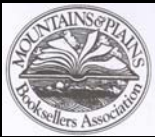




BOOKTALK

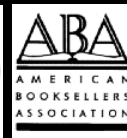


The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Bookstore

New, Used and Rare Books

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929

February-March 2009



In the Bookstore

By Tony Weller

While we all get busy re-envisioning what it is we want from government, jobs, economies and life, at Sam Weller's we continue adjusting to the rapidly evolving world of books.

Regular visitors have noted that a lot of movement has been occurring here over the last several months and



we aren't done yet. We're not even near. Most discernibly, we have moved regular sections out of the two western-most rooms of our lower level.

We have decided that the old vault, under the sidewalk out back, is just too cold and leaky for browsing. So we have designated the rooms that used to house sections such as biography and sociology as the

new and improved bargain book room and a new, in progress, events room. Unlike the old bargain area, the new one locates bargain books in topical sections to make finding the books you want easier.

And since we are moving so much, there has been a great surge in books moving to the bargain area where they can be bought for one to five dollars.

We have cleared out floor space in the room south of the bargain room to begin turning it into a space for presentations and meetings. We have much to do before it will be ready but when it is done it will be nice to have a dedicated space for author readings, book clubs and

Sam Weller's Books Wins 2009 Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneurial Success Award

We were honored to receive the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Entrepreneurial Success Award at the annual meeting held at the Marriott Hotel in January. After years of work and perseverance through too many hard times, it is gratifying to have our efforts recognized by a group of business peers.

In this time when local businesses are under siege from corporate colonialists, we hope it will serve as a reminder to local citizens that bigger may not be better, prominence does not equal excellence, and that local culture and economies are absolutely better served by local businesses. Thank you to Chamber members who recognized us.

any other types of bookish activities that might arise.

Like many in our time, we too are struggling with sales. We remind you that books are not only of great and enduring value in terms of entertainment, but reading gives much higher returns to the mind and sense of self. When I am feeling lazy, I watch movies and occasionally get lost online. But when I compare how I feel and what I think I've gained in each of these activities

continued on page 4

Upcoming Events February & March

◆ **Scott Cooney: Reading & Signing**

Tuesday, **February 17th**

Location: In Store

Scott Cooney, founder of ReDirect Guides will read from, and sign, his new book, *Build a Green Small Business: Profitable Ways to Become an Ecopreneur*.

◆ **queereads Book Club**

Hosted by Sam Weller's in conjunction with Utah Pride Center

Wednesday, **February 18th**, @ 6:30-7:30pm

Location: In Store

Moderated by: Adam Streeter

This month's title: *The Passion* by **Jeanette Winterson**.

◆ **Hard Boiled Book Club**

Sponsored by Sam Weller's and SLUG Magazine

Tuesday, **February 24th**, @ 7:00-8:00pm

Location: In Store

Moderated by: Zach Sampinos

This month's title: *Girl on the Fridge* by **Etgar Keret**.

◆ **Franz de Waal: Reading & Signing**

Wednesday, **February 25th**, @ 6:00pm

Location: Utah Museum of Fine Arts

Franz de Waal will be the keynote speaker at the Tanner Center Third Annual Conference: The Evolution of Human Aggression.

◆ **Martin Daly & Margo Wilson: Reading & Signing**

Thursday, **February 26th**, @ noon

Location: Post Theatre, Fort Douglas

Martin Daly & Margo Wilson will be the keynote speakers at the Tanner Center Third Annual Conference: The Evolution of Human Aggression.

◆ **Wade Davis: Reading & Signing**

Friday, **February 27th**, @ 7:00pm

Location: Downtown City Library

Wade Davis will read from, and sign, his book, *Grand Canyon: A River at Risk/Lost Amazon*.

◆ ***NEW* Sherlock Holmes Book Club *NEW***

Tuesday, **March 3rd**, @ 7:00pm

Location: Beehive Tea Room

Moderated by: Courtney Martin & Bruce Christensen

Join us for the first in our new book club series! Tickets are \$12, must be purchased in the bookstore by **March 2nd** and include light refreshments

◆ **Small Press Forum: Author Readings & Signings**

Thursday, **March 5th**, @ 6:30pm

Location: In Store

This year's small Press Forum includes authors **LR Lehman**, *Clear Illusion* & **Corey Anderson**, *Deniable Trust*.

◆ **Tom Zoellner: Reading & Signing**

Thursday, **March 19th**, @ 7:00pm

Location: In Store

Tom Zoellner will read from, and sign, his book, *Uranium*.

◆ **William Olsen & Laure-Anne Bosselaar: Reading & Signing**

Thursday, **March 19th**, time TBA

Location: Westminster College

William Olsen & Laure-Anne Bosselaar will read and sign as part of the Anne Newman Sutton Weeks Poetry Series.

For more information on upcoming events, go to:

www.samwellers.com or call 801-328-2586 or stop in the store

New Local Small Press Fiction

Reviewed by Bruce Christensen

Clear Illusion

by LR (Lynn) Lehmann

ISBN 978-0-9659758-2-7

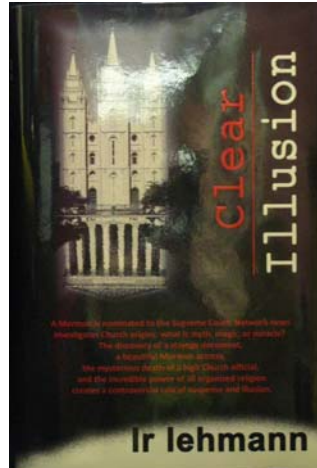
QuikRead Press

\$24.95

At one point in this well-written tale of suspense two of the main characters hike to the top of Mount Olympus and are presented with a magnificent view of the Salt Lake valley. Through the eyes of the author, the reader is also given a panoramic view of Utah, the LDS Church and the people who live in or around them. Weaving a story of intrigue, betrayal, faith and denial, LR Lehmann portrays people who are at odds with, people who blindly believe in, and people who are trying to understand the predominant religion of the Beehive State.

The president of the United States has appointed to the Supreme Court a capable, well-qualified woman

who has one obvious problem: she is a member of the LDS Church. A major news organization sends one of their most popular reporters to investigate this religion and to find out if being a member is reason enough to disqualify the nominee. Then a former member of the religion discovers a “gold plate” with Egyptian hieroglyphics. Add in a large cast of characters who, whether perplexed or defiant, try to make sense of the baffling situations they are caught up in.



You might see *Clear Illusion* as a fast-paced thriller, an overview of the LDS culture, or sociological study of a people and their belief system. No matter which view you may take, you will find this novel well worth your time.

New Fiction

Heart and Soul

By Maeve Binchy

ISBN 978-0-307-26579-1

Alfred A. Knopf

\$26.95

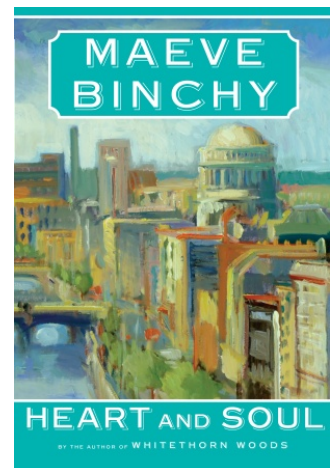
With the warmth, humor and compassion we have come to expect from her, **Maeve Binchy** tells a story of family, friends, patients and staff who are part of a heart clinic in a community caught between the old and the new Ireland.

Dr. Clara Casey has been offered the thankless job of establishing the underfunded clinic and agrees to take it on for a year. She has plenty on her plate already—two difficult adult daughters and the unwanted attentions of her ex-husband—but she assembles a wonderfully diverse staff devoted to helping their demanding, often difficult patients: the infectiously cheerful nurse; the indispensable office manager who

can't quite manage her own life; the Polish girl who's come to Ireland to put a bad love affair firmly in her past and the booming Irish economy in her future; the young doctor who has a special touch with his patients; the physical therapist who undertakes a very different kind of therapy involving a local priest and a stalker.

Before long they manage to establish the clinic as an essential part of the community and Clara must decide whether or not to leave a place where lives are saved, courage is rewarded and humor and optimism triumph over greed and self-pity.

Heart and Soul is **Maeve Binchy** at her heart-warming storytelling best.



In the Bookstore

continued from page 1

to the effects of reading a book, there is no question that reading is the most rewarding of activities.

In addition to the aforementioned bargain books, Sam Weller's stocks well selected and diverse new books as well as conservatively priced second hand books. And with the glut of retailers that opened over the last fifteen years, we get second hand copies of *very* recent books, often in perfect condition.

In this era when every dollar counts, books are an excellent value for the time, edification and entertainment they provide. Buy books from us or another locally owned bookstore and you can feel extra good knowing that you are weaving the fabric of community and sustainable economies instead of sending your spending to strangers who don't live in your community.

Sad Farewells

Though I know we all are burdened by the daily announcements of worker lay-offs and business closures I cannot let the imminent passing of the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops in Milwaukee go unheralded.

The Schwartz bookshop was opened two years before Weller's. Harry Schwartz was senior to Sam Weller and David, Harry's son, senior to me. I have always felt affinity for the Schwartz family.

It began when I was in my teens. David Schwartz was an outspoken, non-conforming idealist and I admired him for it. I never knew Harry but David's descriptions of him were sometimes so similar to Sam that I began to think that my experience in the book trade must have been similar to David's.

Both our fathers were self-made bookmen who cast big shadows. We both grew to be as dedicated to books as our fathers but culturally different from them. One time, at the American Booksellers Association annual convention, when I was in my twenties, I described to David some of the struggles I was having with Sam in the course of our generational transition. He was almost like an older brother in the candid, and radical advice he gave me.

It's now been five years since David passed away. I am sure Milwaukee will be a poorer and dimmer city when the remaining Schwartz Bookshops close their doors in March. But we have heard that two dedicated staff members are going to attempt to rescue two of the Schwartz locations. We wish them our best.

Independent booksellers are also saddened by the recent announcement that Avin Domnitz, Chief Executive Officer of the American Booksellers Association, will resign his position within the year. Avin took over the helm of the ABA at the crux of the societal quake we know as the internet.

Former ABA president Richard Howorth wrote well, in his 1999 pamphlet, *Independent Bookselling & True Market Expansion* about the circumstances that damaged the book trade beginning in the early 1990s. We won't revisit that tumultuous period but it must be written that Avin Domnitz brought a remarkable array of professional skills, the heart of a bookman and remarkable stamina and fortitude to our organization when its members needed it most. He heroically coordinated independent booksellers in our David vs. Goliath legal battles against the corporate misbehavior of numerous major publishers and the nation's two most prominent bookselling chains.

Under his guidance and with the able strategic help of Oren Teicher, Avin aided booksellers in their campaign to thwart Barnes and Noble's plan to buy out the nation's largest wholesale distributor. He was in charge when the innovative BookSense program was initiated, to help independent booksellers to promote and convince consumers of our worth. The recent IndieBound effort, with the larger agenda of driving local economies of all kinds, is a bolder outgrowth of that program.

Avin Domnitz has been a persistent, sage advocate and warrior for the independent booksellers of this nation, for other locally owned businesses and for the values of culture, literacy, freedom of expression and readers rights. The booksellers of these United States will miss him immensely. Hey, Avin, can't you keep working part-time?

And Happy Welcomes

Of course, I share the hopes and pleasure of a majority of Americans with our new President, Barack Obama. His election, I believe, is not just another quarter in the game of party politics. It represents a major and inevitable paradigm shift that I honestly thought would have taken place sooner. Though I feel real sympathy for President Obama, who inherits more problems than any president who has assumed office in my lifetime, I also have more faith and trust in him. He is smart and sensible and unless there's something hidden, I think he is honest. I am encouraged that he seems to be trying to transcend the standard, unproductive us versus them mentality that has hampered politics for many years.

The American dream as we have understood it needs to be reconceived and it will take a lot of courageous work. Let us proceed with more generosity than greed, with more vision than fear, with more creativity than dogma.

Valentine's Day

Since the age of chivalry, St. Valentine's day has been associated with love and gifts of affection. We don't yet sell flowers here at Sam Weller's, but we have lots of great books that would make wonderful gifts for that special person in your life. From inexpensive to elegant new books to breathtaking rarities, we can assist you in picking books that will be certain to delight. We also have cards, gift-wrap and, for the indecisive, gift cards. Bring your loved one in for a intellectual meandering through the breadth of human culture from ancient times to now, from China to Springville. While you're here, enjoy a warm drink and a pastry or pie in the Coffee Garden.

The American Booksellers Association's Winter Institute

I am still recovering from this Winter program put on by the ABA. The last week of January brought some 350 booksellers from all over the country for the fourth annual Winter Institute, which consists of three days of thickly scheduled seminars, events and tours. It was really exciting to have our independent bookselling peers here in Salt Lake City. It was especially nice for our staff of 30, of whom only three or four get to participate when it is in another city. Nearly all of them were able to attend at least one of the numerous useful and eye-opening seminars or workshops. At ABA's request we agreed to host a welcome reception, which was an absolute blast. For one evening our store was packed with booksellers who conversed, read and danced until we made them all go home in order to get up for the morning "State of the Industry" breakfast. We work very hard here and between the dearth of downtown businesses and the abundance of suburban malls, we sometimes get lonely and feel forgotten. Having booksellers from other cities dish out overwhelming praise for our store and staff was wonderful in helping to rekindle our sense of mission and the significance of what we do here, as purveyors of the whole of human culture, history and thought. Thank you ABA for picking Salt Lake City for the 2009 conference. Thank you booksellers for joining us in our celebration of books and this noble humble trade.

Best Wellers Selection For February/March Reviewed by John Clukey

Unwind

By Neal Shusterman

ISBN 978-1-4169-1204-0

Simon & Schuster

\$16.99 (Best Weller's price: \$13.59)

Shusterman's *Unwind* asks two questions: "If life is to be protected before birth, why isn't it protected afterwards?" and "If life is to be protected after birth, why isn't it before?"

In the near future the pro-life vs. pro-choice battle has been fought and compromise has been reached. Human life is sacred from conception to thirteen, but from thirteen to eighteen parents can have their children shipped off to government run Unwind Camps where they are take apart for spare body parts.



Connor is a bad seed whose parents have given up all hope, Risa is from an orphanage that has had a budget cut and needs to cut beds, and Lev is the tenth child of a family that is offering him as a religious tithe. They are on the run to save their lives. They only have to survive until they are eighteen, but the authorities are after them.

Shusterman amazingly never comes down on either side of the abortion debate, but asks everyone to think about his or her own stance and reasoning.

Unwind is reminiscent of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, particularly in its focus on reproductive issues.

Full of action, emotion, and a bit of horror, *Unwind* pulled me in and kept me reading right to the end.

vv vvv vv

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

Remember to ask about it on your next visit.

The Hard Boiled Book Club

By Zach Sampinos, Moderator

Sam Weller's and SLUG Magazine have been in cahoots for just over a year now and not only a nice partnership, but a nice book club has been born as well. We meet every last Tuesday of the month, at 6:30 and stay till close to 8:00. It takes a *group* to have a successful book group, and thankfully we've been blessed in that department. The term club seems exclusive, like you have to get a badge or something. We don't do badges at this book club, nor are we exclusive. We are, however, diverse and that could be one of the keys to our success.

One real nicety about the Hard Boiled Book Club, is that while the title of the club may seem rough or God forbid, *edgy*, it is anything but. There has not been a single drop of wine splashed on any member in 11 months!

This month's book is **Etgar Keret's** *The Girl on the Fridge*. It's discounted if you're watching your pennies—20% off when you buy it at our bookstore. In addition to the warm feeling you get when you shop at Weller's.

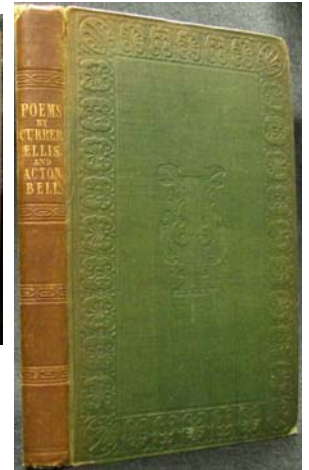
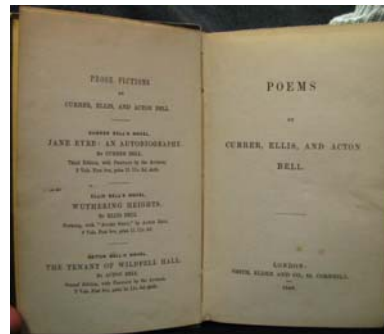
This March marks the year anniversary of Sam Weller's and SLUG's partnership. It is shaping up to be a pretty nice club, always with room for more. That being said, pull up a chair and join the discussion!

Read a Best Wellers Book

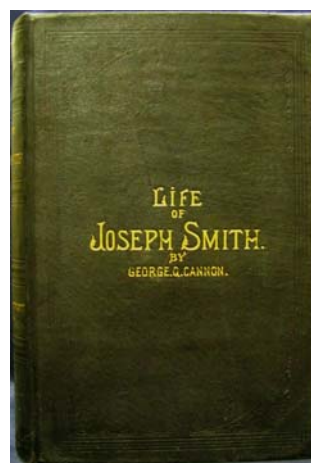
We see a lot of new books every year that don't always get the kind of exposure we think they deserve. We've developed the **Best Wellers** program to bring to your attention worthy titles that might otherwise fall beneath the radar. Every two months our buyers get together and select a title that we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

Our selection for February-March is *Unwind* by **Neal Shusterman**. Read the review by John Clukey on page 5 and ask for it the next time you come in.

Recent Rare Book Acquisitions By Tony Weller

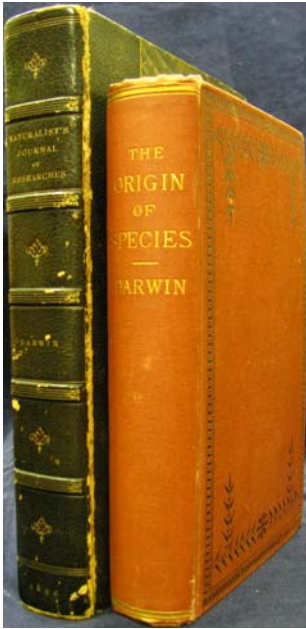


- Before achieving fame for later masterpieces such as *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*, the sisters **Charlotte and Emily Bronte** self published a collection poems with their less well known sister Anne, in 1846. It sold terribly. By the time the aforementioned books were released the next year, unbound sheets of *Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell* had been sold to Smith, Elder and Company and bound in 1848 with a new title page bearing their imprint. This is, that second state of that rare first effort by the Bronte's. Records indicate that only a handful were sold in 1846 and most of us will never lays eyes on *that* rare issuance. \$4500



- A very nice black leather first edition of *The Life of Joseph Smith, the Prophet* by **George Q. Cannon**. This copy has had skilled expert restoration and is tight and attractive with gilt lettering and gilded edges. \$600
- A London 1890 edition of **Charles Darwin's**

Journal of Researches into the Natural History and Geology of the Countries Visited During the Voyage Round the World of H.M.S. Beagle under Command



of Captain Fitz Roy, R.N. This illustrated volume is bound in ¾ black leather with marbled paper covered boards and endsheets. The edges are worn but the volume is sturdy. \$300

Note: there is a wonderful display of rare works by Darwin and on evolution currently displayed in the third floor atrium at the University of Utah's Marriott Library.

- Also a bright near fine American 1889 printing of

Charles Darwin's *The Origin of the Species* in terra-cotta cloth stamped in black and gilt. \$450

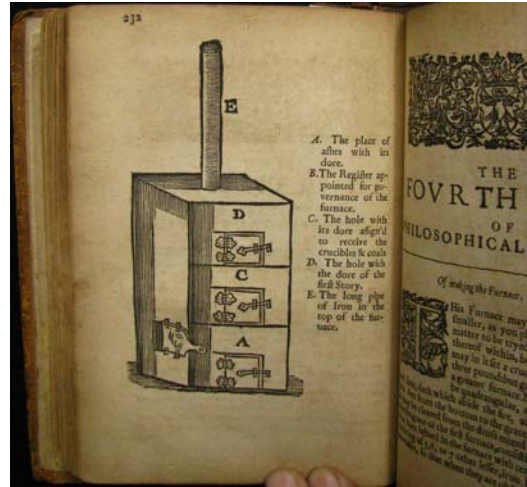
- *The Great Gatsby* is considered one of the best American novels ever written and **F. Scott Fitzgerald's** masterpiece. We have a first state copy of the first edition that has been newly bound in pebbled forest green leather with gilt lettering. A bargain at \$2500



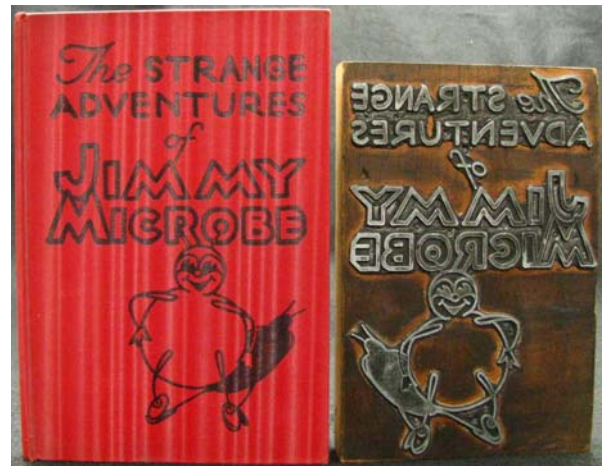
- Also by **Scott Fitzgerald**, we are offering a very good 1st edition of *Tender is the Night*, lacking its jacket for \$900



- A beautiful, like-new six volume set of **Carl I. Wheat's** monumental cartographic work, *Mapping the Transmississippi West 1540-1861*. The first of these folio volumes was designed and printed by the illustrious Grabhorn Press and the rest were made to the same standards by The Institute of Historical Cartography. Our set retains the original plain paper dust jackets that were used for shipping and generally discarded by purchasers. \$4000



- A rebaked leather bound 1st edition of the rare science and alchemy book, *Description of the New Philosophical Furnaces* by **John Rudolph Glauber**, who is best known for discovering a new method of making hydrochloric acid though also known for manufacture of medicinal compounds. This 1652 book has ten engraved images of Glauber's various furnaces used for distillation. \$2100



- We also have for sale the best looking copy we can recall of *The Strange Adventures of Jimmy Microbe*, a juvenile tale that teaches about germs and good health. Written by Utah writer **Virginia Budd Jacobsen** and University of Utah Dean of the School of Medicine, **Lyman Luther Daines** and illustrated delightfully by **Kay Russon**, it has been increasingly scarce and enduringly popular since it was published in 1936. This beautiful copy is offered with the original printing plate that was used for the front cover. Both for \$1200



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

We recently moved Fiction and Mystery to the Balcony.
Check out the new Pulp Fiction alcove, the Sherlock Holmes corner and
our remodeled Children's Department



While you're here explore the expanded Bargain Rooms downstairs

Take TRAX right to our front door

Come on in and check out all that is new (and used, and rare) at

Sam Weller's Bookstore

Your local independent full-service bookstore

Opened in 1929

Now in our 80th year

Family owned for three generations

Newsletter Editor: **Jim Rosinus**