



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Summer, like a visit to a good bookshop, ended too quickly.

Hereabouts, the main event was a home purchase that necessitated the packing up of all manner of belongings, from bedding to books. The five-ton truck that arrived to do the deed left surprisingly well packed. The driver, perhaps not used to dealing with bibliophiles, remarked helpfully that so much of our library could be digitized and then sold. We didn't really need all that paper, did we?

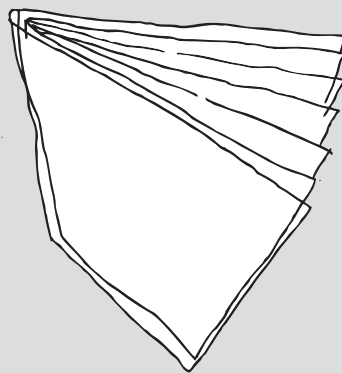
A couple of months later a lot of the boxes remain unopened, prompting me to wonder what use we really make of those books. We haven't needed them for weeks, might not need them for months, yet to sell them risks inviting the exact moment when they'll be required. Having lived in places less well-stocked with libraries and bookstores than Vancouver, I am loath to lose my library because I know the value of books. More than just cultural objects, they're capsules in which I store what I've gleaned from the world and talismans of significant events in our lives. (I don't need that beat-up copy of *Funk & Wagnalls*, but it's been with me since grade school and life wouldn't be the same without it! A friend of mine treasures *Hadrian's Memoirs* by Marguerite Yourcenar, not just because it aptly describes Europe for her but because it was what she read as her mother was dying.)

This issue of *Amphora*, pulled together in the midst of moving and its aftermath, tells what draws one young Toronto collector to her books, while Vancouver designer Robin Mitchell-Cranfield discusses her approach to making attractive books that people want to have on their shelves. Richard Hopkins reminds us that the homes of writers are worth saving as much as their books, while Jim Rimmer bids adieu to Gerald Giampa, who left us at the start of summer.

Enjoy the read!

~ Peter Mitham

Alcuin Wayzgoose



24 OCTOBER 2009
10:00am – 4:00pm
Library Square
345 Robson Street
Vancouver

A celebration of
printing and the
book arts, featuring
more than 20 presses
and book artists,
with bookbinding
and intaglio process
demonstrations.

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