September 2007

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

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Recommended Citation

Strauch, Bruce (2007) "Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths," Against the Grain: Vol. 19: Iss. 4, Article 33.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.5123

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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 (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 DEFENSE RESTS
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

“Rumpole” author John Mortimer defends his five favorite fictional depictions of the bar. Are you ready?

Anthony Trollope, Orley Farm; Charles Dickens, Bleak House; William Shakespeare, Measure for Measure; Charles Dickens, Great Expectations; P.D. James, A Certain Justice.


THE EMBLEM OF A TIMELESS VOLUME
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

An art reviewer’s paean to glorious bookplates with laurel leaves wrapping a scroll reading “From the Library of.” Hers were produced by the Antioch Bookplate Co. (now Antioch Publishing) in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Co-founder Ernest Morgan was in a work-study program at Antioch College when he caught the bookplate bug.

Plates were designed by Rockwell Kent and Robert Whitmore, and what designs they were. A tree with roots wrapped around an open book; an owl sitting on a book stack; “ex libris” with the man on the library ladder.

And the great homilies: like “I enjoy sharing my books as I do my friends asking only that you treat them well and see them safely home.”

Karen Gardner now owns the plate business via Bookplate Ink. Karen is working her niche well with sales up 40% over last year. Authors are now signing plates and sending them off to bookstores for self-adhesive insertion.


AT LEAST THERE’S NO MORE CARD CATALOGUE
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Bing Pan, a College of Charleston business professor discovers that college kids just open the first entry on Google. And since the number of hits determines the position, the article stays on top. He is not pleased with this, research-wise.


BACKTALK IS ALWAYS MORE INTERESTING
by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Wikipedia now has 1.9 million online encyclopedia articles and is the 17th busiest US Website. If you go under the tab “Discussion,” you’ll find what the author refers to as addictive stuff. Editors get into some “prolix vehemence.”

Did Meucci or Bell invent the telephone? 242,000 words are devoted to this academic brawl. Should the concept of “limit” be explained as “average” in calculus. That one got a lot of heated debate. An author who ventured that most people consider kittens to be cute got attacked as “Eurocentric.”

And you’ll pick up some rare trivia. Raw potatoes are indeed poisonous due to solanine, but you’d have to eat a sackful. Marshall McLuhan thought his ideas on media were inspired by the Virgin Mary. And he believed that a global conspiracy of Freemasons was seeking to wreck his career. And this last comes authoritatively from his biographer.