The Next FOOL Event — “A Toast to Our Authors”

FOOL’s Spring event will honor humanities faculty at Idaho State University who published scholarly and creative works in 2006. To enhance the celebration, there will be a wine tasting, accompanied by hors d’oeuvres. The event will take place on April 13th, from 5:30 to 7:30, at the Wood River Room in the ISU student union.

The faculty who FOOL chose to categorize as members of “Humanities” departments included those in art, music, literature, philosophy, drama and dance, foreign languages and history. (FOOL apologizes to any historians who prefer to think of themselves as social scientists.)

There are thirteen faculty members from those departments who published books, articles or other creative works in 2006. They are:

- Jennifer Adkison (English/Philosophy)
- Brian Attebery (English/Philosophy)
- Ralph Baergen (English/Philosophy)
- Diane Comer (English/Philosophy)
- Tara Johnson (Theatre and Dance)
- Ronald Hatzenbuehler (History)
- Kevin Marsh (History)
- Brian Norman (English/Philosophy)
- Roger Schmidt (English/Philosophy)
- Susan Swetnam (English/Philosophy)
- Heidi Tighe (English/Philosophy)
- Jessica Winston (English/Philosophy)
- Laura Woodworth-Ney (History)

There will be displays of the publications of the honored faculty at the event, and those displays will move to the Oboler Library afterwards.

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ALL BUT THE NAUGHTY BITS

The latest additions to the FOOL’s Collection of Censored Books are examples of a type of censorship that, in its way, is more infuriating than simple book banning. These works have been “Bowdlerized.” That is, they have been altered through the expurgation of “offensive” passages, yet present themselves to the reader as complete and unaltered.

This species of textual cosmetic surgery is named after its most notorious practitioner, Dr. Thomas Bowdler, who bestowed upon the early nineteenth-century public an immensely popular edition of Shakespeare’s works that was sufficiently pruned to spare a maidenly cheek the faintest blush. His example was followed by numerous editors and publishers throughout the Victorian era; an age in which society’s morally spotless right hand tried its best not to know what its disreputable left hand was doing.

The examples of Bowdlerized publications recently added to the Oboler collection through funding from FOOL are: *Gulliver’s Travels*, by Jonathan Swift; two editions of *Pepys’ Diary*, by Samuel Pepys; an edition of selected works by Daniel Defoe; and several editions of the famous children’s story, *The Story of Dr. Doolittle*, by Hugh Lofting.

*Gulliver’s Travels*, originally a biting and earthy satire on contemporary society and written for adults, somehow became a work marketed to younger readers and was heavily expurgated throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries. *Pepys’ Diary*, like *Gulliver*, an eighteenth-century work, was not intended for publication at all and consequently was written with all the frankness and confessional ribaldry that characterized the period. It was first published in 1825, in an edition that was heavily abridged (it was about half the length of the original) and also heavily expurgated. It went through many subsequent editions, and gradually the full text emerged, but it wasn’t until 1970, over three hundred years after it was written, that the complete and unaltered text was made public.

Defoe’s works were similarly found by editors to be somewhat too realistic for Victorian sensibilities, and editions of his novels, such as *Moll Flanders*, appeared in judiciously rewritten versions. *The Story of Dr. Doolittle* quickly became a children’s classic, and remains so, but twentieth-century editors came to believe that it contained racial slurs. Consequently, the version of the work that you will find for sale at your nearest bookstore is not the version that Hugh Lofting actually wrote.

To compare the two versions of *Dr. Doolittle*, and to browse the other works mentioned above, you are invited to visit the Rare Book Collection at the Oboler Library’s Special Collections Depart-
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- Aids in the improvement of the Libraries’ resources and services; and
- Provides a means whereby those with common interests in libraries and learning may share those interests and participate in library-sponsored activities.

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- Access to Friends Night, first viewing of books at our biennial book sale.
- Idaho State University’s Libraries Friends’ Borrowing card, providing expanded borrowing privileges based on level of support.
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