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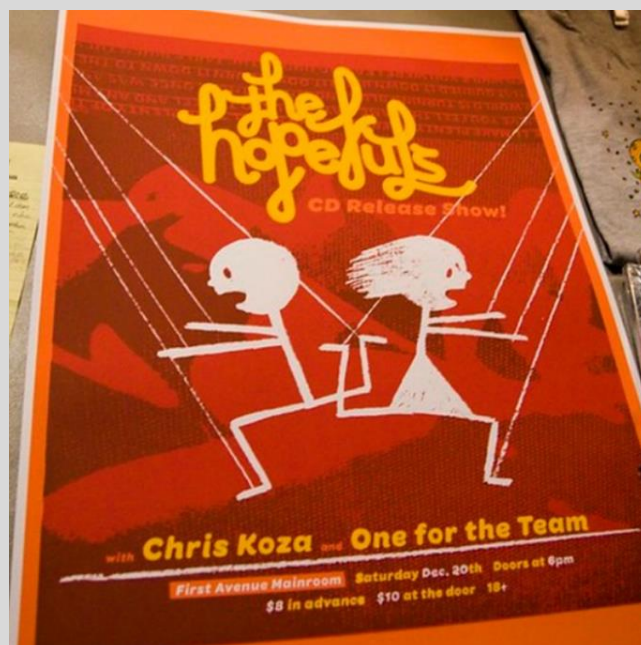
Talking About Jack Kent in San Antonio

This year's annual conference of the Popular Culture Association will be held in April in San Antonio, Texas, which just happens to be the hometown of Jack Kent. So I will be attending, and delivering a short talk titled "Texas Jack Kent: A Comic Storyteller in San Antonio," exploring the ways Jack's hometown influenced his work. I'll also get to meet Jack Kent, Jr. and his wife Susan after three years of corresponding.



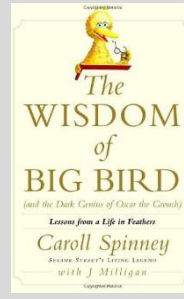
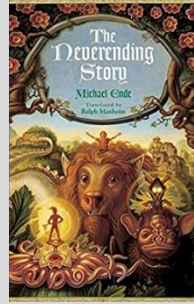
A Full Hopefuls Show!

A couple of weeks ago, Darren Jackson posted a complete recording of a December 20, 2008 Hopefuls show at First Avenue. The show was to celebrate release of their second (and final) album, *Now Playing at the One-Seat Theatre*. Wendy and I were there, and I'm fairly certain you can hear us clapping after each song. [Watch it here!](#)

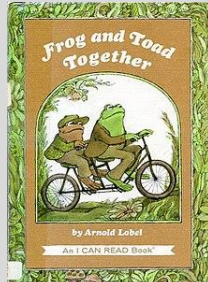
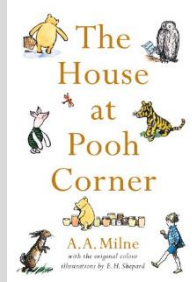
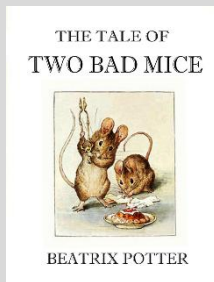


What I've Been Reading for Fun and Research

I still read to Theo (and Peter when he chooses to listen in) every night. Lately we've been making our way through Michael Ende's *The Neverending Story*, which is good, but is starting to live up to its title. I've been on a kick of Sesame Street memoirs, namely Sonia Manzano's *Becoming Maria* and Carol Spinney's *The Wisdom of Big Bird*.



On the research side, I've finished my Berenstain reading, and have turned toward deeper study of their inspirations (Beatrix Potter, A.A. Milne) and their contemporaries (Arnold Lobel, Else Holmelund Minarik). This just so happens to line up with an idea for a children's novel that's been percolating for a while. More about that another time.



And Finally... a Brain Cloud



"I've been thinking about joining social media."