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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Richard Hopkins

I WAS LOOKING FOR A "HOOK" to open up this version of From the Editor's Desk when an old catch phrase popped into my mind: "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue." The something old was easy since three of our favourite authors are making a return appearance in this issue. Phyllis Reeve from Gabriola Island can always be relied upon for either a highly readable and interesting article or for some cogent and well-written book reviews (both in this issue)! The irrepressible Terry Stillman from Haney continues with his saga of second-hand/antiquarian book selling in the lower mainland of B.C., this time out with a story about the Jolly Olde Bookstore of Port Moody (was Terry just too busy this time to make it all the way into Vancouver)? Guy Robertson, *librarian extraordinaire* entertains us with his thoughts on how our reading changes with a change in the seasons.

The something new was easy as well since we have two new authors this time out. Andrew Steeves, co-proprietor of the best small commercial publishing house in Canada, Gaspereau Press, retells how he evolved from a high school student with a literary bent to a publisher issuing some of the best designed books in the entire history of Canadian publishing. Glenn Woodsworth, another publisher (Tricouni Books), relates the history of how a high school publication, *The Adder*, was to become the precursor to a number of significant events in the world of books. Also in this issue we feature a new cover illustration, Frog, © 2005, by artist Alexa Thornton.

The something borrowed was a little more difficult. At times we do republish articles about books or reading that we feel to be particularly meritorious. The Editorial Committee, however, prefers original manuscripts, and so this time out we do not have one single article we borrowed (with permission) for republication. However, the News & Notes section is replete with borrowed material thanks to *Bravo!News*, the New Westminster *NewsLeader* and the *Bookmark Newsletter*.

The something blue is where the entire metaphor broke down. Do I retell a blue joke? "What do you call someone who voluntarily studies calculus: a mathochist!" No, that's not a blue joke. Hmm. The best that I can hope for is that my co-editor Stuart Isto will reproduce some colour woodcuts or use the colour blue for the *Amphora* title on the contents page!