

6 February 2009

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT AT 30

Authors say Happy Birthday to a cultural success story

“PLR is still the best thing to happen to authors since copyright.”

“The annual PLR statement...is the one moment in the year when all the rhetoric about authors being part of the “creative economy” suddenly means something – and that’s why we value it so much.” (Joan Smith)

“PLR remains a magnificent concept – just great for morale and a welcome contribution to a writer’s income.”

“PLR doesn’t go for the obvious. Writers who benefit are not always top of the bestseller lists. Often they are lesser known authors, appreciated by readers and hence by PLR.” (Tracy Chevalier)

“PLR provides approximately half my income. I benefit from readership rather than sales which I find very encouraging.”

“I have been registered for PLR since the scheme’s inception. Through the intervening years I have invariably found the office staff of PLR prompt and courteous. Would that all government departments were as efficient.”

“The PLR service is very efficient and friendly – and it’s nice to talk to affable north-easterners rather than soulless metropolitans.”

“In the lean years before “The Rector’s Wife” was published, I was enormously grateful to PLR. Not only did it provide an annual cheque in the bleak month of February, but more importantly it proved to me that there were thousands of people out there borrowing and reading my books, which was, and remains both comforting and stimulating.” (Joanna Trollope)

“I have good years and bad years, but my income is never high and it is no exaggeration to say that I completely rely on my PLR payment.”

“I was able to use my PLR to demonstrate my library readership to a publisher; who is now re-issuing an out of print series of mine.”

“It is a public fantasy that...writers get rich. The jobbing craftsman fulfils a demand but his reader seldom buys hardbacks, and may not think to buy books at all, only borrow them. PLR, for this type of writer, is a serious contribution to income.”
(Hilary Mantel)

“A reduction in royalties by as much as 70% means PLR is not longer the cherry on top of the cake but forms a large slice of said cake.”

Ends/06/02/09

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