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Another year comes to an end. And what a year it has been! National and international events aside, the book trade is itself changing and it seems timely to review some of the major events in 2011 as we have reported in this newsletter. Here are some of the headlines.

January

Two companies received Royal Warrants: Blisset & Co., and Bibliophile Ltd. Twenty branches of Waterstones to close... and UK Libraries came under more financial pressure – Devon Libraries started to sell off valuable books. British Bookshops went into administration. Our business survey suggested (from 400 who took part) that trade in 2011 would be much better about the same but 41 per cent thought they would see an increase in their sales. World Book Market offered new Freeware. HD Fairs went into liquidation. And major floods occurred in Brisbane (Australia).

February

WH Smith buys 22 bookshops. Canadian authors hire their own editors. Euro MP raises the Amazon Price Parity issue; Delays in postage to USA. Borders book chain fails, and Australian book chain Angus & Robertson – and Whitcoulls went into voluntary administration. Books created from Wikipedia entries by Alphascript and Betascript were exposed.

Major earthquake hits Christchurch (New Zealand). Several dealers lost their businesses and were lucky to get out of their buildings.

March

Abebooks acquires ZVAB. The 'Bookdealer' will not reappear in print. Devastation in Christchurch clear for all to see – book dealers suffer. Another comic fetches high price: Archie Comics No 1 (1942) made \$167,300. Publishers in Europe raided by EU inspectors – all about the agency model for e-books. Whitcoulls in New Zealand for sale. Sales of books about Hitler boom. Google loses battle to create world's largest library – US judge rules. Michael Treloar launches 'Books without Borders' – to raise funds for dealers in Christchurch. Major earthquake and tsunami hits Japan.

April

PBFA joins up with Nelson Events at Alexandra Palace for quarterly fairs. Swiss Government re-introduce fixed prices for books. Letter from Mr Yoshishige Onuma Vice Chairman of Tokyo Association of Dealers in Old Books - expressing appreciation for international concern for dealers affected by the tsunami. Bloomsbury Auctions issued statement about the financial status. Ferrari publishes the world's most expensive new book. Worcestershire CC sends books to auction. AbeBooks.com hit by hacker. ANZAAB launches 'Bookfare'. PBFA launches e-newsletter. Dog bites Kindle. Gary Dahlberg's collection of comic worth \$2m. Laurence Worms, ABA's new President, issues policy statement. The demise of book chains was highlighted in the UK's Guardian newspaper.

May

Batman drawing fetches \$448,125. EU Directive about book returns, e-books and printed book statistics, concern for high street bookshops grow, the fondle factor – why books will survive, Amazon accused of wrecking book trade, coffee-table books and rare books unaffected by e-market.

June

Amazon enters traditional publishing, US States to tax websites, three in ten UK households have no books, last Borders shops in Australia to close, IOBA 'Standard' re-launched, Imperial measurements for books not illegal, Spanish website fights domain seizure, Benny Gillies retires, more aftershocks in Christchurch (NZ), true cost of abandoning cheques, Bibliophile celebrates receiving Royal Warrant, High Court blocks Gloucestershire CC closing libraries, and more news about the plight of New Zealand dealers in Christchurch.

July

Amazon buys Book Depository, Elsevier launches rare books on line, U-turn on cheques, The Bookman trailed, printed book sales fall, more aftershocks (7,400 in 12 months) in Christchurch, opposition grows to Amazon's purchase of Book Depository, Amazon v. California on tax issues. Book dealers working from home and insurance issues, Reader's Digest for sale, Bloomsbury Auctions acquired by The Fine Art Auction Group, the business of Bernard J Shapero sold to Bookbank Ltd.

August

More on Amazon and taxes (USA), riots insurance cover, more comic set record prices, QR codes appear in force, Radio Times sold, US court bans books printed overseas, innovative ways of selling books: from a canal barge, and by the roadside in New York.

September

More on US court's ban on books printed overseas, dealers have differing views about the future of the trade. US Postal Service in financial trouble. PBFA Directory of shops launched, the Amwell Book Company, International Internships, errors in books, last Borders shop closed in the USA.

October

Copyright fight in USA, Booksellers Association confirm 400 shops closed in 5 years, Connecticut v. Amazon, UK Booksellers Association seeks government help to fix the price of books, comics as an investment, Cecil Court celebrates Mozart, UK's Office of Fair Trading approves Amazon's purchase of Book Depository, US pundit predicts a great future for used book stores.

November

Congolese man sues over 'Tintin' book, three bookshops lauded by UK Parliament, France to have higher VAT on books, Amazon demands ISBN numbers, UK cheque cards may return, stolen books in Canada, UK library closures declared unlawful, charity retailers deny damaging 'indies', Kindles damaged by airport x-ray machines, prestigious book shop opens in Oxford, France VAT resent VAT increase.

December

Amazon testifies in support of a Federal on-line Tax, authors and their sheds, more stolen books, show-rooming, more stolen books, Superman comic fetches \$2m, more on France's VAT issue, Biblio.com launches 'make-me-an-offer', UK Government offers some help to retailers, smart phones used to check prices – a threat to all retailers; book swaps on London's Underground proposed, New Zealand dealer has book seized as listed on 'banned books list'.

The trade will miss those mentioned in our columns who left us during the year: Nigel Williams, Edna Sanderson, Brian Mills, Peter B. Howard, Michael Silverman, Bob Gould, Ron Eastwood, David Edrich, Victor Andrews, Robyn Fryde, and Richard Landon.