

September 1998

From Your Editor & Guest Editor

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Recommended Citation

Strauch, Katina (1998) "From Your Editor & Guest Editor," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 10: Iss. 4, Article 4.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2943>

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From the guest editor:

If there is an overall theme in this Reference issue, it is the high quality of reference publishing in recent years. This is especially true in terms of content. In all three of their interviews, **Irv Rockwood**, **Tom Romig** and **Eileen Sutter** comment on their personal concern for quality and point with pride to the high caliber reference works they have some role in producing, marketing, and reviewing. **James Williams** and I also found content quality to be at a premium in our review of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Along with this sense of quality one

other theme also emerges: the impact of electronic reference works. **Fran Wilkinson's** article "To Web or Not To Web" highlights the differing viewpoints of a number of librarians and publishers on the state of the Web in providing quality reference products. The Web is still a work in progress.

All in all, this issue reaffirms that it is an exciting time in the world of reference publishing. In many cases, quality verges on exceptional while there is enough uncertainty to keep even the most vigilant prognosticator on his or her toes.

Tom Gilson
Guest Editor,
The Reference Publishing Issue
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From your (relaxing) editor:

Summer is wonderful. Relaxing gives you time to think, to ponder, and to gain perspective on your world. I hope that all of you had time to do a little bit of just that. Trouble with doing it is — vacation runs out and then you have to get down to real work!

Anyway, I came home to the September issue of *Against the Grain* which **Tom Gilson** had been working away on! I am impressed and I am sure that all of you will be as well. First, we have fabulous interviews with **Eileen Sutter** and **Tom Romig** and **Irv Rockwood**. Then, we have tons of reviews from



Tom (Gilson) himself, **James Williams**, **Mary Cross**, **Marita Kunkel**, **mutindi ndunda**, **Norm Desmarais** and

Denis Keyes.

And that's not all so let's not waste time. Hope you all had a happy summer break! Happy fall!

Yr. Ed.

Against the Grain — Deadlines 1998 — Volume 10



Event	Issue	Camera-Ready Copy
Charleston Conference	November 98	9/16/98
ALA Midwinter	December 98/January 99	11/18/98

Rumors

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ally," continued Mr. Blackwell. "It is a reflection on his considerable abilities that he has been headhunted by NOP; he has worked phenomenally hard for us in the two years he has been with us and has, amongst many achievements, overseen significant growth in our journals business in the United States, Europe and Asia, opened our office in Brazil and driven the development of our leading edge electronic products, such as **Electronic Journal Navigator**. We wish him all the best in his new role at NOP." Blackwell's will be making further announcements about the future management of their global journals business. In the meantime, it is business as usual.

The awesome **Kathy Miraglia** (Catholic University) <miraglia@cua.edu> sends word of the 74th (now that's a lot!) annual meeting of the **Potomac Technical Processing Libraries (PTPL)**. The meeting, "To Merge or Not to Merge: Libraries and Computer Centers," boasts **Janet Swan Hill** (President, **ALCTS**) as the keynote speaker and will be held October 23 at **George Mason University**, George W. Johnson Center, Fairfax, VA. For more information and a registration form go to www.lib.virginia.edu/ptpl/.

Well. Guess what? **Claire-Lise Benaud** and **Sever Bordeianu's** *Outsourcing Library Operations in Academic Libraries* (Libraries Unlimited) is out! And we will have a review in Nov. I have a copy! Do you?

The well-qualified **John Abbott** will be the new coordinator of Collection Development at **Appalachian State University**. Congratulations, John!

Recently **Janet Flowers** and yours truly did two separate surveys regarding credit card usage in acquisitions and collection development departments. The number of responses we got were overwhelming (I got 72 responses in a little over 24 hours thanks to **Eleanor Cook's** **ACQNET!**) Anyway, this is clearly a "hot" topic which will be covered at the **Charleston Conference** as well as in the upcoming November issue of **ATG**. Stay tuned!

Grove's Dictionaries is taking some new

directions. The distinguished reference publisher, which is the North American office of **Macmillan Reference (UK)** and is a member of the **Von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group**, will offer its first electronic reference product — **Grove's Dictionary of Art Online** this year on the Web and on CD-ROM.

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians as well as **Encyclopedia of the Life Sciences** will both be out in electronic and print form in 2001. Grove's Dictionaries are also planning entry into the science publishing field with the **Encyclopedia of Life Sciences** (above), the **Dictionary of Physics** (four volumes, more than 100 contributors) and the **Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics** (four volumes, copublished

with the **Institute of Physics**). As of June 1, **Grove's Dictionaries'** customer service and fulfillment operation moved to **VHPS** — the Von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group's

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In 1971-72, McGraw-Hill contracted with author Clifford Irving for a book on the reclusive billionaire, Howard Hughes. The book was found to be fraudulent and Irving went to prison for it. In 1992, when McGraw-Hill moved into its new skyscraper quarters in New York City, the McGraw-Hill building sign identified the first floor tenant: "The Irving Trust Company."