

The Editor's Job

Cosmo Fishhawk, the Perfesser, sits at his desk and grumbles: "The trouble with editors is they are always critical of anything we write. They're forever correcting and changing." So begins another episode in the relationship between the Perfesser and Editor Shoe in Jeff MacNelly's comic strip.

Smiling with MacNelly's characters, those of us in writing and publishing acknowledge this relationship between author and editor. The author as creator prepares a manuscript, the editor as gatekeeper accepts or rejects it. Often the acceptance is tinged with many qualifications and requests for change. Still it is a necessary relationship in publishing—both author and editor are required.

W. Boyd Rayward assessed the editor's role in our May issue, and he described a job we have tried to follow: "Editors are anonymous sorts of people. They should be supportive, critical, sensitive to what is being presented, and they should be aware of and insist on the highest possible standards. . . . The editor is there to help."

The editor is not alone, however. During our six years with this journal, we have benefited from the continuing advice and aid of a dedicated editorial board, the nucleus for our corps of referees. With their counsel we have selected for publication 229 manuscripts from the 772 submitted.

The ACRL Publications Committee and Board of Directors have been supportive of the journal and approved expanded budgets that enabled us to include the thirteen-article centennial series in the 1976 issues, to devote one issue in 1979 to theme papers from the first ACRL national conference, and most recently to publish a cumulative index. Each of the executive secretaries of ACRL with whom we have worked, Beverly P. Lynch and Julie A. C. Virgo, has been a constant source of help and encouragement. We remain indebted to Eileen Mahoney and the staff of the Central Production Unit for the care and attention they have given to the journal.

We thank Elaine L. Downing and Kathryn C. Franco, the two assistant editors, and Eldon W. Tamblyn, who has prepared not only the annual index since 1975, but also the helpful index to *Libraries for Teaching, Libraries for Research*, which included the centennial articles, and the recently completed cumulative index for volumes 26 to 40.

All academic librarians remain grateful to Eugene P. Sheehy and his associates for their semiannual review of new reference books. The review section of this journal has assumed increasing importance, and we thank the 340 librarians for their reviews of 671 volumes.

The strength of an association is in continuing and new membership participation and leadership. As we complete our term as editor, we are pleased to welcome a new editor, C. James Schmidt. We extend to him congratulations on his appointment and hope he will find this assignment the same stimulating experience we have.

R.D.J.

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