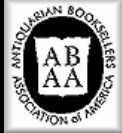




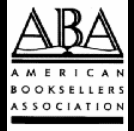
BOOKTALK



The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Bookstore

New, Used and Rare Books

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929



October-November 2010



From Tony Weller:

Rumors and Our Frustratingly Slow Progress toward Weller Books v.4

Yeah, we've been guarding some secrets, but not as many as you think. After receiving two inquiries about the status of the sale of the building where we've sold books since 1961, we realized that there was no way to keep our secret: We sold our share of the David Keith Building, sometimes called the Keith O'Brien Building, to our long standing partners in ownership, Allan and Rob Dahle, late last Spring. Because we underestimated the inertia of capital and believed that we would have selected our new site much more easily, we had hoped to delay the less interesting news of the sale until it could be married to the *much* more exciting announcement of our new location. However, since property sales are public record, and we are still trudging real estate mud, we now must confess that we've sold our half share of the building.

The sale was an important step. But our minds are on the future and the search for the best new home for our triple-generation endeavor of supplying books to thoughtful readers. Considering the abundance of vacant buildings and the dearth of persons looking at them, it is surprisingly hard to find a location that conforms to the parameters of our hopes, vision and means. I referred to the inertia of

capital because as we've viewed and evaluated various properties, I've noted that the prices of commercial real estate do not adjust very freely to the circumstances of our economy. Despite long standing vacancies prices not only remain high, but many sellers or leasers have not been very flexible, hence my observation that much like mass has inertia, so does capital—the larger it gets, the more immovable it becomes.

And those rumors! Except when they're troubling, they're almost fun, so fun that I have contemplated seeding more of them, just for the excitement. Over the last year I've heard that we were out of business, that we were moving to Sugarhouse and that we were moving to Portland, Oregon! How do such silly things get started? Who are the talkers? There is not a molecule of truth in these rumors. I guess I'm flattered that our future is worthy of such creative speculation.

In truth, Catherine and I are ready to strike a deal with the first property owner whose property and price conforms to our carefully considered goals. Our history should show that we are not fly-by-night short-term profiteers. We are people of the book and deeply committed to the social and cultural value of books and reading. We also feel the weight of our heritage and our dedication to the interests of diverse readers who expect more than best sellers, those who value passionate and knowledgeable booksellers to assist them with the long-standing, humongously significant packages in which we store, and by which we share, the knowledge, the dreams, the stories

Continued on p .3

Sales & Events: October-November

October Section Sale: 20% off new Fiction, Mysteries, Western Fiction, Philosophy, Metaphysics, Mythology and Folklore, Religion, Genealogy and Eastern Philosophy. **November Section Sale: 20% off** new Poetry, Critical Studies, Essays, Biographies, Sociology, Classical Literature, True Crime, Legal and Political Science. **October's queereads pick** is *I'm Looking Through You: Growing Up Haunted* by Jennifer Finney Boylan. **20% off.** **November's queereads pick** is *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides. **20% off.**

- ♦ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **October 5th**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. The October selection is *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at the bookstore. Tickets include light refreshments.
- ♦ **Gerald Elias: Reading and Signing** Saturday, **October 16th**, 5:00 PM. In store. **Gerald Elias** will be reading from and signing *Danse Macabre*, sequel to last year's *Devil's Trill*. 
- ♦ **Jan Andrews' Joseph Brodsky: In the Prison of Latitudes** Wednesday, **October 20th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library's Nancy Tessman Auditorium. The Utah Humanities Book Festival will be showing **Jan Andrews'** documentary on the life of poet Joseph Brodsky.
- ♦ **Utah Humanities Book Festival** Saturday, **October 23rd**, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Read more about the festival on page 3.
- ♦ **Hardboiled Book Club** Tuesday, **October 26th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by John Clukey. October's hardboiled selection is *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned* by Wells Tower. 
- Ravaged, Everything Burned* by Wells Tower. 20% off in the month prior to the meeting.
- ♦ **Benjamin Higginbotham: Reading and Signing** Saturday, **October 30th**, 6:00 PM. In store. **Benjamin Higginbotham** will be reading from and signing his debut novel, *Demonica*.
- ♦ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Club** Tuesday, **November 2nd**, 7:00 PM. Beehive Tea Room. Moderated by Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen. November's selection is *The Valley of Fear*. Tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance from the bookstore. Tickets include light refreshments.
- ♦ **David Sedaris: Reading and Signing** Saturday, **November 27th**, 7:00 PM. In store! **David Sedaris** will read from and sign *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary*. Read more about *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk* on page 5.
- ♦ **Hardboiled Book Club** Tuesday, **November 30th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Moderated by Zach Sampinos. November's hardboiled selection is *Barrell Fever* by David Sedaris. 20% off in the month prior to the meeting. 



Utah Humanities Book Festival

"What kind of idea are you? Are you the kind that compromises, does deals, accommodates itself to society, aims to find a niche, to survive; or are you the cussed, bloody-minded, ramrod-backed type of damnfool notion that would rather break than sway with the breeze? –The kind that will almost certainly, ninety-nine times out of hundred, be smashed to bits; but, the hundredth time, will change the world." – Salman Rushdie (*The Satanic Verses*)

This year's rather provocative Book Festival theme is inspired by a quote from Salman Rushdie, the celebrated author of epic comedies—often satirical, including *Midnight's Children* and *The Satanic Verses*. While Mr. Rushdie won't be at the festival, many wonderful local and national authors and artists will be.

- * Ted Gup will discuss his forthcoming book, *Secret Gift: How One Man's Kindness – and a Trove of Letters – Revealed the Hidden History of the Great Depression* with local musician and humanities aficionado Philip Bimstein. Bimstein and Red Rock Rondo will treat the audience to selections from the song cycle Bimstein has composed based on Gup's book.
- * Joseph Marshall II will discuss his new book, *To You We Shall Return: Lessons About Our Planet From the Lakota*.
- * Young Adult authors – and Utah wunderkinds – Kristin Chandler, Lisa Mangum, and Dan Wells will all speak about their new books on a panel guaranteed to delight.
- * Rare Books Roadshow – Tony Weller and Ken Sanders will discuss your rare book finds.
- * Poet Henri Cole will be reading in the J.W. Lees Courage Theatre, Emma Eccles Jones Conservatory on the Westminster College campus, Friday, October 22 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Cole's reading is also part of the Anne Newman Sutton Weeks Poetry Series.
- * Filmmaker Jan Andrews will screen her

film, *Joseph Brodsky: In the Prison of Latitudes* on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. This event is the result of a partnership with the Salt Lake Film Center.

There are, more authors and activities we can't list. Information at the Festival's website <http://www.utahhumanities.org/BookFestival.htm>. Join us at the Salt Lake City Public Library for the 13th Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival October 19th – 23rd and explore what kind of idea you'd like to be.

From Tony Weller (continued from page 1)

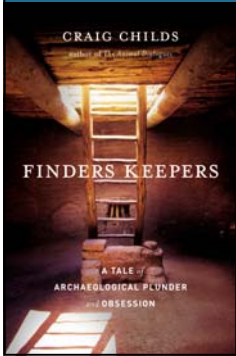
and the ideas of persons from every place and time: books. Our bookstore has occupied four locations in 80 years, the current one for 49. We are trying to pick a new home to last for many years to come.

You ear-to-the-ground sorts might be thinking, "Hey, Tony neglected something." You're right. Weeks ago we thought we knew whither we were going to move. But now, you can be assured we do not. Negotiations for the site we thought we wanted went sour, and we are again beating the streets. Believe me, the suspense is harder on us than it is on you. But we're glad you care.

It's the Best We Can Do!

Remember to vote this November. Einstein once said that the solutions to problems are seldom found in the same box from which the problems were drawn. We can't go back in time. Look forward. Ask hard questions. Reject bigotry. Seek fairness and equality. Does more stuff equal happiness? We are at a historic juncture and where we go from here is anyone's guess. With compassion, vision and courage, we can build a better society! Think carefully and then vote. And keep reading, for readers are the visionaries who will shine light on the path out of our current quagmire.

Best Weller's Selection
October/November
Reviewed by Frank Pester



**Finders Keepers:
A Tale of
Archaeological
Plunder and
Obsession**
by Craig Childs
978-0-316-06642-6
Little, Brown & Co.
Best Wellers Price \$19.99

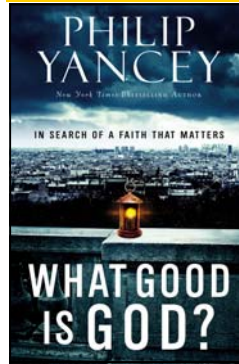
Craig Childs' latest book is a look at what is lost when we remove artifacts from ancient sites. Those artifacts carry life and meaning in the dry and beautiful Southwest. They animate the surroundings and enlighten those who came later. Yet in the years of plunder, archaeological excavations, and simple human need to touch and take things, the human history of the Southwest has been nearly erased.

Childs asks difficult questions: To whom does the past belong? Is the archaeologist who discovers a lost tomb a hero – or a villain? If someone steals a relic from a museum and returns it to the ruin from which it came, is he or she a thief?

Finders Keepers not only deals with the Southwest but the world of archeology, from China, Iraq and Central America, as well as museum collections and the black market trading of antiquities. Archaeologists who once thought they were collecting the artifacts of a dying race never thought that those peoples would survive and one day ask for their heritage back. Recent laws have complicated the ownership and trade of artifacts the world over.

A fascinating read written with the lyrical grace we have come to expect from Craig Childs. It asks hard questions that may not be answered readily but are a call for soul searching.

Staff Reviews
Non-Fiction



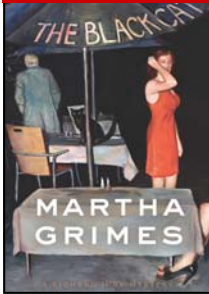
**What Good Is
God?**
by Philip Yancey
978-0-446-55985-0
Faith Words
\$23.99
Reviewed by
Frank Pester

From the massacre at Virginia Tech to the streets of Mumbai during the Hotel take over, journalist Philip Yancey travels the globe in the aftermaths of terrible tragedies. The book starts off with Yancey first describing the events around his own personal tragedy as he lays in his overturned Ford Explorer, after it rolled several times. "A few hour later, lying strapped to a gurney in a nearby hospital, I learned the source of the pain. 'There's no easy way to say this, Mr. Yancey,' the young doctor began, after studying results of my CAT scan. 'You have a broken neck, specifically the C3 vertebra and it's what we call a comminuted or pulverized fracture.'" The Virginia Tech massacre unfolds, and while Yancey is still in pain, he receives a call to speak a few days later at a school service.

What makes this book unique is that Philip Yancey reports situations around the globe—underground Christianity in China, a convention of ministries dealing with prostitutes in Wisconsin, the church in South Africa, the city of Memphis where Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot—and then records his messages delivered at each of these places.

This is not a preachy book, but a heartfelt story of how humans find faith in God and through God in the worst of human tragedies. He shows how grace and faith really do work when people are pushed to the extreme by terrible events.

Staff Reviews: Fiction



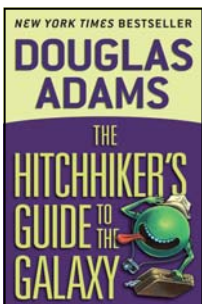
The Black Cat by Martha Grimes

978-0-670-02160-4

Viking
\$25.95

Reviewed by Joan Nay

The Black Cat is the 22nd mystery by Martha Grimes featuring Scotland Yard Superintendent, Richard Jury. All volumes in this series are named after pubs, and all include a marvelous cast of continuing characters: Jury, himself of course, a brilliant detective but a little quirky, sad, and loveable; his downstairs neighbor Carole-Ann, a quirky palm-reader; his associate Sgt. Wiggins, whose homeopathic remedies defy all laws of health; and Melrose Plant, who gave up his title but managed to hold onto his enormous wealth—and yes, Plant is quirky too. In spite of such a cast, there is some fascinating detective work going on here. The three victims are all young women found dead in exquisite designer dresses and wearing expensive designer shoes. After reading all of the previous 21 Richard Jury mysteries, I can honestly say that the solving of the mystery is almost of less importance than visiting with these quirky, fascinating, well-developed characters. Suspense and a couple of belly laughs make this a highly recommended read.



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams

978-0-345-39180-3

Del Rey
\$7.99

Reviewed by Liz Shattler

Don't Panic. The Earth may have been destroyed by the Vogons to make way for a hyperspatial express route, you've now got a fish in your ear, and you're traveling in a ship that looks like a sports shoe with the President of the Galaxy who

has two heads and three arms and a manically depressed robot, but you remembered to bring your towel which is the most massively useful thing an interstellar hitchhiker can have according to the Guide. Re-reading the first book in Douglas Adams' brilliant five-book trilogy, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, is always a good idea, or, alternatively, if you haven't read it yet at all you should stop what you're currently reading and read this instead. This is one of my favorite books, well all of them really; it's smart and fun and there are characters with names like Zaphod Beeblebrox and Slartibartfast, so you can't go wrong!



Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary by David Sedaris

978-0-316-03839-3

Reviewed & Published by
Little, Brown & Co.
\$21.99

Featuring David Sedaris' unique blend of hilarity and heart, this new collection of keen-eyed animal-themed tales is an utter delight. Though the characters may not be human, the situations in these stories bear an uncanny resemblance to the insanity of everyday life.

In "The Toad, the Turtle, and the Duck," three strangers commiserate about animal bureaucracy while waiting in a complaint line. In "Hello Kitty," a cynical feline struggles to sit through his prison-mandated AA meetings. In "The Squirrel and the Chipmunk," a pair of star-crossed lovers is separated by prejudiced family members.

With original illustrations by Ian Falconer, author of the bestselling *Olivia* series of children's books, these stories are David Sedaris at his most observant, poignant, and surprising. **Sedaris will be signing at Sam Weller's Bookstore on Saturday, November 27th, at 7:00 PM.**

Non-Fiction Reviews



And the Pursuit of Happiness

by Maira Kalman

978-1-59420-267-4

Penguin

\$29.95

On sale October 14th

And the Pursuit of Happiness is beloved artist and author Maira

Kalman's year-long investigation of democracy and how it works. Energized and inspired by the 2008 elections, on inauguration day Kalman traveled to Washington, D.C., launching a national tour that would take her from a town hall meeting in Newfane, Vermont, to the inner chambers of the Supreme Court.

As we follow Kalman's wholly idiosyncratic journey, we fall in love with Lincoln alongside her as she imagines making a home for herself in the center of his magisterial memorial; ponder Alexis de Tocqueville's *America*; witness the inner workings of a Bronx middle-school student council; take a high-speed lesson in great American women in the National Portrait Gallery; and consider the cost of war to the brave American service families of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The observations she makes as she travels charm and inform, and—as we have come to expect with Kalman—the route is always one of fascinating indirection.

Kalman finds evidence of democracy at work all around us. And the cast of characters we meet along the way is rousing good company, featuring visits from Benjamin Franklin, Eleanor Roosevelt, and many others. *And the Pursuit of Happiness* is a remarkable tribute to our history and a powerful reminder of the potential our future holds, from a true national treasure.



The Daily Show with Jon Stewart

Presents Earth (The Book)

by Jon Stewart

978-0-446-57922-3

Grand Central Publishing

\$27.99

The eagerly awaited new book from the Emmy-winning, Oscar-hosting, *Daily Show*-anchoring Jon Stewart, the man behind the megaseller *America (The Book)*. Where do we come from? Who created us? Why are we here? These questions have puzzled us since the dawn of time, but when it became apparent to Jon Stewart and the writers of *The Daily Show* that the world was about to end, they embarked on a massive mission to write a book that summed up the human race: What we looked like; what we accomplished; our achievements in society, government, religion, science and culture -- all in a tome of approximately 256 pages with lots of color photos, graphs and charts.

After two weeks of hard work, they had their book. *Earth (The Book)* is the definitive guide to our species. With their trademark wit, irreverence, and intelligence, Stewart and his team will posthumously answer all of life's most hard-hitting questions, completely unburdened by objectivity, journalistic integrity, or even accuracy

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Be a crucial part of our historic move.

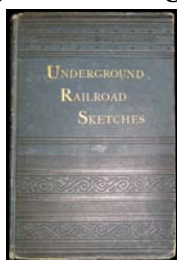
Contact Jan for details: call
801.328.2586 or email
special_services@samwellers.com

Rare Book Acquisitions by Tony Weller



- A gorgeous chocolate brown three-quarter leather copy of the *Universal Self-Educator and Manual of General Reference*, edited by **Albert Ellery Berg**, published in Chicago in 1882. This uncommonly well-preserved copy has information on nearly everything a late 19th century citizen should know and is thickly illustrated. Includes instruction on English, Agriculture, Law, Medicine, Mining, Food, and Religion as well as Maxims, Poetry and Proverbs and much more. \$200

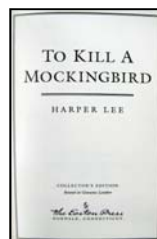
- Two stable first editions of *Mormon Doctrine* by **Bruce R. McConkie**. One is the first printing, in very good condition with light rubbing, slight fading to spine and former owner's address label on the front pastedown. Without dust jacket for \$450. The other is the third printing of the same edition. It's a little more rubbed, has a contemporary gift inscription on the front free endsheet and infrequent underscoring. Also without jacket but signed by McConkie. \$275



- A very rare first edition of *Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad comprising Many Thrilling Incidents of the Escape of Fugitives from Slavery, and the Perils of Those Who Aided Them* by **Eber M. Pettit**. This 1879 publication is bound in green cloth with decorative ruling in black and gilt title. In good condition with bumped and rubbed edges. According to *American Book Prices Current*, it's been 20 years since a copy was recorded at auction. \$1425

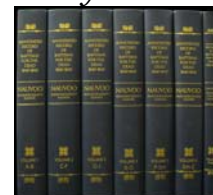
- The *Millennial Star* was the longest continually published periodical in LDS church history. It ran from 1840 until 1970 and was printed in England. In addition to

contemporary news - Joseph and Hyrum's deaths, the handcart immigration, Utah War, Mountain Meadows, polygamy, statehood - and gospel, it announced weddings, births and deaths of members. Many issues are very rare and those found today are usually bound in whole years. We have hundreds of issues ranging from early to late, originals to reprints, from \$40 to \$1800 depending on issue, condition and completeness. The most expensive one is from the library of John Taylor. If you want detailed news accounts, let us know what period you need and odds are very good we can find a copy to satisfy your interests.

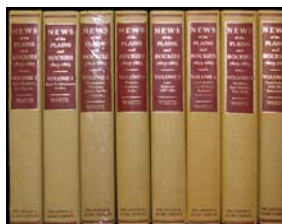


- A very nice Easton Press edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by **Harper Lee**. Deep green leather with elaborate gilt décor and gilded edges. In fine condition. \$125

- A perfect seven-volume set of *Annotated Record of Baptisms for the Dead, 1840 – 1845: Nauvoo, Hancock County Illinois*. These large blue cloth volumes were published in 2002 and edited by **Susan Easton and Harvey Bischoff Black**. \$175



- A complete eight volume set of *News of the Plains and Rockies, 1803 – 1865* with the additional bibliography volume. This Arthur H. Clark series was edited by **David A. White** and published between 1996 and 2001. Unused. \$450



- A tattered and stained, but complete September 5th, 1877 issue of the *Deseret News* mourning the death of **Brigham Young**. Contains a transcript of a sermon Young gave 10 days before his death, his obituary, particulars of his death, and information about his funeral. \$800

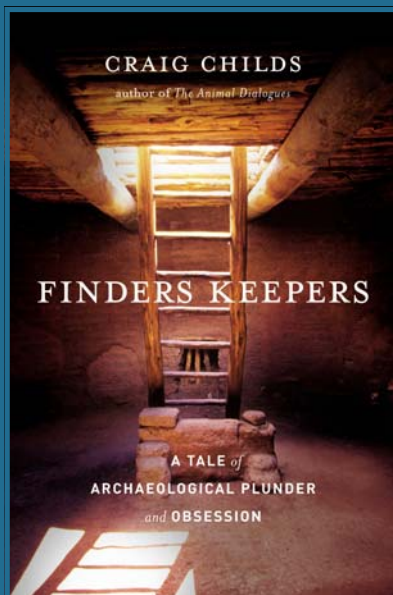




Sam Weller's Bookstore

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

Best Wellers October-November



Best Wellers Books are hand-picked by Sam Weller's book buyers every other month and offered at a 20% discount.

Remember to ask about Best Wellers on your next visit!

**Finders Keepers:
A Tale of Archaeological
Plunder and Obsession**

by Craig Childs

978-0-316-06642-6

Little, Brown & Co.

Original Price \$24.99

Best Wellers Price \$19.99

Newsletter Editor: **John Clukey**