



OBITER DICTUM

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LIBRARY HOURS

From December 1 through December 14, the library will be open from 7:00 A.M. until midnight seven days a week. Intersession hours will be 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. from December 15 through January 7. The library will be closed for Christmas December 23 -26 and for New Year December 29 – January 1.



For details, check the Legal Research Center web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/about/hours.php>.

We wish all of our patrons a joyous holiday season!!

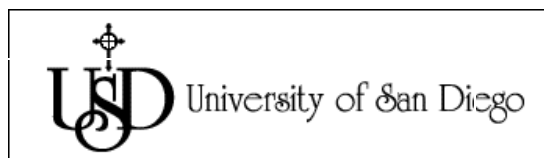
SAYS WHO?



Circus magnate P.T. Barnum never said "There's a sucker born every minute," says Yale Law School Associate Librarian Fred R. Shapiro, the editor of the new YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS. Civil War Admiral David Farragut never said "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead" either. During his famous ride Paul Revere likely didn't say "The British are coming," but rather "The Redcoats are coming." Yet all of those sayings are part of the American lexicon and cultural heritage. Shapiro just wants to set the record straight. "War is hell" he says was not coined by U.S. Civil War General William Sherman but rather by Napoleon. Sherman adapted it to "There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell." And sad to tell, Freud never said "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar," Shapiro says. (*From THIS IS TRUE*, a weekly syndicated newspaper column by Colorado humorist Randy Cassingham, found at <http://www.thisistrue.com/>.)

According to the publisher's blurb, the YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS focuses on modern and American quotations. It uses state-of-the-art research methods to capture famous quotations and to trace sources of quotations to their true origins. It contains more than 12,000 entries not only from literary and historical sources but also from popular culture, sports, computers, politics, law, and the social sciences. In his N.Y. TIMES MAGAZINE review, William Safire refers to this law librarian as "Quotationeer Shapiro" and says that the dictionary deserves to be placed on the quotation shelf alongside of Bartlett's and Oxford's.

The newsletter section of OBITER DICTUM may be found at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/catalogs/news.php>



LEXIS PIONEER DIES



The next time LexisNexis helps you find that perfect case right on point, take a moment and give thanks to H. Donald Wilson, who wrote the original business plan for what later became LexisNexis(now owned by Reed Elsevier). He died on November 12 at the age of 82. Wilson was a partner at consulting firm Arthur D. Little when he was asked by the Mead Corporation to assess a venture in computerized legal research that the company was considering. He gave the project the thumbs-up, and in 1969, he became the first president of Mead Data Central. A turning point for the acceptance of Lexis research came in the early 1970s, when Mr. Wilson arranged for a skeptical audience at the Supreme Court to use the new system. The Lexis system found more cases than the court clerks found by using manual research methods.

Wilson was a graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School. After leaving Mead Data Central in 1973, Wilson partnered with Arthur Lessac, a voice teacher who had developed a sensory feedback vocal training method and began to focus on text-to-speech technology based on Lessac's approach to voice training. At the time of Wilson's death, Lessac Technologies had received five related patents. In 1993, Mr. Wilson became chairman of ConQuest Software, a company focused on information-retrieval for desktop computers. Peter Lattman, *Law Blog Obituary: Donald Wilson, LexisNexis Pioneer*, WALL ST. J. ONLINE, NOV. 27, 2006, <http://blogs.wsj.com/law/2006/11/27/law-blog-obituary-donald-wilson-lexisnexis-pioneer/trackback/>; Katie Hafner, *Donald Wilson, 82, Pioneer of a Database, Dies*, N.Y. TIMES, NOV. 26, 2006, http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/25/technology/25wilson.html?_r=3&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin.

TRIBAL JUSTICE



Interactions between the U.S. and various American Indian tribes have, at times, been contentious. The Web site of the Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice (OTJ) at <http://www.usdoj.gov/otj/> can help users to understand the nuances of the legal relationships among these groups. It also provides information about law enforcement on reservations. The site is divided into four primary sections: ISSUES, PRESS ROOM, RESOURCES, and ABOUT OTJ. The ISSUES section is a good starting point, as it provides information on some of OTJ's spheres of interaction with American Indian tribes, which include civil rights, gambling, and litigation. In the RESOURCES area, there is a helpful FAQ list that provides brief answers to questions such as "What is the relationship between the United States and the Tribes?"

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