

2015

Bet You Missed It--What Do Flurries of Doves and the Queen's English Have in Common?

Bruce Strauch

The Citadel, strauchb@citadel.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Strauch, Bruce (2015) "Bet You Missed It--What Do Flurries of Doves and the Queen's English Have in Common?," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 27: Iss. 3, Article 34.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7105>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

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**

MITFORD WAS FOR REAL by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Nancy Mitford's famous fictional creation Merlinford in *The Pursuit of Love* was but a thinly disguised Lord Berners, a monocle-wearing fop, novelist, painter and composer of music for **Diaghilev's Ballets Russes**. Faringdon House in Oxfordshire was the scene of homosexual revels where guests were greeted by flurries of doves in rainbow hues. Nancy called the house Merlinford.

Salvador Dali, Gertrude Stein, Stravinsky, Margot Fonteyn, Noel Coward, Evelyn Waugh, H.G. Wells, and Elsa Schiaparelli were all part of the madcap fun. **Berners** was driven about the countryside wearing a fright mask with a clavichord in his Rolls so he could compose.

Berner's lover was **Robert Heber-Percy**, known as "Horrid Mad-boy," photographed by **Cecil Beaton**. Curiously, **Robert** got enraged by **Beaton** gossip and punched him in the face. The 70-year-old **Beaton** banged his head, suffered a debilitating stroke and died six years later. Most believed it was murder.

A riveting new book tells the story of all this in *the Mad Boy, Lord Berners, My Grandmother and Me* (HarperCollins, \$35).

See — **Christopher Mason**, "Social Network," *Town & Country*, April, 2015, p.40.



QUEEN'S ENG by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

English pubs woo the American market. The *Economist's* readership is 52% American. So what do you do with those troublesome words like "shag," "rubber" not to mention "lairy" and "jollies?" Then there's "defense" v. "defence." And Labour et al. with the "u." *The Economist* is sticking with British.

And why not? NPR has taken up the word "whinging."

See — **Sophie Gilbert**, "Mind the Gap," *The Atlantic*, March, 2015, p.29.

LOST TIME FOUND by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Charles Kenneth Scott Moncrieff fought in WWI, afterwards a journalist and a spy. And the famous translator of **Marcel Proust**. He was both a fervent Catholic and a gay man on the fringe of **Oscar Wilde's** circle.

A raft of **Moncrieff** letters turned up at — where else — the Harry Ransom Center at UT-Austin. Which owns everything. Most were about romance with the explicit bits in foreign languages.

Because he was, after all, a master linguist.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux is publishing **Jean Findlay's** *Chasing Lost Time*. Most of which is drawn from a cache of letters she inherited from her great, great uncle, **Moncrieff** himself.

See — **Brenda Cronin**, "The Double Life of Proust's Translator," *The Wall Street Journal*, March, 13, 2015, p.D5.

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

Reading in a Digital Age ... from page 1

Herman Peterson, in his piece "A Librarian Teaches Reading: Opportunities, Challenges, and Classroom Practices" gives us a snapshot of what it is like to teach developmental reading at the Diné Navajo tribal nation in the Southwest, where students have grown up with a predominantly oral culture rather than a literate one. He notes that "the act of bringing prior knowledge to bear on a reading aids immeasurably in comprehension. Helping the students to be successful in reading is more important than broadened horizons. Once they are successful readers, then they can find out other things on their own."

Anne Burke, Janette Hughes, and Renee Sanson, in their article, "Libraries and the New

Digital Frontier: Support for Communities and Classrooms" discuss the challenges for educators and librarians in adopting and integrating new technologies to encourage digital literacy in the new world of abundant networked information. They note that libraries have "become an important support for teachers to make suggestions as to what digital texts and applications could be useful for young adults learning and developing literacy skills. Libraries are an important productive space to suggest ways to build and nurture a digital community of learners."

And I have a piece on "social reading" that probes the implications of public versus private reading — how does this distinction affect our understanding of how we read in a digital culture? There are many questions that come to mind when I think of the impact of technology on the goals, styles, and expectations of read-

ing. How does this affect the ways in which we learn and share new knowledge? How does it affect our relationships with each other? It is a paradigm shift and we're only beginning to understand what it all means.

The contributions in this issue speak to the ongoing importance of a sustained dialogue with our various communities, listening closely to their needs, and ensuring that our strategies and goals in supporting reading are relevant, supportive, and forward-looking. As librarians and educators, we have a crucial role to play in the transformation of reading and the impact on the lives and success of our patrons and students. Reading remains the lifeblood of libraries, in its many cultural forms and media, connecting people with ideas, information, and knowledge. I hope you enjoy the diverse perspectives included in this issue! 🌸