

(A Word from the Editor)

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With this issue, I have the pleasure of assuming the editorship of *Olifant*. From my energetic and dedicated predecessors, William W. Kibler of the University of Texas and Founding Editor John R. Allen of the University of Manitoba, I inherit a sturdy, widely-respected journal with a clear profile and a loyal readership. (Bill Kibler's legacy, in fact, also includes nearly all of the material in the present issue.) There is no reason to undertake radical change. *Olifant* will continue to serve members of the Société Rencesvals and other friends of medieval Romance epic through the publication of articles, reviews, announcements, and personalia.

I will be exploring the possibility of a special issue or two in the near future; proposals for a topical, thematic or theoretical forum are welcome. There are some excellent individual submissions now on hand, thanks to the attractiveness with which John and Bill have endowed the journal. On the other hand, given the journal's tradition of flexible format and scheduling, there is always room for more, and I look forward to reading ever more challenging pieces on epic texts and their related problems as time goes by. For the time being, *Olifant* will appear twice yearly in somewhat larger fascicles, but I will retain the quarterly numbers in anticipation of future expansion and to avoid confusion in subscriptions and binding.

My warmest thanks and the thanks of the American-Canadian Branch to Raymond J. Nelson, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia, who has encouraged and generously supported the move to our new location during difficult times.