

# AUTHORS GUILD

Winter 2009

**BULLETIN**



**On-Demand Books in Every Bookshop?  
Jason Epstein's Dream Machine**

**Making Peace Between Books and the Internet**

**Dick Yates Goes to the Movies**

**John Updike on the Act and Art of Writing**

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I read with great interest about the wonderful achievement of the settlement with Google (Bulletin, Fall 2008). It would appear that some financial benefit should accrue to the Authors Guild to compensate it for its effort and to help it continue to represent authors' interests. However, I assume that efforts must already have been made to include benefits for the Authors Guild and reopening negotiations would be a hassle. Instead, perhaps authors who receive benefits from this settlement could be encouraged to make contributions to the Authors Guild.

—Florence Temko  
La Jolla, CA

I was doing my book registry for the Google settlement and I saw that one of my titles, *Jabberwocky*, had listed as the coauthor, Humpty Dumpty! Honestly, as

The Guild encourages members to write to the Bulletin. Letters should be sent to "Letters to the Editor," The Authors Guild, 31 East 32nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10016. They can also be faxed to (212) 564-5363, or sent via e-mail to [staff@authorsguild.org](mailto:staff@authorsguild.org) (type "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line). Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity.

a "coauthor," he was not all he was cracked up to be and did not pull his weight on the project!

—Jane Zalben  
Sands Point, NY

Recently I received a letter from Random House saying that they wanted to include a book of mine in a group they were going to make available as e-books. If, as it now appears, books will increasingly be sold as e-books, it makes good business sense for both publishers and writers to place their books in some electronic system. I was therefore initially

pleased to have one of my books in the e-book program.

I then noticed that Random House was offering to

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## ALONG PUBLISHERS ROW

BY CAMPBELL GEESLIN

READER'S REPORT: **Max Leone**, a 13-year-old boy from New Jersey, wrote an essay in PW about what teenagers want to read. He said, "I beg you: please use only modern language, no matter what time period or universe your book takes place in."

He asked, "Whatever urge compels writers to clumsily smash morals about fairness and honor or other cornball crap onto otherwise fine stories?" He said that teenagers get enough of that from parents and teachers.

Make certain that "the vampire is always a menacing badass. That is the kind of book teenage boys want to read."

Leone's cardinal rule: "Do not underestimate your audience."

If writers follow his rules, Leone said, "they'll be able to cash in on the four or five minutes each day that teenagers aren't already spending on school, homework, video games, eating, band practice and sports."

PRE-E-MAIL: There are eight volumes of **Chekhov's** 4,200 letters, postcards and telegrams. Some were pub-

lished in *The Selected Letters of Anton Chekhov* (1955), with an introduction by **Lillian Hellman**.

In one letter, Chekhov wrote: "being an eminent author is not so great a delight. For one thing, it's a gloomy life. Work from morning to night, and not much sense to it. Money—as scarce as hen's teeth . . . my place is smoky and cold. I get cigarettes, as before, but only on holidays. And impossible cigarettes! They are tough and damp, like little sausages. Before smoking I turn up the lamp wick, dry the cigarette over it and only then light it; while the lamp sputters and reeks, the cigarette cracks and darkens, and I scorch my fingers. You feel that death might be a welcome release."

HOW TO DO IT: **Daniel Suarez's** first novel, *Daemon*, was a bestseller. The author told PW how the book came to be: "I wrote *Daemon* several years ago, but couldn't find representation, so I self-published using print-on-demand. As a book about the power of the Web, *Daemon* was perfect for Internet marketing. My

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