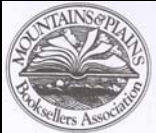
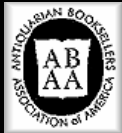




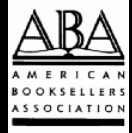
# BOOKTALK



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 2011**



## **From Tony Weller: Not the Essay I Wanted to Write!**

I am so tired of holding back information about our relocation. This is the "Plan B" essay, one to replace what

I really wanted to write. It's here because the deal on which we're working wasn't absolutely certain in time for the BookTalk deadline. Since 2009, nothing has commanded more of my attention than moving, and my BookTalk pieces have been dominated by that. But since *that* didn't happen in time for *this*, let's distract us with stories.

When a used or rare book dealer buys books, he gets an intimate sense of the person whose books he evaluates since nothing a person owns better reflects her taste, interests, thinking and aspirations than her books. When there are a quantities of books sufficient to house calls, new levels of intimacy occur. Here are a few stories of unusual and memorable house calls.

Sam Weller was a driven bookman. Back in the early 1980s, there was a particular Pioneer Day, on which the bookstore would be closed, when my father, without telling me or the other lucky booksellers he'd conscript, made an appointment to purchase a huge collection of books. The day before the holiday, he told us that he needed our help the next day. It seemed, to Sam, like the obvious thing to do, considering that we wouldn't be needed at the

bookstore. The five of us he picked might not have agreed.

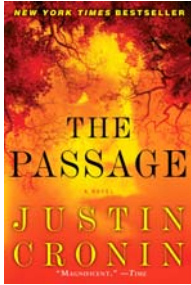
So that morning of July 24<sup>th</sup>, we visited a house that was packed with two things: books and unopened bottles of liquor. In our trade, it is common for us to buy books from estates following deaths and that was the occasion of this sale. After Sam's offer was accepted, we packed the books. We filled the van, Sam's station wagon and two small cars twice before emptying the house. At one point, passing one of several caches of bottles, Nye, gesturing to one, said, "That's really good brandy." Knowing that the family was trying to empty the house, I suggested that he inquire about buying it. The man he asked said that the rest of the family were good Mormons and that they hadn't yet figured out what to do with all the booze. He offered to sell as much as we wanted to buy for a dollar a bottle. That was way too cheap, after all, there were unopened bottles of Grand Marnier there! On the other hand, booksellers don't earn much, so I suggested \$2 per bottle. Several of us selected bottles and paid for them. For \$25, I left with a box mostly of sweet liqueurs and bourbon. Possibly, only the non-drinkers regreted losing their holiday.

At a 1990s appointment to buy another estate, three others and I visited a home that I have ever since called the home of The Light Man. He had had some kind of obsession with light. Not only did every room in his house have three times as many light fixtures as ordinary homes, he had flashlights conveniently placed all over the place, several to each room.

Continued on p. 3

## Events: June-July

### **Justin Cronin: Reading and Signing** Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 PM.

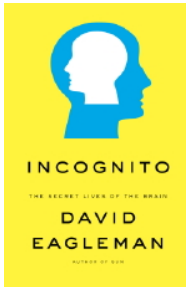


Salt Lake City Public Library Nancy Tessman Auditorium. New York Times bestselling author Justin Cronin will be reading from and signing the paperback of *The Passage*.

### **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.

Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. June selections are from *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger*, *The Adventure of the Shoscombe Old Place*, and *The Adventure of the Retired Colourman*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Includes light refreshments.

### **David Eagleman: Reading and Signing** Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.



Salt Lake City Public Library Nancy Tessman Auditorium. Neuroscientist and writer David Eagleman will be speaking about *Incognito: The Secret Lives of the Brain*.

**Urban Fowl Workshop** Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 PM. Grateful Tomato Garden. We will be at the workshop with copies of *The Art of the Chicken Coop* for presenter and author Chris Gleason to sign. Workshop costs \$10 and requires registration at [wasatchgardens.org](http://wasatchgardens.org).

### **Ken Scholes: Reading and Signing** Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM.

In store. Ken Scholes will be celebrating *Antiphon*, the latest in his excellent series, *The Psalms of Isaak*. Check Scholes's work at [Tor.com](http://Tor.com).



### **Early Bird Brunch** Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM.

Squatters Brew Pub. We will be on hand to sell copies of Chris Gleason's *The Art of the Chicken Coop* for him to sign. Early Bird Brunch is \$15 and requires registration at [wasatchgardens.org](http://wasatchgardens.org).



**Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. June's hardboiled selection is *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart. Get 20% off at Sam Weller's during the month prior to the meeting!

**Hard Boiled Book Club** Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. July's hardboiled selection is *The Beaufort Diaries* by T. Cooper. Get 20% off at Sam Weller's during the month prior to the meeting!

**Queereads** *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan, 20% off during June! *Lowboy* by John Wray, 20% off during July!

**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](mailto:special_services@samwellers.com)

Everywhere we looked, there were devices and supplies relating to light. When we were nearly done removing the books we had bought, a harried family member told us she and the others had to leave for the airport right then. She said that Deseret Industries was to arrive the next morning and that we were not to lock the door. After thanking us, as an afterthought she added that we should look around and take anything we wanted. I took a wonderful fuzzy overcoat I still wear. In the basement we found garbage bags filled with unopened light bulbs and batteries. The groovy arching chrome floor lamp that sat in his living room now sits in mine. I still ask myself why I left the light bulbs and batteries, but it might have been because the vehicles were too full.

Nearly 10 years ago, Frank and I went to a house that exists in our stories as the cockroach pee house. It was the most disgusting house call I've ever made, surpassing even the basement of an old apartment where we found dead mice and birds among the books.

It was winter. We arrived at a house where there was no evidence of any books. Almost all the furnishings were pink and there was a large television in the living room. The woman there told us that the books were her deceased father's and that his house was across the street. However, she had brought a few boxes into her house so she took us to a pink bedroom to see them. When I lifted the first box, several cockroaches scurried out of the box or deeper into it. Then I noticed with surreal horror that the pink shag carpet was teeming with them. The contrast between the shiny brown bodies and the carpet was disturbing in a unique way. It was like a posh forest club for roaches.

After we carefully viewed the books in the boxes, the woman took us across the street to her father's house. When she opened the door, we were struck with a wave of urinous reeking heat. After a step into the kitchen, lifting my foot, I felt it sticking to the linoleum floor, which was tacky with layers of dried urine.

Under most circumstances, I would walk away from such a distasteful situation but not only have I found valuable treasures in very unlikely places, I had noticed numerous books in this

house that would be valuable if in good condition. Frank and I huddled. We decided that we would ignore any book located lower than our knees. Ignoring books is hard for us.

There were two small fat dogs in the house. Apparently, when the old man who had lived there died, his children just turned up the heat, locked the doors, and overfed the dogs. I don't think they ever let them out, the odor and mess of the house was so bad. To get to a bookshelf, I pushed an overflowing dog bowl aside with my foot and a large intrusion of cockroaches fled to corners and baseboards. Using only the tips of two fingers, I removed a book that was about four feet from the floor and 25 cockroaches ran out the newly opened passage. The upper shelves were thickly netted with spider webs decorated with cockroach carcasses. The roaches were eating the dog food and the spiders were eating the roaches. And it was sickly hot.

Frank and I had agreed that any book in this collection would be worth less than almost any other copy of the same, so we skipped books that weren't of better than average value, knowing it would take a long time to disinfect and clean them. Despite the environment, the books had been carefully handled and weren't as bad off as one might think.

So we carefully picked through the books, stacking the ones worth buying outside. After a few unpleasant hours, we escaped with enough decent books to almost make the ordeal seem worth it. But what we did after was unlike anything I had ever done before or have done since.

When we returned to the bookstore, we lined the books up along the back curb and sprayed them lightly with insecticide. Then we carefully wiped down each of the six planes of each book with a disinfectant solution. If a book had a dust jacket, it was removed and each side of it was disinfected as well. After moving them into the building, Frank and I went to our homes for showers and fresh clothing. Before showering, I used a shop vacuum and more insecticide in my car. I still remember the cold drive back to work with windows open to diminish the toxicity and odor of bug killer.

## Best Weller's Selection

June/July

Reviewed by Zach Sampinos

New Titles from

# TASCHEN



### Zazen

by Vanessa Veselka

978-1-935869-05-4

Red Lemonade

\$15.95

**Best Wellers  
Price \$12.76**

*"It's what it's all about—can you sit still on fire? Can you be there when it's all a horrific, beautiful, comedy?"* Veselka's response to her title and why she chose it. The word zazen, defined as sitting meditation, expands into something both serene and terrifying in this book. Della, the unlikely narrator, paleontology scholar, and part time waitress, has had it with her city, with its ineffective counter-culture running in circles, its box mall churches cropping up all over, and its semi-regular bombings.

The book screams the way only honest fiction can, yelling at us: Hey! You're stepping deeper into the mouth of Hell, are you sure you can't be dissuaded? *Zazen* pokes fun at superficiality, impish iconoclasm, and our hardwired ways of turning the other cheek and continually not reaching out. It's also a novel about family, and what it means to love and be loved.

In-between serving tofu scramble and celebrating her deceased sister's life and juggling with her own identity, Della starts calling in bomb threats. It begins innocently, with prepaid phones and dubious targets, but it quickly escalates into something a little too real. Della's plan however flawed, is one that you just can not easily ignore.

INEXPENSIVE METERED PARKING IS  
AVAILABLE ON 300 SOUTH. SATURDAYS  
ARE FREE FOR TWO HOURS.

by Frank Pester

Spring has finally come and what better way to celebrate than to look through some new Art and Photography books to get the creative juices flowing! We've received several new titles from one of my favorite Art book publishers, Taschen, who always have good quality and decent prices!

*Life in Photographs* by Linda McCartney. In 1968 the then Linda Eastman made publishing history by being the first female photographer to have her photo featured on the cover of *Rolling Stones* magazine. During her budding career in the 1960's she captured photos of some of the most important rock musicians of the time, Aretha Franklin, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, Janis Joplin, Simon & Garfunkel, The Who, The Doors and the Grateful Dead. She met Paul McCartney at the Bag 'o Nails Club and photographed a launch event for the Beatles album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, fell in love and married Paul in 1969. For the next 30 years she photographed the Rock world and her family life in very intimate pictures that are collected here. This book will lead to hours of enjoyable and thoughtful perusal. The large format, excellent editing and fine paper make this collection well worth the \$69.99 investment.

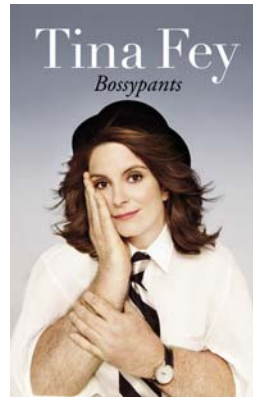
*Jungles* by Frans Lanting. Dutch born Frans Lanting has been hailed as one of the great nature photographers of our time. He has published many books and exhibited in several of the major art museums around the world. In this **Taschen 25** book are collected his photographs of the colorful jungle world—the rainbow colors of the Macaw, the lush greens of the forest, the intriguing forms of camouflage. At the low **Taschen 25** price of \$19.99 it's an amazing bargain.

## Reviews From Our Staff

*Photographers A – Z* by Hans-Michael Koetzle. The photo book has come into its own as a medium to be collected. This amazing encyclopedic collection catalogs 400+ photographers, the high points in the photo world for every collector. Photographers are listed with major exhibitions and bibliographies along with examples of their work, the illustrative documents that have chronicled the last 100 years. \$69.99

*Wood: Architecture Now!* By Philip Jodidio. Wood is green, its renewable, sustainable and in the hands of today's leading architects a medium to be admired. Here in this flexible cover book, Philip Jodidio has collected global examples of the versatility of wood. It can be bent, cut shaped, laminated and has a warmth all its own. These examples are sure to spark creative offsprings of ideas. \$39.99

*Alex Steinweiss: The Inventor of the Modern Album Cover* by Reagen Heller. In 1940, Alex Steinweiss, Columbia Records' new Art Director, pitched an idea: Why not replace the standard plain brown wrapper with an eye-catching illustration? At that moment Alex invented the modern album cover. The company took a chance on his idea and record sales jumped 800 per cent! His covers for Columbia—combining bold typography with modern, elegant illustrations—took the industry by storm and revolutionized the way records were sold. In a recent meeting of Booksellers and Indie Record Store owners, we lamented the idea of e-books displacing physical books, but the album is making a comeback and these designs are one of the reasons. Many of us like the tactile quality of books, we love the illustrations, just as music lovers love the large album cover with its intriguing design. This book's format, in the shape of a record album, is full of Alex's best designs for Jazz and Popular records done for Columbia, Decca, London and Everest Labels. \$69.99



### **Bossypants**

by Tina Fey

978-0-316-05686-1

Reagan Arthur

\$26.99

Reviewed by

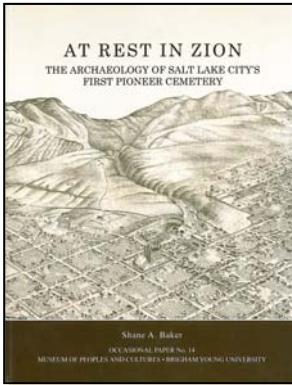
Liz Shattler

I finished reading *Bossypants* by Tina Fey in a little over a week. For a lot of readers out there, that's not really that impressive considering the book is only 275 pages and is set in a slightly bigger font, but for those of you who know my terrible reading habits this is pretty amazing. (No, seriously, I honestly can't remember the last time I finished an entire book without jumping to a new one half way through the one I was currently reading. I call this phenomenon "Reader's ADD".)

In *Bossypants*, Tina Fey, vaguely, reveals where the scar on her chin came from, she tells us about her time touring with the infamous Second City with Amy Poehler, when she was interviewed for a writing job on Saturday Night Live by Lorne Michaels, the time she had to tell Sylvester Stallone to enunciate during her first week at SNL, and her time on the show on camera. Fey also writes about her multiple Emmy Award winning show, 30 Rock, dealing with things celebrities have to do, like photo shoots, trying to be a champion of brown hair to her daughter, the double standard about women in comedy, and, of course, her stint as Sarah Palin on SNL after she was no longer a cast member.

Fey writes in a personal, friendly way, making you feel as though she was just telling you a story over lunch (the lunch part might just be my imagination as she is my pretend best friend). It is engaging, honest, and very funny. Needless to say, I absolutely loved it and I was sad when it ended because I wanted more.

## Of Local Interest *by Joan Nay*

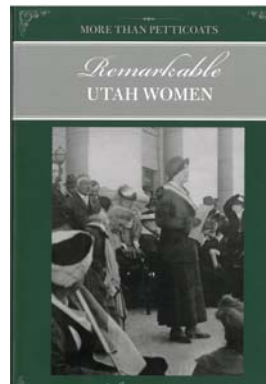


**At Rest In Zion:  
The Archaeology of  
Salt Lake City's First  
Pioneer Cemetery**  
by Shane A. Baker  
978-0-9753945-5-7  
Museum of Peoples  
and Cultures,  
Brigham Young University.  
Occasional Paper #14.  
\$25.00  
Reviewed by Joan Nay

In 1986 construction began on a proposed housing development on Block 49, a block between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> West and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> South in downtown Salt Lake City. Years before the construction began, groups had sought to locate what they thought was an early pioneer family burial plot in the area, but tests failed to locate any remains. Soon after construction began, remains were discovered on the site, and construction halted while State archaeologists excavated the area. The remains were re-interred in 1989 at This Is the Place Heritage Park on Salt Lake City's east bench.

This work presents a descriptive report and technical details of the excavation, with detailed diagrams showing the locations of each burial, the position of the bones, and artifacts. Chapter 5 details the many artifacts found on the site, including dishes, utensils, bottles, and toy doll fragments. Chapter 6 is fascinating as it describes the methods used to identify the possible names of the 33 sets of remains. Relying on extensive forensic analysis, early LDS and city records, many were identified and short biographical sketches are included. Many charts, diagrams and an extensive list of references, also accompany to help put the findings in perspective. Much of the professional archaeological work was donated to the project to see that the human remains were handled with dignity and respect. But beyond the professional report, Baker presents a story connecting Salt Lake City

with its pioneer past from a rarely seen perspective . . . the lives of living, breathing people and the details of the deaths of many of the first pioneers in the valley.



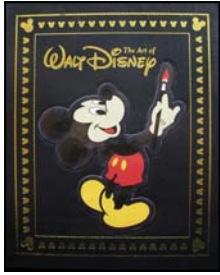
**More Than  
Petticoats:  
Remarkable Utah  
Women**  
by Christy Karras  
978-0-7627-4901-0  
Globe Pequot Press  
\$14.95  
Reviewed by Joan Nay

The lives of thirteen Utah women presented here are from a variety of backgrounds with vastly different lives, but they all portray remarkable strength and marvelous contributions to life in Utah. Among these remarkable women are Eliza R. Snow, the Mormon poetess; Patty Sessions, pioneer midwife; Ann Eliza Webb Young, the "infamous" plural wife of Brigham Young; Dora B. Topham, local enterprising madam; Josie and Ann Bassett, two sisters from the wild west days of Brown's Park; more recently, Reva Beck Bosone, Utah Judge and Congresswoman; and noted historian, Juanita Brooks. Each biography runs several pages, contains a portrait or photo of the subject, and a bibliography at the end.

The author herself is a descendant of remarkable Utah pioneer women, a former Weller's bookseller and staff reporter for The Salt Lake Tribune and the Associated Press. In the Introduction Christy writes that this volume is a small opportunity to "help right the balance" of Utah women who "have not always gotten their due." In an effort to break the stereotype that past women's lives are full of drudgery, Christy shows us how these remarkable Utah woman, are "multifaceted and multitalented."

This is an enjoyable read. It could be longer; it could be more than one volume! There is certainly enough material to make a series.

## Rare Book Acquisitions by Tony Weller



- The big 1973 book, *The Art of Walt Disney* is not particularly hard to locate but the leather-bound Easton Press edition is not so common. In fine condition, \$225

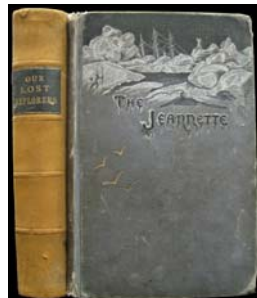
- A beautifully designed and printed copy of **Loren Eisley's *Inner Galaxy*** from the **Yolla Bolly Press** in Covelo, California. This limited edition of 125 copies was produced in 2002. Each contains four original etchings by Jennifer Sturgill, who has signed the colophon. Slipcase and prospectus. \$900



- A sparkly clean jacketed 1<sup>st</sup> edition of *The Gunslinger*, by **Stephen King**, one of my favorites! Though late enough in his career (1982) to warrant a large printing, this novel was published in a trade edition of only 10,000, large for publisher **Donald M. Grant** but puny for King's immense readership. \$625



- You remember when salespersons went door to door with mock-up copies of books soliciting advance orders? Oh that's right – you're not that old. Most traces of this primarily nineteenth century practice ended by WWII. And while interesting, most salesmen's or canvassing, copies or dummies, have small value. But the 1882 salesman's copy of the *Our Lost Explorers: The Narrative of the Jeannette Arctic Expedition* we here offer contains some prominent



subscribers. And for convenience and contract, subscribers signed order forms bound into the sample copies! Apparently, this book, edited by Raymond Lee Newcomb, sold well in old Great SLC, as evidenced by twelve full pages of subscribers who include Presiding Bishop, **Edward Hunter**; pioneer merchant, **Samuel H. Auerbach**; historian and newspaper editor, **Edward W. Tullidge**; and 3<sup>rd</sup> President of the LDS Church, **John Taylor**. In case the book grabs your interest too, we include a sheepskin-bound 1883 copy of the final book. \$1350



- While many segments of the rare book market have slumped in recent years, books that have had permanent affects on the course of history remain good as gold. **Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*** is one of the most enduring and influential economic works ever written.

Good sets of the original 1776 edition, which you *can't* find when you want, have brought prices in excess of a third of a million dollars. We know few who can afford such rarities so we are pleased to possess a beautiful leather bound, three-volume set of the 1802 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Looks really good and will make you smarter. \$2000

- An 1830 1<sup>st</sup> edition of *The Book of Mormon* by **Joseph Smith Jr.** The copy we have is in its original binding with a legible and intact label on the spine. The pages are much cleaner than usual. It came to us without its front free endsheet and title page but both have been supplied in expert facsimiles. The front joint of the leather is split about half way down but the hinges are holding well. \$47,000



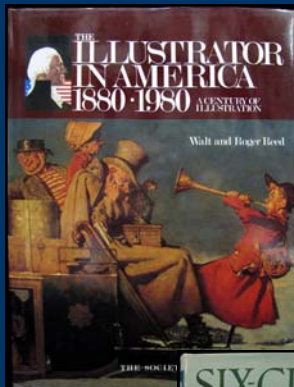


## Sam Weller's Bookstore

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

### More Rare Books from Tony Weller

In preparation for our move, we have been cleaning the non-public areas remaining in our store. Included in the effort was a reconsideration of our large library of reference works. We are keeping most but some we're releasing are worthy of note:



A very well kept copy of *The Illustrator in America 1880-1980*, by **Walt and Roger Reed**. This survey by decade includes the writings of **Harold Von Schmidt** and **Norman Rockwell** among others. \$60



In his 1929 book, *Printing Throughout the World*, Salt Lake printer **R. T. Porte** described the printing practices of countries from Asia to New Zealand and from North and Eastern Africa through Europe. The delicately constructed book is very nicely printed but most copies have not held up well with use. We are selling a nearly perfect copy in a slipcase for \$100



No Western reference library is complete without the works of **Ramon F. Adams**. His *Six-Guns and Saddle Leather* is a very well done bibliography of Western Outlaws and Gunmen. This 1954 1<sup>st</sup> edition is in very good condition, as is its dust jacket. \$75

Newsletter Editor: **John Clukev**