



Newsletter

Issue 4

December 2015

Welcome to our fourth newsletter. This is our way of staying in touch, introducing new members, their work and bringing us all up to date with the latest goings-on.

If there is anything else you would like to see, we have missed some details or new people, or you need to tell me of any inaccuracies then please email.

Bridget

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Round-up

The Inca Project is now a year old, and from a tentative start, where I knew I wanted to do something to help new authors, only I wasn't sure what, the concept has come together nicely. We have a core membership of 50 now, and between us are providing mutual help across the group, as well as providing resources to assist anyone who wants to publish.

We maintain our standards, so that the books detailed on the site are all well worth reading, and you won't grind through to the end and think, "That was a pointless waste of my life."

From me wondering how I was going to survive if there was a deluge of new authors, we have settled nicely into a loose collection of leaders, all taking the strain, and all of the same philosophy, which will allow further expansion and discovery of new talent.

Our membership now extends across the globe, with people from the US, Finland, Australia and Peru, as well as our British heartland.

Thank you for entering into the spirit of the idea, have a great Christmas and keep on writing.

Robert Wingfield - December 2015

Inca website:

For a quick refresher course on grammar, have a look at:

<http://www.incaproject.co.uk/punctuation.html>

<http://www.incaproject.co.uk/topten.html>

Welcome to:

Since August we are delighted to welcome:

James Court

Roger Kent

Jessica Holsgrove

Lucinda Elliot

Simon Cousins

Tessa Pye

New Books from the Inca authors

Mummy's Little Angel - JW Lawson

Birth of Venus (from the Gargoyle Chronicles) – DJ Meyers

Bad Business – Andy Paine

The Fifth Correction – Robert Wingfield

Humorously Eerie Irish Stories – Frank Maguire

That Scoundrel Emile Dubois – Lucinda Elliot

News

Authonomy (remains of)

There used to be a site provided by Harper Collins, where lots of authors could upload their work, get voted for by lots of other authors, make suggestions and help those same authors, and gradually claw their way to the top of the pile, to be totally ignored by the publisher.

HC has now taken that site down, and our Rob Gregson has started a better version on Goodreads. It is called the Comedy Literature Only Group (CLOG) and is open to anyone who writes anarchic humour. Please feel free to contact him if you want to join:

<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/174444-clog---comedy-literature-only-group>.

Times Review for The Last Roundhead

On 15 August, one of our Authors had a name-check in The Times.

'The Last Roundhead' by Jemahl Evans

In another civil war, a hero who owes much to the legendary Flashman is drinking and whoring his way through the English Civil War. Sir Blandford Candy, an aged roué, recounts his youthful adventures in 'The Last Roundhead'. After the unfortunate seduction of his brother's wife, Sir Blandford finds himself embroiled in the violence erupting between king and parliament. A roundhead by accident, rather than by conviction, he becomes a scout, or spy, in the service of the parliamentary army, uncovering royalist plots and avoiding his irascible, cavalier brothers.

"Sugar" Candy — he earns this monicker because of his pretty face and success with ladies — is an entertaining and witty guide to the political intrigues of the early Civil War. The plot can feel episodic, rather than entirely coherent, but the research is impeccable and the writing full of verve

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/arts/books/fiction/article4524636.ece>

Damp Dogs and Rabbit Wee

Cee Tee Jackson is getting lots of exposure for this superb revelation of the pet care business. He has used public libraries and achieved 'Book of the Week' status in several, being invited in for book signings etc. He also advertised in dog magazines and that has resulted in a good number of sales. Cee Tee has what it takes and has spotted a gap in this market to make a difference. He is the ideal Inca member, doing something that bit different from the norm, and totally deserving the rewards. Cee Tee served his time in a bank, so that has been a good grounding for doing something wholly diverse! You can read his author interview on the Inca site.

The King's Jew

Darius Stransky is going from strength to strength with this excellent book. He has an agent now, and in line with the power that editors like to have over their subjects, he is being made to change a lot of the content, including the title!

I'm always open to suggestions, but I've read the book, it's excellent, and I'm looking forward to the sequel, and I feel a bit disappointed that the agent feels so much should be altered. This is one of the downsides of selling your soul to the publisher, and one of the reasons that the Inca Project is a good idea.

Robert Rankin had similar problems, and he's written over 40 books and has a very loyal fan base. He wrote and published his autobiography without any input from the conventional publishers, and tells the story, warts and all. There is a review, along with thoughts on getting a publisher on the Inca site at: <http://www.incaproject.co.uk/authorinterviews/i.robert.pdf>

Max Power wins outright

Irish author Max Power is the winner of the November 2015 Book Awards. Little Big Boy competed against hundreds of titles over the month and attracted more than 8,000 votes, a record vote. In addition to taking top spot, his wonderful twisted tale Darkly Wood helped him win on the double, as Darkly Wood took second place also winning Top in category.

The Book Awards have been run by the international publisher Acclaimed Books Limited, since 2008 and in that time, tens of thousands of voters around the world have shown their appreciation by supporting and nominating books in the competition.

"It has been a delight to take part in this truly democratic competition and experience first-hand the loyalty of my readers. To win against such strong competition is the icing on the cake." Says Max Power. And the competition is strong, with several international best sellers, in addition to talented emerging authors making up the field. In a single month, the voting can run into thousands and the awards site contains numerous reviews and comments.

Managing Director, Peter Lihou offered a personal message of congratulations to Max.

"Over the years, we've seen a great many popular titles gain the tangible applause of their fans by their votes and comments, but 'Little Big Boy' enjoys particularly warm support. It really is quite an accomplishment for an author to inspire their customers so much that they get online and vote in such numbers and leave extremely flattering comments. Indeed while 'Little Big Boy' was a worthy winner, Max's 'Darkly Wood' took second place and was awarded Top in category. Max is a genuine talent and is a very worthy winner!"

The Book Awards are the only free to enter international awards that are open to all titles distributed in Kindle or Printed formats by Amazon sites around the world. Anyone can nominate or vote for a title, provided it is available on Amazon, without charge or registration. Dubbed 'The People's Book Awards', this openness attracts large numbers of visitors to the site www.thebookawards.com.

Some Handy Hints – Food for Thought?

Q: When referring to the proper names (example a ship's name), should I use the "Normal Italic", "Quote" styles or just normal text? Or is it dependent on the situation?

A: You can use the italic, or put the name in single quotes - The Mucky Duck or 'The Mucky Duck' - if you do the latter, you can get away without the quotes for subsequent mentions: "His ship was called 'The Mucky Duck'. On a sunny afternoon, the crew of The Mucky Duck were swabbing the decks..."

Don't forget to use capital letters for all of the name, if the name on the side of the boat is 'The Mucky Duck'. If it's only called 'Mucky Duck', then use the Mucky Duck (small t for 'the'). Proper names get capitals - see the last point on the following page:

<http://www.incaproject.co.uk/topten.html> (it deals with how to handle such titles as 'Doctor', but it equally applies to Mother, Uncle etc.)

Hence watch out for things like 'Captain' - where it could be any captain, it gets a small c; where it is an address - "Aye aye, Captain," or name "He was called Captain Pugwash" - the C is upper case.

Book Descriptions

When you have completed your novel, think carefully about how you describe it in the write-up. You need to set the reader's expectations before they even read the sample. E.g.

A dark Gothic mystery

A light-hearted guide to not being old

A quick tour round the Med

An irreverent fantasy

That way, those skimming through looking for a new read will be hooked immediately.

Book Reviews

Can we request that if you haven't done so, each Inca member buy one of the other Inca highlighted books, read and write a review. **But only if you give it 5 stars.** If you don't like it, or are planning to give any fewer, it is best not to say anything. If you feel it needs improvement, then by all means feed back (anonymously if you like) via the Inca address, to be forwarded on to the author.

This way, the more reviews we get, the more the critical mass will go up and become useful to other (non-Inca) Amazon buyers.

Have a look at the portfolio page for a top 40 list to choose from.

<http://www.incaproject.co.uk/portfolio.html>

New Book Summaries

Mummy's Little Angel – J W Lawson

Joanne's identical twin daughters, Maggie and Annie, are suspected of horrible crimes, but are they really guilty? From the opening pages, Maggie appears to be the most dangerous, but Annie is keeping secrets and harboring plenty of anger. Don't put your allegiance in any one basket. That will shift during the course of this haunting tale of death and betrayal. Told in alternating diary form, the narrative delivers both as a classic Victorian novel and yet again as a contemporary chiller. Author JW Lawson evokes echoes of the classic horror-suspense-thriller, *The Other*, winding up suspense through cutting interiority and the closely held secrets of its players, but *Mummy's Little Angel* still manages to capture the flaws and, yes, the fragility of humanity. The well-crafted unreliable narrators are confessing in the subtext, but the story is bold and original.

Birth of Venus – D J Meyers

A flower does not choose its colour; its beauty is the desire of others...

An ancient picture frame and a forgotten parchment lead two generations of one family into the world of Renaissance Florence.

Both artefacts pose the same questions; were Sandro Botticelli and Simonetta Vespucci lovers? Do the women in his paintings, including *The Birth of Venus*, really depict the young Florentine beauty?

Can any man love one woman so intensely and for so long?

Bad Business – Andy Paine

Bob Bobbins doesn't know anything about business; come to think of it, he's not even certain how you spell it.

Bob is naturally apprehensive therefore, when he suddenly inherits his grandmother's estate, and is handed the keys to a rather exclusive business; 'Madame Bob's High Fashion.' To make matters even worse, it quickly becomes apparent that in the treacherous world of high fashion, murder is considered a far less distasteful act than poor taste.

Can Bob, with the help of his inherited staff, avoid the murderous overtures of the Fashion Assassin, defeat the pluming peacocks that are the Fashion Union (FU), and avoid the relentless sleuthing of Detective Dan? Can Bob achieve commercial success, with so many seemingly intent on his demise? *Bad Business* is an irreverent comedic fantasy, kind of, which pokes fun (not physically) at government administration, the legal system, unions, fashion, consultants, and others. Set in the mischievous city of Titan, Bob must overcome vampire prosecutors, cross-dressing judges, leprechaun refund officers, trendy dwarves, street corner consultants, a democratically elected despot, a grapevine that will not shut up, and a rather large elephant in his room.

The *Titanic Tales* is a satirical series of novels, which lampoon just about anything they can (for scientific research of course!). The writing is shamelessly rambunctious, and everything is written with the simple aim of making people smile.

The Fifth Correction – Robert Wingfield

There is a theory that death is not the end of your existence, but is simply a shift into an alternative universe. This is true and keeps happening to Tom Two-Dan \$mith (sic).

Usually, one forgets everything of the past and starts a new life. Tom is not so lucky; he remembers. In his last transition, he found himself as the head of a large corporation famous for doing something; nobody knows what that might be, including the staff.

After the untimely demise of the Plank of Directors (in Fourth Universe), Tom now has to form a new Board of people he can trust; not easy when the folks around him are Skagans, a psychopathic tribe of the ultimate race, a techie whizz-kid, a ball of fur that was once his friend the Magus, a secretary who would do anything for the company, a left-over director who simply won't resign, a sex kitten and a female android.

To make life more difficult, he is being pursued by the Temporal Conduct Authority, who don't believe the above theory, and are miffed about the fact he has shamelessly flaunted the Laws of Time and Space. They are looking to return him to his proper place (i.e. completely dead).

The Magus has his own problems, having contracted the annoying Docu-virus that over-stimulates hair growth. He is running a laboratory to find the cure and therefore be able to try his chances with the buxom receptionist. It is only when he unexpectedly wins the lottery (despite not playing it) followed soon after by the leggy Kara turning up as his new assistant, that things improve. He finds solutions for just about everything except the virus, including unlimited free energy and an app to tell him if his armpits smell.

The Skagans are having difficulties too, in the form of GUTS, the universal tax system, taking 50% of the royalties from a book they have written about 'The Conquest of the Galaxy'. They set about visiting the Excise office to enquire about a rebate; they would have phoned or sent an email, but all lines were busy, and emails were redirecting to the Natural Spy Agency.

Everything is set for a showdown, as crack TCA agents, Bott and Scaly, close in on Tom with orders involving the assembly of sniper rifles and the removal of all clichés.

Humorously Eerie Irish Stories – Frank Maguire

I was lucky enough to get a complimentary copy and can say that to 'humorous' and 'eerie' should be added 'thought provoking' and 'brilliantly written'. The stories hark back to the Ireland of the early 20th Century, when the 'troubles' were at their height, but then move on to creepy tales of goings on in the rest of the Emerald Isle. The stories raise a smile, but also send a shiver down the spine. That wonderful 'Irishness' comes through on all levels, and this is a great selection of shorts to carry on public transport and to dip in and out of - don't do it at bedtime though, because some may well keep you awake. If you've read Frank's Lashback (<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Lashback-Devils-Island-Frank-Maguire/dp/1489701788>), there is a great short about the background of this magical (fictional) island off the coast of Ireland as well. If you haven't read it, then shame on you!

That Scoundrel Emile Dubois – Lucinda Elliot

When Sophie de Courcy, the often foolishly romantic and bored but patient companion to the Dowager Countess of Ruthin, marries her long-time hero, the dashing but rascally French émigré Émile Dubois, she has more excitement than she ever wanted as she is catapulted into Gothic adventure with man vampires and time warps. With the help of her dauntless maid Agnes – who combines Tarot reading with a no-nonsense attitude - and whose own love interest is Émile's swaggering valet and former accomplice, Georges – Sophie must come to terms with Émile's criminal past and help free him from the machinations of their evil neighbours the Kenrick's. Set during the French Revolution in North Wales and in war torn France, this story is full of lively humour and combines believable characters and over-the-top Gothic adventure as a pair of down to earth eighteenth century villains become incongruously caught up in occult happenings. This darkly funny, sometimes sad and often romantic tale will captivate readers who enjoy a well written spoof of the Gothic tradition.