

# A Seeker's Journal

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### **MY VIEW**

By Hugh Singleton, Presidential Candidate

**I** WILL BE among the last to criticize those who have guided AAPA through the turmoil of the last six decades and first in line to offer my congratulations for a job well done in the moving of our organization into a position of prestige. Among various methods of publishing during that time, letterpress remained the undisputed champion until the technology of recent years made desktop publishing a "new kid on the block" which now has seriously challenged the monopoly of letterpress as well as hard copy. This is apparently viewed with alarm by those past masters of the excellently done journals which filled AAPA's bundles. Indeed, the very survival of that bundle seems threatened by today's technology, according to some of our most esteemed members. My view is that these concerns are misplaced.

With all due respect to these senior members, I note with some concern that their ranks are becoming thinner and that new members are not filling the vacancies. Furthermore, there is a decline in the popularity of letterpress printing. The upsurge in computer technology and the ease and speed of desktop publishing has, in fact, attracted those whose interest might have lead them to letterpress in the past. However much change is resisted by the comfort of older methods, computers bring a new wave of users who look eagerly for easier, quicker means to perform all facets of amateur journalism, and if

AAPA is to prosper and grow, it has no choice but to move with the times. It is a sad fact that a number of highly respected members with great influence have not yet recognized the necessity of embracing computer technology and finding ways to use its benefits to our advantage.

Some members fear that e-journals, if they are ever accepted as valid, will mean the end of the monthly bundle. I find that hard to envision since those who now produce hard copy are not likely to suddenly abandon their publishing method. I know of only two members who are currently publishing e-journals, even though that option has existed for a long time. Would not a letterpress printer or a desktop publisher be likely to continue what he has chosen to do? When the automobile appeared, did everyone send their horses to the glue factory?

When members enter retirement, there is another factor that must be considered, and that is the expense involved in publishing. What may have seemed an insignificant amount may become something not allowed by the retirement budget. Should the joy of publishing be denied when an e-journal is practically cost free to anyone with access to a computer? Is it surprising that our membership declines when we refuse to recognize an e-journal as being a valid publication? And is it reasonable to assert that electronic journalism is inferior to that on a printed page? Let's not shoot the messenger!

I believe that AAPA should embrace electronic publishing as a valid medium; equally as important as the printed page, because e-journals may easily be converted to a printed page by those who desire to do so. AAPA should also accept e-journals into its consideration for laureate awards; quality does not depend upon the method of publication. For The few members who do not have access to electronic mail, provisions can certainly be made to insure that they receive copies of all e-journals. If I am elected President, these are the goals that I will pursue. I urge every member to vote in this election so that the results will accurately reflect the true feeling of the majority, which is the real purpose of elections.