

PUBLISHING IN SPRING 2011

# ODDBALLS

Forty *infamous* people  
immortalized in wood engravings by  
JIM WESTERGARD

*“Wood engraving is a dark medium...  
I don’t know how Westergard does it, but he has an  
uncanny ability to pull humor out of that dastardly valley of  
shadows. Despite the dark odds against him, he manages,  
again and again, to wrangle some of the funniest  
wood engravings I have ever seen.”*  
from the Introduction by  
BARRY MOSER

HM  
HEAVENLY MONKEY MMXI

## HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Hunter S. Thompson started writing by typing out F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* on a typewriter because he wanted to learn their styles. He worked as a copy boy until he was fired, then went on to work for, and be fired from, various newspapers. Eventually he was given an opportunity to write an article about the Hell's Angels, which he did. He continued hanging out with the Hell's Angels to write a book, until he refused to share the royalties with them and they gave him a serious beating. The success of *Hell's Angels* brought him recognition, and his style of journalism was tagged "gonzo," which he enjoyed. He participated in, and wrote about the hippy drug culture of San Francisco, and continued that theme in his book *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. He tried his hand at politics by running for sheriff in Pitkin County, Colorado in 1970, and narrowly lost the election. His compound in Colorado was a fortified retreat he called Owl Farm, at which he could exercise his right to bear and use arms, which he did fully. In 2005 he shot himself. He had planned his funeral, which was held at Owl Farm, in true Hunter S. fashion: his ashes were shot from a cannon as the tune "Mr. Tambourine Man" was played.



JIM WESTERGARD was born in 1939 in Utah. While completing his MFA at Utah State University he was inspired by the work of Leonard Baskin, and took up wood engraving with a passion. He taught drawing and printmaking at Metropolitan State College, Northern Illinois University, and after moving to Alberta in 1975, at Red Deer College. Since retiring in 1999 his creation of new engravings has been constant and prolific, plus he has undertaken a number of illustration commissions with trade publishers. But his original wood engravings have appeared in only one previous book, *Mother Goose Eggs, Sunnyside Up*, which he printed and published in 2003.

*The cast of Oddballs includes both the well known—Hunter Thompson, Lizzie Borden, Rasputin—and the entertainingly obscure, such as Gunnlaug Wormtongue (“a tenth century Icelandic poet who got his name because his poetry was offensive”); Mary Reeser (“the poster child for spontaneous human combustion”), and Carrie Nation (“jailed numerous times for disturbing the peace and wanton destruction of private property”). A total of forty portraits engraved in wood, each accompanied by a brief biographical sketch written by the artist. Jim himself joins the cast in a self-portrait included as a frontis.*

*Oddballs (96 pp.) will be published in an edition of 30 copies, signed and numbered by the artist. (There also will be five hors commerce copies.) The book’s overall size and format are commensurate with this prospectus. The text is set in Dante and printed with the handpress at Heavenly Monkey on dampened Guarro laid paper. The wood engravings are printed by the artist on Zerkall wove paper. The book will be bound at Natasha Herman’s Redbone Bindery in full linen with leather hinges, an engraving inset on the front broad, and hand-marbled endpapers.*