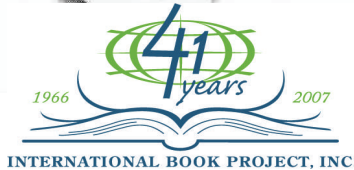


# Books Abroad



## USPS raises rates, restructures international shipping

The United States Postal Service raised rates and restructured international shipping in mid May, moves that particularly affect the International Book Project and other humanitarian aid organizations.

For over forty years, IBP has sent Mail-Bags (M-Bags) of books around the globe via USPS international economy parcel post service, a cost effective option in which parcels traveled overseas by boat. Under the new international shipping structure, economy parcel post service has been discontinued. Mailbags will now be classified as International Priority Mail and shipped by air. The average cost of an M-Bag shipment will increase almost 300 percent, from \$1.05 per pound to \$3.95 per pound.

The Postal Services contends that the restructuring eliminates duplicated services, allowing for more efficient parcel processing and delivery. Still, for non-profit organizations distributing educational resources to remote areas, economy parcel post Mail-Bags were by far the cheapest way to send small shipments of books and other printed materials.

A number of organizations that rely heavily on Mail-Bag shipments, like the United States Peace Corps, have protested the rate hikes, circulating petitions and participating in meetings with Congress and other high-ranking officials. Many organizations are proposing a special non-profit rate for Mail-Bag shipments, given the vital role they play in disseminating books to isolated and marginalized communities in desperate need of humanitarian aid. To express your opinion about the restructuring and rate hikes, contact your congressman or sign the petition to Congress at

<http://www.petitiononline.com/zikomo/petition.html>.

## IBP ships over 250 M-Bags in early 2007

There was no spring break for the IBP staff in 2007 as the organization rushed to ship as many Mail-Bags as possible before the USPS rate hikes took effect in mid-May. IBP managed to distribute 255 handcrafted book shipments to 135 locations across the developing world. Libraries, schools, community centers and Peace Corps volunteers from Nicaragua to Nepal have been receiving their shipments throughout the summer and fall. Check out our Mail Box page inside to read excerpts from some of our recipients' gracious thank-you letters. They are a testament to the difference even one book can make.

Despite the meteoric rise in postage rates, IBP will continue to operate its Mail-Bag program, through foundation and donor support. Since IBP's founding in the basement of Harriet Van Meter's home over four decades ago, the Mail-Bag has been the cornerstone of our mission, providing direly needed educational resources to isolated communities and small, yet vital literacy organizations while connecting American donors with their counterparts abroad.

A minimum donation of \$100.00 is needed to sponsor a Mail-Bag shipment to an IBP-approved organization. Let's continue to make literacy, educational opportunity and intercultural dialogue a reality for children and adults in bustling cities and rural villages across the developing world. Thanks to all the sponsors who have made our M-Bag program possible for over forty years.

## Match Grant Targets New Donors

Patrons contributing to the International Book Project for the first time will distribute more books for their buck, thanks to a match grant that targets new donors.

The “New Donor Match-Grant,” sponsored by long-time IBP supporter Kate Gregg, will double the gifts of newcomers up to \$10,000. Designed to broaden the organization’s donor base in a time of soaring postage and operational costs, the grant is a wonderful tool for getting friends and family involved with IBP.

IBP encourages all of its supporters to think globally and act locally by sharing the story of the organization in communities across the country. To help with the cause, we have an array of promotional information including brochures, bookmarks, and an inspiring video that details IBP’s history and programs. Patrons can be directed to our website located at [www.internationalbookproject.org](http://www.internationalbookproject.org) to view this video through YouTube and to learn more about our programs and services. Still, the most powerful pitch is a matter of simple math as every new donation is matched dollar for dollar!

For more information about the “New Donor Match-Grant” or to receive promotional information, call us at (859) 254-6771 or 1-888-BOOK or email us at [ibpdirector@alltel.net](mailto:ibpdirector@alltel.net) Thanks to Kate Gregg for sponsoring this exciting grant!

## Give the Gift of Literacy

Support IBP with your holiday purchases

Tired of those stressful holiday trips to the mall? Shopping for that person who has it all?

The International Book Project is here to help, with our trademark gift idea for the upcoming holiday season: the Joy Card.

Patrons can contribute to IBP as a gift to a loved one, who will receive a card, uniquely designed with the artwork of Ugandan children. For gifts of \$100 or more, a Mail-Bag shipment of books will be sent to an IBP-approved organization, in honor of the card’s recipient. Honorees will also be listed in the spring newsletter.

The artwork featured on the cards was collected by a Ugandan artist, working in cooperation with the International Book Project. Students from a number of elementary schools in Kampala, Uganda’s capital, and the surrounding region participated in the project. The children created artwork representative of various aspects of their daily lives. Many of the pictures were included in IBP’s children book, “The Truth-Telling Tree,” which has been submitted to publishing companies across the country. IBP recently sent a container of primary and secondary school texts to Uganda and many of the children involved in the project will benefit from the book shipment.

Give the gift of Literacy this holiday season with an IBP Joy Card!



## Donations were made in honor and memory of the following:

### In Honor

Laura Friesen  
Lona Kay Lucas  
Kathleen Rogers  
Sheila Kalas  
Dean & Mary Hammond  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sordyl  
Kimberly Stanley  
Jeraldyn Popsil

Kim Sherman  
Chris Mathsen  
Curt Mathsen  
Captain Bob Wilson  
Kim Hiatt  
Julie Housiaux  
Sharon Salzberg  
Victor Childers

### In Memory

Jean Benjamin  
Florence Walker  
Amb. James Rentschler  
Eileen Janns  
Sarah Chester  
Betty Hodnet  
Margaret Schmidt  
Adam Cooke  
Betsy Alexander  
Marie Speck  
Melvina Newman  
Harriet Van Meter  
Jean Graves  
Gordon Prentice  
William Morley Owen

## Container Shipments Criss-Cross Globe

### IBP distributes books from the Caribbean to the South Pacific

Students across the seven seas will have access to quality educational resources for years to come, thanks to six IBP container shipments directed to diverse locales around the globe. The shipments, sent to Guatemala, Peru, Jamaica, Sudan, Uganda, and Papua New Guinea, are comprised of an array of learning and literacy materials, including primary, secondary, and higher education curriculum, and Spanish language resources. In total, the shipments encompassed approximately 105,000 volumes with a monetary value of over \$2 million dollars.

#### Papua New Guinea

In September, IBP sent over 25,000 books to Malenesia Education Development Foundation, a non-governmental organization that promotes literacy, educational opportunity, and environmental awareness in rural and impoverished areas throughout Papua New Guinea. The shipment included multiple-copy primary and secondary school textbooks as well as library books. The books will be distributed to a number of schools in the Tambul Nebilye district, an isolated region in the Western Highlands.

Over eighty percent of Papua New Guinea's citizens live in rural areas and the national literacy rate is under sixty percent. The country's mountainous region is home to some of the earth's least explored terrain, with many villages having little contact with the outside world. IBP's book shipment, valued at over \$300,000, will impact approximately 10,000 students, attending schools that presently lack both libraries and basic classroom resources. Thanks to the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation for sponsoring this shipment of desperately-needed educational materials.

#### Sudan

In July, IBP sent a sea container of over 20,000 higher education books to the University of Khartoum, a prestigious and highly-selective college based in the Sudanese capital. The books, donated by McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, cover a variety of subjects, including engineering, math, business, and science. The brand new volumes have an estimated value of \$1 million.

As one of Africa's leading institutions of higher learning, the University of Khartoum is an oasis of educational opportunity in a nation crippled by political and economic instability in recent years. The school prides itself on being a champion of development in Sudan as it provides educational programs and resources that are not available elsewhere in the country. IBP's shipment was sent in cooperation with the Brother's Brother Foundation, a Pittsburgh based not-for-profit organization that specializes in the distribution of humanitarian aid, and USAID, a governmental entity that promotes economic development and democracy in conflict-ridden and impoverished regions. The books will serve as a vital tool in Sudan's efforts to modernize and further development its economy and infrastructure.



School administrators from the University of Khartoum in Sudan open the sea container of books donated by IBP.

#### Uganda

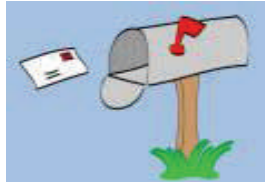
In the past several years, IBP has sent a number of small and large book shipments to the East African nation of Uganda, supporting an array of educational institutions and initiatives throughout the country. That support continued when a sea container comprised of approximately 20,000 primary and secondary school texts was shipped to Kampala, the Ugandan capital, in August.

With an estimated value of \$300,000, the shipment will be distributed among six elementary and high schools in Kampala and the surrounding region.

Story continued on page 6.



## IBP Mailbox...



"Thank you so much for the books donated to our College Library, which is in its early infancy stages. We are proud to say that the IBP has so far been the first agency to respond to our request for books. This consignment of books we received is the second from IBP. We believe IBP has appreciated our need and we look forward to receiving more publications from them".

Mathias Masawe, Librarian  
Mkwawa University of Education  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

"Thank you so much for the books that just arrived in Ciudad Dario, Nicaragua. Hogar Escuela is a school for deaf children and children who fall behind in their classes at the public elementary school. These books are invaluable resources to our school. Thank you again very much for the books.

Marya Link, Director, Hogar Escuela, Ciudad Dario, Nicaragua



"Please accept our sincere thanks for your kind donation which will go a long way to augment the stock of our library and also improve upon the College's teaching and learning facilities".

Grace Annoh, Librarian  
Presbyterian University College  
Abetifi Kwahu Ghana

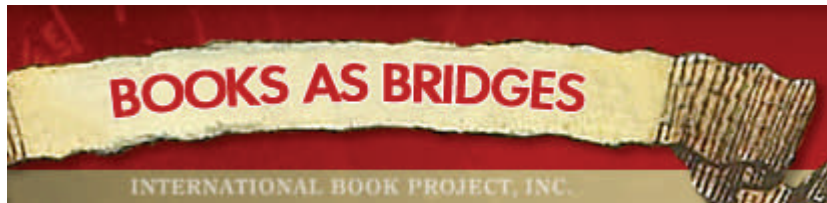
"Thanks so much for the boxes full of books that we just received! We are thrilled! The books we received from the International Book Project have been catalogued and are now on the shelves in our library. These books are being used by the children on a daily basis. Thank you so much for your contribution that will improve the educational system in Honduras.

Leah Laxamana  
Peace Corps Volunteer  
Municipal Development  
Olanchito, Yoro  
Honduras

"Today we received two boxes of books from your wonderful organization. I was not sure what to expect when I opened the boxes, but I was certainly surprised to find the high-quality materials you sent. I suppose I had in mind old, used paperbacks of thrillers and mysteries. You can't imagine my surprise and delight to find books on science, psychology, economics, and culture. This is far beyond my expectations.

We serve a community with no English-language bookstore and no English-language library. The city of Meknes is not one of the wealthier cities in Morocco and our high school and university students suffer from not having access to books. Books such as those you sent would be far beyond the economic capability of our students, even if they were available here".

Kathleen M. Lance  
Director, ALC Meknes  
Morocco



## Connecting Classrooms and Cultures

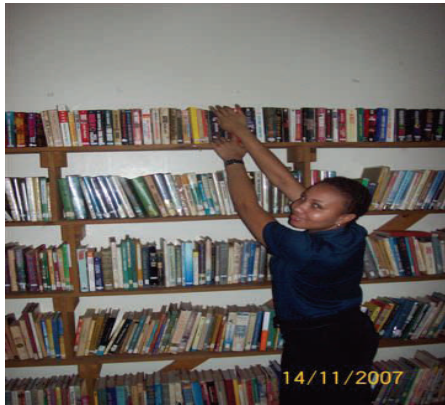
IBP's Books as Bridges program flourishes in third year

With the launching of its Books as Bridges program in 2005, the International Book Project hoped to connect children in Kentucky classrooms with book recipients in the developing world via a pen-pal program and specially-designed curriculum. The program focused on planting a seed of curiosity in youngsters about divergent cultures as well as disseminating book shipments to children in need.

Three years later, Books as Bridges has blossomed into a vital educational resource in communities near and far, cultivating an interest in cultural literacy and acting as a vehicle for book distribution and increased educational opportunity. The 2007-2008 school year has been in session for four months and currently 47 elementary and middle school classrooms in seven Central Kentucky counties are participating in the program. They are communicating with schools that directly benefit from IBP book donations in 13 countries including: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, St. Lucia, and Zambia.

Corresponding classrooms are carefully matched based on age, grade-level, and teacher requests. Students at home and abroad write letters, take photos, and create art to send to their sister classroom. For Kentucky students, the program is a wonderful tool for creating state-mandated writing portfolios, while international students are given an opportunity to practice their English skills. In addition to the linguistic benefits of the program, students locally and globally are provided the unique opportunity to not only learn about another culture, but to further explore and express their own in the art and writing that is exchanged. The Books as Bridges program truly encompasses IBP's mission "to promote education and literacy while broadening Americans' understanding of their neighbors."

Since its inception three years ago, Books as Bridges has evolved and expanded into its current form, thanks to continued funding from the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation and the leveraging of a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA member, Whitney Zimmerman, who administers the program on a daily basis. Ms. Zimmerman's work as an Americorps VISTA includes not only facilitating the program, but creating a sustainable model so that Books as Bridges can eventually transition into a volunteer-run project. The International Book Project expects a very successful exchange of cultural fun and learning this school year!



The librarian at Saint Vincent Strambi High School in Bull Savannah, Jamaica shelves books donated by IBP

Many of the students that will benefit from these resources contributed artwork to IBP's children's book, "The Truth-Telling Tree," a compilation of drawings and narrative that highlights the daily lives of Ugandan youth. The book has been submitted to several publishing companies in Boston, New York and San Francisco. In addition, much of the artwork collected for this project is featured on IBP's newly-designed joy and memorial cards. These cards are sent when an IBP patron makes a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one. For more details about the cards, check out our holiday gift idea on page two. Thanks to the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation for funding this shipment.

### **Jamaica**

In June, IBP continued its outreach in the Caribbean with a container shipment comprised of 10,000 library books, sent to St. Vincent Strambi High School in Bull Savannah, Jamaica. The books, donated by Fayette County Public Schools, have an estimated value of \$50,000.

Bull Savannah is located in St. Elizabeth Province in southwest Jamaica, the country's most ethnically diverse region. Like much of Jamaica, its economy is heavily reliant on tourism and agriculture. In recent years, residents and aid organizations have made a great effort to improve education in the area, securing donations of computers and other resources and refurbishing schools damaged during hurricanes. IBP's book shipment is a yet another component of this effort as local officials, humanitarian aid workers, and missionaries work to promote literacy and education as a means of advancing economic opportunity and improving living conditions.

A generous grant from the Virginia Clark Hagan Charitable Foundation made this shipment possible.

### **Guatemala**

IBP, in partnership with Child-Aid, an Oregon based non-profit dedicated to improving education and health care for impoverished children across Latin America, supplied approximately 15,000 Spanish language books to the Guatemala Library Project (PROBIGUA). The container shipment, sent in May, has an estimated value of \$300,000.

This marks IBP's second shipment to PROBIGUA, a grassroots initiative that has built twenty-eight libraries in marginalized and impoverished communities throughout Guatemala. The libraries primarily serve the nation's large indigenous population, approximately 75% of whom cannot read or write. While the libraries are vital learning centers for children and adults with little access to books and other educational resources, they often serve as community centers as well, offering a place for some of Guatemala's most marginalized citizens to have a voice in civic affairs.

### **Peru**

In June, IBP teamed up with the Give-A-Book Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that supports education and literacy projects in impoverished communities, to send a sea container of approximately 15,000 Spanish language resources to Lima, Peru. The books will be distributed by the Love For Peru Foundation, which works to improve the living condition of children and disabled individuals who reside in the shantytowns surrounding Lima.

The Love For Peru Foundation focuses on promoting education as a way to break the cycle of poverty that traps so many poor Peruvian children. Of Peru's 27 million residents, approximately 70 percent live in poverty. IBP's book donation is a yet another weapon in the global war on poverty that is perpetuated by individuals and grassroots organizations on a daily basis.

Thanks to all the donors, foundations, and organizations that made these container shipment possible. Every book makes a difference!

## Passport to Literacy takes patrons around the world

IBP highlights book distribution efforts at third annual special event

In mid-September, the International Book Project offered patrons a chance to travel around the world without leaving downtown Lexington at its third annual special event, Passport to Literacy.

The affair, designed to raise community awareness about the organization's mission and programs, featured displays detailing IBP's work in countries around the globe, readings by Kentucky writers, live music, a silent auction, native handcrafts as door prizes, and ethnic foods.

When patrons arrived, they were given a "passport" and encouraged to visit each of five countries represented by informational booths. This year, IBP spotlighted its work in Thailand, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, and the United States. Each display featured cultural information and artifacts, native foods, details about IBP's literacy initiatives, and testimonials and photographs from book recipients. Attendees that received "passport" stamps at each country's booth were entered in a drawing for door prizes.

Many patrons took a respite from their world-wide tour to enjoy readings by local literary luminaries including Tony Crunk, the 1994 selection in the prestigious Yale Series of Younger Poets, critically-acclaimed author Bobbie Ann Mason, Affrilachian poet Frank X Walker, and former Kentucky Poet Laureate Richard Taylor. KET's Bill Goodman, host of "One to One," "Book Club @ KET," and other programs, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Attendees also bid on an array of silent auction items including everything from wooden animal carvings from Sudan to University of Kentucky basketball and football tickets. Trip Bratton's Drummers, a Lexington area troupe versed in a variety of styles, entertained the crowd throughout the evening.

Special thanks to the event sponsors: James Motors, Greenbaum, Doll, McDonald, Morgan Keegan, American Founders Bank, Bank of the Bluegrass, Joseph Beth Booksellers, First State Financial, Dean & Mary Hammond, Gail Hart, and Dorothy Swope. Thanks to all those who donated items for the silent auction and to the wonderful event volunteers. Together, we made Passport to Literacy a great success!



Mary & Dean Hammond

Gail Hart

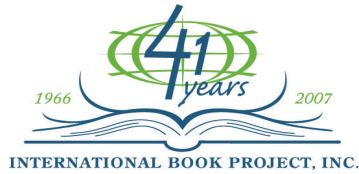
Dorothy Swope



Volunteers greet guests and discuss IBP's work in Ecuador at the 2007 Passport to Literacy event.



Volunteers greet guests and explain IBP's work in Sudan at the 2007 Passport to Literacy event.



**International Book Project**  
**1440 Delaware Avenue**  
**Lexington, KY 40505**

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Lexington, KY  
 Permit No. 55**

**International Book Project**  
**1440 Delaware Avenue**  
**Lexington, KY 40505**  
**Ph: 859-254-6771**  
**Toll Free: 1-888-999-BOOK**  
**Fax: 859-253-2293**  
**www.internationalbookproject.org**  
**Lynda Frazier-Executive Director**  
**ibpdirector@alltel.net**

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The Friends of the Fortieth plaque hangs in perpetuity at the IBP warehouse.

## **IBP Honors “Friends of the Fortieth”**

In June, IBP dedicated its “Friends of the Fortieth” commemorative plaque, which honors donors who contributed a minimum of \$250 to our Fortieth Anniversary fundraising campaign. The plaque hangs in the IBP warehouse alongside some of the organization’s historical artifacts and other memorabilia. Thanks to all the donors who contributed to the “Friends of the Fortieth” campaign.

## **IBP expands donation options**

The International Book Project has made it more convenient for donors to support our mission and programs as we now accept automatic draft transactions. This new donation option operates like those offered by public radio stations and other charitable entities. Donors can make a yearly pledge and have their contributions collected on a monthly basis, via electronic transfer from their checking account, debit card, or credit card.

This latest innovation is part of IBP’s efforts to keep pace in a technology-driven culture and increase our accessibility to all patrons. With the renovation of our website several years ago, IBP began offering on-line donation options as well. To make a contribution via the internet, please visit our website at [www.internationalbookproject.org](http://www.internationalbookproject.org). To learn more about pledge donations and automatic transfers, please call us at 1-888-999-BOOK toll-free, 859-254-6771 locally, or email us at [ibpdirector@alltel.net](mailto:ibpdirector@alltel.net).