Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, strauchk@earthlink.net

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From Your (cleaning up) Editor:

It's not quite spring yet but, I want to rush it up since we have had such a horrible winter. So, I have been cleaning up. Everyone around me is amazed. My office at work is clean (for me). My study at home where I work on ATG's clean (ditto). I am even cleaning out my clothes closets and omitting stuff that I can't wear anymore. Hmmm ...

This issue of ATG is on the Retention of Print and is guest-edited by Rosann Bazirjian. We have papers by Tom Peters, John McDonald, Mark Rowe, Don Jaeger, and Robert Alan and Nan Butkovich. There are interviews with independent publisher David Dekker, as well as Rick Lugg and Ruth Fischer's interview with Sara Randall, and Harry Samuels on Open URL Linking, and Bruce Strauch's interview with the Copyright Clearance Center about the Copy Shop Lawsuits. There are People Profiles for two of this issue's authors, Nancy Butkovich and Angela Fuchs as well as profiles for Roger Press and Joe Lee who both have an interview which will appear in the June issue of ATG. Our Publisher Profile this month features Marcel Dekker, Inc. And of course, we have the usual wonderful columns by our ATG regulars like Tom Gilson's From the Reference Desk and Book Reviews from Debbie Vaughn and Heather Miller, a Devil's Advocate by Robert Molynieux, Desperately Seeking Copyright by Edward Colleran and even more on contracts and copyrights in our Legal Issues Section by Bruce Strauch, Bryan Carson and Laura Gasaway. And last but not least, be sure to read Ned Kraft's Adventures in Librarianship way back on p.93; it's sure to be an crowd pleaser.

Gotta get back to the cleaning. My husband just stacked a load of mail on my computer table. In the meanwhile, happy reading and stay safe.

— Yr. Ed. ☺

Letters to the Editor:

Send letters to <strau&ch@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

I was recently reading Mark Herring's "The Future of the Book" issue of ATG (v.14#6, December/January 2003) and that made me think of a couple of great authors who had this to say (below) about reading and books.

Marcel Proust, "Remembrance of Things Past," Vol. III, writes: "... reading teaches us to take a more exalted view of the value of life, a value at the time we did not know how to appreciate and of whose magnitude we have only become aware through the book." and Henry Thoreau, "Walden," in a chapter on "Reading," writes: "To read well, that is, to read true books in a true spirit, is a noble exercise, and one that will task the reader more than any exercise which the customs of the day emphasize. It requires a training such as the athletes underwent, the steady intention almost of the whole life to this object. Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they are written."

I can happily report that every time my wife Linda and I visit our local library, and every time we stop by a nearby Borders Bookstore we see these places filled with a broad spectrum of kids and adults, who are avidly perusing books of all kinds. I'd like to believe that Henry and Marcel would be delighted to see scenes such as this!

All the best,
John Long
(Consultant)
<john-long@worldnet.att.net>

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Edna Laughrey, Ads Manager. Address: 291 Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176; Internet: elaughrey@aol.com; Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax: 734-429-1711.