June 2009

Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected By Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Bruce Strauch

The Citadel, strauchb@citadel.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Strauch, Bruce (2009) "Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected By Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 21: Iss. 3, Article 28.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2328>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Editor's Note: 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**

KNEE-SLAPPER SOUTHERN NOVELS

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Roy Blount lists his top five in the Southern humor category: (1) *As I Lay Dying*, by **William Faulkner**; (2) *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by **Mark Twain**; (3) *Satchmo* by **Louis Armstrong**; (4) *Flannery O'Connor: Collected Works*; (5) *Norwood* by **Charles Portis**.

Yes, numbers (1) and (4) gave you a double-take. But **Blount** says "[t]he best of Southern humor is inextricable from the blues, desperation, alligators, lust, irrational politics, whiskey and all the other basics of life."

See — **Roy Blount Jr.**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 11-12, 2009, p. W8.

NORDIC SLEUTHS

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

PBS "Masterpiece Mystery" is carrying the **Kurt Wallander** series about a detective of angst, ills and total alienation from society. He is the creation of Swedish author **Henning Mankell** and keeps company on the bookshelves with **Hakan Nesser's** Swedish Inspector **Van Veeteren**, **Arnaldur Indridason's** Icelandic Inspector **Erlunder Sveinsson**, and **Jo Nesbo's** Norse Detective **Harry Hole**.

And all these are descendants of the married Swedish authors **Maj Sjöwall** and **Per Wahlöö's** ten titles with Inspector **Martin Beck**. They created the model for a Swedish police procedural replete with social criticism of society.

Sweden is so small that they made little money until translated into German and other languages. *The Laughing Policeman* was made into an American movie but resituated in San Francisco.

See — **Tom Nolan**, "Crime Novels in a Cold Place," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 28, 2009, p.D8.

RIDING OUT THE RECESSION IN COLLEGE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Administrators have long fretted about the mass retirements of boomer business professors. They worry no longer as a rotten economy has students rushing into Ph.D. programs. Applications at **Wharton** are up 34%. Five of the applicants are refugees from the **Lehman Brothers** disaster.

See — **Alison Damast** and **Ben Levisohn**, "The Doctorate Is In," *Business Week*, June 1, 2009, p.015.

DONALD DUCK DOES GOETHE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

The French groove on **Jerry Lewis**, but the Germans are ga-ga over **Donald Duck**. While the drawings are the familiar **Carl Bark's** creation, the richness and complexity of the German **Donald** is derived from the German translations which include grammatically complex sentences, philosophical musings, and quotes from **Goethe**, **Schiller**, **Hölderlin** and even a cat singing **Wagner**.

And of course, **Uncle Scrooge** (or **Dagobert Duck**) is irresistible to leftists who see him as the "prototype of the monocapitalist" with **Donald** as a prole and nephews **Tick Trick** and **Track** as "socialist youth" well on their way to being "proper Communists."

Donald is published in Germany by **Ehapa** and **Egmont Horizont**, subsidiaries of the Denmark-based media group **Egmont**, a **Disney** licensee. The improved dialogue is the handiwork of **Erika Fuchs**, a Ph.D. in art history.

Egmont Horizont has published a lavish 8,000-page German **Donald Duck** collector's edition with a price tag of \$1,900. Its 3,333 copies are sold out.

See — **Susan Bernofsky**, "Why Donald Duck Is the Jerry Lewis of Germany," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 23-24, 2009, p.W3.

AH FRANCE, THE LAND OF INTELLECTUAL VANITY

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Louis XIII wanted to put the literary set under state supervision so he created the **Academy Druon** and told them to create a dictionary, gave them a Louvre apartment and 40 goose quills. In no hurry, they produced the first edition for **Louis XIV** after 60 years of labor.

The eighth edition came out in 1935. The ninth is now up to the letter M after a mere 75 years. Meanwhile, the latest 20-volume OED came out in seven years.

And so the French Academy goes on, replete with tailored tailcoats designed by **Napoleon** and ceremonial épées each marked with symbols from the bearer's life and accomplishments.

No academic degrees are required and everyone — ecclesiastics, farmers, secretaries of the Communist Party cells, streets cleaners — desperately wishes to belong.

And what a great quote:

"The French love nothing so much as the superfluous. No wonder the Academy is their only institution to survive nearly 375 years of monarchy, revolution, empire, humiliating military defeats, and five constitutions."

See — **Joseph Harris**, "The Most Exclusive Club in Paris," *The American Spectator*, June, 2009, p.58. 🐱

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

Preconferences and
Vendor Showcase Main Conference

2009 Conference	4 November	5-7 November
2010 Conference	3 November	4-6 November
2011 Conference	2 November	3-5 November
2012 Conference	7 November	8-10 November