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## Bet You Missed It-Want to go on a bookstore blind date? Or learn more about cookbooks?

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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**

### THE JOY OF COOK BOOKS

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

**Rick Ellis'** New York loft is stacked with an unrivaled collection of some 5,000 Southern cook books, many extremely rare — for ex. **Lafcadio Hearn's** 1885 *La Cuisine Creole*. Other standouts: **Mary Randolph**, *The Virginia Housewife* (1824), **Abby Fisher**, *What Mrs. Fisher Knows about Old Southern Cooking* (1881).

**Ellis** studied architecture at UVA, fell into the food world as a caterer and then a "food stylist" working on such projects as *The Age of Innocence* and Burger King ads.

He views his books as social documents of the history of the South. The holy grail he seeks is *A Domestic Cook Book* by a free black woman named **Malinda Russell**. He only knows of two in existence.

See — **Monte Burke**, "A Taste for Books," *Garden & Gun*, Aug./Sept., 2017, p. 73.

### MUST-HAVE ITEMS FOR TEXANS

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

Should you dine at a Whataburger in Texas you might very well join the craze of pilfering a "table tent" — an A-frame bit of plastic with your order number on it.

Lucky numbers, birthday or anniversary digits, athletic jersey numerals — all are popular motivators. And for the hard-core, the complete 1-thru-96.

See — **Erin Ailworth**, "When Whataburger Asks Texans to Take a Number, They Oblige," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 15-16, 2017, p. A1.

### REINVENTING JANE AUSTEN AS A RADICAL

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

It would seem that everyone knows that **Jane Austen** dealt not with social ills like the later **Dickens** but with "individual failings: vanity, greed, pride, selfishness, arrogance, folly."

But that ill satisfies academe which must now shoehorn her into their jargon. She is being described as an "angry subversive," at war with the "commodification of women." And of course slavery, sexual abuse (where exactly?), land enclosure (of all preposterous things), imperialism. And blah-blah.

*And we see why the English major is dying.*

See — **Robert Garnett**, "The Pride and Prejudice of 21st-Century Literary Critics," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 15-16, 2017, p. A13.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

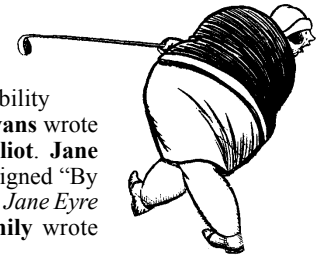
by **Bruce Strauch** (Retired, The Citadel)

Authors of controversial tracts have often chosen invisibility. **Tom Paine** hid his authorship of "Common Sense." **Madison, Hamilton and Jay** used a joint pseudonym of **Publius** for *The Federalist Papers*.

And then there was the respectability problem for women. **Mary Anne Evans** wrote *Middlemarch* and others as **George Eliot**. **Jane Austen's** *Sense and Sensibility* was signed "By a Lady." **Charlotte Brontë** published *Jane Eyre* as **Currer Bell** while her sister **Emily** wrote *Wuthering Heights* as **Ellis Bell**.

And even **Joanne Rowling** was advised to become **J.K. Rowling** to not put off boy readers.

See — **Amanda Foreman**, "Historically Speaking: Jane Austen Without Her Name," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 29-30, 2017, p. C12.



### LET'S READ ABOUT NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS

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

**Ted Hinton** as told to **Larry Grove**, *Ambush* (1979) (lawman who killed Bonnie and Clyde); (2) **Bryan Burroughs**, *Public Enemies* (2004) (birth of the modern FBI in the '30s); (3) **Steven Nickel** and **William J. Helmer**, *Baby Face Nelson* (2002) (back-robbing killer who hated his nickname); (4) **John Toland**, *The Dillinger Days* (1963) (admiring account of the FBI); (5) **Michael Wallis**, *Pretty Boy* (1992) (rich account of an era).

See — **Stephen Hunter**, "Five Best," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 24-25, 2017, p. C10.

*Hunter is the author of the novel "G-Man."*

### BOOKSTORE BLIND DATE

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

Sounds sexy, but it's really just a brown paper book cover with a teasing come-on. And it seems to be wildly popular.

Staff select "under-read classics," customer selects a whimsical synopses and then unwraps on Instagram.

The fad seems to have begun in Germany. Among American stores trying it successfully: **Malaprop's Bookstore/Café** in Asheville, NC; **Book Culture's** three stores in NYC; **Anderson's Bookshop** in Naperville, IL.; **Oblong Books & Music** in Rhinebeck, NY; **Chop Suey Books** in Richmond, VA; **The Book Cellar** in Chicago, IL.

"The Hunger Games Played for Laughs." "**Junot Diaz** meets **Virginia Woolf**." "**John Grisham** goes to Camp."

Find the appeal?

See — **Erin Geiger Smith**, "When Bookstores Become Matchmakers," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 11, 2017, p. A9.

## Future Dates for Charleston Conferences

Preconferences and  
Vendor Showcase    Main Conference

2017 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2018 Conference	7 November	8-10 November
2019 Conference	6 November	7-9 November