

2016

Bet You Missed It--What Do Yeats and The Citadel 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**

ENDURING QUOTABILITY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

In 1919, **Yeats** wrote his chilling poem "The Second Coming." And yes, you know it because someone is constantly quoting from it. "And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?" "The centre cannot hold." "Things fall apart." "The best lack all conviction while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

Terrorist attacks, press freedom in South Africa, income inequality in Nigeria, the Brexit vote — whatever. In 2016, **Yeats** has been tweeted and retweeted ad infinitum.

See — **Ed Ballard**, "A Poem for Troubled Times," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 26, 2016, p.D4.

CAMBRIDGE SPIES – PRIVILEGE & TREACHERY by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Let's read about Cambridge spies. (1) **Cyril Connolly**, *The Missing Diplomats* (1952); (2) **Tom Driberg**, *Guy Burgess* (1956) (while **Burgess** and **Maclean** waited for the night boat to defect, they read **Jane Austen**.); (3) **Goronwy Rees**, *A Chapter of Accidents* (1972) (**Rees** was recruited but broke from the Reds after the **Hitler-Stalin** pact. Out of fear of exposure, **Burgess** considered killing him.); (4) **Andrew Boyle**, *The Climate of Treason* (1979); (5) **Tim Milne**, *Kim Philby* (2014) (nephew of A.A. **Milne** [*Winnie the Pooh*] In MI6 with **Philby** who accused him of being a double agent to deflect attention from himself.)

And there's a *Citadel* element in the story. **Burgess** was working at the embassy in DC when he was warned by **Philby** he was about to be interrogated by MI5. He had to get sent home so he could defect.

As chance would have it, he was sent to the *Citadel* to participate in an international relations conference. There was no I-95. He blew through small towns collecting speeding tickets and talking down to hick cops in a plummy voice, insisting he had diplomatic immunity.

At the *Citadel* he got blind drunk and passed out at the banquet. Next day had to bum money off cadets to pay his bill at the Ft. Sumter. Blew back through the same towns collecting more tickets.

And was sent home.

See — **Andrew Lownie**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 24-25, 2016, p.C10. (**Lownie** is the author of *Stalin's Englishman: The Lives of Guy Burgess*.)

SILK ROAD CUISINE by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Cook books that are also travelogues.

(1) **Carolyn Phillips**, *All Under Heaven — Recipes from the 35 Cuisines of China*; (2) **Caroline Eden** and **Eleanor Ford**, *Samar-kand — Recipes & Stories from Central Asia & the Caucasus*; (3) **Naomi Duguid**, *Taste of Perisa — A Cook's Travels Through Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, and Kurdistan*.

See — Bookshelf, "Biting into the Silk Road — No Passport Required" *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 27-28, 2016, p.D3.

BOOK DEFICIT GUILT by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Of course no one's actually read *Ulysses*. It just sits on the shelf. But you feel bad about it. What to do?

Curtis Sittenfeld wrote the 2016 best-selling *Eligible* — a retelling of **Austen's** *Pride and Prejudice*. People sheepishly ask if they should read **Austen** first. She gives them a school-marmish mix of forgiveness and tough love.

Elda Rotor, VP of **Penguin Classics** suggests small bites without obsessing on finishing. *Middlemarch* is 800 pages after all.

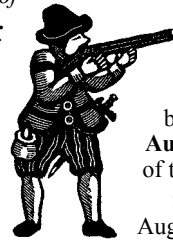
I personally always swore by *Classics Comics*.

See — **Erin Geiger Smith**, "Do You Have Book Guilt?" *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 28, 2016.

EVERYONE LOVES A GOOD SCANDAL by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

(1) **Diana Trilling**, *Mrs. Harris* (1981) (Headmistress shoots down **Herman Tarnover**, author of *The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet*.); (2) **J. Anthony Lukas**, *Nightmare* (1976) (Watergate without histrionics.); (3) **Thomas Thompson**, *Blood and Money* (1976) (MD hubby poisons Houston oil heiress wife and is in turn shot by masked intruder, probably his father-in-law.); (4) **Shana Alexander**, *When She Was Bad* (1990) (**Bess Myerson**, first Jewish Miss America, tried by **Giuliani** for fixing a judge in her lover's divorce.); (5) **Auberon Waugh**, *Last Word* (1980) (**Jeremy Thorpe**, leader of the Liberal Party in the 1970s tried for attempted murder.)

See — **Jim Kelly**, "Five Best" *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 27-28, 2016, p.C10.



TOP FOOD BLOG by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Mimi Thorisson is French and Chinese, married to an Icelander. They live in the Médoc which is Bordeaux country. Her food blog has a huge following. Husband is a photographer by trade so the pictures are perfect. Ancient stone farm house, fox terriers, children. And of course the food.

See — **Charlie Wells**, "A Kitchen That's a Feast for the Eyes," *The Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 16, 2016, p.M6.

Future Dates for Charleston Conferences	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase Main Conference	
	Preconferences and Vendor Showcase	Main Conference
2017 Conference	8 November	9-11 November
2018 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2019 Conference	6 November	7-9 November
2020 Conference	4 November	5-7 November