December 2009

From Your (dog loving) Editor

Katina Strauch
Against the Grain, kstrauch@comcast.net
From Your (dog loving) Editor:

We have a wonderful Jack Russell terrier named Cleo. We got her when my daughter was quite young. Back in those days, Cleo was into everything. She wouldn’t go to sleep unless we were all in bed, she guarded the house and sounded ferocious if anyone had the audacity to come to the door, she loved running outside and avoiding the authorities. But, alas, time has taken its toll on Cleo who will be 15 in August. She no longer jumps up and guards the house. She has cataracts and the only thing that will get her moving is dinnertime. Anyway, Cleo is why I broke my ankle recently. She has to be carried everywhere especially up and down stairs. And I was carrying her down stairs which I didn’t know were wet. OOPS! I slipped. Thought it was just a sprain, but no sir. It was a big break!

Still, as always, your loyal ATG crew plugged along. And what a great issue we have produced! Beth Bernhardt has collected articles on “pay-per-view,” a new purchasing model that we are all exploring. Articles are by Patrick Carr, Ryan Weir and Ashley Ireland, Mindy King and Aaron Nichols, and Douglas LeFrenier. We have an Under the Hood about Xan’s sabbatical in Europe, two items (an Op Ed and a Group Therapy) regarding the Armida Americana book problem. Interviews are with Lotti Belkhir, George Machovec, and Mark Kendall, People Profiles from Ashley Ireland, Ryan Weir, Mindy King, Aaron Nichols, Doug LaFrenier, and Jesse Holden, a Publisher’s Profile from World Scientific, a discussion of legal implications of reference books for publishers and consumers, a discussion about the Google Book Settlement 2.0, reports from the 2008 Charleston Conference and, of course, much, much more!

OOPS! Cleo wants to come upstairs! I have to figure out how to get her up here if my husband is not around. I am now exploring baby backpacks and carriers. Beats falling down the stairs, right?

Happy 2010 to you all! Thanks!

Love, Yr. Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: Against the Grain, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the ATG Homepage at http://www.against-the-grain.com.

Dear Editor:

Re “The Case for Saying Less,” I earned my MLS in 1984 at the ripe old age of 43. Since then my membership in ALA has been an on-again/off-again adventure. I have long believed that ALA tends on occasion to wander from its mission of focusing on library-related issues. The action that Steve McKinzie addressed in his article is one of those times. Unfortunately, I was unaware of the letters sent to Congress or that would have given me an occasion to, once again, consider canceling my membership or at least express my disapproval to ALA.

Of course, changes in health care are important to me as I approach the age of Medicare and begin to think about the days when my work as a full-time librarian may draw to a close. I do attempt to self-educate on this and multiple other issues but that is personal not professional. For me, ALA is in the professional realm and healthcare is in the personal framework.

I do not look to ALA to offer me input on this personal issue. Similarly, discussions of military and other non-library topics should not be on ALA’s agenda.

Thank you to Steve for taking the time to address this aspect of ALA activity and to you for publishing it. I expect there are other ALA members who share these thoughts.

Thanks, June Strojny

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Rumors services — print and electronic approval plans, firm and rush orders, continuations and technical services. Additional services that were previously unique to one provider, such as Blackwell’s Table of Contents Catalog Enrichment Service or YBP Library Services’ GOBI3 bibliographic service, will soon be offered to all customers. ATG interviewed Mark Kendall on its ATG NewsChannel days after the article was announced. The interview is still up on our Website and is also printed in this issue, p.40.

www.blackwell.com/ www.against-the-grain.com/

According to the Portland Business Journal (Tuesday, December 8), Baker & Taylor, Inc., is closing the Lake Oswego offices of Blackwell North America and laying off 139 workers. The first round of layoffs will begin February 7 and there will be another round a month later. Meanwhile, the Lake Oswego office will remain open for a year as the transition takes place.


The sale of Blackwell North America to YBP is a startling event for many of us. Bob Nardini expresses it eloquently as usual in his column in this issue, p.73. And watch these pages for more coverage of this historic event. I understand that our long-time friends John Laraway and David Swords will be either retiring or looking for other employment.

The upbeat

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