

Guide to the Corner Book Store Collection

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Collection Number V-65-4-4

Accession Number 2021.13

Compiled 2021

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Ithaca's iconic Corner Book Store has had a long and storied history since its founding in the 1830s. David Daniel Spencer established a bookstore in Ithaca and it prospered under several different owners in several different locations, including on the corner of State and Tioga Streets. When that building was destroyed by fire and replaced by the Finch Block, the bookstore's owner, Dudley Finch, joined in a partnership with a previous owner, George Apgar. The store was later known as Taylor & Carpenter and was incorporated as the Corner Book Store in 1911. It moved to the Blood Building on North Tioga Street in 1923 and to a later, and final location on South Cayuga Street in 1969. It closed for good in 2000. It served a broad and enthusiastic audience and, in its later years, was known for its expansive children's section. Customers came from great distances to shop there.

Ithaca has long been the home of a vibrant book business, with more book stores per capita than many larger cities. As the 21st century has progressed, this distinction is less pronounced, but its highly educated reading population has supported book stores since the early days of the city.

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