Some Hints for QUARTERLY Authors

AGS appreciates that you wish to share your insights. We value each other’s research and know it will deepen our understanding of cemetery culture.

The Editors encourage you to speak in your own voice. We insist only that your facts are valid and photos crisp. Also, we prefer Word files, recommended word count is 2,500 words.

To be most effective, consider the suggestions for strong communication below.


► Tell what you’re going to say in the first sentences. Which start engages you quicker? (1.) “I have always enjoyed wandering through old grave yards. Ever since my parents took me to decorate our relatives’ markers, I looked forward to burial grounds. I especially recall pleasant trips to out-of-the-way sites. Recently I toured eastern Europe. Our leader took us to the Dracula Memorial Cemetery in Borgo, Romania.

There I saw an unusual mausoleum.” (2.) “The unusual mausoleum I saw in the Dracula Memorial Cemetery, Borgo, Romania, impressed me because…”

► Illustrate general remarks with specific examples. (“The monument catches your eye. For example, its second level looms over the ground floor entrance and seems to menace strangers.”)

► Value subject-verb-object sentences. Passives are to be avoided. Which communicates more powerfully: “The portico was dreaded by me” or “The portico frightened me”?

► Eliminate /to be/ main verbs. Is / am / are / was / were / be / been / weaken your prose. Which sentence grips you: “I was frightened by the heavy stone work because it was so worn that it seemed to be about to fall.” “The heavy stone work, eroded by time, threatened to fall on me.”

► Forget jargon. Unless essential to some technical point, use plain words.

► Eschew obfuscatory diction. It impedes comprehension and alienates auditors. (“The psycho-sociological implications of such a minatory structure demonstrate a deep-seated cultural resistance to inclusivity and privilege autochthonous bias toward mass nocturnal assemblages by natives rather than individual visits by outsiders.”)
► Kill lazy language: "basically, rather, hopefully, very, somewhat, actually, due to the fact that, quite, thing, in my opinion, etc."

► Devote a separate paragraph to each new idea.

► Quote accurately. ("Moses carried the Ten Amendments. Moses argued with Fair Rose's magicians. Moses died in the dessert.")

► Proofread for accuracy in spelling, mechanics and logic. In other words, don’t burden yer reeders with misspelled * &+ wurds.

► References. We use these conventions.
  3. Illustration. Master mason Boris Hammer sculpted this bat in 1515. (Fig. 1) It resembles native species still found in the nearby Carpathia Cave.