

Editorial

With this issue of *Serials* I say goodbye as editor. It's obviously a time of change; our new Chair, Hazel Woodward has been in post since April; Stella Pilling has been appointed Secretary and Penny King our new Marketing and Publications Officer. With the next issue of *Serials* we welcome John Cowley of Dawsons as the new editor.

I am pleased to hand over to John at a time when interest in serials issues continues to grow unabated. NASIG (the North American Serials Interest Group) is firmly established; ASSIG (the Australian Serials Special Interest Group) is settling in well and China apparently now has a Serials Society. We hear of strong possibilities that Japan plans to have its own serials group and likewise in West Germany. The Institute of Scientific Information of the USSR Academy of Sciences has also recently been in touch with us asking to receive copies of *Serials*.

The UKSG itself has exciting plans for the future. In September we anticipate that our Research Seminar on The Impact of Libraries on CD ROM will attract considerable interest. In Autumn 1990 we plan to hold the first European Serials Conference in Amsterdam - an opportunity for us to consider serials in the wider and topical context of Europe and possibly to act as a catalyst in the formation of other national groups or more appropriately perhaps a European Serials Group. Our education programme will expand and we plan to create improved contact with Library Schools and Departments by way of travelling workshops and lectures aimed at raising the profile of serials even further.

The unique characteristic of the UKSG and no doubt a contributing factor in its success, is the nature of its membership: librarians, publishers, agents, binders and other interested parties sharing a common interest. It is clear that serials are of major importance not only to our own members but also those of the other bodies and organisations in the information world. In this issue of *Serials* for example we include papers presented at such events as The Fifth Learned Journals Seminar, The Conference of the

Western European Specialist Section of the American Association of College and Research Libraries, the Medical Information Working Party Seminar and the European Medical Libraries Conference (as well incidentally as three of the papers given at our own conference at Birmingham in April).

Serials is now nearly two years old. In each issue our aim has been to include a mixture of the more substantial article or paper along with a variety of news items, general information and reports on the Group's activities, hopefully of interest to each type of member. Our 'Focus on ...' feature for example has been aimed at enabling library members to learn more about the background and activities of commercial members.

My thanks therefore go to all members who have contributed to *Serials* since we began, not least to those unsuspecting conference delegates who were approached to write reports on the workshops; all of whom agreed and graciously at that. Thanks are also very much in order to our editorial board who have offered advice, feedback and input, to Arlene Moore Sievers for her punctual and topical reports on the US serials scene and to George Bingham for being our 'desktop publisher'. Particular thanks go to Elizabeth Martin (formerly Andrews) our Deputy Editor who has provided regular support, advice and proofreading skills and encouraged our advertisers to spend their promotion budgets with us.

I am very pleased that our new Editor is John Cowley. I have known John for many years, coming into contact with him initially when we were both at the North London Polytechnic and then later through our 'rival' organisations. I know that he will take up the role with enthusiasm and with a professional and conscientious approach. For myself I look forward to continued involvement on the Editorial Board and new ventures on the UKSG Committee.

Albert Prior