

# KeyNotes

September 2008



Ideas, Inspiration, and News You Can Use to Write and Publish Your Book

## Hello, Authors and Publishers ~

Welcome to this month's issue of **KeyNotes**. With vacation time almost over, and the busy fall season ahead, take a few minutes to enjoy a quote, an interesting word, see which authors were born in September, and read this month's feature, **Copyrights 101**. And on September 21st, take a moment at noon to stop and be part of [The International Day of Peace](#).

Fall is the perfect time to pull out that book you've either thought about or maybe started in the past. As the weather cools and the days shorten, settle in to your creative place and start writing again. Do it every day, and soon you'll find you've gone from "someday I'll finish" to "I did it!"

## Can I Quote You on That?

Writers learn early on that persistence is a prerequisite for even modest success. One of the most prolific writers of the 20th century had something to say about that:

*"You must keep sending work out; you must never let a manuscript do nothing but eat its head off in a drawer. You send that work out again and again, while you're working on another one. If you have talent, you will receive some measure of success - but only if you persist."*

~ Isaac Asimov

## My Word!

Some days you just want a word that sounds silly. For those days, there's **higgledy-piggledy**. It means utter disorder or confusion; I envision a litter of piglets running in all directions, filling the air with raucous mini-oinks. Fun!

## September Author Birthdays

- Sept 1 - Edgar Rice Burroughs
- Sept 2 - Allen Drury
- Sept 7 - Garrison Keillor
- Sept 11 - O. Henry, D.H. Lawrence
- Sept 12 - H.L. Mencken
- Sept 13 - J. B. Priestly, Roald Dahl
- Sept. 15 - James Fenimore Cooper, Agatha Christie
- Sept. 18 - Dr. Samuel Johnson
- Sept. 20 - Upton Sinclair
- Sept. 21 - Stephen King, H.G. Wells, Fannie Flagg
- Sept. 23 - Euripedes, Walter Lippman
- Sept. 24 - F. Scott Fitzgerald

Sept. 25 - William Faulkner  
Sept. 26 - T. S. Eliot  
Sept. 30 - Miguel de Cervantes, Truman Capote, Elie Wiesel

## Featured Article - Copyrights 101

There are volumes written on copyrights, but the basics are pretty simple. Philip L. Marcus, Esq. puts it this way: (used with permission)

"In general copyrights cover words, pictures and sounds, or combinations--the artistic and creative, whether commercial or for its own sake. Examples would be books, paintings, photos, movies and, maybe as a surprise, computer software.

A book may be copyright material, but its title probably is not. A copyright cannot cover a short piece of text like a title, slogan or jingle. Why not? Too often, a short phrase expresses little more than one idea, and ideas are not copyrightable. Also, a short phrase is usually an expression of a common idiom in the language, part of the public domain, and to copyright it would clog creativity instead of encouraging it."

You can read the full article here:

<http://www.negotiationpro.com/articles/likespanishrussianandchinese.htm> and there are other useful articles on [The Negotiation Pro](#) site.

The final authority is, of course, the U. S. Copyright office, which says simply: "Copyright protection subsists from the time the work is created in fixed form. The copyright in the work of authorship immediately becomes the property of the author who created the work." You write it, you own it. Except. If someone such as an employer pays you to write it, then the one who paid owns the copyright.

I'm not an attorney and certainly not qualified to give advice, but I believe authors need to have a basic understanding of copyrights and what they mean. If you like to learn as much as you can on your own, the Copyright Office has plenty of information here: <http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ1.html>. For more specific questions, seek out an attorney who understands intellectual property and literary contracts; you'll need that person to review any agent or publishing contracts before you sign. In the meantime, keep writing!

## The Keeper of the Keys

That's me, Peg Silloway. Lover of words, collector of books, slower at reading than I'd like, but I savor all the nuances and lovely images that the author shows me. Publishing is a natural outgrowth of my life-long love of writing. And now I'm pouring that love of wordcraft into creating books that have something to say, that can make a difference, and that help authors' publishing aspirations become reality. Mix that passion for the written word with a background steeped in business reality - accounting, project management, and small business management - and you have [The Silloway Press](#).



Isn't it high time you published your book? Call me at 301-335-9368, or email me at [Peg@SillowayPress.com](mailto:Peg@SillowayPress.com). Together we can make it happen. **Write On!**

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