

2016

Bet You Missed It--What Do Bookworms and Spies 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**

BIG TIME AUTHOR HOME FOR SALE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Tom Clancy's Baltimore penthouse is on the market for \$8.7 million, a drop of 28%.

12,000-square-foot, five-bedrooms at the Ritz-Carlton Residences in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. It was put together from four units. Writing *Clear and Present Danger* will let you do that sort of thing.

See — "Tom Clancy's Home Gets a Price Cut," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 27, 2016, p.M2.

AND THE BRONTËS BEGAT ... by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

The Brontës' corpus engendered nearly as many other writings as the *Bible*. The "Brontë literary-industrial complex" celebrates **Charlotte's** birth this year, keeping British and American publishers very busy.

Claire Harman has a new **Charlotte Brontë** biography; there's a Brontë-themed literary detective novel; a novelistic riff with Jane Eyre a serial killer; a collection of short stories derived from the last line of *Jane Eyre*, "Reader, I married him"; and a fan-fiction "autobiography" of Nelly Dean, the servant-narrator of *Wuthering Heights*.

Last year we had Y/A novelization of Emily's adolescence; a book of essays called *The Brontë Cabinet: Three Lives in Nine Objects*, and all the countless academic monographs.

See — **Judith Shulevitz**, "The Brontës' Secret," *The Atlantic*, June, 2016, p. 38.

LET'S READ ABOUT WWII by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) **Artemis Cooper**, *Cairo in the War, 1939-45* (1989) (This looks slick. Spies, refugees, reporters and Noel Coward. King Farouk. Brits partying at Sheppard's Hotel); (2) **Rodric Braithwaite**, *Moscow 1941* (2006) (another atmosphere laden city); (3) **Nicholas Monsarrat**, *Three Corvettes* (1945) (He's famous for *The Cruel Sea*. U-boats. The fury of storms. Because he's the son of a surgeon, he's made ship surgeon.); (4) **Peter Padfield**, *Dönitz: The Last Führer* (1984); (5) **Wilhelm Pruller**, *Diary of a German Soldier* (1963) (insight into German military mind).

See — **Jonathan Dimpleby**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 6-7, 2016, p.C10. (**Dimpleby** is the author of *Battle of the Atlantic: How the Allies Won the War*.)

BRIGHT LIGHT STILL IN THE CITY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Literary luminary **Jay McInerney** (*Bright Lights, Big City*) is 61, on his fourth marriage, and remains in thrall to Gotham. His new novel, *Bright, Precious Days* (Knopf) is the third in a trilogy of a married couple. They have twins, and are priced out of NYC real estate. And small wonder. The protagonist runs a small publishing house.

And instead of Bolivian marching powder, there's talk of Cialis. Well, he is 61.

See — **Brenda Cronin**, "He'll Still Take Manhattan," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 5, 2016, p.D5.

LET'S READ ABOUT RUSSIA by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) **Julian Barnes**, *The Noise of Time* (Shostakovich trying to compose during the Terror) (2016); (2) **Penelope Fitzgerald**, *The Beginning of Spring* (Anglo-Russian family on the edge of the revolution) (1988); (3) **Helen Dunmore**, *The Siege* (desperation of the siege of Leningrad) (2001); (4) **Daphne Kalotay**, *Russian Winter* (former prima ballerina, now crippled and destitute, reminisces about her glory days in Stalin's Russia) (2010); (5) **Sylvain Tesson**, *The Consolations of the Forest* (walking across the Siberian taiga) (2011).

Alison Anderson's latest work is *The Summer Guest: A Novel*.

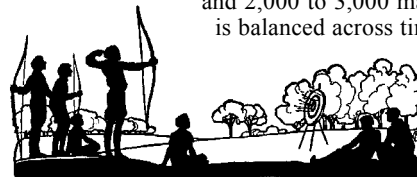
See — **Alison Anderson**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 11-12, 2016, p.C10.

BOOKWORMS AT YALE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

When **Yale's** rare book **Beinecke Library** opened in 1963, you could still smoke inside. So long ago.

Now it's getting a \$73 million renovation. That includes a facelift on the exterior marble panels and the **Florence Knoll** furniture with its mid-century Modern style as seen on the old "Bob Newhart Show."

The building was a gift by bibliophile brothers **Edwin, Frederick and Walter Beinecke**. It's one of the world's largest rare book and manuscript treasure houses. It acquires 10,000 to 15,000 books a year and 2,000 to 3,000 manuscripts. The collection is balanced across times and genres rather than seeking a black tulip,



the bibliophile term for a rare treasure.

Originally, you had to be a credentialed scholar, but now the

doors are open to undergrads as teaching with original materials becomes the rage.

See — **Brenda Cronin**, "Library of Treasures Gets an Overhaul," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 22, 2016, p.D5.

LET'S READ BOOKS BY EX-SPIES by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) **Peter Tompkins**, *A spy in Rome* (OSS in Rome, 1944) (1962); (2) **William Hood**, *Mole* (Pyotr Popov besotted with mistress, betrays Russia) (1982); (3) **Victor Cherkashin**, *Spy Handler* (Victor's memoir about masterminding the treachery of American Aldrich Ames) (2005); (4) **William Colby**, *Honorable Men* (Princeton, OSS, CIA, head under Nixon) (1978); (5) **Antonio Mendez**, *The Master of Disguise*, (ran Theran rescue under guise of making Hollywood movie) (1999).

See — **Paul Vidich**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, July, 2-3, 2016, p.C10. (**Vidich** is author of the novel *An Honorable man*.)