

June 1996

Letter from Oklahoma

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Recommended Citation

Leonhardt, Tom (1996) "Letter from Oklahoma," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 8: Iss. 3, Article 29.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.1920>

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Letter from Oklahoma

I Left My Heart in New York City

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It is that time of year again. Midwinter was held just yesterday and tomorrow (or so it seems), I leave for New York and Annual Conference. I will have to be in New York for a full week because of LITA business. We hope to be interviewing candidates for the position of LITA Executive Director. I am on the search committee. I will be there from July 4 until July 11. I am not complaining but I know from past experience that I will be ready to come home on July 5.

Having noted that reservation for the record, let me hasten to add a note of cheer. As long as I have to be at an Annual Conference that long, there are worse places to be than New York City and very few places better if you want things to do while not in meetings. Unless you live in Los Angeles, you probably aren't going to find as many newly released films as you will have available in NYC, and as for revivals, New York is the place to be. The same can be said for music clubs, places where you can go to listen to good music, perhaps having a drink or two, perhaps having something to eat. But you will find musicians and fellow listeners who understand the value of live, intimate music played for those who understand it and cherish it — the musicians themselves and their educated listeners. No matter what kind of music you like, you will find something during your stay for Annual Conference. Invest in a copy of the current *New Yorker* magazine before you arrive and your biggest problem will be deciding what to do.

William Morris Centenary Celebration

You will have to go to London to enjoy the William Morris Centenary exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum but if not, and if you are going to New York City (ALA or bust), please note that the Pierpont Morgan Library will have three Morris exhibitions in honor of his centenary: "Being William Morris: A Centenary Exhibition"; Morris's Medieval Manuscripts, from May 8 to September 1; and "Pre-Raphaelite Drawings: The Art of the Book and Beyond," from May 1 to September 1.

Manhattan Spiritual — All the News That's Fit To Print Centennial Department

Another centennial is being celebrated in New York this year. The *New York Times* has

been around more than 100 years but it was just a hundred years ago that Adolph S. Ochs bought the *NY Times* and began turning it into a world class newspaper with its famous slogan, "All the News That's Fit to Print," that appears in a box just to the left of the front page banner. This slogan turns 100 years old in October, the same month that the *NY Times Book Review* turns 100 (*The New York Times Magazine* is a month older). In honor of the slogan, *The New York Times on The Web* will hold a contest to select a slogan for its cyberspace edition. Hmmm? All the zeros and ones that are fit to digitize? Keep trying. You can do better than that.

My Sunday issue is printed in Texas (Texans don't cotton much to things from New York City) but it is still the *New York Times*. *The Dallas Morning News* has more sports coverage and lots of funnies (*The Times* has no funnies unless you count "Views: A Portfolio From Around the Nation," a selection of political cartoons each Sunday on the last page of "Week in Review.") but it takes many of its more newsworthy stories from the *New York Times*. In other words, if you are going to import something from New York City into Texas, make it news and not salsa.

Texas may not celebrate Ochs but New York will do so with three exhibits that open to the public on June 26, just in time for ALA attendees to enjoy. The exhibits will run into the fall. The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) will feature "Scientists and Journalists — One Story, Two Voices: A Century of Science Reporting in the *New York Times*." Featured are more than one dozen critical finds including the discovery of "Java Man" [No, for you Web Crawlers, this has nothing to do with the World Wide Web.] in the 1890s and the discovery of the early hominid specimen nicknamed "Lucy." The exhibit hours are 10 a.m.—5:45 p.m. daily except Friday and Saturday open until 8:45 p.m. Admission: \$7.00 (suggested, adults), \$4.00 (suggested, children), \$5.00 (suggested, seniors). Web address: <<http://www.amnh.org>> (opens summer 1996). AMNH is located at Central Park West at 79th Street. (212) 769-5100.

The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) features "Pictures of the Times: A Century of Photography from *The New York Times*." This exhibit will feature 150 *New York Times* photographs taken from an archive of more than 17 million. Included are photos of the fire at The Sherry Netherland Hotel in New York (1927), the launching of the Queen Mary

(1934), a longshoremen's strike (1951), and a group of screaming Beatles fans (1964). "Pictures of the Times" also features a book by the same title, in which all of the photographs in the exhibition are reproduced. The exhibit hours are 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Saturday—Tuesday; 12:00 noon—8:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; Closed Wednesday. Admission: \$8.50 (adults), \$5.50 (full-time students with ID and senior citizens 65+ years), free (MOMA members and children under 16 years accompanied by an adult), pay-what-you-wish (Thursday and Friday 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. Web address: <<http://www.moma.org>> MOMA is located at 11 West 53d Street. (212) 708-9480.

The New York Public Library's (NYPL) exhibit is titled "Headlines, Deadlines: *The New York Times* Morgue, 1896-1996." This exhibit will feature stories such as the sinking of the Titanic, Lindbergh's transatlantic flight, the abdication of Edward VII, and the publication of *Ulysses*. These stories come from a morgue of more than 22 million clippings. The exhibit hours are 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; 11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday; Closed Sunday. Admission: FREE Web address: <<http://www.nypl.org>> The NYPL is located at Fifth Avenue and 42d Street. Call (212) 869-8089 for exhibitions listings.

"Documenting the Times: Adolph S. Ochs and the Early Years of *The New York Times*," is the name of the exhibition at The Pierpont Morgan Library (Morgan). This exhibition features approximately 30 letters, manuscripts, and photographs from the early years of the newspaper, and it will be located in the Library's historic East Room, Pierpont Morgan's original library. The exhibit hours are 10:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Tuesday—Friday; 10:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m., Saturday; 12 noon—6:00 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday. Admission: \$5.00 (suggested), \$3.00 (suggested, students and seniors). The Morgan has no Web address. It is located at 29 East 36th Street. Call (212) 685-0610 for recorded information.

And just for the record, you can visit *The New York Times* Web Site at <<http://www.nytimes.com>>

I'll see you in New York City and, please, don't forget to visit the ALA exhibits in the Javits Convention Center. Stop at as many booths as you can and tell them Groucho sent you. 🐼