

July 2013

The EastAfrican

New York BookExpo 2013: Reporter's Notebook

by Alan Canton and Mayapriya Long

I've attended some 20 of BEAs and it is always fun for me to discover both book and non-book offerings that are a bit out of the ordinary.

Let's face it book stores now have almost as many non-book offerings as books these days. Even the big box stores are full of games and puzzles, yoga mats and music.

Here are some of the most interesting offerings I found.



I was really taken with one of quirky books at BEA... a books you might like to have... but would probably never buy. I give my "quirk award" to *The Book That Started It All: The Original Working Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous* from Hazelden. This is an extraordinary reproduction of the original working manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, with essays and notes by a panel of celebrated AA historians. It's really a work of art. I will buy it and give it to a friend on his upcoming 25th anniversary of sobriety.



This year's best walk-around costume award goes to Thimble The Fairy from

Thimble Books. No one knows her real name, it is not on any of her books or her website <http://thimblethefairy.com/>. She was walking around the hall sprinkling people with fairy dust (glitter) and everyone enjoyed it. I hope she got a lot of press (from the few reporters in the place) because she worked the show well.



One of the great ladies of the small press was at the show; Tordis Isselhardt of Images From The Past, which publishes books on regional/cultural historical topics. The latest book from her company *At the Top of the Mountain: The Adventures of Will Ryan and the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1936-38* completes a three book series (by Judith Edwards) for middle school readers based on the author's fascinating research, familiarity with the region, and fictional cast of characters.



I was really surprised to see PBS at the book show! But there they were with a huge poster about their newest hit show. I'm not sure this is such a good use of the membership dues people pay to their local station, some of which is passed on to PBS. Maybe BEA sells them a booth at a reduced nonprofit rate?