

## Jay Are Double You

Are you double, Jason?  
would be a better query  
have I profited much?  
yes indeed and very  
especially if measured via  
freelanced ROI or any one of these:  
craft, contacts, critical eye  
tax-deductible annual fees

one anagram of James River Writers:  
Smarter, Wrier Jives  
and I agree  
it's consonance (but not hyperbole)  
to say that JRW in a verb  
is  
superb for me  
throwing ink was solitary for a while  
every man for himself in the info@ slush-pile  
but now I've got founding bibliophiles  
Phaedra, David, Dean on speed-dial  
we trade wine, wisdom, indie presses  
and editors' secret hotmail addresses

when I was on the board, we shook the budget loose  
heck, we showed a German film  
about French monks and Chartreuse  
and I thought they'd wheel me out on a gurney  
when the Chair approved my Scrabble tourney  
JRW is proof that literary doesn't mean MFA elite  
when you save seats for slam poets  
(they're more than alliterative punks)  
and graphic novelists  
(Dash Shaw's a Richmond hunk)

even before this 501(c)3  
rooted the herds  
to locally harvested words  
the microclimate of Virginia  
was ripe for writing  
it produced the drink-it-in-a-gulp  
pulp of Baldacci  
Trigiani's quaffable yarns by the bobbin  
and lay-it-down-to-savor tomes  
of Toms Wolfe & Robbins

you can't spell m-e-t-r-o-p-o-l-i-s  
without p-o-e-m-s-o-r-l-i-t  
and thanks to this past decade  
you've got to admit  
that the hamlet of Richmond's got game  
and big city talent in the flock  
JRW is the shepherd's name  
corralling a legion  
when you've got locals in letters  
it betters the whole region  
but we sheep graze on print  
and fatten our fiction noir  
with persistence and patience  
for that Annual Conference abbatoir  
the one-on-one with agents  
    some manuscripts get fed and watered  
    while lesser authors just get slaughtered

Dear All of Those Who Toil Daily,  
to articulate, conjugate, syndicate  
let's pause to celebrate  
the collaborative  
whose comparative adjective  
deserves an upgrade to superlative form  
for a tenth year of polished service  
in the biz where first drafts are norm  
I'm recasting Virginia's biblio brightest  
James River Write

Writer

Writest

— **Jason Tesauro, 9/2012**