

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Richard Hopkins

I sit here at the eleventh hour composing this introductory section to *Amphora* #135. My co-editor and I sadly misjudged how long it would take us to pull things together at this time of the year. Ah yes, we said, the spring and summer months are generally more leisurely and so we should have this next *Amphora* out in a timely fashion. As a university professor I have generally found the months from May to August a time to recharge my mental batteries, a time of professional reading and reflection. Not this year, however! The summer months have been just as busy as the regular Fall and Winter terms. Also my co-editor will insist on taking a vacation! Imagine that! But then I quickly conjure up the vision of Mr. Sleary of Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*. "People must be amuthed, Squire," he asserts in his gentle, lispng fashion. So, not to be thought of as an Ebenezer Scrooge by my much valued friend and co-editor Stuart Isto, I fondly and warmly sent him my wishes for a happy, successful and well-deserved holiday.

On the more positive side of the ledger this issue has represented for me the discovery of a multi-talented new friend in the person of artist, researcher and writer Gary Sim. Initially I visited Gary's studio just to see the woodcuts we might feature in *Amphora* #135. I took away a handful of great art pieces to pass along to Stuart for the issue in hand. Then, however, Gary proceeded to get busy and cut an original piece of work involving the entrance to the Lions Gate Bridge especially for the cover of the journal. Stunning! And then, since I had taken him a few sample back issues of *Amphora*, I received a wonderful piece of writing from him entitled "On the Care and Feeding of Antiquarian Booksellers", written in response to an article he had read on the future of bookselling in *Amphora* #134. Believe me it is a pretty darn exciting thing to latch on to such a talented individual. I hope to feature more of his artwork and writing in future issues.

A word about keepsakes. Enclosed with this issue is a terrific George Kuthan keepsake, *Kuthan's Menagerie Completed*, produced by Bob Reid and Rollin Milroy especially for a presentation at the Vancouver Public Library. Members, however, may recall that they have received two other Kuthan keepsakes in past issues of *Amphora*. Those particular keepsakes also were printed by David Clifford of Black Stone Press. We hope Alcuin members enjoy all of the keepsakes we send out. We will certainly try to step up production in this area in the future and pass along more of these wonderful treasures to you.