



BOOKTALK

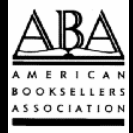


The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Bookstore

New, Used and Rare Books

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929

December 2010-January 2011



From Tony Weller:

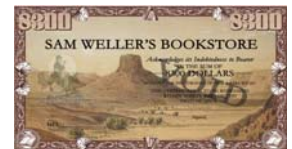
Sam Weller's Book Scrip

Now that the speculative frenzy precipitated by internet trading has cooled off, prices of rare books have dropped to levels resembling the 1990-

1995 period. And, the slumping economy has increased the supply of great rare books. If we weren't bearing our share of the difficulties, we wouldn't have decided to move last year. While preparing for our 50th and last Christmas on Main Street, we have conceived of a fun way for book collectors to maximize the value of their spending while helping us to thin our inventory.

We are issuing a limited quantity of Sam Weller's Book Scrip. Notes will be issued in goofy increments of \$650, \$1400, \$3800 and \$8300. The notes are cool and maybe someday will be collectible, so when a note is redeemed, an authorized staff member will cancel it and return it to the bibliophile who cashed in with this program. The notes will be sold for the respective prices of \$500, \$1000, \$2500 and \$5000. So the added value participants will reap climbs thus: 30%, 40%, 52% and 66%! Though the idea came as a rare book incentive, the SWB Scrip may also be used on second hand books. Purchases may not be bought using charge or used book credit accounts, and the full value of the notes must be redeemed within 30 days of purchase.

Are there rare books you've resisted because of price? Sam Weller's Book scrip will stretch your spending even further than the recently dropped prices are already stretching it. To purchase or learn more, please contact a member of our rare book department.



2010 Rare Book Catalog

Since my time has been dominated by our location search, that we even have a rare book catalog at all this year is wholly due to the gumption of Joan Nay. Weeks ago, I was bemoaning the realization that we would not have time to produce our usual Christmas season catalog when Joan stepped forward with Samly confidence and told me she would do it without my help. After thanking her, I assured her I would do my best to stay out of her way. For the last several weeks Joan has been selecting and describing books. Main distribution this year will occur electronically although we will print a few copies by request. The photos of the books look extra crisp in their digital forms. If you are not signed up for our rare book catalogs, now would be a good time to join our mailing list. You can sign up on our website, in person or by phone. If you do it by phone, it may take a few minutes since we ask questions about your taste in order to not contribute to wasted time or paper. The catalog will also be available on our web site. With a piece of SWB scrip and the catalog, you could fulfill your entire holiday shopping list!

Sales & Events: December-January

Extended Holiday Hours: From December 9th through the 23rd we will be open from 10am-8pm Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

- ♦ **Apolo Anton Ohno: Signing** Saturday, **December 4th**, 2:00 PM. In store. Apolo Ohno will sign copies of his memoir, *Zero Regrets: Be Greater Than Yesterday*.
- ♦ **Dan Wells and Kristen Chandler: Signing** Tuesday, **December 6th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Kristen Chandler will sign her novel, *Wolves, Boys, & Other Things That Might Kill Me*, and Dan Wells will sign his novels, *I Am Not a Serial Killer* and *Mr. Monster*.
- ♦ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **December 7th**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. January's selections are from *His Last Bow: The Adventures of Wisteria Lodge, the Cardboard Box and the Red Circle*. Tickets are \$12, and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore.
- ♦ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Sponsored by Sam Weller's Bookstore. Tuesday, **December 28th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. December's selection is *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline* by George Saunders.
- ♦ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **January 4th**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. January's selections are from *His Last Bow: The Adventures of the Bruce-Partington Plans, the Dying Detective and the Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax*. Tickets are \$12, and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore.
- ♦ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Sponsored by Sam Weller's Bookstore. Tuesday, **January 25th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. January's selection is *Bad Marie* by Marcy Dermansky.
- ♦ **HOLIDAY READING WINDOW** This will be our last holiday season in our Main Street location. While we know that many of you are looking forward to our relocation, there are many of you who have fond memories of our Main Street store. What better way to cap off those memories than read for two hours in our front window? The Reading Window will be available for your live bodies on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays December 9 to December 24, from Noon to 8:00 p.m. Each shift is two hours and comes with coffee or hot chocolate and cookies. Call us at 801-328-2586 or email at books@samwellers.com to sign up. It also comes with the warm contented feeling that accompanies simply sitting and reading a good book during a hectic time. If you need a good book, we can help you with that too.
- ♦ **HOLIDAY PARKING DOWNTOWN** If you've been downtown lately, you may have noticed that the parking meters are looking particularly festive. It's not because they're on the way to a party, it's because the Downtown Alliance and Salt Lake City are once again sponsoring FREE PARKING for two hours at any downtown parking meter. Promotion will run through December 26th.

December Queereads pick 20% off *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky. **January Queereads pick 20% off** *Breathers: A Zombie's Lament* by S. G. Browne.

From Catherine Weller

Angel Tree

HEY ANGEL!

You've no doubt seen the edge of the M. Lynn Bennion Elementary School as you've driven up 400 S. or perhaps stopped for their students crossing 900 E. in Salt Lake City. Located at 429 S. 800 E., Bennion is a Title 1 School in which 86% of the students are economically disadvantaged. That's not the whole story: Students at Bennion speak over 19 languages and represent cultures around the globe, and their teachers have an average of 20 years experience accompanied by a deep commitment to the academic and personal progress of each child. But let's face it, in these tough economic times, schools like Bennion and its students need help more than ever.

That's why Sam Wellers Books has chosen to mount an Angel Tree for Bennion Elementary. Beginning in early December and running through the holidays, customers of Wellers will be able to support the educational mission of Bennion by choosing a star from the Angel Tree conveniently located on the Main Floor and buying the school a book (or two!). Each title on the Angel Tree will be a title requested by the librarian, teachers, staff, and students of Bennion. So you know the book you chose will not be a duplicate or go to waste. To make the experience as easy as possible for you and for Bennion, Sam Wellers will deliver all of the donated books to the school in the first week of January. And to make the buying as painless as possible, **Wellers will discount all Angel Tree donations 20%.**

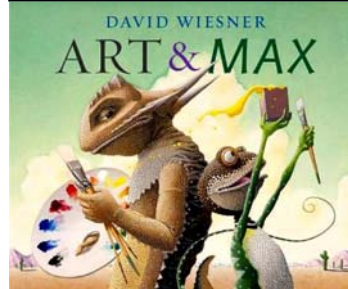
Join us in supporting a worthy school full of students eager to read. Then, when someone asks you, "Is heaven missing an angel?" you'll know it's not just a cheesy pick-up line.



Best Weller's Selection

December/January

Reviewed by Frank Pester



Art & Max

by David

Wiesner

978-0-618-75663-6

Clarion Books

Best Weller's Price

\$14.39

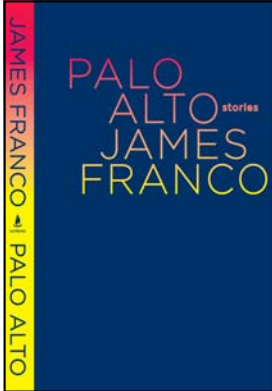
David Wiesner, three time Caldecott Medal winner, returns with another wonderful and creative book, *Art and Max*. Having heard him speak with his editor at the recent Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Meeting about the germination of this book, I have to say this book should spark the imagination of readers and art teachers alike. The illustrations are charming and vivid, bringing to life the two characters.

The story involves the interaction of two lizards, Art, who is an accomplished artist and Max, his friend, who is ready to jump right in and learn. Underlying their interaction is a story of how the creative process works. Max's enthusiasm should ring true with many children who want to jump right in. Max reduces Art to a mere line drawing through unexpected changes and problem solving as he tries to paint Art's portrait. That line drawing soon unravels as so much string, and Max must recreate his friend, while learning the fundamentals of drawing; the unexpected ending is extremely funny.

An excellent book to give not only to the budding artist, from an illustrator who was the "kid who can draw," but to children of all ages who love a funny tale involving the trials of two friends.



Staff Reviews



Palo Alto: Stories

by James Franco

978-1-4391-6314-6

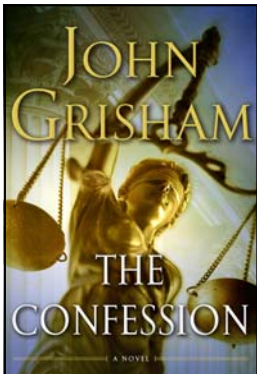
Scribner

\$24.00

Review by Liz Shattler

Actor and artist, James Franco, can now call himself author. *Palo*

Alto: Stories is an unsparing collection of stories about several teenagers living in Palo Alto, California in the 1990s. Not coincidentally, that is where Franco grew up. The stories are separate, told first person by different kids, but they weave together a bigger picture of what life was like for them. Aside from the harsh reality of these teens, there's a sense of nostalgia when pop-culture references are mentioned. I truly enjoyed reading this book. I hope this is just the first of many books from James Franco. He isn't just some actor writing on a whim; he's got talent.



The Confession

by John Grisham

Random House

978-0-385-52804-7

\$28.95

Review by Joan Nay

Who really raped and murdered the popular Texas cheerleader? Travis Boyette, who

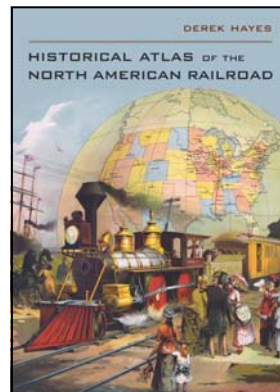
buried the body so she would never be found? Or, Donté Drumm who was arrested and convicted for the crime and spent nine years on death row awaiting execution? Drumm is four days away from execution, when Boyette, who has an inoperable brain tumor, decides to confess.

Fortunately, this grisly crime takes a back seat to the problem at hand: convincing

judges, lawyers and politicians they are about to execute the wrong man. Enter master story teller, John Grisham.

With his breezy writing style and typical Grisham panache, he ferrets out the good, the bad, the strengths and weaknesses in the legal system. There are surprises along the way, dark humor, and not a necessarily neat and tidy ending.

John Grisham taking pot shots at the legal profession is one thing; the fact that he is a practicing attorney gives the tone of his writing an interesting twist. A highly recommended thriller from one of the best.



Historical Atlas of the North American Railroad

by Derek Hayes

978-0-520-26616-2

University of
California Press

\$39.95

Review by

Joan Nay

You don't need to be a railroad enthusiast to appreciate and enjoy this handsome volume by Derek Hayes. In true historical atlas format, Hayes includes nearly 400 railroad maps, plus many colorful historical photos, brochures and posters to illustrate how the railroad transformed the economic and social life of the continent. From the short lines of the 1820s and 1830s to Amtrak and the high tech, inter-modal freights of today, this volume will provide hours of pleasurable browsing. Read it at least once for the respectable text; but the real treat here is the plethora of maps and illustrations, well-executed and produced. For the minutiae of historical North American railroads, this is indeed the place!

Staff Reviews Continued



King James Bible Quatercentenary Edition

with essay by
Gordon Campbell
978-0-19-955760-8
Oxford University Press
\$79.95

Review by
Frank Pester

“In the beginning was the word, and that word was Hebrew and Greek.”

-Benson Bobrick, author of *Wide As The Waters: The Story of the English Bible and the Revolution It Inspired*.

Next to the Bible itself, the English Bible remains the most influential book ever published and the King James Version the most famous of all translations. From it phrases like “The root of all evil,” “the fat of the land,” and “labor of love” entered into the English vernacular and became common expressions.

The year 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the bible commissioned in 1604 by King James I of England. To mark this momentous occasion, Oxford University Press has issued a deluxe, slipcased edition of the 1611 King James Bible in real leather.

This edition is the most authentic version of the original text that has been published since 1911. It follows the 1611 text page-for-page and line-for-line, reproducing all misprints rather than correcting them, including an errata listing the misprints at the end. Included is an essay by the Renaissance Studies expert, Gordon Campbell.

There will be worldwide celebrations and editions in the coming year marking the event of the 1611 publication. This bible is a beautiful edition sure to be a family treasure. As of this writing the First edition run has sold out at Oxford, but we still have

a stack and will replenish with 2nd printings when we run out.

In addition to this beautiful book, Oxford has published *Bible: The Story of the King James Version* by Gordon Campbell. Here is a fascinating history of how the King James version came to be, and also the twists and turns of the edition up to the present day.



Wicked River

by Lee Sandlin

978-0-307-37851-4

Pantheon Books

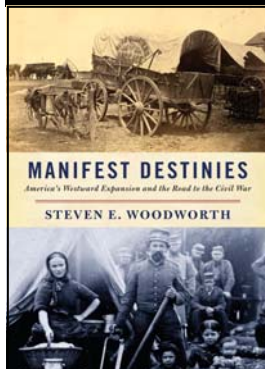
\$26.95

Review by Frank Pester

Many of us have read Mark Twain's novels of the Mississippi River, but author Lee Sandlin gives us a history of the river before it had been tamed and became the source of legends used by Twain. By the time Twain wrote his books the Mississippi had been dredged into a shipping channel. Here is the history of the river's floods, violent storms and huge earthquakes.

A must for those who love the river, Sandlin vividly recreates its history, unfolding it like a huge panorama, popular in the days before film. The Mississippi was a wild river flowing through the heart of America populated by men just as wild. Voyageurs ran the river in hopes of wealth, pirates lurked in caves and islands to plunder that wealth. Towns grew up around the river as the great migration of the U.S. began. Respectability lived on the Bluffs and hills, while wild and untamed “lower” towns grew up near the river populated by those taking advantage of the traffic and trade.

Drawing on colorful first hand accounts, Sandlin brings to life the now long forgotten and legendary lives, societies and natural and manmade disasters of a pivotal time in the growth of our country.



Manifest Destinies
by Steven E. Woodworth
978-0-307-26524-1
Alfred A. Knopf
\$30.00
Review by
Frank Pester

Manifest Destiny was the 19th century American belief that the United States was destined to expand across the whole of the North American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific oceans. Advocates of Manifest Destiny believed that expansion was not only wise but that it was readily apparent (manifest) and inexorable (destiny). Along side this belief existed the institution of slavery and the growth of the Abolitionist movement. Author Steven Woodworth has written a vivid history of the intertwining of these two movements in the light of the expansion of the American West.

Starting with the administration of Van Buren and the presidential election of 1840, and retracing the Oregon trail and expansion to the unincorporated areas of Oregon, California and Texas, Woodworth writes of the political and social climate of the time. Fascinating tales of pioneer travels, including the Donner party, Fremont and the growth of Mormon religion; with interesting stories of the presidential campaigns of Harrison, Tyler and Polk; and vivid accounts of the Mexican War make this book a enlivening look of US history in the 1840's.

A word from Joan regarding our annual rare books catalog:

Sam Weller Books annual Rare Book Christmas catalog will hopefully be available by the time you read this. It highlights approximately 200 items from our Rare Book Room collections. It will be

available electronically, via email, or a paper copy. Please contact Joan by phone at 801-328-2586, or 1-800-333-7269; or by email, joan@samwellers.com

We are also producing additional lists from specific sections of our Rare Book Rooms. We will have lists available on Stamps and Stamp Collecting (primarily for Great Britain and the Carribean islands), and we also have a list from our LDS Pamphlets collection. Call or email Joan for these as well.

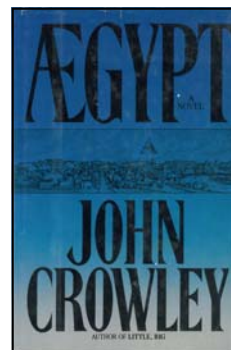
We plan additional subject lists from our Rare Book Collections in the coming weeks and months. If interested in specific subjects, contact Joan.

Rare Book Gifts by Tony Weller

As is my custom in this season, I forego new arrivals for great gifts for the December issue of BookTalk. Here is a selection of books of wide appeal that would make terrific presents. All are in very good to fine condition and in dust jackets, except for The Bayeux Tapestry, which never had one, and Raggedy Ann. In order to present a few more titles, I have curbed my propensity for longer descriptions. However, we will be happy to provide you with any additional details you might want. The cool thing about these ink and paper editions is that they work for any basic English platform version of brain regardless of generation and they are easily powered and activated by engagement with a corporal reader. They are portable, sturdy and have tiny carbon footprints. You can loan 'em, give 'em away and pass 'em on to your kids!

Great Novels

- A very good 1st edition of *Aegypt* by **John Crowley**. \$45

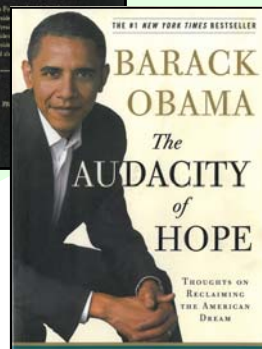
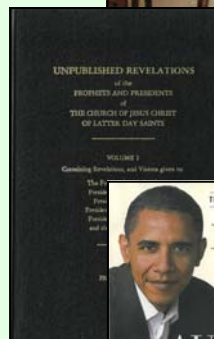
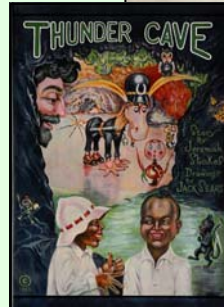
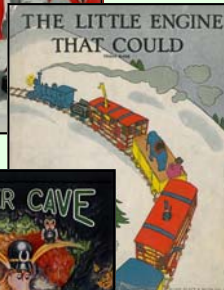
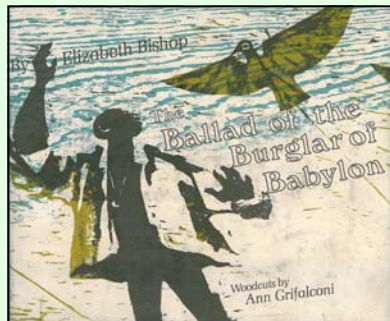
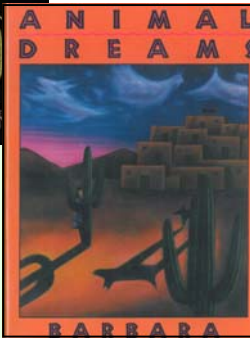
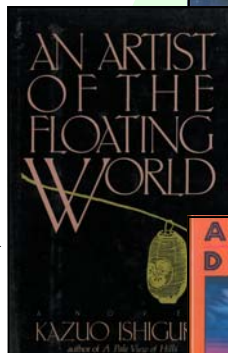
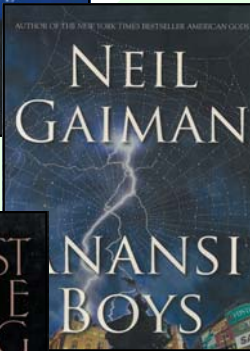
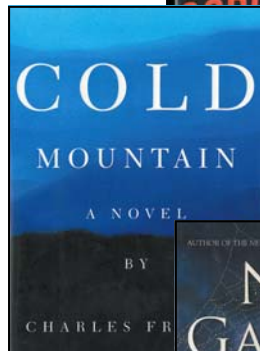
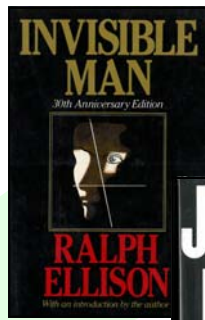


Rare Book Gifts *by Tony Weller*

- 1st 30th anniversary edition of **Ralph Ellison's** *Invisible Man*. \$45
- Fine 1st edition of *The Corrections* by **Jonathan Franzen**. \$45
- A 1st edition of *Cold Mountain* by **Charles Frazier**. \$40
- A signed limited edition of **Neil Gaiman's** *Anansi Boys* with a small remainder mark on bottom edge. \$60
- 1st American edition of *An Artist of the Floating World* by **Kazuo Ishiguro**. \$50
- Signed 1st edition of **Barbara Kingsolver's** *Animal Dreams* with former owner's name on front endsheet. \$50

Neat Juvenile Books

- 1st edition of **Elizabeth Bishop's** scarce 1968 juvenile title, *The Ballad of the Burglar of Babylon*. \$275



- A very good 1918 copy of *Raggedy Ann Stories* by **Johnny Gruelle**. Vivid color illustrations! \$125
- A nearly perfect copy of **Wilfred McCormick's** 1951 *Grand Slam Homer*. \$50
- A very nice early printing of **Watty Piper's** *Little Engine that Could!* \$100
- An unused, now out-of-print hardcover facsimile of the 1st edition of *The Thunder Cave* by **Jeremiah Stokes** and illustrated by **Jack Sears**. \$75

Enchanting Eclectic Offerings

- Slipcased small folio facsimile of the 11th century *Bayeux Tapestry* with history, commentary and color reproductions. \$60
- 1st edition *Unpublished Revelations of the Prophets and Presidents of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*, volume 1, edited by **Fred Collier**. \$90
- A signed 11th printing of **President Barack Obama's** *Audacity of Hope*. \$350



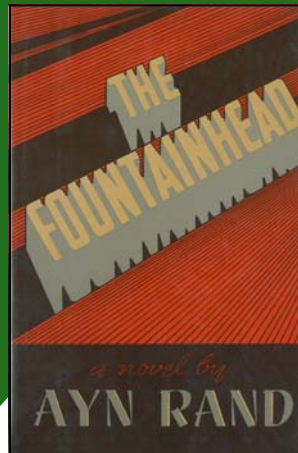
Sam Weller's Bookstore

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

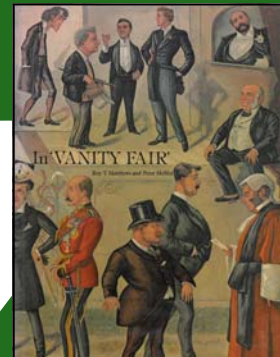
Rare Book Gifts



- A cool collection called *American Photobooth* showing great photos taken in those nearly extinct photo closets. \$100



- A near fine facsimile of the 1st edition of *The Fountain Head* by **Ayn Rand**. \$40



- A quarto pictorial *In 'Vanity Fair'*, a history of the illustrious magazine, with excerpts and great illustrations, many in color. \$50

Newsletter Editor: **John Clukey**