Richard W. Clement

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE BOOK TRADE HAS ALWAYS been a fascinating subject, whether we look at it from the perspective of collector or dealer. The trade is, of course, central to our collective enterprise as the vehicle that enables the movement of books, but for many people involved in collecting for libraries and other cultural-heritage institutions, particularly those who are beginning their professional careers, the trade sometimes has seemed remote and even mysterious. And for those of us who have been actively engaged with the trade, it remains a source of fascination and perhaps even retains some of its mystery. In this issue, two articles are devoted to revealing the “mysteries” of the antiquarian book trade. Two of the most eminent members of the New York book community, Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern, offer their views on the trade during the last fifty years and what the future may hold for dealers, collectors, and librarians. A companion piece by London dealer John Price (a transplanted Texan long resident in Britain), considers the view from abroad, focusing on the contemporary antiquarian trade in London.

Recognizing that the community of the book spans national borders and continents, *RBM* is committed to do the same. In that spirit, in the first of a series of articles emphasizing international topics, Bettina Wagner, of the Bavarian State Library, offers an informative article on German approaches to the many dimensions of managing projects to catalog medieval manuscripts. The final piece in this issue is an intriguing look at a major shift in the world of philanthropy and its effects on one cultural heritage institution, the Smithsonian Institution. Former coeditor of *RBM*, Lisa Browar, has written this important analysis, one that will be essential reading for anyone who works with—or aspires to work with—donors.

Two new members join the Editorial Board. I extend a welcome to Sidney E. Berger and Penny A. Welbourne. Sid Berger, Professor of English at Simmons College, is a prolific author who is well known in the rare

books and manuscripts community. He brings memory and continuity to *RBM* from his time (1993–1999) as the editor of *RBM*'s predecessor, *RBML*. Penny Welbourne, Rare Book Cataloger at Yale University, brings advanced editorial skills to this work, for which this editor is particularly grateful. She is working closely on a review of *RBM*'s editorial process. Regrettably, Chatham Ewing of Washington University in St. Louis has resigned from the board. His service was much valued, and all of us on the board thank him and wish him well.

Finally, readers of *RBM* may note a small change in the design of the page layout. Although I know that some may not agree, with this issue we are tightening up the “leading” between lines, which to these eyes had seemed overly generous.