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From the Selected Works of Sidney F. Huttner

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David S. & Susan Siegel. The Used Booklover's Guide to New England

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A few years ago, the Siegels found themselves visiting a great many bookshops and attending a great many bookfairs. While preparing for a trip to England, they also discovered *Drif’s Guide to Secondhand & Antiquarian Bookshops in England*. As a result, they now visit even more bookshops and bookfairs, and they publish two guidebooks, one listing over 600 booksellers in the six state New England area, the other more than 900 in four states of the Mid-Atlantic region. A third guide, which will cover the South Atlantic states (Maryland to Florida, including Washington, DC), is in process.

The guides are organized by state, then location and type of business (open shop, available by appointment, mail only) and include local and regional maps which aid in finding shops which “cluster” near each other. A “specialty index” gathers listed booksellers under 250 subject categories (including books on books, fine bindings, and printing but not bookbinding, book arts, calligraphy, papermaking, or other subjects of direct interest to GBW members).

Each entry include information on the character of stock, number of volumes, hours, address (including location help, parking, etc.), owner and year established. Perhaps half of the entries also include a few sentences of comment. The comments are useful, but polite, and those fond of Drif will miss his abbreviated descriptions and pointed assessments (“netgow” = “not easy to get on with”; “farts” = “follows around recommending the stock”; “wylah” = “watches you like a hawk”.

The Siegels’ guides are thoughtfully edited and well-produced. They will certainly prove useful to travelers and weekend bookhunters who can organize their itineraries to leave the Interstates in order to seek out and make the acquaintance of interesting but less well known booksellers and bookshops.