From Your (cleaning up) Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain, strauchk@earthlink.net
Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strau@earthlink.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:
I was recently reading Mark Herring’s “The Future of the Book” issue of ATG (v.14#6, December/January 2003) and that made me think about a couple of great authors who had this to say (below) about reading and books.

Marcel Proust, “Remembrance of Things Past,” Vol. III, writes: “... reading teaches us to take a more excited view of the value of life, a value at the time we did not know how to appreciate and of whose magnitude we have only become aware through the book.” And Henry Thoreau, “Walden,” in a chapter on “Reading,” writes: “To read well, that is, to read true books a true spirit, is a noble exercise, and one that will make the reader more than any exercise which the customs of the day esteem. It requires a training such as the athletes underwent, a steady intention almost of the whole life to this object. Books must be read as deliberately and reservedly as they are written.”

I can happily report that every time my wife Linda and I visit our local library, and every time we stop by a nearby Borders Bookstore we see these places filled with a broad spectrum of kids and adults, who are avidly perusing books of all kinds. I’d like to believe that Henry and Marcel would be delighted to see scenes such as this!

All the best,
John Long
(Consultant)
<john-long@worldnet.att.net>

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