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Editorial

With this edition of the *Gazette*, we bid farewell to three individuals who have between them made an enormous contribution to the success of the journal. Bud Winteridge took over as Book Reviews editor in 1999, already having served the MA in other capacities including Chair of Publications Committee. I realised how much we expect from a reviews editor when I came to write a job description for the post. There is a remarkable variety of skills involved – recruiting and maintaining readers with a suitable range of specialities, ensuring a steady supply of appropriate books, keeping records, reading proof copy, sending reviews to publishers, and so on. Tact and a sense of fair play is needed as well as mathematical expertise. Bud has been a reliable and shrewd exponent of all these qualities. At the same time we say goodbye and thank you to Rosalie McCrossan, who has looked after reviews of school textbooks since 1998. There are a huge number of these and the task of keeping track of them all is an unenviable one. Graham Hoare took over the Problem Corner in 1983 and with this edition he completes twenty years in harness. He has presided in this time over the setting of over two hundred problems. Graham is a man of intellectual ingenuity who is able to take an overview of a tricky problem and place a diversity of different solutions in context. He also has had to employ delicacy and discernment in communicating with solvers and persuading them that his judgements have been astute and reasonable. He will, of course, continue his association with the *Gazette*, and I can reveal that there is another historical article in the pipeline.

We welcome Hugh Williams as our new reviews editor and Nick Lord as problems supremo. Both are well-known faces at Conference and have made significant contributions to the *Gazette* over the years.

Alert readers will notice that this edition of the journal is a little fatter than normal. This is part of a drive to get rid of the backlog of both articles and reviews which has been growing over the years. Authors who have had submissions accepted have often expressed surprise at the delay before they appear. Such a supply of good pieces is, of course, enviable, but we should also ensure that the journal is lively and topical. Many thanks to the Association for agreeing to these extra pages!

GERRY LEVERSHA