



EX ANTE

OUR MISTAKES

We begin with an error of anticipation. This past summer, we planned this Autumn 2021 issue of our journal to coincide with what we thought would be the return of bobblehead certificate redemption in the autumn. Alas, the persistence of COVID-19 pushed “The Return of the Bobbleheads” into the wintertime of early 2022. So, this issue of the *Green Bag* and the next will both be published in the winter of 2022, though only the second will be labeled “Winter 2022.” Sorry about that. Still, this issue is well supplied with timely bobbling goodness.

We misstepped again when Volume 6 of our *Re-readings* series of little literary books suffered from an inconvenient coincidence. The introduction to the volume considered the question “Do Judges Hide Easter Eggs,” and answered “Yes.” Then, due to some weird and still-unexplained production foul-up, when *Re-readings 6* appeared in print, random words and letters throughout the book were italicized. Readers, who have (for good reason) come to expect trickery from the *Green Bag*, quite reasonably assumed the italics were typographical shell fragments that could be assembled into legal-literary easter eggs. For example, when we explained to faithful reader Curtis Karnow that those italics were bugs, not features, he replied, “Hah. I was convinced the odd italics were an Easter Egg. You just saved me from using my next vacation analyzing those letters!” And Karnow was by no means alone. We even received a telegram from faithful reader Burt Wolder, vowing to crack the code:

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HAVE DISREGARDED EXPLANATION FOISTED ON GULLIBLE PUBLIC
STOP NOW WORKING WITH JOINT CHIEFS IN SECRET BUNKER
UNDERNEATH GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY TO DECIPHER RE-READINGS
VOL 6 STOP MESSAGE STILL OBSCURE BUT APPEARS TO CONCERN
OVALTINE STOP MORE SOONEST REGARDS WOLDER

Clearly, *something* more had to be done to deal with this cursived font crisis! The fine folks at our printer, with whom we have worked for nearly a quarter century and with whom we always have been and remain happy, were as dismayed as we were. They promptly printed an improved, unitalized (except where italics belonged) version of *Re-readings* 6, and mailed it with this insert:

Dear Re-readings Subscriber,

Technical problems caused font substitutions in Volume Six. Please accept this replacement copy with our apologies.

Joe Christensen, Inc.

On September 16, we explained the whole business on Twitter (@GB2d): “Between sign-off on proofs and printing on paper, something odd happened to *Re-readings* 6. Extravagant subscribers will probably notice. Don’t worry. Our printer/mailer will soon print/mail a less-odd second edition. Fate of the first edition? Recyclable now, collectible someday.”