

Confirmation by Translation

It's really there.
I'll tell you where
(so you can't claim
I made it up):
page 29 of *Maigret
Loses His Temper*,
by Georges Simenon
(Paperback edition).

The translator was sleeping
on the job and
it got past the editors too:
"The apartment
was huge and comfortable
equipped with the kind
of furniture that you find
in the big stores."

The last three words
must have been
"les grands magasins"
en Francais
which every first semester
French student knows
means "department stores,"
not, literally, "big" ones.

This, I decide on reading it,
must have been placed here
specially for me to find,
just at this particular
moment when I needed
some confirmation of
my own special place
in the universe.

Steve Bloom
June 2001