

November 2013

International Dateline

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Recommended Citation

Secor, Glen M. (1994) "International Dateline," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 6: Iss. 2, Article 11.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1463>

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wrecked havoc with my library.

Mr. Paine (the owner) was in ill health and did not always come into the store. In fall he was confined to bed and told by his doctor to forget his business for awhile. Unbeknownst to the M.D. and to Mrs. Paine, however, he bribed a nurse and had a telephone installed under his bed. This was so he could check on business from Winnetka. Though he surely knew that the 25 miles between home and store could make a great deal of difference in the weather, that did not keep him from calling the store when it rained in Winnetka to make sure that we had brought the books in.

The Madison Street branch was located next to the old Brevort Hotel. During the fall of 1933 the New Deal affected the repeal of the Volstead Act — Prohibition. The hotel had a beautiful Crystal Circle Bar which had been unused for nearly fifteen years. It's hard to describe the celebration that went on in

Chicago's Loop that night but I remember my first drink of legal booze. It wasn't nearly as much fun as sneaking a shot of Kansas moonshine! Nearby was a gymnasium which was a hangout for famous wrestlers and ball players. I remember King Levinsky and other boxers like him. Local and out-of-town fans would get into an argument about some statistic or other. They would wind up at the bar and the argument still wasn't settled. Someone would say, "I'll settle that," and send someone over to the bookstore to get a copy of Farroll's *Famous Prizefighters* which would settle the bets. Later the copy would come back to the bookstore on a tray with a couple of Old Fashions. I've never been able to stand one since!

That about finishes year one. In September 1934 the Economy branch was closed and I started at Wilcox and Follett, the wholesaler of textbooks. ☞



International Dateline

Section Editor: **Glen M. Secor, J.D.** (Yankee Book Peddler, Inc.)

A note from the Section Editor —

I received only one contribution for this issue, that being from Liz Chapman, our U.K. correspondent. Many thanks to Liz. Some of our other correspondents have promised to come through for the next issue. Still, we need more sources. If you know someone from outside the U.S. who would like to contribute to this column, or if you come across news items of international significance which you think should be shared here, please get in touch with me. You can reach me at Yankee Book Peddler, Inc., 999 Maple Street, Contoocook, NH 03229. Fax: 603-746-5628. Email: gsecor@office.ybp.com.

FOLLETT REPORT ON U.K. HIGHER EDUCATION IS RELEASED

by **Liz Chapman**

OXFORD, U.K. — The hot topic in U.K. higher education libraries is the publication of the Follett Report. This report, set up by joint funding councils for Higher Education (representing the four countries of the U.K.), set out to look at the state of libraries in Higher Education. The impetus behind the report was concern over the implications of recent growth in undergraduate student numbers ("pile 'em high, teach 'em cheap"). Other trends and issues necessitating the report include the funding of universities on their ratings and research records, the nature of universities since the Polytechnics became Universities virtually overnight, book and periodical prices, copyright issues, and the growing convergence of libraries and university computing services.

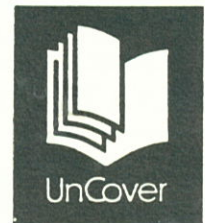
This is the first such big report since 1967 and has been well-received in most places. Universities are now getting their acts together in order to bid for some of the millions which are recommended for sharing out. The report contains forty-six or so specific recommendations in the following areas — information strategies, spending on libraries, performance indicators, staffing, purchasing, quality assessment, space management, the needs of researchers, copyright, networking, electronic documents, databases, training, and library management systems. This is a welcome recognition of some of the problems facing U.K. university libraries and provides hope that some will be addressed.

Note: See reports of some international meetings in And They Were There, this issue, page 27. ☞

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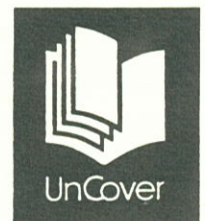
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