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From Your (pasta-loving) Editor

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Recently went to the Fiesole Retreat which every four years is in Italy. I have a confession to make. I love pasta. And there is no pasta anywhere that tastes as good as the pasta in Italy. I went on a diet so that I could eat all the pasta I wanted for five days. And that’s exactly what I did! And while I was dieting, I had plenty of time to work on this issue of ATG which is edited by the energetic Forrest Link with the theme The Grass Really is Sometimes Greener. Forrest enlisted contributions from librarians who had become vendors, and vendors who had become librarians, and every which way. It was truly fascinating to read about all the experiences of Corey Seaman, Valerie Tucci, Kate Kosturski, Laura Harris, Amira Aaron, and Scott Smith. And many of these authors have also provided a people profile so we can learn even more about them. Our interviews in this issue are with Leslie Straus, Max Phua, and Dr. Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, with accompanying publisher profiles for SkyRiver Technology Solutions and IGI Global.

Leila Salisbury writes a university press column from a different perspective, we have a report on the Association of Subscription Agents (ASA) annual conference from Anthony Watkinson, and more reports from the 31st Annual Charleston Conference written by conference attendees that Ramune Kubilius has compiled. There is another installment of the Richard Abel story, a discussion of the Internet vis-à-vis libraries, tales of a boy and a tribal drum, and there’s even something about dance. Bob Nardini tells of visiting his old library school, Jesse Holden talks about professional ethics, and Tinker Massey has been thinking, “What Are We About?” Greg Tananbaum went to the Paris of the plains for the SPARC meeting, while Tom Leonhardt was busy reading for Forward Magazine, and Dennis Brunning has much to say about Britannica. And, of course, there is much, much more, so keep reading!

Meanwhile, back at ATG headquarters, it’s supper time. I need to diet to get over the pasta but maybe tomorrow!

See y’all soon! Yr. Ed. ☺

Letters to the Editor

Send letters to <kstrauch@comcast.net>, 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:

I really think I cannot participate as a conference director anymore. My time before retirement is getting shorter and my to-do list is getting longer. Much as I have loved being involved in the Charleston Conference, it is time to say farewell.

As I mentioned when I saw you at Midwinter, Norton died in December. This has thrown my life head over heels and my mind has been mushy ever since, although it seems to be improving, and I have an incredible number of things to pay attention to.

My last day will be Feb. 29, although I will maintain my email address and will have access to my office for awhile. It has been a wonderful experience knowing and working with all the conference directors and attending the conferences since the 1980s.

I wish you all the best.

Heather Miller
<hmiller@albany.edu> ☻

AGAINST THE GRAIN DEADLINES
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much we would like to have him return to speak. Michael got a standing ovation way back when! So — I wrote Michael and am still hoping to persuade him to come to Charleston. He has left Fresno and settled in Chicago and is enjoying life with his grandchildren, he tells me, but I have not given up!

Speaking of that review, Rob Christopher from ALA (the publisher of Broken Pieces) asked for a PDF of the review!

Just back from the Fourteenth Fiesole Retreat which was held in Fiesole, Italy, where many of our colleagues were present. Dr. Hazel Woodward was there looking younger than ever! She announced her retirement from Cranfield University at the end of March but she will be working with the where-does-she-get-all-her-energy Helen Henderson with Information Power. New email <hazel@informationpower.co.uk>.

At the Retreat the theatrical Bill Hannay — the lawyer, remember him? — gave quite a paper on the theft of print historical documents, rare books and manuscripts and the legal rights and remedies. Of course he sang a song which built on “These boots are made for walking…” but he used books instead of boots. Hilarious and cutting edge as always. Papers should be up shortly. The Fiesole Retreat Website is located at http://www.casalini.it/retreat/.

Speaking of which, Irina and Fred Lynden and the charming Director General Anton V. Likhomanov from the National Library of Russia were also at the Retreat and were very interested in Bill’s talk.

BTW, did you know that the astute John Baudassi (ProQuest) has family in northern Italy? Had no idea. Moving back to the U.S., continued on page 14