



## TRIBUTE TO BRIAN COX

With this issue of *Serials* Brian Cox retires as editor of *Bookshelf*, a task that requires not only tenacity to seek out suitable material but also a good knowledge of potential reviewers who will be able to give an informed and balanced critique. Brian has done an excellent job. Sadly it also brings to an end a very long and active involvement with the UKSG, where his enthusiasm, cheerfulness and commitment have been invaluable.

His first conference was at Loughborough University in 1979. Serving on the UKSG Committee from 1980 to 1998, his key role was to organise the trade exhibition at the Annual Conference. In the early days the exhibitors did not arrive with their own swish stands, and we were dependent on either the university or stand hire companies.

As technology advanced so the need for more and more wires, plugs, modems, etc., increased, and getting it all to work was Brian's responsibility. He was also in charge of space allocation and ensuring that competitors were not next to each other, so that trade secrets could not be overheard.

Another job he undertook was blanketing the campus with signposts so that no delegate, however disorientated, ever lost their way, even when attending a workshop in some outlandish building or returning from a late night party.

One of the strengths of the UKSG has been the wide experience of its members. As a representative of the trade Brian is a good example. Early training as a bookseller at

Blackwell's was followed by many years at Pergamon Press where he was a director. Working with Robert Maxwell, where there was never a dull moment, proved that he is a survivor. In the early days of the UKSG, support from companies like Pergamon ensured its survival. With the demise of Pergamon, Brian finished his career with Elsevier Science.

While no longer looking for publications to review, Brian will still be busy reading, gardening, walking, and attending lectures. He has recently enrolled for a two-year course in the History of Art.

At home in his very pleasant house in Wheatley he enjoys life with Barbara – they have been married for 42 years! Two sons and two grandsons also keep them busy.

When he looks back over his working life and the huge changes that have taken place in publishing, nothing can be more poignant than the rise and fall of Pergamon Press and the thought that his old office in the once impregnable fortress of Headington Hill Hall is now occupied by Oxford Brookes University.

**John Merriman**  
**Former Editor of *Serials***