

PUBLISHING

Saved from oblivion

THIS PAST SPRING the University of Tampa Press added a new series to its already eclectic and prodigious publishing list. (Recent titles range from a tribute to John Lee Hooker to a facsimile of the 1848 edition of John Sprague's *Florida War*.) The new series, *Insistent Visions*, will reprint "neglected supernatural fiction, mysteries, science fiction, and adventure stories from the nineteenth century that deserve to be more widely known and appreciated." The first two titles issued are *The Library Window*, by Margaret Oliphant, and *A Study of Destiny*, by Cheiro (a.k.a. Count Louis Hanon).

A number of publishers dedicated to reprinting classic Victorian supernatural fiction have emerged over the past two decades, at least six with a regular and ongoing publishing schedule (see *Amphora* 144, "Alphenhouse Apparitions"). Yet Sean Donnelly, one of the series' editors, says a wealth of material remained for rediscovery.

"I have long admired Ash-Tree Press, Ghost Story Press, Tartarus Press and other publishers of fine editions," says Donnelly. "They have made many unusual and rare works available to an appreciative audience of aficionados. I also

admire the many reprints and new collections published by Dover over the past 40 years. Between all of those publishers, one would think there is little left to reprint. But we have found several without looking very hard. It's astonishing how fertile the field is. And one advantage *Insistent Visions* has over the other publishers is its scope. While the others limit themselves to supernatural literature, we are casting a wider net for popular or genre literature of many varieties—science fiction, mystery/detective, adventure, etc."

The editorial team also approached the books' publication with an eye towards keeping the prices down. All titles are "print on demand" (i.e., digital, not offset) and issued in paperback and boards (both formats Smythe sewn), priced at US\$12 and US\$20, respectively. The hardcover editions also are limited, but the logistics of this were not fully thought through for the first two titles; collectors of true first issues take note!

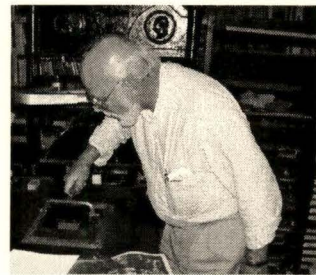
The schedule for the rest of 2007 includes at least four more titles, generally to be issued in pairs. The next two will be *Wake Not the Dead!* by Johann Ludwig Tieck, and *The Caves of Death and Other Stories*, by Gertrude Atherton (edited by Lovecraft scholar S.T. Joshi).

Copies of Insistent Vision and all other University of Tampa Press books can be purchased directly at <http://utpress.ut.edu/>.

An amateur press enthusiast and historian, Sean Donnelly reports that the University of Tampa's interest in 19th-century black arts has recently extended to establishing the Tampa Book Arts Studio.

"We think the studio may be unique in the country in being part of an operating university press, and not part of an art department or library science program. We have a modest collection of books about books, original prints by J.J. Lankes, examples of letterpress printing and other related materials. Last year Bob Oldham (right) helped move in and set up the 1848 Washington handpress once owned by Lankes. We also have a larger Hoe Washington handpress, a Vandercook 4, a Ludlow caster, Intertype and a Monotype sorts caster.

"The studio is currently operating in an interim location, but we do allow students to



see for themselves how to hand set type, and we have a small group of community volunteers who work with us there one morning a week. We plan to combine letterpress elements with digital technology, as in a current project of a keepsake publication for commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Florida Bibliophile Society—*The Ideal Book: Three Essays on Books and Printing*, by William Morris. It will have a letterpress-printed block tipped on as frontispiece."