The Wordsman editorial services *Allan Edmands*

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Your words, sharpened to the point.
Your words sharpened, to the point.

(Shifting comma placement alters meaning; in this case, both meanings apply.)

Specialty: Working with English text written by authors whose first language is not English

Mission:

Polishing manuscripts for 53 years, addressing not only violations of mechanical style but also factual inaccuracies, self-contradictions, problems of usage and parallelism, discontinuities, ambiguities, awkward phrasing, triteness, wordiness, poor transitions, organization and retrievability problems, lack of directness, lack of concreteness, and lack of emphasis. Helping authors make their prose professional, coherent, and compelling.

1983–present **Editorial services provider** **The Wordsman,** Oakland, CA

Editing full-length books, scholarly and technical journal dissertations, novels, memoirs, and screenplays for publishers and authors. Some recent examples:

- *Rock Island Lines* (2nd edition), *Double Dealing in Dubuque*, and *Letting Go in La Crosse*—three successive page-turner novels in the gritty "Frank Dodge Mystery" series by Dean Klinkenberg. Issues that needed addressing in all three novels included numerous time snarls (such as a character's age at different points in the narrative), anachronisms, and incorrect statements of fact. "I am deeply grateful to Allan Edmands for his continuing role as my editor, for keeping the stories consistent, and for cleaning up my persistent mistakes."
- *Small Claims: An Attorney's Journey to Seek Justice and Redemption in a Soup Kitchen Legal Clinic* by Steve Gottlieb, a very engaging storyteller, whose first book reveals his sense of humor as well as his passion for his pro bono work with destitute clients he met weekly at a local soup kitchen. Not only did I repair dangling modifiers, lapses of parallelism, and internal contradictions, but I needed to do extensive fact checking. "Allan, you are a master of words. Without your help and skills, this book would not have been possible."
- *A Dictionary of Literary Works* by Mike Goldman, a 280-page alphabetized reference guide to some of the greatest books and authors of the past millennia. "I want to express my appreciation to Allan Edmands, an eagle-eyed and perceptive reader and editor. His editing... truly enhances my work and takes it to a much higher level.... I now understand the hefty contribution that an editor makes to a work, probably even that of some of the greatest writers."
- Numerous oft-cited academic journal articles and dissertations in sociology, law, ethnography, linguistics, pedagogy, and economics. (Titles are in the online version of this résumé.)

1980–2002 **Lead editor and teacher** **IBM Corp.,** New York and Japan

Made sure that the text and graphics for conceptual, procedural, and reference information—whether in printed manuals, error messages, help panels, webpages, animations, or video—typically drafted in an opaque, dry, and intimidating form, became unambiguous, concise, readable, and even interesting. Taught technical writing and editing in courses offered worldwide. During a 5-year assignment in Japan, ensured the quality of the English produced by native Japanese. Supervised a team of editors. Developed style and editorial guidelines.

1973–1983 **Freelance editor, copyeditor, and proofreader** New York trade book publishers

On contract with Random House, Alfred A. Knopf, Dell, Prentice Hall, Praeger, and several other publishers, edited novels (including titles by Robert Ludlum and Frank Yerby), young-adult science books (including a series by Isaac Asimov), cookbooks, craft books, psychology and archeology texts, travel guides—you name it.

Bachelor of Arts in History: University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 1964

Member of Editorial Freelancers Association (EFA), www.the-efa.org