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Bet You Missed It: What do daring women and fabric samples 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**

DAMES WHO DARE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Let's read about daring women. (1) **Clare Mulley**, *The Spy Who Loved* (2013) (**Churchill's** favorite spy, daughter of Polish aristocrat, and banking heiress wife.); (2) **Frances Osborne**, *The Bolter* (2008) (Lady Idina Sackville. Five marriages, five divorces and multiple lovers. Part of the Happy Valley Set in Kenya); (3) **Georgina Howell**, *Gertrude Bell* (2006) (Born filthy rich. Early woman Oxford grad. Middle East explorer.); (4) **Annette Kobak**, *Isabelle* (1989) (Daughter of Russian aristo and Armenian lover. Dressed as man and travelled N. Africa.); (5) **Aimée Crocker**, *And I'd Do It Again* (1936) (Big inheritance. Pal of **Oscar Wilde**. Made a princess in Hawaii. Stint in Indian harem. Fleed Borneo headhunters.)

See — **Karen Abbott**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 11-12, 2014, p.C10. (**Karen** is the author of *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*)

DEATH OF GOLDEN OLDIES

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Leonard Maltin began publishing *TV Movies* in 1969. A fat paperback with 8,000 movies and reviews. It grew into *Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide* of 1,632 pages and 16,000 entries. And with an alphabetical guide, there's the joy of skipping about and seeing how one leads to the auteur's next. And it was utterly comprehensive with no fads, no agenda.

But by the 1990s it was ground into the dust by IMDb link-sharing. And soon will be no more.

See — **Robert Nason**, "Requiem for a Heavyweight Movie Guide," *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 17, 2014, p.A11.

THE BESPOKE WOLFE

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Mr. New Journalism, Mr. Bonfire of the Vanities, Mr. Bauhaus to Our House, Mr. Ever Dressed in a White Suit **Tom Wolfe** was determined his papers would not end up with everything else in the literary world at the **Harry Ransom Center** in UT-Austin. It would stay in New York at the Public Library. Of course, they did have to pony up \$2.15 million. And in exchange got a meticulously labeled 165 linear feet.

It even has annotated fabric samples from his tailor. Clothing is prominent in his writing.

See — **Christopher Mason**, "Wolfe's Den," *Town & Country*, Oct. 2014, p.160.

SIC GLORIA TRANSIT FORBES

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

Well, this was a shocker. The venerable *Forbes* is on the ropes. I was raised with the mystique of **Malcolm** and his French chateau, yacht, and Moroccan palace. **Malcolm** was the chronicler of capitalism. He raked in the bucks and always made his 400 richest list.

Then print media began to die and the digital model that seemed so promising didn't pan out. Now they're running on a low-cost/high-traffic model with writers making money based on what they generate.

See — **Michael Wolff**, "Empire Falls," *Town & Country*, Oct. 2014, p.174.

AH, POSTWAR PULPS WITH LURID COVERS

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

(1) **John Hersey**, *Hiroshima* (1946) (Book-of-the-Month Club selection following simple people who survived the bomb by chance); (2) **Philip Wylie**, *Tomorrow!* (1954) (nuclear attack on the U.S.); (3) **Ira Wolfert**, *The Underworld* (1943) (Bantam giant of crime in the boardroom and the back alleys); (4) **Arthur Koestler**, *Darkness at Noon* (1940) (Stalin purges the old Bolsheviks); (5) **Mary McCarthy**, *The Company She Keeps* (1942) (Mary's first, allegedly written when her husband **Edmund Wilson** locked her in a room with a typewriter. Good girl plunging headlong into going bad. Made **Mary's** rep as intellectual high priestess of the New York left.)

See — **Paula Rabinowitz**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 8-9, 2014, p.C10. (Paula is appropriately the author of *American Pulp: How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street*.)



BIRTH OF THE PAPERBACK

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

During WWII, the War Department and publishers printed the Armed Services Edition paperbacks that were shipped to all the battle zones. Soldiers couldn't write home about where they were or their experiences, but they could talk about books.

Sex and nostalgia for home were of course popular. And there were many ironies. When published, *The Great Gatsby* had poor reviews and didn't sell. 155,000 copies of it were shipped overseas, and it became the classic of today.

Post war, the 25-cent paperback was born.

Molly Guptill Manning collects Armed Services Edition books and has written *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II*, published by **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**.

See — **Jennifer Maloney**, "How Paperbacks Helped the U.S. Win World War II," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 21, 2014, pD6.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences



	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase	Main Conference
2015 Conference	4 November	5-7 November
2016 Conference	2 November	3-5 November
2017 Conference	8 November	9-11 November
2018 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2019 Conference	6 November	7-9 November