

February 2017

Booklover-Changing of the Guards

Donna Jacobs
donna.jacobs55@gmail.com

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



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

Recommended Citation

Jacobs, Donna (2017) "Booklover-Changing of the Guards," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 29: Iss. 1, Article 21.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7720>

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.

Booklover — Changing of the Guards

Column Editor: **Donna Jacobs** (Retired, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC 29425)
<donna.jacobs55@gmail.com>



The announcement of the **Nobel Laureates** in all the various disciplines is one of my personal anticipations each autumn. When it was announced that **Bob Dylan** had been awarded the **2016 Nobel Prize in Literature** “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition,” I realized that a trip to the library was not going to be on my agenda. Instead I would find myself delving into a collection of more than 600 song lyrics online, for **Bob Dylan** is the first musician to win the prize in the 115 years of Nobel history.

I was young when **Dylan** came onto the music scene, but the lyrics to “The Times They Are a-Changin’,” “Blowin’ in the Wind,” and “Like a Rolling Stone” are part of my mental soundtrack and most likely yours, too. But lyrics as literature, this is a twist. And then I remembered a high school summer class in English where the teacher distributed lyrics to several popular songs and we as a class were asked to read them, interpret them and understand them, much like a group of poems, short stories, or excerpts from literature. I was enchanted with that teacher who took such an edgy approach to her English curriculum.

Born **Robert Allen Zimmerman** in 1941 in Duluth, Minnesota, **Dylan** legally changed his name to **Robert Dylan** in 1962. He gave an explanation for his name changing decision during a 2004 interview with CBS: “You’re born, you know, the wrong names, wrong parents. I mean, that happens. You call yourself what you want to call yourself. This is the land of the free.”

Dylan dropped out of school to pursue his musical aspirations. Like many aspiring musicians, he traveled to New York City. While there he visited **Woody Guthrie**, who heavily influenced his early music career and he decided he would become **Guthrie’s** disciple. **Dylan** also explored the musical genres of American folk, blues, rock, gospel and jazz as well as folk music from other ethnic origins to sculpt his songs, all the while embracing various literary influences to craft the lyrics to deliver the messages. It has worked for generations of **Dylan** followers.

Dylan’s songs and lyrics rose in popularity during a time of social unrest and anti-war sentiment in America. They resonated with the youth of these times and quickly became part of the popular vernacular. We easily break into “The answer is blowin’ in the wind” or “How does it feel. To be without a home. Like a complete unknown. Like a rolling stone?” or “The night they drove Old Dixie down. And all her bells were ringing.” Even the news media announcements of **Dylan’s** honor were decorated with excerpts from his lyrics, leading to discussions of whether the times are really “a-changin’” due to the lack of any women in the 2016 list of Nobel laureates.

As I read through song titles and lyrics on the websites, the song I will leave you with had an intriguing title based on the political environment created by the recent election. The lyrics of “Changing of the Guards” are haunting, cryptic and the subject of a variety of interpretations in the musical blogs, sort of like what is going on with the political pundits right now.

*Sixteen years
Sixteen banners united over the field
Where the good shepherd grieves
Desperate men, desperate women divided
Spreading their wings ‘neath falling leaves.*

*Fortune calls
I stepped forth from the shadows to the marketplace
Merchants and thieves, hungry for power, my last deal gone down
She’s smelling sweet like the meadows where she was born
On midsummer’s eve near the tower:*

*The cold-blooded moon
The captain waits above the celebration
Sending his thoughts to a beloved maid
Whose ebony face is beyond communication
The captain is down but still believing that his love will be repaid.*

*They shaved her head
She was torn between Jupiter and Apollo
A messenger arrived with a black nightingale
I seen her on the stairs and I couldn’t help but follow
Follow her down past the fountain where they lifted her veil.*

*I stumbled to my feet
I rode past destruction in the ditches
With the stitches still mending beneath a heart-shaped tattoo
Renegade priests and treacherous young witches
Were handing out the flowers that I’d given to you.*

*The palace of mirrors
Where dog soldiers are reflected
The endless road and the wailing of chimes
The empty rooms where her memory is protected
Where the angels’ voices whisper to the souls of previous times.*

*She wakes him up
Forty-eight hours later the sun is breaking
Near broken chains, mountain laurel and rolling rocks
She’s begging to know what measures he now will be taking
He’s pulling her down and she’s clutching on to his long golden locks.
Gentlemen, he said I don’t need your organization, I’ve shined your shoes
I’ve moved your mountains and marked your cards
But Eden is burning either brace yourself for elimination
Or else your hearts must have the courage for the changing of the guards.*

*Peace will come
With tranquility and splendor on the wheels of fire
But will bring us no reward when her false idols fall
And cruel death surrenders with its pale ghost retreating
Between the King and the Queen of Swords. 🌿*

Rumors from page 34

by **Dalmeet Singh Chawla** (Jan. 17, 2017) “The blog—started in 2010 by librarian **Jeffrey Beall** of the **University of Colorado in Denver** (CU Denver)—now states: “This service is no longer available.” You may remember that **Beall** brought up the predatory publisher issue in *The Charleston Advisor*. <http://www.>

sciencemag.org/news/2017/01/mystery-controversial-list-predatory-publishers-disappears

Just heard that **Lulu Publishing** is extending their help and services to the authors who were left behind by the **Tate Publishing** closure. lulu.com

Good news from **John Dove**. According to his doctors, he is entirely on the mend. **John** says his challenge for the next few weeks is to avoid lifting 5 pounds. Sounds doable, **John!**

Jisc, the digital solutions provider for **UK education and research**, has announced that **OCLC**, has been awarded the contract to develop a new **National Bibliographic Knowledgebase (NBK)**. The NBK, originally proposed in **Jisc’s National Monograph Strategy**, will support the learning and research needs of the UK higher education community. The vision is to extend the capabilities of the current **Copac** service, by investing in technology that can

continued on page 57