Jennifer K. Sheehan

Editor's Note

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE on historical medical libraries has been a gift to me as a new editor. While I have tried to get my bearings on the inner workings of the journal, it has been reassuring to have Michelle DiMeo and Jeffrey S. Reznick as such conscientious guest editors.

An exciting announcement about this issue, which stems from some of the grant requirements for the authors published within it, is that it will be freely available online without the standard one-year embargo. This feature gives us the opportunity to continue our discussion of an open access model and to consider what it might mean for forthcoming issues of *RBM*.

Contemplating the future of the journal has prompted me to take a deeper look into its past. With its roots firmly planted in rare book librarianship, over time the scope of the journal has broadened to represent the spectrum of collections with which we are now engaged. Aspects of the journal have evolved, and some (like book reviews) have been phased out, only to be reintroduced years later. I think this is a great testament not only to the innovation and flexibility of the journal's former editors and editorial boards, but to our profession as a whole. *RBM* is a reflection of our desire, as special collections professionals, to explore, to grow, and to advocate for the many facets of our profession, while still remaining grounded in the principles that have always formed the foundations of special collections.

To echo the sentiment of my predecessor, Beth Whittaker, as she took the reins of *RBM* six years ago, I am filled with excitement at the prospect of things to come. I'd like to thank Beth for her years of service to the journal, and for graciously shepherding me into the role of editor.