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A Look At Issues

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Against the Grain

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From Your Editor

Well, summer has passed and June is far away. It seems like I was gone from home more than I was here. Still, I need a vacation. The trouble with publishing a periodical is that it is a never-ending proposition. I guess publishers have been telling us that all along. But when you experience it personally, it seems more startling. And it's hard to believe that anyone is in this for the money. For myself, I have a history of no money in my background.

This issue has lots of good stuff. Part Two (of three) of the Biblarz interview with Richard Abel. The man is something else, not to mention Dora for putting it all together. Most of the regular columns are included, but some are missing. Barbara Meyers is back with her usual thoroughness and so is Glen Secor. For an add on, he even sent us some Vendor Bestsellers. The fabulous Rosann Bazirjian, Mike Markwith, and Joyce Ogburn continue their contributions. And Sever Bordeianu and Julia Gelfand continue on the saga of keeping up with all the library meetings. That's just a few of the people who are involved in putting this whole thing together.

We decided to give Sandy Paul an issue off (but don't worry she never stops working) and Chuck the nemesis Hamaker too. Word is that he is fine after a brush with Hurricane Andrew. (We knew that Andrew and Fergie were on the rocks because of Texas but we didn't know that he was so serious about taking it out on the U.S.) Seriously, we in Charleston were sad to hear about the devastation of Hurricane Andrew. We have been there. My prayers go out there to all of you who were affected by the hurricane. All I can say is that it will get better even if it doesn't seem like it.

Anyway, to get back to where I was, and to keep up the controversy, Albert Henderson has put down some of his thoughts on paper in the form of twelve red herrings. We'll see if that causes some comment.

Finally, e-mail. I am not afraid to say that it can be a pain in the neck. However, it has allowed Eleanor Cook to come up with a fascinating interview with a new kind of postmaster. Plus, the fabulous Net allows me to communicate minute-to-minute with my son

at West Point (don't you know that he loves it). My Internet address has changed once again (it's all these rivers in Charleston; the computer programmer types can't seem to keep them straight)—Strauchk@ashley.cofc.edu.

Bitnet is still the same Strauchk@Citadel. Let's meet there sometime.

Voila.
Katina

A Look at Some Issues

The 1992 Charleston Conference. Well, this will take place November 5-7 after the election of a probably new President. The hopefully-but-probably-not final schedule is currently being printed and a new brochure will be mailed out about the time that you get this issue of *Against the Grain*. Interestingly enough, there will be some new publishers in attendance according to the current registration list. This probably has something to do with the fact that the 1991 conference was covered by *LJ* and *PW*. The 1992 Conference will be interesting and exciting and I am looking forward to it.

Serials. We have seen two items recently on Serial Price Projections. *The Faxon Planning Report for 1993* and *EBSCO's Serial Price Projections: 1993*. Though there are differences in the figures and increases will depend on the famous "mix" of titles, both project record double-digit increases for 1993. It all fits in with the gloomy economic picture. Among other things, the exchange rate continues to worsen vis a vis the U.S. dollar. Not too good for those of us in library-land trying to buy journals from international publishers.

And there continues to be a move to have serial publishers establish a firm price at the beginning of the year (whose year is debatable; there's always a year in there somewhere). Princeton leads the way.

Once more with serials. There has been a lot of discussion recently because Elsevier has lowered its discount to vendors to 7.5% from the usual 10%. And as we were going to

press, we learned that Springer-Verlag has cut its discount to 5% effective in a year. This means that there will be less money for some and more for others. Especially less money for the serial vendors. The general consensus is that this will become a trend on the part of other publishers. What this might do to our serial prices remains to be seen. Marcia Tuttle's *Newsletter on Serials Pricing Issues* is filled with useful information on both of these issues.

Advances in Publisher/Vendor/Library Relations. This annual to be published by JAI Press, containing many of the papers from the 1991 Charleston Conference is "in press" and should be published shortly. We will keep you posted.

