



# The **NCB** News

Volume 14

Fall 2004

No. 3

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

## Nebraska Writing Project Honored at Annual Meeting

Nebraska book lovers (readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars) gathered at the Nebraska Center for the Book annual meeting to enjoy a multi-media presentation, featuring poetry by J.J. McKenna and photographs by Phil Smith.

The **Jane Pope Geske Award** for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, bookselling, or writing in Nebraska was presented to the **Nebraska Writing Project**. The Nebraska Writing Project is a network of teachers, elementary through college, who are devoted to the improvement of writing instruction in Nebraska. It is Nebraska's site for the National Writing Project. Since its beginnings in 1977, the Nebraska Writing Project has worked with more than twelve hundred teachers.

The award was accepted by Dr. Robert Brooke, Nebraska Writing Project Director (University of Nebraska – Lincoln), and Co-directors Sharon Bishop (Heartland Community Schools, Henderson), Jane Connealy (Pius X High School, Lincoln), and Kristine Kuhn (Seward High School). The award, established by the Nebraska Center for the Book and presented annually, commemorates Geske's passion for books. It was established in recognition of her contribution to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

The annual meeting also featured **Letters about Literature** national award winner **Jackson Fisher** reading his letter to Carl Hiaasen. The annual meeting was held at the Bess Dodson Walt Branch of Lincoln City Libraries in November. ▲

## 2004 Book Awards Competition Winners



The Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year's winners are:

- ▲ **Anthology:** *Road Trip: Conversations with Writers*, Shelly Clark, Marjorie Saiser, (editors), The Backwaters Press
- ▲ **Children:** *The Ring Bear*, N.L. Sharp, Michael T. Hassler Jr. (illustrator), Dageforde Publishing, Inc.

- ▲ **Young Adult Honor Book:** *Free to Drink the Wind*, Ruth Foreman, Beaver Books
- ▲ **Cover/Design/Illustration:** *Road Trip: Conversations with Writers*, Shelly Clark, Marjorie Saiser, (editors), Randy Barger (cover photo), Chris Bristol (cover design), The Backwaters Press
- ▲ **Fiction:** *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*, Jonis Agee, Coffee House Press
- ▲ **Non-Fiction:** *Restoring the Burnt Child: A Primer*, William Kloefkorn, University of Nebraska Press
- ▲ **Poetry:** *Potato Soup*, Twyla Hansen, The Backwaters Press ▲

# Jane Austen: Still Crazy about Her after All These Years

**Guest Editorial**  
by **Rivkah Sass**,  
Omaha Public  
Library

*Jane Austen lived for a mere forty-one years and left behind six novels that we love, as well as fragments, juvenilia, and her own unique history of England.*

Not a huge body of work but one that endures and finds new readers in every generation. We do not know as much about Jane Austen as we might like. After Jane's death, her sister Cassandra burned many of her letters. So much was lost. It is known that in 1802 she accepted an offer of marriage from Harris Bigg Wither, but changed her mind the next day. And for that, we're grateful. It's hard to think that Mrs. Bigg Wither would have had the same lasting effect our dear Miss Austen has had.

So what is it about Jane Austen that is so enduring? I like to think that her appeal has lasted because she so adroitly captured human frailty and foible. She had an uncanny ability to document silliness, vanity, and pretension. And she created characters that will live forever. I am fairly certain that as she wrote, she kept her tongue firmly in her cheek. But she also captured the essence of romance beautifully. Captain Wentworth's letter to Anne Elliot in *Persuasion* is truly one of the most beautiful and moving love letters ever written. "You pierce my soul," it's enough to make one swoon with gratitude and love.

On a trip to England several summers ago, I took my then thirteen-year-old daughter to Winchester Cathedral so that we could visit Jane Austen's grave. We were just two of many pilgrims; most of us bearing small bouquets of flowers. All of us there for the same purpose—to pay homage to the woman who helped us get through broken hearts, miserable jobs, rough days, or simply too much modern life. There was no single profile. We were old, young, middle-aged, Asian, American, and European. We were a testament to her universal appeal. We placed our flowers near her grave, thanked her for the gift of Elizabeth Bennet and Elinor Dashwood, and went on our way. ▲

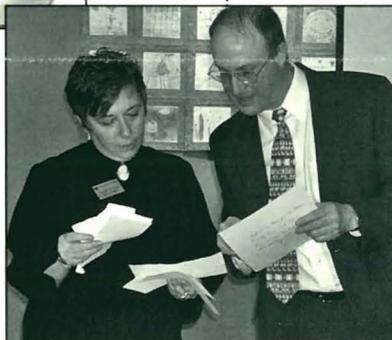


Special guest Mark Turner, a Regency games enthusiast, entertains with charades (rhyming riddles of the Regency Era), the game that tripped up Emma.



Above: Jane Austen party participants considering answers for the Regency Charades contest.

Right: Rivkah Sass and speaker Mark Turner comparing winners for the Regency Charades contest.



Photos from the Jane Austen Birthday Celebration at Omaha Public Library in December, attended by more than sixty Jane Austen fans.

## The **NCB** News

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### Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

#### Executive Committee

Shelly Clark, President; Chuck Peek, Past President; Jerry Kromberg, Treasurer; Rod Wagner, ex-officio

#### Funding/Membership

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#### 2005 Nebraska Book Festival

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#### Publications/Publicity

Linda Trout, Committee Chair; David Bristow; Jeanetta Drucke; Mary Jo Ryan, staff

#### Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

#### 2005 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

February 5 . . . . . Lincoln  
November 6 . . . . . Lincoln, Annual Meeting

#### Advertising

The *NCB News* can accept up to four 1/8 page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8 page. *NCB News* is

issued May 1, August 15, and November 1. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>, <www.unl.edu/NCB>.

The *NCB News* is published three times a year by the Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Subscription is free with membership. Editor: Linda Trout. Design and Production: Valerie Dayton. Staff: Mary Jo Ryan, Jacqueline Crocker, Janet Greser, Maria Medrano-Nehls.

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*This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the state of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.*



# Remembering Sue Rosowski

by **Kathy Johnson**,  
University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
UNIVERSITY OF  
NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Sue Rosowski, University Professor and Adele Hall Distinguished Professor of English, much loved teacher, Willa Cather scholar and editor, and generous mentor and advisor, died November 2, 2004, after an extended battle against cancer.

She was a long-term member and supporter of the Nebraska Center for the Book. Ten years ago, Sue was awarded the Center's Mildred Bennett Award in recognition of her "significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska."

During her career, she was an advisor for over a score of theses on Willa Cather and taught numerous graduate seminars on Cather, as well as undergraduate classes. Among her major scholarly contributions are her work as one of the two general editors of the Cather Scholarly Edition, published by the University of Nebraska Press; her editorial work on *The Willa Cather Electronic Archive*, <cather.unl.edu>; and her work as editor in chief of *Cather Studies*. She wrote or contributed to a number of books and authored numerous articles. *The Modern Language Association (MLA)*

*International Bibliography* lists more than fifty works by her.

I had the good fortune to work with Sue over the years on several activities for the University Libraries, ranging from teaching new graduate students in her classes about library resources to selecting resources on Cather and twentieth century American literature for the Libraries. She always was gracious, interested in my work, and encouraged me to stretch further.

Although she died too soon, she made a profound difference in the scholarly and personal lives of countless people. Thank you, Sue. Rest in peace in the Nebraska prairie.

**Ed. Note:** Please see the following sources for more information:

- ▲ University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of English Website: <[www.unl.edu/english/faculty/profs/rosowski.html](http://www.unl.edu/english/faculty/profs/rosowski.html)>
- ▲ Obituary from Lincoln Journal Star, November 5, 2004: <[www.journalstar.com/articles/2004/11/05/obituaries/10055661.txt](http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2004/11/05/obituaries/10055661.txt)>

## What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990. ▲

## Raffle Rewards Six Winners

Nebraska Center for the Book members recently conducted a very successful fund-raising raffle to benefit the Nebraska Book Festival. The Broken Bow Library Foundation, Vicki Clarke, Evonne Edgington, Jack Geiser, Nancy Pasquale, and Shelley Stall won beautiful plains photographs, all generously donated by area photographers. Those gracious photographers include John Andrews, Randy Barger, Peter Beeson, Tom Hansen, John Keller, and Steve Ryan. Framin' Groovies and High Country Gallery donated the framing of the photographs, thus allowing the Center for the Book to realize more than \$800 in profit.

The Nebraska Center for the Book relies on membership fees and the contributions of the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Humanities Council for support of its many activities, including the Nebraska Book Awards and the Nebraska Book Festival. The volunteer board greatly appreciates the support of individuals and organizations. Since the Center for the Book is a 501 C3 organization, any charitable gift is tax deductible. Charitable gifts may be mailed to the Nebraska Center for the Book Treasurer Jerry Kromberg, 2622 Nottingham Court, Lincoln NE 68512. ▲

### Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

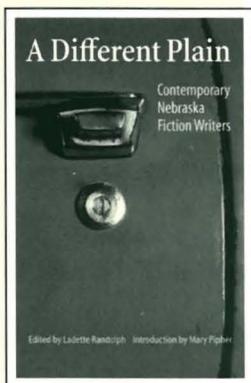
**Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual Membership    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Organizational Membership    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Octavo Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Quarto Membership    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Folio Membership

**Please send this form and a check to: Nebraska Center for the Book  
The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120 • Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**

# 2004 Nebraska Book Festival Warmly Received

by **Susanne  
George  
Bloomfield**,  
University of  
Nebraska at Kearney



**T**he 2004 Nebraska Book Festival at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UN-K) proved that the power of books and reading unites the entire state.

Nearly five hundred people came from neighboring communities and across the state, attending the high school day activities, a reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art gallery, a movie and book signing, various sessions and presentations, a book fair, a banquet, and a poetry and prose reading.

The Friday evening reception hosted by the University of Nebraska Press at the Museum of Nebraska Art was attended by nearly one hundred people. The museum displayed their new acquisition of Wright Morris photographs and the Kearney Area Arts Council sponsored a rare book and art book display. The crowd migrated to The Nebraskan where the movie, *Tully*, was screened, with ninety-one people attending. A grant from the Kearney Area Arts Council, financed the attendance of Tom McNeal, the author of the story. After the movie, many people walked to Follett's Book Store for a book signing and refreshments. People standing in line, carrying stacks of books, demonstrated the level of interest in Nebraska authors.



**Poet Laureate Ted Kooser (left) attends a workshop conducted by Ron Hull.**

were held until 4:30 P.M., and the audience numbered from twelve to forty in each session. The noon Banquet was sold out, with one hundred and thirty-eight people served. The crowd met Ron Block's PowerPoint presentation with enthusiasm.

The festival provided the occasion for presentation of the **Nebraska Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award to Don Welch**. Poet Don Welch is a Nebraska native and the author of many collections of poetry. In 1980 he won the Pablo Neruda Prize for

Vendors and organizations began setting up displays at 7:00 A.M. Saturday and people began arriving for the Festival at 8:30 A.M. Concurrent sessions



**Left: Students interview festival participants.**

**Below: Poet Marge Saiser visits with Greg Kosmicki at The Backwater Press booth.**

Poetry, judged by William Stafford. He worked for ten years in the Poets-in-the-Schools program in Nebraska and retired as Reynolds Professor of Literature at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He lives in Kearney with his wife, Marcia, and is a long-time racer of homing pigeons. The **Mildred Bennett Award** is given annually by the Nebraska Center for the Book to an individual who provides leadership and service in the promotion of Nebraska literature.

Comments from participants expressed their appreciation of the great resources available through our Nebraska writers and scholars. After attending several of the sessions on the featured book, *A Different Plain*, one person wrote, "Lovely to hear voices of authors reading." Another commented, "It's enlightening to hear writers discuss their methods, reasons for writing, joys, and difficulties." Reactions to other sessions included "It gave spiritual and new meaning to my life," "Much practical information," "Thanks for involving the audience—enjoyed having a chance to 'think'," and "Appreciated the Handouts."

The Festival ended at the Black Sheep Coffee Shop with nearly one hundred people in attendance—with standing room only at the readings. UN-K is producing a DVD of selected 2004 Festival sessions, activities, and interviews (to be available for purchase through the Nebraska Center for the Book in the spring).

**Ed. Note:** The Nebraska Center for the Book extends a special thanks to Denise Brady for coordinating artwork by Omaha artist Jaime Lee Hackbart, which was presented to this year's Mildred Bennett Award winner and Jane Pope Geske Award winner. ▲



## Events Celebrate Poet Laureate Ted Kooser



Ted Kooser is one of Nebraska's most highly regarded poets and the country's newest Poet Laureate. Kooser has been writing and publishing poetry for more than forty years. "Ted Kooser is a major poetic voice for rural and small-town America and the first poet laureate chosen from the Great Plains," Librarian of Congress James H. Billington said. "His verse reaches beyond his native region to touch on universal themes in accessible ways."

Ted is a long-time leader in Nebraska literary efforts and one of the Nebraska Center for the Book's earliest supporters. In 1982, he served as founding president of the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association and received the Mari Sandoz Award for significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world from the Nebraska Library Association in 2000.

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln will host an event to honor Ted Kooser at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, planned for February 8, 2005. The Omaha Public Library Foundation will feature Ted Kooser at a fundraising event, "An Evening of Art and Literature" on February 11, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. The evening will also celebrate other Nebraska writers.

The Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (ETV) will showcase U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser and Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn through a public poetry event that will form the basis for a statewide television program. The project has been recommended for a grant award from the Nebraska Arts Council. The Nebraska Center for the Book will help organize the poetry reading/discussion in late March. Plans call for audience participation in the discussion about the poetry-writing process and for readings by additional Nebraska poets. The program will be broadcast on the statewide Nebraska ETV Network later in 2005. ▲

## Books on Books and the Yellow Barn Press Library

by **Oliver B. Pollak,**

University of  
Nebraska at Omaha

Friendships are fortuitous. I met Neil Shaver in pursuit of a publisher for a short story. Instead of my story, Neil turned me to his brother's six decades of diaries and voilà, two years later emerged *A Year at the Sorbonne, A Proustian Life*.

Omaha readers will recognize Neil from the Omaha Playhouse and his do-it-yourself television commercials, as well as from his tenure as the proprietor of Shaver's, a chain of supermarkets. As early as age eight, living in Long Beach, CA, Neil wanted to be a printer. Like myself, he took printing in junior high school. The dictates of the family business prompted Neil, with his degree from the University of Southern California, to follow his father's footsteps into the grocery trade. He continued to harbor dreams of printing.

He opened Yellow Barn Press in a yellow barn near Council Bluffs, IA in 1966. In 1980, Neil sold Shaver's and started to live his dream. He produced his first book, *Metanoia*, in 1979. His 1892 Washington Hand Press was recently donated to Omaha's Durham Western Heritage Museum.

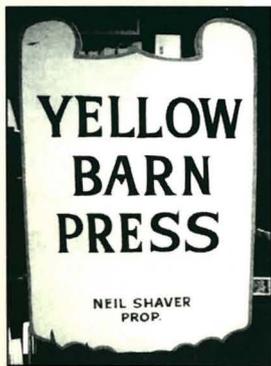
Neil turned out about two books a year, many of them with wood engravings by John DePol. The textual content, paper, ink, typesetting, layout and binding were exemplars of the finest traditional printing craft. Neil's magnum opus is his richly illustrated *The Yellow Barn Press: A History and*

*Bibliography*, published in 2001. Neil's eyesight is not what it used to be. The fine detail work of the printing trade, the small type, is now done with the aid of a cumbersome magnifying glass.

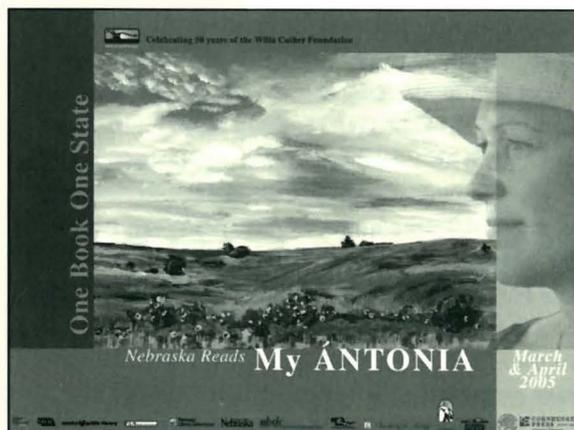
Over the past forty years Neil acquired a tradesman's library and many stories on the history of printing. Neil tells of his hands-on contact with a *Gutenberg Bible* at the New York Public Library, and of giving a printing demonstration on a Gutenberg press from Mainz at New York's Morgan Library (in a room with three *Gutenberg Bibles*).

Neil amassed a library of about 1,300 books. At Maggs in London, in the 1960s, he purchased a 1499 *Basle Bible*, printed by Anton Koberger in Nuremberg, Germany, and several pages of incunabula produced by Europe's leading printers. Neil read of catalogues issued by Veatch's, Colophon, and Oakknoll—book dealers that specialize in books on books. He exchanged books with fellow small press printers from their limited press runs of from fifty to three hundred copies.

Neil and I recently consummated a deal in which I obtained about eleven hundred thoughtfully acquired volumes and the nine book cases that housed them. One early October Sunday afternoon my wife, four helpers, and I whisked the collection across the Missouri to our basement. To visit the library e-mail: <OBPOMNI@aol.com>. ▲



# One Book One State 2005: Nebraska Reads *My Ántonia*



In Spring 2005, through a new initiative launched by the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation, citizens across the state will read the classic novel by Nebraska's own Willa Cather, *My Ántonia*. Nebraskans will participate in local discussions throughout the spring. As part of the April 29–30

celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation in Red Cloud, Cather scholars from throughout the United States will lead discussions and answer questions about *My Ántonia*. In addition, a writing competition will be conducted for secondary school students. For more information see <[www.willacather.org](http://www.willacather.org)> or contact Betty Kort, Executive Director, The Cather Foundation, 413 North Webster Street, Red Cloud, NE 68970, 402-746-2653, <[willacather@gpcom.net](mailto:willacather@gpcom.net)>. Libraries can purchase copies of *My Ántonia* at significant discounts from the University of Nebraska Press at <[www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/news/onebook.jsp](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/news/onebook.jsp)>. ▲

## Review: *In the River Province*

by Lisa Sandlin,  
Southern Methodist  
University Press,  
2004  
ISBN: 0870744887

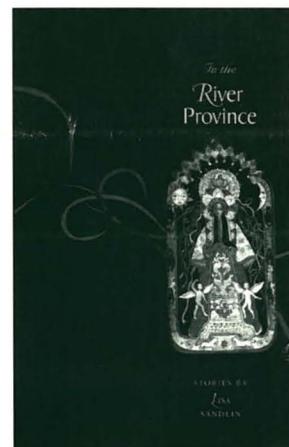
Reviewed by  
Jeanetta Druke,  
University of  
Nebraska—Lincoln

"Perhaps you begin at El Rancho or Pojoaque or Cuyamungue or Nambe, and you walk all the way to Santuario de Chimayo on Good Friday. The day a broken body was changed for a whole one, an old for a new. Your feet on the dirt, your feet on the gravel and blacktop, praise that change."

The preface to *In the River Province*, Lisa Sandlin's third collection of short stories tells us right away that these are stories of places, pilgrimages, and miracles. The outer place is the high plains of northwest New Mexico. But the inner landscapes of the many characters reflect a diversity of cultures, characters, and stages of life. The pilgrimage at the center of many stories is a traditional Good Friday walk to the small chapel known as the Lourdes of America. But the characters are on journeys of their own: from incompetence to competence, from tentativeness to certainty, from emotional numbness to moments of joy, from life to death. Most, but not all, of the miracles are the sharply observed moments that tell us we are alive and connected to others: a slice of orange or cool glass of tea from a stranger; a woman with skin "the color of honey inside those little plastic bears;" a kiss that enrages because it is meant for someone else; "a groan from forty throats" and a "vicious solo" from a class in mourning; the "rose bubbles" on the lips of a dying man.

These are richly detailed stories of human struggle and the help that sometimes appears along the way. In "Night Class" a new teacher, becomes a real teacher, a fellow teacher is murdered, and the students' individual graces are revealed. In "Beautiful," three grade school misfits search for a science project and produce more than they realize. The theme of these beautifully written stories is succinctly put in "I Loved You Then, I Love You Still." Andy, a Vietnam vet haunted by the memory of a murdered lover, ponders his life: "Forty seven years-old. And this is how it turned out. This stupid mystery is your life, he marvels." A few minutes later, he meets the woman with the honey-colored skin.

Lisa Sandlin's previous collections are *The Famous Thing About Death* and *Message to the Nurse of Dreams*. A professor of writing and composition at Wayne State College, she also co-edited the collection *Times of Sorrow/Times of Grace*. She received Nebraska Education Association and Dobie Paisaro fellowships and is a winner of the Pushcart Prize and other literary awards. ▲



## Review: *God Clobbers Us All*

by **Poe Ballantine**,  
Hawthorne Books &  
Literary Arts, 2004  
ISBN: 0971691541

Reviewed by  
**Michael P. Cartwright**,  
Chadron State  
College

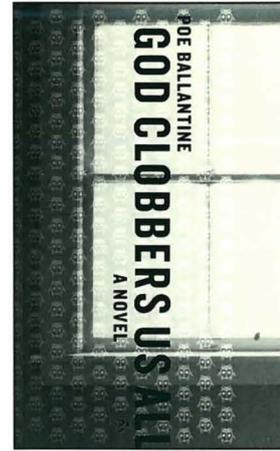
If cover blurbs by established authors actually sell books, then Poe Ballantine's novel, *God Clobbers Us All* has a bright future. Hemingway, Steinbeck, and Shakespeare (among several others, all of whom have already been clobbered by God) laud Ballantine's bildungsroman set in San Diego, CA in the 1970s with such comments as, "Now if I could've written a book like this I might still be a famous Cuban marlin fisherman." There is even an on-going quarrel between Truman Capote and Carson McCullers in these highly literate and masterfully concise send-ups of publishing hype and artistic ego. Here, the blurbs perform their function far more effectively than the real thing. Before the reader arrives at page one, he knows he is about to enter a world created by an author who has gone to school on the best of them.

Like Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* and Coupland's *Generation X*, *God Clobbers Us All* charts the journey of a young man navigating the troubled waters of adolescence. Eighteen-year-old Edgar works at Lemon Acres, a convalescent hospital; has an affair with the wife of a murderous Vietnam vet; does drugs of startling intensity; and dreams of a new life in

Australia. He's a care-giver who can't seem to care for himself.

His friends and work mates are no more effective in dealing with life's perplexities. There is Pat, the semi-pro football player who spends her time arranging and disarranging parties. There is Bev who maintains a one-sided correspondence with Deborah Kerr (also clobbered). And there is Nils Saag who pushes dope and badly misinterprets Nietzsche.

The problem for Edgar is that, in addition to his own immaturity, he is confronted by a superficial culture in which the old are warehoused and die alone and the young just die alone. Poe Ballantine, currently a Chadron resident, is also the author of a collection of personal narratives, *Things I like About America*. ▲



## Review: *Something Rotten*

by **Jasper Fforde**,  
Viking Press, 2004  
ISBN: 0670033596

Reviewed by  
**Barbara Rixstine**,  
University of  
Nebraska—Lincoln

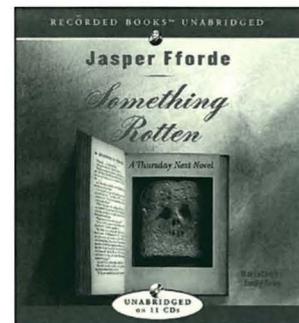
If you like literary trivia, enjoy puns and word games, and can wrap your mind around fantasy as well as literature, have I got a book for you. You are just the reader to enjoy the Thursday Next series of "detective fantasies" by Jasper Fforde. Starting with *The Eyre Affair* and continuing through *Lost in a Good Book* and *The Well of Lost Plots*, Fforde takes his readers on a continuing cycle of in-jokes and extraordinarily imaginative actions for the literary. For example, imagine meeting the Cheshire Cat, or in Thursday's world, The Cat Formerly Known as Cheshire.

You see, in Thursday's world, real people can go in and out of fiction, and vice versa. By the time readers get to the fourth book in the series, *Something Rotten*, LiteraTec (the literary police agency) is bringing charges against Thursday for changing the ending of *Jane Eyre*, and assorted other crimes. These aren't the worst of her problems, though. Her father has escaped the Chronoguard and travels through time. Lady Hamilton is living in her mother's attic after having an affair with Thursday's father. And Hamlet has chosen to live with Thursday

in real time, so he can show people he's not a ditherer.

It's all she can do to keep Lady Hamilton and Hamlet's relationship from becoming serious, while trying to keep track of Pickwick (her dodo) and Friday (her young son); "uneradicate" her husband Landen; and fight Yorrick Kaine, a fictional character who's running for president. Thank goodness for Granny Next, who's in her 100s, but can't die until she reads the world's ten most boring books (Spenser's *Fairie Queene*) among them.

You don't have to read the first three in order to read the last, but it's recommended to get the full zaniness of the series. Pick up any of the books and you'll find a real page-turner, as you marvel at Fforde's imagination and plotting. I predict these will become cult classics, similar to the *Hitchbiker's Guide to the Galaxy* series. ▲





**THE NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR  
THE BOOK**

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**One Book One State 2005  
Nebraska Reads My Antonia**

- John H. Ames Reading Series:** Karen Shoemaker, Author of *Night Sounds and Other Stories*, Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Lincoln City Libraries  
Contact: Robin Thompson, 402-441-8516, <heritage@lincolnlibraries.org>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm> . . . . . January 20 . . . . Lincoln
- An Evening of Art and Literature:** Omaha Public Library Foundation fundraiser featuring Ted Kooser and other Nebraska authors and artists, The Hot Shops  
Contact: Roxanne Williams, 402-444-4589, <rwilliams@omaha.lib.ne.us>. . . . . February 11 . . . Omaha
- Art Exhibit Opening:** "Crazy Horse and Other Dreamings" by Roger Gerberding, John Neihardt State Historic Site, Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net> . . . . . February 13 . . Bancroft
- John H. Ames Reading Series:** Robert Knoll, Author of *Prairie University: a History of the University of Nebraska*, Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Lincoln City Libraries  
Contact: Robin Thompson, 402-441-8516, <heritage@lincolnlibraries.org>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm> . . . . . February 17 . . . . Lincoln
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Birthday Celebration,** Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation,  
Contact: Teresa Lorensen, 402-994-3855, <tlorensen@alltel.net>, <www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/bsaf>. . . . . February 20 . . . Elmwood
- Nebraska State Reading Conference:** Literacy is Alive in 2005, Nebraska State Reading Association  
Contact: Liz Olson, <eolson@mpsomaha.org>, <www.nereads.org/conference/index.html> . . . . . February 24-26 . . Kearney
- John H. Ames Reading Series:** David Gardiner, Creighton University's Director of Irish Studies Celebrates St. Patrick's Day, Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Lincoln City Libraries  
Contact: Robin Thompson, 402-441-8516, <heritage@lincolnlibraries.org>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm> . . . . . March 17 . . . . Lincoln
- Slide Presentation:** "In Search of Yeats" by Michael Nolan, John Neihardt State Historic Site,  
Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net> . . . . . March 20 . . . Bancroft
- Special Performance:** Tom May, Folksinger/storyteller and Nebraska celebrity host of River City Folk  
John Neihardt State Historic Site. Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net> . . . . . April 17 . . . . Bancroft
- John H. Ames Reading Series:** Julie W. Kaewert, Author of *Uncatalogued* (the latest in her Booklover's Mystery Series), Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Lincoln City Libraries  
Contact: Robin Thompson, 402-441-8516, <heritage@lincolnlibraries.org>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm> . . . . . April 28 . . . . Lincoln
- Spring Festival:** Nebraska Reads *My Antonia*, 50th Anniversary of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation. Contact: Betty Kort, 402-746-2653, <willacather@gpcom.net>, <www.willacather.org> . . . . . April 29-30 . . . Red Cloud
- Neihardt Spring Conference:** Neihardt and Journalism, John Neihardt State Historic Site,  
Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net> . . . . . April 30 . . . . Bancroft