



THE JOURNAL

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Four letter words – Our Anglo-Saxon heritage

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plus all our regular features



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Editor

Andy Smith FCJ

Production Editor

Dominic Cooper

Contributors

Norman Bartlett

Roger Bush

Mark Croucher

Susan Elkin

Ashley Gibbins

Mike Moriarty

Stuart Notholt

John Szemerey

Mary Tomlinson

Chris Underwood

Cover photo by Andy Smith

News or views intended for publication should be sent to:

The Chartered Institute of Journalists
2 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road,
London SE16 2XU

E-mail: memberservices@ioj.co.uk

Tel: 020 7252 1187

Fax: 020 7232 2302

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Editor's Comment

I hate to mention them again so soon after my last Editorial comment, but those would-be Soviet commissars over at the headquarters of the National Union of Journalists (haven't they realised that Communism is out of fashion these days?) have been continuing, indeed increasing, their efforts to prevent our Institute from joining the International Federation of Journalists. Let me be absolutely clear about this: the NUJ's blackballing of the Institute from the IFJ - the Brussels-based organisation that issues international press cards - is part of the union's campaign to establish a de facto 'closed shop' within the journalistic profession in Britain and Ireland, and as such we in the Institute cannot allow them to get away with it any longer.

Mary Tomlinson of our International Division has been doing some ferreting away and she has discovered that the Institute first applied for admission to the IFJ way back in 1974. The NUJ, which was already affiliated to the IFJ, argued that the federation should only allow one member organisation per country, so the Institute's application was rejected. The IFJ subsequently changed its rules and there are now several countries represented by multiple members, but not the UK or Ireland, both of which are 'represented' (and this is hardly the right word) by the NUJ. According to Mary, since our initial application to the IFJ in '74 we have continued petitioning for membership at regular intervals. In other words, we have been trying to get into the IFJ for the past three decades! And each time we have made a submission, the NUJ has found ever more ingenious ways to keep us out.

None of this would matter were it not for the fact that the IFJ is the only internationally-accredited journalists' organisation and the only one with the legal authority to issue international press cards that are accepted worldwide as proof that the bearer is a professional journalist. Our own Institute press cards - which are police approved - are recognised in the UK but, as members of our International Division will testify, we have always had a fight on our hands when trying to persuade the authorities in countries around the world, especially non-English speaking countries, to accept Chartered Institute of Journalists members as bona fide newsgatherers. So, it would be extremely useful to members of our Institute to be able to carry IFJ press cards too.

There's more to it than that. The IFJ and its European arm the EFJ receive funding for some of their work from the European Union. That's EU taxpayers' money, of course. Money that we are currently denied because of the NUJ's opposition to our membership of the IFJ. So when, for example, the NUJ General-Secretary Jeremy Dear writes, as he did in PR Week on December 5, that press officers and PROs should have "an independent voice at work that will guarantee professional standards" and adds that "the NUJ is the only organisation that can do this," what he is really doing is trying to create a good old-fashioned trade-union closed shop. At least the Reds in Eastern Europe have now accepted freedom and democratic pluralism, however reluctantly; why can't Comrade Dear and the NUJ do so?

Now, thanks to the efforts of Mary and her colleagues in the International Division, the IFJ's Berlin Wall is starting to crumble. We have allies in the European Parliament, the Commission and in the IFJ itself. For those Marxist dinosaurs in the NUJ, the writing is on the wall.



ANDY SMITH

INSI launch major safety training programme for journalists

Freedom shrieks each time a journalist is killed doing his or her job of shedding light on dark places. So said Rodney Pinder, founder Director of the International News Safety Institute and a former editor with Reuters TV, in his report to the first general meeting of INSI, in Budapest, Hungary.

At least 16 media people had died in four short weeks of war in Iraq earlier this year. And two or three more were still not accounted for – missing, believed dead, INSI President Chris Cramer told the meeting. This was on top of over 1,000 journalists and news media staff who have been killed on duty in the past ten years.

This was quite unacceptable, said Cramer, a former BBC action reporter himself and now managing director of CNN International.

“We should be proud of our profession,” he continued, “that it was not prepared to take this lying down, and that it all sides of the industry have decided to work together to protect journalists.”

INSI is the media industry’s way of fighting back. Its objectives are to ensure that journalists and media people being sent to report on wars and conflicts are better prepared, to help and support those who come back damaged by their experiences and by the horrors that they have seen, and to help the dependants of those who are killed or incapacitated while reporting.

INSI also aims to get governments and the public to accept the importance of fair and objective reporting of wars and conflict, and their aftermath. This to change attitudes to war correspondents and their teams – photographers, cameramen, interpreters, drivers – so they are accepted as neutral observers having a right to report events without hindrance, threats of violence or of being shot at.

Ninety per cent of the killers of journalists have not been caught, complained Rodney Pinder. “The more that people can get

away with killing journalists, the more journalists will be killed.”

This could not go on. INSI had been set up to stop or at least reduce such killings, to pursue the killers and to get justice for our murdered media colleagues.

Too many police and army officers – even from technologically advanced countries – see media people as nuisances who have asked for what they get, and who are fair game to be shot and eliminated. Some even deliberately target journalists if they have witnessed cruel and barbaric acts that the perpetrators want to keep hidden from the world.

The unacceptable level of professional deaths of media people brought together the different sides of the news industry a year ago to launch a new initiative to promote the safety of journalists and to give them better protection in the course of their work. The resulting International News Safety Institute was set up in Brussels, Belgium in May 2003, with Chris Cramer as Honorary President, Richard Tait of IPI International as Vice-President, Rodney Pinder as Director and Aidan White, General Secretary of the IFJ, as Treasurer.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists was a co-founder of INSI and is represented on its Council.

INSI has issued a 16-step safety guide – advice for journalists working in hostile environments. And it has organised or co-operated with local journalists’ unions and media organisations in running journalists safety courses in Colombia, Budapest, Hungary, and Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

Contributors to INSI have included major broadcasting organisations and journalists professional organisations and trade unions from many countries. They range from the BBC, CNN, ITN, ABC Australia, Asia News International and Al-Jazeera, to our own Chartered Institute as well as the NUJ and journalists unions in Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, Peru, Denmark, the United States, Germany, Netherlands and Finland. However, some of the best known publishing houses and media

Your help is needed

Members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists are invited to contribute to the INSI website, in particular those with first-hand experience of what INSI calls the top ten ‘nastiest places’: Iraq, Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Chechnya, West Bank and Gaza, Eritrea, Togo, Colombia and Belarus.

INSI is particularly looking for relevant articles by journalists and specialists in countries that are not ‘Anglo-Saxon’ dominated, something with which the Chartered Institute is well placed to help in view of its international membership. Contributions by Brits and Americans are of course welcome, but others are sought also.

INSI needs diary dates for news media events anywhere in the world so it can put details on its website. It also hopes to be able to be represented at some of them to bring the INSI to a wider audience.

organisations – who all claim to support INSI and what it stands for – are conspicuous by their absence from the list of donors.

JOHN SZEMERY

Freelance Seminar on Technology

Thursday 15 April 2004
1.45 pm to 5.30pm

**Haberdashers’ Aske’s
Hatcham College
New Cross, London
Institute members: £20
Non-members: £35**

Are you a competent computer user wanting just a bit of help with the finer points or are you a daunted beginner? Whatever your standard and whatever your ability (or lack of it!) tutors at this seminar will try to help you on an individual or small group basis in the well-equipped HAHC’s IT suite. Just indicate below what you would like to learn and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Freelance Division is grateful to Dr Elizabeth Sidwell, HAHC Principal, and to Haberdashers’ Aske’s Hatcham College for sponsoring this event.

To secure a place please contact:
Susan Elkin, 58 Park Road,
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1DY.
Phone: 01795 423708. Email:
susan.elkin@lineone.net

Online

INSI’s new website (www.newssafety.com) has just been launched. The site gives information that is invaluable to any journalist going off into a ‘hot spot’ anywhere in the world. It features a list of safety do’s and don’ts about what to do before, during and after such a posting, a list of places to go and not to go, health precautions and a list of contacts to help journalists in need.

As it develops, the website will also have regularly updated safety reports on various conflict countries written by journalists on the scene. It will carry articles written by reporters and specialists in their fields on issues that affect safety and security of working journalists and news executives responsible for their wellbeing. Also, it will list relevant diary dates and safety training schemes.

DOI... D'oh!

Everyone is familiar with the bar codes in supermarkets. Everything on sale has a barcode: cornflakes, newspapers, weighed up bags of potatoes, packs of tights, bottles of wine and so on round the shelves. The bar code stands for the product's European Article Number or EAN. EANs are pervasive throughout the retail sector.

Now the aim is to introduce the same concept to the printed word through the Digital Object Identifier or DOI. It is being master minded by the not-for-profit International DOI Foundation. The work that has been carried out since its formation in 1998 has been driven by needs of publishers in the electronic age. Firms that have already signed up include McGraw Hill, Corbis, Harvard Business School and Penguin, all anxious to widen their sales across the Internet.

So although DOI is a bosses' tool, it is important that you, the originators of the intellectual material, understand what it is all about.

One essential feature of a DOI is that it is permanently assigned. The assignation may be to a book, an article, a chapter in a book even, in theory, a section of a chapter. The DOI persists despite changes of ownership of the material. (Contrast this with IP addresses: only 13% of URLs valid in 1998 were still in use by 2002.)

A DOI consists of two parts: prefix and suffix separated by a slash, for example: 10.12567/The Journal.2004/1.

Normally a DOI starts with 10 followed by a designator allocated to a publisher, a title or any other appropriate entity. In the UK the registration agency is The Stationery Office, now preferring to be known as TSO. About 10 million DOIs have been issued so far.

The suffix can contain any suitable identifier. It is the responsibility of the company or individual assigning the DOI, to name each object within a DOI prefix uniquely so the same suffix is not used twice to identify different things. The suffix can be formed from almost any printable characters from the Universal Character Set. It can incorporate existing identifiers such as an ISBN or ISSN if required.

DOIs are identified in web publishing by a small blue rectangle containing a closed >. When creating a DOI, a publisher will link it to a catalogue of information about the publication. Let your mouse dwell on the link and a small menu will be displayed. This provides links that may include metadata to show the constituent parts of the publication, reviews of the publication, author biographies, sources, publisher's catalogues and stockists.

Protecting written intellectual property has come a long way since the first primitive legal deposit system was set up in 1610. Read more about DOI at www.doi.org/hb.html.

NORMAN BARTLETT

Max factor - Clifford lays down the law

Over 100 Institute members and their guests attended the Institute's annual Charity Dinner in November at the Berners Hotel in London, where our guest speaker was none other than publicity wizard Max Clifford. Best known as the man behind tabloid headlines such as 'Freddie Starr ate my hamster' and stories exposing 'love cheat' MPs and Government Ministers like David Mellor, Clifford told Institute members and their guests how his main aim these days was to expose "paedophiles, corrupt politicians and other scumbags."

With the police and the authorities often frightened to take action against child abusers, it had been left to the media to root out the wrong-doers, Clifford said. "Going through the media is sometimes the only way to get justice." He accepted that newspapers "sometimes get things wrong" but insisted that a free press was essential to a free society. "Thank goodness we have no privacy laws, because if we did the rich and powerful would get away with even more terrible things as they would be the ones with legal protection, not the general public."

Clifford told his audience how he had been introduced to the Institute back in 1961 when he was a reporter on the Merton & Wimbledon News, but after working in journalism for several years for local papers in Croydon and south London he had moved into PR, initially as press officer at EMI where he got to know the music industry. "That was an exciting time," he said, and soon he was running his own PR company promoting signers like Diana Ross, the Beatles (before they were famous!), Joe Cocker and the Jackson Five. Even Frank Sinatra was a Max Clifford client in the '60s!

From there, Clifford explained, his client base had broadened out to include all sorts of people from the entertainment industry. "When I started, the public relations industry didn't really exist. That's changed a lot now, but after 40 years in the business I still don't take it very seriously. It's really about being in the right place at the right time, that's all."

As for the journalistic profession, Max Clifford had some fairly pithy comments to make to his Chartered Institute of Journalists audience: "I'm not cynical enough to be a journalist these days. Most journalists I know are insecure and miserable." Thanks a bunch, Max!

ANDY SMITH

Photographer, by Royal Appointment

David Nicholls of the Institute's Press Photographers' Group turned his camera on the Queen and Prince Philip recently, when he was commissioned to take the official Royal group photo during Her Majesty's visit to Christ's Hospital, the famous Bluecoat school, near Horsham, Sussex. David set up a studio in the headmaster's house to photograph the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, together with senior students and members of the school staff. "It

was a great honour to be asked to make this picture," says David. "It was a special occasion to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the granting of the school's Royal Charter."



DAVID NICHOLLS

'Bad' language? Not in my book

Words are to writers what notes are to musicians and colours are to painters. They are the basic bricks of our trade. No one, as far as I know, has ever tried to prevent composers from using certain notes or limited the colour range available to artists. So, as far as I'm concerned, the whole of the vast and glorious English lexicon - including the potentially 'offensive' bits - should be on my palette for my use as a craftsman (or woman, in my case).

I started thinking about this because I was taken to task by Andy Smith, the esteemed editor of this illustrious publication, about something I wrote in a book review in the last issue. I commented that, praise be, lexicographers are at last taking a much more relaxed attitude to 'taboo' language which should soon mean that we see the end of those prissy, coy and nonsensical rows of asterisks in certain newspapers. My respected colleague and friend Mr Smith took exception to 'praise be' because he disagrees with me that this is progress.

It isn't that I want to use those dozen or so bother-causing words in print very often. As a professional 'wordsmith' I know plenty of words without having to sink to over reliance on a mere handful as some writers and speakers do. But I reserve - with passion - the right to use any word I choose, if and when I choose. I'm grown up now and we're living in the 21st century after all.

FINE OLD FRIEND

The word 'fuck' - I refuse to call it 'the f word' - is a fine old friend with a very long history. It dates, via old German and middle Dutch, from Old English (formerly known inaccurately as 'Anglo Saxon.') It predates the Norman conquest when Latinate French landed on these shores and mingled with what our native ancestors were already speaking. Have a look at the poem Beowulf for the best surviving example of written Old English. Many OE words were monosyllabic and guttural. 'Fuck' is a good example. So are 'cunt' and 'shit' along with thousands of less controversial everyday words like 'got', 'went' and 'look.'

These etymological facts usually surprise the young because every generation mistakenly thinks that it has invented these words to shock their elders. The truth, of course, is that everyone knows these words. So did their parents, grandparents and forebears for centuries. Witness the 'cunt' joke in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (1600) when Malvolio reads the love letter purporting to come from Olivia.

And they haven't always been taboo. A

quick flick through the examples quoted in the Oxford English Dictionary shows that 14th, 15th and 16th century literature was full of shitting and pissing because, although the OED primly tells us these words are 'no longer in polite use,' they were mainstream words for defecation and urination in earthier times.

My point is that there is nothing innately 'bad' or 'foul' about these words. They're just words. Language is meant to be used. Words develop and are coined because speakers and writers have a use for them. Then they are passed on through speech and writing, often over hundreds or thousands of years. The categorisation of language as unsayable or unprintable is patently absurd.

MUDDLED THINKING

To call them 'swear' words is an example of muddled thinking too. Swearing is to do with oath making and speaking the truth - as in a court of law where most people 'swear by Almighty God' - although there is an alternative version now for non-believers. So 'swearing' surely has to be to do with religion, usually taken out of context and in some circles regarded as blasphemy. Expressions like 'Oh Christ' or the adjective 'bloody' (probably a corruption of 'by Our Lady) are swearing. To roar 'Oh fuck it!' when you drop a brick on your foot is to use a strong expletive but, logically speaking, it isn't swearing.

What is highly offensive, or course, is the insulting (even assault-ing) way in which these words are often used. If some ignorant job or girl screams at a hapless elderly person 'You fucking wanker' that, of course, is totally unacceptable and I abhor it as much as anyone else. That's why if, for some reason, it becomes part of a newspaper report I want to see the words reported truthfully and as they were spoken.

I contend, moreover that it's usually not what is said, but how it's said which determines whether or not something gives offence. Try saying 'You silly old woman' as aggressively, insolently and loudly as you can. Most of us could make it pretty menacing and nasty. Then have a go at saying something 'taboo' gently - almost affectionately - as you hear young (usually) men and women doing habitually to each other on the streets on Britain daily. Then ask yourself just how offensive the word themselves really are.

Look at The Van, a humorous novel by Roddy Doyle who went on to win the Booker Prize in 1993 with Paddy Clark Ha Ha Ha. Doyle's characters are kindly caring family men - and highly creative users of 'fuck' and all its multifarious

grammatical possibilities. 'That's fan-fucking-tastic' one of them comments at one point. It's witty. And, I for one, don't find it in the least bit distressing.

And yet, as journalists, meanwhile, we're still stuck with rows of asterisks in, for example, The Times, The Daily Telegraph and other newspapers which like to pretend that their sociolect is above the language of the people even in direct quotation. But talk to commissioning editors on the phone at these papers, as I often do, and you find that, of course, orally they're as relaxed about language as anyone else in 2003. Those asterisks are two-faced, hypocritical and ridiculous. They're not in the spirit of journalistic accuracy either.

I rest my case. Please, Mr Smith, don't scupper my argument by editing this piece so that it's full of asterisks.



SUSAN ELKIN

RSI Awareness Week

The RSI Association is launching the first RSI (Repetitive Strain Injury) Awareness Week, February 23 to 29, with International RSI Awareness Day on February 29. The week will focus attention on the injuries that are affecting an increasing number of people in our workplaces and communities. The Chartered Institute of Journalists was involved in highlighting this problem back in the 1980s when it was not yet recognised as an illness, and we fought several compensation cases for journalists, as well as producing a handbook with advice on RSI. Since then RSI has become better known and much more is now done to help sufferers. It is something that we must all be aware of, and follow the advice given - take regular breaks from the computer, exercise appropriately, and if RSI symptoms develop then take prompt action. Find out more at www.rsi.org.uk.

In The Club

The London Press Club arose out of the ashes of the original Press Club, and was formed by a small group of journalists that included Johnnie Johnson, once of the News Chronicle but also in later years, chief sub-editor of the Financial Times, Leo Zanelli, of Central Press and editor of The Square, former Club treasurer, John Broderick and cartoonist, Colin Earl, at a meeting at the White Swan (colloquially known as 'The Mucky Duck') in Tudor Street, in 1986.

The original club had been formally established in 1842 by a group of Parliamentary writers who met at Anderton's Hotel (now Hulton House) in Fleet Street – although the group had been in the habit of meeting and discussing matters of the day over a few beverages for some 30 years previously. In his detailed history, written specially for the Encyclopaedia of the British Press, Leo Zanelli comments on these early beginnings: "They [the founding members] were a trifle ambitious in the initial undertaking, where the club was first housed at 63 Fleet Street on the corner of Bouverie Street. These premises had the new-fangled novelty of electric lighting and were serviced by uniformed staff."

All very nice, but expensive. To fund this enterprise, the yearly subscription was three guineas – at a time when reporters earned, at most, four guineas a week. Even so, before long financial difficulties beset the Club. The members had to give up their opulent home, and were reduced to meeting in Anderton's during the day, and in the evening in a candle-lit cellar, known as Fagin's Kitchen, in Bride Court.

"The Club was not only broke, but in debt. Four members, with a little help from others, managed to raise what was in those days a considerable sum: £500. This enabled the Club to survive, and in gratitude the Committee, in 1885, ordered that a group photograph of the four saviours, titled 'The Four Just Men', should be displayed prominently on the premises in perpetuity. Legend has it that if the picture is not displayed, the Club will cease. It is still there."

WORLD'S FIRST

So began the world's very first Press Club. While its early days were dogged by financial worries, the members managed to build a substantial organisation and eventually moved into premises vacated by the Press Association in Wine Office Court.

"Their sojourn here was for 21 years," writes Zanelli. "Many claimed that it was the peak of the Club's existence. There was much alcoholic roistering,

accompanied by political debates which were held regularly at one o'clock in the morning. Among the members at this time was the first journalist devoted to weather forecasting; and one who provided reports of fires all over London."

The latter is ironic, because the Club's next move was because of a fire in March 1914 – and an expiring lease didn't help. Which is why they decamped across Fleet Street to St Bride's House.

Edgar Wallace (1875-1932) was the main figure between the wars. He took over as Chairman in 1923-24. A journalist, novelist, film writer and producer, he put the club on the map with a flair that stamped him as a public relations and showbiz genius. Wallace founded the Derby Lunch and, later, the Press Club Fund (for members who hit bad times) and an annual children's party. He also instituted regular social functions to which notable guests, such as Winston Churchill, were invited. It was during Wallace's tenure that the Club began to acquire a unique collection of early newspapers. Many of these were displayed prominently on the walls of the Club.

THE SHADOW OF DEBT

Into the late sixties a decline took place, debts started to accumulate and the lease of St Bride's was drawing to a close. At this time the Club was all-male. There was also a Women's Press Club, but they were no better than the men at budgeting, and soon had to leave their premises in Cary Street. They were invited to join the Press Club.

Following many explosive debates, it was decided that the Club should become one of the sponsors and prospective tenants of the new International Press Centre which was being built in Shoe Lane. There was even an emotional pull: there had been a tavern on that very spot 300 years ago, where the writers of the first news sheets met.

The Club moved into the International Press Centre in 1973; and it was officially opened the following June by the Queen Mother, who was elected not only an Honorary Member, but also the first woman member of the Press Club.

"The Press Club survived in its expensive new home long enough to celebrate its centenary in 1982," adds Zanelli: "when guests at separate functions included the Queen and Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Princess Margaret, the Queen Mother and Margaret Thatcher – then Prime Minister. Early in 1986, the bailiffs moved in. The receivers then held a sale of the Club's effects. Edgar Wallace's daughter Penelope (also a Club chairman)

attended and purchased the Edgar Wallace chair."

CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE

Leo Zanelli and former City editor George Westropp, together with Johnnie Johnson took the newly formed London Press Club on a seemingly perpetual move around Fleet Street at a time when 'Fleet Street' itself was on the move to points west and east of the City.

They set up house in Duffers Club under the arches near Ludgate Circus which went well until British Rail decided to run its trains through the club rather than over it. The Club then moved to Hudson's, Scribes, the Wig and Pen, the City Golf Club and finally, in an effort to follow the majority of the journalists, to Dockmaster's House near Canary Wharf.

It lasted there for only a couple of years because it became apparent that journalists in the tower building that is Canary Wharf were unwilling and/or unable because of working practices, to make use of the quite splendid premises and bar.

The American organisation, Freedom Forum, took pity on the Club, offering them an office at Stanhope House, near Marble Arch, from which to operate and the use of a splendid conference facility for seminars and lectures. That was fine until the Yanks pulled out leaving them without a home once again.

Through the good offices of Bunty Johnson, Johnnie's widow, and the Rector of St Bride's Church, Canon John Oates, the Club became installed in a small office suite at the St Bride Institute from which it still operates. It runs a monthly get-together at El Vino's on the first Thursday of each month and several events such as the Scoop of the Year Awards Lunch, Cartoon and History of Fleet Street exhibitions and talks, like the Edgar Wallace Annual Lecture. The Club has also associated itself with the Commonwealth Club.

Members of the Chartered Institute of Journalists can join the London Press Club for half price:

£25 per year. This can be of particular benefit, since membership of the Club gives entrée to Press Clubs the world over.



MICHAEL MORIARTY

Exciting opportunities ahead for Travel Writers

The 148 members of the Travel Writers' Group are set to have a year of opportunities ahead of them.

Journalists play a vital role within the travel and tourist industry by giving their readers, and those who see their photographs, the information, encouragement and confidence to broaden horizons - physically and metaphorically - through travel.

Travel features and articles can introduce new and exotic locations or offer a different perspective on more familiar haunts. And ultimately it enables readers to make the very best use of two vital resources - time and money.

The Chartered Institute of Journalists Travel Writers' Group provides support to Institute members who have a genuine and professional interest in producing travel related copy or photographs.

Since setting up the group in September 2002 the Institute has spent many hours developing a range of support for those members who have a genuine professional interest in travel and tourism.

The Travel Writers' monthly bulletin provides a range of industry news, details of travel opportunities and feature leads.

The bulletin is also recognised by organisations throughout the travel industry as an effective and fast track way of getting information to journalists.

From January we will also be working with tourist associations and travel PR agencies on a series of special destination dossiers.

These will provide our members with highly focussed information, storyboard ideas and relevant contact details of genuine interest to travel journalists, photographers and broadcasters.

Finally we are now working on a programme of networking initiatives for 2004 which will bring all sectors of the travel and tourist industry together through large and small events - throughout the country.

You do not need to be a full time travel journalist to become a member of the Travel Writers' Group merely to have - or aspire to have - a genuine professional interest in writing about travel related issues.

For more information email ashley@williamjack.co.uk

Ashley Gibbins

Training is top of the agenda for Freelance Division

Freelance Division's main activity currently is the provision of training events for members. These are also attended by non-members who respond to notices in Press Gazette, Writers' News and various other publications and websites. Once we've got them to our events we usually manage to persuade some of them to join the Institute.

Our most recent such seminar was held at New Cavendish Club, London in November. Three magazine editors and one of our own Freelance Division members each spoke about commissions, how to attract them and how to manage them.

The Division's next seminar is on April 15, 2004 at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College in New Cross, South London. The college is very kindly sponsoring the event. The focus this time will be on individually targeted IT tuition for journalists, with use of a PC for everyone who attends. For further details about this contact me via: susan.elkin@lineone.net

Meanwhile, we have, at last, amended and had ratified by Council, the Division's new rules after a number of committee meetings, consultation with members and several redrafts. Ours are now fully updated and properly aligned with the Institute's rules.

One of the changes is that the committee - chairman plus nine others - will be a little smaller and more streamlined than formerly. Norman Bartlett, co-opted in 2003 is not standing for election in 2004 because he feels that he should focus all his attention on his new role as the Institute's honorary treasurer following the retirement of Rodney Bennet England. Similarly, Sangita Shah, who has been Freelance Division's treasurer for three years, is not standing for re-election because of her busy life as the Institute's vice-president. Judith Ryser has also decided not to stand for re-election. We thank them all for their many years of service to the Division, and we offer our heartfelt thanks to Martin Posner for agreeing to take over as our new Divisional treasurer.

Susan Elkin

Heritage Group proves history isn't a thing of the past

The History & Heritage Writers' Group, with 26 members so far, is the latest addition to the Institute's network of specialist interest groups.

Formed last Autumn, the Group is planning a number of activities for 2004, including a newsletter, social events and visits.

We are currently talking to organisations such as Historic Royal Palaces, the Royal Armouries and the RAF Museum, among others, about plans for events at some of their properties.

One of the main aims of the Group is to help facilitate members' networking and contacts with heritage and conservation bodies.

A programme for the year should be available soon. For details contact andy.smith390@ntlworld.com

Andy Smith



LLANDUDNO CONFERENCE



GUEST SPEAKER BETTY WILLIAMS MP



JIM FILBIN AND STUART NOTHOLT AT CONWY CASTLE



SUSAN ELKIN MAKES A POINT ABOUT LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES



PAST PRESIDENT ROGER BUSH SHARES A JOKE

The Institute's annual conference was held in November amidst the elegant surroundings of the St George's Hotel, Llandudno, a splendid Victorian building situated right on the seafront - ideal for taking brisk walks along the promenade and allowing the Colwyn Bay winds to blow away any hangovers!

Inside the hotel, conference delegates discussed everything from the literary works of Dylan Thomas to Henry VIII and the 1536 Act of Union. (All pressing issues for journalists, I'm sure you'll agree!) Guest speakers at the conference, in the fine old Welsh tradition, were all called Williams! They were, in no particular order: the MP for Conwy, Betty Williams; the chairman of the Welsh Language Board, Rhodri Williams; and the economist Emyr Williams. Outside, there were coach trips to Snowdonia and outings on the Ffestioniog Railway, among other distractions.

Delegates left Llandudno in high spirits - after hearing from Institute General Secretary Dominic Cooper that our recruitment campaigns were bringing in new members, and from Honorary Treasurer Rodney Bennett-England that the Institute's finances were starting to look 'reasonably healthy' and our charity funds were 'buoyant'.

The next conference, if not in the UK, will be in either Croatia, Germany or Egypt - dependent on sponsorship. Detailed proposals for each option are currently under discussion.

See you at conference 2004!

Motions

Two motions were passed at Conference in Llandudno, both of which result in amendments to Standing Orders.

The first, proposed by Norman Bartlett and seconded by Mary Tomlinson, established that members who seek election to Council must have been in membership for a continuous period of at least two years.

The second motion, proposed by Mary Tomlinson and seconded by Ken Brookes, changed the rules regarding payments to members by Institute Charities. Members can no longer seek charitable assistance for medical conditions pre-existing before their election to membership until they have been in continuous membership for at least five years.

The motions are reproduced below, for those who missed them in the last Journal.

Proposer: NORMAN BARTLETT

Seconded: MARY TOMLINSON

Proposed change to S.O.33.3

Nominations for the position of representative members shall be proposed and seconded by members of the Institute in good standing provided the nominee has been in membership of the Institute for a continuous period of no less than two years.

Proposer: MARY TOMLINSON (Chairman of Oakhill Committee.)

Seconded: KEN BROOKES

Proposed amendments to Standing Order 51 (Provident and charitable funds)

(a) Renumber existing Standing Order as subsection 51.2

(b) Insert new Standing Order subsection 51.1 as follows:

No claim on provident or other benefits may be made by a member (in any class) in respect of a condition (medical or otherwise) pre-existing at the time of that member joining the Institute, unless and until that member's continuous duration of membership exceeds five years.

Money man

Rodney Bennett-England formally announced to the conference that he was stepping down as Honorary Treasurer after a marathon stint - 25 years in all - to be succeeded by Norman Bartlett. Rodney assured us that he would remain an active member of the Institute, however, and would continue as Chairman of the National Council for the Training of Journalists. Council members and delegates joined the President and other Institute officers in paying tribute to Rodney and thanking him for all his work for the Institute over the years - not just the quarter century that he has been treasurer but the many years before that during which he was actively involved in the Institute's affairs. There will be an official 'farewell' event for Rodney in spring 2004 - details to be announced shortly.



Did you know?

- There are around 6,000 languages in the world. Half of them will probably die out over the next 50 years.
- On average, a language somewhere in the world dies every two weeks.
- Four per cent of the world's languages are spoken by 96 per cent of the world's people.
- In the early 1900s, there were over 900,000 Welsh speakers; by the 1960s this had dropped to under 100,000.
- Welsh speaking is now on the increase again - but there is no guarantee that Welsh will survive.

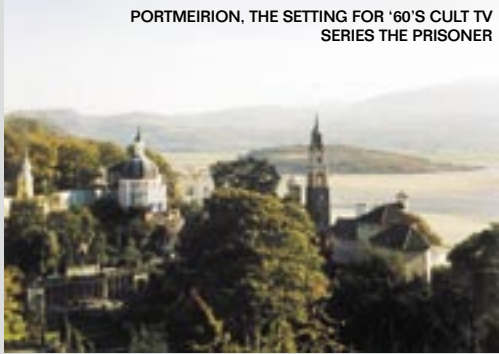
According to the Chairman of the Welsh Language Board, Rhodri Williams; "Language is the key to a people's cultural identity. The Welsh language - the oldest surviving language in Europe - is part of Britain's cultural heritage."



THE GENERAL SECRETARY - BUSINESS AS USUAL



INSTITUTE COUNCIL MEMBER MARY TOMLINSON



PORTMEIRION, THE SETTING FOR '60'S CULT TV SERIES THE PRISONER



THE VIEW FROM THE BAA



THE VIEW FROM THE GREAT ORME

Photos by Andy Smith and Mark Croucher



Thank you Chris

More than 50 members and guests gathered at the Reform Club at the start of the year, to show their appreciation and thanks to Chris Underwood for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the Institute over the last 15 years as General Secretary.

Chris, who took over as joint General Secretary (with Bill Tadd) in 1988, has held one Institute office or another for more than 25 years. From Chairman of the Broadcasting Division, to Honorary Treasurer and President in 1980/81.

Tributes were paid by Stephen Claypole and Past President Paul Leighton.

"He is someone who breathes life into the room when he enters it", said Claypole. He went on to describe Chris as someone who was already a legend at the BBC when he arrived, in a bygone era when the journalists were considered more important than the suits that run the organisation.

Paul Leighton paid tribute to the work Chris had done on behalf of the Institute: "I have admired Chris from when I first met him at the BBC and he recruited me into the Institute - for which I owe him a debt of gratitude.

"We have shared many good times both inside the Institute and out, and he is a man whose company I enjoy immensely."

A caricature of Chris at the Reform Club was presented by Vice-President, Sangita Shah, with thanks from all his friends and colleagues at the Institute.

In the true spirit of such an occasion not many of those who attended could remember how it finished...but those who could reported that they had a very enjoyable evening.



UNDERWOOD FAMILY: MARK (SON), BECKY (DAUGHTER), CHRIS AND JOHN (SON-IN-LAW)



JOHN SLIM, DOMINICK HARROD AND STEPHEN CLAYPOLE



SANGITA SHAH PRESENTS CHRIS WITH A CARICATURE BY 'ROG' (ROGER BOWLES)

Awards and honours

Congratulations are in order for the following people, who have already made a significant contribution to our Institute and have now received public recognition for their various journalistic and other achievements:

- Lois Hainsworth, President of the Institute from 1996 to 98, who was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours for her services to women's organisations. A leading light in the National Council of Women of Great Britain, and President of Unifem UK, she has travelled widely, both in her journalistic and voluntary service capacities, and used to live in Uganda where she presented radio programmes. Among her major interests of recent years is strengthening links between Britain and Russia/Eastern Europe.
- Harold Evans, former editor of the Sunday Times and a recipient of the Institute's Gold Medal in 1980, who has been knighted for his services to journalism.
- Sangita Shah, Vice-President of the Institute since last year and a member of the Council of the Media Society, who has been named one of Britain's Asian Assets, acknowledging her influence as a journalist and economist. "Forget being prime minister," she said. "Real power is in the written word." Sangita often uses her influence to promote interest and concern for Africa - her family are Kenyan Asians and she came to England when she was three years old. "It is the only continent where income growth has fallen by 6%. There is a basic injustice at play here, the gap between Africa and the rest of the world is now a chasm." She is often moved to action because, she says, she has "never been a passive observer of life. I always want to help shape things and to make a substantial contribution. I think it's an Asian thing. We have a pioneering approach to life."



LOIS HAINSWORTH MBE

High Society

Several members have been asking about the Media Society, what it is and what it does. The Society was formed some 30 years ago at the instigation of the Institute. At that time negotiations were in train aimed at merging the Institute of Journalists and the NUJ. Though these eventually failed - there were hard-liners on both sides opposed to a merger - it sparked legitimate fears within the Institute that a merger would totally submerge many of its long-standing characteristics, in particular its emphasis on professionalism and maintaining the highest standards in journalism.

The late Bob Farmer, General Secretary of the Institute, developed the idea of a free-standing Media Society to preserve just these values. In this he was helped by President George Glenton and senior members of the Institute.

Since those days the Media Society has had its ups and downs, but recent years have seen it flourish and expand its activities, particularly under Presidents Carole Stone, Donald Treford and Richard Lindley. It continues, like the Institute, to stand for freedom of expression and high standards in journalism, but brings together people working in all branches of the media - radio and TV production and broadcasting, newspapers and magazines, new media, media law, and academia. Its membership of around 300 includes senior figures and those at the beginning of their careers.

Institute involvement in the Society has continued. Rodney Bennett-England was for many years its Hon Secretary, the Institute's Hon Counsel, Peter Carter-Ruck was an early President and is now Life Vice President, and Institute Past Presidents George Glenton and Henry Douglas both served on its Council until recently. The Society's constitution requires that there shall be three Institute nominees on the Council (at present Rodney, Robert Minton-Taylor and Keith Lockwood), but among the Council's elected members are our Vice President, Sangita Shah, Patricia Latham and myself.

Past President Charlie Harris is also a member.

The Media Society has an annual award scheme, started nine years ago, for people or organisation judged to have made a distinguished contribution in any branch of the media. Recipients so far have been: Sir Alastair Cooke, Sir David Attenborough, Ann Leslie, Sir Geoffrey Cox, Michael Parkinson, Gillian Reynolds, John Humphrys, Reuters (on its 150th anniversary) and Paul Dacre.

A busy programme of events continues under the Society's new President, William G Stewart, and his Chief of Staff and Events Organiser, John Mair. This year they have included two debates on war reporting - one just before and one just after the Iraq War; an interview with Jana Bennett, Head of BBC TV; a lunch with the Secretary of State for Culture, the Media and Sport; a review of the Daily Mirror, past and present, on its centenary; and a discussion on the extent of PR capture of the media.

Any Institute members interested in joining the Society should contact its administrator, Dorothy Josem at 1/24 Park Road, London NW1 4SH or e-mail dorothy@themediasociety.co.uk. The subscription is £35 per calendar year. A small charge may be made for some of the individual events.

Roger Bush

Presidential Pontifications

Two Canadian trainee doctors have produced a searing attack on the medical ineptitude that leads to Humpty Dumpty's appalling injuries in the traditional nursery rhyme. Humpty, they say, should immediately have been put on a spinal board after his big fall, while the Kings' Men display a "shocking lack of crowd control" and basic first aid. The two go on to suggest medically sound versions not just of Humpty Dumpty, but of other classics such as Jack and Jill and Rock-a-bye-Baby.

This joke (at least, I hope it's a joke) would be totally lost on Mothercare, who provide further proof that we have become a nation of spineless wimps addicted to therapy and litigation. Generations of children, it appears, have been traumatised by the grim fate of Humpty Dumpty who - turn away now if you are of a sensitive disposition - ends his career in pieces, such that neither the King's horses nor the King's men can put him together again. Fortunately, help is at hand. In the new improved version: "Humpty Dumpty opened his eyes/ Falling down was such a surprise/ Humpty Dumpty counted to ten/ Then Humpty Dumpty got up again."

I wouldn't mind so much if it were even decent poetry. But what is even more depressing is Mothercare's commentary on this travesty. Couched in the vacuous management speak now all-too favoured by corporate PRs, we are told that Magic Bean Productions, the firm that made the CD on which the new rhyme features, "acknowledge they do adapt and revise nursery rhymes. Evidently, here they have applied their own editorial view and included this extra verse." In our contemporary blame culture, it is not surprising to find a major corporation trying to wriggle out of any responsibility for a product which appears on their own shelves. But it gets worse, if that's possible: "Our key market is the very young and sometimes it is very difficult for parents to explain the context of death and injury to a child of that age." Who are the more pathetic, I wonder, the parents who are allegedly incapable of explaining the realities of life to their 'kidz', or Mothercare, which won't even try.

It was good to see Ninteen Eighty-Four featuring in a recent poll of great novels, particularly since - with the possible exception of *The Catcher in the Rye* - is was the only book in a predictable collection of pulp fiction and recent movie adaptations which makes any attempt to say anything useful about the human condition. But the cynic in me wonders

whether Ninteen Eighty-Four's sales have not been bolstered by the apparent interest among viewers of the Big Brother TV series in finding out about the original Big Brother. What the sort of people who enjoy reality TV make of Orwell's hellish distopia one can scarcely imagine, although since most of them will doubtless never get beyond the first page, the irony that Big Brother (TV) is exactly the kind of 'prolefeed' of which The Party would wholly approve will inevitably be lost on them. But surely there is an opportunity for Magic Bean Productions here? Could we not hope to see an updated, more 'relevant' version of Ninteen Eighty-Four? True, a few minor changes would be necessary. Winston Smith would have to kick those unhealthy fags and give up the Victory Gin for starters. Also, in the original, Airstrip One is part of Oceania, presumably since the prospect that Britain would one day be part of a united Europe was too unreal and nightmarish a concept even for Orwell. Obviously that will have to change. What else? Well, it could be a basket of playful kittens which Winston encounters in Room 101, in which he and O'Brien successfully complete an 'anger management workshop' prior to the vaguely homoerotic relationship which Orwell hints at finding full and graphic representation. This may seem a bit tough on Julia, but then you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs, whatever Mothercare may think.

I'm not sure where Orwell got the word 'thoughtcrime', but that very term was certainly used by Imperial Japan until 1945 - dissidents could literally be imprisoned just for thinking 'wrong' thoughts. Of course, all totalitarian societies employ measures against freedom of thought. Indeed, it is one of the defining characteristics of totalitarianism that deviance from the State Ideology must be rendered practically impossible or, failing that, ruthlessly suppressed.

In Britain today the State Ideology is called 'political correctness', and woe betide anyone who thinks 'outside the box' let alone puts those thoughts into writing.

Thus when the Sunday Express erroneously reprinted some allegedly intemperate remarks by Robert Kilroy-Silk on the nature of Arab societies, the BBC knew immediately how to respond. They promptly suspended Mr Kilroy-Silk from his chat show, thereby depriving him, without trial or verdict, of what is presumably one of the main means by which he earns his living.

Another characteristic of totalitarianism is that deviants should not just be

punished, but should additionally be humiliated and ostracized, thereby discouraging others.

So Mr Kilroy-Silk then compounded his original offence. For not only did he not publicly recant, he launched a vigorous defence - backed by several newspapers and, according to one poll, approximately 95% of the British public. Accordingly, we then had the unedifying spectacle of Trevor Phillips of the Commission for Racial Equality condemning Mr Kilroy-Silk, not for what he wrote, but solely for having the audacity to defend himself.

In the mid 17th century, the Witchfinder-General declared it heresy to defend oneself against accusations of witchcraft on the grounds that one didn't believe in witches. What's needed in this country today is a bit less Matthew Hopkins and considerably more of Voltaire's famous dictum about defending to the death the right of free speech, even - especially - for those with whom we disagree.

Who says focus groups don't work? A few months ago, I attended a workshop organized on behalf of the BBC to discuss the future of public broadcasting. The invited panel included various folk from the 'not for profit' sector; charities, a representative from Buckingham Palace, academics, and a bloke from the Conservative Party who never turned up (says it all). Anyway, after a very pleasant breakfast spent slugging off the licence fee and eating those little Danish pastries with the chocolate chips in, we were all presented with a postcard, on which we were invited to send one vital message to Greg Dyke. After much chewing of pencil, I wrote "Bring back Dr Who." Two months later, they did. Coincidence? I think not. Whovians (as I believe they call themselves) can express their appreciation in the traditional manner. All major credit cards accepted.



STUART NOTHOLT

Peter Carter-Ruck

Peter Carter-Ruck, Honorary Solicitor to the Institute, died on December 19, 2003, aged 89.

A long-time member and supporter of the Chartered Institute of Journalists and the London Press Club, Peter became one of the best-known libel lawyers of his generation. He was the author of the definitive work on the subject and a high-profile practitioner in what is the most flamboyant area of the law.

In my job as press officer at The Law Society, I came to know Peter well. He was a senior Council member of the Society and one of the executives on the Press & Public Relations side. He was always a kind and a supportive boss.

In a major obituary in The Times, he was described as "a tough, tenacious and hardworking lawyer and his career was not without controversy. Three acrimonious partnership disputes, several legal scrapes, including a complaint to The Law Society and public rows about his penchant for extravagant fees, reflected his willingness to take risks.

"A top libel solicitor has to be a combination of showman, psychologist, nursemaid and poker player. Over an exceptionally long career, spanning more than 60 years, Carter-Ruck showed that he possessed all these qualities in full measure, not least a gambling spirit. Excoriated by Private Eye, which regularly took indelicate liberties with this name as vengeance for the money it frequently had to pay his clients, Carter-Ruck took the view that for a libel lawyer, all publicity was good publicity."

MICHAEL MORIARTY



Peter Carter-Ruck;
*"a tough, tenacious
and hardworking
lawyer..."*

Chris Underwood writes:

Peter and I became acquainted before I got involved in the affairs of the Institute - in about 1973 when I was appointed BBC Home Affairs Correspondent and he was active in the Westminster Law Society.

Our friendship began with copious quantities of gin and tonic at the Wig and Pen when barristers and journalists regularly communed there and continued in the years that followed.

Peter was for years, even before my time, Honorary Solicitor to the Institute and subsequently became a member in his own right.

Whenever I asked for help, Peter gave generously of his time and helped us to score some notable successes.

In particular, he helped the Institute triumph in a case when Past President and former Institute Director Bill Tadd clashed with his former employer the Daily Telegraph in a case of wrongful dismissal and libel. Tadd received a substantial settlement.

Another Past President, Paul Leighton, also has cause to be grateful to Peter, whose former firm represented us when a Midlands free sheet wrongly represented Leighton without his permission.

Elsewhere - others have written about Peter's faults and shortcomings. I am content to remember him as an urbane, civilised and charming man.

Bob Booth

Bob Booth, Institute pensioner and a former Editor of the Journal, collapsed and died from heart failure on New Year's Eve. He was 75 and had been ill for some time.

During a long and varied career spent mainly in Press and PR, one of Bob's proudest moments came when, as representative of the British Radio & Electrical Manufacturers' Association, he was commissioned to introduce colour television to BBC viewers in 1967. Some of Bob's earlier appointments after military service in the Royal Artillery were positions with the Aircraft company Boeing, working for the Evangelist Billy Graham during his 1950s tour of Britain and as Head of Security for the Allied High Commission in Stockholm.

His career in the media proper began when he got a job with Reuters soon after the war. During the 1970s he acted as a PR consultant for both the BBC and ITV before settling in as a Press Officer at BBC Television Centre.

Bob got his feet well and truly under the BBC table when he was appointed Head of Programme Correspondence. This involved controlling a squadron of ladies in an eyrie overlooking Cavendish Square, from where listeners' opinions, complaints, congratulations and general observations were sorted and answered.

It was in this department, December after December, that Bob would preside over a pre-Christmas mince pie and coffee party attended by everybody who was anybody in the Corporation. Coffee aside - there was always a bottle of single malt

tucked away for the use of visiting news correspondents of the sort that I used to be.

Bob's wife Lilo predeceased him in 1988. The couple had two sons, Alex, who lives in the Dominican Republic and Martin, who is responsible for religious advisory matters at OFCOM.

Martin recalled the pride with which his father felt during his editorship of the Institute Journal in the late 1980s.

"He really appreciated being given the appointment and was genuinely very proud of his involvement with the Chartered Institute of Journalists. He kept every single issue of the Journal and every Press Card with which he had ever been issued since he joined the Institute in June 1981."

CHRIS UNDERWOOD

Bookshelf

Espionage: Spies and Secrets

RICHARD M BENNETT. **Virgin Books PB £9.99**
ISBN **0-7535-0830-3**

Institute member Richard Bennett is the author of several fascinating books on the secret services and their 'dark arts', including *Conspiracy: Plots, Lies and Cover-Ups* and *Elite Forces: The World's Most Formidable Secret Armies*. Recently published in paperback by Virgin Books, *Espionage* is Bennett's encyclopaedia of spying, that takes the reader through the alphabet from Soviet agent Abel (a mole in the US during the 1950s) and *Abwehr* (Germany's military intelligence during World War Two) to 'zoo' (the Western intelligence term for a police station) and *Zubatov* (chief of the Czarist secret police, the *Okhrana*). Christopher Marlowe, Elizabethan playwright and 'gentleman spy' is also here, as are more recent British intelligence 'assets' Cary Grant and Noel Coward. A fascinating book, packed full of intriguing facts, this is an ideal reference work that should be on the shelf of every journalists and researcher.

Andy Smith

News from No Man's Land

JOHN SIMPSON. **Pan PB £7.99**
ISBN **0 330 48735 3**

This book was published before the recent war in Iraq in which Simpson's reporting role was not all that significant, but shortly after that in Afghanistan in which he was the BBC's prime reporter.

In the first chapter, about his getting into Kabul at about the time the Taleban left, Simpson refers to his much-publicised response - "I suppose it was the BBC." - to a question from Sue McGregor during a live BBC news bulletin about who actually 'liberated' the city. He then immediately and honestly admits "...I made a mistake: quite a bad one as it turned out. I cracked a joke."

This gives the flavour of what follows throughout the book - a mixture of personal reminiscence, anecdote, his advice on how to be (and not to be) a professional reporter, particularly in foreign countries with very different cultures from our own in Britain, and digressions into the ethics of those whose job is to report on events - be they working in print, radio or TV.

For example, and still referring to the press coverage of this unfortunate off-the-cuff remark, Simpson berates columnists, particularly those who write in certain British tabloids, thus: "Against all reason, since they are newspaper journalists themselves, they seem to believe what they read in the press and started from the premise that I had said I personally liberated Kabul. Then they pronounced judgement." Plenty for those of us calling ourselves journalists to think about here.

Further examples of the aggressive behaviour of certain journalists towards members of Simpson's family on several occasions are given which lead him to the view that "If the tabloids behave like this to people who are of no public interest whatsoever, you can imagine how they behave with celebrities."

On the issue of being interviewed by someone working for a newspaper he says "...be careful...you have absolutely no idea how they will use your words...everything - your words, appearance, manner, mood is filtered to the reader through the prejudices of the interviewer." Wise words from an experienced professional to those of us who do a considerable amount of interviewing, frequently of people unused to dealing with 'someone from the press.'

Simpson also reminds us that "most interviewers do little research" and that "most (newspaper) interviewers don't listen particularly carefully to what you say and often don't get the basic facts right." How right he is, but surely we aren't that type of interviewer - are we?

Journalists, Simpson asserts, are also often bad at anticipating the response of some readers to something they have produced. "The people most surprised if you take their work seriously are journalists themselves; they know better than anyone...how hurried and unprepared their work is." Surely we professional journalists know better than that? And can we fairly be accused of turning out work which is "hurried and unprepared"?

Nicholas Elkin

The Writer's Handbook 2004

BARRY TURNER (Editor). **PB £12.99**
ISBN **0 3339 0812 0**

In the seventeen years since its first appearance *The Writer's Handbook* has developed into a highly useful reference book for writers, journalists, publishers editors agents, screen writers and broadcasters. Every writer, established or trying to be, needs a personal contacts book and this - with its 700-plus pages of names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, websites and advisory essays - is an excellent starting point.

If you want to approach, say, Scottish Field, an Edinburgh-published magazine or to access a photograph of an item in the Royal Collection, everything you need to know is here. So are the contact details for European publishers such as *Standaard Uitgeverij* in Antwerp and the annual *Margate Poetry Festival*. It's pretty eclectic and exhaustive stuff.

Editor Barry Turner's damning, but compelling, indictment of the standard of English teaching in Britain forms the introduction to this new edition. From the 1960s onwards "teachers were encouraged to set standards by the lowest common denominator," he argues, and "the impact on English was catastrophic."

And Brian MacArthur, veteran journalist on, and associate editor of, *The Times* has contributed an interesting, 'insider' piece about book serialisations, new for the 2004 edition.

The Writer's Handbook is more narrowly focused than its older rival *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* because it doesn't try to cater for artists as well as writers. Perhaps that's why the *Handbook* is more clearly laid out, and somehow handier to use, than the *Yearbook* - although as professionals you probably need both.

Susan Elkin

Do you have a book for review?

Contact the editor at
andy.smith390@ntlworld.com

Contradictionary: an A-Z of confusibles, lookalikes and sوندالikes

FRITZ SPIEGL. **Kyle Cathie Limited**
PB £9.99
ISBN 1 85626 484 X

How I miss the voice, wit and erudition of Fritz Spiegl, journalist, broadcaster, musicologist, author and very funny man, who died last year [2003].

Austrian born Spiegl arrived in England as a child in the 1930s, an escapee from the Nazis. Perhaps he loved English and its eccentricities so much because he had to learn it consciously from scratch. I remember him best talking hilariously on the radio about composers and their love lives and writing his sparkling columns about language in The Daily Telegraph. American composer and conductor, the great, late Leonard Bernstein once wrote to congratulate Spiegl on his "courageous whimsy."

Anyway, sadly he is no longer with us, but his jolly *Contradictionary*, published posthumously is a good memorial. He sets out partly to save us from the perils of malapropism, by explaining the difference between often confused words such as 'lama' and 'llama' or 'for ever' and 'forever,' listed alphabetically. But, because this is Spiegl and not Fowler, laughter is never far away. He points out, for instance, that 'celibate' means unmarried but 'chaste' means abstaining from sexual intercourse. Therefore "Although St Paul might not have approved, most of the merry monks among his followers were fornicating their socks off while technically remaining fully celibate."

Then he entertains us with this cheerful entry and many more like it:

Hangar/hanger

Coats are hung (not HANGED, see below) on hangers but aircraft are housed in hangars. The purpose of a Guardian headline

HANGARS AROUND

for a picture of airport surveillance-men in which no actual hangars were shown, would have been to invite groans from colleagues – or confuse shaky spellers.

Thanks, Fritz. I wish you were still around.

Susan Elkin

Richard the Lionheart: The Mighty Crusader

DAVID MILLER. **Weidenfeld & Nicolson** **HB £14.99**
ISBN 0 297 84713 9

Soldier turned journalist David Miller has written an intelligent and fascinating book on one of England's most controversial monarchs, Richard I, and will no doubt be widely criticised for it by those of a 'politically correct' disposition.

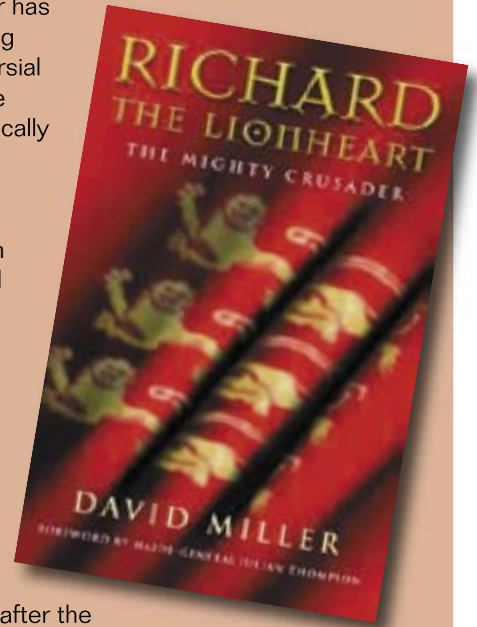
In *Richard the Lionheart: The Mighty Crusader*, Miller rejects the modern 'PC' view of the warrior king – which sees him as nothing more than a warmonger – and restores Richard to his rightful place among our national heroes.

The author deals with the most controversial episode of the Third Crusade – Richard's execution of Saracen prisoners after the fall of Acre. Miller points out that the execution of captives was by no means unusual in medieval warfare, and Richard's Moslem adversary Saladin had himself

ordered the killing of Christian prisoners after the Saracen victory at Hattin four years earlier. In the case of Acre, the executions were the result of the defeated Saracens breaking the terms of their treaty with the Crusaders.

Well written and hugely enjoyable, Miller's book shows that Richard was a brave warrior, a shrewd tactician, and an inspiring leader much loved by his soldiers and admired by his enemies. As a general in the field he won every battle he fought – in Cyprus, Syria and Palestine – and brought the Third Crusade to a successful conclusion by striking a deal with Saladin that guaranteed the security of the important Christian city of Jaffa, allowed pilgrims back into Jerusalem, and gave Christians the freedom of travel and trade throughout the Holy Land.

Andy Smith



Live News, A Survival Guide For Journalists

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF JOURNALISTS

This book is an absolute must for any journalist, photographer or writer going to work in or near a war zone. There are case studies but also statistics on the deaths of journalists and media workers, contacts on where to get safety equipment, insurance, medical information, safety training organisations and much more.

Most important of all is the International Code of Practice for the Safe Conduct of Journalists, and the IFJ calls on all journalist groups, media organisations and all relevant public authorities to respect the Code of Practice.

The book is obtainable from:

Sarah de Jong - Human Rights Officer, based in Brussels at the International Press Centre, Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, Brussels.

Mary Tomlinson

A Victorian Wanderer: The Life of Thomas Arnold the Younger

BERNARD BERGONZI. OUP HB £25.00
ISBN 0 19 925741 8

Rarely can a biography have been so aptly titled. Thomas Arnold was a wanderer in every sense. I expect today he'd be dubbed a 'portfolio person' and he'd certainly be welcome in the Chartered Institute of Journalists as an affiliate.

A son of the great Dr Thomas Arnold, renowned reforming headmaster of Rugby and the brother of Matthew Arnold, poet ('Dover Beach' and 'The Scholar Gypsy') school inspector and part-time writer, Tom Arnold's 'contacts' enabled him to spend his long life (1823-1900) ambling in the corridors of education and literature.

His family connections didn't stop there either. One of his daughters, Mary, married Humphrey Ward and became the Jilly Cooper of her day. The marriage of another daughter, Julia, to Leonard Huxley produced Aldous and Julian, while his nephew, Edward Arnold, made his name as a publisher.

Tom Arnold wandered in time too, having, as Bergonzi points out, in his youth known the elderly Wordsworth well because the Arnold family had a house, Fox How, near Ambleside. Yet, years later, as a professor of English Language and Literature in Dublin, Arnold read essays by a student named James Joyce. Then there were his geographical wanderings across the world to New Zealand and Tasmania. He was a religious meanderer too, leaving the Anglican family fold for the sexier smells and bells of Catholicism not once, but twice.

Bergonzi's detailed researches – which include delving deep into Arnold's own memoirs and an extensive archive of family letters - discovers a likeable man, good company and mercurially intelligent, troubled by conscience and domestic challenges and who somehow never quite manages to make a success of his life.

After Oxford and a brief spell of employment at the Colonial Office in London, alongside "moonlighting" in freelance literary activities, he spent several years, teaching, writing and advising schools in the Antipodes.

There – at a dance in Hobart – he met Julia Sorell, daughter of a respected family in the colony, but with a few skeletons in the ancestral cupboard. They were married in 1850 and Julia, who was not an easy woman, became the greatest love of his life and simultaneously the worst thorn in his side. Her shortcomings as a housekeeper meant that the family was always short of money and, as Bergonzi tells us rather pedantically, Arnold was "philogenerative" like his father – so there were a lot of mouths to feed.

Julia loathed her husband's Catholic leanings and his closeness to John Henry Newman, for whom he taught at The Oratory School in Birmingham after the family's return to Britain. She, like Arnold's mother and siblings and later his children, saw Catholicism as a foul weakness – akin to a drug addiction which kept sucking him back – especially when he converted for the second time.

This, of course was anti-papist 19th century Britain in which Catholics still had difficulty getting teaching posts in non-Catholic establishments, so Bergonzi does make us feel a certain sympathy for Julia despite her rather histrionic temperament. After the second conversion the couple lived mostly apart, but they continued firmly married, deeply fond of each other and there were regular visits. Arnold was present at his wife's death from breast cancer in 1888.

The author of *A Manual of English Literature* and other quite useful works did, eventually, find some peace, modest prosperity and congenial companionship in a second marriage and what Bergonzi calls a "golden autumn" with the calm, competent Josephine Benison, a long-standing Catholic friend from Ireland.

Susan Elkin

Indonesia's State of Terror: West Papua

PATRICK EMEK. **Mandala 2 Projects PB £20.00**
ISBN 0 9544541 0 3

Institute member Patrick Emek specialises in international security issues and has written and broadcast extensively on conflict, terrorism and political violence. In his latest book he provides thorough and authoritative coverage of the Indonesian government's suppression of freedom and human rights in West Papua, and particularly its support for Islamic extremists in the region.

As well as detailing the myriad ways in which ordinary West Papuans suffer under the regime on a day to day basis, Emek's book documents the extent of terror campaign against Christians and other dissident groups, and sets out the links between the Indonesian State and the Islamic radicals. An extremely valuable resource for journalists interested in learning more about human rights under militant Islam.

Andy Smith

Dying...to tell the story

PUBLISHED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
NEWS SAFETY INSTITUTE

One of the most damning indictments of the media profession is that reporters provide the ink and others provide the blood.

This book is first and foremost a historical tribute to those members of the media profession who during the war in Iraq in the spring of 2003, provided both the ink AND their blood.

They lost their lives through Iraqi fire, so-called 'friendly fire' from US Coalition forces, and also tragic accidents. So many deaths in so short a time, their stories listed in this book are of courage and dedication and are truly uplifting, among them is that of Terry Lloyd. The tributes have come from giants in the print and broadcasting industry.

It is a sad book, yet gives great insight into the work of journalists, their mission, and how they see their place in to-day's violent world. The colour illustrations portray both joyful and tragic occasions.

A legend combat photographer, Larry Burrows of *Life Magazine* once said: "They were there to show the interested people and to shock the uninterested." He died in Laos in 1971 when his helicopter was shot down, three decades later his words are a fitting epitaph for the heroes and heroines of this book.

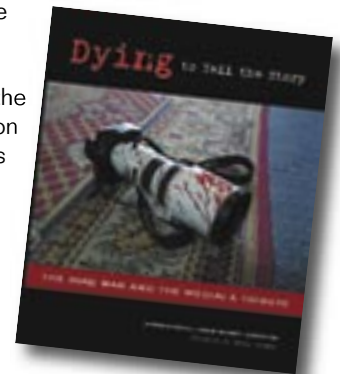
The epilogue of the book also covers briefly other conflicts and facts and figures, such as the many local journalists killed, who were born and grew up in the land where they died. Foreign correspondents are the high profile casualties, but local victims have little news impact elsewhere. They each have the same in common, they died while telling the story.

This is a book that everyone should read, journalists, their families and friends, those who watch war on TV, and to me it proves beyond all doubt that these brave people died so that the world would know the truth.

This book is mainly about Iraq, but it could be any war anywhere. Buy this book, I guarantee you will not be able to put it down.

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Mary Tomlinson



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