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Books Are Us

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are supposed to be managing them, it frequently seems they manage you. In addition, they are unexpectedly expensive and unpredictable.

The conference featured events on the first two evenings of the conference, Wednesday and Thursday, and provided buses to the River Walk on the last night, Friday, for an "evening on our own." The Wednesday evening event featured a Mexican buffet on the Esplanade at Trinity campus. On Thursday night, attendees were treated to the **Institute of Texan Cultures** where they were able to sample ethnic foods from many of the cultures of Texas and leisurely explore the displays about the history of the region. Thursday and Friday nights concluded with a late night social (from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight) allowing **NASIG** night owls to visit, have a cool drink, watch *2001: A Space Odyssey*, and get to know each other in a relaxing, social setting.

The 17th annual conference will be held at the **College of William & Mary** in Williamsburg, Virginia, June 20-23, 2002. The theme will be "*Transforming Serials: the Revolution Continues*." **Stephen Clark** and **Joyce Tenney**, Conference Planning Committee Co-Chairs, are planning a conference that promises to be a revolutionary experience! Watch for information about the conference at: <http://www.nasig.org>. See you in Williamsburg in 2002!

Books Are Us

by **Anne Robichaux** (Professor Emerita, Medical University of South Carolina; Consultant, Majors Scientific Books) <akr772@mac.com>

From your editor, this column is supposed to cover fiction about people like us — librarians, publishers, vendors, booksellers, etc. All contributions are welcome. —AR

Thanks to **Teri Lynn Herbert** (Reference Librarian, Medical University of South Carolina) for passing on the following two titles, discovered on the **Book Arts List** discussion list ("the electronic meeting place for all facets of the books arts," based at **Syracuse University** and managed by **Peter Verheyen**. Check out The Book Arts Web: www.philibiblon.com):

The New Yorker (8/1/94) makes note of *The Sixteen Pleasures/A Novel* by **Robert Hellenga** (Soho Press, March 1994, \$22, ISBN 1569470065; Paperback by Delta, 1995, 12.95 ISBN 0385314698), concerning a twenty-nine year old book conservator who went to Florence in 1966 to "save whatever could be saved, including myself." Her desire to help restore priceless treasures damaged by the flood of the Arno led her to working and living in a cloistered convent helping to save the convent's invaluable library, both physically and financially, "through the potentially illegal sale of a volume of sixteenth-century pornographic pictures and sonnets." The reviewer found the book sharply suspenseful and "modest, resourceful, and without malice," just like the conservator.

Websites from **Barnes and Noble**, and **Amazon.com** provided more details about this title,

and further reviews, applauding not only the story but the details given in the book about art and

book restoration. The **Charleston County Library's** online catalog notes the conservator "Margot Harrington discovers a fabulous volume of erotic art that was supposed to have been destroyed four centuries earlier." Coincidentally, the **College of Charleston Library** has in its collection what appears to be a translation of the original work featured in this novel: *I Modi: the Sixteen Pleasures: an erotic album of the Italian Renaissance*: **Giulio Romano**, **Marcantonio Raimondi**, **Pietro Aretino**, and **Count Jean-Fredoric-Maximilien de Waldeck**, edited and translated from the Italian, with a commentary by **Lynne Lawner** Evanston, IL: Northwestern University, 1988, ISBN 0810108038)

Salamander by **Thomas Wharton** was described on the **Book Arts List** as a must for all people who love books and bookmaking. (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, April 200, \$34.99, ISBN 0771088337; Emblem Editions, March 2002, \$19.99, ISBN 0771088345; Flamingo, March 2002, £15.99, ISBN 0007128649; Washington Square Press, August 2002, \$14.00, ISBN 0743444159). On the Book Lovers Website from **Harper Collins Publishers** (www.fireandwater.com) we learn that the story is set in 1717 where Count Ostrov, mourning the death of his only son, "loses himself in his love of puzzles, turning his spectacular Slav castle into a giant, mechanical conundrum of revolving doors, moving floors and unstable staircases." (Sounds like Hogwarts doesn't it?). "The Count brings to this impossible castle the legendary English printer **Nicholas Flood**, and charges him with the task of producing a book without beginning or end." Along the way he is distracted from this task, and turns to working on another book entirely, "a tiny octavo volume with one word, Desire, gold-tooled on its spine."

Best Sellers in Ethics

by **Françoise Crowell** (Yankee Book Peddler) <FCrowell@YBP.com>

Editor's Note: *The New York Times* plays an important part in my Sunday morning ritual. One of my favorite sections (after the Book Review and Styles) is the ethics column in the Magazine. I wanted to see how the publishing world treats this topic and found that ethics (at least the topic) is alive and well in academic publishing. All aspects are represented: medical, environmental, business, historical, literary and political, to name a few. I looked at titles published over a 12 month period and found 256 imprints with **Oxford UP**, **Cambridge UP**, **Routledge**, **Rowman & Littlefield**, and **SUNY** publishing a large majority. This

list represents just a hint of the issue, but it should keep your collection honest. —FC

Nussbaum, Martha Craven, 1947-. *Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions*. Cambridge Univ Press 2001 \$40.00 Cloth 0521462029.

Blackburn, Simon. *Being Good: An Introduction To Ethics*. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$17.95 Cloth 0192100521.

Glendon, Mary Ann. *World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Random House 2001 \$25.95 Cloth 0679463100.

Fleischer, Doris Zames. *Disability Rights*

Movement: From Charity To Confrontation. Temple Univ Press

2001 \$79.50 Cloth 1566398118.

Cloning and the Future of Human Embryo Research; Ed. by Paul Lauritzen. Oxford Univ Press 2001 \$47.25 Cloth 0195128583.

Andrews, Lori B. *Future Perfect: Confronting Decisions About Genetics*. Columbia Univ Press 2001 \$24.95 Cloth 0231121628.

Hitchens, Christopher. *Trial of Henry*
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