of the persistence and keen insight into the value of books that became the hallmark of the stores on Book Row. The authors also chronicle other dealers such as Eleanor Lowenstein, whose Corner Book Shop specialized in cookbooks; David Kirschenbaum, who developed a stellar collection of Walt Whitman that formed the foundation of the Library of Congress's collection; and Harry Gold, whose Aberdeen Book Company was the first among the antiquarian stores on Book Row to feature paperbacks, in the 1920s. The authors also reminisce about favorite stores, such as Albert F. Goldsmith's At the Sign of the Sparrow, which specialized in theater memorabilia and which very likely provided the setting for mystery writer Carolyn Wells's *Murder in the Bookshop*. Mondlin and Meador's affectionate paean to the denizens and dealers of Book Row brings to life the glory days of one of New York City's greatest bygone treasures. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From BooklistFor about 100 years, secondhand bookstores clustered on Fourth Avenue in New York City between Union Square and Astor Place. Their names read like an incantation: Samuel Weiser, Dauber Pine, Biblio Tannen, the Abbey, the Raven, the Corner. They are mostly gone now, save the Strand, whose mighty 16 miles of books are still funky despite a whole new audience online. Mondlin, who is estate buyer for the Strand, and Meador, a collector, have produced a sprawling and remarkably engaging omnium gatherum of names, personalities, and store lore. Some of the people they profile loved books; some of them loved the hunt; some of them mostly loved the mise-en-scene. Each chapter begins with an apt quote, and there are lists, acknowledgments, reminiscences, and photographs (the last not available in galleys). For anyone interested in the antiquarian book world, this will be a very special volume. GraceAnne DeCandidoCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

About the AuthorMarvin Mondlin began working in the book trade in 1951 and has been the estate book buyer for the Strand since 1974. He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America and numerous other book-related organizations. Roy Meador, a book collector and freelance writer, has been published in such national periodicals as the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Smithsonian, and Analog.