February 1999

From Your Editor

Katina Strauch

*Against the Grain*, strauchk@cofc.edu

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From your (flu-bitten) Editor:

Well, I came back from ALA Midwinter with an unearthly case of the flu. And I had been a good trooper and taken the flu shot! Grump! So much for modern science.

Meanwhile, modern librarianship continues on apace! This issue of *ATG* is the annual report issue. While we were all napping during the holidays, there were some people laboring over the year that was—1998. Besides having the annual report survey results from Barry and Judy Lee, we have feature articles from a law librarian regarding mergers and acquisitions (Linda Defendeifer), a book vendor (Dan Halloran), a subscription agent (Dan Tonkery), a publisher (Karen Hunter), a scholarly society (Katharine Duff), a Russian society (Edwin Sherlock), and a British consultant (Martin White). And there is more. I found the articles on Metadata by Ed Summers, on ILS vendors and their efforts to develop better acquisitions systems by Shelley Neville, on Consortia: What Do They Really Hold for the Future? by John Secor particularly enlightening. And this definitely isn’t all!

Meanwhile, back to modern science.

Thougt it has failed me this year, I am going to give it another chance. Second chance at no flu. After all, it is getting warmer here in Charleston and spring is in the air!

Yr. Ed. 🌼

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**Letters to the Editor:**

Send letters to <strachkk@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>

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**Dear Editor:**

Subject: frequency of *ATG* is five times per year?

I attended (1st time) the Charleston Conference in November and was very impressed. Now I’ve received v. 10, no. 6 of *ATG* and notice inside the cover it’s published 6 times per year. Great! But at the bottom of your homepage, it mentions 5 issues per year. Just a small point, but ...

As an aside, I teach part time at the local community college—2 courses in the 2 year library technician programme. I’m doing acquisitions with the first year class, and serials with the second year. I sing the praises of NASIG and Charleston, now *ATG*!

Cheers from north of the border,

Roni Fenwick

(Coordinator of Processing (External), Acquisitions & Serial Services, Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S., Canada BOP 1X0)

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__Editor’s Note: Oops. Yes, ATG has been published six times a year for the past three years! Thanks. And, just think, you are getting another extra issue than you bargained for! Hooray! — KS__

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**Dear Editor:**

I read your issue of *Against the Grain* (Dec 98/Jan 99) on the train home from the ALA MidWinter meeting and was very impressed with the enormous amount of information contained in it. And sheepishly remembered I did not yet ask for a subscription, so I did so promptly upon my return.

Hope all is going well.

Best,

Sandy Lewman

(ISU) <Slewan@isinet.com>

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**Against the Grain**

— Deadlines 1999 —

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History's Most Infamous Biblioclast.

The term biblioclast means mutilator of books. History's most famous biblioclast was the British rare book collector John Bagford (1650-1716). He amassed 64 large volumes containing the mounted title pages he had torn out of 25,000 books. His collection is in the British Museum classified as the Bagford Fragments.

— excerpted from Nat Bodian's The Joy of Publishing

<http://www.against-the-grain.com>