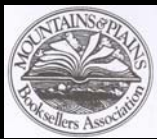
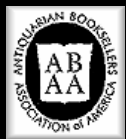




# BOOKTALK

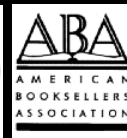


The bi-monthly Newsletter of  
**Sam Weller's Bookstore**

New, Used and Rare Books

*Salt Lake's Premier Full-Service Bookstore since 1929*

**April-May 2009**



## **Moving** By Tony Weller

Since our decision to relocate our bookstore, we have been in a constant flurry. Never have I had to squeeze so many decisions and actions into such a short period. Though we have been covered well in the news, I want to share with you the factors leading to our decision and tell you a bit about what has occurred since the announcement. I also want to give you a glimpse of our future.



I will not here get into a discussion about the pros and cons of books and other various media. It is not news that readership has been on a fairly steady decline since the advent of television. Neither is it news that computers, and especially the internet, by giving more choices of how to spend one's time, have cut yet deeper into the time we spend with books.

Books are an extremely old and immensely important invention. They have propelled culture, history and science forward through centuries. The progress that followed the invention of the printing press is unparalleled in any previous era. Computers are relatively new and also extremely important in our evolutionary thrust forward. Only Luddites would propose that computers are not useful and only reckless or shallow thinkers believe computers can replace the book. Both are powerful tools

and while our culture sorts out their uses, I will remind you that there is need, use and room for both. We understand that many traditional functions of the book have been subsumed by computers, often for the better but certainly not always. In truth, computers have had catalytic and mostly wonderful effects on the conceptualization, design, manufacture and materials of modern books. And some segments of the book trade have even grown while others have shrunk. So it isn't simple.

Now that the failures of the economic system we remember are pretty obvious to most of us, I won't need to work as hard as I used to with the following points. The retail markets of our culture are as messed up as our banks, lending institutions and Wall Street. They are nearly as messed up as health care and the environment. Following the advent of the internet, and specifically how it changed stock transactions, corporate book retailers expanded and independent booksellers lost market share and began to falter. About a third of those who existed on the eve of the net went out of business shortly thereafter. While this was happening, the American Booksellers Association, Sam Weller's and several other independent booksellers sued several major publishers and chain stores to put an end to secret illegal deals that had strengthened big box retailers and further harmed independents. We achieved notable reforms but meanwhile the retail footage dedicated to book sales had quadrupled against a meager 5% growth in sales. As publishers printed more books to fill all the newly opened bookstores, wholesale waste nearly tripled in the 1990s, leading to exaggerated inflation of the cover price of books which further hurt sales and made the discounts provided by the big retailers seem even more necessary to buyers. Of course this was terrible for publishers, causing many to bail out, selling to larger companies. It is almost funny to now observe that what B&N and Borders did with pricing to Indies last decade is

*continued on page 4*

# Upcoming Events

## April & May

- ◆ **ANALOGUE island Art Show**  
Ongoing March 20th through May 8th  
Location: Gallery on the Mezzanine, Sam Weller's Bookstore  
*Consider the analogue experience in sound, vision and human gesture.*
- ◆ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bookclub**  
Tuesday, **April 7th @ 7:00pm**  
Location: The Beehive Tea Room  
Moderated by: Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen  
April's title: *A Study in Scarlet*  
**Tickets are \$12, and must be purchased at the bookstore by April 6th. Includes light refreshment.**
- ◆ **Queereads Book Club**  
Sponsored by Weller's and the Utah Pride Center  
Wednesday, **April 15th @ 6:30pm**  
Location: In Store  
Moderated by: Liz Shattler  
April's title: *Deflowered: My Life in Pansy Division* by **Jon Ginoli. 20% off at Weller's**
- ◆ **Mary Roach: *Bonk* —Reading & Signing**  
Thursday, **April 16th, @ 7:00pm**  
Location: Downtown City Library Auditorium  
210 East 400 South, SLC  
Mary Roach, author of *Stiff* will read from and sign her book *Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex*.
- ◆ **Suzanne Ross: *The Wicked Truth* —Reading & Signing**  
Tuesday, **April 21st @ 7:00pm**  
Location: In Store  
Suzanne will read from and sign her book, *The Wicked Truth: When Good People Do Bad*

*Things*, in coordination with the coming of *Wicked: The Musical* to Salt Lake City.

- ◆ **Hardboiled Bookclub**  
Tuesday, **April 28th @ 6:30pm**  
Location: In Store  
Moderated by: Zach Sampinos  
April's title: *Dangerous Laughter* by Steven Millhauser. **20% off at Weller's**
- ◆ **Jon Ginoli: *Deflowered* —Reading & Signing**  
Friday, **May 1st @ 7:00pm**  
Location: In Store  
Jon Ginoli will read from and sign his book *Deflowered: My Life in Pansy Division*.
- ◆ **Sherlock Holmes Mystery Bookclub**  
Tuesday, **May 5th @ 7:00pm**  
Location: The Beehive Tea Room  
Moderated by: Courtney Martin and Bruce Christensen  
May's title: *The Sign of Four*  
**Tickets are \$12, and must be purchased at the bookstore by April 6th. Includes light refreshment.**
- ◆ **Queereads Book Club**  
Wednesday, **May 20th @ 6:30pm**  
Location: In Store  
Moderated by Liz Shattler  
May's title: *Zami* by Audre Lorde  
**20% off at Weller's**
- ◆ **Hardboiled Bookclub**  
Wednesday, **May 26th @ 6:30pm**  
Location: In Store  
Moderated by: Zach Sampinos  
May's title: *Northline* by Willy Vlautin  
**20% off at Weller's**

*For more information on upcoming events, go to:*

[www.samwellers.com](http://www.samwellers.com) or call 801-328-2586 or stop in the store

## New Poetry

### Seven Poets, Four Days, One Book

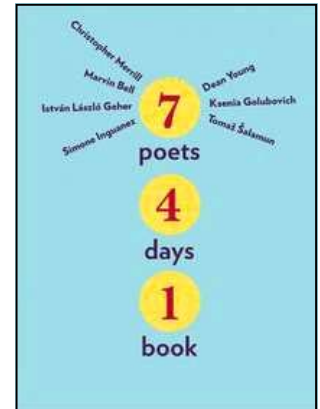
Marvin Bell, Istvan Laszlo Geher, Ksenia Golubovich, Simone Inguanez, Christopher Merrill, Tomaz Salamun, Dean Young

ISBN 978-1-59534-036-8  
Trinity University Press  
\$14.95

Lauded poet Christopher Merrill hatched a brilliant plan: invite six other poets to join him in four days of writing in Iowa City. The poets would write for 30 minutes, creating a poem of 15 lines, and then read it

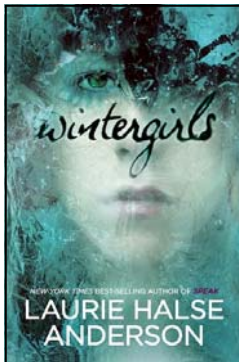
aloud to the group. Then, each poet would take one line from another poet, and create another poem using that line. These rounds continued, until, in a process of call and response and unprecedented collaboration, 80 poems had been composed. Those 80 poems are collected in this book, penned by authors who represent some of the best and brightest the world of poetry has to offer.

Transcending differences of generation, gender, language, and vision, these poets have invented an entirely new facet of the poet's creative process.



## Young Adult Fiction: Hot off the Press

Reviewed by Shari Zollinger



### Wintergirls Lauri Halse Anderson

ISBN 978-0-67001-110-0  
Viking Juvenile  
\$17.99

Edgy and evocative author Laurie Halse Anderson has written another superb young adult novel, her darkest novel yet. Anderson says she “journeyed into the land of the *Wintergirls* because of the countless readers who wrote and talked to me about their struggles with eating disorders, cutting and feeling loss. Their courage and honesty put me in the path to find Lia and helped me understand her brokenness.”

With lyrical prose Anderson tells the unforgettable story of Lia, an 18-year-old girl battling anorexia. She

is what the boys in her high school term the *Dead Girl Walking*. She has just lost her best friend to bulimia. Anderson marries the prosaic tale of Persephone to Lia as we journey through the *frozen land*, the metaphorical underworld, as Lia attends her friend's funeral and reconciles her friend's death with her own impending one.

Lia's goal is to be the skinniest girl in the school. “I am the space between my thighs, daylight shining through. I am the bones they want, wired on a porcelain frame.”

She battles her mother, quintessential Demeter, who tries everything to help her daughter, seemingly falling short. Lia even eats the proverbial pomegranate (in the book a pomegranate-flavored cupcake), which offers the turning point in the book—the place where transformation can occur. Just as the myth reconciles itself in spring, so does *Wintergirls*, when mother and daughter find ways to help each other recognizing, however, that the most important work on self must come from the self, one's very own will to survive.

*continued from page 1*

now being done to them by Walmart and Costco, but not really.

I think of myself as fairly humble but I have to say that we run a remarkable bookstore of a type of which there are few left. We receive warm praise from people as far flung as New York to San Francisco; from Tokyo to London. But with all the other choices people have of ways to pass their time and ways to shop, recent sales patterns have not been adequate to support the cost of the inventory and staff required by our giant facility. Sadly, we were forced to lay off six staff members last month.

We now work with some 20 plus smart dedicated booksellers in a giant bookstore with revenue that is about half what it was in the early 1990s. During the last 15 years, we have made many changes in our business. We entered the internet world, expanded, improved monetary practices, inventoried most of our used books, inter-sorted new and used stock, added the Coffee Garden and Scrub Oak Book Bindery, added an art gallery, increased events, and made numerous improvements in the interior. We believe our decisions were good ones though we now wish we had bought web technology instead of that last expansion. Despite it all, bookselling has continued to get harder and harder. Recent economic woes are the latest factor.

We made our decision late in February and by mid-March we had a plan that we felt was ready to announce to the public: We are going to move this old bookstore again. At the time of this writing, we don't yet know to where. We began our search a couple of weeks ago and have only yet seen a few locations. We are in discussions with building co-owners, the Dahle family, to determine the disposition of this property. Last month we began a sale that will progress according to the development of our relocation plans. Right now, used and rare books, excepting consignments, are 25% off. As we work towards a new location, we will continue stocking select new books. But, for the time being, we have placed a hiatus on used and rare book purchasing. But if you have something very special, please let us know. If we have an immediate need we may buy it.

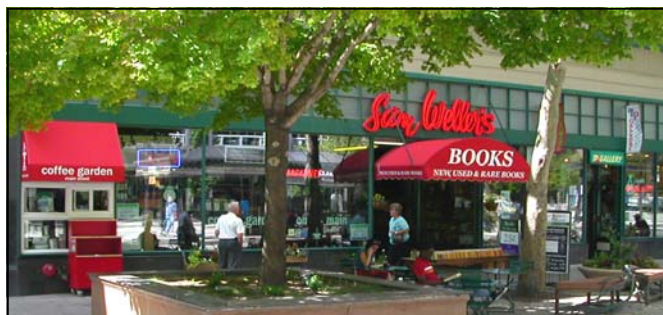
Since our announcement on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, we have been flooded with calls from media, real estate agents, friends, customers and colleagues. The outpouring of emotion is overwhelming, such a combination of sadness and excitement. Those who love our store as it is are sad at what they see as the end of an era.

Everyone is supportive. Some are excited about what will follow. We know the feelings from one extreme to the other, for we have lived them all over the last month. But the arena is vastly bigger than Main Street. We are at a turning point in history and much of what we believe and take for granted is changing as we speak.

One doesn't work in books for the money - one can earn as little doing much easier things. We love books and all of our staff were drawn to the store we are about to reinvent because of their love of books. I was reared with a philosophy and custom of books and more books. I used to be constantly awed and overwhelmed and now it only happens part of the time. I have learned to love the chaos and mystery and the overwhelming bigness of human thought available through books.

Though we *are* downsizing, we are not planning to become small. In our new location, we will continue stocking well selected new, used and rare books. We are also exploring some exciting partnerships with other local businesses. We are dreaming large. We have lived the book trade and believe we understand how it is evolving and how we must change to continue selling great books to readers and collectors in this new millennium. We are downtown booksellers. We enjoy the energy and diversity that only the urban core of the capital city can provide. We like the old architecture and being near the hotels, the library, the temple and the convention center. The properties we are viewing are all near downtown.

As our plans progress, we will keep you updated. Thank you for all of your support. I haven't cried this often since I was a kid. I cried most about the layoffs but also over what our move symbolizes about the changes in our culture and the warmth and generosity that has been shown to us at this time. While thinking of us, please remember other community businesses. If you have the means, this would be a very good time to support the endeavors of a neighbor.



# Gallery Musings

Sam Weller's Bookstore has expanded its image to make room for a non-traditional art gallery. Our desire is to exhibit work in all media by emerging and established artists, providing a dynamic setting for new directions in the arts. We produce six exhibitions a year each spanning seven weeks. Join us for Gallery Stroll every other month! Please visit our website for a listing of current shows at [www.samwellers.com](http://www.samwellers.com).

The name we have been using for this space has been **The Gallery on the Mezzanine**. This name may change as we gear up for a move to another location. Stay tuned for details on name and location.



Current Show: **Analogue Island: Considering the Analogue Experience in Sound, Vision and Human Gesture**. March 20<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>.

We had a great opening night on March 20! Works included an interactive sound installation entitled *Tales on Tape* by Henry Jones, a performance art piece by Michael Handley and Brandon Garcia, sonic housings by renowned international sound artist Mathieu Ruhlmann, and interactive sound sculptures by Trent Alvey, as well as two-dimensional works by Joey Behrens and Trent Call. Come check out the show!

If you are interested in collecting accessible yet progressive artwork, many of the pieces on display are for sale.

For submission guidelines or for questions about showing your work please email Stephanie Leitch at [Stephanie@samwellers.com](mailto:Stephanie@samwellers.com)

## Best Wellers Selection

For April/May

Reviewed by Jennifer Nielsen

### Little Bee

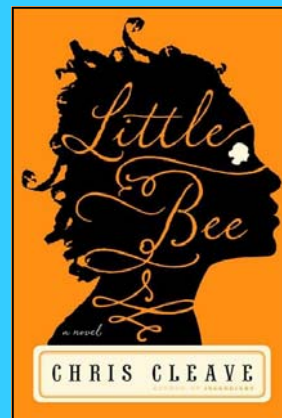
Chris Cleave

ISBN 978-1-4165-8963-1

Simon & Schuster

\$24.00

(Best Weller's price: \$19.20)



"This is a story for sophisticated people, like you."

Little Bee is a refugee from Nigeria, improving her tongue with the Queen's English and customizing her life to the "enchanted federation of miracles" discovered in London.

This is a good trick author Chris Cleave plays. He spectacularly arranges two opposite worlds to meet on a beach under the bright, hot sun. He then reveals the dark fog clouding their minds. Cleave presents this tale through beautiful, young Little Bee, and the only people she knows in London. A mother. A wife. Her husband. A journalist. The child. And Batman. Cleave portrays these wholly different worlds in separate eloquent chapters, narrated by strong voices interwoven like the fabric of a colorful Indian tapestry.

We know of other countries, far away places where indigenous peoples face hardships. There are tribulations innocent people must endure, simply for living—simply to survive. Little Bee relates, "In your country, if you are not scared enough already, you can go to watch a horror film. . . Horror in your country is something you take a dose of to remind yourself that you are not suffering from it.

Cleave uses elegant words to describe ugly acts. He delicately weaves humor and natural beauty with the terror and survival of a refugee's scarred life. We must all agree with Little Bee, "a scar means *I survived*. In a few breaths' time I will speak some sad words to you. But you must hear them the same way we have agreed to see scars now. Sad words are just another beauty. A sad story means this storyteller is *alive*."

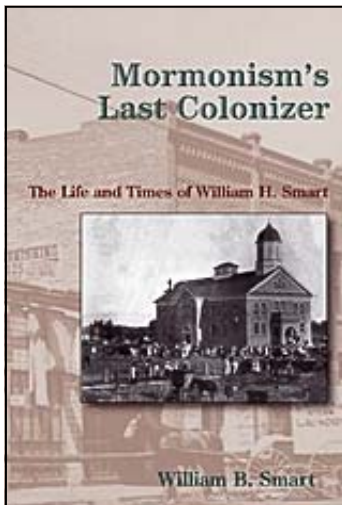
**Of Local Interest**  
by Joan Nay

**Mormonism's Last Colonizer:**  
**The Life and Times of William H. Smart.**

William B. Smart  
USU Press, 2008. 352 pp.  
With CD in pocket.  
9780874217223  
\$44.95

William H. Smart was called by LDS leaders to help colonize eastern Utah's Uinta Basin at the turn of the century where he served many years as the LDS Stake President, and made significant cultural and economic contributions to the area. This new biography of Smart is a cut above other similar stories. First of all, Smart kept a diary for over fifty years, and recorded the minutiae of his life . . . significant, historic, mundane and every day. And perhaps this is why this work is so resoundingly magnificent.

We learn that Smart was not perfect, but soldiered on in the face of a youthful smoking habit and the accompanying guilt that all but crushed his spirit; he continued to live with two of his wives after the Manifesto outlawed the practice; he struggled with business failures. Yet, he persevered, resolute and determined.



A marvelous account from one of Mormon-don's rank and file commendably edited by a grandson and former newspaperman, William B. Smart. A searchable CD of Smart's diaries is included with the book. One of the best in recent years, and highly recommended!

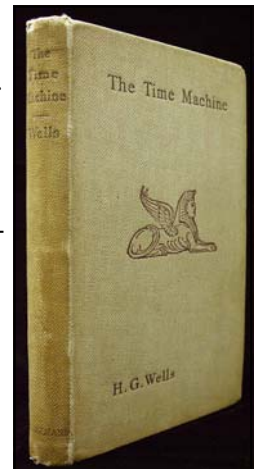
**Recent Rare Book Acquisitions**  
by Tony Weller

- The two volumes of the Kirtland reprint of the Independence *Evening and Morning Star*. Reset in the contemporary plain leather binding in which they have sat for many years. Production of this reissue commenced a year after the last Independence issue of 1834. This copy has been completed with 21 facsimile leaves. Rare. \$100,000. Not included in moving sale.

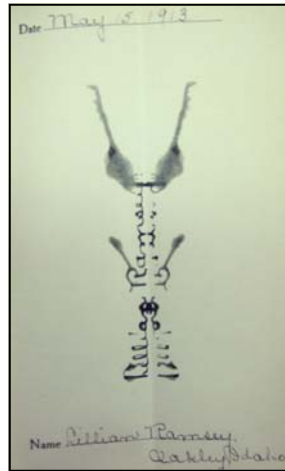
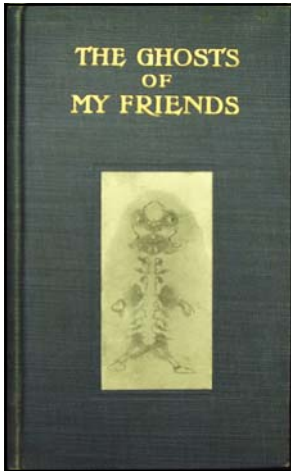


- Two extremely well preserved copies of the *Deseret News* from August 1875, each with contemporary news about the unfolding trial of John D. Lee. \$700 each.

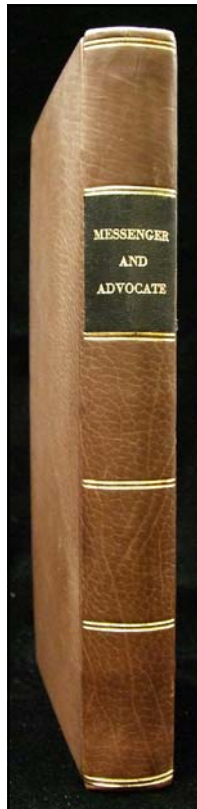
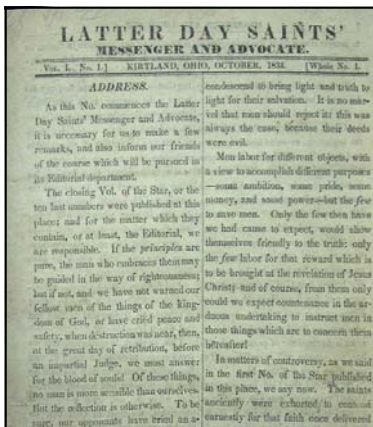
- First British edition of H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, published in London in 1895. This is the earliest state of the book with the purple sphinx, the publisher's devise and the right catalog. \$2500



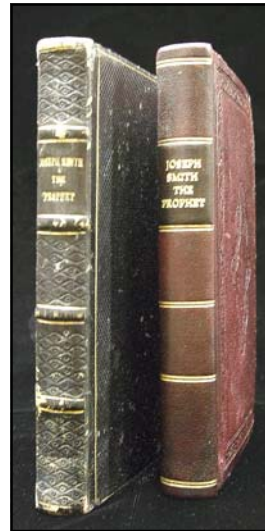
- A very nicely preserved copy of a peculiar small parlor game book called *The Ghosts of my Friends*. This small New York production conceived by **Cecil Holland** was made around 1911, and has mostly blank pages with lines for dates and names at top and bottom. The amusement involved writing one's signature down a central vertical fold in ink and folding the page over it to create a rorschach type image. Not quite half of them were done. Fun and unusual. \$100



- A nicely restored and bound run of the first two volumes of the rare Mormon Kirtland newspaper, the *Messenger and Advocate* published between 1834 and 1836. Our copy has been completed by the insertion of 24 facsimile leaves. \$125,000. Not included in moving sale.

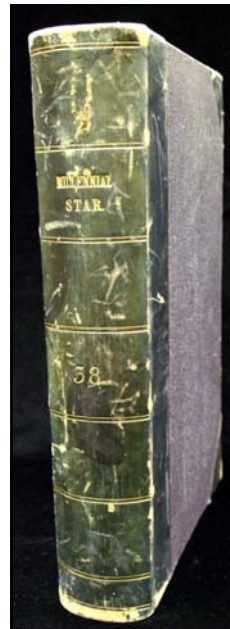
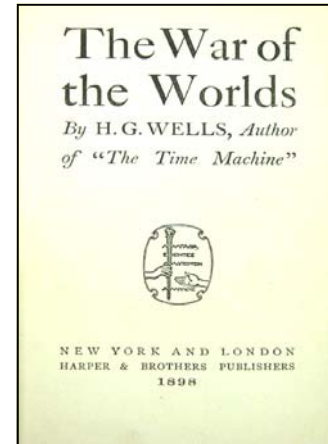


- We have two very nice 1<sup>st</sup> edition copies of **Lucy Mack Smith's** *Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith the Prophet, and His Progenitors for many Generations*. This 1853 book was published in Liverpool by Orson Pratt to

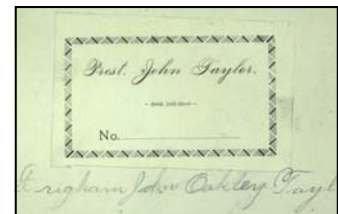


the following displeasure of Brigham Young. One copy is in black diced leather with gilded rules, lettering and edges. \$5000, not included in our moving sale. The other copy has been beautifully rebaked, retaining the maroon leather blind embossed boards. It's marked \$4500 and is included in our sale.

- First American edition of **H. G. Wells' War of the Worlds**, published in 1898 by Harper Brothers. A very good copy lacking its jacket. \$950



- A very good 3/4 leather bound volume 38 of the *Latter-Day Saint's Millennial Star* that once belonged to **President John Taylor** and bears his bookplate. \$180





## 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

**Dear Fellow Book Lover:**  
We will always be here to provide you  
with the best book experience in town!

While we search for new digs, please take advantage of our

**Moving SALE**

**25% OFF USED**

**25% OFF *most* RARE**