

Editorial

In September a reception marking the twenty-first birthday of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers was held in the splendid surroundings of the House of the Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

It was a most enjoyable occasion, particularly for those members who had been present at the birth and subsequently witnessed its development into one of the most effective and respected publishing organizations.

With a major involvement in journals, it is heartening that ALPSP has encouraged joint meetings with other interested bodies in the serials world, not necessarily from the same side of the fence.

The Association of Subscription Agents and United Kingdom Serials Group both enjoy a very good relationship with ALPSP although not always agreeing upon everything! We are pleased to publish a profile in this issue.

Charles Parker, President, looks back over 21 years



Librarians who complain about the information explosion may be surprised to know there are 2,692 journals in the world on Library and Information Sciences, and still they come. Haworth Press have announced *Euro Serials: The European Journal of Serials Management*, scheduled for publication in Spring 1995. "This new quarterly journal will deal specifically with emerging issues of European serials acquisitions, collection management, networking, bibliographic control, and culture and history!! Sounds like a bit of healthy competition for *Serials*!

As library budgets decrease, and the births of new journals outstrip the deaths, it is amazing

how subscription rate increases continue to escalate well above inflation, for the best of reasons we are told!

Early indicators for 1994 show increases of 10 to 12% for British and European journals and 10% for American. This does not take into account the exchange rate factors, which will worsen the position for British libraries.

And what about VAT? The outcome will be known just as this issue is published. May it be a cause for celebration and not weeping and gnashing of teeth.

John Merriman