

**Cincinnati Native Matthew Patrick Launches Paradrome Press,**  
**Family Owned and Operated**  
**First Release In Series of Illustrated Novels Is *Downing Dora Nine***

Matthew Patrick a Cincinnati Native, has recently launched Paradrome Press, one of Cincinnati's newest publishing houses, in conjunction with the release of the soft cover addition of his new book *Downing Dora Nine*, the first in the *Sovereign States Omni-Epic Series*<sup>™</sup> of illustrated novels. The company is family owned and operated, with Matthew's brother John, a CCAD graduate, working as Chief Illustrator, his wife Terry, an IT expert, serving as Webmaster and Principal Designer, and his mother Fay, a master of the English language, serving as Editor in Chief. Watching over all is family patriarch Morris Patrick, a veteran of the U.S. Army's 82<sup>nd</sup> airborne division whom Matthew credits for instilling within him a lifelong passion for both aviation and literature, and whose presence is still felt by all on a daily basis. The first book is dedicated lovingly in his memory.

An engineer by training, Patrick obtained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Northwestern University. He has worked for more than 30 years in both the U.S. and abroad as an innovator in various capacities within the food industry – including, Manufacturing, R&D, Product and Business Development, Engineering and Research. He and his wife moved back to Cincinnati in 2011 in order to be closer to his then ailing father.

Shortly after 9/11, Patrick got the vision for a series of books related to aviation history. He says, "My father helped to fuel my passion for both flying and literature. I have had the *Downing Dora Nine* series in the back of my brain for quite awhile, and finally got serious about writing it about a decade ago. I am pleased that I was able to share the initial outline with my father prior to his passing."

He adds, "As you can imagine, my left brained inclinations and highly strategic way of thinking led to a good deal of research to assess the potential audience for this type of fiction. My initial hunch was correct that this entire series falls into a virtually untapped category or niche as there are relatively few alternate history fiction books on the market regarding aviation. And yet there are more than 50 magazine titles dedicated to the areas of sport aviation and aviation history alone – indicating a tremendous amount of interest in the subject matter. Secondly, there are only a handful of books on the market that fall into the category of "illustrated fiction."

There are primarily two types of books - novels which contain no illustrations, and graphic novels, which are 90% illustration, but there are relatively few works of fiction that contain beautifully hand illustrated drawings at the end of each chapter. This unique category and format are largely underserved, and have basically dropped out of existence due to the production costs. My books will each be a combination of prose and paint, and the illustrations are in a style reminiscent of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.”

He continues, “Another unique element with this series is the fact that never before in the history of books has there been an Omni Epic™. You won’t find this one in the dictionary. I trademarked this term earlier this year to describe my highly unusual “three layered” *Downing Dora Nine* series, whereby companion reference materials that go into greater detail about the Sovereign States fictional world and its characters will also be made available to readers.”

Why start your own publishing house in today’s economy? When searching for a publisher, Patrick was concerned that he would have little control over things such as the final design and layout, the beautiful, hand-drawn illustrations, the font, paper stock and promotional efforts. As a first-time author, he also did not want to become a “little fish in a big pond” lost somewhere in the shuffle at a large publishing house.

Says Patrick, “With the entire book industry in turmoil the past five years, many of today’s publishers are taking fewer risks, are largely concerned with their bottom line, and will gladly print on cheaper stock or eliminate the illustrations to save a few bucks. I had a clear-cut vision for this novel, and wanted to maintain the **compositional integrity** every step of the way. Illustrated books are more expensive to produce, but I knew that we needed a coated stock for this illustrated pages. I also want to move quickly with this series, publishing approximately one novel per year, and don’t have time to wade through layers of corporate bureaucracy. So I basically decided to break and re-write all the rules of traditional publishing by starting my own. And with my entire family beside me – each one of them bringing their own unique set of talents to the table, and supporting me all of the way, I am reminded each and every day about why I did this.”

Paradrome Press was formed in January, 2014, and the e-book was published in the same month. Says Patrick, “Until the past few years, you wouldn’t have been able to see the illustrations on an iPad or Kindle. With today’s technology, you can see the crispness and clarity of the colorful images almost as perfectly as in print – so the timing for this book was perfect all the way around.”

He concludes, “But Paradrome is not just about me alone fulfilling my dreams and sharing my stories with others. There are hundreds of new writers hoping to see their dreams come to fruition and bring their stories to life as well, specifically those who might be interested in writing stories within the Sovereign States franchise. My long-term goal is to take Paradrome to the next level, and evolve into a publishing house that is widely recognized for unique, illustrated fiction. We have our full team in place, and will begin accepting manuscripts from promising new authors in mid 2015.”

The *Downing Dora Nine* series reinvents the entire history of aviation. The first few books take place during an “alternate” version of WWI. The United States has never been born, and North America is occupied by five separate sovereign-nation states. The story revolves around two young fliers, Englishman William Hastings and Prussian Heinrich von Gotha, who get tangled in a looming conflict within the Sovereign State of Carolina. As a result they become the world’s first veterans of aerial warfare. All of the technological terrors that Europe experienced with the coming of World War I have been transported to North America through the magic of fiction.

**The first novel in the series, *Downing Dora Nine*, is available now in e-book format through [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) for \$9.99**

**Soft cover release date is Thanksgiving 2014, and book may be purchased at [www.paradrome.com](http://www.paradrome.com) for \$24.95.**