

Dorothy Parker. Penzler, who has his own imprint at Harcourt, also owns New York's Mysterious Bookshop; Pegasus pub date is this December.... Rene Alegria at Harper bought North American rights to Carmen Posadas's *Child's Play*, about a murder at an exclusive private school that implicates the adopted daughter of a famous novelist, from Thomas Colchie on behalf of the Mercedes Casanovas Agency in Barcelona; Harper will publish in fall 2008, and Alma Books will publish in the U.K.... Allison McCabe at Crown acquired North American rights to a new novel by *Nefertiti* author Michelle



Moran

Moran, her third for the imprint, titled *Cleopatra's Daughter*; Anna Ghosh at Scovil Chichak Galen made the sale. Pub date looks

like 2009; Crown will publish Moran's second book, *The Heretic Daughter*, in fall 2008.... Malaika Adero at Atria bought North American rights to a collection of stories set in contemporary India by Indu Sundaresan; Sandra Dijkstra made the sale. The book is titled *Convent of the Little Flowers*; pub date is fall 2008. Atria published Sundaresan's most recent novel, *Splendor of Silence*, last year, and another under contract is due to pub in 2009.

where she worked on such titles as *Plato and a Platypus Walk into a Bar* by Daniel Klein and Tom Cathcart.

Dillon Up at RH

Sanyu Dillon has been promoted from director of marketing and

associate publisher of trade paperbacks at Random House to v-p.

Woolley to OUP

Sarah Jane Woolley has been named assistant editor of Grove Art Online/Grove



Live from Borders

Borders has begun installing television screens in many of its superstores that will feature original programming developed by the Ripple Network. At left, customers take a glance at the big screen in the Novi, Mich., store.

IN MEMORIAM

Norman Mailer

1923-2007

AMERICAN ICON

LITERARY MASTER

PROVOCATIVE THINKER

DEAR FRIEND



PHOTO: TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

RANDOM HOUSE

Norman Mailer

A Prolific Life to the End

Upon his November 10 death at age 84, the provocative, prolific Norman Mailer left behind a huge body of work. The two-time Pulitzer winner published more than 30 novels, biographies and nonfiction works.

The rights to Mailer's oeuvre largely reside within two major publishing houses. Picador has *The Naked and the Dead* (1948) and *Why Are We in Vietnam?* (1967) and v-p of marketing and sales Darin Keesler said the house is doing a rush reprint of *Naked*. Meanwhile, Random—which will hold a memorial service for the writer in January—has hardcover rights to *Tough Guys Don't Dance* (1984), *Harlot's Ghost* (1991), *The Gospel According to the Son* (1997), *The Castle in the Forest* (2007) and *On God* (2007), and Vintage has paperback rights to *Barbary Shore*, *An American Dream*, *The Executioner's Song* and other works.

And then there are Mailer's archives: a 400-square-foot repository of letters, short stories, fragments of unfinished novels, screenplays and notes at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Mailer's literary executor, Michael Lennon, who is a Wilkes University emeritus professor of English, said the archives contain 500 boxes filled with "everything



Norman wrote from age 10 to 84." The Ransom Center houses works by James Joyce, Ernest Hemingway, T. S. Eliot, D. H. Lawrence, Tennessee Williams and others, but Lennon said Mailer's is the largest author collection there.

Among the works in the archive are the many screenplays Mailer wrote that have not been produced or even read. And Lennon is currently whittling 45,000 letters down to about 750 for a collection of selected letters he expects Random to publish next fall. The collection will include letters Mailer wrote from his Harvard days in the 1940s up to the end of his life.

Lennon said Mailer had done a great deal of research for a sequel to *The Castle in the Forest* but did not begin writing it. "[*On God*] was really the last book he had worked on," Lennon said. "When he finished *Castle*, he'd been working all along on Hitler's life, but he put that aside because he wanted to do that God book while he still had life and breath."

Jason Epstein, Mailer's editor at Random on everything from *Tough Guys Don't Dance* through *The Castle in the Forest* (but not *On God*, which David Ebershoff edited) recalled Mailer's productivity:

"In his last years Norman took on three vast, metaphysical subjects: the possibility of transcendence in his book on Jesus; the faith that life is not meaningless even though its meaning may lie beyond our

grasp in his dialogue on God; and the problem of absolute evil in his projected seven-volume novel about Hitler. His limitless ambition as a writer was not simply a matter of ego, though Norman had plenty, but of his commitment to the writer's vocation to make sense of things for himself and the rest of us.

"Two years ago when he showed me a draft of *Hitler Vol. 1*—which he would eventually publish as *The Castle in the Forest*, as the first in a seven-volume series—Hitler had reached the age of 12 and I asked Norman how he was going to get his subject into the bunker in a mere six more volumes. I put the question to him in this way rather than remind him that he was now in his 80s and might have to think of putting his pen down long before Hitler's undoing. But he had anticipated the question. He said he had now decided to pack the rest of the story—the Vienna years, World War I, the early Nazi period, the '30s, the Holocaust and the War—into just two further volumes. He was, after all, in his 80s and was not sure he had time for the more ambitious project.

"This towering chutzpah in a man in his 80s and visibly frail was not a performance. This was no *Old Man and the Sea*. It was the real thing, combining the qualities that made Norman unique among his peers; dauntless to the end, ready to fathom the deepest mysteries, he walked the knife edge where rashness and courage become indistinguishable. His magnificence never faltered. Neither did his genius. It was only his body that failed him." —Lynn Andriani

François McHardy, who joined SSA as deputy managing director earlier this year.

NYC Book Fairs Compete

Kirkus Reviews, which has bought the rights to the dormant New York

Is Book Country, plans to hold its first show September 14, the same date set for the Brooklyn Book Festival. Despite protests from BBF, Kirkus said it is too late to change the day for NYIBC.

Campbell Adds Russian Client

Scouting agency Maria Campbell Associates has added Russian publisher Inostranka and CoLibri as a client. The house does fiction and nonfiction in translation.

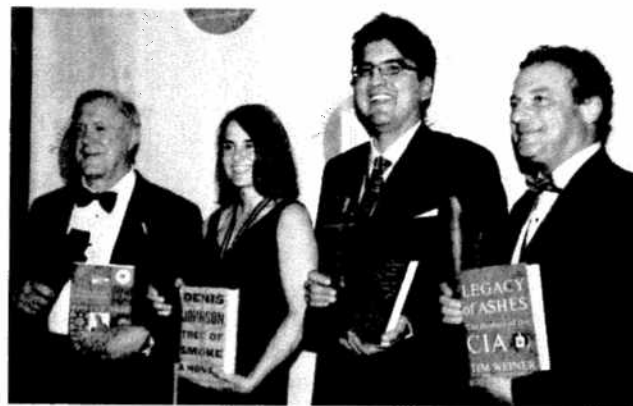


Life Imitating Art

A teacher reading *The Unknown Terrorist in a Melbourne, Australia, pub was thrown out after patrons became concerned he was a real terrorist. Richard Flanagan's novel, published in the U.S. by Grove, revolves around a woman who is mistaken for a terrorist and becomes the most-wanted person in Australia.*

A Winning Night

The ghost of Norman Mailer, who died November 10, seemed to preside over the 58th annual National Book Awards, held November 14 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City's Times Square. Indeed, this year's gala awards ceremony was marked by the oddly appropriate combination of an unruly picketline of strikers outside the hotel and the many heartfelt tributes by NBA award-winners to Mailer's towering and unruly career as a writer. Accepting her award for Distinguished Contributions to American Letters, novelist and essayist Joan Didion invoked Mailer and said, "There was someone who knew what writing was for."



NBA recipients (l.-r.) included Poetry winner Robert Hass; Cindy Lee Johnson, wife of Fiction winner Denis Johnson; Young People's Lit winner Sherman Alexie; and Nonfiction winner Tim Weiner.



Nonfiction winner Tim Weiner.



Ecco Press publisher Daniel Halpern and Poetry winner Robert Hass.



Joan Didion, NBA Lifetime Achievement honoree, along with Toni Morrison, past recipient of the same award.



Sherman Alexie with his Little, Brown editor, Jennifer Hunt.



Literarian Award winner Terry Gross with her husband, writer Francis Davis.



FSG publisher Jonathan Galassi; Cindy Lee Johnson, who accepted the Fiction prize for her husband; and Johnson's editor, Lorin Stein.

Calendar Nov. 25-30

11/25

Northwestern Univ. Press is honoring the 20th anniversary of the death of Chicago's first black mayor with **Harold! Photographs from the Harold Washington Years.**

11/26

The 85th anniversary of the birth of **Charles M. Schulz** (d. 2000). PW's starred review called David Michaelis's *Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography* (Harper) "fascinating."

11/27

PW's starred review of **Dean Koontz's** *The Darkest Evening of the Year* (Bantam) called his new supernatural novel a "top-notch thriller... the perfect book for thriller addicts."

11/29

The 175th anniversary of the birth of **Louisa May Alcott** (1832-1888). Penguin Classic's new deluxe edition of *Little Women* has an introduction by Jane Smiley.

11/30

The film adaptation of **Jean-Dominique Bauby's** *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (Vintage) opens today. A paralyzed Bauby wrote this memoir by blinking one letter at a time.