



PLACES & PEOPLES

Jan. 16 1997

Normal, Illinois 61761 - (503)

Brian Lamb , CEO and President
C-Span
400 N. Capital Street NW, suite 650
Washington DC 20001

Dear Brian Lamb:

First, thank you for putting About Books onto C-Span for 24 hours on Jan.1 of this year. Here, we get C-Span 2 but it is shared with Bravo; About Books is aired at 5 am Sundays and Mondays. Jan.1 was a joy of a day for booklovers.

Second, the local TCI cable office has been under pressure by sports' lovers and Chicago expatriates when the office said it would drop WNN. After much uproar WNN stays and Odyssey goes. Now, the religious watchers are protesting. I listened to your speech to the National Press Club and I am fearful that C-Span 2, shared with Bravo, may be dropped. (I had written twice to the local manager about C-Span 2 before the uproar.)

Third, Bloomington - Normal is a prosperous complex of almost 100,00 people. We have two universities and four bookstores selling new books and two selling used books. The one in Normal, Babbit's Books, began in 1989 with 6,000 books and now has 60,000 books here and has opened two other used bookstores; one is near the University of Illinois at Champaign with 100,000 books. The other has 2,000 books near Lincoln College, in Lincoln, Ill. I have watched with great interest your programs on major libraries. A suggestion... whenever the C-Span bus is in a small town with political / historical interests perhaps you could seek out and visit a local bookstore and find out what

R
O. Books

is going on. Babbitt's Books has poetry and play readings, all in a very small space.

Fourth, perhaps there could be more advertising of About Books. I am astonished how many professional people locally do not know about it. Although we do have the Preview channel there is not enough detail. I am enclosing a page from our local paper, the Pantagraph, for your inspection. C-Span 2 is absent. No-one would know about the program on books.

Fifth, could you interview Sava Dobel on Book Notes? I watched her talking on a panel which was on the Jan. 1 marathon. I now am reading the book on longitude and intend to buy it. Although I am a trained geographer I had not seen it reviewed.

Thank you for some wonderful watching of quality programs. You need wider publicity for what you are doing for book lovers and writers.

With every good wish,

Illinois State University

babbitt's books

champaign il. 61820

normal il 61761

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