

A Guide To Harvard Square's Fifteen Bookstores

By Charles Foster Ford

Not all books are available at the Tech Coop, but nearly any book can be found in one of Harvard Square's 15 bookstores. This guide lists the bookstores and their specialties.

Textbooks

Only four of the stores sell textbooks; they are: (1) Harvard Coop Textbook Annex, (2) Barnes & Noble, (3) Phillips Book Store, (4) Harvard Bookstore. (See Map.)

They all sell and buy textbooks, new and used, all year round, though their busiest time is at the beginning of each semester.

The Textbook Annex of the Harvard Coop is probably the most likely to stock books used at MIT. The Coop is the largest and most complete bookstore in the square. However, during the "textbook rush" season, textbooks are arranged by Harvard course number. Students from any college but Harvard must have the help of salesmen to find their books. Unfortunately, Coop sales people

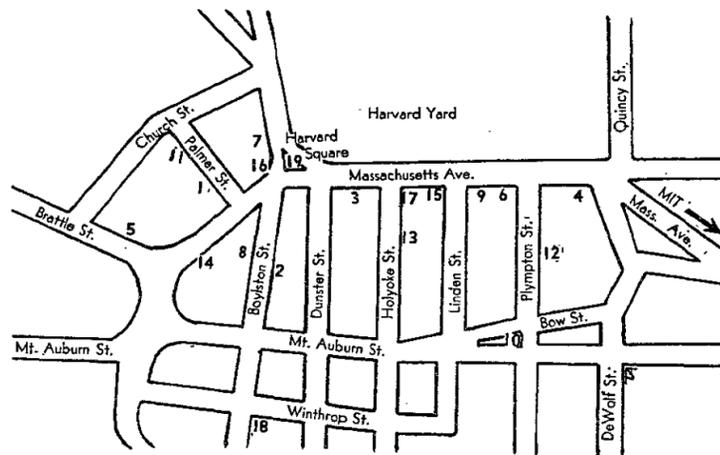
differ widely in their memories, their familiarity with books, their knowledge of advanced sciences, and even their familiarity with the store they work in. It pays to try several, if you can find them.

Barnes & Noble, on Boylston Street, is one branch of a big store in downtown New York. They have a good general textbook department in the rear of the store, and the manager maintains a useful selection of technical books. Since the Cambridge store has easy access to the large warehouses in New York, special orders for used textbooks can often be filled in less than one week.

Phillips Book Store has been selling textbooks for 45 years. During the "normal" periods of the year, their specialty is "good" new books in all fields. Their selection of advanced technical books is excellent, as are their art books and books for children.

Harvard Bookstore (not to be confused with the Harvard Coop) is probably the best general bookstore in Harvard Square. What it lacks in size and neatness it makes up in knowledge and awareness of the book trade. A large table of "bargain books," fine for browsing, is a permanent feature of the store. In slack times, their cellar stock-room is open to customers; this dusty maze is often a gold-mine. The Harvard Bookstore is open until 10 p.m., six nights a week. During the textbook rush, both Phillips and Barnes & Noble ask customers to write out their requests on special forms; at Harvard Bookstore books must be asked for; only at the Coop is any self-serv-

Bookstore Locations



- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Harvard Coop—Textbook Annex | 10 Starr Book Shop |
| 2 Barnes & Noble | 11 Cantabrigia |
| 3 Phillips Book Store | 12 Grolier Bookshop |
| 4 Harvard Bookstore | 13 Thomas More |
| 5 The Paperback Booksmith | 14 The Bookshelf |
| 6 Schoenhof's | 15 Felix's Newsstand |
| 7 Harvard Coop (main store) | 16 Harvard Square Newsstand |
| 8 The Mandrake | 17 Harvard Smoke Shop |
| 9 Pangloss | 18 College Pharmacy |
| | 19 Sheldon Cohen's Newsstand |

ice system attempted during this period.

Trade Books

But Harvard Square's bookstores are not limited to textbooks. Many stores (including the four already mentioned) carry paperbacks and other "trade books" (all books other than text-editions).

The Paperback Booksmith, opposite the Brattle Theatre, is the newest bookstore in the square. They stock hardly any hardbound books and none of the "text-edition" paperbacks, but try to be as

complete as possible in the field of paperbacks generally. Books can be ordered there from warehouses or local distributors, and such orders are filled in 3 days. "Dedicated to The Art of Browsing," they turn on good f.m. music, and leave customers alone. Open till midnight, 6 nights a week.

Schoenhof's book store specializes in foreign language books, most of them imported directly. For books in languages other than French, German & Spanish,

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