Future Conference Dates
Hey, are y'all reading this? If you know of an article that should be called to Against the Grain's attention ... send an email to <kstrauch@comcast.net>. We’re listening! — KS

WHO DOESN'T LOVE ANIMAL BOOK?

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) E. B. White, Charlotte’s Web (1952); (2) Wilfrid Blunt, Omar: A Fantasy for Animal Lovers (1966); (3) Joy Adamson, Born Free (1960); (4) Hermann Tilker, A Sloth in the Family (1963); (5) Peter Singer, Animal Liberation (1975).


FROM STETTIN ON THE BALTIC TO TRIESTE ON THE ADRIATIC

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


LITERARY MISSING PERSONS

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Five books on missing persons and absent figures: (1) Virginia Woolf, Moments of Being (1976) (yes, this is a posthumous collection of essays); (2) Kobo Abe, The Woman in the Dunes (1962); Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman, The Decoration of Houses (1897); Percival Everett, Erasure (2001); George Plimpton and Jean Stein, Edie (1982) (Oral biography of Warhol Factory Girl Edie Sedgwick. She’s missing because she’s long dead of an overdose.).

See — Heidi Julavits, “Five Best,” The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 2-3, 2013, p.C10. (Julavits has an interest in the topic, as her fourth novel The Vanishers is out in paperback.)

NOVELS OF LITERARY LIFE

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Let’s read about writer’s block. (1) W.M. Thackeray, Pendennis (1848-1850); (2) George Gissing, New Grub Street (1891); (3) George Orwell, Keep the Aspidistra Flying (1936); (4) Anthony Powell, Books Do Furnish a Room (1971); (5) Nigel Williams, My Life Closed Twice (1977).


CURTAIN CALL FOR KITTY

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Who says you can’t train a cat? Truman Capote’s novella Breakfast at Tiffany’s is being brought to the Broadway stage, and there’s a key role for a stray cat that Holly Golightly refuses to name anything other than “Cat.” In Act II, the cat represents Holly’s spirit and has to scram on cue because they’re “independents, both of us.”

Of course, many auditioned, but only one was chosen. Some froze in the lights, others clawed the trainer and hissed at the director. Only a gray-striped kitten made a true Broadway exit and won the coveted part.


ESPIONAGE TALES

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


Transformation in Acquisitions

Transformation in format is not the only change we collectively face. Nancy Beals addresses adaptive staffing in response to numerous pressures — changes in format preferences and budget reductions, of course, but also changes in the library’s organization. Michael Arthur and Natasha White describe success in finding opportunities for major acquisition initiatives despite budget challenges. And not all transformative thinking involves the newest technology, either: Tiffany Russell shows that some long-ignored gift books and community engagement can reinvigorate the library in surprising ways.

Our work is being transformed in profound ways. How will this transformation in acquisitions impact our future?