Against the Grain

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Next Charleston Conference

Editor

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If Rumors Were Horses...

☞ The projected merger between Nijhoff and Swets will not take place. They remain separate organizations.

☞ A sad note: I was informed that Richard Abel suffered a heart attack on Monday, January 30 and is in St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, Oregon. Cards, etc., can be sent c/o Timber Press, 9999 SW Wilshire, Portland, OR 97225

☞ Mary Fugle (formerly of Springer-Verlag) has joined Elsevier as Director of Sales. With John Tagler and Brian Scanlon, she joins quite a group!

☞ On the right is a joint statement from B.H. Blackwell, Ltd., and John Menzies, dated Friday, January 27, 1989, and released by Donald Satisky, Vice President of Blackwell's Library Services Group:

B. H. Blackwell, Ltd. are in discussions with John Menzies, plc, with a view to acquiring the Library Services Division of John Menzies. This division comprises John Menzies Library Services,(Nottingham UK) James Bennett, pty, Ltd. (Sydney, Australia), John Coutts Library Services (Niagara, Canada) and ReadMore Publications Inc. (New York, NY). The negotiations and legal formalities are expected to take some weeks, and in the acquisition of ReadMore, Coutts and Bennett, will be subject to the approval of the appropriate agencies of the US, Canadian, and Australian governments respectively. Both companies recognize the need for a speedy conclusion and a formal statement will be issued as soon as the negotiations are complete.

And You Weren't There . . .

a little historical perspective
--contributions are welcome--

Invitations to bid were first sent out to wholesalers in the 1940s according to Lyman Newlin, writing in *Nous* (vol.3, no.1, March 1988). Wholesalers like Baker & Taylor and Follett didn't have the benefit of *Books in Print* in those days and bid clerks used instead the *U.S. Catalog* and *Cumulative Index*. We've come a long way, baby!

Our title comes courtesy of J.-K. Huysmans 1848-1907. From *The Reader's Encyclopedia* 1955, p. 530, "Huysmans was a French novelist, of Dutch ancestry, known for his neurasthenia, perverse tastes, attraction, and finally conversion, to Catholicism, in all of which he is considered to have been typical of the decadents of his time. His style is marked by vivid and concrete figures, fantastic description, and a gift for portraying the grotesque." *Against the Grain* was published in1884 as *A Rebours.*

Charleston Conference –1989–

November 9-11, 1989

Registration fee: ??

Theme:
Remembrance of Things Past

Tentative Sessions:
Publish or Perish, The Business of Publishing, Vendorspeak, Budgeting for Materials

Held once again in the Center for Continuing Education.

Main conference hotel: The Mills House, 115 Meeting Street where rates are -- sorry -- $90 single or double. We are negotiating with more economical hotels to add to the list as alternatives.

Y'all!! I hate to raise the registration fee while at the same time changing the hotel to a more expensive one...But, for the last three years, it's been $85 and costs really are going up. It appears the registration fee may have to be $100. Comments?

...To be continued...