Second Printing of The Tree of Knowledge Ornament Scan Project
by Margaret Downey

When the Freethought Society (FS) began the Tree of Knowledge winter holiday display project in 2007, volunteers made ornaments using color copies of book covers. We received copies of books from authors, publishers, nontheist organizations and individual collectors. Within that first year, Tree of Knowledge volunteers had created hundreds of ornaments.

Now that the Tree of Knowledge concept has drawn interest from locations all around the world, FS would like to start providing ornaments upon request. The only feasible way to create needed ornaments is to build a database of scanned book covers.

FS needs your help with this important project. We ask that participants submit a high-resolution scan of the front cover of books you want to see used on the branches of The Tree of Knowledge. It’s fine if you send a scan of a book cover that we already have — we would like as many scans as possible for our collection.

There are several ways that scans can be delivered for use. One way is to send a scan as an email attachment to: Margaret@FtSociety.org.

Another way is to place your scans on a flash drive and bring it to the next FS gathering. The file will be immediately downloaded to the FS laptop during the event.

Please name your scan the same name as the title of the book so that FS will be able to fulfill ornament requests quickly and easily.

For those who want to purchase ornaments, below is the cost per ornament (postage billed separately):

$1 Extra-small
(Recommended for top tier of a tree.)

$2 Small
(Recommended for top tiers of a tree.)

$3 Medium
(Recommended for use on the upper middle area of a tree.)

$4 Large
(Recommended for use on the lower middle area of a tree.)

$5 Extra-Large
(Recommended for use on the bottom area of a tree.)

Do you want a Tree of Knowledge ornament kit for your home or organization? Here is an approximate number of ornaments you might need:

10-12’ Tall Tree
100-120 ornaments

6-8’ Tall Tree
50-80 Ornaments

4-5’ Tall Tree
40-50 Ornaments

Pictured above is the 2015 Tree of Knowledge that was installed at the Ethical Humanist Society of Philadelphia. This 12-foot-high tree has approximately 120 ornaments.

Since the ornaments are laminated, this tree could be used as an outdoor display. If you place a Tree of Knowledge in your home, please send us a photo. The Freethought Society is keeping a database of trees in use in an effort to prove that it is an accepted and cherished winter holiday symbol for the nontheist community.