Marvin Mondlin and Roy Meador. *Book Row: An Anecdotal and Pictorial History of the Antiquarian Book Trade*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 2004. xxi, 407 pp.; \$41.95 (Can.), \$28.00 (US) (hardcover). ISBN 0 78 671305 4.

Bibliophiles too young or untravelled to recall the glorious days when more than 30 second-hand and antiquarian bookstores lined New York City's Fourth Avenue between Astor Place and Union Square, spread along side streets, and up Broadway, will nonetheless find *Book Row* an enchanting invocation of some of the book world's most famous ghosts. The authors, both veterans of many years of buying and selling on Book Row, conjure up these ghosts in biographical vignettes laced with anecdotes and accompanied by numerous photographs. Fourth Avenue's Book Row was pioneered at the beginning of the twentieth century by iconic figures like George D. Smith, "Czar of the auction rooms" while Dr Rosenbach was still learning his trade, and Peter Stammer, prototype of the curmudgeonly bookseller (albeit one with a generous side), who would as soon insult a customer as sell to him. Well populated with booksellers by the 1920s and 30s, Book Row survived Depression and war to flourish in the 1940s and 50s, only to suffer a long, slow decline through the century's last three decades. Eventually, rising rents, retirements and death had taken their toll, and left none standing but the Strand Book Store, steadfast still at the corner of Twelfth and Broadway.

Over the course of many years the authors interviewed more than 160 of Book Row's dealers, collectors, and frequent book buyers. To reinforce this wealth of anecdotal reminiscence, they ransacked enough published sources to fill 11 closely-set pages of bibliography, with entries that range from volumes of history, biography and memoir, to dealers' catalogues, book-trade directories, and numerous articles in the likes of the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Antiquarian Book Monthly Review*, and *AB Weekly*. They describe the historic factors, economic and cultural, which account for both the rise and the decline of Book Row, and they note with pleasure its apparent rebirth with the establishment of new businesses, such as Gallagher's Bookshop and Alabaster Bookshop on Fourth Avenue, and a "new cluster" of small stores on west Eighteenth Street, "in the shadow of Barnes & Noble's main store and sales annex," which draws customers to the area, much as Wanamaker's Department Store once drew browsers to Fourth Avenue's Book Row.

As for the book's misleadingly general title, even some New Yorkers may be forgiven for attributing it to that city's stereotypical self-absorption. By focusing on Book Row, the authors must leave untold the stories of more upmarket antiquarian dealers, such as Rostenberg & Stern, who operated uptown, although Madeleine Stern, equally distinguished as a literary historian and biographer, did supply the book's foreword. Quite apart from its historical scholarship, the great appeal of this charming volume lies in the anecdotal histories and biographies behind such venerable and venerated firms as Biblo & Tannen, Dauber & Pine, and the Strand, where dealing in expensive rarities was supplemented (and subsidized) by their daily bread-and-butter trading in good, used books offered at cheap prices. Equally engaging are the many charming pen-portraits of members of the trade who, though merchants, also established their reputations as scholars, such as Ike "Last of the Great Scouts" Brussel and Eleanor Lowenstein, doyenne of the Corner Book Shop, a leading authority and pre-eminent purveyor of culinaria, who nonetheless found cooking bothersome. The result is an eminently serviceable depiction of an important aspect of the social and cultural history of a great city, and one that will appeal to every book collector and dealer who has ever enjoyed the pleasures of book hunting.

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Edward D. Herbert and Emanuel Tov, eds. *The Bible as Book: The Hebrew Bible and the Judean Desert Discoveries*. London and New Castle, Del: The British Library and Oak Knoll Press in Association with The Scriptorium: Center for Christian Antiquities, 2002. x, 360 pp., 8 pp. plates; \$60.00 (US) (hardcover). ISBN 1-58456-083-5 (US); 0-7123-4726-7 (UK).

Throughout my years of full-time parish ministry I was often asked questions about the Dead Sea Scrolls or, more generally about where the Bible came from. It seems that popular rumour credits the scrolls with a strange power of affirming or denying all manner of things about the origin of the Bible and Christianity. These questions were often curiosity prompted by seeing more or less reliable reports in the press, but underlying them were serious concerns about the