Celebration of BYU Library Volume #3,000,000

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Celebration of BYU Library Volume #3,000,000:

Rural Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines -

A Field Manual for Botswana

When, in 1988, the BYU Library acquired its three millionth volume, it was time for a big-time celebration (to the degree Mormons let their hair down and celebrate). Thus, in solemn tones, I presented the following lecture, showing, telling, and celebrating the three millionth volume added to our collections:

(Spoken with Latvian accent)

It is with proud you-mility that I stand before you giving few brief remarks about volume number 3 Million, entitled: "Rural Ventilated Improved Pit Latrines: A Field Manual for Botswana." (May I ask for a volunteer to be turning pages for me, please?)

I want, you should appreciate, this volume was not a random choice. It hyas many fine features and scientifical value to be recommending it. Fyrst of all, it is member of a series. It is a serious choice. It is actually "Tag Technical Note, No. 8." I figure, if someone says, "This book is too good to stand alone, we have to have more just like it..." then that is proof to me of its validity and impact on the academic world.

Speaking of the academical world, this book is a favorite before it even hits the shelves. It has already been critically acclaimed in various schools of interpretive thought, among them, those of Marxism, feminism, and deconstructionism.

Please show front cover to everybody. (point) It hyas nyifty sketch on front cover of two zebraz dancing on their hind legs. The Marxist scholar Vladimir O'Connor has pointed out that this is symbolical of the uprising of the exploited masses against the decadent imperialistic capitalists. (Please turn to page 5.) The cutaway view on page 5 shows further metaphorical informations for Marxist scholarship. Above the head of a sitting proletariat is a ventilation gap. This has only one possible interpretation: it points to the glorious October revolution of the Bolsheviks in Mother Russia, which aired out the stink of the Czars, cleared away the air from opium of the masses, and was a window of opportunity upon a thousand points of socialist light. The ventpipe capped with a flyscreen further substantiates this. What could better represent the recent events in Eastern Europe? The removable cover-slab, of course, has been removed by Comrade Gorbachev. It now remains to be seen if the seat insert will hold the weight of his convictions.

(Please turn to page 9.) The feminist interpretation is even more convincing that that of the Marxists. Feminists hail this work as a landmark volume. And in fact, it may leave its mark on the land. The sociologist Bella Brutta points out that this volume advocates "self-help construction." (point to picture) In other words, don't look for any help from chauvinist males. (Please turn to page 10.) The point from this page is that male-dominated society is the pits, (point) and all that is required is a good vacuum tanker truck to make things good again. In
this interpretation, the removable cover-slab is removed, not by Mikhail Gorbachev, or any other
power-hungry man, but by the tools of feminist persuasion. (Please turn to pages 12 and 13 to
show what these tools are.) (point)(point) Note: In this real book, co-published by the World Bank, and you can find it at the following call number: TD775.N68x 1983.

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