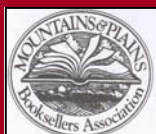




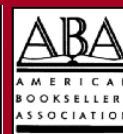
BOOKTALK



The Bi-monthly Newsletter of

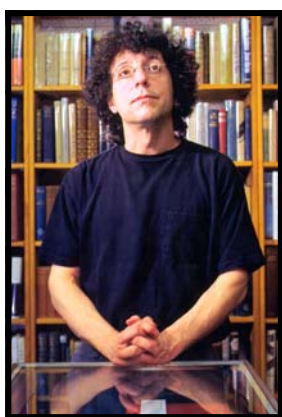
Sam Weller's Bookstore

Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929



August-September 2006

Anniversary and the Trade By Tony Weller



In August, Sam Weller's Books commemorates its 77th anniversary. As long as I can remember, we have marked the occasion with a month-long sale on used books, because we were founded as a used book operation back in 1929, by Sam's father, Gustav. This year, rare books are included in our anniversary promotion at 20% off, along with our second-hand stock. As usual, there are a few exceptions consisting of a few rare books. For our general second-hand books, the only rule is that the book must be on the shelf and bought that day. We will not discount books put on hold or layaway, or located by our out of print search service.

anniversary promotion at 20% off, along with our second-hand stock. As usual, there are a few exceptions consisting of a few rare books. For our general second-hand books, the only rule is that the book must be on the shelf and bought that day. We will not discount books put on hold or layaway, or located by our out of print search service.

This is our 77th year, our third generation of operation and my 28th year in the trade. The book industry is quite different from the one I knew in my youth. It bears little resemblance to the bookselling world my parents knew. And it is harder than I thought it would be. I find shallow solace in noting that this is not really about Sam Weller's but the culture as a whole. As a child, I experienced what I think might have been the twilight years of the golden era of the book. In the 1960s, books were published and sold almost entirely by persons with great affection for books. The

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events at Sam Weller's Bookstore More events at www.SamWellers.com!

Our Annual Anniversary Sale

20% OFF ALL* USED & RARE BOOKS SALE

*excludes Search Service Titles, Holds & Layaways

August 1st -31st

Small Press Forum

Featuring **Larry Rigby** (*The Jäger Artist*), **Jason McLoney** (*The Poems of Eliza R. Snow*) & **Eileen Friel O'Hara** (*Lifting the Lace Curtain*)

Thursday, August
3rd 6:30pm



Brandon Sanderson
reads & signs *Mistborn: The Final Empire*
Thurs. Aug. 17th 6:30pm

Bestselling Author of *Twilight*
Stephenie Meyer
reads & signs *new moon*
Sat., Sept. 16th 3:00pm



nature of employment was more stable than today and people who worked in bookselling or publishing stayed much longer. As a child, I remember a great continuity of brilliant and interesting people moving through the circle of our family's acquaintances. I remember dinners and parties of booksellers, publishers and authors, their lively and far reaching conversations, and a sense that these odd and bright grown ups were the custodians and purveyors of ideas and culture. I also thought they were normal, a misunderstanding that led to years of frustration and alienation until I recognized the source of my delusion and committed myself to the book trade.

Booksellers were the last retailers to be targeted by corporate chains. In what other retail trade are workers so impossibly able to fully know their goods; in what other trade could inventory management be so overwhelming? The growth of the chains really began in the 1970s when Crown Books was perceived as a threat to traditional bookselling. By the 1980s, it was B. Dalton and Waldenbooks which rapidly colonized the malls that sprang up everywhere in that era. In the early 1990s, following the example of other sectors' category killers, we got the behemoth discount bookstores -- Book Stop, Barnes and Noble, Media Play and Borders. In return, by the mid 1990s, Amazon and Walmart became main threats to the large brick and mortar bookselling chains. The pieces of the pie continue to shrink.

It is my belief that the cataclysmic development that *really* shook the book industry was the invention of the Internet. Before presenting my nutshell analysis I want to say that I have shared my understanding with bankers and investment managers as well as with folks who have worked in traded post internet companies and received no disagreement with my assessment.

In brief, what happened is that with the birth of the internet and the way it altered timing and access to stock trading information, the valuation of a company shifted from being *consumer* to *investor* based or, more accurately, *speculator* based. Perception of the financial health of a company was predicated

not on tangible earnings, but rather on the wealth of companies derived from infusions of capital from stock sales. Now that the bubble of delusion has burst, it is no secret that between about 1993 and 1999, companies that were spending much more than they were earning stayed in business simply because they were able to spin their publicity well enough to continue selling stock, an inherently unstable program which could only be sustained by more stock sales and eventual market dominance. But in the end, the remote speculator didn't care at all. It was a game that could be played and won regardless of whether a company was capable of earning money or only selling stock. One could buy Amazon on Wednesday and sell it the following Monday at a profit despite the fact that Amazon lost billions in their first few years of operation. Like a pyramid scheme, the post internet stock market had almost nothing to do with profit. Speculator earnings were predicated on selling more stock. Neat if you're on top of the game but absolutely unstable in an economic sense.

This mystical economic reality fueled the rapid growth of the corporate booksellers and those who were positioned as traded companies at the birth of the internet, were in the right spot at the right time and grew like weeds despite a rather flat market for books. The footage dedicated to book sales quadrupled between the mid and the late nineties while the market only grew by 5%. Publishers were faced with growing orders as retailers had more shelves to fill. But a season after the publishers' sales, the returns came in. In bookselling, a retailer can return unsold books to publishers for credit. This is a good practice that enables publishers to sell more books to bookstores which clearly can't have staff read each book before deciding whether or not to buy it. It works for booksellers by, in effect, guaranteeing the book. If it doesn't sell, the bookstore can send it back and cut its loss, since by that time the bookseller would have paid for postage twice. In the 1990s, returns rates virtually tripled, causing huge losses to publishers and in fact putting some of the smaller ones out of business. Those who endured were in worsening financial health and many publishing firms were sold as their owners sought to get off their sinking ships.

Who would buy a publishing company in that environment? Large media conglomerates for the most part. Publishers were added to investment portfolios along with television, web sites, magazines, movies, radio, newspapers and who knows what else. The new owners knew less about books than their predecessors and ran the publishing companies, well, like they ran other companies. During this time, consumers were facing ever increasing demands on and opportunities to use their time and attention. In fact, the consumer's *attention* became the *real* commodity as it was required to continue selling stock and keep companies that couldn't earn enough solvent. So the new owners of the publishing companies directed their focus on the money earning potential of best sellers, which led to bidding wars for books to be written by writers or would be writers with big name recognition. This meant that author advances grew to amounts that rendered most best sellers unprofitable. And publishers remained on the rocks.

All that could check the problem was an increase of the price of books. How else were publishers to offset such wholesale waste *and* underwrite such massive advances? I did some calculations about five years ago, roughly at the point when many were catching on to this corporate shell game, and estimated that the inflation of the prices of books had exceeded the average inflation rate by about 20%. If you're at least 25 you are old enough to have perceived this. Because of this and the oversaturation of retail the competitive pressure to discount books increased, a practice independents could not afford to follow. As consumers sought cheaper bargains, business for independents continued to shrink but because the big retailers had in effect traded margins for market share, the book trade remained insolvent.

I really had hoped that I could navigate this morass in less space and with more light. The worst of these years are over and we have learned new approaches to bookselling in the new millennium. The world is changing rapidly and there is much discussion about the future role of the book. Though its role is changing, an invention as perfect as the book is here to stay. I love books, the people who read them, as well

as the book business. And I am determined to usher this old bookstore to its fourth generation. In our anniversary month, I always think with gratitude of all the wonderful customers who have supported Sam Weller's Books throughout the years. Despite the problems of our era, I consider myself lucky to have been brought up in the fine tradition of book trade. I have met more wonderful, creative and open-minded people in this bookstore than I have met in any single other place. The last decade has been a challenge, but I am aided in my work by nearly forty great booksellers who share my love of books and belief in their serious importance to the human mind and spirit and the future welfare of human culture. The greatest legacy of humankind is our ability to communicate, learn and adapt to changing circumstances. No invention has done more to facilitate the exchange and preservation of ideas than the book. If it is true, as I believe, that education and progress of the mind and spirit enables a person to think more clearly and make better choices, then the welfare of the human race and the whole of the planet is staked in learning and advancement. And the book remains the most dependable of mind expanding tools.

Take advantage of our August anniversary sale. Visit us in August and load up on books. You'll be glad you did. It feels good to know things. Readers are great conversationalists. Books look good in your home and illuminate your intelligence. Be what, who and how you choose to be. Let reading open the doors. ::

Sam Weller's Bookstore;
Established 1929
254 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 328-2586 (800) 333-SAMW
Fax: (801) 595-0051
www.SamWellers.com
www.LatterDaySaintBooks.Com
Open For Business Each Day
10 am to 8 pm Monday—Saturday
& Sundays 10am to 6pm

Daisy & Lila Ann on Books



Children's Book Experts

Lila Ann Weller (L) & Daisy Sherman (R)

Olivia Forms a Band

By Ian Falconer

Atheneum, \$17.95

Reviewed by Daisy Sherman

OLIVIA
forms a band



Olivia tries to make a band to go to the fireworks. She doesn't end up bringing the band to the fireworks, but does it afterwards. I liked that Olivia knew she could make a one-man-kind-a-pig band. No one thought she could do it but she did it anyway. This is a very funny book. Olivia is just

funny overall practically. My favorite part was the beginning. She had this drawer full of red socks and she couldn't find another matching red sock. They were all red! I'm not quite sure what I think about the artwork. I liked the real pictures in it. I think lots of people would like this book, I guess. Maybe not teenagers. Grown-ups would like it... my Mom and little kids. I would recommend this book to anybody. Olivia's really hard not to like!

Walter the Farting Dog Goes on a Cruise

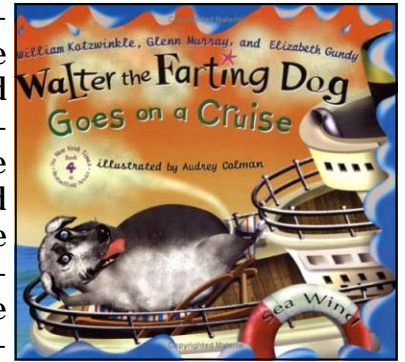
By William Kotzwinkle, Glenn Murray, & Elizabeth Grundy

Illustrated by Audrey Colman

Dutton, \$16.99

Reviewed by Lila Ann Weller

In this book, a family goes on a cruise with their cat and dog. Walter is misunderstood because he farts a lot and they really stink. He stays at the Pet Palace, that's where they keep the animals. He has a good



time. Suddenly, he farts. The Pet Policeman opens up all the vents and it goes up to the other levels. The Pet Policeman said they had a problem with the dog. He ended up in the cheese department and ate the cheese. The cheese gave him gas. He farted again. He ended up going over the deck, hanging on a floatie but he still stunk. But they still like him and gave him a hat called Walter's Boat. I like the way Walter's misunderstood but ends up making friends at the end. In the pictures, you have to look really closely. Things like the vents are real, or the shoes, or a vase. It's really cool! One thing I didn't like... I don't really like the font. Sometimes I like the font more straightforward. My favorite part is when he goes to the Pet Palace. He just settled down on a cushion and he farted. All the animals going "Ewww! What is that?" I would recommend this book to my friend, Clodie, because I think she would like the title as much as I do... the concept of a farting dog!

What a Day It Was At School!

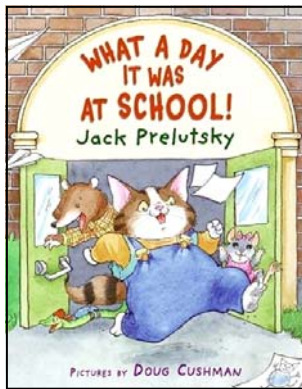
By Jack Prelutsky, Pictures by Doug Cushman

Greenwillow Books, \$15.99

Reviewed by Daisy Sherman

In this book, this cat's mom wants to know what goes on in school so he writes in his journal. It's all in poems. It rhymed really well and it was really funny. I like that. It was funny how he phrased things. He had a science experiment that went really, really wrong. It came alive and ate his dog and made a really weird noise. My favorite part was where they had a food fight. One of the kids decided to throw

food at another kid and they all started throwing food at each other. The artwork is very good. I like how they did it. They showed lots of expression from the characters. They're really cool looking! I think lots of kids would like it, some grown-ups too, but I'm not sure.

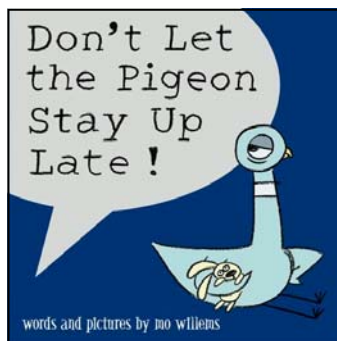


Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!

Words and Pictures by Mo Willems

Hyperion, \$12.99

Reviewed by Lila Ann Weller



A pigeon wants to stay up late but is too tired. He tries everything! He tells his rabbit not to stay up late. Eventually, he falls asleep while explaining why he's not tired. I think that the pigeon saying to the rabbit he can't stay up late was really funny. It

was really funny for people who are just learning to read. It is good that it has easy-to-read words and there aren't very many. It makes everyone smile who reads it. At least, I think it would. My favorite part is when the pigeon suggests that he should stay up late and have a hot dog party. The artwork is done very well but it's done different than in other books. I like how they make the pigeon change expressions a lot. That doesn't always happen. I think my friend Emily would like this book cause she likes really funny things.

Young Adult Fiction Reviews By Student Reviewers

Sleeper Code

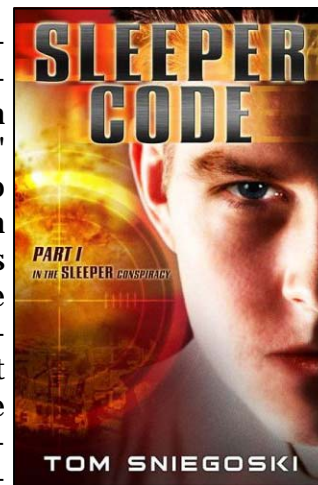
By Tom Sniegowski

Razorbill Paperback, \$6.99

Reviewed by Michael Haleua

Tom Sniegowski's *Sleeper Code* is a riveting, well-paced, secret agent-ish story about a young kid who has a special form of narcolepsy

called "Quentin's Narcolepsy", a very rare disease that makes a person randomly have 'episodes' of sleeping lasting up to five days. Tom, the main character in this story, is continually fighting to be normal and have a normal life despite the fact of being narcoleptic. The story begins by describing his struggle and day-to-day life. And then he meets a girl named Madison. She treats Tom like a real and normal person. However, shortly after meeting Madison and getting to know her, his 'episodes' begin to get worse. Not because of Madison, but because of 'hypnagogic hallucinations' (dreams he has during his attacks). This leads to him discovering that he is someone much more unusual than he thought at first. Now his life's objective is one thing and one thing only... survival. An excellent plot and book, one I very much enjoyed reading, and is easily a rival and possibly superior to any James Bond-ish, secret agent story out there.



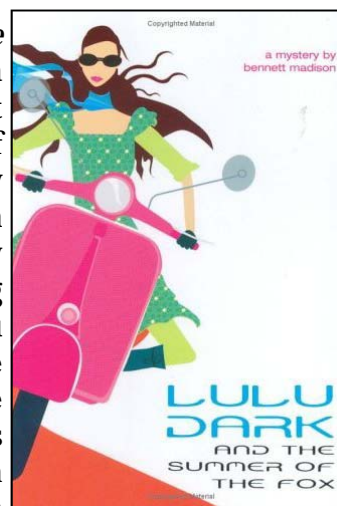
Lulu Dark and the Summer of the Fox

Bennett Madison

Razorbill Hardcover, \$10.99

Reviewed by Catherine Beck

Lulu Dark and the Summer of the Fox, a mystery by Bennett Madison, is one of those girls-only books. It has a fun cover and you probably want to read it during the summer. Join Lulu on her crazy adventure while she tries to figure out what in the world is going on with her mom and as she deals with



boyfriend problems. You'll probably want to start with *Lulu Dark Can See Through Walls*, the first in this series.

Fiction for the Dog Days of Summer

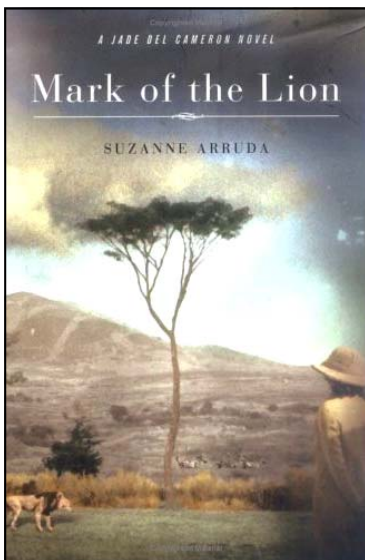
Mark of the Lion **Suzanne Arruda**

NAL Hardcover, \$23.95

Jade del Cameron, the charismatic protagonist of Suzanne Arruda's *Mark of the Lion*, is intelligent, determined and quite courageous; the kind of heroine detective that is bound to win the hearts of many mystery buffs.

After growing up tough on a New Mexico ranch and driving an ambulance along the front lines of World War I, she can fire a rifle with deadly precision and stare down men maddened by shell shock. Still suffering lingering trauma from the Great War, she sets off for Africa, determined to fulfill a man's dying wish...

When David Worthy, the RAF pilot with whom she is in love, dies in her arms, Jade resolves to honor her beloved's request that she find his missing brother. Knowing full well that David was an only child, Jade seeks his cold and remote mother, hoping that she would be able to shed some light on



David's mysterious request. But Jade never expects to become involved in murder. Set in Kenya in the early 1900s, the setting is extremely important in this novel, becoming a character in itself. Rich in period atmosphere, romance, mystery, and adventure, Suzanne Arruda has created a new mystery series that is sure to enchant.

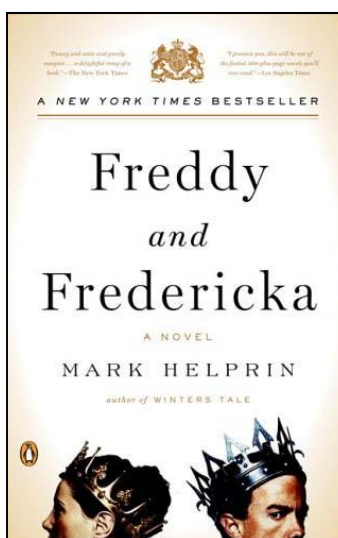
Freddy and Fredericka **Mark Helprin**

Penguin Paperback, \$15

Mark Helprin's legions of devoted readers cherish his timeless novels and short stories (*Winter's Tale*, *A Soldier of the Great War*). His first novel in a decade, *Freddy and*

Fredericka is a brilliantly refashioned fairy tale and a magnificently funny farce.

Freddy, the Prince of Wales, is a well-meaning man, haplessly falling into ludicrous situations that delight the press, giving fits to his mother the Queen. Fredericka, Freddy's buxom, blond, camera-loving, and seemingly vapid wife, doesn't help. After a series of vaudevillian mishaps, Freddy and Fredericka are sent incognito to America to redeem themselves. Their mission? Reconquer the colony.



Helprin generates a delectable tension between his impeccable style and unbridled imagination in tales that careen from precise realism to exalted romantic fantasy. Behind the laughter, Helprin speaks of leaps of faith and second chances, courage and the primacy of love. An extraordinarily funny allegory about a most peculiar British royal

family, *Freddy and Fredericka* is immensely mocking of contemporary monarchy and yet deeply sympathetic to the individuals caught in its lonely absurdities.

On Beauty **Zadie Smith**

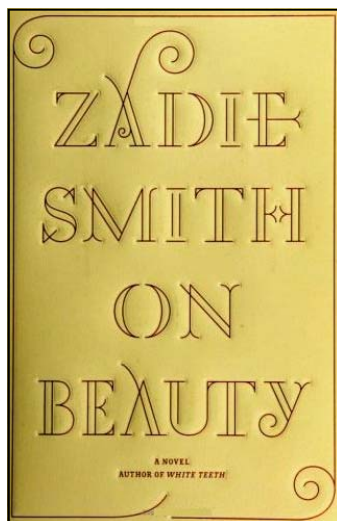
Penguin PB (due late August 2006), \$15

Penguin Hardback, \$25.95

Having hit bestseller lists from the *New York Times* to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, this wise, hilarious novel reminds us why Zadie Smith has rocketed to literary stardom. *On Beauty* is the story of an interracial family living in the university town of Wellington, Massachusetts.

Howard Belsey, a Rembrandt scholar who doesn't like Rembrandt, is an Englishman

abroad and a long-suffering professor at Wellington, a liberal New England arts college. He has been married for thirty years to Kiki, an American woman who no longer resembles the sexy activist she once was. Their three children passionately pursue their own paths: Levi quests after authentic blackness, Zora believes that intellectuals can redeem everybody, and Jerome struggles to be a believer in a family of strict atheists. Faced with the oppressive enthusiasms of his children, Howard feels that the first two acts of his life are over and he has no clear plans for the finale. Or the encore.



Then Jerome, Howard's older son, falls for Victoria, the stunning daughter of the right-wing icon Monty Kipps, and the two families find themselves thrown together in a beautiful corner of America, enacting a cultural and personal war against the background of real wars that they barely register. An infidelity, a death, and a legacy set in motion a chain of events that sees all parties forced to examine the unarticulated assumptions which underpin their lives. How do you choose the work on which to spend your life? Why do you love the people you love? Do you really believe what you claim to? And what is the beautiful thing, and how far will you go to get it? Set on both sides of the Atlantic, Zadie Smith's third novel is a brilliant analysis of family life, the institution of marriage, intersections of the personal and political, and an honest look at people's deceptions. Full of dead-on wit and relentlessly funny, this tour de force confirms Zadie Smith's reputation as a major literary talent.

Londonstani **Gautam Malkani**

Penguin Hardcover, \$24.95

Jas is in trouble. Because of who he is: an eighteen-year-old Asian living in London. Because of the gang he hangs out with. And be-

cause of the woman he fancies, Samira, who Jas shouldn't have taken a shining to because she is, as his pals point out, not one of his own. He's in trouble because his education, never mind his career, is going nowhere. And he's fallen into the schemes, games and prejudices of his friends on the streets of the big western city in which he lives. But Jas's main trouble is Jas himself.

Told in a dizzying patois that borrows from British street slang, Punjabi, text-messaging shorthand and American hip-hop, Gautam Malkani's debut novel displays all the bravado of his swaggering young protagonists. The in-your-face language of *Londonstani* promises that, despite its roots in the author's Cambridge dissertation, its portrait of British Asian youth will be anything but academic.



The novel's main interest lies in its characters' struggle to assert their masculinity in a community full of overbearing mothers and hen-pecked fathers. Though Jas and his friends put on a great show of embracing their ethnic identity, what really drives them toward desi culture is their fear of being perceived as spineless saps. The book is at its strongest when Malkani demonstrates his sharp eye for the contradictions and absurdities of the pseudo-gangsta life these boys have fashioned for themselves. They call themselves "rudeboys," these Sikh and Hindu wannabe-hoodlums from the not-so-mean streets of West London. It's hard not to be dazzled by the way this novel hurtles us into the rudeboy scene. Jas initiates us into the manners and mores of the *desi* subculture, allowing us to learn its slang, hear its music and master the finer points of its etiquette. And for a kid like Jas -- once stammering, shy, lonely and humiliated -- this world is all the more seductive for allowing him to completely reinvent himself. In Malkani's depiction of multiculturalism, racial identity becomes a proxy for masculine identity among young men struggling to get by in a remorseless city.



The Cellar™
Matters Epicurean
By Damon Husebye

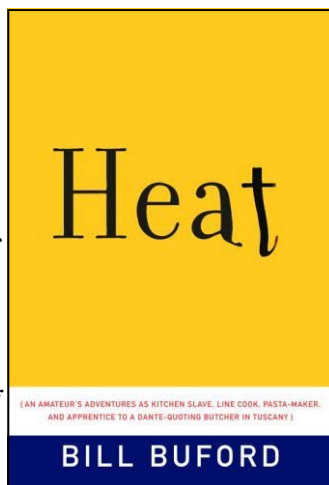


Over the last few years, there have been some alarming books on the topic that might be called the "Big Food" industry. Eric Schlosser's *Fast Food Nation* (Harper Perennial PB, \$14.95) and Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma* (Penguin HC, \$26.95) both dissect the costs and benefits of the industrialization of our food chain. What does it mean for the environment and for culture when our diet comes from a factory, or when any fruit or meat we desire can be had regardless of season? Apparently, it means a lot. There is a kaleidoscope of economic trade-offs involved with the answers to these questions.

Schlosser's book in particular promises our demise if we don't change our ways. While we at the Cellar tend to agree with the spirit of these claims, we're not so pessimistic about the end of the world, but we do lament the aesthetic loss. We've said this about beer and the same can be said of food; real food is just better eating!

Slow food is shorthand for (more or less) what the above titles suggest as a solution to the Big Food quandary. It is food that is consumed seasonally and produced closer to where it is consumed. It can take longer to prepare and be nominally more expensive at the cash register, but you get what you pay for.

Bill Buford's new book, *Heat* (Knopf HB, \$25.95) is intimately concerned with ideas where food and culture intersect: the meaning of food, the pleasure of food, the kitchen industry, et al. You may be familiar with Mr. Buford from his book *Among The Thugs* (Vintage PB, \$15.00)



about soccer hooliganism in the U.K. and Europe. In *Heat*, his prose is intimate, facile and witty. It's a travel narrative into the depths of a professional kitchen and beyond and you will never wish to work in one after reading this. *Heat* is not a journalistic exposé like *Fast Food Nation*; it is loving portrait of people and places under girded by some very serious ideas; it puts the debate of Slow Food vs. Fast Food in relief by telling a story. We are all involved in the drama of this debate, but what's at stake is more than facts and figures; *Heat* reminds us there are questions of beauty, pleasure, blood and passion, questions of our soul and history. *Heat* is raucous, sanguine and lovely. Summer reading at its best, light and edifying like a perfect meal.

Staff Reviews

Art Out of Time: Unknown Comic Visionaries, 1900-1969

Dan Nadel

Harry N. Abrams, Inc. \$40

Review by Vincent Fritz

What's that you say? You don't read comics? *Art Out of Time* exemplifies all that is good about comics, my dear naysayer. No essays, just chapter introductions and beautiful reproductions of

some of comic's more original and lesser known talents. From Fletcher Hank's iconoclastic frozen style to Charles Forbell's eye pleasing page design, the material represented here is nothing short of astounding. There are still cues to be

taken, so throw your BFA in the trash, and let this book be your teacher. The cover price is a far better deal than tuition.



And a Bottle of Rum... By Courtney Martin

I have a tender spot in my heart for pirates. This all began when I was about 7 with Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* and Han Solo, who was more of a smuggler than a space pirate but still looked really nice in his shiny, black boots. It now teeters between a healthy fascination and perverse obsession. In fact, I sometimes entertain the notion of becoming a pirate as a possible career option. I would raid cod ships off the coast of Iceland in my seaworthy ship, Flipper Fiend, to supply my chain of fish and chips shops throughout England. With the recent success of Disney's *Pirates of the Caribbean* film franchise, it's a good time to be obsessed with pirates as a plethora of pirate books are being published each month. Here are some recent ones that have caught my fancy.

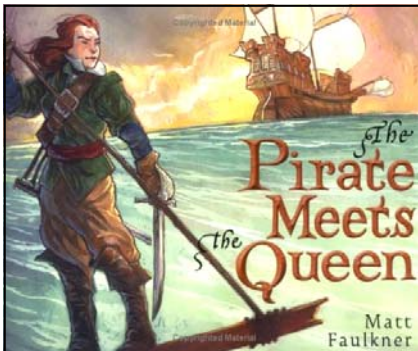
The Pirate Meets the Queen

Matt Faulkner

Philomel Press,
\$15.99

Irish Pirate, Grace O'Malley, has long been a hero of mine. This smash-

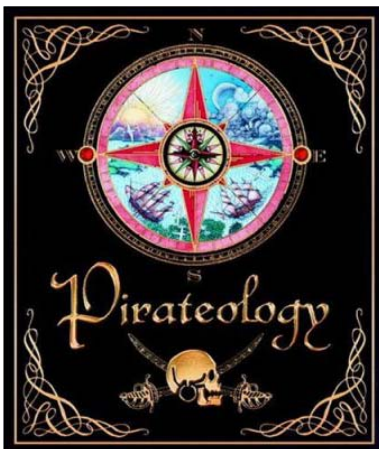
ing children's picture book recounts some facts and some myths about this pirate queen; in particular, the trip she made to London to plead to Queen Elizabeth for the freedom of her pirate son, Toby. Faulkner's vivid illustrations breathe life into this marvelous tale of a strong woman, devout mother and cunning leader.



Piratology

Candlewick Press,
\$19.99

This is the most recent installment in Candlewick's popular -Ology series. *Piratology* is presented as the 1723 diary of Captain William Lubber, appointed pirate hunter of His Majesty, King George I. His mission



is to hunt down and capture the pesky pirate, Arabella Drummond. The "diary" is full of diagrams, maps, histories of the more notorious pirates, dictionaries of pirate lingo, letters to open, and loads of little facts necessary to know for little pirates-to-be (eat limes to prevent scurvy!). The cover comes complete with a working compass. Of all the -Ology books, this is my favorite one. But then, I am partial to the subject matter.

Kingston by Starlight

Christopher John Farley

Three Rivers Press, \$13.95

Senior Editor of Time

Magazine and Jamaican

native, Christopher John

Farley elaborates on the

history of Calico Jack

Rackam, Anne Bonny, and

Mary Read. Told through

Bonny's point of view, we

follow the trio from pirating

adventures to their 1720

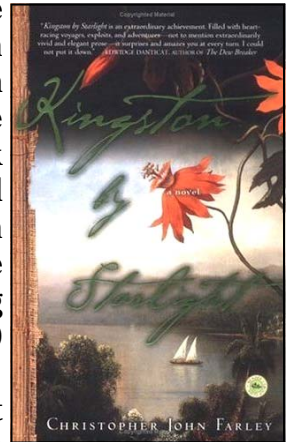
trial in Kingston, Jamaica.

A marvelous mixture of fact

and fiction, this book is a

fine summertime read for the beach or when

you're pretending to be at the beach.



Under the Black Flag: The Romance and Reality of Life Among the Pirates

David Cordingly

Random House, \$13.95

O.K., this book isn't recent

as it was first published over

10 years ago but Random

has recently re-issued it

with a lovely, new cover.

This book, to me, is the bi-

bble of pirate studies. Al-

though the book bursts

many a happy pirate bubble (pirates didn't use

planks, love), Cordingly, who is a curator at the

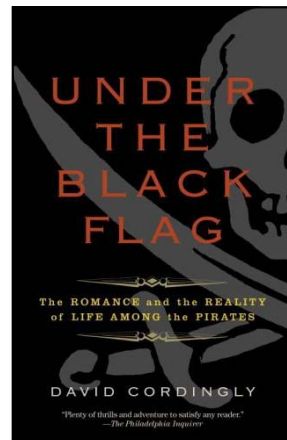
National Maritime Museum in London, does a

masterful job depicting the short and merry life

of a pirate. He also traces the fictional use of

pirates in film and literature. This book is an

imperative read for all pirate scholars.



Self-Published Author Reviews by Bruce Christensen

The number of books published per year is around 175,000. Usually lost in the cracks are the self-published books (published by the author). Please keep in mind that *The Celestine Prophecy*, *Eragon* and *The Christmas Box* were originally self-published. Because these authors are often ignored by the reading public, I have decided to present three titles by self-published local authors for your consideration.

The Jäger Artist

Larry Rigby

Faustus Press, \$14.95

After completing a PhD in eighteenth century German poetry, our hero Preston Wright is ready for a promising career at the university of his choice. A productive future teaching, creating scholarly works, and all the privileges one expects lie before him. Alas, no jobs are available. So after years of struggle, disappointments, and a lot of hard work building a very profitable company dealing in medical supplies, he accumulates an astronomical fortune and is ready to start over. Now in his early fifties, Preston decides to move to Germany, take art classes and pursue a new career as an artist. His goal is to create the New Man. Modern technology and the eighteenth century compete, evolve and resolve in this attempt. Throw in a Mephistophelean intrigue, encounters with the current traffic in the slave trade and a plethora of interesting characters and you have a beach book for summer reading.

The Campaign

Ron Molen

DMT Publishing, \$15.95

For the reader who is not content to wait for the post-Labor Day election excitement, *The Campaign* should whet the appetite until the political craze starts in earnest. Clay Robbins, a two-term Senator from Utah is running for a third. His wife, feeling that Clay has become a corrupt politician, is seeking a divorce. His children do not approve of his political affiliations and those close to him are trying hard to keep him in line. After a harrowing experience

in the Utah desert, the Senator is forced to re-think his belief system. You will not recognize the characters, but Utah politics will be very recognizable. If you are tired of what is and would like to fantasize on what could be, this is the book for you.

The Race

Dave Shields

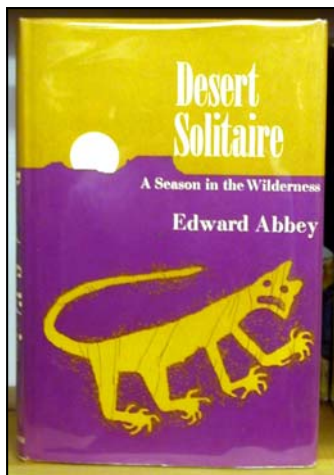
Three Story Press, \$14.95

Ben Barnes, the main character of this fast-paced novel is a member of a racing team in the Tour de France. Unwanted by most of his team members including the Directeur (the Coach), he is forced to serve as a domestic, providing the leader and other team riders with water, energy bars and energy gel during each day's race. Ben is overloaded with mental baggage and underloaded with confidence. As he relives these painful experiences, each hindrance is discarded, increasing his courage and ability to call on his inner strengths. After reading this book, I have become more appreciative of this prestigious race, the hardships and allure for the participants. No pun intended but the reader will race all the way through this book to its exciting conclusion. This book can be enjoyed by both adults and young adults. I would recommend it to the teenage male who doesn't like to read: *The Race* might change his mind.

Sam Weller's Bookstore hosts Small Press Forum

Larry Rigby, *The Jager Artist* (Faustus Publishing, 2006), is one of three featured authors reading at Sam Weller's Small Press Forum on Thursday, August 3rd at 6:30 p.m. The other two authors include: Eileen Friel O'Hara, *Lifting the Lace Curtain: Collected Essays* (Chicago Spectrum Press, 2004), and Jason McLoney, *The Poems of Eliza R. Snow: Zion's Poet Laureate* (Jason Crane Publishing, 2004). The Small Press Forum, set to occur three times a year, is specially designated for small presses and self-published authors to read, sign, and share their work. These forums are free and open to the public. Any questions please email events coordinator Shari Zollinger at shari@samwellers.com or call 801-328-2586.

Rare Book Acquisitions By Tony Weller



A very clean jacketed 1st edition of **Edward Abbey's** first of his two most loved books, *Desert Solitaire*. Only flaw is that the former owner unnecessarily put a piece of tape over the rear hinge. The tape is gone but a stain remains. The book is tight and square and the jacket is bright and new in appearance. \$675

One of 940 of the signed edition of **Elbert Hubbard's** *Little Journeys To the Homes of Eminent Artists: Raphael*. This thin suede bound volume includes hand colored decorations. In addition to the limitation autograph, it is inscribed on the first fly leaf by Hubbard to a friend \$400



A fine 1st edition of **Dennis Lehane's** first book, *A Drink Before the War*, from 1994. \$85

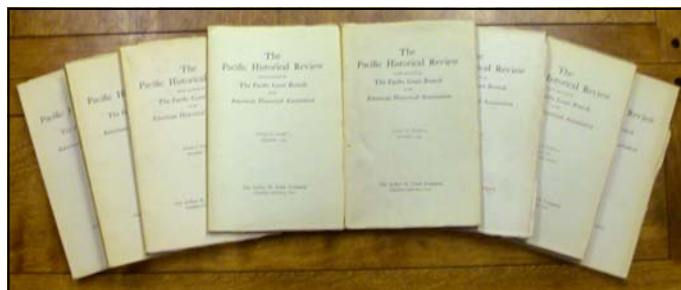


A beautiful 3/4 leather bound two volume set of *Temperance History: A Consecutive Narrative of the Rise, Development, and Extension of the Temperance Reform* by **Dawson Burns**. This rare set was published in London circa 1881. \$300

A set of the limited edition *Medallic History of Medicine*, which is a binder housing a series of 60 commemorative silver medals documenting the evolution of medicine. \$600

Also the *Medallic History of Pharmacy*, which contains 36 commemorative bronze medals for \$400

The 58th number of *Philosophical Transactions*, a pamphlet from 1670 which most interestingly contains *An Extract of a Letter from [Monsieur de Martel of] Mountauban, concerning a way of Prolonging Humane [Human] Life; together with Some Observations made in those Parts, and a Practice of making a good Muscadin-wine by means of the mark or husks of that Grape*. This 24 page pamphlet was apparently once bound. The paper is soiled and has small stab holes near its spine. Publications on the health attributes of wine from this era are quite uncommon. \$500



The first eight issues from 1932 and 1933, of the rare *Pacific Historical Review* which was issued quarterly by the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association and printed by the Arthur H. Clark Company. These large octavos are bound in printed gray wraps. They are in very good condition. \$650

A near perfect copy of *The Face in Health and Disease* by **Max Thorek**. This thick 781-page, 1946 book examines the face from numerous perspectives with primary focus on congenital or disease based deformations. \$250

Two thick, well preserved, spiral bound, depression era issues of *U.S. Camera*, containing stunning large photographs. 1935, \$75; 1936, \$50





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