

are sure to delight and engage.

Between You and the Weather (64 pp., 150 signed copies, \$45) is set in 14-point Fournier, printed on Zerkall Book paper, and sewn in a Saint-Armand Canal paper wrap with Moriki Kozo endpapers. Printed by Marnie Parsons on a Vandercook SPI5 proof press, the book includes three original wood engravings by Wesley W. Bates.

Running the Goat Books & BroadSides (www.runningthegoat.com) is a micro-press specializing in letterpress-printed and limited edition chapbooks, broadsides and "poem-plets" by Newfoundlanders and Newfoundland-based writers. The press's name comes from a traditional set dance, originally performed in Harbour Deep on Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula.

Publishers interested in informing us about a new (within the past three months) or upcoming publication should contact column editor Richard Coxford (info@bytowntownbookshop.ca).

NEWS

Grand opening of Rare Books and Special Collections

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, over 100 people gathered to celebrate the official opening of Rare Books and Special Collections (RBSC) at the University of British Columbia Library. The purpose-built space includes a large reading room, seminar room, staff workrooms and state-of-the-art vault that greatly improves security and access to UBC's large collection of rare and special materials.

The opening was held in the spacious new Fort Fraser Reading Room and attended by booksellers, book binders, donors, librarians and archivists. The celebrative crowd listened to Peter Ward, University Librarian *Pro Tem*; Sherrill Grace, Professor of English; and Ralph Stanton, head, Rare Books and Special Collections, reflect on the history of RBSC at UBC and the future possibilities of the new space. The formal part of the program ended on a high note with John Bartlett and Rika Ruebsaat singing historical British Columbia folk songs selected from Phil Thomas's *Songs of the Pacific Northwest*.

Katherine Kalsbeek

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Summer sales & pulp classics

With the incessant rain that befell Ottawa this summer, I was provided ample opportunity to both catch up on my stack of summer sale catalogues and follow a few interesting pieces that found their way onto the auction block despite the usual lull in auction activity over summer.

To kick off the summer, Aquila Books from Calgary put out a splendid Arctic exploration catalogue filled with a number of scarce and interesting pieces, such as a hand-drawn Klondike goldfields map by Cuthbertson, circa 1890s; a beautiful 1801 leatherbound six-volume set of Capt. George Vancouver's *Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean* complete with all maps and plates for an even \$10,000; and the unique Antarctic archive of Merle R. Dawson ephemera from his 1956 Operation Deep Freeze, including field notes and data, photos, film, and a collection of Antarctic-related books and maps, all for a very reasonable price of \$3,750. For those with a penchant for collecting polar exploration material, this was a catalogue to be thoroughly enjoyed.

Another catalogue that was an absolute joy to leaf through was Thomas Cullen's *Unusual and Historic Books and Manuscripts*. Among the interesting ephemera offered up was a partially printed document from the press of John Dunlap (printer of the Declaration of Independence) from 1777 for a modest \$350 a detailed travel journal from 1860 covering the two-month journey of S.B. Cary from Iowa to Colorado, with notes on the land, difficult travel conditions, frontier news and rumours, and an account of every campsite location and daily mileage (\$8,500). The catalogue also included a scarce 1773 edition of *Il Giuoco Incomparabile Degli Scacchi (The Incomparable Game of Chess)*, authored by arguably the greatest 18th-century player, Ponziani, for \$2,000.

On the auction side, in early September two superb auctions tantalized collectors with some incredible offerings. The first was a Rare Books & Maps sale by the Edinburgh-based auction house Lyon & Turnbull, which auctioned off a fine collection of early James Bond books from the library of Sir Fitzroy McLean (Scottish diplomat/soldier considered

to be one of the main inspirations for the Bond character), going well over estimates for £26,000; a superb set of the first octavo edition of Audubon's *Birds of America* that went for £35,000; and the eerily enticing final lot of a 1638 vellum-bound *Historia della Transilvania* by Ciro Spontoni, which sold for £880.

The second was the sale of a Jack London collection at PBA Galleries, which featured an unsurpassed assembly of rare jacketed first editions, autographed letters and ephemera up for sale, including the prize of the collection, Jack London's high school geometry notebook, with years of added personal handwritten notes and ideas. The well-rounded collection also included a number of correspondences with the editor of *Century Magazine* and various pulp magazines where many of London's stories first made their appearance.

Keeping in stride with the London auction, I have found pulp magazines to be a treasure trove of overlooked and unexpected finds. Beginning in the late 19th century with *Argosy Magazine*, pulps have been keeping readers entertained and helped push genres such as fantasy, detective stories, westerns and science fiction into the mainstream. Early pulp magazines are where a number of 20th-century classic authors (and classic characters, including Doc Savage, Tarzan, Buck Rogers and Sam Spade) made their careers and are therefore highly prized. First appearances by authors such as Jack London, Dashiell Hammett, H.P. Lovecraft, Max Brand and Edgar Rice Burroughs and their more famous tales can fetch prices in the hundreds or thousands of dollars as the demand from collectors looking to round out collections forever seems to outpace the supply of copies in quality condition.

While the second half of the 20th century saw a decline in the pulps' popularity, there are still a number of valuable magazines that often go unnoticed and can be found for pocket change at sales, auctions or even bookstore bargain bins. Two such pulps I recently nabbed are a near-fine copy of *Galaxy Science Fiction* from February 1951 that contains the short story "The Fireman" by Ray Bradbury, later rewritten as the modern sci-fi classic *Fahrenheit 451* (\$75 to \$150) and a few issues from the five-part series of short stories Stephen King wrote sporadically in *Fantasy and Science Fiction Magazine* from 1977 to 1982. These stories would become the basis of The Dark Tower series, with individual issues fetching prices between \$50 and \$200 and complete

sets bringing upwards of \$750. While many of the early pulp magazines (e.g., *Weird Tales*, *Amazing Stories*, and *Black Mask*) have historically commanded higher prices, it appears the pulp genre as a whole has begun to heat up somewhat as more collectors are looking to complete runs of their past favourite series, pick up uncollected stories by desired authors or collect the magazines for their fantastic cover artwork.

So the next time you come across a boxful of old magazines at your local rummage sale, be sure to look for those old pulp gems waiting to be snapped up for a quarter or two. Until next time, happy hunting!

Richard Coxford is the proprietor of Bytown Books in Ottawa. See his regular blog at <http://bytownbookshop.ca>.

Lord Durham

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