

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Richard Hopkins

WHEN MY GOOD FRIEND KULDIP GILL approached me last October with an idea to focus the December 2004 issue of *Amphora* around the cultural life of Mission, B.C. I listened with great interest. After all I knew that she had just moved to Mission and moreover had just been elected Vice-President of the Mission District Arts Council. I also knew that Kuldip was soon to graduate with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Theatre, Film and Creative Writing Department at the University of B.C. and that she was already a successfully published poet. Her published titles include *Dharma Rasa* (Nightwood Editions, 1999) and two chapbooks *Cornelian, Turquoise and Gold* (Colophon Books, 2003) and *Ghazals: Rai and Sohni* (Frog Hollow Press, 2003). She is featured in an anthology of South Asian Canadian women poets entitled *Red Silk* (Mansfield Press, 2004) and has a new book of poetry coming out in 2005 from Beach Holme Press entitled *Valley Sutra*. Meanwhile she is working on her first novel, *Santi*.

Kuldip had been writing a series of articles on private presses for *Amphora*. The next article in line was Barbarian Press in Mission. Terry Stillman had been writing a series of articles on second hand/antiquarian book stores for *Amphora*. His current article was on Murdoch's Bookshoppe in Mission. Kuldip had just been published in a wonderful anthology of contemporary writing in the Fraser Valley edited by Trevor Carolan and entitled *Down in the Valley*. Put them all together and what have you got? A Mission-centred issue of *Amphora*.

How else to emphasize the Mission theme in the issue? One idea was to include some News & Notes from the Mission District Arts Council along with some Alcuin News & Notes. Another idea was to feature a number of woodcut, wood engraving or linocut artists from the area. Unfortunately the only artist Kuldip could identify that works in any of these media in the Mission area was Dean Lauzé. Fortunately for us Dean rose to the challenge and produced a stunning new colour image of the Mission Abbey for the cover of the issue. What to do about the other woodcuts we generally feature throughout the issue. Well I reflected, we have had an especially good year in the three artists we featured in the other 2004 issues of *Amphora*, Andrea Taylor, Gary Sim and Arnold Shives. Why not take the opportunity to feature more of their work in *Amphora* #137 in a sort of retrospective of the year?