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## Bet You Missed It-What do artists and librarians have in common?

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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**

## REAL ESTATE THRILLERS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Who says we're a nation of illiterates? A raft of thrillers by realtors has come out. Illegal adoption ring. Killing for the commission. Con artist posing as wealthy countess. All grist for the mill.

Want some titles? **Vicki Doudera**, *A House to Die For* (2010); **Kat Martin**, *Season of Strangers* (2008) (this one has realtors abducted by aliens); **Bente Gallagher**, *A Cutthroat Business* (2010).

See — **Sanette Tanaka**, "In Real Estate, Truth in Fiction," *The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 22, 2013, p.M14.

## LET'S READ SOME BOOKS FOR THE ANGLOMANIAC by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) **P.G. Wodehouse**, *Joy in the Morning* (1946) (sublime foolery of Wooster and Jeeves); (2) **R.S. Surtees**, *Jorrocks' Jaunts and Jollities* (1838); (3) **Ford Madox Ford**, *No More Parades* (1925); (4) **Philip Larkin**, *The Complete Poems* (2013); (5) **Edward St. Aubyn**, *Never Mind* (1992) (a current literary cult; drug addiction, marital collapse and misery, but lush prose).

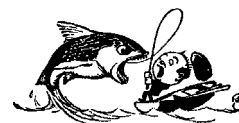
See — **Raymond Sokolov**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 18-19, 2013, p. C10. (Sokolov is the author of *Steal the Menu: A Memoir of Forty Years in Food*.)

## MIND GAMES WITH MENSA by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

For 19 years a couple hundred people have gathered in a St. Louis hotel ballroom to test new games from toy companies. The event is sponsored by the high-IQ **Mensa Society**. Winners get to put a "Mensa Select" sticker on their games. The players love the intellectual challenge and the total immaturity of the experience.

Educational games are despised. Ditto political and green agendas. There's a hard-partying wing in the crowd — "Hell's Mensans" — founded in a Dayton, Ohio hot tub. And of course, geek romance is in the air. **Jillian Sanderson**, master of **Zombie Pox**, now has a patent-attorney boyfriend.

See — **Alexandra Peers**, "The Games Smart People Play," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 25, 2013, p.D4.



## LET'S READ ABOUT OBSESSED ARTISTS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

And many are by the obsessed artists themselves. (1) **Salvador Dali**, *Diary of a Genius* (1965); (2) **Elsa Schiaparelli**, *Shocking Life* (1954); (3) **Paul Gauguin**, *Noa Noa* (1900); (4) **Joyce Cary**, *The Horse's Mouth* (1944) (this is based on the life of Augustus John); (5) **Amanda Vaill**, *Everybody Was So Young* (1998) (about Gerald and Sara Murphy on Cap d'Antibes).

See — **Patricia Volk**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 27-28, 2013, p.C10 (Volk is the author of *Shocked: My Mother, Schiaparelli, and Me*).

## WHEN LIBRARIANS VISIT PARIS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Anyone who has seen the famous Paris libraries is looking at the work of **Henri Labrouste** (1801-75) or those inspired by him. The "Salle Labrouste" is the stunning reading room of the original **Bibliothèque Nationale**. Likewise, the **Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève**, the main research library for the students of the various **Universités de Paris**. They are breathtaking and just cry out repository of treasures. Stone, wood and figured cast iron soaring in barrel vaults with hundreds of thousands of books being the primary interior décor. Tall windows provide natural light to suffuse the room.

**Charles Garnier's Opéra** was inspired by Labrouste.

See — **George Fletcher**, "A Soaring Space for Artifacts and Ideas," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 27-28, 2013, p. C13.

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