

More than Books

Poldark fans come into the light

Judging from the response to my last-week column, everyone expect my former husband is a fan of the Masterpiece Theatre series, “Poldark.” I haven’t heard from so many readers since I misspelled the name of one of the Freeport motor companies. This time, I’m happy to say, I’ve been hearing from other fellow Poldark enthusiasts.

“I loved “Poldark.” Does the library own DVDs of the series?” Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Connie Sorn wants to know. For Connie’s information, the series has been available on two separate sets of four DVDs each, “Poldark, Part 1” and Poldark, Part 2. The result, of course, is that the one you want is always the one that is checked out. At the end of this month, however, “Poldark: The Complete Collection,” an all-in-one set, is making its debut, and Connie is first in line for it.

A few people told me they thought “Poldark” was a BBC original drama and are interested now in looking up the novels by Winston Graham, which, as I recall, my husband disliked even more than the television series. The novels are available, higgledy-piggledy, from one library or another, through interlibrary loan. Since they’re out in paperback, I’m going to pop for a set – all twelve of them - for Freeport Library’s collection.

An email from Mrs. Poldark

There is nothing I like better than getting some reactions to what I write. Even when I goof, I appreciate a correction or two - or 47 - that keeps me from going right out and spelling Henney without two e’s ever again.

The email I received from Meredith Wheeler is a real prize. She writes, “Through the magic of the Internet I saw your column this week where you mention enjoying “Poldark. I'm an Illinois born and bred gal (Northfield, Ill), and I ended up marrying Robin Ellis, who played Ross Poldark. We live in southwestern France now though we hope to make it to Chicago in March on a book tour.

Meredith goes on to say that I might be interested to know that Robin just published a cookbook that came out in November 2011 in the United States, "Delicious Dishes for Diabetics." She explains that Mr. Ellis is a Type 2 Diabetic who has managed to control his condition for many years through diet and exercise and promises me anyone can enjoy the book. He is also about to republish his memoir, “Making Poldark” to include some added material.

Meredith concludes, “I thought since you enjoyed his work all those years ago, you might get a kick out of knowing what he's doing now. He writes a blog about cooking, food and life at www.robin-ellis.net. He also has a Facebook page: Robin Ellis [robin-ellis.net](https://www.facebook.com/robin-ellis.net). Like you, I enjoyed the series very much and was pretty surprised to end up marrying the leading man.”

I wonder if there's any chance of adding Freeport that March book tour. Just a thought.

On my nightstand

Actually, this one is on my television stand: the dramatization of Ford Madox Ford's "The Good Soldier," which Meredith believes contains Robin Ellis's best work.

Placing reserves and interlibrary loans

Sure, it is fun to come to the library and browse. I always head to the browsing collection of new fiction and nonfiction on the library's first floor.

When there is a particular title I want, however, I don't hesitate to go to the library's online catalog, PrairieCat, which contains the holdings of nearly 100 other northwestern Illinois libraries, and placing a reserve, also known as a hold, on the title. Whether the item is owned by Freeport or another library, you should receive it promptly.

For more information about the reserve process, interlibrary loans, or other ways of getting the most out of your library, please inquire at the library and expect to be directed to someone who can assist you. It may even be me!

Library Director Carole Dickerson may be reached by phone at 815-233-3000, ext. 216 or by email at cdickerson@freeportpubliclibrary.org.