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Letters to the Editor

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From Your (combating-technology) Editor:

It has been one of those months. Every machine in my life seems to be breaking down. First, it was the car which I have inherited from my daughter. The brakes didn’t seem to be working. It cost money. Big money! to fix them. Second, my computer at work decided not to print. Nothing I (or even the techies) could do seemed to work. It was like there was some gremlin on my desktop. And, then, the last straw!! My answering machine broke! I mean it! My answering machine acted like it was taking messages if someone called it, but when I looked at messages left for me, there were none. (Sounds like an Agatha Christie mystery.) I threw up my hands and thought about retiring. But that would still take machines, I guess.

Meanwhile, back at the ATG world headquarters, ATG did not fail. There were articles and rumors coming in fast and furious. So, this issue is full of tons of great news and feature articles. This issue is guest edited by Ann-Marie Breaux and has many perspectives on the upcoming ISBN-13 phenomenon and how it will affect us. Also, there are interviews with Troy Williams about what’s going on at Questia and Eckart Scheffler at deGruyter (this one on p.80). We have a new column by the energetic Cris Ferguson. The Op Ed is a reaction to an I User column, pretty great! Legally Speaking is on the top ten intellectual property cases of the last twenty-five years, Biz of Acq has some management tips for recent library school graduates, and Back Talk is on catastrophes in libraries. Speaking of catastrophes, my husband says the oven is not working. Our supper is not cooked. Jeez! I guess it’s back to eating out. At least it’s spring!

Yr. Ed. 🌼

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.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 attempted to use the online form on the ATG Website to send a letter to the editor but received an error message:
The page cannot be found. The page you are looking for might have been removed, had its name changed, or is temporarily unavailable.

Robert Behra
Science and Engineering Division, J. Willard Marriott Library
295 S 1500 E, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860

Editor’s note: Y'all — we have been having problems with the ATG Website. But it is fixed now and updated. If you still have trouble, please let us know. And the rest of this communication is in Op Ed, see p.40.

Yr. Ed. <kstrauch@comcast.net> 🐘

Rumors from page 1

approximately 2,500 English language titles, and de Gruyter then handled its own distribution from a location in Elmsford, N.Y. In 1978 Mr. Scheffler started a New York publishing operation with the acquisition of Aldine Publishing Company, and Mr. Scheffler successfully integrated this new venture. With a staff of 20 and a strong increase in sales volume, de Gruyter moved to much larger quarters in Hawthorne, N.Y. In 1982 Mr. Scheffler acquired the rights to the reference work American Universities and Colleges, which had not been published for many years, and transformed it to the most successful title for de Gruyter’s U.S. operation over five editions. In 2004 Mr. Scheffler handled all aspects of the successful sale of the Aldine imprint to Transaction Publishers, the sale of American Universities and Colleges to Greenwood Press, and the outsourcing of distribution to Books International. Mr. Scheffler will serve as a consultant to de Gruyter until the end of 2005. We will miss him, but I hope he will not slip to Charleston some day soon! Good luck, Eckart and don’t rest too hard! And, be sure and see our interview with Eckart, which contains some hints about the future… This issue, p.80.

More on de Gruyter. As of March 2005 Patrick Alexander, presently Publishing Director, will be in charge of Walter de Gruyter, Inc., in New York. For more than 30 years, the independent scientific publishing house Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co. KG, Berlin & New York, has published titles ranging from the humanities, medicine, and biosciences to law. De Gruyter publishes more than 250 new titles every year, half of them in English, approximately 60 journals, and a variety of digital products. Hopefully, we will have an interview with Patrick Alexander in June. Stay tuned! www.degruyter.com

In the February issue of Against the Grain (p.16), we told you that we would tell you more. The awesomely energetic William Gosling <wgosling@umich.edu> has announced that he is refocusing his energies after eight years in the top librarian position at the University of Michigan. Bill will take on a new set of responsibilities as of April 1, 2005. These new duties include serving as Curator of the Children’s Literature Collection in the Special Collections Library. Bill will also continue to support Library fundraising programs. James Hilton, Associate Provost for Academic Information and Instructional Technology Affairs has been selected to serve as the Interim University Librarian on a part-time basis, pending approval by the Regents. Associate University Librarians Brenda Johnson and John Winkin will manage the daily operations during this interim period. http://www.umich.edu/news/index.html?Releases/2005/Feb05/021705a

Gene Waddell <waddelle@cofc.edu> tells us that Wyrick and Company in Charleston, SC, has just been sold to Gibbs Smith, Publishers which was begun in 1969. You’ll remember that Gene wrote the book Charleston Architecture: 1670-1860 published by Wyrick in November 2003. And, be sure and see his list of what he considers some of the best books in architecture, this issue p.53, www.gibbs-smith.com/

The Smithsonian Institution has named Lonnie G. Bunch as the first director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. He will begin his duties on May 2, 2005. The museum, which has been in development since 1986, will be located on the National Mall and will house a collection of more than 100,000 artifacts and one million photographs. The museum will tell the story of the African American experience in America from slavery through the Civil Rights Movement and beyond. The museum is scheduled to open in 2008.

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES

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