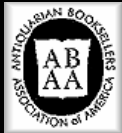




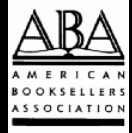
BOOKTALK



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 2011



From Tony Weller: Suspending Used Book Buying to Clean Out Storage

We are as anxious about our imminent relocation as you are curious about when and where we are going. Though progress is frustratingly slow, we have been focused almost constantly on moving plans ever since our announcement in March of 2009. We sold our share of the Main Street building to our long-standing partners in ownership, Alan and Rob Dahle, and now we are downright impatient about securing a site and getting on with the move!

Our efforts have been hampered at nearly every step of the process—first, because prospective buyers of the David Keith Building were thwarted by their inability to get financing. Last fall, we made an offer for a building we really like and want but have not yet been able to close the deal. Though it isn't dead, our weakened confidence about it caused us to reopen negotiations with other property owners. Now we're nurturing two deals, hoping one will become real enough to announce very soon.

The parameters of our search have morphed somewhat since we started looking, as we've refined our understanding of real estate, the book industry, and economic realities. We truly hope our most recent offer will be the one that

works. I can no longer count the number of bookstores I've designed in Salt Lake City buildings within my head.

Unless you have sought U.S.G.S. publications or old LDS periodicals you have probably never visited the 8000 square feet of storage space that we have on the second floor. Our New Year's resolution is to empty the floor by spring, in preparation for our big move. To increase available staff time to achieve this large task, we have suspended second hand book purchasing until our move is done. From a work flow perspective, the current hiatus in buying means a few more buys to which we have committed, and a lot of pricing, inventory and shelving. We'll get our extra time in February.

We regret our inability purchase books for the next three or four months, and we'll be eager to resume used and rare book purchasing once we have moved. At that time, it will be challenging to control our bibliophilic appetites. Meanwhile, we have many new acquisitions* to price and shelve, along with the sometimes very interesting discoveries emerging from our storage areas.

As soon as a deal is signed, we'll hail it loudly and broadly. Wow, I'm glad I read Toffler, McLuhan and Suzuki before being forced to begin this tough chapter in the annals of bookselling.

*Note: interspersed throughout this issue of *Booktalk* are details from the cover art of two recently acquired Easton Press editions, *The Book of Days* and *The Golden Fleece*.



Events: February-March



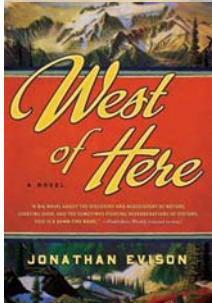
- ◆ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **February 1st**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. February selections are from *His Last Bow: The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans*, *The Adventure of the Dying Detectice*, *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax*, *The Adventure of the Devil's Foot*, and *His Last Bow*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Includes light refreshments.
- ◆ **Be Sensible: A Gathering** Saturday, **March 12th**, 4:00 PM. In store. Join us for a post-session review of our state legislature. Awards will be presented for nominations in several categories: Most Sensible, Least Sensible, and Best Alternative Legislative Acts or Statements, and for the Pat Bagley cartoon that best captures the 2011 session. Nominations may be made at www.besensible.org. 
- ◆ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, **February 22nd**. Call store for meeting location and time. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. February's hard boiled selection is *Short Cuts* by Raymond Carver. 20% off in the month prior to the meeting! 
- ◆ **Dan Wells: Reading and Signing** Tuesday, **March 29th**, 6:00 PM. In store. **Dan Wells** joins us again for the conclusion of his chilling trilogy, *I Don't Want to Kill You*. We hosted him for the release of his first two books, and we're excited to host him for this release, too! 
- ◆ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **March 1st**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. March selections are from *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Illustrious Client*, *The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier*, and *The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Includes light refreshments.
- ◆ **Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, **March 29th**. Call store for meeting location and time. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. March's hard boiled selection is *The Moviegoer* by Walker Percy. 20% off in the month prior to the meeting! On facebook 

February's Queereads pick is *Written on the Body* by Jeanette Winterson. 20% off in February! **March's** Queereads pick is *Sexual Fluidity* by Lisa M. Diamond. 20% off in March!

Best Weller's Selection

February/March

Reviewed by Frank Pester



West of Here

by Jonathan Evison

978-1-565-12952-8

Algonquin Books

Best Weller's Price

\$19.96

On sale February 15th

Jonathan Evison has written an epic novel of a place and its effects on those who live there. But you'll have to be patient, *West of Here* doesn't release until February 15th. We think you'll agree it is worth the wait.

The novel takes place in the mythical town of Port Bonita in the Pacific Northwest, a town looking forward to the future—a future sure to promise big things. The tale starts in the rough and tumble 1880s, filled with characters that have made the Olympic Peninsula their home. The Klallam tribe is there because that is where they have always been. Others are there to take advantage of all the natural bounties that surround them. The future is limitless, the resources limitless, and human optimism is limitless. Explorers set out to conquer; idealists set out to form a Utopian society; businessmen set out to capitalize.

Look forward a hundred and twenty odd years, and you find Port Bonita is still there, altered for sure, inhabited by all sorts of modern society with modern woes. Wrongs must be made right. Dams must be torn down, and man must survive. Within the scope and environment of the novel are colorful and well developed characters who just want to make sense of it all and survive. Evison has lent humanness to his characters and even though most, if not all, are flawed in some way, you feel empathy for them, you hope for the best for both man and place.

A thoroughly enjoyable and captivating read that will keep you up at night. We hope you will pardon the wait and pick up a copy when it is released. We would be happy to reserve copies for you.

Staff Reviews



Because of Mr. Terupt

by Rob Buyea

978-0-385-73882-8

Delacorte Books for Young Readers

Readers

\$16.99

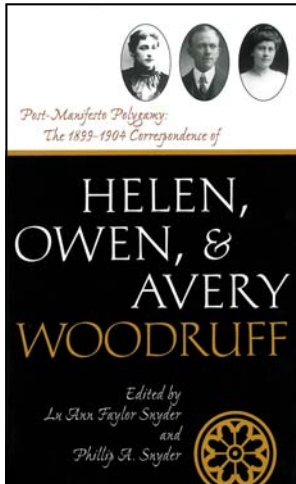
Reviewed by
Bruce Christensen

School has just started at Snow Hill Elementary, and seven fifth-graders meet a new teacher who at first startles, then intrigues, and finally inspires them as the year progresses. The narrators, four girls and three boys, not only tell their version of the events depicted in this well told juvenile novel, but reveal themselves as individuals who are trying to make sense of their lives at home and at school.

Mr. Terupt is not the average teacher, but his students are learning and thinking in new and exciting ways. All is going well until a terrible accident shakes them up, forcing them to face life in ways that are foreign to them.

Because of Mr. Terupt is not only moving, but also a thought-provoking book. The reader will find the characters delightful, and will empathize with them as well. I would definitely recommend this book to fifth-graders, and also to their parents.

Staff Reviews: Nonfiction



Post-Manifesto Polygamy:

**The 1899–1904
Correspondence
of Helen, Owen, &
Avery Woodruff**

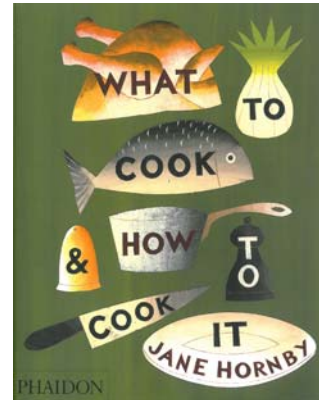
Edited by
LuAnn Faylor Snyder
& Phillip A. Snyder.
978-0-87421-739-1

USU Press
\$34.95

Reviewed by
Joan Nay

Abraham Owen Woodruff was a young Mormon apostle, and son of LDS Church President Wilford Woodruff. Even after the 1890 Manifesto that terminated the practice of plural marriage, some leaders continued to contract and perform marriages. One of those was Owen Woodruff who contracted a secretive post-Manifesto marriage to a second wife. This work presents 85 letters written among Owen and his two wives between 1899 and 1904. They eloquently detail his life “on the underground” to prevent detection by federal marshals, as well as the strain of having two devoted families separated by law and geography. Much of Owen’s church work was among Mormon colonies in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming, while his younger second wife lived in the Mormon colony of Colonia Juarez, Mexico. Owen and his first wife enjoyed an extended stay in Mexico with the second wife; upon return to the United States, Owen and his first wife contracted smallpox and both died in Texas in 1904.

The excellent introductory essay puts the Woodruff story in context, and the editorial annotation of the letters is light and even-handed. An eloquent and seldom-seen view of this turbulent period of LDS history. **Volume 11 in the series: Life Writings of Frontier Women**



What to Cook and How to Cook It

by Jane Hornby
978-0-7148-5958-3
Phaidon Press
\$39.95

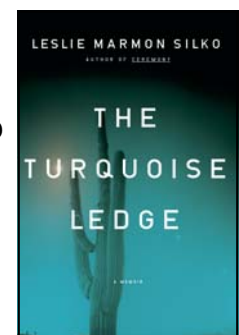
Reviewed by
Joan Nay

The first thing you will notice about this new cookbook is its size and heft, and then the wonderful photos—and not just a single photo of the final dish. Each recipe is explained in great detail and is accompanied by a series of photos that illustrate individual ingredients, how the process of mixing said ingredients looks, and the final product. Macaroni and cheese is fairly simple, right? When it is illustrated with 8 photos of the process, it can make your mouth water. Other favorites are chicken stir fry, an omelet (how hard can that be?), chicken noodle soup, hummus with marinated olives and pita, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, apple pie, peach and raspberry cobbler, pecan cranberry pie, and 95 other mouth watering ideas. It is refreshing to see a cookbook with so many excellent photos. If you are a beginning cook, or looking to expand your repertoire of menus, you will be entertained and educated with this wonderfully illustrated volume. Even if you are an experienced cook, you may find a great new menu idea here. The photos will just be an added bonus.

Turquoise Ledge by Leslie Marmon Silko

978-0-670-02211-3
Viking
\$25.95

Review by Frank Pester



Staff Reviews Continued



Come along and enter the world of Leslie Marmon Silko! It will surprise you, entertain you, and make you wonder. Here a random piece of turquoise has a story and message.

Recently deceased friends and relatives will speak to you through visits from the natural world. Star beings want their portraits painted, but in a particular way. Rattlesnakes come and live with you.

A natural storyteller, Silko recounts strands and fragments of her life, “A great deal of what I call 'memories' are bits and pieces I recall vividly: but the process we call 'memory,' even recent memory, involves imagination. We learn to ignore the discrepancies between our memory of an event and a sister's memory. We can't be certain of anything. Fortunately my subconscious remembers everything I need. Whatever I can't recall, later comes back to me as I write fiction. I make myself a fictional character so I can write about myself...”

The book begins with a section entitled “Ancestors” where she writes of her circle of relatives, it is a world so utterly different and enchanting to those, who as I, grew up in an Anglo-Saxon, white European world. Sure there are heartaches and problems, but the love of family members shows through. She recounts episodes of the Indian Slave trade and the devastating effects of uranium mining and atomic tests.

The section entitled “Rattlesnakes” just bewildered me. How anyone could live and be surrounded by these snakes and be friendly and enchanted by them, is just beyond my imagination, but it does make for great reading. You find that many animals inhabit the world of Leslie Marmon Silko: snakes, bees, horses, dogs and Macaws.

Turquoise Ledge is filled with amazement and reverence for the land of the Southwest. It's a great addition to the body of works about the New West written with beautiful and sensitive prose, and weaving the lives, myths, legends and beings who inhabit the Southwest.'

Bird Cloud by Annie Proulx

978-0-7432-8880-4

Scribner

\$26.00

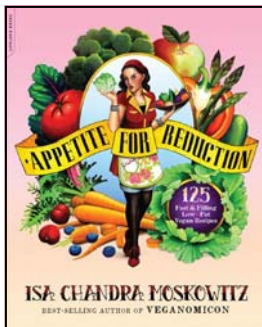
Review by
Frank Pester



Here is an honest, intimate and heart felt memoir of Annie Proulx's life, friends and most of all the land that she inhabits. Starting with a brief history of her family—the fact that her father moved the family around a lot to escape the stigma of being Canadian in a Yankee world, to the many homes she lived in, the book moves to Annie's decision to make a home for herself in her beloved Wyoming. Buying a property being sold by the Nature Conservancy she compares the four hundred foot yellow cliff on it with the Uluru in Australia's red center.

Proulx tale of moving from her home in Centennial, Wyoming to buying, building and finally moving into her new house is one of joy, frustration, naïveté and triumph. She recounts her working with her architect, builder friends and locals in the struggle to make a home. The book is rounded out by her vivid imagery, her love for the land, and the history and natural history of the land she loves. She recounts chasing cows, planting native grasses, finding arrowheads. There is the snow, the heat and the wind, especially the wind that blows at times to hurricane strength. *Bird Cloud* is a book that grows on you page after page as you feel for her struggles, and discover the country through her writing.

Nonfiction Books Reviewed by the Publisher

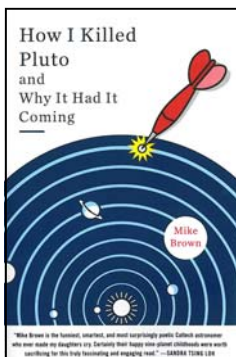


Appetite for Reduction: Fast and Filling Low-Fat Vegan Meals

by Isa Chandra
Moskowitz
978-1-60094-049-1
Lifelong Books
\$19.95

Is vegan food healthy (because it's free of animal products)? Or is it unhealthy? (Aren't you missing out on some vitamins?) Can you really lose weight on a vegan diet? (Don't you just fill up on carbs?) Or are vegans actually anorexic? (All they eat is lettuce!) Finally, in *Appetite for Reduction*, there's a cookbook that busts the myths about veganism, diets, getting skinny, and staying healthy, not to mention the best soundtrack for rocking out in your kitchen.

Isa Chandra Moskowitz is known for making groundbreaking strides in vegan cooking, proving that going vegan doesn't mean sacrificing flavor. But after years of perfecting cupcake and cookie recipes, she wanted to lose weight. In *Appetite for Reduction*, Moskowitz teams up with a top nutritionist to create 100 delicious, big-portion recipes—from Spinach Lasagna to Manhattan Glam Chowder—that are fewer than 400 calories per serving, low in fat and sugar, and high in fiber. Best of all, a healthy dinner can be on your table in under forty-five minutes.



How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming

by Mike Brown
978-0-385-53108-5
Spiegel & Grau
\$25.00

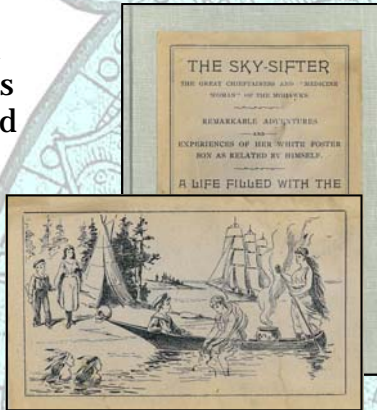
An engaging and dramatic account of the most tumultuous year in modern astronomy by the astronomer who inadvertently caused it—a memoir by the adorably geeky scientist who, in his effort to discover the tenth planet, ended up demoting everyone's favorite planet, Pluto, to a firestorm of public outrage.

The solar system most of us grew up with included nine planets, with Mercury closest to the sun and Pluto at the outer edge. Then, in 2005, astronomer Mike Brown made the discovery of a lifetime: a tenth planet, Eris, slightly bigger than Pluto. But instead of its resulting in one more planet being added to our solar system, Brown ignited a firestorm of controversy that riled the usually sedate world of astronomy and launched him into the public eye. The debate culminated in the demotion of Pluto from real planet to the newly coined category of “dwarf” planet. Suddenly Brown was receiving hate mail from schoolchildren and being bombarded by TV reporters—all because of the discovery he had spent years searching for and a lifetime dreaming about.

Filled with both humor and drama, *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming* is Mike Brown's engaging first-person account of the most tumultuous year in modern astronomy—which he inadvertently caused. As it guides readers through important scientific concepts and inspires us to think more deeply about our place in the cosmos, it is also an entertaining and enlightening personal story: While Brown sought to expand our understanding of the vast nature of space, his own life was changed in the most immediate, human ways by love, birth, and death. A heartfelt and personal perspective on the demotion of everyone's favorite far-flung planet, this is the book for anyone, young or old, who has ever dreamed of exploring the universe—and who among us hasn't?

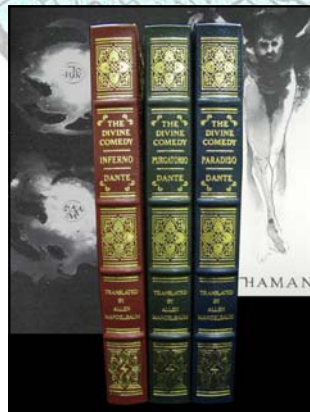
Rare Book Acquisitions by Tony Weller

- Recently back from one of our binders, is a copy of the odd and scarce Mormon novel, *The Sky-Sifter: The Great Chieftainess and "Medicine Woman" of the Mohawks. Remarkable Adventures and Experiences of Her White Foster Son as Related by Himself. A Life Filled with the Supernatural.* This uncommon book was authored by **William P. Bennett** and published by the Pacific Press in 1892. Our copy has been skillfully rebound in pale cloth with the original paper wraps mounted on the covers. **\$500**

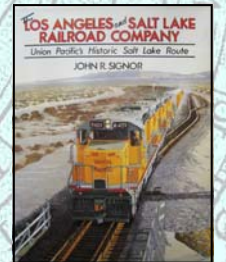


- I believe Maurice Sendak will go down as one of the best illustrators of our time. We just received a first edition of *The Art of Maurice Sendak 1980 to the Present* written by **Tony Kushner**. This 2003 book is a small folio, and this copy is autographed by Sendak and Kushner. **\$300**

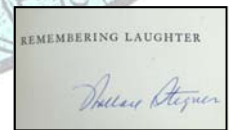
- We have a beautiful three-volume set of the **Allen Mandelbaum** translation of *The Divine Comedy* by **Dante Alighieri** from The Easton Press. These small folios are bound in deep red, forest green and rich royal blue bonded leather with elaborate gilt décor. They are illustrated with the drawings of **Barry Moser**. **\$400**



- A signed 1st edition of the scarce *Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad Company* by **John R. Signor**. This quarto volume was published in 1988. Thickly illustrated and signed, with an additional note from Signor. **\$325**



- From Sam Weller's library, a jacketless first edition of **Wallace Stegner's** first commercially published book, *Remembering Laughter*, from 1937. The book is signed by Stegner on the half title. It has been variously exposed to sunlight, so the cloth covers are faded into three different shades of tan or greenish blue. Hard to find. **\$1250**



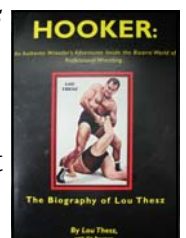
- A beautifully designed and printed Yolla Bolly limited edition of *Babette's Feast* by **Isak Dinesen**. This lovely quarto was printed in 1997 in an edition of 225 copies. It's illustrated with 19 woodcuts by Karin Wikstrom and signed by her and Richard Olney, who provided the afterword. Two of the woodcuts are full-page images in three colors. Comes with its prospectus and housed in a slipcase. **\$1100**



- We have a nice set of the Sierra Club's 1972 issuance of twelve photographic gravure prints, *The National Parks Centennial Portfolio* by **Dennis Stock**. Prints are 10 by 14 inches. **\$450**



- The unusual *Hooker: An Authentic Wrestler's Adventures inside the Bizarre World of Professional Wrestling* by **Lou Thesz**. This unostentatious year-2000 paperback is a reprint of the original edition done in 1995. Both are scarce. **\$150**





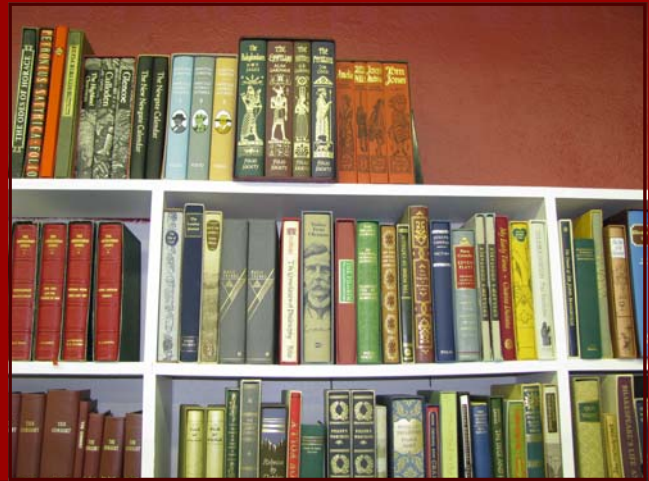
Sam Weller's Bookstore

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

Leather editions! Folio Society! Easton Press!



* You really must come check out our recently acquired plethora of collectible editions, splendid additions to any library and perfect as gifts!



Newsletter Editor: John Clukey