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For Readers Only

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For Readers Only

by Tom Leonhardt (University of Oklahoma)

With this issue we are instituting a new feature called "For Readers Only." The idea is to devote a page of each issue of *Against the Grain* to books. The individual theme will vary, infinitely, we hope, but the common line will be books, authors, genres, languages, countries, characters. You get the idea. Suggestions for themes are welcomed. We would like to provide some mystery, too, to keep you interested and reading, so a quiz will generally be included as part of this page for readers only.

We want to encourage non-required reading, reading that is nourishment for the soul, refreshing in the summer when it sizzles and warming in the winter when it drizzles.

The theme for this issue is the sea. This will help you solve the quiz that follows. If you are familiar with German, you know that "See" has two watery meanings. Depending on the article used, it can mean sea or lake. Lake Constance, for example, is Der Bodensee in German.

The sea as a theme is more to the point than trout fishing is to Richard Brautigan's book, *Trout Fishing in America*, but it is a superficial theme that provides a platform (floating?) for the authors to launch rather long discourses on the meaning of life.

These three books have long been favorites of mine. I had read each of them at least twice before reading them once again over the past holiday season. Each book seems to have improved with age, like fine read wines. I was reminded, too, that each of these books qualify for my "Reading as a Subversive Activity" list.

Can you name these books and their authors from the excerpts below? Two of the books are non-fiction works by famous authors, but only one of the books is famous. One author is of this century, one is from the 19th century. The work of fiction is from the 20th century and was written by a not-so-famous author praised for his works about the sea.

THE EXCERPTS:

A. "How does one organize an expedition: what equipment is taken, what sources read; what are the little dangers and the large ones?"

B. "The sun is but a morning star."

C. "Be master of yourself. The world is not an oyster to be opened, but quicksand to be passed. If you have wings you can fly over it, if not you may — yes, yes, I am coming now, my dear! — you may quite possibly be sucked in."

"A" is the first sentence in the body in the body of the work and follows some preliminary matter. "B" is the last sentence of another work, and "C" is part of a speech delivered by a bookseller to a young man. The speech inspires the young man to give up everything and go off to sea.

Please send your answers to me via e-mail <tom@libadm.lib.uoknor.edu>, fax (405/325-7550), or USPS (University of Oklahoma, Bizzell Memorial Library, 401 W. Brooks, Norman, OK 73019-0528).

There is a prize for the first correct answer. A drawing will be held should there be a tie. Good luck! 🐾

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journals, the 37 IDS databases are focused files and fit specific market segments." This arrangement signifies new opportunities both for Information Providers to publish additional data electronically and for subscribers who will now have electronic access, via the SPIRS interface, to information that was previously unavailable or with limited availability.

The Rutter Group and West Launch Desktop Continuing Education for Lawyers

California lawyers will soon be able to earn Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) credit from the convenience of their offices, homes, or anywhere that they have access to a computer, using multimedia technology. The Rutter Group and West Publishing announced that a new California-specific multimedia MCLE product is being tested in that state. First available for attorney testing in West's

Information Centers in December, this new multimedia product is designed to help busy attorneys manage the time demands associated with fulfilling state mandated MCLE requirements. The initial multimedia product offered for testing is based on The Rutter Group's *Survival Skills in U.S. District Court* seminar. Using West's technical expertise for CD-ROM technology and The Rutter Group's MCLE content, this product integrates audio and visual clips from live Rutter Group seminars, program hypotheticals, featured Rutter Group practice guide sections, and referenced cases and codes that include West's editorial enhancements. The Rutter Group and West have agreed to waive fees for test participants who will qualify for 3-hours of MCLE credit. Long term plans include offering a full-line of Rutter Group continuing education seminars to the attorney desktop in this multimedia CD-ROM format. For more information about this technology or to participate in the testing of this product at one of the California West Information Center locations, call Jennifer Moire or Linda Heines at 1-800-778-8090. 🐾

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to both the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) MeSH database and a site's own catalog via the Unicorn client. George Washington University's Himmelfarb Health Science Library is one of the first sites to use the product.

From OCLC:

- OCLC has announced that Puvill Libros S.A., based in Barcelona, Spain, has agreed to contribute its unique database of Spanish titles to the OCLC Online Union Catalog in early 1996. Approximately 15,600 bibliographic records will be added initially, and some 400 records will be sent to OCLC each week to update the database. The records are in US MARC format and will be available to PRISM users, in the WorldCat database, and on EPIC. OCLC also tells us that cataloging records for European Union publications will be added to

the Online Union Catalog. The agreement between the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (EUR-OP) and OCLC will launch a one-year pilot project in 1996. This project is in response to a proposal from EUROLIB, the cooperative group of European institutional libraries. Following a technical assessment by OCLC of EUR-OP catalog records, a date will be agreed upon for the creation of a EUROLIB/EUR-OP resource file which will be accessible via the OCLC PRISM service. EUROLIB catalogers will upgrade the records to full OCLC records. During the first year pilot, 2,500 records are expected to be added. At the end of the pilot, EUR-OP, EUROLIB, and OCLC will assess the impact of the project.

- OCLC also recently announced that their FirstSearch and EPIC services now offer the EBSCOMags database from EBSCO Publishing. Featuring abstracts and indices from more than 2,300 periodicals and ASCII fulltext online from more than 1,000 of those periodicals, EBSCOMags is the fourth database on FirstSearch and EPIC to support fulltext online. 🐾