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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

Column Editor: **Bruce Strauch** (Retired, 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**

WARTIME PARIS

by **Bruce Strauch** (Retired, The Citadel)

(1) **Nicholas Shakespeare**, *Priscilla* (2013) (Englishwoman survives as mistress of black marketeers and Germans); (2) **Marceline Lorian-Ivens**, *But You Did Not Come Back* (2015) (death camp survivor adjusts to normality); (3) **Dominique Veillon**, *Fashion Under the Occupation* (2002) (French women manage to look stylish under the Occupation); (4) **Annès Humbert**, *Résistance* (1946) (middle-aged art historian joins resistance network); (5) **Alan Riding**, *And the Show Went On* (2010) (entertainers performed for the Germans, punished for collaboration after war).

See — **Anne Sebba**, “Five Best,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 26-27, 2015, p.C10.

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 Colts 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).

See — **Helen Rappaport**, “Five Best,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 28-29, 2017, p.C10. (She is the author of *Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd 1917*).

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 Belvedere 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.

See — **Nina Sovich**, “Writer's Blocks,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 28-29, 2017, p.D5.



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*.

See — **Michael Crichton**, “Mediasaurus,” *Wired*, April 1, 1993, n.p.

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.”

See — **Andrew Evans**, “How Irish Falconry Changed Language,” BBC Online, Jan. 19, 2017.

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.

See — **Francis Wheen**, “Little Shop of Hoarders,” *Vanity Fair*, Feb. 2017, p.100.

LET'S READ LITERARY BIOGRAPHIES

by **Bruce Strauch** (Retired, The Citadel)

(1) **Richard Ellmann**, *Oscar Wilde* (1987); (2) **Diane Johnson**, *Dashiell Hammett* (1983); (3) **Ian Hamilton**, *In search of J.D. Salinger* (1988); (4) **Edmund White**, *Genet* (1993); (5) **Stacy Schiff**, *Vera* (1999) (*Mrs. Vladimir Nabokov*).

See — **Brad Gooch**, “Five Best,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 14-15, 2017, p.C10. (**Brad** is the author of *Rumi's Secret: The Life of the Sufi Poet of Love*).