

AUTHORS GUILD

Fall 2006 **BULLETIN**



RULES, BRITANIA!:

The Long Reach of Commonwealth Libel Laws

Roy Blount's Semi-rural Take on Urban Dictionary

Reading for Points: Schools Embrace Accelerated Reader

The Authors Guild Interview: Jennifer Egan

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks in large part to the Authors Guild's advice and guidance, I was able to get my copyright returned from one publisher, and my second book, *Lives Across Time*, a study of 76 children from birth to 30 years of age, was published last December.

After attending one of your seminars in San Francisco, and weighing the advantages and disadvantages of an agent and trade publisher versus Xlibris, I went the latter route. My next book, *Reluctant Warriors: Israelis Suspended Between Rome and Jerusalem*, about soldiers in the Intifada, will be published by Xlibris. I will let you know how the new book fares.

Nathan Szajnberg
Berkeley, CA

I am working on a book that involves much research, to be titled *Roanoke River: Mother of America*. So many of my footnote entries have been attributed to www.

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 (type "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line). Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity.

Internet sites that I have, in the back of the book, following the bibliography, made a section titled "Internetography." Have I coined a new word? It seems logical to me. The prefix *biblio* means *from books*; computer internet sites are not books. As far as I know, the various style books have not addressed this issue. It seems to me that the Authors Guild would be a logical forum to address this question. Comments, please.

Mathew J. Bowyer
Roanoke, VA

In One on One: A Conversation with William Zinsser [Spring 2006], you mentioned that we have been repeatedly lied to, and no one cares. Unfortunately that is true, but not the complete truth. People do not realize how they are being lied to, and they are not being informed. Considering all the writers who know about

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ALONG PUBLISHERS ROW

BY CAMPBELL GEESLIN

When a publisher hits with a subject that sells—diet book, Jesus, chick lit, painful memoirs—the competition piles on. The latest hot idea is an anthology made up of first-person confessional essays by writers who tackle intimate topics and let it all hang out.

The New York Times spotted this trend and quoted **Elizabeth Kaplan**, an agent who helped create a hot seller in 2002—*The Bitch in the House: 26 Women Tell the Truth About Sex, Solitude, Work, Motherhood and Marriage*. Kaplan told The New York Times, "Maybe anthologies are the new memoir. They've tapped into something in the air."

Other titles include *Maybe Baby: 28 Writers Tell the Truth About Skepticism, Infertility, Baby Lust, Childlessness, Ambivalence and How They Made the Biggest Decision of Their Lives*; *Roar Softly and Carry a Great Lipstick: 28 Women Writers on Life, Sex and Survival*; *Because I Said So: 33 Mothers Write about Children, Sex, Men, Aging, Faith, Race and Themselves*.

Don't those titles look like the cover blurbs on most women's magazines these days?

As for the opposite sex, **Sally Wofford-Girand**, an agent, told The Times, "Most of the ones aimed at men pretty much fail miserably."

Does this indicate that there really is a difference between the sexes?

GET BUSY: **Alan Bennett**—British author, playwright and actor—has published a memoir, *Untold Stories*. He says, "A writer is only a writer when writing. The rest is marking time. And your published books and plays don't count; they only prove that you were a writer yesterday but not today, not now."

DUO: **Douglas Preston** and **Lincoln Child** are authors of the best-selling *Book of the Dead*.

PW reported that the two men met when Preston, publications manager at the American Museum of Natural History, was writing *Dinosaurs in the Attic*. Child was his editor at St. Martin's.

Preston gave Child a midnight tour of the museum,

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