1991

Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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Dear Katina,

Fred Gullette states, in his reflections on the history of Richard Abel and Company (ATG, v3, #2), that Dick Abel put together the Abel/Blackwell thesaurus, "in what is still...almost...its final form all by himself."

Years ago, Blackwell ran an ad touting Don Stave as "the father of the Approval plan." Don, a wonderfully funny and self-effacing man, always objected to that phrase, insisting, "Dick Abel was the father of the Approval plan, and I was its willing dam." I would not—nor could I—deprecate Dick Abel's remarkable vision, but Don deserves credit for making that vision materialize. The task was not accomplished in one summer; it took well over a year, and Don worked in concert with Dick and two others, Sarah Cook and Tom Cox. The result, though it has undergone periodic updates, remains the industry standard. Don may have retired several years ago, but his is still a name to conjure with, and one which should not be forgotten.

Sincerely,

Celia Scher Wagner
Approval Systems Coordinator
Blackwell North America
Lake Oswego, OR

Dear Katina,

Recently I received Volume 3, No. 2, April 1991 issue of Against the Grain. Your journal is absolutely marvelous, and does provide a wonderful link between publishers, vendors, and librarians. As a publisher, however, I can’t resist the opportunity to send you an official customer service claim:

First, I subscribed to Against the Grain along with my registration fee to your excellent Charleston Conference in October, 1990. At that time, I received Volume 2, No. 5, November 1990's issue (the Charleston Conference issue). Not until last week did I receive another issue, which was Volume 3, No. 2, April 1991. What issues have been published since the Charleston Conference? I presume I am missing Volume 3, No. 1, and would appreciate receiving a copy at your earliest convenience.

Perhaps a key to my missing issue is the fact that my latest issue arrived addressed to Steve Dane, 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, Maine, 02061. Although I know my handwriting is sometimes terrible, your fulfillment staff probably couldn't read my order. Please be advised that the correct "ship to" address for my subscription is as follows:

Steve Dane
Kluwer Academic Publishers
101 Philip Drive
Norwell, MA 02061

Note that Philip is spelled with one "I" and Norwell is in Massachusetts (MA), and not Maine (that's ME), which its zip code would suggest.

I'm glad that you have a first-hand perspective on what it's like to be a journals publisher. I'll look forward to receiving my missing and future issues of Against the Grain and seeing you at the next conference.

Best regards,

M. Stephen Dane
General Manager

Hey y'all. I apologize for any fulfillment problems with Volume 3, number 1. I don't know what happened, but I'm glad you noticed when you don't get ATG.

Dear Katina,

Inge Valentine has just shared with me her April copy of Against the Grain.

We would like to thank the following companies for their generous contributions!

The Book House
Ambassador Book Service
Gale Research Company

Thanks go as well to BALLEN BOOKSELLERS for mailing issues of Against the Grain.