

Read from the bottom up, for proper chronology. Kent Madin

Subject: Re: Explorers Club

From: Kent Madin (rett139@yahoo.com)

To: westwardho@ic24.net;

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 12:32 PM

Dear Ran,
Strike three.

Cheers,

Kent

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018 3:49 AM, Westward Ho <westwardho@ic24.net> wrote:

Dear Kent

I am afraid this den-inhabitant has already answered you. Sorry not to be specific.

Best wishes

RF

From: Kent Madin [mailto:rett139@yahoo.com]

Sent: 25 September 2018 23:55

To: Kent Madin; Westward Ho

Subject: Re: Explorers Club

Dear Ran,

At the risk of bearding "The World's greatest living explorer" in his den, I wanted to try one more time for an answer to the question about whether your quote was based on actually having read Earl de Blonville's self-published book, "Savage Coast".

Sincerely,

Kent Madin

On Friday, July 15, 2016 8:35 AM, Kent Madin <rett139@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Ran,

I'll keep the quote about avoiding friction in mind.

As an Outward Bound instructor, way back in 1969, when someone danced around answering a straightforward question like "are you going to rappel?", we just repeated the question, until they rappelled or it got too dark.

I'm not asking you to take sides on the issue of de Blonville v. Madin. I'm just asking if you read the book that has your endorsement on the cover before you endorsed it.

Sincerely,

Kent

On Friday, July 15, 2016 4:59 AM, Westward Ho <westwardho@ic24.net> wrote:

Dear Kent,

I need to keep clear at all times of friction between two parties. In this case between you and Mr de Blonville. I have indeed already made this clear to you.

Best wishes,
Ran.

From: Kent Madin [mailto:rett139@yahoo.com]
Sent: 06 July 2016 13:10
To: Westward Ho
Subject: Re: Explorers Club

Dear Ran,

Earl involved you in the controversy when he asked for the quote. I'm just asking a simple question. Is your quote based on actually having read the book? I have also asked the Prince of Wales' Private Secretary to clarify the shelf life and portability of Royal patronage as promoted on the book cover and they promise a response in a fortnight.

One does not need to be much of a student of human nature to know that if you genuinely knew Earl de Blonville and had read the book, and the quote was original and sincere, you would likely have said so, with enthusiasm. If prominent members of the exploring community treat controversy like an infectious disease it will only, inevitably, encourage more.

It is your name and reputation that Earl de Blonville is counting on to sell his books. I want to represent your role in Earl's story accurately. Hoping you will respond.

Sincerely,

Kent Madin
Bozeman, Montana
Skype KentinBZN
+1-406-595-2310

On Wednesday, July 6, 2016 5:12 AM, Westward Ho <westwardho@ic24.net> wrote:

Dear Kent Madin

Oh Dear! I hate involvement in any controversy including being drawn into yours. So I will have no more involvement in this matter from now on.

Best Wishes

Ran Fiennes

From: Kent Madin [mailto:rett139@yahoo.com]
Sent: 27 May 2016 19:47
To: Westward Ho <westwardho@ic24.net>
Subject: Re: Explorers Club

Dear Ran,

I hope this can sit in your inbox until your successful return from Alaska.

I feel I owe you some further explanation for my inquiry about your quote on Earl de Blonville's soon to be republished book, 'Savage Coast'.

I have been interested in Earl de Blonville's career and professional claims since June of 2013 when I wrote him and asked if he could expand on the events that led him to [write, in late May of 2013, this endorsement](#) (<http://earldeblonville.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/image-35.png>) on LinkedIn for another explorer, Ripley Davenport. I had been following Ripley Davenport and fact-checking his claims since 2011 and had determined with extensive documentation, that Mr. Davenport was a fraud. Specifically, Mr. Davenport (and hiswife) had invented a whole string of "expeditions" that had never happened, but whose description on his website gave Davenport the appearance of an accomplished explorer and with that appearance, entree to sponsors, news coverage, interviews, etc. Assuming that Mr. de Blonville was, as his website suggests, an authentic "Author, International Speaker, Founder:Postformal Leadership" I wanted to determine if perhaps my research was fatally flawed. Here was an endorsement of such glowing terms, such personal investment from an apparent icon of Australian exploration. Could I be totally mistaken in my conclusions about Ripley Davenport?

Mr. de Blonville's response was to threaten to send unnamed minions to my home in Montana and beat me up (several times no less) for having the temerity to ask what part of reality the endorsement was based upon. There is no evidence that Mr. de Blonville has ever met Ripley Davenport in person, much less traveled or worked with him.

The outrageous and unprofessional nature of Mr. de Blonville's response to my inquiry piqued my interest in a "doth protest too much, methinks" way. I am of the certain opinion, having done considerable fact-checking on Mr. de Blonville's professional claims, that his primary skill is self-promotion and his current career, such as it is, runs on the fumes of the nearly disastrous '86 expedition chronicled in 'Seventh Journey' (soon to be resurrected as 'Savage Coast').

Seventh Journey never stirred interest with a publisher so Mr. de Blonville was forced to self-publish it in a run of a few hundred copies. I have one of those rare tomes and have read it, though none of the other participants in the '86 expedition have read it or were consulted on the draft.

I also believe he is guilty of fraud relative to his application to a doctoral program at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 2011. I won't drag out that long story or the rest of the details of the research. The Google will lead you there if you are so inclined.

Getting back to your quote for the jacket of 'Savage Coast'. My interest was piqued because Mr. de Blonville has a track record of linking himself to genuinely accomplished people as promotion for his various commercial schemes. Case in point is a recently defunct business called [9sails](#) in which de Blonville proposed to take accomplished, wealthy business people aboard a 100 year old sailboat and impart leadership wisdom through salt spray and French cuisine. Included in the Adjunct Faculty were, among others, Chris Bonington and Robin Knox-Johnston. Upon inquiry, neither of those gentlemen expressed familiarity with the program in which they were advertised as participants nor did they acknowledge having given permission to be represented as such. They expressed only passing knowledge of Mr. de Blonville. A similar pattern exists in other schemes of Mr. de Blonville's.

So that's why I wondered if you had actually read the book before agreeing to provide a quote. Since 'Savage Coast' is not actually published yet, you must have read a copy of 'Seventh Journey'. Or, perhaps your quote is the result of having traveled with Mr. de Blonville and knowing him as a personal friend.

As I told Mr. de Blonville when I inquired about his endorsement of Ripley Davenport, I'm not a martinet on a mission to nit-pick. Had he acknowledged that he wrote a fantasy endorsement for a fan, the story would have ended there. I understand that lots of quotes on lots of books are from people who didn't actually read the book or skimmed the book or quoted based on having an idea of what's in the book. 'Seventh Journey' is 415 pages, after all. I understand the universal nature of back-scratching so I'm not out to pillory anyone for having taken a short cut. And I'm confident you won't be threatening to have me beaten up for asking the question.

I hope to hear from you when next you are in comms.

Sincerely,

Kent Madin
Bozeman, Montana
Skype KentinBZN
+1-406-595-2310

RE: Explorers Club

From: Westward Ho (westwardho@ic24.net)
To: earl@arcticexplorer.com
Cc: rett139@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 08:34 AM MDT

Dear Earl

I have just received the attached query from a gentleman named Kent Madin. I am literally just off to Alaska for a month so I'd be really grateful if you could please deal direct with his enquiry. In a rush!

Best Wishes

Ran

P.S. I did agree with the sentence "Timeless Insights into the Hidden Dimensions of Leadership" being used as quoted from me for the book "Seventh Journey".

Name: Kent Madin

Telephone: 4065952310

Mail: rett139@yahoo.com

Message: Dear Mr. Fiennes,

I'm doing fact checking for a story that includes Earl de Blonville. You are quoted, in reference to and on the cover of, Earl de Blonville's book, 'Savage Coast' (previously published as 'Seventh Journey') as follows: "Timeless Insights into the Hidden Dimensions of Leadership- Ranulph Fiennes". Can you confirm that quote? Thanks much. Kent Madin