Statement from author Donald Michael Kraig
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I can only comment from my point of view, representing nobody else and no other organization.

Over the past few years, there has been at least one major distributor of occult books and periodicals that shut down, owing many thousands of dollars, resulting in some publishers shutting down. I imagine that the loss of Borders will also result in losses to various publishers directly.

As an author, I don't get paid until my publishers are paid. I probably won't directly see the loss in "take backs," although my royalties will undoubtedly be smaller. Those who self-publish may have a different experience and to them (and small publishers) I hope your losses, at best, are small. My guess, however, is that this will hurt the "bottom line" of some publishers and may have a worse effect on a few very small publishers. This is what happens in business.

A far more serious problem is the dependence upon a few retailers who greatly discount books. While this is good for the people buying books in the short term, it will drive up the price of books in the long run (so publishers can still get adequate profits) and harm local, independent booksellers.

Every time people buy from a discount store online or at a chain, they save a few dollars but increase taxes because taxed corporate profits are going out of state. They're increasing the likelihood that local stores where you can hang out, talk to people, get advice and good information, take classes, etc. may close.

I am saddened by the losses of the publishers and the loss of jobs of Borders' employees. While the nature of the book trade requires that publishers large and small work with chains and on-line stores, I urge people, when possible, to support their local independent bookstores.