

**From:** ebari[REDACTED] [mailto:ebari[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 24, 2012 10:09 AM

**To:** Read, John [John.Read@ATR.USDOJ.gov]

**Subject:** Decison favoring Amazon monopoly

Dear Mr. Read:

The Justice Department has made an error in its decisions favoring Amazon's predatory pricing policy. It is cherry-picking the most saleable books, selling them at a very low price, and making it impossible for long-established publishers and booksellers to stay in business. Only the five-book, five-million dollar deals for vampire novels will make it in this new world.

A country's ideas and culture are shaped in large part by thoughtful writers and the publishers who take the risk of bringing their work into circulation. They are the first to start the ideas that find their way into the other media. I am the author of three books, with a fourth being published by Liveright next spring about a collaborator who concealed his past in WWII, came anonymously to this country, rose high and eventually exerted enormous and undesirable intellectual influence both here and abroad (PAUL DE MAN: A LIFE OF BETRAYALS). Amazon would not be interested, but the issues the book raises are important and should reach an educated public. Yet I wonder: will there still be a real publishing industry in a year or two?

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Barish  
Prof. emerita of English  
City University of New York