



THE  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**Press Release**

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## **Book Sale at Main Library December 2 Honors Memory of Legendary Oscar Treadwell**

Through a generous donation of his family, books from the collection of Oscar Treadwell, the late, great beloved aficionado of poetry and jazz, will be sold by The Friends of the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. The sale will be held on Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the Program Area of the Main Library (South Building), 800 Vine Street, downtown. Each item will include a specially designed bookplate indicating that it is from the library of Oscar Treadwell.

“We’ve received about 50 boxes of books, mostly jazz and poetry,” said Friends’ Executive Director Anne Keller. “His family felt it important that his love of jazz and poetry be shared with his fans. It’s a priceless piece of local history, and one more way that OT’s legacy will be continued.”

Mr. Treadwell’s family wishes were to have the proceeds of the sale benefit the Library. “The Friends provide funds for thousands of programs at the Main Library and all the branches and also supports the annual *ReadQuest* summer reading program, as well as add items to the collection,” said Ms. Keller. “This is a chance for Oscar’s fans to honor both his memory and the Library by purchasing one or more of his books.”

Family Friend David Delegator said, "It was the wishes of the family that his collection of books, especially the poetry he read on his program, be a legacy to the city. Therefore, the family wanted his listeners to have an opportunity to acquire personally meaningful books from his collection."

### **About OT**

Mr. Treadwell’s career as a radio personality dates from 1947. His concentration in jazz led to friendships with many jazz luminaries including Dave Brubeck, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, many who immortalized him in music. First came Wardell Grey’s “Treadin with Treadwell.” Then, Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie created “An Oscar for Treadwell” in honor of their friend. Thelonious Monk followed suit with “Oska T.” OT moved to Cincinnati in 1960, and has been a legend ever since.

### **Mr. Treadwell’s Love for the Library**

In 1993, Mr. Treadwell donated 308 reel-to-reel taped broadcasts of his popular jazz program, *Jazz with O.T.*, to the Library. *Jazz with O.T.* aired over WGUC from 1975-1985. In 1994, most of these tapes were transferred to audiocassette. The resulting 258 audiocassettes feature seminal jazz musicians of the 20th century, such as Charlie Parker,

Miles Davis, Red Garner, Louis Armstrong, along with Oscar Treadwell's commentary. In the late 1990s, Mr. Treadwell donated an additional 48 digital audiotapes of his program. In June 2004, 250 broadcast (reel-to-reel and digital audio tapes) were transferred to compact disc. This is a circulating collection available in the Films & Recordings Department at the Main Library. Additionally, Mr. Treadwell also donated over 5,000 recordings of various musicians on compact disk.

Call (369-6035) or email ([friendsofplch1@fuse.net](mailto:friendsofplch1@fuse.net)) for more information.

✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).**