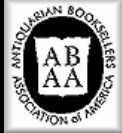




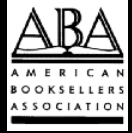
BOOKTALK



The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Bookstore

New, Used and Rare Books

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929



June-July 2010



From Tony Weller:

The Move

You are possibly starting to think that we were kidding or maybe that we got cold feet and changed our minds. We won't blame you for that. We know that 15 months have passed since

we announced our relocation. We were disappointed last fall when we realized that slumping real estate and tight banks stood between our plan and us. But we haven't relented in our efforts and believe we are very close to an announcement. Two weeks ago I thought I might be able to announce it in this newsletter, but alas, not yet.

We are currently in discussions with owners of four properties that are under consideration. We like each of these properties differently and the pros and cons of each are complex to compare. On one we are within striking distance, with two we're almost that close, and the last is still in preliminary dance stage. In my head I can see our new bookstore in each of these buildings. The suspense is extreme.

Volunteers

This move will be the biggest project that we have ever undertaken. Although this is our fourth location and my forebears moved it

before, none of them had this much to move. Over the last year, several of you have volunteered to assist us. We are grateful to you and will accept your generous offers. We have appointed Jan as our volunteer coordinator and once the location is selected and we understand what kind of build-out it will require, Jan will be contacting you with questions and details. Each day for about a week, we hope for about 30 volunteers. As this is a moving project, we will only be able to work with volunteers who have no lifting problems and who are able to comfortably lift 40 pounds. Each member of the crew will be asked to sign liability release forms. Participants will be assigned to teams directed by staff members. Each will receive specific directions and instructions about proper boxing and lifting techniques. We will also need trucks, vans and hand trucks, which we are prepared to rent, unless volunteers are able to assist us with those components.

If you are interested in helping us with our big historic move, please contact Jan, here in our Special Services department. Our phone number is 801-328-2586. If you prefer, you may contact her by email at special_services@samwellers.com. Please put "VOLUNTEER" in the subject line. It is going to be hard work but it will also be fun – intellectuals and nerds packing and hauling and unpacking books. It will also mark the end of an era. We will be grateful for any assistance you might offer.

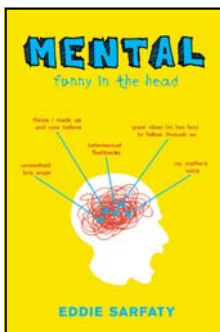
Upcoming & Ongoing Events: June-July

June New Book Section Sale – 20% off new books (special orders and short discount items excluded) – Arts (art, architecture, photography), Atlases, Books on Books, Travel, Travel Narrative, Pictorials, Recreation/Outdoors, Sports, Humor, Cars, Games, and Computers.

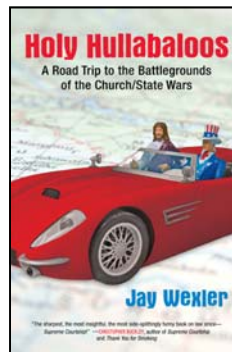
July New Book Section Sale -- 20% off new books (special orders and short discount items excluded) – Reference, Foreign Language, Psychology & Self-help, Childcare, Diet & Nutrition, Medical, Aging, Sex, Exercise & Fitness, Science Fiction & Fantasy, Horror, Graphic Novels, and Pop Culture.

♦ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **June 1st**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. June selections are from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes: The Adventures of the Priory School, Black Peter, and Charles Augustus Milverton*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Includes light refreshments.

Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. July selections are from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes: The Adventures of the Six Napoleons, The Three Students, and the Golden Pince-Nez*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Includes light refreshments.

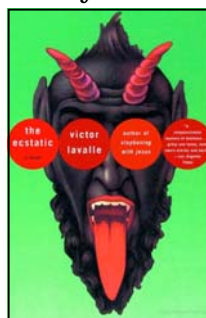


♦ **Queereads Book Club** Sponsored by Sam Weller's Bookstore and the Utah Pride Center. Wednesday, **June 16th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Liz Shattler. June's selection is *Mental* by Eddie Sarfaty.

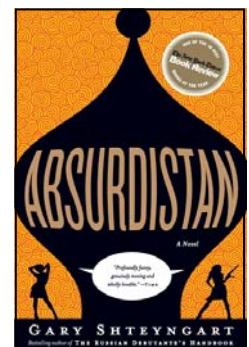


♦ **Jay Wexler: Reading & Signing** Wednesday, **July 7th**, 6:00 PM. In store. **Jay Wexler** will be in store to read from and sign his new book *Holy Hullabalooos: A Road Trip to the Battlegrounds of the Church/State Wars*. Mr. Wexler holds a M.A. in Religious Studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a J.D. from Stanford Law School.

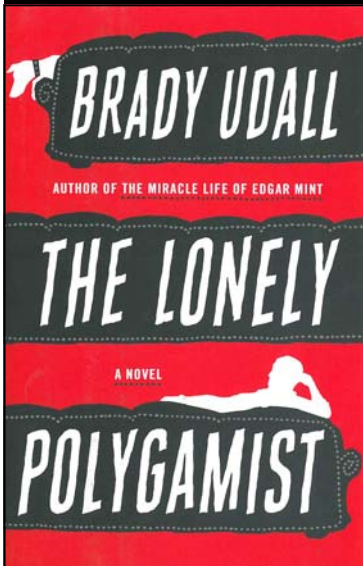
♦ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, **June 29th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. June's selection is *The Ecstatic* by Victor LaValle.



♦ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, **July 29th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. July's selection is *Absurdistan* by Gary Shteyngart.



Best Weller's Selection
June/July



The Lonely Polygamist
by Brady Udall

978-0-393-06262-5
W.W.Norton
Best Weller's Price
\$21.56

Reviewed by
Jan S.

Golden is a polygamist, husband of four and father of 28.

Bewildered by his lot in life and haunted by the death of two of his children, he is silently struggling to understand his complicated world. Just like other fathers he has to make sacrifices for his family, and this forces him to take a job building a bordello in Nevada, where he falls in love with his boss's wife.

He isn't the only one that has secrets – the story is told through different characters: Golden; his youngest wife, Trish; and Golden's 11-year-old son, Rusty. All of the characters are sharply defined and irresistible. I was finally able to understand why anyone would choose a polygamy lifestyle.

Mr. Udall is a skilled writer. His story unfolds with ease, and its plot is suspenseful enough to keep you reading until dawn. In an interview he said, "I want to say that I have no interest in defending or attacking polygamy and its adherents—I'll leave that to others. A fiction writer's job, after all, is not to buttress or to tear down, but to try to understand. And what I've come to during the course of writing *The Lonely Polygamist* is that polygamy, whether we like it or not, represents a portion of who we are as a

country and a culture. I was trying to write the ultimate family novel. I discovered that a polygamist family is a wonderfully complex and contradictory thing. You can look at it in many ways: as just another alternative lifestyle choice or as a deeply patriarchal way of life that goes back thousands of years. It is both strange and conventional, conservative and wildly excessive—not so much different, really, than America itself."

Staff Review
New Fiction



Swim the Fly
by Don Calame

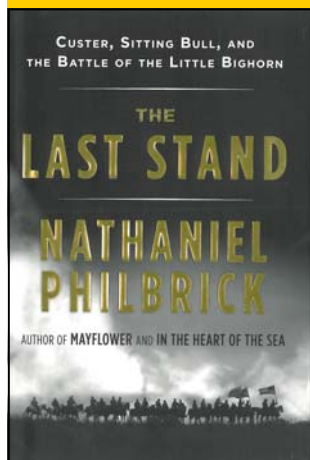
978-0-97636-4776-6
Candlewick Press
\$7.99

Reviewed by
Zach Sampinos

I've never picked up a Young Adult novel before this, possibly for fear of liking it too much?

Becoming too attached to the characters? Identifying with them? All of these are likely candidates, but for whatever reason Don Calame's *Swim the Fly* made its way to my reading list, and I'm glad it did. It's summer time and the living's easy, if only for a few minutes. Matt, Sean and Coop have set ridiculous goals every summer, this summer's goal is to see a live, in the flesh, naked girl no matter what. Along the way, Matt volunteers himself to swim the 100-yard butterfly, some cross-dressing ensues, a bit of barfing, and always loads of comic relief. I'd have no qualms recommending this to a 15-year-old boy, or to a 44-year-old mom. Great fun! Look forward to Calame's next installment *Beat the Band* hitting shelves this fall.

Staff Reviews Non-Fiction



The Last Stand

by Nathaniel
Philbrick

978-0-670-02172-7

Viking
30.00

Reviewed by
Frank Pester

The Battle of Little Bighorn was pivotal in the history of the

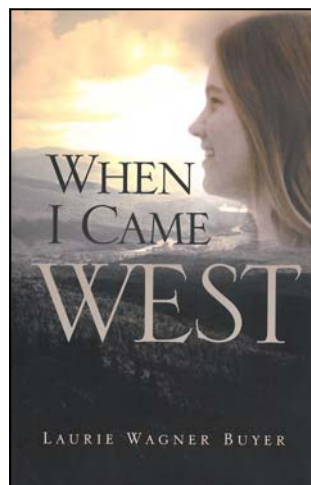
West. It was a turning point for Native Americans, and a confrontation between two monumental figures. Nathaniel Philbrick tackles the subject with aplomb. Getting into the minds of the two leaders, Sitting Bull and George Armstrong Custer, Philbrick describes the events that swirled around them and their fateful meeting in June 1876. Visions, premonitions, agendas, personal glory and national survival move these two as chess pieces on the undulating plains of Little Bighorn.

Surrounded by the vindictive and hesitant leaders of the Seventh Cavalry, Custer finds himself in position to gain glory or fail miserably. Philbrick introduces us to this group as the battle progresses. Details, such as the rifles they carried, the terrain they

rode through and even the colors of their horses, bring the events to life. The description of the terrain is very appealing, allowing the reader to imagine the bluffs, horizon and hidden reality of one of the largest gathering of



Indians in western history. The soldier's situations are brought so accurately into view that one can almost feel that one's along for the ride.



When I Came West

by Laurie Wagner
Buyer

978-0-0861-4059-9

University of Oklahoma
Press

\$14.95

Reviewed by Frank
Pester

What I like about the category "New West" is that they are books

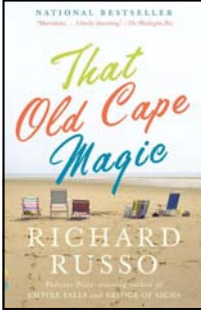
that relate to how ordinary people react to the land we call the West—how they respond to their surroundings, and how it affects their lives. This is such a book. Well written, deeply personal, it is the memoir of a young woman who leaves behind all the conveniences of modern life and turns to the wilds of Montana to live with a man with whom she has only corresponded.

Bill, the man she comes to live with, is a Vietnam War vet and has secluded himself in the wilderness just outside of Glacier National Park. "He called himself Makwi Witco, 'Crazy Wolf....' He had sought the peace of the inaccessible mountains."

Alternating chapters describe the beauty of the wilds and the cruelty and hardship often found in these beautiful surroundings. Through changes in their relationship, Laura must come to terms with whom she loves most: Bill, or the land she has made her home.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Be a crucial part of our historic move.
Contact Jan for details: call 801.328.2586 or email special_services@samwellers.com

New Fiction



That Old Cape Magic

by Richard Russo

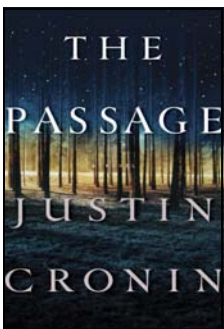
978-1-4000-3091-0

Vintage

\$15.00

For Griffin, all paths, all memories, converge at Cape Cod. The Cape is where he took his childhood summer vacations, where he and his wife, Joy, honeymooned, where they decided he'd leave his LA screenwriting job to become a college professor, and where they celebrated the marriage of their daughter Laura's best friend. But when their beloved Laura's wedding takes place a year later, Griffin is caught between chauffeuring his mother's and father's ashes in two urns and contending with Joy and her large, unruly family. Both he and she have also brought dates along. How in the world could this have happened?

By turns hilarious, rueful, and uplifting, *That Old Cape Magic* is a profoundly involving novel about marriage, family, and all the other ties that bind.



The Passage

by Justin Cronin

978-0-345-50496-8

Ballantine Books

\$27.00

On sale June 8th

"It happened fast. Thirty-two minutes for one world to die, another to be born."

First, the unthinkable: a security breach at a secret U.S. government facility unleashes the monstrous product of a chilling military experiment. Then, the unspeakable: a night of chaos and carnage gives way to sunrise on a nation, and ultimately a world, forever

altered. All that remains for the stunned survivors is the long fight ahead and a future ruled by fear—of darkness, of death, of a fate far worse.

As civilization swiftly crumbles into a primal landscape of predators and prey, two people flee in search of sanctuary. FBI agent Brad Wolgast is a good man haunted by what he's done in the line of duty. Six-year-old orphan Amy Harper Bellafonte is a refugee from the doomed scientific project that has triggered apocalypse. He is determined to protect her from the horror set loose by her captors. But for Amy, escaping the bloody fallout is only the beginning of a much longer odyssey—spanning miles and decades—towards the time and place where she must finish what should never have begun.



Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest

by Stieg Larsson

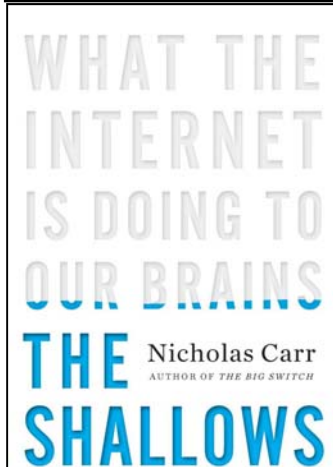
978-0-307-26999-7

Alfred A. Knopf

\$27.95

Lisbeth Salander—the heart of Larsson's two previous novels—lies in critical condition, a bullet wound to her head, in the intensive care unit of a Swedish city hospital. She's fighting for her life in more ways than one: if and when she recovers, she'll be taken back to Stockholm to stand trial for three murders. With the help of her friend, journalist Mikael Blomkvist, she will not only have to prove her innocence, but also identify and denounce those in authority who have allowed the vulnerable, like herself, to suffer abuse and violence. And, on her own, she will plot revenge—against the man who tried to kill her, and the corrupt government institutions that very nearly destroyed her life. Once upon a time, she was a victim. Now Salander is fighting back.

New Non-Fiction

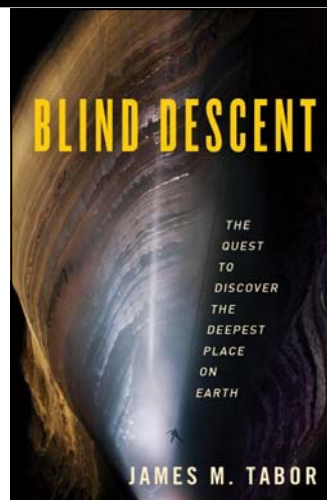


The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains

by Nicholas Carr
978-0-393-07222-8
W.W. Norton
\$26.95
On sale June 7th

“Is Google making us stupid?” When Nicholas Carr posed that question, in a celebrated *Atlantic Monthly* cover story, he tapped into a well of anxiety about how the Internet is changing us. He also crystallized one of the most important debates of our time: As we enjoy the Net’s bounties, are we sacrificing our ability to read and think deeply?

Building on the insights of thinkers from Plato to McLuhan, Carr makes a convincing case that every information technology carries an intellectual ethic—a set of assumptions about the nature of knowledge and intelligence. He explains how the printed book served to focus our attention, promoting deep and creative thought. In stark contrast, the Internet encourages the rapid, distracted sampling of small bits of information from many sources. Its ethic is that of the industrialist, an ethic of speed and efficiency, of optimized production and consumption—and now the Net is remaking us in its own image. We are becoming ever more adept at scanning and skimming, but what we are losing is our capacity for concentration, contemplation, and reflection.



Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth

by James Tabor
978-1-4000-6767-1
Random House
\$26.00
On sale June 15th

In 2004, two great scientist-explorers are attempting to find the bottom of the world. Bold, heroic American Bill Stone is committed to the vast Cheve Cave, located in southern Mexico and deadly even by supercave standards. On the other side of the globe, legendary Ukrainian explorer Alexander Klimchouk—Stone’s polar opposite in temperament and style, but every bit his equal in scientific expertise, physical bravery, and sheer determination—has targeted Krubera, a freezing nightmare of a supercave in the Republic of Georgia, where underground dangers are compounded by the horrors of separatist war in this former Soviet republic.

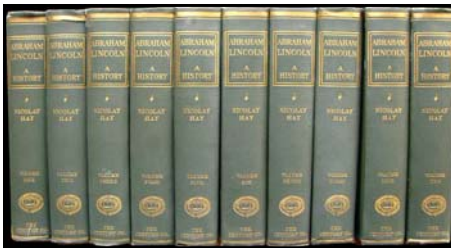
James M. Tabor was granted unprecedented access to logs, journals, photographs, and video footage of these expeditions, as well as many hours of personal interviews with surviving participants. *Blind Descent* is an unforgettable addition to the classic literature of discovery and adventure. It is also a testament to human survival and endurance—and to two extraordinary men whose relentless pursuit of greatness led them to heights of triumph and depths of tragedy neither could have imagined.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW BOOK SECTION SALE FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE
20% OFF ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, TRAVEL, HUMOR, ATLASES, SPORTS, HUMOR ETC!!**

Rare Book Acquisitions by Tony Weller



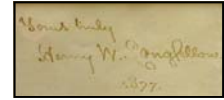
- Have you ever noticed how beautiful old Fruit Crate Labels are? More in the past than the present, colorful, well-designed labels identified the farms that grew the fruit. They were so artful that people collected them straight from the growers themselves. Recently we bought a collection of unused fruit crate labels from Washington, Oregon and California growers, printed between the 1920s and 1940s. We grouped them by type and no group contains duplicates.
 - 49 apple crate labels. \$350
 - 11 citrus fruit crate labels. \$50
 - 44 oblong grape crate labels. \$250
 - Nine pear crate labels. \$50
 - 33 miscellaneous fruit crate labels. \$200



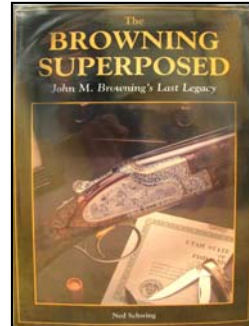
- Recently acquired is a very carefully handled 1914 ten-volume set of **Abraham Lincoln: A History**. This set, in octavo green cloth, was written by **John G. Nicolay** and **John Hay**. It was printed in 1914. In very good condition for \$1150.



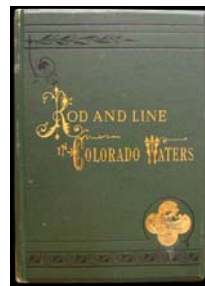
- Back from careful restoration is a copy of the elusive 1st edition of **J.N. Macomb's Report of the Exploring Expedition from Santa Fe, New Mexico to the Junction of the Grand and Green Rivers of the Great Colorado of the West, in 1859**. The Civil War delayed publication of this volume until 1876. Our copy is in contemporary 3/4 leather. Restoration only involved joint repairs and touch-up. Contains beautiful chromolithographic plates. \$2750



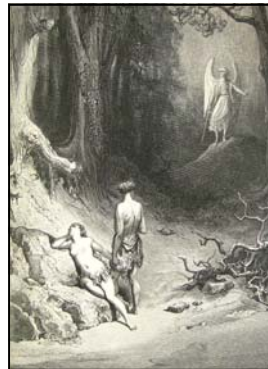
- A beautifully framed clipped 1877 autograph of **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**, mounted with a photographic portrait. \$450



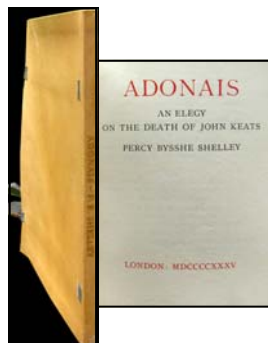
- Among a small but quality selection of gun books we recently acquired, is a 1st edition of the rare *Browning Superposed: John M. Browning's Last Legacy* by **Ned Schwing**. In fine condition. \$425



- We have a really great copy of the 2nd edition of the collection of fishing tales, *With Rod and Line in Colorado Waters*, printed in 1887. Though not identified, **Lewis B. France** is the author of this collection, which first appeared in 1884. This great looking, probably unread copy sells for \$225



- I was very pleased to buy one of the nicest copies of the **Gustav Dore** illustrated edition of **John Milton's Paradise Lost** that we've seen in quite a while. This folio is bound in 3/4 deep green leather with moiré patterned green cloth on the boards. It's in very good condition. Few editions of Paradise Lost are better loved than the thickly illustrated versions by Dore. \$575

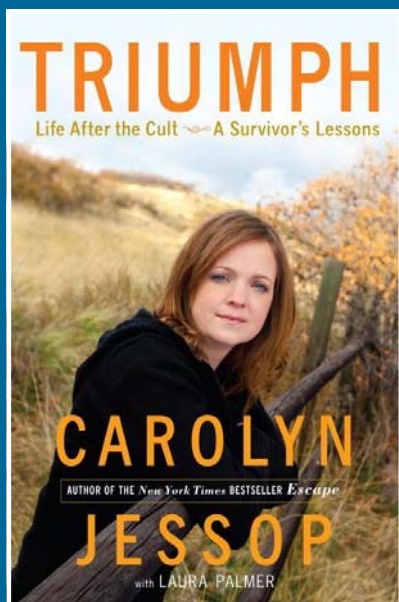


- A very nice 1935 limited edition of only 250 copies of *Adonais* by **Percy Bysshe Shelley**. This small quarto is bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe in vellum and printed in black and red on hand-made paper for London's Reed Pale Press by the Chiswick Press. The vellum is curling as is common. \$175



Sam Weller's Bookstore

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



Triumph: Life After the Cult—A Survivor's Lessons

by Carolyn Jessop

978-0-307-59070-1

Broadway

\$25.99

The author of The New York Times bestseller *Escape* returns with a moving and inspirational tale of her life after she heroically fled the cult she'd been raised in, her hard-won new identity and happiness, and her determination to win justice for the crimes committed against her family.

Newsletter Editor: John Clukey