Lisa Browar and Marvin J. Taylor

EDITORS' NOTE

Leave you, leave you, how could I leave you?
Stephen Sondheim, *Follies*

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S BITTER and extended meditation on the end of a modern marriage has nothing to do with our decision to step down as co-editors of *RBM* after four years. Yet his lyric about departure has put us in the mood to reflect on the journal, our profession, its past, and the future we all will share. Some of these thoughts are evidenced in the selections appearing in our final issue. Recently retired, Peter Dzwonkoski gives a backward glance at his career as head of special collections at the University of Rochester and relates the stories behind some of his most important acquisitions. Similarly, interviewer Dan Slive persuades veteran bookseller Barney Rosenthal to review his extraordinary life and career in books. Finally, Tim Young takes a look at ephemera and its etymology, and makes the case for legitimizing this former step-child lurking in our stacks.

As great lovers of American popular song, prone to quoting musical phrases for emphasis, we have exercised editorial restraint, refraining almost entirely from indulging this habit in the pages of *RBM*. There have been many occasions during our tenure when we cited song lyrics to each other as a kind of shorthand but we have spared our readers this eccentricity. Until now. As we take stock and say so long, farewell, *aufwiedersehen*, we cannot resist the urge to remember a few of our favorite things.

Our musical backgrounds and years of ensemble work may have prompted us to structure *RBML's* editorial renovation as a collaborative effort shared

by a group of highly talented individuals. Art isn't easy, and neither is editing a scholarly journal. The task of re-launching *RBML* as *RBM* was made, if not easy, then certainly more manageable and infinitely more enjoyable with a little help from our friends, our abundantly resourceful Editorial Board. Like the best chamber music ensembles, the *RBM* Editorial Board worked individually and collectively, complementing each other's strengths and compensating for one another's weaknesses, to produce a journal whose audience has expanded to include collectors, book dealers, and our colleagues in museums, archives, and historical societies.

Of course, you've got to have friends, and we did. ACRL's Production Editor, Dawn Mueller, redesigned the journal giving it a look that matched its expanded scope and contents. Director of Publications Hugh Thompson kept journal production on schedule and made sure each issue delivered on time. Support from the ACRL Publications Committee and advice from the RBMS Executive Committee provided encouragement and guidance, often at critical junctures.

At the risk of sounding like a cliché coming true, our professional lives have been made richer as a result of embracing the work of colleagues in librarianship and related fields. We have been privileged to read and publish the work of some of the most interesting minds in special collections librarianship, archives, literary theory and criticism, information technology, the book trade, museum culture, and the law. We hope that our readers have gained similar enjoyment and enrichment.

But for us two sleepy people, the party's over. It is time to get our coats and get our hats, leave our worries on the doorstep, and turn *RBM* over to its new editor, Richard Clement, who has important and exciting plans for the future. We wish him nothing but blue skies from now on.

Reviewing the situation, we find that for years we've been telling neglected friends and family that we'll catch up some other time. (So light

the candles, get the ice out, roll the rug up, its today!) With a song in our hearts, we will pursue long-deferred projects, some separately and others together because we are a team and because breaking up is hard to do. We may even find time to script a cabaret act (tentatively titled, "If You Ask Me, I Could Write a Book") featuring songs about books, letters, writing, reading, and so forth. In the meantime, and until we do,

Goodbye dear, and amen.

Here's hoping we'll meet now and then.

It was great fun,

But it was just one of those things.