

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES to WITHDRAWN & QUARTERED

—Five of the books found in **WITHDRAWN & QUARTERED** are from the **BILL FREE LIBRARY** (see **PAPERBACK ISLAND**, by Marshall Brooks, “The Bill Free Library”, pp. 70-79). Poet, journalist Bill Costley pioneered the idea of re-publishing books, in effect, by physically rescuing them from thrift shops and dumpsters. No Bill, no **WITHDRAWN & QUARTERED**.

— **THE PRIVATE PAPERS OF HENRY RYECROFT**, by George Gissing, 1st American edition, 1903, purchased from **Dogears Antiquarian Books, Hoosick, NY 12089 (518) 686-9580**, one of my favorite used bookshops — certainly the warmest in cold, New England weather on account of the shop’s wood stove (a train depot-worthy pot belly).

— **WITH ALL MY MIGHT**, by Erskine Caldwell, a free book from the **Traveler Restaurant, Union, CT**, where every visitor gets to choose a free book with their meal. Unpredictable selection of books, too, there at the TR. A good, well-organized bookstore is located in the Restaurant’s basement.

—**THE COMMON READER**, Virginia Woolf. Arson was to blame for the **Danbury, CT, Public Library fire of 27 February 1996**. The blaze set through a Book Return slot. 100,000 adult books were lost, but some not irretrievably. This copy of **THE COMMON READER** was bought at the Massachusetts discount store Building 19, along with three volumes of Woolf’s essays and a copy of her early journals for a few cents apiece. Likewise, a copy of **NERO WOLFE OF WEST THIRTY-FIFTH STREET**, by William S. Baring Gould. Aside from the suggestion of soot on its library binding and stout fore edges, **THE COMMON READER** is otherwise fine — and odorless.

— **WHAT ARE LEGENDS, A CLARIFICATION**, by Dick Higgins. Dick’s first book? Possibly. Ca. 1960. Published by the incomparable Bern Porter. Dick and Bern: two small press legends the likes of whom we will not see again any time soon. Dick’s 1960s - 70s publishing entity: **SOMETHING ELSE PRESS**. If you do not know it, make it a point to get acquainted. **WHAT ARE LEGENDS**, withdrawn from the **Carnegie Library in Coffeyville, KS**. What was this book doing there in Coffeyville in the first place, one reasonably wonders? Only the spirits of Library Science can explain. (Short answer: “This is exactly what books and libraries do — they surprise”.) Coffeyville, of course, the scene of the bloody shootout between the Dalton Gang and the bestirred citizenry there on October 5, 1892. The Gang attempted to rob two banks in town more or less simultaneously. Sound like a farfetched plan? It was. Trivia question: how many of the Dalton brothers were **ex-lawmen**?

— **SMALL TOWN**, by Granville Hicks. Literary critic Hicks (1901-1982) is buried in Brunswick, NY. Brunswick also home to my favorite Price Chopper supermarket. Difficult to put Hicks and the Chopper together in one’s mind, as with Dick Higgins, Bern Porter, and Coffeyville, KS. There is a bibliographic note pertaining to Hicks in **PAPERBACK ISLAND** on p. 182.

—**MEMOIRES sur la COUR de LOUIS XIV**, by Elisabeth-Charlotte, Duchesse D’Orleans. One of the great **BILL FREE LIBRARY** books. Based on the front inside cover information of this book, I was able to deduce the identity of **RER**, the prolific reader about whom I wrote in “The James T. Farrell Underground” (**THE GENERALIST PAPERS**, Vol.2, No.4, November 1991). Ruth Elspeth Raymond. Additionally, I traced Ms. Raymond’s literary remains (consisting of several archival boxes of journals, letters, and one or two mss.) to the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard. If you send along a SASE, I will see that you receive the original **GENERALIST PAPERS** issue featuring the JTF Underground and, in turn, **RER**. (Address: POB 441, W. Dover, VT 05356 USA.) More on **RER** in the future.

—**WINTER SPORTS VERSE**, Haynes and Harrison, eds. Only Bill Costley would thought to have saved an obscure book like this from oblivion. It is the **BILL FREE LIBRARY** all over.

—**ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT**, by Erich Maria Remarque. Reader’s of **PAPERBACK ISLAND** may recall that Remarque’s **ARCH OF TRIUMPH** is Bill’s most treasured book. (**PBI**, p.77.) **ALL QUIET**, itself, packs a genuine wallop, though. I want to say that the **S.A.G. — St. Anthony Guide** — stamps (**for safe mail delivery**) were found thus this inside the front cover of **ALL QUIET**. But maybe Bill put them there, as the safe mail delivery concept is right up his street.

—**POETICAL QUOTATIONS FROM CHAUCER TO TENNYSON**. “Since this book is no longer in demand, it has been withdrawn from our collection.” Words no author wants to have to ever read — even in someone else’s book, much less their own. In my experience, it is uncommon for a library to be so specific in expressing the “withdrawn” sentiment. The Brooks Memorial Library (Brattleboro, VT) is tough in this regard, while forebearing in others.

—**NEWSART** was one unusual literary newsprint publication. It began life as **THE NEW YORK SMITH** and was re-christened **NEWSART** with its second issue. **The Smith Publishers** most sustained free-form manifestation in a single format. **NEWSART** published hundreds of poems, short stories, plays, interviews, profiles, feature stories, book reviews, personal columns, cartoons, letters and more over an eight year period from 1974 to 1982 for a total of ten issues—560 pages in all—in an raucous, genre-bending, tabloid format. Other contributors to the **June 1980** issue of **NEWSART** were: Dick Higgins, Terry Kennedy, Tuli Kupferberg, and Donald Phelps (yes! an installment Donald’s nonpareil astrology column. This particular column: “Cancerian Heroes”).

—**A STUDY OF WORLD HISTORY, VOL. 1**, by Arnold Toynbee. Roger Skillings passed along this paperback, **ten volume** history to me one summer in Provincetown. I seem to recall that, somehow, I got the books back (just) from Roger’s place to our comfortable White Horse Inn digs via rental bike. What! Roger could not bear to see the books go to waste.

**LOOK FOR UPDATES TO THIS PAGE . . .**

Answer to the trivia question: at least three of the Dalton brother  
were disaffected ex-lawmen.