November 1993

From Your Editor

Katina Strauch

Against the Grain

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From Your (Aging) Editor

This issue is put together, another year of ATG is over, and we all march on. I remember when I bought my first computer I think it was 8 years ago. It was a Mac 512E and I paid $3500 for it. I had just finished typing a 600-page manuscript three times in a six-week period on my IBM Selectric II which I once thought was the height of technology. I knew nothing much about computers. I just knew that, besides my sanity, I wanted to save time. The value of money? Three years ago, I sold my trusty 512E which had never been down a day in its life for $300. It was a hard thing to do. I really loved that computer. It was just obsolete. Nothing would “run” on it. Sometimes I think about our library. When desks break down or computers quit working, we say they are 10 or 20 years old. Of course they break down as old as they are. Me, I wish I was 20 years young again. Computers can do that to you. They can make you feel old. But lo! the computer! Against the Grain would not exist without it.

The theme of this issue is electronic. I remember when a seasoned cataloger I know retired rather than learning about downloading records from OCLC. I suppose he is sipping mint juleps somewhere right now, laughing at all of us. This “new” whatever it is (media or technology or communications or connectivity or ??) is innervating, but it is also unnerving. I will just end the front end menu look like when you log into your computer today? What will you be asked to order today? What will you be asked to sign? How will your child get her homework done?

A couple of things. A HUGE BIG GIGANTIC welcome to Celia Scher Wagner, a single-handedly with much speed and grace supplied our Library Bestsellers for this issue. We welcome her as co-editor of the Library Bestseller column. Also, Don Jaeger has agreed to edit “On the Road!!” And Tony Leisner promises to give us a glimpse of the future in a new column. Glen Secor is the new editor of our International Section, debuting with this issue. And let’s not forget Kathy Miraglia who has agreed to help with On the Road and whatever else we ask her to. And then there’s Matt Nauman who is the new Publishers’ Profile Editor. Thanks to all these people. They and all of you make Against the Grain go ‘round.

Yr. Ed.

Agenda

The deadline for the
February 1994 issue — v. 6 #1
Contributors/Column—December 22
Camera Ready Copy—January 7

1994 Deadlines (v.6 — can you believe it?)

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