



LOAGHTAN BOOKS NEWS



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Paper v Kindle - the debate continues

Well, it's happened - our first Kindle book. *What Nobody Sees* by Anne-Pia Nygård was published in September and is available both as a conventional paper book and on Kindle. Be warned; those of you opting for the Kindle version won't get the excellent line drawings by Anne-Pia's uncle, a professional artist who works with the press and police.



The above picture is one we *didn't* use in *A Cog in the Wheel*. Putting together a book like *Cog* is difficult when it comes to illustrations. The author kept pictures with her diary, but was, understandably, not able to be comprehensive. Consequently there is a danger of some chapters being overloaded with images while others have none at all. It's always a wrench when we can't use all the illustrations but at least *Loaghtan Books News* can let you see some of those we have to leave out.

This one shows Italian children at school in a camp for Displaced Persons. The picture we used instead can be found on page 79 of *A Cog in the Wheel*.

Loaghtan Books aka Friends Reunited?!

One of the nice things about this job is the people. As a result of publishing *Invading America, 1943*, we were able to put the son of the commander of the British Battery in touch with the son of the author and radar expert who had worked with him:

'Colonel Metcalf and I had taken this hour's opportunity to analyse things. We thought very much along the same lines, I was pleased to say (because I admired his calm and his judgement)'. Page 66, *Invading America, 1943*.

How Kindle works - the publisher's tale

Kindle books are downloaded from Amazon which assumes the role of publisher thus relegating the role of the stated publisher to that of typesetter and supplier. The text must be presented using the format specified by Amazon, which is most easily done through Word, and not via the commercial typesetting package professionals use. Consequently, text has to be typeset twice.

Amazon states that Kindle books must be priced at no more than 80% of the cost of the same book on paper, which might help explain ebooks' popularity; depending on the download size of the book, the price often has to be much less. In addition, the pricing for worldwide distribution is based on US dollars, not on the currency of the country of origin.

As well as the usual booksellers' discount, Amazon also charges the original publisher for the time it takes readers to download the book, so pictures incur a penalty.

Readers also tend to overlook the fact that they don't own their Kindle book in the usual sense. Ebooks can be withdrawn or changed, even after purchase. It's unusual, but has happened. Controversial books could disappear if they exist in Kindle form alone.

Something to think about.

Our next newsletter will be in January. So... Happy Christmas! Best wishes Sara

Quote of the day

"One of the doctors says in a worried voice to Dad, 'If only you'd come straight here!'

'Well, we would have if we'd been allowed to,' said Dad.

The doctor continues: 'A couple of days sooner and we could have fixed this without any problem but now the chances are minimal.'" *What Nobody Sees*, page 82.