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From the Editor

I promise to keep this short.

The prime reason for brevity is that I want the readers to not delay their enjoyment of our articles, reviews, poems, and stories in this issue. Still, a few things need saying in this short missive.

First, this issue marks the debut of a series of interviews with Delta and Mid-South booksellers. My purpose in this is to expose you, the reader, to the independent bookstores in the region that are more than worthy of your patronage, as well as continue a forum on the literature of the Delta, the curious state of bookselling today, and other relevant matters. Following our premiere interview with Burke's Books' Corey Mesler, we will print interviews with That Bookstore in Blytheville's resident saint, Mary Gay Shipley, and the mayor of Oxford, Mississippi, Richard Howorth (also the

owner of Square Books). And more will follow. I invite both readers and subscribers of *Arkansas Review* to contact me if you know of other independent booksellers within our seven-state Delta region, as this is a project I thoroughly enjoy.

Second, it has come to my attention that the good folk at the Arkansas Literacy Council are again planning for a Literary Festival in 2005. Considering the successes of the first one in April of '04, I wanted to call everyone's attention, as soon as possible, to Number 2. Below find information for this splendid opportunity for lovers of literature--and literacy--in and around the Natural State.

Above all, though, I hope you enjoy our last issue of Volume 35, though I suspect we had more pleasure in assembling it.