

## Editor's Note and Acknowledgments

### M.J. Toswell

This issue of *Florilegium*, the second of my editorship, is also the last (I hope) of the large monographs produced annually. The journal will welcome the new millennium with two issues a year, each one smaller and more flexible than the current volume. The costs of publishing are sufficiently low that for at least a year—and possibly two or three—the charge to members of the sponsoring organisation, the Canadian Society of Medievalists/Société canadienne des médiévistes will remain the same. Institutions may see a slight rise in subscription costs, largely owing to increased postage costs. Members of the CSM/SCM without an institutional address may receive their two issues at the same time, since postage costs are likely to be higher than the costs of preparing and printing the journal. This move to biannual publication has been greatly aided by a general grant in aid of the journal recently awarded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The SSHRC has also underwritten, by way of a special initiative grant, much of the cost of developing a *Florilegium* website, which should be accessible within a few months and will have copies of back issues loaded more gradually than some would prefer, but as rapidly as the editorial staff can manage.

The editorial staff in question includes several superb work/study students at the University of Western Ontario, notably Patricia Zyska, Pam Litt, and Kimberley Benson. Patricia learned FrameMaker and produced much of volume 15 in nearly-final form, Pam prepared one volume for the website, and Kim has been preparing papers ahead for volume 17. Two senior graduate students, Susan McDonald and Brock Eayrs, checked references and noted inconsistencies in the editor's copy-editing for volume 16, which is substantially improved by their involvement. Nancy Gray did

a similar job with grace and pertinacity for volume 15, and Irena Nikolova prepared a draft index to be published in a future issue.

Other members of the staff and faculty at the University of Western Ontario have been critical to the journal's operation. Rick Harley of Arts Technical Services has scanned photos and transferred or reformatted files quickly and efficiently. Gerard Staffeu of Information Technology Services has become accustomed to desperate telephone calls such as the one yesterday after forty fonts vanished from my computer. His imperturbability is in large part matched by the unflappability of Beth McIntosh, for whom no financial problem is really a problem—although even her ingenuity has been taxed in the university's recent changeover to a new computer system. At one point this winter, the journal's finances existed only in my handwritten notes about cheques deposited and charges made to assorted university accounts. Those finances would be very severely depleted were it not for Jim Good, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and William Bridger, Vice-President Academic, who provided start-up funds at short notice.

Future issues of the journal are starting to take shape. One innovation was present in volume 15, which contained a cluster of papers concerning the legacy of the middle ages in the modern world. Coordinated by Susan Fast and including papers from a conference at McMaster University, this cluster established a pattern which will continue. In future issues, William Schipper and Sarah Larratt Keefer will sponsor a cluster on "Texts in margins" arising from papers at Kalamazoo over the past few years, and Dorothy Bray at McGill University is planning a cluster on "teaching the Middle Ages and/or relating it to contemporary culture." Some members of the editorial board are also contemplating clusters of three to five papers—enough to provide a locus for discussion from a number of points of view but not so many as to take over an issue and force out papers submitted in the usual way. All papers are refereed, but for clusters the referees will include one to review all the papers submitted for the cluster and consider their relative merits and balance, and separate referees to consider the quality of each individual paper. Volume 17 will also see the first of what will become a standard feature of the journal: a review article, establishing the context of the subject and assessing both recent research and the scholarly playing field in general. The first of these articles, on Byzantine studies, is being prepared by Glenn Peers. Proposals for future review articles would be very welcome. Finally, as in the past, articles can be submitted at any time to the editor; three are in hand for the next volume.

This volume, which is most appropriately in honour of Douglas J. Wurtele, has been probably the easiest one I will ever edit. It includes papers from very gracious and careful scholars who have held scrupulously to deadlines, made no unreasonable requests or changes to proofs, and responded to queries with acumen and good humour. This is hardly surprising, since Douglas Wurtele has done all of the above in expediting the shift from his editorship to mine. His kindness, good advice (never proffered but always available on demand), and grace have made the transition nearly effortless. His practice, from the details of the remarkably healthy finances to the treatment of readers and contributors, has been exemplary. Joanne Norman, who as President of the CSM/SCM oversaw the adoption of *Florilegium* as the society's journal, and shortly thereafter—somewhat unexpectedly—oversaw the appointment of a new editor, pays tribute in the preface to Doug's dedication to medieval studies in Canada. Six members of the editorial board of *Florilegium* have contributed papers to the volume, including Roger Blockley, now Dean of Graduate Studies at Carleton and, for much of the journal's history, its co-editor; Sheila Delany; Margaret Wade Labarge, whose paper here was the first plenary at the Learned by the Past President of the CSM/SCM; George Rigg, who has kindly remained an active member of the editorial board; Beryl Rowland; and Colin Wells. Members of the editorial board of *English Studies in Canada* also offered papers, but unfortunately it proved impossible to include papers in subjects too recent for us: three senior scholars, however, were able to offer studies within reach of the middle ages—Len Findlay, Paul Werstine, and Derek Wood. Ian Cameron not only provided a paper in honour of his former colleague but also purloined the photograph which appears at the beginning of this volume. Finally, Michael Moore, a student in Doug Wurtele's first undergraduate class and now chair of English at Wilfrid Laurier University, contributed to the volume. This collection tries to do justice to the range and depth of Douglas Wurtele's scholarship; it cannot attempt to evoke his humanity, his kindness, and his generosity.

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