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Letters to the Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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Dear Editor,

Re: the debate in April’s issue of ATG between Barry Fast and Judy Webster over the Oxford UP recall controversy, I agree with Barry that we have a moral obligation not to disseminate the plagiarist’s work. However, the primary punishment for and disincentive to plagiarism is found in the law, not in the actions of booksellers and librarians to eliminate the market for the plagiarist’s work. Since Oxford was making a moral appeal for the return of the book, it had an obligation to provide librarians and booksellers with enough information to make a moral decision. The very recall of the book was a clear admission of a serious copyright problem and some culpability on Oxford’s part. I can scarcely see where being a bit more forthright in the recall could have added to Oxford’s liability. I agree with Judy’s assessment that Oxford should have supported its request for return of the book with more information.

Glen Secor
Yankee Book Peddler, Inc.

Dear Editor:

The February issue of ATG was an especially variegated and useful one. Kudos to you and all contributors.

The one item, though, that I could have done without was the recommendation to “look at” pictures of Maxwell’s autopsy, “in full color” no less (p. 18).

While there may be something of a voyeurism in much of human-kind, clearly the pages of ATG shouldn’t have to feed such urges.

With best wishes,
Helmut Schwarzer
Yankee Book Peddler

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From Your Editor

Notice of Error in the February Issue

There was an error in the February issue of ATG, v.31 #1 (page 26). In the VCH Publisher Profile, it was INCORRECTLY stated that the Institution of Chemical Engineers, UK, was recently purchased by VCH. It was the Academic Group, London, which was recently purchased by VCH. The Profile should have read as follows:

Other publishers and institutions, also recognizing the efficiency and success of VCH’s marketing and sales activities have turned to VCH to market their products. These companies include Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, the Canadian Society of Chemistry, and the Institution of Chemical Engineers, UK, as well as two architecture companies, Ernst and Sohn, Berlin and the Academy Group, London which was recently purchased by VCH.

We apologize for this error.
Yr. Ed.

From Your Editor

Publishers will laugh and nod smugly when I say that putting together this newsletter, or whatever you call it, doesn’t get any easier. It’s a full time job! Anyway and in any case, it’s still fun. And it simply would not be possible without ALL of you, the subscribers, and the contributors, and the advertisers.

You might notice that this issue is missing some of the regular columns. Usually, this isn’t because I didn’t get a column, but because there was so much great stuff to print! But, not to worry, you will still see the columns — all of them in the next issue. Right now, I’m just trying to scrape together the bucks to continue on page 12