Bet You Missed It-What do Falconers and Dukes 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

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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

WARTIME PARIS
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)


READ THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION BY FOLKS WHO WERE THERE
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)

(1) Meriel Buchanan, The Dissolution of an Empire (1932) (daughter of last British ambassador to the Tsar); (2) Bessie Beatty, The Red Heart of Russia (1918) (L.A. feminist arrives full of hope, faces harsh realities); (3) Donald Thompson, Donald Thompson in Russia (1918) (arrived with pair of Celts and movie camera; thousands of feet of film he took are lost); (4) Florence MacLeod Harper, Runaway Russia (1918) (first American female journalist in Petrograd); (5) Maurice Paléologue, An Ambassador’s Memoirs, 1914-1917 (1925) (slow suicide of an empire governed by fools; French was still language of Russian high society).


FITZGERALD TURF
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)

In the midst of the Depression, Scott Fitzgerald lived in the Mount Vernon district of Baltimore. His Roaring Twenties stories no longer sold, and he had become a C-list celebrity. He did write The Crack-Up about a descent into alcoholism and madness.

Baltimore was still a prosperous city. Railroad and banking magnates lived in mansions in Mount Vernon which sits on a bluff above the old docks.

After a long decline, the neighborhood is coming back. The Beltvedere Hotel is a refurbished relic of the Gilded Age. Fitzgerald drank in the Owl Bar with journalists like H.L. Mencken. The building is now condos, but the bar with stained glass and giant glass owls is in operation.


EARLY PREDICTOR OF MSM DEATH
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)

Way back in 1993, Michael Crichton predicted the coming extinction of dinosaur media. Long before you heard “fake news,” NBC was faking footage of exploding trucks. Americans thought media was biased, attentive to trivia, and utterly in league with the Uni-party.

Crichton said the reporters were the poor products of American education and unable to generate high-quality info. Near-sighted management focused on the short term and was failing to respond to changing technology. GM and IBM would soon be joined by the New York Times.


WHO KNEW?
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)

Shakespeare was an amateur falconer, and his plays brought numerous expressions from the sport into our everyday language. “Under my thumb” and “wrapped around my finger” describes holding the jesses when the bird is perched on your leather gloved hand.

“Fed up” refers to the bird having so much to eat that he doesn’t want to hunt. “Hoodwinked” when the bird has a mask on his head so he’ll be still.

“Eyes like a hawk?” They have staggering eyesight. “Like reading a newspaper across a football field.”


DAUNTLESS SMALL LIBRARY
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)

Heywood Hill bookshop of 10 Curzon Street, Mayfair is alive and well. Nancy Mitford worked there during the war, and the shop came into the possession of her brother-in-law, the Duke of Devonshire. It does around $1 million of business a year and has developed innovations like “A Year in Books” which brings you a surprise title each month. No two people get the same.

It’s also into the curation of private libraries. Vista-Jet founder Thomas Flohr commissioned a 4,000-volume library on 20th-century art and design for his Swiss chalet.


LET’S READ LITERARY BIOGRAPHIES
by Bruce Strauch (Retired, The Citadel)
