Lost in Austin

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5. Association for Advanced Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Also known as “International Association for Management Education:” www.aacsb.edu.


Regional accrediting bodies


International accrediting bodies

1. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. www.unesco.org. UNESCO’s guiding “Generally Accepted Accreditation Principles” provide overarching standards for program approval and recognition around the world. Every country and region of the world has its own accrediting bodies with autonomy within their own countries. Often these accrediting bodies operate outside the auspices of Royal Charters and/or Ministries of Education respectively and never actually use the term “accreditation.”

2. UNESCO’s search engine: A simple search of the UNESCO portal for “accreditation” (limited to “Education” among search options) will yield a vast range of documents about international standards and individual countries’ accreditation standards.

III. Pulling it all together

Armed with these strategies and assessment tools mentioned above, any library can be “on the campus map” when accreditation visits loom and new academic programs are started. Through open collaboration across campus and innovative enlistment of technology and projectspecific Websites and materials-selection tools, establishing library collections for new programs and supporting accreditation needs can be positive, nonintimidating, and enjoyable.

Lost in Austin

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My first Charleston Conference was in 1981 and until this month (I am writing this in November 2003), my most recent was in 1996. The conference has grown and changed over the years, but if you want to meet and converse with colleagues (librarians, booksellers, publishers, and their ilk) who are engaged in their profession, it is still the place to be in the fall of each year.

I remember how small the gathering was in 1981 and how much of the talk was about rare books and special collections and someone was even pricing out-of-print (or at least old) books and my talk was special collections. I don’t remember who was pricing the books. Was it Jake Chernofsksy of AB Bookman’s Weekly fame? He was there. I remember quite well because he kindly agreed to publish my paper, one that was fun to write and that reflected my appreciation for special collections in libraries.

Twenty-two years later, I was back and again involved in a very bookish aspect of librarianship, out-of-print procurement. The thread that connects the two meetings and my involvement in them is that the programs involved what used to be called bookmen, a term that wasn’t even accurate back then. Women

have long been involved in the used and antiquarian book trade both as buyers and sellers.

Jack Waldorf and I shared the stage during our late morning program. Jack had convinced me that the program’s proximity to lunch and a similar topic for the Lively Lunch session that immediately followed it in time and place, and half of the presenters, guaranteed that we would have no more than two or three people in the audience. He was wrong, of course, and glad of it. We filled the room with more than two dozen people wanting to know more about acquiring out-of-print books. As it turned out, Narda and Peter Tafuri, the other half of the Lively Lunch panel, were in the audience and the others were also inclined to stay longer to extend our discussion about rare and out-of-print books in general, passing to go fetch the box lunches.

What a great time. We each had our own experiences with Narda and I from the acquisitions librarian side of the fence, Peter from the book seller side, and Jack representing bookseller and collector, but what made it such a great time was the talk about books, condition, price, and value.

The best was yet to come. That evening about

continued on page 83
Lost in Austin
from page 82

50 of us gathered for drinks — good wine, good beer — and a lowcountry dinner and then enjoyed some after dinner theater that was worth the price of admission even without the food and drink. The one-man show was called “The Book Lovers’ Road Show” and the star was Jack Walsdorf.

I have known Jack for more than 20 years and I know what a great and knowledgeable collector he is but I didn’t know that he was a showman, too, and a darn good showman, and his presentation in Charleston was an abbreviated version of his usual act. I need to see the whole thing one day and pretty soon.

Basically, people in the audience bring books that they value for one reason or another and Jack appraises them, much as they do on the television show about antiques. The difference is that after Jack estimates a book’s value, someone standing by looks the book up on ABE/ALIBRIS and sees how close Jack was. Sounds pretty boring doesn’t it? But you would be wrong that Jack is not boring and his stories and presentation are witty, funny, informative, and entertaining.

During the conference, Jack and I each visited Boomer’s Books on King Street, the difference being that he visited the store twice and bought something, I visited only once for an hour and found nothing of interest by the authors I collect. I did, however, get a good deal on a used mandolin at George’s Pawn and Music Store, also on King Street, a little farther down towards the water and on the other side of the street. It wasn’t a total loss.

You cantell that it doesn’t take much to make me happy. Besides the book talks, there were a couple of meals with colleagues that did not necessarily limit conversation to books and there was lots walking, too, in a city that was built for people and not automobiles.

While I was in Charleston, Austin was celebrating its annual Texas Book Festival so I missed it on that and had to turn down a ticket to the gala dinner that is held with each conference. I will stay in Austin next fall (unless the dates do not conflict) and hope for another offer, but I don’t want to wait another seven years before returning to Charleston and the Charleston Conference.

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Talk of the Trade

by Barry Fast (Deltabooks, 186 Cross Street, City Island, NY 10464; Phone: 718-885-9563) <barry0112@aol.com>

Hey Honey, Let’s Go To The Orbium Phonographicorum
Thea After We Load The Escariorum Lavator

“There’s still life out there,” announced Rev. Claudio Rossini, director of the Libreria Editrice Vaticana, upon the publication of the new modern Latin-Italian dictionary. To prove his point, the previous edition, in two volumes, covering the letters A to L and M to Z, was a “liber venditissimus,” a blockbuster best seller to you Latin-challenged readers. In fact, it has sold out, so this new edition, at $115 a pop, has a whopping 500,000 copy print run.

Although Latin has been removed from the Mass, Papal encyclical and other documents issued by the Vatican are still written in this grand though dead language. A committee of scholars is working on keeping Church Latin current, dealing with the thousands of new words in science, politics, and other 21st century issues. So if you want to take your sweetheart to the disco after you load the dishwasher, and you want to say it like a true ancient Roman, now you know how.

First It Was The McDonalds Invasion; Now It’s Nigerian Hookers

Longoing for those halcyon days of yore, before gay men “with their castrato voices moan about what heteros put them through,” former film star and animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot laments the decline of native-born French prostitutes. In her new memoir, A Cry of Silence, Bardot laments for “our lovely, kind streetwalkers.” But those French hookers are largely gone now from the doorways and alleys, replaced by “girls from the East, Nigerians, travelers (Gypsies), transsexuals, drug queens, bearers of AIDS and other friendly gifts.”

It seems kind of pointless to go to Paris these days.

“Tanned Fat Looks Better Than White Fat”

Tammy Faye Messner (nee Bakker) hosted a tea party at New York’s Inn at Irving Place recently to celebrate her inspirational new book, I Will Survive ... and You Will Too. The mostly male crowd, according to the NYTimes, showered her with adulation. “I just love her,” cooed a drag queen known as Porsche, “ever since I was a little boy in Texas.” Asked if it was the drag queen in him or the Texas, he replied “Oh much more the Texas.”

The new book, part memoir, part advice on every subject imaginable, includes “Who made the rule that you don’t put mascara on false eyelashes?” Indeed. Fans of Marilyn Manson will be thrilled to know he’s a close friend of Tammy Faye, but, she complains, “All he wants to talk about is God.” For those of us paralyzed by the vices and vitiates of life, she advises, “Your problems are never as bad as you think they are.”

And for the very few of you with problems just as bad as you think they are, you can cheer up by reading the chapter entitled “Fun With Nail Polish.”

Don’t Even Think Of Saying How Much You Admire Her

Folks line up at book signings so they can meet the author, express their admiration for the author’s work, and get an autograph they will treasure. But this is apparently not the case at the Hillary Clinton appearances celebrating the publication of Living History. At a recent book store event, The Boston Globe reports that Hillary claimed she had signed approximately 1,000 copies in two hours. This computes to a steady pace of 7.2 seconds per signing. The junior senator from New York must have been saying “Next” at a feverish rate, and wore to the thrilled Hillary group who even dared to push empathy for the presidential candidate of 2008.

It Certainly Reads Better Than “Call Me Ishmael”

Congratulations to Mariann Simms of Wetumpka, Alabama. She won the $250 first prize at the Worst Opening Line of a Novel Contest hosted by San Jose State University. I quote in full: “They had but one last remaining night together, so they embraced each other as tightly as that two-flavor entwined string cheese that is orange and yellowish-white, the orange probably being a blend of cheddar and the white mozzarella, or it could be provolone or just plain American.”

Adult Arabs Read Fewer Books Than Your Kids

A UN report, prepared by Arab scholars, “outlines how reading and writing (in the Arab world) are impaired by censorship, poor education, religious fundamentalism and war.” In a Chicago Times coverage of the report, the newspaper says, “While writers everywhere complain that nobody reads anymore, analysts now provide startling evidence of that trend in the Arab world. Grabbing the poor state of Arab information industries such as publishing and journalism, they say, is critical to understanding the alienation, isolation and malaise rolling the modern Middle East…” Across the Arab world, a region of 280 million people, a best seller is a book that sells just 5,000 copies.”

More titles are published in Israel than in all Arab countries combined. “Arabs represent 5 percent of the world’s inhabitants, yet they produce just 1.1 percent of the world’s books, less than the percentage produced by Turkey alone. Religious books represent a higher share of Arabic titles, accounting for 37 percent of all published, compared to a world average of 5 percent.”

Against the Grain / December 2003 - January 2004

<http://www.against-the-grain.com> 83