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From the Other Side of the Street — Time to Hit the Books

by **Thomas Bacher** <bacher@purdue.edu>

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I don't know about you, but autumn always makes me think about the past and about the future. Maybe this phenomena is based on my early upbringing in Duluth, Minnesota where there were only two seasons—winter which lasted from September through May and bug season which took up the other three months. (Prehistoric mosquitoes are still alive and well on the shores of Lake Superior. Some families have gone for overnight camping trips without ever returning.) So when those first snows and dips in temperature invaded the Zenith city, I was concerned that our supplies might not last until the Spring thaw. It was a time to ponder. Autumn is also a time to begin again. Universities throughout the country see a grand influx of fresh and not-so-fresh faces. Hopes ride high as turning leaves overshadow the steel sky grayness with vibrant patches of activity. In the spirit of learning anew, I searched the diverse course catalogs of many hallowed and not so prominent universities and colleges to discover the best offerings for the library and publishing communities.

Librarianese for the Non-librarian. Instructor William Safire. Interdisciplinary 305. Especially designed for information product

developers, publishers and faculty members. Prerequisite: Must be over the age of reason. This sophisticated course is a discovery in entomology. Learn to decipher Library of Congress acronyms. Learn why discharge is not a bad term outside of the Oval office. Find out why circulation has nothing to do with your blood system or why Boolean is not something you drop into boiling water. Not intended for the serious library major.

It's Legal. It's for Librarians. Instruction Team: Johnny Cochran, F. Lee Bailey, and Jerry Spence with a special lecture by Kenneth Starr on "If you lie to Elsevier, is that perjury?" Law S121. This innovative course takes librarians on a legal journey through contracts and licensing agreements. Prerequisite: Several viewings of "Ally McBeal," "The Practice," or "Perry Mason." Learn the difference between content fee and access fee. Get pointers on why to ask the question "Why?" three times when one of your vendors asserts that all information costs must escalate at 8—10 % annually. Discover innovative techniques on how to really count the number of authorized users at your institution. Even though examples are derived from actual case work, the legal team dis-

avows all knowledge of wrongdoing or impropriety. Students must sign a release waiver before classes begin.

Publishing for the New Generation. Instructor: HALL 10,000. CompSci 2001. Get into the mind of the next generation of information providers. Prerequisite: All students must have read: Kidder, *The Soul of a New Machine*; Heinlein, *Stranger in a Strange Land*; and Gates, *The Road Ahead*. HALL 10,000, developed by Microsoft as a replacement for everybody, synthesizes all global knowledge and ports it to one location. The system is paired with a dynamic print imaging system to produce bound copies of personalized books in minutes. Use up-to-date search techniques to construct a document (current limit 224 pages) that

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SC Bestsellers from page 64

Dash, Julie. *Daughters of the Dust*. Dutton 1997 \$24.95 Cloth 0525941096

Poston, Jonathan, 1954- *Buildings of Charleston: A Guide to the City's Architecture*. U South Carolina Pr 1997 \$39.95 Cloth 1570032025

Crucible of Carolina: Essays in the Development of Gullah Language and Culture; Ed. by Michael Montgomery. Univ of Georgia Press 1994 \$50.00 Cloth 0820316237

Cothran, James R., 1940- *Gardens of Historic Charleston*. U South Carolina Press 1995 \$39.95 Cloth 1570030049

Carolina's *Historical Landscapes: Archaeological Perspectives*; Ed. by Linda F. Stine. Univ of Tennessee Press 1997 \$45.00 Cloth 0870499769

Heriot, M. Jean, 1954- *Blessed Assurance: Beliefs, Actions, and the Experience of Salvation in a Carolina Baptist Church*.

Univ of Tennessee Press 1994 \$34.50 Cloth 0870498509

Baldwin, Cinda K. *Great & Noble Jar: Traditional Stoneware of South Carolina*. Univ of Georgia Press 1993 \$39.95 Cloth 0820313718

Olwell, Robert, B. 1960- *Masters, Slaves, & Subjects: The Culture of Power in The South Carolina Low Country, 1740-1790*. Cornell Univ Press 1998 \$49.95 Cloth 0801434882

Clarke, Erskine, 1941- *Our Southern Zion: A History of Calvinism in the South Carolina Low Country, 1690-1990*. Univ of Alabama Press 1996 \$44.95 Cloth 0817307575

Religion in South Carolina; Ed. by Charles H. Lippy. U South Carolina Pr 1993 \$24.95 Cloth 0872498913

King, Susan Petigru, 1824-1875. *Gerald Gray's Wife and Lily: A Novel*. Duke Univ Press 1993 \$49.95 Cloth 082231407x

McCandless, Peter. *Moonlight, Magnolias, and Madness: Insanity in South*

Carolina from the Colonial Period to the Progressive Era. U North Carolina Press 1996 \$55.00 Cloth 0807822515

Dove, Rita. *Darker Face of the Earth: A Verse Play*. Story Line Press 1994 \$10.95 Paper 0934257744

Snowden, Yates, 1858-1933. *Two Scholarly Friends: Yates Snowden-John Bennett Correspondence, 1902-1932*; Ed. by Mary Crow Anderson. U South Carolina Pr 1993 \$29.95 Cloth 0872499618

Rowland, Lawrence S. *History of Beaufort County, South Carolina; v. 1: 1514-1861*. U South Carolina Pr 1996 \$39.95 Cloth 1570030901

Griffin, James B. *"A Gentleman and an Officer": A Military and Social History of James B. Griffin's Civil War*; Ed. by J.N. McArthur. Oxford Univ Press 1996 \$35.00 Cloth 0195093119

Churches of Charleston and the Low Country; Ed. by Mary Moore Jacoby. U South Carolina Pr 1994 \$34.95 Cloth 0872498883

Other Side of the Street from page 66

can cover anthropological implication of red ants in the Andes or zoospore distribution in inner city America. No skills necessary, ever again.

Where Have All the Shelves Gone: Storage in an Era of Virtual Space. Instructor: David Copperfield. Art 321. Prerequisite: A rabbit and a hat. Taught by the magician extraordinaire, this workshop provides the novice with a set of basic techniques to make ranges, shelves and even floors of books vanish into thin air and reappear at the fifty-yard line of your institution's football stadium at half-time of the big homecoming game. Learn to levitate whole volumes of the heaviest (in terms of isotopes) serials and drop them into the Dean's office whose star professor uses this information at least once every two years. Also, discover innovative sight gags that allow you to turn promises into monetary reality. Recommended for deans and department heads.

The Dark Side of Publishing. Instructor: Jamaal Swinerind (pseudonym). Lit 333. Prerequisite: Confession or similar activity. See instructor for approval. A definitive and intensive survey by a once top publishing executive who is now in the Federal Witness Protection Program, this distance-learning course will answer all of the following questions. 1. Why do publishers charge at least twice as much for cloth titles when they only cost a few dollars more than a paper edition? 2. Why do publishers rely solely on institutions to support their serial publications? 3. Do publishers really know what WIPO is? 4. What is the difference between profit margin and profit mania? No cameras or recording devices will be allowed.

Customer Service: Who Needs It? Instructor: to be announced. ConsumerSci 900. Prerequisite: Some knowledge of dental tools. Primarily aimed at the Reference librarian, this course asks the question "What if?" Participants will be presented with the "no customer" scenario (i.e. what if you had a library and no one came). Tasks will include beating boredom by completing the *Sunday New York Times*' crossword puzzle, preventing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome by using antiquated techniques to search the Web, deciding on how many times your phone should ring before you pick it up, and using creative ways to say that it's just not your job.

Surveillance and Security. Instructor: Jane Reno. CriminalJust 486. Prerequisite: No criminal record. As library walls "come tumbling down" and self-service innovation eliminates jobs, take the first step toward a new career. Drawing on her vast knowledge of crisis situations, Reno provides ten key, core skills for use in finding employment in the high-paying security field. Learn how to operate a concealed camera, to record even your closest friends' phone conversations, and to get in the "back door" of almost any computer system. Transform yourself into a sleuth

with the flair of Bond, the guile of Mata Hari, and the cunning of Kim Philby. Enrollment limited. Sign up now! Call 1-800-GET-REAL.

Oregon Trails from page 76

There are just a couple more items left to mention, both associated with a book collector and a bookseller who is still very much alive and very active, a true bibliographer, too, who has more book stories than *Aesop* had fables. I don't know how these two keepsake books got separated from the others that are on a bookshelf in my office at work, a reminder of a librarian's roots, but they did. I am glad that they ended up in this particular box of books with good memories and associations but sad reminders of book people no longer with us except in spirit.

The two keepsake books in this magical box were New Year's gifts from **Blackwell's**, selected by **John J. Walsdorf** and mailed under his signature. Jack collects many authors and genres but he is best known for his interest in **William Morris**, so it was no surprise when the 1990 keepsake was *William Morris: Master Printer* by **Frank Colebrook** with an introduction by

William S. Peterson. The book was designed by **Neil Shaver** at the **Yellow Barn Press** (Council Bluffs, Iowa) and has woodcuts by **John DePol**. Showing Jack's range of bibliographical interests, the 1992 keepsake was *My Two Oxfords* by the Mississippi writer **Willie Morris**. Again, the book was designed by **Neil Shaver**, printed by the **Yellow Barn Press**, and illustrated with wood engravings by **John DePol**.

There is an old country song called "Hillbilly Heaven." If you don't know the song—it has been recorded by several singers—it is a tribute to some of the great country singers of all time going back to the **Carter Family**, **Jimmie Rogers**, and so on. As the names of these revered singers are recited, the singer adds his or her own name to it and then wakes up. If I dreamed I was in **Booklover Heaven**, all those associated with the books in this one box would be there and I hope that when the roll call is sounded, I will wake up and know that my bibliographic entry, and Jack's, still have open dates.

Papa Lyman from page 78

p.135 of this work that the "great" 9th may be used "profitably" etc? I haven't had my hands on a 9th or even an 11th for years but I'll wager that Sheehy's advice is still valid.

As I remember it, the *Century Encyclopedia* was the most used. It's been so long since I've seen a *Century* I can't give a proper bibliographic description of it—it's even gone from my Wilson's Cumulative Book Index 1928-1932... Of course we had sets of the *Complete Works of...* (famous authors). My friend **Cliff Hillegass** had not come out with his *Cliff's Notes* until many years later—1958.

We were also fortunate to have a better than average public library, named **Beck-Bookman Library**. It was not then a publicly funded library—The Beck family, contemporaries and peers of **William Allen White**, a leading Kansas newspaper publisher, were the prime supporters along with several "literary" clubs.

Now that I'm started on the subject I'll include more about Kansas public libraries in my story about the Ellis Collection—next time.

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