Rumors

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, strauchk@cofc.edu

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The Human Face of Robert Maxwell —
His Contribution to the 20th Century

by Judith Ennals (Political Secretary to Robert Maxwell and General Sales Manager, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1961-1992)

Robert Maxwell, Publisher and Press Baron, was throughout his life, a figure shrouded in mystery both as to his origins in the romantic-sounding Ruthenia and his strange demise, falling from his luxury yacht, unobserved by the crew, in spite of his weight which must have made a considerable splash - or was he pushed? There are even those who blame the Mafia. It is, however, a fact that he was immense in stature as well as size and in personality as well as output and achievement.


Maxwell has been much maligned both at home and abroad since his death as attempts have been made to unravel his intricate financial dealings and vast business empire. As one who worked for him, closely at times, I thought the moment had come, at the turn of the century, to pay tribute to this giant of a man, in spite of the fact that he has been branded a rogue and a tyrant. I am unlikely to convince many people otherwise but I wish to present another side to this colourful and controversial character, who might have been one of the outstanding personalities of this century, remembered for his achievements rather than his misdemeanours. I personally believe that he was one of the remarkable characters of last century, since he contributed much to the age of technology in which we live and provided a vehicle for the research and ideas which made this possible.

If Rumors Were Horses

Congratulations are in order! I am pleased to announce that the University of New Mexico General Library titles of (Interim) Associate Dean and Director of Budget and Personnel are merging as of 01/01/01 to form Deputy Dean of Library Services. And guess who got the job! The incomparable Fran Wilkinson <fwilkins@unm.edu> (Associate Professor of Librarianship, and Interim Associate Dean of Library Services, UNM). Congratulations, Fran!

More congratulations! Steve Moss joined Institute of Physics Publishing, Inc. in 1998 and since then has consistently developed initiatives focused on the specific needs of North American Librarians. In recognition of Steve's dedication and the fabulous job he's done during his tenure at IOPP, they are pleased to announce Steve Moss's appointment as Vice President, IOPP Inc. Sounds great to us! <collins@ioppubusa.com>.

He's now at UNC-Charlotte, but as of February 1, Mike Somers <msomers@email.uncc.edu> will be the new Assistant University Librarian at Indiana State University. Mike will manage the library's day-to-day operations, personnel issues, building maintenance, and whatever falls from the continued on page 8
sky. He will also be working with the Library's systems staff and working on consortial/state-wide issues on behalf of the library. Mike is also the newest Board member of The Charleston Advisor (www.charlestonco.com). Here’s his new email address at Indiana State: libspace@isugw.indstate.edu.

The ban-zowie Mary Page (mspage@rci.rutgers.edu) got promoted in September and I forgot to tell y’all! After serving as head of collection services and serials management for the New Brunswick campus for two years, Mary is now Head of Acquisitions at RUL. She says she wasn’t able to make it the Conference in 2000, but she has already put the conference on her calendar for 2001! Congratulations, Mary, and Hooray!

More news! Five Sage employees have left the company to start HostedSurvey.com, an Internet software application provider. Dennis Frayne (former IT Director), Geane Dvorak (Marketing Director) <geane.dvorak@hostedsurvey.com>, Rob Donahue (Book Sales), and two other IT staff members will be launching the new company and its software applications at American Evaluation Association’s Annual Meeting in Hawaii. HostedSurvey will give researchers and organizations the ability to create and administer surveys for the Web without installing software, or writing programs. They will also deliver applications for creating and administering tests (HostedTest.com), and HostedConferencing for live and prerecorded seminars and conferences. They will serve primarily universities and organizations.

Well, this broke during the Charleston Conference and you probably already know about it, but here goes. Reed Elsevier is set to acquire Harcourt General’s Scientific, Technical and Medical business and US Schools Education and Testing businesses for a net cost of $4.5 billion. The acquisition was announced of the whole of Harcourt General Inc. for $4.45 billion and the assumption of $1.2 billion in debt, and on-sale of Higher Education and certain Corporate and Professional Services businesses to The Thomson Corporation for $2.06 billion. The latest word seems to be that Reed Elsevier has extended its offer for Harcourt General to January 8. This is to accommodate review by regulators in the U.S.

Have you seen the news that, “beginning in January 2001, Purdue University Press will begin to accept monographs for publication in its new e-only monograph imprint, Digital-1 books. Facing the ever-increasing need to produce titles for smaller market segments in Academe, the Digital-1 imprint will provide an outlet for scholarly information that does presently exist. Each project will undergo the same rigorous acceptance routine that regular scholarly monographs now face, including approval by the Press’s editorial board. However, unlike traditionally published books, the Digital-1 imprint will take full advantage of the new e-book software and programs now being developed by organizations like Microsoft®, Ebrary®, and other e-book vendors.” (http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/index.html)

And, I don’t know about you, but I sure am struggling to keep up with ejournals and databases. My life has turned into one big database! And now, to top it all off, there are the e-books out the wazoo! If it’s not one distributor, it’s another. At the 2000 Charleston Conference, we had several forays into e-Books. Dennis Dillon’s site at www.library.wisc.edu/Libs/PCL/Etext.html is an awesome place to start.

And, did you read Judy Luther’s great interview with Troy Williams of Questia in the last issue of ATG (v.12/5, p.50) Scheduling to launch in January 2001, Questia has generated lots of interest on the e-Book front. (www.questia.com/).

And now there’s ebraryTM, which calls itself “the authoritative source for online research,” and which has announced a contract in which Taylor & Francis, the international academic publisher, will make available the vast majority of both its ongoing frontlist and its 17,000 booklist titles in the humanities, social sciences, sciences and engineering, to all users of ebrary. ebrary is creating a rich collection of authoritative and valuable content that includes books, journals, maps, periodicals, and digitally archived material. ebrary patrons will gain access to this content without having to pay membership or subscription fees. Using the photocopy analogy, patrons will pay to copy or print specific paragraphs, pages or chapters as needed. “Our link up with ebrary is consistent with our strategy to seek technology partners where appropriate in order to ensure that our scholarly material is disseminated to as wide an audience as possible,” said Christoph Cheshire, director of sales and marketing services for Taylor & Francis. “This contract follows closely on our decision to make all our titles available as e-books in 2001 alongside their traditional print versions.” For more information, visit www.ebrary.com or see Judy Luther’s upcoming interview with Christopher Warrack, CEO, in The Charleston Advisor, v.2/3, January, 2001.

And one more eBook development. Data Research Associates, Inc. (DRA) (Nasdaq: DRAI) has announced an agreement with netLibrary to integrate netLibrary eBooks into DRA’s Classic and Taos library automation systems. DRA and netLibrary are working together to integrate netLibrary eBooks into the acquisitions and OPAC modules of the two DRA systems through the use of communication protocols for the transfer of machine-readable catalog (MARC) records. The integrated systems will enable librarians using DRA’s Classic and Taos systems, at their discretion, to quickly search, select, and acquire eBooks for their collections. Also through the integrated DRA systems, librarians will be able to purchase eBooks from netLibrary with the simplicity of transmitting an electronic purchase order. In addition, library patrons will be able to search for eBooks purchased by their library directly from the library’s DRA-furnished OPAC. eBooks found by patrons in the OPAC can be previewed or borrowed at the click of a mouse. www.netlibrary.com

There’s more. netlibrary and Houghton Mifflin Company have announced plans to launch a digital textbook initiative. netLibrary’s MetaText division will create electronic versions of Houghton Mifflin College Division texts and, beginning in the fall 2001 semester, provide college students and instructors access to electronic textbooks through MetaText’s interactive, Web-based learning platform. Once transformed into MetaText editions, select Houghton Mifflin college titles will be available for review and adoption by instructors at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Instructors may adopt MetaText editions directly through their existing Houghton Mifflin sales representatives in the spring of 2001 for use in classes beginning in the fall semester of 2001. MetaText editions contain all essential components of a textbook, including words, photographs, charts, and graphics. MetaText editions organize text into conceptual units rather than arbitrary page breaks. The MetaText platform features a variety of tools to benefit both instructors and students. For more information, go to www.metatext.com.
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One last e-Book tidbit from Edupage, Dec. 15 and Wired News. From BookTech West, Microsoft's e-Book contributions over the past year were recognized when they received the inaugural Alan Kay Award for eBook Innovation.

Well, guess what? The wonderful Richard Meyer, once of Clemson University in Clemson, SC and Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, (Richard Werking's old stomping ground), is now Dean of Libraries at Georgia Tech. Richard started his job in October, 2000. And, last month we told you all about his report (ATG 12/#5, p. 8), Budgeting Publisher Price Discrimination. Rich can be reached at 210-493-8967 or rmeyer@express-news.net or rmeyer@library.gatech.edu

Even more great news. We heard about this at the Charleston Conference, but I wanted to "put it in writing" right now. The incredible Rebecca Seger <rs@oup-usa.org>, once of McGraw-Hill has been doing more than just having babies! She has moved to Oxford University Press where she is Marketing Director, Scholarly & Professional Reference. We missed you in Charleston, Rebecca, but are looking forward to seeing you back next year!

And, from Rebecca (above) and the wonderful Royallynn O'Connor, also at OUP <ROY@OUP-USA.ORG>, there is news of an ALA Online Resource Session on Friday, January 12, at the Madison hotel which will include demonstrations on future enhancements in function, presentation and editorial coverage by Oxford University Press, Grove's Dictionaries, and McGraw-Hill.

On November 21, Oryx Press of Phoenix, Arizona, which was founded by the awesome Phyllis Steckler (I like the way she speaks her mind) in 1975, was purchased by the Greenwood Publishing Group for an undisclosed amount. Oryx Press was founded by publishing industry veteran Phyllis Steckler in 1975, following a 15-year career at R.R. Bowker. According to Phyllis, the acquisition is a timely strategic move: "Oryx Press has published more than 650 essential reference titles over the last 25 years. With the Greenwood acquisition of Oryx, I'm delighted to say that our company now is assured of a successful future for the next 25 years and beyond. It is a combination of the two best reference publishers in the industry today." Known best for its reference books and databases in the library, education, and business markets, Oryx has developed numerous partnerships and licensing agreements throughout the library community. Key titles in the Oryx list include the GrantSelect database and the prestigious American Council on Education Series on Higher Education, published in cooperation with ACE. The addition of Oryx to the Greenwood Publish-
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Muse database collection in 2001. Indeed, online access to Portal will be included in subscriptions to the Full Database collection, Arts & Humanities collection, Social Sciences collection, and Johns Hopkins University Press package. Institutional electronic and/or print subscriptions to the journal may also be ordered separately. Portal: Libraries and the Academy, a quarterly journal, will launch in January 2001. Portal is a bold new move by academic librarians to disseminate scholarship in all aspects of librarianship within higher education. This scholarly journal will also explore how technology is affecting librarianship and scholarship, as well as the role of libraries in meeting institutional missions. Sample contents from the first issue of Portal: Libraries and the Academy are now online at http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/portal/libraries and the academy/ toc/pla1.1.html.

And, you have always been careful of what you write on the Internet, right? In case you didn’t know it, the Federal District Court in Richmond, Virginia, has just awarded $675,000 in compensatory and punitive damages to Dr. Sam D. Graham Jr., when erroneous and libelous messages were posted on an Internet bulletin board about him. Read all about it in the December 14, 2000, New York Times (“Aliens Subject of Internet Libel Case” by Carl S. Kaplan) http://www.nytimes.com/2000/12/14/technology/15CYBERLAW.html.


Howard University School of Business was ranked among the best 70 schools by US News and World Report. And now Howard is offering an MBA completely online. http://howarduniversityonline.com/

And, from Edupage, Dec. 15. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has joined with British distance-learning firm Open University to offer an online master's degree in information technology starting in January.

Random House, the book publishing division of Bertelsmann has named Youngsk Chi to president of Random House Asia. Mr. Chi, 39, also assumes the title of executive vice president and chief operating officer of Random House’s North American division. He is currently chairman of the Lightning Source digital publishing services division and president of the Ingram Fulfillment Partners division of Ingram Distribution Holding, the parent company of the book distribution giant Ingram Book Group.

Well, another great voice from the past has surfaced! Peter Sproul <psproul@stinson.com>, once of ABC-CLIO, has formed a new company called Strategic Information Solutions, LLC (STINSO). STINSO, Peter tells me, is the new one-stop shop for publishers looking to increase their market penetration through the consortia sales channel. STINSO was formed by Charles Batsford, former Sales Manager of ABC-CLIO; Peter Sproul, former Consortia Sales Specialist of ABC-CLIO; and Andy Katsev, co-founder of Sportstatis in April 2000. The company was formed with the vision of providing cost effective solutions for publishers, as well as consortia that are having problems with existing pricing and licensing models. STINSO brings to publishers a clear understanding of consortia wants and needs that assist in streamlining licensing agreement negotiations. This knowledge was gained through the signing of close to forty licensing agreements over the past two-and-a-half years. STINSO founders Sproul and Batsford have worked with such consortia as OHIOLINK, Michigan Library Consortium, California Digital Library, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, VIVA, The California State System, FCLA, MERLIN and many others across the country, as well as international groups such as CHEST in Europe. The newly formed company is truly a one-stop shop for consortia licensing, providing publishers with sales representation, consultation services, vendor fair/product exposition demos and presentations.

STINSO, Promotions Dept., 4292 Encore Drive, Santa Barbara, California, 93110. E-mail: info@stinson.com, Telephone: (805) 708-0488). (http://www.stinso.com)

More voices from the past (I guess it’s the upcoming new year … the real millennium.). Heard from Benita Weber Vassallo <Benitav@iaid.org> who used to be AUL at George Washington University some ten years ago! Since 1990, Benita’s been Director of Libraries for the Inter-American Development Bank, an international organization much like the World Bank which carries out economic and social development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. She says it’s been a dream job, allowing her to use her Spanish and to travel frequently in the region. Anyway, Benita is coming to Charleston in January or February with a best friend of 40+ years and needs a suggestion of a good B&B or hotel, etc., in downtown Charleston. Since y’all know Charleston better than I do (really! I am always learning things from y’all), I thought I’d put this out here for you to send her suggestions! http://www.iaid.org/lib.

And…speaking of the past, let’s talk about the future. The Charleston Conference in 2001 will be October 31 - November 3, so it’s time to get your idea(s) for a panel, paper, or whatever, in! We like new and different. Don’t put it off. What should we debate next year? And, what should the theme of the Conference be? See the “call for ideas” enclosure with this issue. Send it in now! Deadline: June 30, 2001 <stmuch@gearlink.net>

Thanks to the initial encouragement of Tony Ferguson at Columbia University and the efforts of Nylink to offer New York academic libraries a consortium agreement, Nylink member libraries now join CREPUQ, AMIGOS, NELINET, SOLINET, PALINET, OCUL, OhioLink, CIC and CAPCONEIRLA as Emeraldplus consortium participants. Nylink institutions include St John’s University, Nazareth College in Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Baruch College, New York University, SUNY at Stony Brook, SUNY Institute of Technology, SUNY Binghamton, Brooklyn College, Queens College, Ithaca College and Columbia University. These schools represent approximately 250,000 potential online users. For more information on consortia pricing, visit the MCB Website at www.mcb.co.uk.

The current issue of the Journal of Southern Academic and Special Librarianship (JASL) is now available on the World Wide Web at: http://southernlibrarianship.icaap.org. The Journal of Southern Academic and Special Librarianship is an independent, professional, refereed electronic journal dedicated to advancing knowledge and research in the areas of academic and special librarianship. JASL is distributed by the International Consortium for Alternative Academic Publication (ICAAP) in Athabasca, Alberta, Canada <http://www.icaap.org>.

Heard from Lorraine McKinney <lmckc1@locust.com> (Acquisitions Supervisor, Connecticut College, New London, CT) who was at the Charleston Conference in November. She says she learned sooo much! Did you meet her?

Met another great person in Charleston. Did you? Geoffrey Grose of 21 North Main <ggrose@21northmain.com>.

Richard Hunt, chair of the Book In-
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The Book Industry Study Group, has announced that BISG will be hiring a new Executive Director since Sandy Paul, the first person to hold that job, will be relocating her company to Florida. BISG, which represents all segments of the book and serials industry, established the executive director position partly to enable the Study Group to assume American responsibility for ONIX International and for activities related to electronic books, XML and other areas of technology that hold huge potential for the industry. Hunt, Director of Sales & Marketing at F&W Publications, reports that the BISG Board has formed a Search Committee and a Transition team “to work through the next steps.” The Board of the Book Industry Study Group wishes Sandy all the best in her new home and new position,” Hunt said. “We have her to thank for the considerable progress we’ve made on ONIX and other initiatives in the recent past and we expect her to continue to help us move forward until new staff is in place.” The Book Industry Study Group, Inc. is a New York City-based not-for-profit organization. It serves both as a forum for managing change and interaction among publishers, booksellers, librarians, wholesalers, book manufacturers, authors and suppliers, and as a focal point for market intelligence and technical standards designed to foster global and efficient partnerships and transactions.

This is from FYI France. Yes, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France is back up and running, both virtually and really. The fire, system outage, faulty air conditioner, strike (latest), and other disasters all appear now to have been resolved, and the Bnf—including Gallica (online digital images and texts) and the CCFR (the French national union catalog) are open for business. Visit http://www.bnf.fr/one, http://gallica.bnf.fr/, http://www.ccf.fr/.

FATHOM, the for-profit knowledge company started by Columbia University, has opened what officials are calling a beta version of the Fathom Web site, which offers 450 feature articles and 80,000 reference articles. See http://chronicle.com/free/2000/11/2000111501uh.html.

Blackwell’s Book Services and Alibris have announced a partnership that “will make the acquisition of hard-to-find and out-of-print materials easier and more efficient for academic and research libraries.” Through the partnership, Blackwell’s Collection Manager will soon include access to the Alibris database of over 14 million hard-to-find books. In addition, Alibris will help supply books currently ordered through Blackwell’s out-of-print service. Alibris will supply the books from its international network of booksellers or from its own inventory, and will deliver the requested books to Blackwell’s which will then handle the purchase process.

First the good news. The fabulous Dan Miller, a twenty year veteran of Blackwell’s Book Services, has been appointed the company’s new Electronic Services Consultant. Most recently Dan was Approval Systems Manager in charge of library profiling. Prior to that Dan was an Account Manager and Manager of Sales and Service, for Blackwell’s Technical Services Division, representing the company’s services for preparing libraries’ MARC files for loading into libraries’ local systems. As Electronic Services Consultant Dan will be acting as liaison between library system vendors and Blackwell’s to establish and maintain EDI and bibliographic data interfaces. He will also be assisting customers in integrating their library systems with Blackwell’s information systems. Dan will continue to work in Blackwell’s Lake Oswego office. Now the bad news: Since Dan will no longer be focusing on book pricing and approval coverage issues, he is stepping back from writing and editing the Book Pricing Update column in ATG. Dan’s successor as Approval Systems Manager at Blackwell’s has not yet been appointed. So— are there volunteers to pick this column up? We need you!

Well, I don’t know how many of you attended the Satellite Teleconference, UCITA: A Guide to Understanding and Action sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Library Association, the Association of Research Libraries, the Medical Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association. UCITA, the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act, is a proposed state law that seeks to create a unified approach to the licensing of software and information. Two states—Maryland and Virginia—have passed UCITA, and it will be under consideration in many other states in the near future. Several aspects of UCITA pose problems for higher education and libraries. Visit the ARL Website at http://www.arl.org/info/trl/copy/ucita04.html.

Jane N. Ryland, membership consultant, Internet2, and a higher education technology consultant, was elected to the OCLC Board of Trustees at its November meeting. Ms. Ryland holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Westhampton College of the University of Richmond and a master’s of public administration from the University of Colorado.

ABC-CLIO has announced the sale of three databases to Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA). Beginning January 1, 2001, CSA will publish the ABC POL SCI, ARTBibliographies Modern, and ARTBibliographies Current Titles databases in print and make them available through the CSA Internet Database Service (IDS). In another development, ABC-CLIO has also announced an agreement with Versaware Inc. (www.versaware.com), to make all new ABC-CLIO reference titles, along with a rich selection of backlist, available simultaneously in print and on the World Wide Web. The first collection of titles to appear will include both.

<http://www.ornet.net/consulting.htm>
has unveiled its plan to install wireless access to the University's information network. Installation of the wireless equipment will begin in early 2001 and will be complete by September 2001. Additional information can be found at: http://www.tulane.edu/~admis/admission/

This is from Edupage and The Chronicle of Higher Education Online, November 27, 2000. Cliff Lynch, the fabulous, director of the Coalition for Networked Information and a frequent speaker in Charleston (thank heavens!), says "public-key infrastructure (PKI) will help universities and other institutions verify identities and control access to online resources. PKI will play a major role in helping academic libraries manage access to online resources."

The awesome Anthony Watkinson (whose dog just delivered a passel of pups) gives us a look at the just ended Frankfurt Book Fair in October. See this issue p.82. More news from Frankfurt: Amazon spoke of the importance of ONIX to both publishers and online booksellers for increasing sales. This is certainly reminiscent of the ONIX panel which we had in Charleston at the 20th Charleston Conference. Visit: http://www.netread.com/onix

Just had a conference call today (12/19/00) with Vicky Speck <vspeck@abcclio.com> (ABC-CLIO) and Rosann Bazirjian <rvb9@psulias.psu.edu> (Penn State) who are compiling the papers from the 20th Charleston Conference! They have already collected over 50 papers. If you haven't sent yours in yet, contact one of them. NOW! Okay? Thanks. And watch this space for more information!

Got a fantastic Christmas letter from the fantabulous Bill Hannay and family (there are five of them!) <whannay@schiffradin.com> this year! Missed him in Charleston this year. Maybe next year?

Did you know that the wonderful Marjorie Bliss is the Manager of Training Services at Endeavor Information Systems for over 11 years.

Gaylord Information Systems (GIS) has named Marty Keeley Vice President, Marketing and Sales, effective November 15. Mr. Keeley has worked in management positions at Ingram Book Group and Baker & Taylor Books.

This was just posted on Serialist as we go to press by Rick Johnson (SPARC): "As you know, Harcourt General recently announced that it has accepted Reed Elsevier's bid to purchase Harcourt. This has given rise to concerns about the potential anti-competitive impact of Reed Elsevier's takeover of journals published by the Worldwide Scientific, Technical, and Medical Group of Harcourt, which includes Academic Press, W.B. Saunders, Mosby, and Churchill Livingstone. I urge you to make your views on the impact of this acquisition known to the US Department of Justice. Thank you for your support." And this is a brief part of a posting on December 11 from Mary Case: "I would like to encourage you to call, write, or e-mail the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice to express your concern with the Reed Elsevier acquisition of Harcourt General. It is critical that we hear from as many customers of these companies as possible about the likely impact this transaction will have on libraries' ability to serve the needs of their students, faculty, and the public. Send your letters to any or all of the following: A. Douglas Melamed, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 3109, 10th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 <antitrust@usdoj.gov>; Fax: 202-616-2645; Susan Edelheit [Manager in charge of the case], Assistant Chief, Civil Task Force, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Suite 300, 325 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004; Fax: 202-514-7308 <susan.edelheit@usdoj.gov>; James Villa [Attorney in charge of the case], Civil Task Force, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Suite 300, 325 Seventh Street, N.W, Washington, DC 20004; 202-514-8361; Fax: 202-514-7308; <james.villa@usdoj.gov>.

According to the Scholarly Communications Report (October 2000), Joel Baron (HealthGate) has been elected the new chair of the International DOI Foundation (IDF), succeeding Charles Ellis. Do you remember Joel from back in the Faxon days?

And speaking of old times, an article in the Wall Street Journal (November 8, p.1) reminded me of Mike Markwith (Swets). The article's about Albert Edward Clarke III and Margaret Wise Brown, his benefactor. Brown wrote many children's books, the most famous among them, Goodnight Moon. ("Runaway Money: A Children's Classic, A 9-Year-Old Boy, And a Fateful Bequest" by Joshua Harris Prager). I remember way back when my daughter Meana was just barely out of the cradle that Mike gave her that book, saying it was one of his favorites to read to his children. Old times. Should old acquaintance be forgot...

Happy New Year!