Bet You Missed It

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THE BOOK SURVIVES; SORT OF by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Professor John Sutherland is the Emeritus Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature at University College London. He believes the Twitter generation will eventually tire of non-stop networking and return to reading actual books.

And perhaps to nudge them in that direction, he has rewritten 25 top novels as 140-character tweets. For ex: “The Great Gatsby, Scott Fitzgerald, 1925 – V. rich, enigmatic Jay Gatsby finds 1st luv Daisy, Tom’s wife. But it’s selfish D+T’s fault ends w/Jay shot. Also ‘Gr8’ Gatsby was bootlegger.”


SOUTHERN EATS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

For Charleston Conference folks in November, the WSJ explores the best shrimp ‘n grits and chooses – drum roll – (1) Red Drum on Coleman Blvd. in Mt. Pleasant (shiitake slice, smoked bacon, Anson Mills coarse-ground grits, wild-venison sausage and nabano sauce [chef’s is from Texas]); (2) Early Bird Diner on Savannah Hwy. (legendary hangover food joint with swampy Bolognese-red blanket of sauce for bacon-studded shrimp); (3) Nana’s Seafood & Soul on Line Street (no hangover food joint with swampy Bolognese-red blanket of sauce for bacon-studded shrimp); (4) of course, the famous Husk at (5) and finally – ta da! – the conference hotel’s Swamp Fox restaurant 76 Queen St. (can come with pig’s ears or country ham – woo!);  (5) mushrooms ‘cause not traditional);  (4) of course, the famous Husk at (2) Early Bird Diner on Savannah Hwy. (legendary Mills coarse-ground grits, wild-venison sausage and habanero sauce [chef is from Texas]);  (2) Early Bird Diner on Savannah Hwy. (legendary hangover food joint with swampy Bolognese-red blanket of sauce for bacon-studded shrimp);  (3) Nana’s Seafood & Soul on Line Street (no hangover food joint with swampy Bolognese-red blanket of sauce for bacon-studded shrimp);  (4) of course, the famous Husk at (5) and finally – ta da! – the conference hotel’s Swamp Fox restaurant 76 Queen St. (can come with pig’s ears or country ham – woo!);  (5) mushrooms ‘cause not traditional);  (4) of course, the famous Husk at


LET’S READ ABOUT WOMEN OF THE SOE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


SAVING THE BARD by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

None of Shakespeare’s plays were published during his lifetime because plays were not considered art. He didn’t even own them because he had sold them to the theater troupe.

Shakespeare was originally saved for posterity by two of his colleagues, John Heminges and Henry Condell. After his death, they set upon publishing his dramatic works, and thus were born the Shakespeare Folios (folio refers to the dimensions of the book). 240 copies survive of the 750 that were printed.

The second salvation was performed by Standard Oil plutocrat Henry Clay Folger. A poor boy made good, he was a pioneer of industrial efficiency. Along with golf, he was passionate about Shakespeare. His wife Emily shared the passion for the Bard and became an expert rare book buyer.

They did not dabble, putting together a collection of 82 First Folios (one-third of the existing ones); 256,000 books; 60,000 manuscripts; 200 oil paintings; 50,000 watercolors plus playbills; theater programs; costumes and musical instruments.

And, as you doubtless know, that became the Folger Shakespeare Library.


LET’S READ ABOUT CHURCHILL’S WAR CABINET by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) Robert Rhodes James, Anthony Eden (WWI hero, movie star looks, Prime Minister material. But he suffered from an unfaithful wife; a wayward, spendthrift mother; an adored son killed by the Japanese. “A man who deserved far better.”) (1986); (2) Alan Bullock, Ernest Bevin (1960-83); (3) A.J.P. Taylor, Beaverbrook (712-page biography begins with “Lord Beaverbrook did not like long books.”) (1972); (4) Peter Clarke, The Cripps Version (A vegetarian, teetotaler, devout Christian and unswerving socialist. Churchill said, “He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.”) (2002); (5) Bernard Donoughue and G.W. Jones, Herbert Morrison (“He believed in two great causes: socialism and his own advancement.”) (1973).


BOOK STORE OLYMPUS by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)


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