

EDITORIAL

Never having written an editorial before, I at least know enough not to pretend that in a few paragraphs of dazzling prose I can formulate an editorial point of view which will determine the future of the Newsletter: my abilities are simply not that great. Moreover, to try to do so would be to ignore the opinions of the people the Newsletter is meant to serve. I cannot possibly form an editorial point of view without your help. The direction the Newsletter is to take must come from you, the reader. This is not to say that I have no opinions of my own; on the contrary, I do hold certain questions concerning the Newsletter's basic shape can only be answered by you. Is the Newsletter to be simply a collection of reports and miscellaneous articles, or is it to become a forum for serious discussion and debate? Would the inclusion of book and music reviews be desirable? Would articles describing various special collections in Canada be useful?

Personally I believe (and here one of my opinions, is already showing itself) that we all need to be challenged by new and different ideas. Those of us involved in the business of information often find consolation in the belief that "it is probably impossible for Man to create anything to which he cannot become accustomed" (John Henry Mueller). We know that it would cost too much and cause too much psychological damage to change even if we found simpler, more efficient ways to do things. We are in fact sometimes perversely proud of our sophisticated (i.e., complicated) systems and procedures. We tend to use our systems as a shield against attacks upon our professional image (part of which is that we are the only people who can penetrate the mysteries of the systems we have devised). We seem to feel that we would eliminate the need for our jobs if we simplified things, if we weeded our procedures as well as our collections. Even in this age of "public-oriented-service," we still cling blindly to many assumptions handed down to us by our revered predecessors. Some of these assumptions are no doubt correct; others are very possibly not correct. Among other things, our Newsletter could become a tool to help us examine our assumptions.

In any case, I think you will agree with me that the success of any publication such as ours depends on an honest exchange of ideas between its readers and its editors: this is especially true for a bilingual publication. As my co-editor, Claude Beaudry, will be developing this exchange of ideas with our French-speaking readers, I have the responsibility for doing the same with our English-speaking readers. To this end I ask you to send me your ideas as to how the Newsletter can best serve your needs; my address is 726 William St., London, Ontario N5Y 2R4.

Merwin Lewis
Co-editor

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Voilà que le Bulletin de nouvelles de l'ACBM/CAML se situe à un point tournant de sa courte histoire.

En effet, se voulant le reflet des activités de l'ensemble de ses membres, CAML newsletter/ACBM nouvelles se devait de concrétiser dans les faits ce que son titre laissait entendre: une publication bilingue, s'adressant à la fois à ses lecteurs francophones, et à ceux d'expression anglaise.

Pour ce faire, Merwin D. Lewis et moi-même avons accepté de partager la responsabilité de la rédaction de cette publication. Loin de nous, cependant, la prétention de vouloir imposer nos idées quant à la présentation et au contenu de notre revue; nous pensons, au contraire, qu'il s'agit bien plus de votre Bulletin et que, par conséquent, l'orientation que nous lui donnerons devra être au diapason de vos besoins et de vos aspirations.

Un tel objectif, vous le devinez sans doute, ne peut être atteint sans votre collaboration: articles de fond, suggestions quant à la forme et au contenu, comptes rendus, etc. sont les bienvenus. Nous croyons au succès de notre Bulletin de nouvelles dans la mesure où chacun d'entre nous voudra bien prendre une part active à la réalisation de cette publication. Alors, si de bonnes idées vous viennent à l'esprit, n'hésitez pas, écrivez-moi à l'adresse suivante:

790, 74e rue est,
Charlesbourg,
Québec.
G1K 7P4.

Claude Beaudry,
Co-rédacteur.