SUBJECT: Seeking rare book donations for benefit auction to help Ukrainian Books and Booksellers

Dear ,

Since attacking Ukraine in February, 2022, the Russian military has destroyed hundreds of bookstores, libraries, and publishing enterprises, leaving thousands without jobs, and sometimes without homes.

Soon after the start of the war, a small group of writers and booksellers (Mitchell Kaplan, Jane Unrue, Carolyn Forche, Christopher Merrill, and Askold Melnyczuk) joined forces with Coral Gables Community Foundation, and Oleksandr Afonin, president of the Ukrainian Publishers and Booksellers Association, under the name Helping Ukrainian Books and Booksellers (HUBB) to fundraise in support of their colleagues in the Ukrainian book trade.

Over the last ten months they have raised over $30,000. The first $10,000 was distributed among some 60 individuals whose lives have been disrupted by the war. The Ukrainian Booksellers and Publishers Association documented the disbursement of these modest grants. In the second round, the UBPA invited libraries whose collections had been affected by the war to apply for grants to supply them with new books. They were able to fund 30 out of the nearly 1,000 libraries that applied.

Because the Ukrainian government is channeling its resources to the war effort, it's up to civil society to make sure Ukrainian culture survives. To that end, HUBB is preparing an international rare book auction with the help of ABAA bookseller Arthur Fournier and Avi Kovacevich of Catalog Sale to raise additional funds in support of our colleagues under siege.

We're asking you to aid our effort by donating a rare or collectible book, manuscript, photograph, artwork or item or ephemera from your personal collection which Catalogue Sales will put up for online auction on Saturday, November 4th.

Ideal items will be in excellent physical condition with no missing pages, or significant condition issues. In addition to important first edition and signed works of literature, poetry, history, and science, Catalog Sale's loyal auction bidders prize interesting graphic design, as well as items with strong social justice resonance and historical interest.

To participate in the auction, we invite you to contribute up to 10 images of candidate items that may fit these criteria. Please send digital pictures of these materials to hubb@catalog-sale.com. We will reply within 48 hours to all submissions, with further instructions about how to prepare selected items for the auction by mail.

All donors will receive a letter from HUBB acknowledging the generous gift to its nonprofit mission.

We thank you in advance.

In solidarity,

Askold

with

Mitchell Kaplan, Jane Unrue, Carolyn Forche, Christopher Merrill, Oleksandr Afonin, Arthur Fournier and Avi Kovacevich