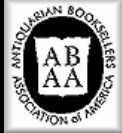




BOOKTALK

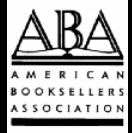


The bi-monthly Newsletter of
Sam Weller's Bookstore

New, Used and Rare Books

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929

October-November 2011

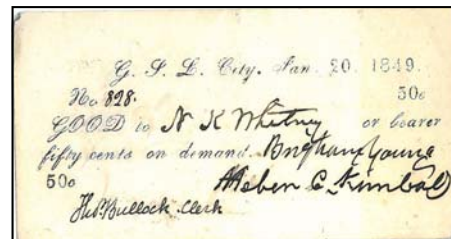


From Tony Weller:

Status of the Move. We have commenced the work necessary to turn the old Theater spaces at the south edge of Trolley Square into our new bookstore. Since the last BookTalk, with the assistance of Jill Jones and Brandon Budd at ajc

architects, we finished our architectural plans. Now we're working with our builders, Easton River Construction, to get the work done fast so we can make our move before Thanksgiving. We've picked lighting about which we're excited and after putting three sign companies through the conceptual grinder, we hired Allied Signs to build our new signs. We are working on a unique façade design that is very exciting and still developing. Though the precise date of the move is still in frustrating flux, much progress has been made, and we see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The Food...The Drinks. As mentioned previously, we plan to include gastronomic amenities in our new bookstore. We are currently in discussions with a handful of restaurateurs who are considering joining us. As soon as one is definite, we'll hail it loudly. Right now, I'll leave it to say that we are very fond of all of persons with whom we're working. In a few cases, we already know and love their food.



Great Salt Lake City Valley Notes. Although our purchasing as been moderate in keeping with these challenging economic times, we have recently brought some amazing items into the store by consignment.

Early in 1849, to satisfy a need for local scrip, 50 cent, \$1, \$2 and \$3 notes were printed on ruled white paper salvaged from church records, using a decorative type on a printing press constructed by Truman O. Angell, who would later design the Salt Lake Temple. No one knows exactly whence the type came but these humble little pieces of Mormon currency were the first items to be printed in the fledgling city of Deseret. Printed on simple ledger paper, each was embossed with a seal and signed by Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Thomas Bullock and Newell K. Whitney, whose charge it was to disseminate the money. The notes were issued only once and all were dated January 20, 1849. Two months later, a 25-cent note was printed but no copies seem to have been circulated and none were signed. Within a year, the scrip was replaced by gold coins and when the notes were redeemed for gold, they were destroyed. Any printing from this region during that period is remarkable and rare.

Events: October-November



In Participation with the Utah Humanities Book Festival

Maria Liberati: Speaking and Signing Sunday, **October 2nd**, 2:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Maria will be speaking about her book *The Basic Art of Italian Cooking: DaVinci Style*. Followed by a cooking demonstration at Tony Caputo's Market and Deli at 5:00 PM.

W.S. Merwin: Reading and Signing Wednesday, **October 5th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Sponsored by the University of Utah College of Humanities. U. S. Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin will be reading from *Migration*.

Neal Shusterman: Reading and Signing Thursday, **October 6th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake County Library Sandy Branch. Neal Shusterman is the author of many fantastic YA novels including *Everlost* and *The Unwind*, a former Best Wellers pick.

Gerald Elias: Reading and Signing Wednesday, **October 12th**, 6:00 PM. In store. Gerald Elias will be reading from his third Daniel Jacobus mystery, *Death and the Maiden*.

Christopher Corbett: Reading and Signing Friday, **October 14th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Christopher Corbett will be reading from *The Poker Bride*.

Passage: A Tribute to Place Saturday, **October 15th**, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. As we prepare to move into our new location at Trolley Square after more than 50 years on Main Street, we say farewell to this historic place by enlisting a group of local artists to explore themes of passage—as transition, architecture and the written word. Featuring new site-specific works by Jared Clark, Cara Despain, Tessa Lindsay, Brian Patterson, Claire Taylor and Patrick Weeks.

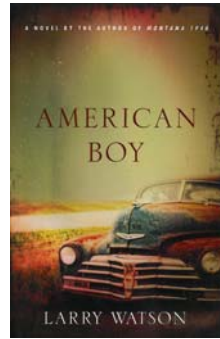
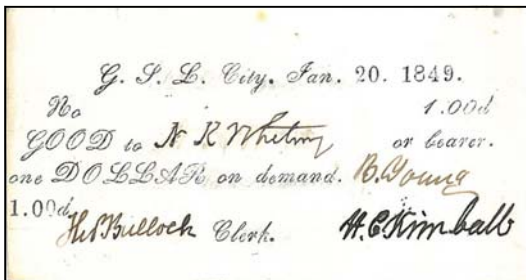
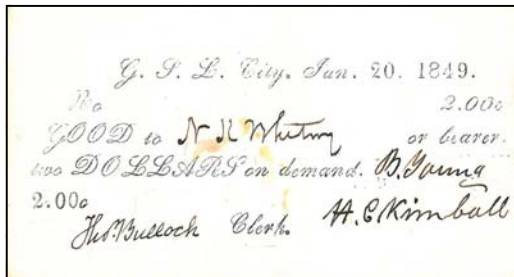
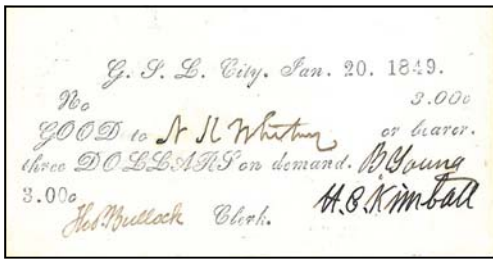
Leslie Lammle: Reading and Signing Tuesday, **October 18th**, 3:30 PM. Midvale Community Building Community Initiative. Author and illustrator Leslie Lammle will be discussing her book *Pajama Pirates*.

Utah Humanities Book Festival Saturday, **October 22nd**, 10 AM – 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Join us for the Utah Humanities Book Festival. Sam Weller's Bookstore will be sponsoring signings with **Leslie Lammle** at 2:00 PM and **Anthony Doerr** at 4:30 PM.

Amada Irma Perez: Reading and Signing Tuesday, **October 25th**, 3:30 PM. Midvale Community Building Community Initiative. Amada Irma Perez will be reading from and signing a selection of her children's picture books.

Travis Mossotti: Reading and Signing Wednesday, **October 26th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Travis Mossotti, winner of this year's May Swenson Poetry Prize, will be reading from his collection *About the Dead*.

Will Bagley: Reading and Signing Friday, **October 28th**, 7:00 PM. Salt Lake City Public Library. Will Bagley will be discussing his books, including his most recent, *So Rugged and Mountainous: Blazing the Trails to Oregon and California, 1812-1848*.



American Boy by Larry Watson

978-1-57131-078-1
Milkweed

Best Weller's Price \$19.20
Reviewed by Frank Pester

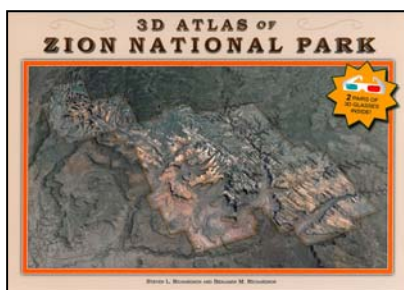
A shooting before Thanksgiving dinner starts an intimate coming of age novel by the writer Larry Watson. Two young men—John Dunbar, born into a home of wealth, and Matthew Garth, adopted into that home, although he is from the wrong side of the tracks—are seated to enjoy dinner when news of the shooting interrupts their dinner and intrudes into their world. We are pulled into their lives as their friendship is tested by events following the shooting.

Larry Watson wonderfully details life in small town Minnesota during the early 1960s, from the Sunday late breakfasts at the Heritage House after the Sunday services, where men as restless as the children were during services go from table to table with the coffees and cigarettes they had been without for the past hour, to the stillness of the boarded factory building that has been shut down because jobs have gone elsewhere. One of Dr. Dunbar contributions to the small town is organizing the town's hockey club, and as the main character soon finds out, no matter how warmly you are adopted by a family, blood runs deep and when a family member is bullied there are repercussions. Watson's characters are full and well developed.

Matthew grows to love the family that provides the comforts of affluence he desires, but is torn by his obsession with the mysterious young woman he tries to court. As she manipulates the family that has taken her in he sees the changes in the lives of that family and tries to discover her history and motives. Seduction, loyalty and compassion wrapped up in a well-crafted story.

It's been many years since we have encountered a full set of the signed notes so we are excited to be currently offering a set of one each of the four signed and issued notes. They are extremely scarce. They are the first items printed in Great Salt Lake City, and each one is signed by Brigham Young, Kimball, Whitney and Bullock. Wow! It will be years before another set like this hits the LDS marketplace. The price is \$25,000.

Christmas Catalog. I have been so very busy planning the details of our new store that I forgot to even make a decision anent a 2011 rare book catalog for the holiday season. Joan Nay, stalwart bookwoman here of 38 years, has over stepped her authority and announced that no time constraint of mine will prevent us from having a 2011 catalog. Though I worry about Joan's workload, since she too has much to do in preparation for the move, I said, please and thank you. During these difficult financial times, remarkable rare books are emerging with increased regularity. We have some truly amazing books that will appear in our catalog.



3D Atlas of Zion National Park

by Steven L. Richardson and Benjamin M. Richardson

2i3D Publishers
978-0-9825020-2-0
\$29.95

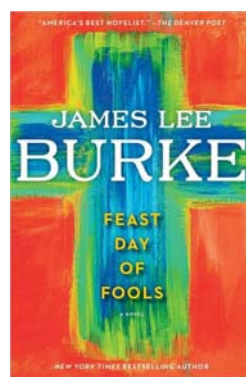
Reviewed by Joan Nay

Zion National Park in southern Utah is one of the crown jewels of the National Park Service. No amount of hyperbole can capture the experience of setting foot to ground in this stunning geography. There, you can hike to Angel's Landing and spend the day taking numerous photos of the Great White Throne. Or you can hike the creek bed through The Narrows, while simultaneously trying to watch where you put your foot, and craning your neck to see the top of the sheer canyon walls. Or you can drive through Kolob Canyon when the late afternoon sun reflects off the rock walls. While nothing can compare to this first person experience, perusing Steven and Benjamin Richardson's 3D Atlas of Zion National Park will give you a vastly different perspective. When you hike The Narrows, you see the canyon from the ground up; when the same area is viewed in this 3D atlas, you are seeing it from the opposite direction.

This new atlas is similar to the volume the Richardsons published on the Wasatch Mountains in 2009. Here, the 407 square-mile area of Zion's is based on the 14 quadrangles from the US Geological Survey, and is further broken into 39 sections. Each has a two-page spread—the left side page is an aerial photograph, and the right is a topographic map of the same area. At first glance the book looks like a blurry mess of a misprint. But put on the accompanying red/cyan glasses and suddenly the canyon appears in anaglyphic 3D, giving

you an unmatched perspective of the area. The aerial photos are interesting; but the topographic maps show in amazing detail how the Virgin River sculpted and carved its way through the canyon. Outer boundaries of the atlas include the nearby towns of Springdale, Grafton, Rockville and Kanarraville.

But be forewarned. If you move your head too quickly while wearing the 3D glasses, you might experience a bit of motion sickness, and you may be tempted to get up out of the recliner, push yourself away from the computer screen, and go take a hike. If you do take the hike, be sure to take this atlas with you!



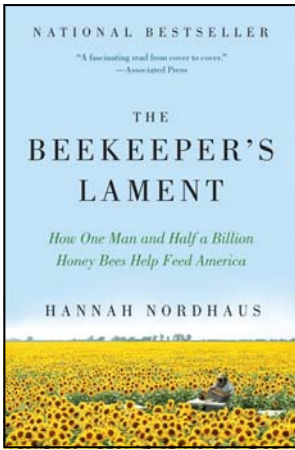
Feast Day of Fools

by James Lee Burke

978-1-4516-4311-4
Simon and Schuster
\$26.99

Reviewed by Frank Pester

He's back! Serial murderer Preacher Jack Collins, dressed in a jacket bought from a local thrift store, pants tucked in his boots, unshaven and brandishing a Thompson .45 sub-machine gun (you know, the kind Dillinger used), presumed dead at the close of *Rain Gods*, is back to haunt the minds of mystery readers. Set in a small Texas border town, Burke favors us with a taut thriller full of biblical allegory, poetic description of the landscape and references to current issues plaguing our country. Visions, flashbacks and guilt haunt the characters in this book, each carrying a closet full. The dialogue is smart and at times extremely funny. Sheriff Hackberry Holland, a deeply moral but troubled soul, and his deputy Pam Tibbs, known to bend the rules a bit, are drawn in a web of intrigue as they find a dismembered body. They're not the only ones looking for Preacher Jack Collins. The FBI and a pseudo Halliburton PI group are also involved. Do yourself a favor—grab a copy of this book and enjoy a wonderful work of fiction by the master James Lee Burke.



**The Beekeeper's Lament:
How One Man and
Half a Billion Honey
Bees Help Feed
America**

by Hannah
Nordhaus

Harper Perennial
978-0-06-187325-6

\$14.95

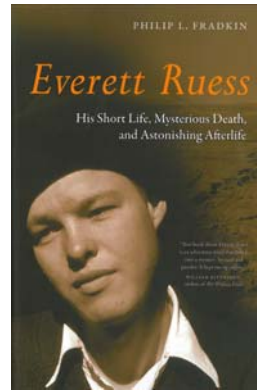
Reviewed by Joan Nay

John Miller is a strange man. He sends his semi trucks full of active beehives around the country helping farmers pollinate their almond trees, alfalfa crops and orange groves. He is part folk hero, part philosopher, with a whole lot of funny thrown in. He is related to the Miller Honey Company family in Salt Lake City, but calls Blackfoot, Idaho home. That he is seldom “at home” is a given as a migratory beekeeper.

Hannah Nordhaus, an award-winning journalist, was unfamiliar with the world of apiculture when she took on Miller and his bees. But she rode in his trucks, visited the farms and listened to the stories. Miller even chided her the first time he lifted the lid off a beehive. Properly suited and gloved but woefully inexperienced, she leaned back as the lid came off the active hive. Experienced beekeepers always lean “in” when the lid is lifted off the hive. Nordhaus' efforts paid off however, because she “gets it.” She did her homework, and she writes a moving, eloquent description of bee culture, and the relatively unseen part bees play in our food supply. She portrays Miller as sympathetic and quirky, a man filled with humor and great optimism and passion for what he does. Reading *The Beekeeper's Lament* made me want to ride in the trucks, listen to the stories and see the bees swarm.

Given the thousands of miles Miller's trucks travel each year, accidents are bound to happen, and a couple of such accidents are

described here. Thankfully the drivers were unhurt, but the description of a semi carrying 30.7 million bees turned over on its side on a freeway with the bees swarming over a trailer covered in honey is a graphic and unusual read. Highly recommended!



Everett Ruess::

His Short Life, Mysterious
Death, and Astonishing
Afterlife

by Philip L. Fradkin

978-0-520-26542-4

University of California Press

\$24.95

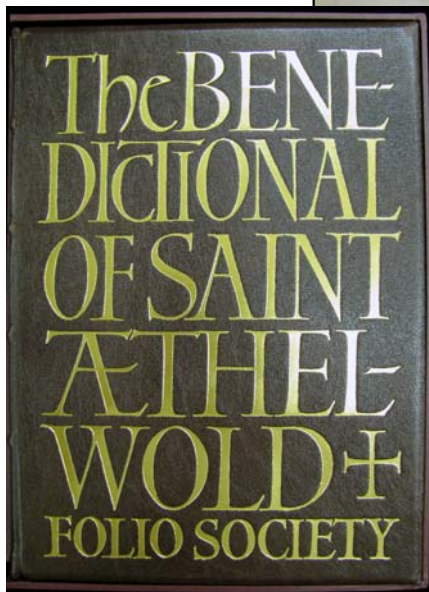
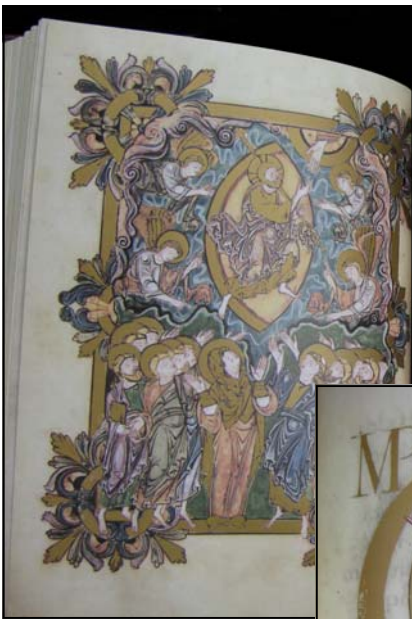
Reviewed by
Frank Pester

“I'll never stop wandering. And when the time comes to die, I'll find the wildest, loneliest, most desolate spot there is.”

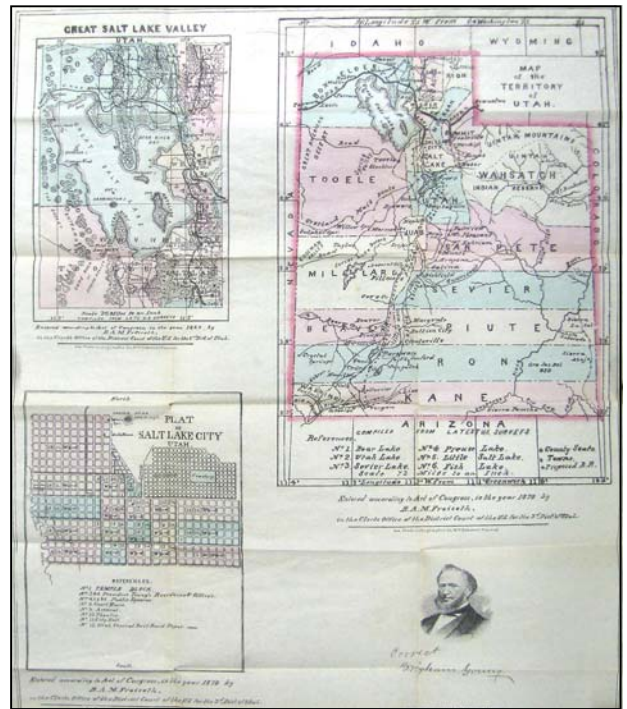
–Everett Ruess

Everett Ruess was a traveler who soaked in the beauty he found around him. What makes him legendary is his disappearance. People have been fascinated with him for over 80 years, and while Philip Fradkin doesn't solve the mystery he adds humanity to the legend. The Ruess family granted Fradkin access to words and images in great quantities; letters, diaries, poems, essays, short stories, histories, note cards, block prints, watercolors, oil paintings and photographs gave Fradkin the tools to weave the definitive biography around the legend. William Kittredge noted, “This book about Everett Ruess is an adventure story that builds into a mystery.” Fradkin writes of the family Everett grew up in, a family almost as much on the move as Everett was in the years of his wanderings. His father and mother were Unitarians in worship of beauty and the life of the spirit. They took young Everett to the wonders of the American West which never left him, and to which he returned in search of his own worship of beauty and studies in art. The many excerpts from his journals let us see Everett for who he really was.

Rare Book Acquisitions by Tony Weller



- We offer a facsimile of what is deemed to be the most impressive of Anglo-Saxon illuminated manuscripts of the 10th century, *The Benedictional of Saint Aethelwold* from the Folio Society of London. In quarto format, the edition of 1000 copies was bound in brown leather with raised bands and gilt lettering and edges in 2001. The large volume is housed in a cloth-covered clamshell case that also contains an octavo commentary by **Andrew Prescott**. Photographic color reproductions. Scarce. \$775



- I am absolutely charmed by our perfect copy of **B.A.M. Forsieth's** *Maps of Utah Territory, Great Salt Lake Valley, and Salt Lake City, with Portrait and Autograph of Brigham Young*, published by Scandanavinsk Post, New York in 1870. This color tinted map remains in its original cloth case, which looks almost new. The map is in amazing condition. It contains four images as indicated in the title: Utah Territory, The Great Salt Lake Valley, a plat map of the city and a facsimile autograph of Brigham Young, with the statement, "correct," endorsing the accuracy of the maps. Scarce and beautiful. \$3000

- We have an attractive large format *Illustrated Family Bible* with illustrations by **Gustav Dore**. Although New York's Gothic Press printed this volume in 1950, it is done in the manner of the quintessential family bibles from the 1870 - 1910 period. It's bound in red leather that is in pretty good condition albeit with a few



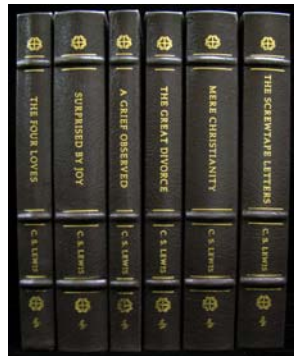
Rare Book Acquisitions continued



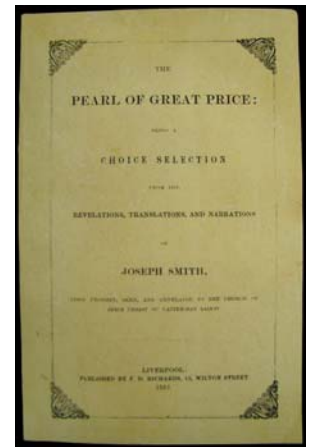
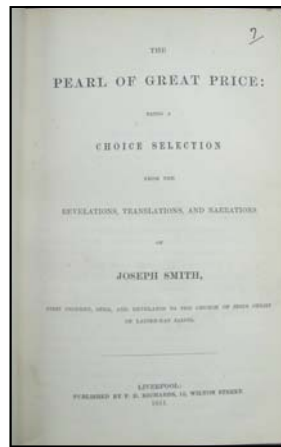
blemishes, the most bothersome of which are two short tears at the head of the backstrip where some heavy handed maladroit pulled on it. \$225



- [Joseph Smith & Sidney Rigdon] A very nice **Kirtland Safety Society Bank \$5 Note**, signed February 10, 1837 by Joseph Smith, Jr. and Sidney Rigdon. \$4000

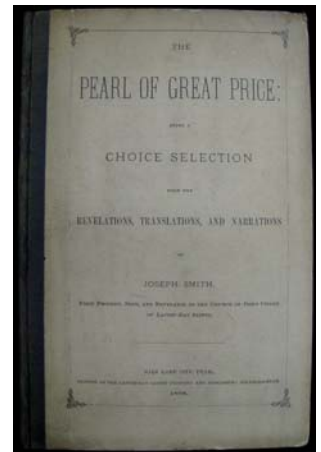


- We're pleased to offer the Easton Press bonded leather series of the main religious writings of **C. S. Lewis**. Uniformly bound in brown leather with gilt lettering and décor, this set includes *The Four Loves*, *The Great Divorce*, *A Grief Observed*, *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters* and *Surprised by Joy*. \$800



- An extremely clean 1st edition of **Joseph Smith's *The Pearl of Great Price***, printed in Liverpool, by Franklin D. Richards in 1851. This delicate pamphlet is harder to locate than an 1830 Book of Mormon. In five years, we've had two, although we've seen maybe fifteen 1st Books of Mormon during that time. Our copy, though almost perfect, was almost inevitably extracted from a bound volume of *Millennial Star* and came to us without its cover. It has been completed by the addition of a careful facsimile of that original paper cover. \$20,000

- The second printing of *The Pearl of Great Price* didn't occur for another 27 years. In 1878, it was printed here in Zion. We see this edition fairly frequently. However, we recently got one in a binding that is less common. Mostly we find them in embossed



cloth casings. The copy I'm describing now is in quarter cloth with printed-paper covered boards. In the manner of government documents, it simply reproduces the title page on the cover. Our copy is in very good condition and while the binding may in fact be less durable than cloth, it is definitely more attractive and scarce. \$2500. If you prefer, we also have a few clothbound copies as well as a good-looking one in modern leather.



Sam Weller's Bookstore

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



Come help us lighten our load and get some great deals in the process! 20% off used and rare, 30% off 10 or more used or rare books and 50% off new sale book section. Check store for current terms of sale.

Newsletter Editor: **John Clukey**