Bet You Missed It: What do daring women and fabric samples have in common?

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DAMES WHO DARE
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


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.


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.


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.


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.)


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.


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