

Local bookstore owners attend SC Book Festival

BY TINA MCDUFFIE

Special to the Journal Scene

It may have been a bright, sunny day in Columbia, but the book lovers of South Carolina were oblivious.

That's because a record-breaking 3,850 of them were captivated by the wonders and delights of the 14th Annual SC Book Festival at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Local bookstore owners Tina and Tim McDuffie, of Here Be Books & Games, attended the weekend festival.

Among the many exciting presentations, events and exhibits were: readings, discussions and book signings by more than 90 authors; a three-day book appraisal fair; an exhibit hall filled with book-sellers, community organiza-

tions and writers' groups; a Fine Art Exhibit & Sale featuring works by 27 South Carolina artists; a variety of classes ranging from book writing to book collecting and the Antiquarian Aisle, filled with thousands of gorgeous antiquarian books for sale.

More than 90 authors were present for the festival, including: Dorothea Benton Frank, New York Times best selling author of Sullivan's Island and numerous other books set in the Lowcountry, and William Baldwin, author of Plantations of the Lowcountry.

Another popular event of the Festival was the three-day Book Appraisal Fair hosted by the Antiquarian Book Dealers Association of South Carolina (ABDASC).

Though the line was sometimes long, at least 45 festi-

val attendees took advantage of the opportunity to have up to three of their most treasured books appraised by professionals for the nominal fee of \$10.

"This is a service we offer every year," said Don Rosick of Dr. Books who was also an exhibitor at the Festival. "One lady brought in a signed copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It wasn't a first edition. It was an anniversary copy, but it was signed by Harper Lee!" Other items of interest appraised by ABDASC members included Armory of Windsor Castle, brought in by a sword collector, which appraised for \$1500.

Perhaps the highest-valued appraisal, based on photographs brought in by the owner, was given to Roll, Jordan, Roll which appraised

for over \$10,000.

While the Exhibit Hall was packed with booths featuring many interesting items and information for readers, writers and the like, my favorite place was the Antiquarian Aisle. Wonderful words, wrapped in gorgeous, old

books with their gilt edges, leather bindings, embossed covers, beautiful illustrations, and that wonderful old-paper smell lined the row in little nook-like booths. There were many tantalizing temptations and a few weren't even books. Gumshoe Books had

two very lovely old games on display that I would've loved to acquire. One depicted a baseball field complete with standing miniature ball players.

For more information about the SCBook Festival, visit www.scbookfestival.org.