Beth M. Whittaker

Editor's Note

AS I TAKE THE REIGNS of *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*, I am filled with a thrilling mixture of elation and fear. I am elated because I have long loved this journal as the voice of our profession. It is the best way we can talk to each other in a formal way, and the most permanent legacy we can leave of our "scholarly communication." The fear is for much the same reasons. The editors who have preceded me have each improved this journal in their own unique ways. I have a long string of very large shoes to fill.

This issue, which was largely the work of outgoing editor Richard Clement, marks the first time selected articles have undergone a traditional double-blind peer-review process. *RBM* introduced this process as a visible sign of quality, especially for those authors in organizations that reward pre-publication peer review. In the discourse of our profession, discussion about the role of traditional print journals like *RBM* continues to be provocative and challenging. I welcome your comments and suggestions as we strive to continuously improve the journal.

Finally, I must thank Richard Clement for his years of service to *RBM*. His quick wit and steady hand guided the journal and continue to assist and inspire me. On a personal level, Rick has served as a mentor to me since I was a young graduate student excited about medieval manuscripts. As his career takes him in new and exciting directions, I know I am not the only special collections librarian who will miss him greatly.