Publisher Bestsellers: Purdue University Press

Julia A. Gammon
*University of Akron*

Nancy C. Essig
*University Press of Virginia*
Publisher Bestsellers

Purdue University Press

Column Editors: Julia A. Gammon (Univ. of Akron) & Nancy C. Essig (University Press of Virginia)

It is always refreshing to see a poetry book in first place. FRESH PEACHES, FIREWORKS, & GUNS by Donald Platt, is the top seller at Purdue University Press, and the winner of the Verna Emery Poetry Competition. Purdue's director, David Sanders, happens to be a poet himself (when he is not directing the press) so that may explain part of the reason! This book is followed by an interesting list of books on a wide-range of topics — everything from trains to organized crime and the Ku Klux Klan.

Although Purdue's Press has been around since the 1960's, it was recently admitted to the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) in 1993. It has a yearly output of about 12 books.

Take a look at the Best Kept Secret which is written on illness from the patient's view — not the doctor's. In this volume, patient "pathographies" were compiled providing personal views of illness from the side of the patient. Go ahead and order it yourself and read further . . .

Top Ten Bestsellers — Purdue University Press


Mark Twain Speaks for Himself edited by Paul Fatout. Cloth — ISBN 0-911198-49-0 $22.00. 256 pp. Literary Studies. "The pieces in this work are feast enough for lovers of Twain. Professor Fatout's brief, pithy notes and introductions make them even better." — The Antioch Review


The Paradox of George Orwell by Richard J. Voorhees. Paper — ISBN 0-911198-80-6 $8.95. 126 pp. Literary Studies. "The perfect work on Orwell... rich in content, and covers every aspect of Orwell's dilemma... The ideal work for both layman and literate." — The Dubliner


Best Kept Secret — Purdue University Press


"Doctors may describe diseases and their effects from the outside; only patients can describe them from the inside. Such descriptions, which Anne Hunsaker Hawkins calls "pathographies," take the form of vivid personal accounts, often of journeys into a fearful realm of sickness. Reconstructing Illness is a beautifully written and profound consideration of the range of such pathographies, their organizing myths and metaphors, and the light they cast on what it means to be human in the face of illness." — Oliver Sacks, author of Awakenings.

Anne Hunsaker Hawkins is an associate professor of humanities at the Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine. She is the author of a book on autobiographies of conversion and numerous articles on the humanities and medicine.

June 1995 / Against the Grain 55