

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

**Hannah Cox**

**Marketing Manager**

**(510) 595.3664 x324**

**[Hannah.Cox@avalonpub.com](mailto:Hannah.Cox@avalonpub.com)**

## **WINTON, SHOEMAKER, LLC ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF SOFT SKULL PRESS**

**EMERYVILLE, May 16, 2007** – Charlie Winton announced today that the new publishing venture, Winton, Shoemaker & Co., LLC has acquired Soft Skull Press. This is their third acquisition this year. In February of 2007, they acquired Shoemaker & Hoard from the Avalon Publishing Group, and earlier in May they announced the acquisition of Counterpoint from The Perseus Books Group.

Both the Counterpoint transaction and the Soft Skull transaction are expected to close in June. As announced last week, when the transactions close the company will be renamed Counterpoint, LLC. Soft Skull will remain as an imprint of Counterpoint. Soft Skull's Publisher Richard Nash will join the company as an Executive Editor and will also maintain the title of Editorial Director of the Soft Skull imprint. Nash will be based in New York City and will acquire titles for both Counterpoint as well as the Soft Skull imprint.

Charlie Winton said, "I'm really looking forward to working with Richard; he has a great spirit and will be a tremendous addition to our team. He brings with him a number of authors and relationships that will fit within the Counterpoint list and that compliment Jack Shoemaker's editorial sensibilities. At the same time, by maintaining the Soft Skull imprint we will be able to extend the range of what we are able to publish effectively. I think a big positive will be allowing Richard to truly focus on his strengths."

Richard Nash said: "This is a marvelous opportunity, both for Soft Skull authors, who will find this combined enterprise a more secure home for their work, and for myself, to have the opportunity to work with, and learn from, two icons of independent publishing, Charlie Winton and Jack Shoemaker."

In addition to Charlie Winton, who will be Chairman and Publisher of Counterpoint, and Richard Nash, the editorial group will include Jack Shoemaker who will be Vice President and Editorial Director of Counterpoint, and Roxanna Font Aliaga, the current Managing Editor of Shoemaker & Hoard who will be the Managing Editor of the entire enterprise. In the fall 2007 season, titles acquired by Soft Skull will be published under the Soft Skull imprint and will be distributed by PGW. Beginning in winter 2008, all Counterpoint and Soft Skull titles will be distributed by PGW.

Founded by Sander Hicks in 1993, Soft Skull's early publications included the cult classics *Bomb the Suburbs* and *No More Prisons, Get Your War On* and the controversial Bush biography *Fortunate Son*, the publication of which was the subject of the award-winning documentary *Horns & Halos*. Established writers like Wayne Koestenbaum, Kevin Powell, and Lynne Tillman have found a new home at Soft Skull, and emerging writers Andrew Lewis Conn, Douglas A. Martin, Maggie Nelson, and Amanda Stern have been with Soft Skull since the beginning. Recent notable Soft Skull titles include *White Like Me* by Tim Wise, *My Happy Life* by Lydia Millet, *The Good Fairies of New York* by Martin Millar, *The Whistleblower* by Peter Rost, and *Jamestown* by Matthew Sharpe.

### **About Richard Nash**

Mr. Richard Nash has been Publisher of Soft Skull Press since 2002, prior to which he had been a performance artist and theater director. In 2005 Nash appeared on Publishers Weekly list of ten editors to watch out for in the coming decade; and in 2006 was awarded the AAP's Miriam Bass Award for Creativity in Independent Publishing. Born and raised in Ireland, he graduated from Harvard College in 1993.

### **About Roxanna Font Aliaga:**

Ms. Roxanna Font Aliaga is the former editor-in-chief of *Washington Square* and a founding editor of *The Bellevue Literary Review*, where she published work by Philip Levine, Sharon Olds, James Tate, David Lehman, and Rick Moody, among many other notable writers. For five years she was the associate publisher of Limelight Editions in New York. She has served as the managing editor of Shoemaker & Hoard since 2005. A graduate of New York University's MFA program, Ms. Font's writing has won her several residencies as well as a Steinbeck Fellowship.

### **About Charlie Winton**

Most recently, Mr. Winton was the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Avalon Publishing Group, one of the leading independent publishing companies in the United States.

Prior to Avalon, Mr. Winton founded Publishers Group West in 1976 and served as its Chairman CEO and President for 25 years. Mr. Winton was named one of the 80 "most influential individuals" in the development of the American book business over the past century in the 1997 special anniversary issue of *Publishers Weekly*.

### **About Jack Shoemaker**

Mr. Shoemaker began his literary career as a bookseller in California. In 1979, Mr. Shoemaker co-founded North Point Press and served as the company's editor-in-chief. North Point books and authors won many awards including the Carey-Thomas Award for creative publishing.

When North Point closed in 1991, Mr. Shoemaker served as West Coast Editor of the Knopf Publishing Group. He then left Pantheon to participate in the founding of Counterpoint Press in 1994 in Washington, D.C. In 2003 Mr. Shoemaker left Counterpoint and joined the Avalon Publishing Group and established Shoemaker & Hoard.