

Gotham Book Mart History

“The **Gotham Book Mart** was a famous midtown Manhattan bookstore and cultural landmark that operated from 1920 to 2007. The business was located first in a small basement space on West 45th Street near the Theater District, it then moved to 51 West 47th Street, then spent many years at 41 West 47th Street within the Diamond District in Manhattan, New York City, before finally moving to 16 East 46th Street. Beyond merely selling books, the store virtually played as a literary salon, hosting meetings of the Finnegans Wake Society, the James Joyce Society, poetry and author readings, art exhibits, and more. It was known for its distinctive sign above the door which read, "Wise Men Fish Here" (sign created by artist John Held, Jr.). The store specialized in poetry, literature, books about theater, art, music and dance. It sold both new books as well as out-of-print and rare books.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gotham_Book_Mart



“Frances Steloff, left, and Andreas Brown at the Gotham Book Mart in 1975. Larry C. Morris/The New York Times”
McMurtry, Larry. *The New York Times*, 10 May 2014.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/11/opinion/sunday/lost-booksellers-of-new-york.html#>

Accessed 12 April 2017.

“The Gotham Book Mart was famous for its literary eminences. A December 1948 party for Osbert and Edith Sitwell (seated, center) drew a roomful of bright lights to the Gotham Book Mart: clockwise from W. H. Auden, on the ladder at top right, were Elizabeth Bishop, Marianne Moore, Delmore Schwartz, Randall Jarrell, Charles Henri Ford (cross-legged, on the floor), William Rose Benét, Stephen Spender, Marya Zaturenska, Horace Gregory, Tennessee Williams, Richard Eberhart, Gore Vidal and José Garcia Villa. (Photo: Gotham Book Mart)”

Chan, Sewell. “Gotham Book Mart Holdings Are Given to Penn.” *The New York Times*, 2 January 2009.

<https://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/01/02/gotham-book-mart-holdings-are-given-to-penn/?r=1>

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Sources:

Rogers, W.G. *Wise men fish here : the story of Frances Steloff and the Gotham Book Mart*. Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., [c1965]

“Gotham Book Mart”

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“The Gotham Book Mart’s Final Chapter?”

<http://www.villagevoice.com/arts/the-gotham-book-marts-final-chapter-7157115>

“A Look into the Past of Bookstores: Gotham Book Mart”

<http://unpackingthebookstore.susqu.edu/the-history-of-gotham-book-mart/>

“Frances Steloff Is Dead at 101; Founded the Gotham Book Mart”

<http://www.nytimes.com/1989/04/16/obituaries/frances-steloff-is-dead-at-101-founded-the-gotham-book-mart.html>

“Literary Fishing Hole Gets a For-Sale Sign; Bookshop Seeking Less Chaotic Home”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/07/24/arts/literary-fishing-hole-gets-a-for-sale-sign-bookshop-seeking-less-chaotic-home.html>

“Wise Men May Need a New Fishing Hole”

<http://www.nysun.com/new-york/wise-men-may-need-a-new-fishing-hole/39811/>



“Photo of the iconic sign created by [John Held, Jr.](#) for the [Gotham Book Mart](#).”

Image courtesy of [Chris Silver Smith](#). 26 October 2008.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gotham-Book-Mart-Sign.jpg>

Accessed 12 April 2017.