

November 1998

## From Your (swamped) Editor

Katina Strauch

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## Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <strauchk@cofc.edu>, phone or fax 843-723-3536, or snail mail: *Against the Grain*, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409. You can also send a letter to the editor from the *ATG* Homepage at <<http://www.against-the-grain.com>>

### Dear Editor:

Of course Professor **Rick Heldrich** (see *ATG*, September 1998, p.6) is right: there is a very real tension between the hope that what we transfer off-campus will not be needed and the belief that everything in the library's collections is vitally important to some researcher somewhere. After all, we do keep acquiring material! Selecting material for an off-site shelving facility reveals the tension among several conflicting imperatives: collecting material we believe will be useful, preserving that material, and taking advantage of an economic model for highly efficient shelving and retrieval.

Thanks for passing this on.

Sincerely,

**Margaret K. Powell**

(*Librarian for Literature in English and Commonwealth Studies, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University*)  
<margaret.powell@yale.edu>

### Dear Editor:

As my head was spinning from reviewing RFP responses and compiling references regarding OhioLINK's proposed statewide approval plan, I grabbed *ATG* to go to the porch for a break and began re-reading for the third time.

The "Group Therapy—Prepaying Rush Orders" column (June, 1998, p.80) caught

my attention and (after reading responses from YBP and BNA) I reflected on our experience.

Pardon me if I share.

After three years of struggle, we finally got credit cards this year. They offer the simplest solution to taking advantage of **Amazon.com** or **Barnes & Noble**. What a simple yet satisfying solution. Of course, a major impetus in my push for cards had been foreign orders—where we buy a \$5 book abroad and pay \$10 to \$20 bank charges to handle the transaction. The classic case was the Australian electronic periodical *Geek Girl*. We had never been able to obtain it so it became an early priority for use of the card. Except we learned that, under some strange arrangement, they could only accept MasterCard or Visa from Australia. In the end, they ended up accepting a US check, probably to stop being bothered further. But, while it didn't accomplish the ultimate challenge of *Geek Girl*, it has greatly simplified life and is the best possible answer to prepaying rush orders (and most foreign orders).

**K. Mulliner**

(*Collection Development Coordinator & Asst. to Dean, "Owner" CORMOSEA & cap-sea Electronic Mailing Lists, Ohio University Libraries, Athens, OH*)  
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**Janet Flowers** and I did over ACQNET convinced us that there was a lot going on out there, despite lack of profits. **Kent Mulliner** has written the lead article, and we have articles from **Judy Luther**, **Janet Flowers**, and **James Williams**. Plus — we have plenty of great columns — from **Reba Leiding**, **Celia Wagner**, **Amy Capen**, **Eleanor Cook**, **Françoise Crowell**, **Joyce Ogburn**, **Sever Bordeianu**, **Rosann Bazirjian**, **Lloyd Rich**, **Lolly Gasaway** ... and I could go on and on. But why don't you peek inside and see for yourself!

In this issue, we have given you profiles of the people who have made the **Charleston Conference** possible — **Judy Webster**, **Barbara Dean**, **Heather Miller**, and **Robin Lent**. These are just some of the many people who make this Conference run. My thanks go out to each and every one of you!

Yr. Ed.



### Against the Grain — Deadlines 1998 & 1999 — Volumes 10 & 11

Event	Issue	Camera-Ready Copy
ALA Midwinter	December 98/January 99	12/2/98
Annual Report	February 99	12/16/99
SLA, MLA	April 99	2/18/99
ALA Annual	June 99	4/21/99
Reference Books	September 99	7/14/99
Charleston Conference	November 99	9/8/99
ALA Midwinter	December 99/January 2000	11/10/99