



Boat and Piling Alistair Bell

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Obviously this issue of *Amphora* does not represent “business as usual.” For as one Board member aptly expressed it we simply “have to cut our coat to fit our cloth.”

What has brought us to this turn of events? The sad fact is that we have yet to receive our much needed annual grant from the B.C. Gaming Commission. Every spring our treasurer Don Polak diligently prepares and forwards an excellent grant application to the Commission. In other years we have received that grant by September at the latest. This year it is now October and we are still waiting to hear when the grant money will arrive and just how much it will be. Therefore we have had to take some decisive measures to keep going. *Amphora* this time out is a publication half the size of the previous issue: 24 pages instead of 48 pages. Also we used volunteer help to format the publication instead of paid help. In addition Society members stuffed and mailed the journal, instead of having it done by a commercial mailer.

While the quantity may be lacking we sincerely hope that the quality has remained the same. Articles in this issue feature two private presses, the Stannardus Press as reported by Rollin Milroy and the Incline Press as chronicled by press proprietors Graham Moss and Kathy Whalen. Those of you lucky enough to have attended Graham’s lecture and workshop this October will undoubtedly appreciate knowing more about this press. My article on identifying first editions is meant mainly to be instructive but I hope it will also prove to be interesting reading as well. The article on Lawrence Books describes a well established Vancouver bookstore that will be familiar to local book buyers and collectors.

A few articles did get left on the cutting room floor this time, but we sincerely hope to include them in future issues. They include a great article on the art and commerce of designing Canadian book covers by Stephen Smith, a wonderfully readable article by Phyllis Reeves on a few of her favourite first editions in her book collection, and an intriguing article on how we all suffer from “reading anxiety” as a result of having too many books to read and too little time to actually read them.

We are also printing a shortened version of “News and Notes” and “Book Reviews” this time out, and although we are featuring a wonderful woodcut artist in Alistair Bell we only have space to reproduce three of his works of art.