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Editorial

When I started a regular editorial in the *Gazette*, I did so purely to fill this annoying gap below the mast-head. Begging the reader's indulgence, I shall stretch the nautical theme inspired by the term "mast-head" to encompass my thanks to the editorial team.

My watch at the helm of the *Gazette* has been comparatively short, though it has seemed to me, and perhaps to readers also, a rather long one. It would have seemed far longer still without the devoted help of the rest of the crew. Nick Lord has spent many years in the boiler room, shovelling a mighty tonnage of books out to reviewers, and then patiently awaiting their return. Graham Hoare, certainly the most conscientious person of my acquaintance, has delivered his copy with wonderful precision and, in the signal room of the *SS Gazette*, maintains a correspondence with our friends throughout the world. To these two I owe special thanks, for they have never reproached me for my errors of navigation (though I am sure that I have been the subject of much mirth when these two old salts get together over the rum bottle at MA conferences). Nor should we forget Ernest Long, who, from his shore posting at Gosport, completes the annual cargo manifest, the *Index*.

I also thank Robin Wilson, Tim Cross and Steve Abbott. All three were pressganged into service after approaching me with the fateful words: "I think there ought to be ... in the *Gazette*." I hope their voyages are as pleasurable, and even more extensive, than my own.

The *SS Gazette* has been afloat for nearly 100 years now. I fancy I have given it a new coat of paint, and changed the engines so that it now runs more economically. It has always carried a mixed cargo, I hope it always will, and I wish Captain Abbott good luck with his sturdy vessel.

NICK MACKINNON