

# Entertainment

## Browsing in Edmonton's bookstores

### Bjarne's Books 10005 82 Ave

The marvellous smell of old books and wafts of jazz music greet you as you enter Bjarne's Books. This is a store made for browsing. Accessible shelves, wood cabinets, and natural lighting ease the way. And, as the sign on the cabinets says, "Browsers are welcome."

Specializing in second hand and antique books, Bjarne's forte is Canadiana. Currently, they have a copy of Paul Kane's *The Wanderings of An Artist*. It sells for \$1500.

Bjarne's leans heavily toward the classics. The history sections, literary criticism, and mythology sections are strong. Not that any sections fall short here.

Hardcovers abound but magazines are not ignored. Note the *Life Magazine* section — handy if you want to pick up the *Life Mag.* which was issued on your birthday.

Kids are not ignored. Ever wonder what happened to *The Bobbsey Twins* and *Dr. Dolittle*? Well they are alive and well and living on the shelves of Bjarne's.

Well organized displays further entice the shopper. These people know that the alphabet exists. Hold on to your pocket books when you wander through here, doubtless you will leave carrying an addition to your library.

### Audrey's Books Ltd 10702 Jasper Avenue

Audrey's Book Store is certainly spacious. If you bump into somebody in that store, it really is your fault, unless of course it is a particularly busy day.

It is also well lit, no need to worry about straining your eyes while trying to read books with small print.

And of course it is well organized. The books are grouped into numbered sections, and each section is usually closely related with the next one. For example, section 12 is on music and dance, followed by poetry, film, drama (by playwright), and photography. The displays in this store are very attractive and effective. Customers' eyes are automatically drawn to them because they are put in strategic positions. There is also a small area used for display by the stairs to the lower level of the store. Last week, the display was on "Tolkien, Discover His World."

The sales clerks are always very friendly and helpful.

Audrey's also has a wonderful children's section. Don't bring any kids or you'll never get out of there. This section takes up almost half the store's basement, it's bright, colourful, and full of posters. The Winnie-the-Pooh poster is so cuteee... One of the educational kits featured in this section is a "Question" wand which beeps when the answer is right and buzzes when it's wrong. The shelves in this particular section are designed such that the books are easily accessible for the children.

It's no fun going into this store for just a few minutes, you will have to stay for hours before you will be contented.

### Weinlos Books 10022-103 Street

Climbing the steps to the second floor to Weinlos Books, one doesn't know what to expect, however you'll be pleasantly surprised as you find a sunlit room and mahogany cabinets full of great books and jazz playing.

After tearing myself away from a section on Hollywood films and nostalgia and the likes of Fred and Ginger, I wandered through the rest of the store and noted the contents.

Weinlos has a section on Judaism the size of which I have never seen in any other store and at least four shelves contain works on Eastern and Western religion and philosophy.

They don't carry best sellers, but do get in many new releases that receive their own little corner to be displayed in.

Weinlos recently added a children's sec-



Father and daughter perusing the books at Bjarne's

Photo: Rob Schmidt

### The Edmonton Book Store Ltd 8909-112 Street Hub Mall

There are books, books, and more books in literally every nook and cranny of the Edmonton Book Store; from glossy art books to antique-looking old books. The store basically caters to the student population; however, on weekends, its clientele is mainly the general public.

Manager Barbara Ellis says, "We have quite a comprehensive collection of second-hand books, it's the mainline of our business. We are also expanding our selection of history, philosophy, literature, art, and photography books."

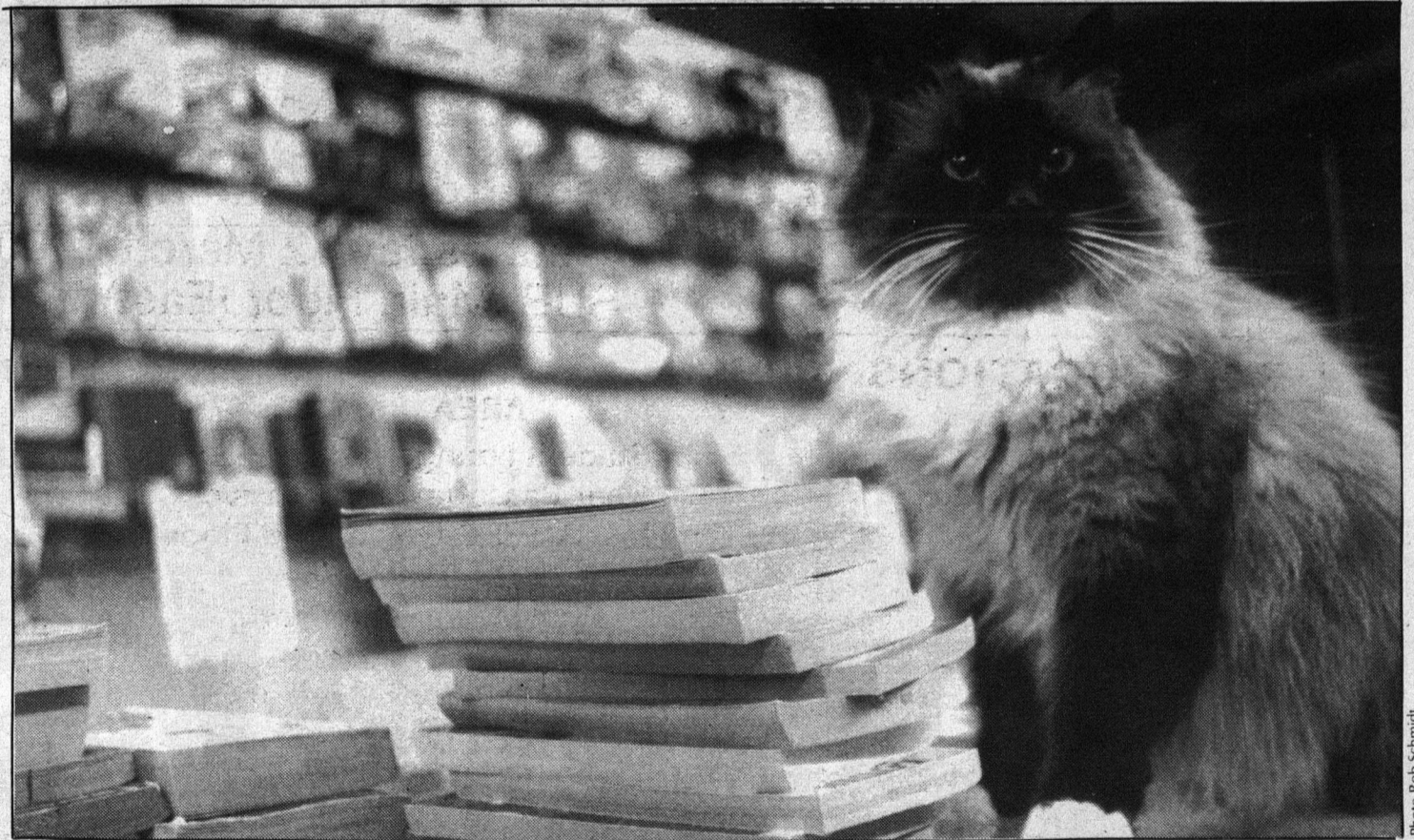
Efficient and helpful customer service and a wide range of books combined with the welcoming smell of old books entice passers-bys to come in and browse.

The customer service includes a "search service" at no cost for out of print books, as well as keeping customers (who request the service) up to date on newly arrived books in their particular fields of interests. (The store even supplies mints.)

Books are arranged according to their subjects; however, there's nothing alphabetical here, and some books on the upper rack are totally inaccessible, though it must be mentioned that one stool is provided at each level of the bookstore.

For book lovers who are willing to spend the time and have the patience to sort through the confusion, the rewards are great. Paperbacks are in abundance in this store, some offered at half-price, and there is more in the Bargain Basement, although the steps to the basement are treacherous.

The store carries secondhand classical and jazz records, as well.



The self-appointed guardian of the Wee Book Inn

Photo: Rob Schmidt

### The Wee Book Inn 10310-82nd Ave.

"This is paperback city," sniffed a browser as he perused the shelves of the Wee Book Inn. Nevertheless, a stroll down Whyte Avenue is incomplete without a visit to this shop which features second-hand books.

Don't expect to pick up Shakespeare's *Complait Works* cheap, but if you're in the market for "light" reading after a week of bending your mind around Plato or Sartre, this is the place to go.

Afficionados of the Harlequin Romance, blood and guts horror, Western novella, and sci-fi genres can sate their appetites at the Wee Book Inn.

Magazines are another forte. The Inn carries everything from back issues of *True Love* to *National Geographic*.

Classics even make the occasional appear-

ance, though the selection is sparse and eclectic to say the least.

Carlos Casteneda rubs shoulders with Ogden Nash.

Sections are clearly delineated with placards, however chaos reigns within the shelves of said sections. Are these books arranged according to author, title, or publisher... who knows?

The aisles are a tad narrow, making for lots of shoulder jostling, though browsing is encouraged... no evil eyed clerks here.

Two large, lazy, furry cats preside over proceedings adding much to the charm of this nook.

Writers: Audrey Djuwita  
Anne Watson  
Suzanne Lundrigan  
Photographer: Rob Schmidt