

Against the Grain

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Bet You Missed It-Press Clippings – in the news – Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

Bruce Strauch

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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**

THAT BOOK FAIR YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE

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

No one can quite define the “Welsh Marches.” They're a border area between English and Wales. But the river Wye is definitely one of the boundaries.

And **Hay-on-Wye** hosts the famous **Hay Festival** (May 24-June 3 this year). Everything you want in a book fair: author lectures, secondhand books at the **Hay Cinema Bookshop** and **Richard Booth's**, walks to working farms, Medieval artwork. And you can eat lobster and chips at the **Lobster Shack**. Woo!

See — **Alexandra Henton**, “Making for Hay,” *The Field*, May, 2018, p.86.

LET'S READ CAMBRIDGE SPIES

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

Geoffrey Hoare, *The Missing Macleans* (1955) (Hoare was a neighbor to the **Macleans** in Cairo. **Macleans** drank his way to a nervous breakdown, wrecked the American ambassador's secretary's office, was sent home for his health.); (2) **Rebecca West**, *The New Meaning of Treason* (1964) (West excoriates the establishment for not finding the spies.); (3) **Tim Milne**, *Kim Philby* (2014) (**Milne** was **Philby's** best friend from age 13, worked with him at **MI6**. A true insider account.); (4) **Andrew Lownie**, *Stalin's Englishman* (2015); **John Banville**, *The Untouchable* (1997) (novel about Fourth Man **Anthony Blunt**, curator of the Queen's pictures).

See — **Roland Philipps**, “Five Best,” *The Wall Street Journal*, May 12-13, 2018, p.C10. *Philipps* is the author of “A Spy Named Orphan: The Enigma of Donald Maclean.”

LITERARY PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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

Who could resist? **Virginia Wolf's** Hogarth House in leafy Richmond-on-Thames, a 1750 villa divided into two residences. Husband moved her there due to her fragile mental health and suggested they begin the **Hogarth Press**.

It started on the dining room table with a hand-operated printing press. Published *The Waste Land*. Survives as an imprint of **Random House**.

The **Wolfs** owned it from 1917 to 1924 when they moved to Sussex and **Virginia** began her affair with **Vita Sackville-West**. It was during the love affair that she was the most prolific — *Mrs. Dalloway* (1925); *To the Lighthouse* (1927); *Orlando* (1928).

And then she put stones in her pockets and walked into water.

Each of the two units of **Hogarth** are offered at \$4.62 million.

AND in the same **WSJ Mansion section**, **George Plimpton's** duplex, East 72nd, overlooking the East River is for sale at \$5.495 million. **George** of course is *Paris Review* and *Paper Lion* et al.

19th century, five stories, black with red doors. 4,700 square-feet.

And, I note from the photos, there are *Audubon bird prints on the wall*. **George** was a *WASP old-money birder*.

See — **Ruth Bloomfield**, “For Sale: Rooms That Wolf Once Owned,” and **Katherine Clark**, “George Plimpton's New York Duplex Up for Sale,” *The Wall Street Journal*, April 20, 2018, pp. M2 and M3.



Library Space in the Digital Age from page 10

Renovating and repurposing space involves numerous moving parts and multiple stakeholders. In an HGTV influenced world where the before and after pictures take on more importance than the actual work that leads to the big reveal, it's easy to forget the planning and hard labor that facilitate the new beautiful, shiny space. **Derek Wilmott** details the process of clearing the stacks of monographs and bound journals at **Clemson University** to make room for the **Adobe Digital Studio**, a multimedia creative space.

The goal of library space renovation over the years has been to raise the profile of the library by providing new learning spaces and technology. Many times, this includes working with campus partners to ensure

students get the best services, expertise, and meaningful learning spaces. **Lauren Pressley** and **Serin Anderson** present three case studies that identify the complexities of two buildings and two separate campus departments in relation to the physical collection and a learning commons at the **University of Washington Tacoma**.

Although similar in nature, one of the things I appreciate the most about libraries is their uniqueness. This uniqueness can take many forms; collections, space, furniture, layout, purpose, staff, etc. **Lorrie McAllister** and **John Henry Adams** share their perspective on the rare opportunity they have at **Arizona State University** to clear out the largest library on campus and create unique spaces to accentuate their print collections. They also hope to involve students and the community in the development of print collection displays, curation, and exhibitions.

It's important to remember there are thousands of stories like the ones chronicled here in this special issue on library space in the digital age that show the resourcefulness and adaptability of librarians and libraries to make an impact on the learning of the people they serve. The stories you are about to read are innovative, thought provoking, and inspiring. I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful authors for sharing their stories, and the hard work they do every day to improve their libraries. I would also like to thank **Katina Strauch** for giving me the opportunity to guest edit this issue. Years ago I got my first chance to present at a national conference and lucky for me it was the **Charleston Conference**. I would like to thank **Katina** for giving me that break back in 2009 and always standing up for the quiet ones who have something to say. 🐼