

## HAVE YOU READ?

### *A selection of recent articles interesting to the bibliophile*

"HOT OFF THE PRESS," *Wallpaper* magazine, August 2006. The Germany publisher Steidl has its authors (mainly of books of photography, art and literature) stay at the company's adjoining Halftone Hotel in order to keep a demandingly close watch on the production process of their creations. The company is subsidized by Günter Grass, who, in 1993, granted the company world rights to his books. Grass said: "There will be a lot of income for you now. Take some of it and invest it in young writers who have no chance with other publishers."

REVIEW SECTION, *Saturday Guardian* newspaper. This part of the Saturday edition of the *Guardian* (U.K. Newspaper of the Year) is now available at newsstands in Canada. Apart from book reviews, it contains other regular features, often double-page illustrated spreads of excerpts from newly published books. Ian Jack, the editor of *Granta*, contributes on a wide range of topics, such as his visiting Martha Gelhorn (once married to Ernest Hemingway), who wanted him to publish some of her material on the urban poor in Brazil. Jack found the material not up to Gelhorn's usual standard and had to decline with some conscience. "Rejection," he wrote, "was the rottenest part of an editor's life." Upon reading in Gelhorn's recently published letters "I am not sure that Ian Jack will take it because of the dullness of the writing," Jack felt a "guilt of ten years was lightened." In *Lives and Letters D.M. Thomas* told of attending a party at William Golding's when the great writer gave him his scribbled phone number and, that night, passed away. Thomas realized that he had in his possession Golding's last writing. The Bookseller, a regular feature, keeps readers aware of events in the book trade, such as a breakthrough in the Department of Inland Revenue's permitting authors to claim their agents' fees against income tax. Not surprisingly somehow, to *Guardian* readers, the sociological Family section recently contained advice on making a calligraphic pen from bamboo.

"THE INJUSTICE COLLECTOR: IS JAMES JOYCE'S GRANDSON SUPPRESSING SCHOLARSHIP?" *The New Yorker*, June 19, 2006. Stephen James Joyce, who controls the James Joyce estate, seems obsessed about protecting the private life and work of his grandfather by denying hopeful

## AMPHORA ARCHIVES

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academics and biographers access to any Joycean material, other than quotations of a few short passages. His strong desire to keep family matters confidential may have prompted him to destroy many letters, including some to Beckett. He harbours a strong dislike for scholars, whom he accuses of making the average reader feel too intimidated to attempt his grandfather's works. The attitude is summed up in one of his favourite poems by Patrick Kavanagh, "What weapon was used/ To slay mighty Ulysses?/The weapon that was used/Was a mighty Harvard thesis." Because of his intransigence there are currently no works on Joyce under way, though a rush will surely be unleashed in 2012 when the copyright on Joyce's material runs out and the scholars Stephen Joyce so dislikes will be almost falling over one another in pursuit of Joycean grail.

PALATINO NOVA & JAF LAPTURE: A REVIEW BY PAUL SHAW, *Print Magazine*, May/June 2006. A review of Hermann Zapf and Akira Kobayashi's updating of the Palatino typeface (Linotype Library, 2005), originally produced in 1948 and "arguably the most widely pirated typeface." The two designers "have successfully taken Palatino from the vanished world of metal type and letterpress printing and brought it into the world of digital type and off-set printing." The review also comments on Tim Ahrens' JAF Lapture (Just Another Foundry).

*Compiled by* HOWARD GREAVES

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