

It is easier to slip a book into its time-honoured place on a bookshelf than to make room for it among many other companies, and so it is with this issue of *Amphora*. Stepping into the soft-souled shoes of former editor Rollin Milroy has been both a pleasure for myself and designer Jason Dewinetz of Greenboathouse Press in Vernon, British Columbia. But like the books mentioned above, we have had to find our place. That took longer than we hoped, but future issues will return the publication to its usual schedule.

Amphora, as the journal of the Alcuin Society, has long championed a broad array of literary interests, some more than others as the interests of the editors have shifted. One of the key challenges is presenting a well-rounded offering of items each issue to engage readers, collectors, designers and all those interested in books and the book arts. As Jennifer Van de Pol's account of the travels she and husband Adrian Robertshaw made through India last year indicate, printing and the world of books can meet us in the most far-flung places.

This issue offers a celebration of the work of book designer Frank Newfeld, who visited Vancouver at the beginning of April to both judge the entries in this year's Alcuin design competition as well as to receive a lifetime achievement award honouring a lifetime of contributions to book design and illustration in Canada. While the abundance of *Alligator Pies* brought forward for signing at the event highlighted the connection Newfeld made through his collaboration on this one book alone, the packed lecture theatre at Simon Fraser University on April 2 underscored the broad base of respect he enjoys among the current generation of designers – some too young to have tasted *Alligator Pie* when it was hot off the press.

There is also the usual selection of columns and book reviews. Richard Hopkins reports on David Zieroth's latest venture, while Vancouver writer John Lee shares his rambles through literary utopias. Ottawa bookseller Richard Coxford shares his delight in unexpected discoveries, a good teaser for our next issue when we hope to offer a glimpse of the book trade in the current recession.

See you come summer!

~ Peter Mitham, editor

The Alcuin Fund

In order to generate a regular stream of income to support its activities, the Alcuin Society is developing an endowment fund managed by the Vancouver Foundation. Originally established in 2008 through a generous contribution by Dr. Yosef Wosk in honour of his son Avi, the endowment fund invites contributions from all members and friends of the society.

Donations to the fund are gratefully accepted by cheque or via the Web sites of the society (www.alcuinsociety.com), the Vancouver Foundation or Canada Helps (www.canadahelps.org). Other means of contributing are also possible. For further information, please contact Nick Collins, fundraising committee chair, by phone at (604) 733-8399 or e-mail, nicholascollins1915@yahoo.ca

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