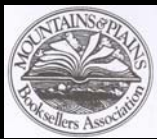
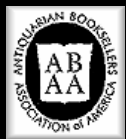
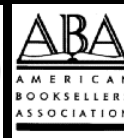
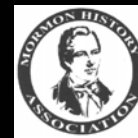




BOOKTALK



The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Zion Bookstore
Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929
August-September 2007



Seventy-eight Years By Tony Weller



In August of 1929, my grandfather Gustav Weller turned his little second-hand shop at 14 E. 100 South into Zion Bookstore. Gus, a Mormon convert from Germany, had immigrated four years before with his wife, Margaret, and their five children, the third of whom was Samuel. By 1929, the Weller children numbered seven. They would

eventually top out at eleven. It is certain that the second-hand shop never put enough food on the Weller table, and I know that the bookstore didn't either. After all, two months after the bookstore's conception, the entire nation was slapped down by the Great Depression.

Somehow or other, the Weller family scraped their way through the Depression and kept the business running. Late in the 1930's, my grandfather decided to fulfill his immigrant's dream of becoming a farmer. After moving his younger children to a rural area near Kamas, Utah, he compelled his older children, most of whom had stayed in Salt Lake, to manage the family bookstore.

In 1943, Sam was drafted into service for World War II. The oldest Weller son, John, had made it clear to his father he did not want to work in the bookstore, so while Sam was fighting in Europe and North Africa, Gus refocused his hopes on Sam. When Sam was released from the army in 1946, whether he wanted it or not, the bookstore became his. It was deeply in debt.

Sam had spent much of his youth around books. He was charismatic and a hard, driven worker. With those traits and the improved post-war economy, he pulled the

store out of debt. By the late 1940's when he met my mother, Lila Nelson, the book business wasn't looking so bad. Not only was the economy better but a unique program of collaboration between the American military and American publishers had turned my parents' generation into what may go down in history as the most literate generation of all time. Lila, who was at least as bookish as Sam, brought financial and organizational skills to the business and the two of them built the small store to which Sam had returned in 1946 into the large store you know today.

I came into the picture in 1962. Through most of my youth I assumed that I would someday be a bookseller, too. I started working as a kid in the early 1970's and, except for 5 months spent at Elliott Bay in Seattle and a year of full-time college, I have been working here ever since. Gustav Weller died when I was very young and, though some of the things I have done to the business might not have met with his approval, I like to think he would be proud that I have carried on. At least I know my parents are.

I began managing the business at some—uncertain—point in the late 1980's and took over fully in 1997 following the failure of Sam's eyesight. In 1994, the bookstore was fortunate to add Catherine Weller, my wife, to its roster of family booksellers. Catherine had spent nearly all of her working years in library work, so her arrival here was anything but a move of convenience. Now, much in the fashion in which I commenced my career, our daughter, Lila Ann is putting in a little time this summer.

Please come in and wish us Happy Anniversary sometime during the month of August. You will have an opportunity to participate in what we believe will be a fun way to thank you for supporting us now and throughout our history.

Osher Life Long Learning Program

By Tony Weller

I was surprised and flattered to be contacted last Spring by administrators from the Osher Life Long Learning Program about teaching a course at the University of Utah on the topic of book collecting. Over the years I have spoken more times than I can count to various groups about different facets of books or the book trade. It has happened often enough that I have a menu of topics that I offer to those wanting book presentations. So, using my past experience and throwing in some new ideas, I have, with the assistance of the Osher staff, taken these bibliophilic topics and crafted them into a six week course.

Osher Life Long Learning courses occur within the University's Division of Continuing Education. The Osher Program is one of many sub-sets of the DCE. Osher classes are not for credit and are not graded. Enrollment is restricted to persons over the age of 50.

Since I am accustomed to making presentations within a few hours, I conceived of my class plan in a way that will fit into six 90 minute classes by topic. My first organizational drafts seemed to suggest a 25-week course, so I had to engage in some heavy truncation to reduce the scope to manageable.

So for this first of what might turn into a regularly offered class, I will cover the factors that cause books to increase in value, the evolution of printing and its significance, how book values are determined, scouting for books, terminology, how to describe condition, how the internet has changed book collecting, and care and restoration.

Since you are reading this *Book Talk*, you are obviously a book lover. If your interest runs toward book collecting and you would like to learn more—and you have at least half a century of life behind you—consider registering for my course. It is entitled *Books: Appreciating and Collecting*. The course number is OSHER 612-001. Information about it, and many other interesting courses, is available on-line at www.continue.utah.edu or by phone at 585-5442.

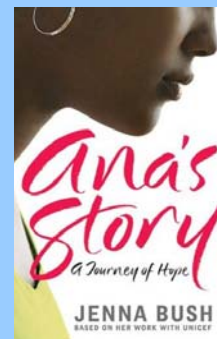
Upcoming Events August & September

- ◆ Friday, August 31st @ 2:30pm, at the Beehive Tearoom Nancy Drew Book-club. (Last Friday every month.)
- ◆ Tuesday, September 18th @ 7pm, Location: In Store. Author Reading/Signing: *What on Earth Have I Done?* by **Robert Fulghum**.

*For more info call 801-328-2586,
or visit www.samwellers.com.*

November 30, 2007, 7:30pm

The Hinckley Institute of Politics, KCPW radio and Sam Weller's Bookstore will host First Daughter **Jenna Bush** in Salt Lake City to promote her new book,



*Ana's Story,
a Journey of Hope.*

Based on her work with UNICEF in Latin America and the Caribbean, Jenna Bush has written a powerful and personal non-fiction account of a girl who fights against all odds to survive. But Ana's experience is not unique. She symbolizes many children in peril and puts a face on the shocking statistics—according to UNICEF, 2.3 million children worldwide live with HIV/AIDS.

Our Used Book-buying desk is closed from July 24th through September 3rd. It will reopen September 4th.

New Books 2007

Loving Frank

By Nancy Horan

ISBN 9780345494993
Ballantine Books
\$23.95

Fact and fiction are brilliantly blended in this compelling first novel about the relationship between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney. Each married with children when they met in Oak Park, Illinois, Frank and Mamah began a clandestine affair that eventually led them to flee to Europe, devastating their families and shocking Chicago society.

Based on seven years of meticulous research, this groundbreaking historical novel is not only an exquisite work of fiction, but is given added resonance by its adherence to these remarkable real-life characters and unfolding events, scandalous in their day. Nancy Horan brings Mamah to life as she illuminates the conflicts and sacrifices of a woman forced to choose between the roles of mother, wife, lover and intellectual.

More than a powerful love story, *Loving Frank* is a novel about breaking old rules and living new ideas that will stay in the minds of readers long after its breathtakingly poignant conclusion.



Mister Pip

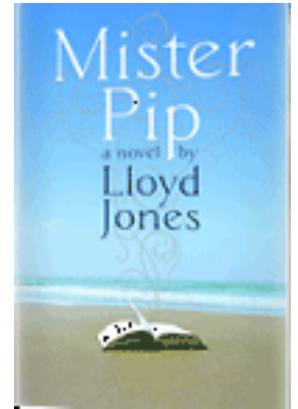
By Lloyd Jones

ISBN 9780385341066
Dial Press
\$24.00

On a copper rich, tropical island shattered by war, where the teachers have fled with most everyone else, only one white man chooses to stay behind: the eccentric Mr. Watts, object of much curiosity and scorn, who sweeps out of the ruined schoolhouse and begins to read to the children each day from Charles Dickens's

classic *Great Expectations*. So begins this rare, original story about the abiding strength that imagination, once ignited, can provide. As artillery echoes in the mountains, thirteen-year-old Matilda and her peers are riveted by the adventures of a young orphan named Pip in a city called London. A city whose contours soon become more real than their own blighted landscape. As Mr. Watts says, "A person entranced by a book simply forgets to breathe."

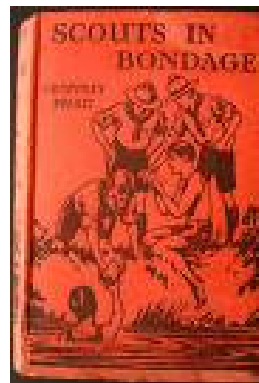
Soon come the rest of the villagers, initially threatened, finally inspired, to share tales of their own that bring alive the rich mythology of their past. But in a ravaged place where even children are forced to live by their wits and daily survival is the only objective, imagination can be a dangerous thing.



Scouts in Bondage And Other Violations of Literary Propriety Edited by Michael Bell

ISBN 9781416549239
Simon & Schuster
\$15.00

Step inside Michael Bell's antiquarian bookshop, stocked with titles that puzzle, astound, or *entendres* that have *double'd* over the years in *Scouts in Bondage*, an illustrated collection whose sly humor does for the art of book-making what *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves* did for the fine points of grammar. This hilarious selection of book covers that graced publishers' catalogs prior to World War II will bring smiles—if not outright guffaws—to the faces of book lovers and humorists alike. *Scouts in bondage* is a gift book for those who are more naughty than nice.



New Books 2007

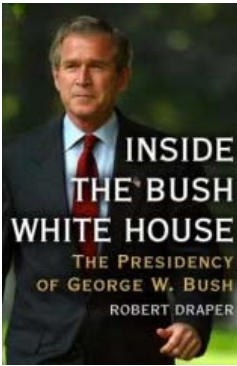
Inside the Bush White House

By Robert Draper

ISBN 9780743277280
Free Press
\$28.00

Armed with Texan roots and a reputation for non-partisan reporting, Robert Draper has logged more time with key White House aides than any other author—he boasts extraordinary access to an administration notorious for its secrecy and distrust of the media. In *Inside the Bush White House*, he plumbs George W. Bush's presidency to offer a unique inside perspective on seemingly well-known events such as 9/11, the Iraqi war and Hurricane Katrina. The book reveals President Bush as neither the incurious cartoon figure lampooned by his critics nor the steadfast figure he perceives himself to be.

As the troubled Bush presidency draws to a close, this book will inform the debate on how history will ultimately judge this administration, its leader and his legacy.



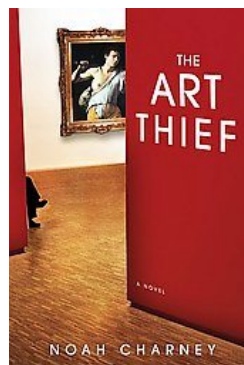
The Art Thief

By Noah Charney

ISBN 9781416550303
Atria Books
\$25.00

Sweeping through three of the world's most art-filled cities, *The Art Thief* is a witty, fast-paced page-turner full of artistic symbolism and insider knowledge of legendary art thefts, forgeries and secret engravings.

Three priceless art treasures have been snatched from Paris, Rome and London—seemingly unrelated thefts that are being



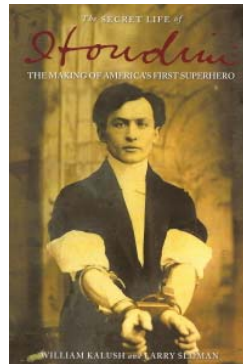
investigated by Gabriel Coffin, a world-renowned art detective, and Genevieve Delacloche, a Parisian art historian. With international police hot on the trail of the thieves, and with forgeries, bizarre clues and false leads baffling even the most brilliant inspectors, *The Art Thief* is a jigsaw puzzle of a mystery, thrilling and breathtaking in its scope.

The Secret Life of Houdini

By William Kalush & Larry Sloman

ISBN 9780743272087
Atria Books
\$16.00

Handcuff King. Escape Artist. International Superstar. Since his death eighty years ago, Harry Houdini's life has been chronicled in books, in film, and on television. Now, in *The Secret Life of Houdini*, renowned magic expert William Kalush and bestselling author Larry Sloman team up to find the man behind the myth.



At a time when spy agencies frequently co-opted amateurs, Houdini went to London and developed a relationship with a man who would run MI-5. He traveled to Germany and Russia and routinely reported his find-

ings. He performed for royalty, commanding vast sums, and explored the new power of Hollywood.

But after World War I, Houdini embarked on a battle of his own trying to infiltrate the seamy world of fake mediums. In doing so, he triggered the wrath of fanatical Spiritualists, led by the esteemed British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Death threats became common, but the group posed an even greater danger to Houdini's legacy.

Rigorously researched, and as exciting as a good thriller, *The Secret Life of Houdini* decodes a life based on deception, providing an intimate and riveting portrayal of Houdini, the man and the legend.

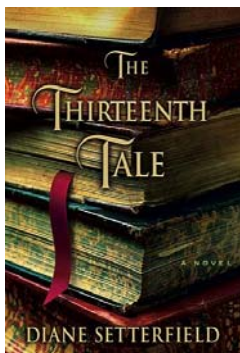
New Books 2007

The Thirteenth Tale

By Diane Setterfield

ISBN 9780743298032
Washington Square Press
\$15.00

"Tell me the truth." It was a simple request, but one that shook the reclusive and enigmatic Vida Winter to her very core. Had she not spent the last six decades creating a series of alternative lives that not only brought her fame and fortune but kept her violent and tragic youth a secret?



These words also echoed in the heart of Margaret Lea, a young woman for whom the secret of her own birth, hidden by those her loved her most, remained an ever-present pain.

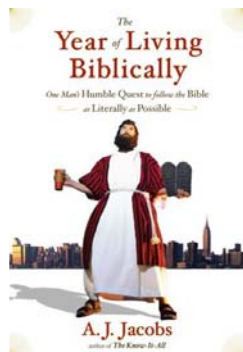
With a letter that promises to finally reveal the long kept secrets of her extraordinary life, Vida Winter invites Margaret and the reader on a journey to the past—a past which sheds a strange, troubling light on Margaret's own life. Together they confront the ghosts that have haunted them and become, finally, transformed by the truth themselves.

The Year of Living Biblically

A.J. Jacobs

ISBN 9780743291477
Simon & Schuster
\$25.00

In this timely and fascinating book, Jacobs tries to follow such famous Scriptural laws as the Ten Commandments, be fruitful and multiply, and love your neighbor. But he also obeys dozens of less-publicized instructions, including growing a beard, avoiding clothes of mixed fibers and, yes, stoning adulterers.



continued on page 6

"BEST WELLERS" SELECTION

For August/September

Reviewed by Bruce Christensen

Five Skies

By Ron Carlson

ISBN 978-0670038503
Penguin USA
\$23.95 (Best Weller's price: \$19.16)

Ron Carlson, a skilled craftsman and excellent raconteur, has constructed a fascinating tale of loss, hope and redemption.

Construction, in fact, is the aim of three men who find themselves on a high desert plateau in Idaho attempting to build a ramp for an Evel Knievel-type jump across a large canyon. The heroes are tormented by events from their pasts, dark secrets each is trying to forget. They do not see their project, which all three think absurd, as a way to a better future, but as a wall to block their memories. Action for a futile purpose, in their estimations, is still better than inactivity and the remorse that pursues them.

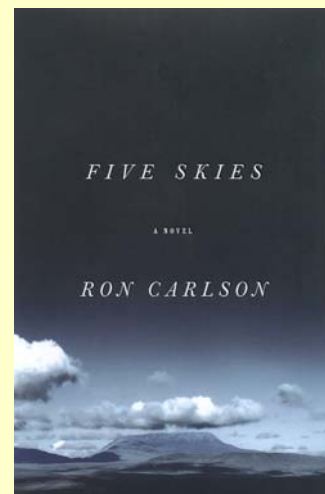
Carlson's use of detail, his spare descriptions of nature, and his beautiful dialogue make this a wonderful read. In fact, the author's brilliant use of dialogue reminds one of Hemingway.

As the title suggests, the sky in its many changes is an important metaphor throughout the book. Another constant image is the river far below, at the bottom of the canyon. Throughout the novel the two senses of sight and sound are constantly affected by the sky above and the river below.

Five Skies is a lovely book. The characters are endearing, the dialogue breathtaking, and the descriptions haunting. No matter the season, or the location, or your mood, this novel is well worth your time.



"Best Wellers" titles are specially selected by our Book Buyers every other month and offered at a 20%



New Books 2007

continued from page 5

With the Bible—and its literal interpretation—remaining a mighty force in American society, Jacobs embeds himself in a cross-section of remarkable Biblical communities, from a Kentucky-based creationist museum to the Pennsylvania Amish, from Christian charity workers to Hasidic Jews. The result is a book that will captivate secular and religious readers alike.

Alexander and the Marvelous Excellent Terrific Ninety Days

By Judith Viorst

ISBN 9781416550051

Free Press
\$17.00

Whatever became of Alexander after that famously bad day? And what happens when Alexander—now grown up, married, and the father of three—moves his family into his parents' house?

With her characteristic sparkle and wit, Viorst describes how she and her husband survived and relished the extended visit of the Alexander Five. She also opens our eyes to the joys of multi-generational family living, and to the unexpected opportunities to grow that life presents—even under the most unlikely circumstances.

Read a Best Wellers Book

We see a lot of new books every year that don't always get the kind of exposure we think they deserve. We've developed the **Best Wellers** program to bring to your attention worthy titles that might otherwise fall beneath the radar. Every two months our buyers get together and select a title that we think you will find interesting, enlightening, thought-provoking and entertaining and we offer it to you at a 20% discount.

Our selection for August-September is *Five Skies* by **Ron Carlson**. Read the review by Bruce Christensen on page 5 and ask for it the next time you come in.

Recent Rare Book Acquisitions By Tony Weller

Big Dictionaries

Recently we have acquired numerous really big dictionaries. Here is a sample of what is available:

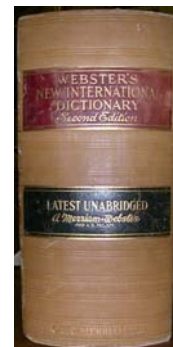
- ◆ A very attractive two-volume leather bound set of the *Standard Dictionary of the English Language* published by Funk & Wagnall's in 1895. Bound in leather with raised bands and gilt stamped titles and décor on the spines. \$145.



- ◆ A well-kept two-volume slipcased set of *The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*, commonly referred to as the *Compact OED*. This 1971 edition was issued with a magnifying glass to enable one to read the tiny print. In case you didn't know, the OED is the most comprehensive English language dictionary ever made. The compact edition reproduces in two volumes what takes 20 large volumes to contain when the printing is normal sized. Today, re-remaindered full sets cost roughly \$1000. This second-hand compact edition costs \$175.



- ◆ A new copy of the more recent edition of the *Compact OED*, now in one volume with magnifier. It is kept in the Rare Book Department because of its price. \$395.
- ◆ An especially well cared for 1946 copy of the massive and popular second edition of *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language*. The one I am describing is bound in cloth, has 3210 pages and can be yours for \$150. We have four other copies of varying dates, bindings and condition ranging from \$90 to \$200.



Wow and Yikes!

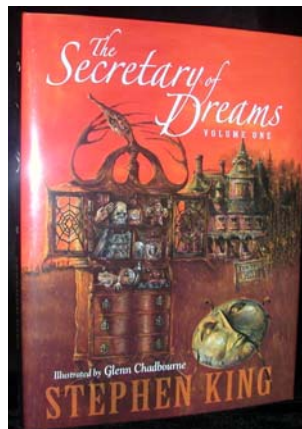
A Bunch of Stephen King!

We've recently bought two good King collections. Some were presented in this newsletter previously and now I will present you with some more. These are some of the more valuable or obscure titles but please note that there are numerous others.

- ◆ Six 1970's issues of the men's magazine Cavalier, each containing a story by **Stephen King**. The stories are *I Am the Doorway*, *Suffer Little Children*, *The Fifth Quarter*, *Sometimes They Come Back*, *The American Dream*, and *Man With a Belly*. \$25 each.
- ◆ A full seven volume set of 1st editions of the *Dark Tower* series in fine condition, housed in three slipcases. The slipcases were produced by publisher Donald M. Grant. The last slipcase was intended for books four and five. Though it fits perfectly, it bears the same titles as the second slipcase. \$2100.



- ◆ The first appearance of *The Gunslinger*, in serial in five non-consecutive issues of Fantasy & Science Fiction, issued between 1978 and 1981. the rare 1st edition of the book was released in 1982. these five monthly pulps are housed in a custom slipcase. \$750.

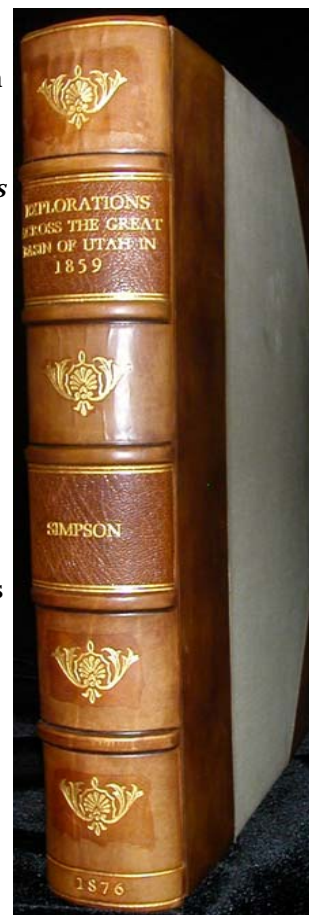


- ◆ A fine 1st edition of the small folio, *The Secretary of Dreams*, volume one, illustrated by Glenn Chadbourne. Published by Cemetery Dance and issued in a slipcase. \$100.



- ◆ How many of you have even heard of the scarce limited edition of *Six Stories*, published by the Philtrum Press in Bangor, Maine? In 1997, Philtrum printed 1100 copies of this collection and had King sign them all. This nicely made softcover book was issued in a slipcase. It is surprisingly hard to locate. \$1350.

- ◆ And, finally, we have to offer a beautifully bound copy of **Captain J.H. Simpson's Report of Explorations Across the Great Basin of the Territory of Utah for a Direct Wagon Route from Camp Floyd to Genoa in Carson Valley in 1859**. This government survey was issued in 1876. This copy was formerly Sam Weller's own. It is bound in elegant 3/4 mottled brown leather with raised bands and gilded title, dingbats and rules on spine. The terminal map has old paper repairs to the folds and shows adhesive stains there. Otherwise, this copy is internally very clean and stunning in appearance. \$3000.





Sam Weller's Bookstore

254 S. Main St., Downtown SLC
(At the Gallivan Plaza TRAX Stop)
(801)328-2586
(800)333-SAMW
www.SamWellers.com

**COME IN AND VISIT DURING OUR
78TH ANNIVERSARY AUGUST SALE
AND RECEIVE UP TO 78% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE***

* Sale runs 8/1/07-8/31/07. Variable discount from 10% to 29% determined randomly at cash register at time of purchase. One chance of drawing 78% discount offered per week. Discount does not apply to Special Orders, magazines, used book searches or requests, or consignment items and can not be combined with any other offer or coupon.