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## NASIG 25th Anniversary

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# Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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**

## POST ST. PADDY'S DAY READING by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The author of *Venetia Kelly's Traveling Show* (Random House) selects five top books on Ireland: (1) **Thomas Cahill**, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Doubleday, 1995; (2) **J.J. Lee**, *Ireland 1912-1985*, Cambridge, 1989; (3) **R.F. Foster**, *W.B. Yeats*, Oxford, two vols., 1997, 2003; (4) *William Trevor: The Collected Stories*, Penguin, 1992; (5) **James Joyce**, *Ulysses*

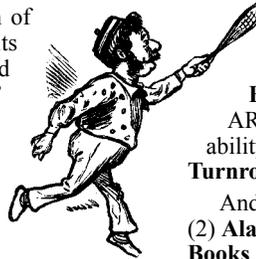
See — **Frank Delaney**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 13-14, 2010, p.W8.

## LIT'S MOST FAMOUS SOLITARY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

In 1986, uber-recluse **J.D. Salinger** sued his would-be biographer **Ian Hamilton** to prevent the use of quotes from **Salinger** letters. The case went to the **U.S. Supreme Court** with a **Salinger** victory which, you will recall, held that the author of a letter holds copyright.

Now just a brief respite after **Salinger's** death, the "dam of silence **Salinger** spent half a century building has sprung its first leak." The **Morgan Library** will display ten letters and one postcard. The "indirect chronicle of ... growing isolation" is found in the return address. The earliest say "J. Salinger" which then progresses to "Salinger" and finally to "P.O. box 32, Windsor Vt. 05089."

See — **Adam Kirsch**, "From J.D., P.O. Box 32," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 11, 2010, p.D7.



## STREAMLINED DOCUMENTATION – SORT OF by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The numbing tedium of footnotes will soon be history thanks to the Internet. A **Google Books** word search can carry you to a relevant passage to check the citation of a previous scholar. Electronic journals replace delving for hours in old periodicals.

But the Web is filled with unreliable sources and unstandardized digital modes of citation. And academic authors do so love to load a page down with references to prove the weight of their scholarship. Interesting ideas presented in accessible paragraphs is not exactly the goal.

See — **Mark Bauerlein**, "Why the Fetish About Footnotes?" *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 12, 2010, p.W13.

## LEGENDARY BOOK STORES DOWN IN DIXIE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The South's top independent bookshops: (1) **Book People**, Austin, TX (famed for massive events schedules, plus you can buy a "Keep Austin Weird" t-shirt); (2) **Faulkner House Books**, New Orleans, LA (it's in the house where **Faulkner** wrote *Soldiers' Pay*); (3) **Square Books**, Oxford, MS; (4) **That Bookstore**, Blytheville, AR (owner was profiled in the *New Yorker* for her uncanny ability to hand sell books and promote new authors); (5) **Turnrow Book Co.**, Greenwood, MS.

And nine runners-up: (1) **A Cappella Books**, Atlanta, GA; (2) **Alabama Booksmith**, Homewood, AL; (3) **Blue Bicycle Books**, Charleston, SC (alleged to be **Pat Conroy's** favorite); (4) **Books & Books**, Coral Gables, FL; (5) **Dickson Street Bookshop**, Fayetteville, AR; (6) **Lemuria Books**, Jackson, MS (and they have a liquor license); (7) **Malaprop's**, Asheville, NC; (8) **Page & Palette**, Fairhope, AL (yes, it sells art supplies, too); (9) **Regulator Bookshop**, Durham, NC (Regulators were early rebels against the English king).

See — **Beth Ann Fennelly**, "Best Sellers," *Garden & Gun*, Feb./March, 2010, p.99.

## OUR DISTRACTED FUTURE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Oh, for the days when you could lose yourself in a good book. Now technology is slowly forcing us to use a single device for whatever we do. The **iPad** is "potentially a telephone, a calculator, a GPS device, an instant-messaging pad, a **Facebook** portal, a clock, a calendar, a restaurant guide, a contraption for studying Bulgarian, a collection of nude photos, a compass, a carpenter's level and God only knows what else."

How do you focus on a good read "in the face of all that frantic yoo-hooing from the **iPad's** many other groovy functions?"

See — **Daniel Akst**, "The iPad Could Drive Readers to Distraction," *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 12, 2010, p.W13.

## Announcing the 25th Anniversary of NASIG

by **Rick Anderson** (Assoc. Dir. for Scholarly Resources & Collections Marriott Library Univ. of Utah; Office: 801-587-9989; Cell: 801-721-1687) <rick.anderson@utah.edu>

2010 marks the 25th anniversary of the **North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG)**, an organization founded in 1985 to promote "communication, information, and continuing education about serials and the broader issues of scholarly communication." The changes that have occurred in the various segments of the scholarly information environment since 1985 have been mind-boggling, and the rate of change shows no signs of slowing, which means that we have lots of work to do. **NASIG** is an organization for everyone involved in the creation, distribution, preservation, and support of scholarship — publishers, librarians, editors, vendors, agents — and the vigor and richness of its projects, conversations, and products depend on broad participation, which we always earnestly solicit. In this, our silver anniversary year, we offer an especially exciting conference in an especially inviting place: the **Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Palm Springs, California, June 3-6, 2010**. We invite all with an interest in the future of scholarly communication to join us there in early June for scintillating and informative discussions of topics that are of urgent concern to all of us. For more information, go to [http://www.nasig.org/conference\\_registration.cfm](http://www.nasig.org/conference_registration.cfm). 