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From the Editor's Desk

Richard Hopkins

THERE ARE A GREAT MANY PLEASURES that come with being the editor of a journal for book people. My co-editor, Stuart Isto, and I are grateful to all of the people who took the time to provide us with feedback on *Amphora*. We are also grateful to learn that our efforts have been very well received indeed by our readers/subscribers. We intend to work even harder in the future to try to bring you readable and informative articles and visually appealing and interesting works of art.

A second pleasure is in launching out in new directions. As we mentioned in a previous issue we are working on establishing a chapbook series that will deal with various topics relating to books and reading. It is taking a little longer than we expected to get started on this venture since we are fully determined to have this numbered series exhibit the very best in overall possible design features that talent and money can afford. In the meantime one of our members, Yosef Wosk, has come forward with an equally exciting proposal. He has suggested that we commission artists to produce new, original woodcuts, wood engravings or linocuts related to books and reading. It would be the intention to include one of these original works of art with each issue of *Amphora*!

Perhaps my greatest pleasure as editor this past month, however, was my visit to Seattle with fellow Alcuin member John King. The true reason for the visit was to hear book man John Dunning speak about his brand new mystery set in the antiquarian book trade, *The Bookman's Promise*. If you haven't read his two earlier book trade mysteries, *Booked to Die* and *The Bookman's Wake*, then you are in for a real treat. Run, do not walk, to your local library or bookstore. While we were in Seattle we also re-established contact with members of the Book Club of Washington, the sponsors of Mr. Dunning's talk. We had once exchanged journals on a regular basis but somehow this had fallen by the wayside. I am pleased to say that we are reviving that mutually beneficial arrangement. Read more about this sister book club in the News & Notes section of this issue. But to come to the real point of all this – John and I spent an entire wonderful day meeting and chatting with incredibly friendly and interesting book people – we visited antiquarian bookstores, encountered fellow book collectors, met with the folks of the Book Club of Washington, and last but not least actually chatted one-on-one with John Dunning! Now I ask you, would I have had the same wonderful experiences if I happened to be the editor of *Pet Food Supply Monthly*, *The Journal of Accrual Accounting* or *Oral Hygiene Highlights*?