

Preface

Joanne Norman

This issue of *Florilegium* is dedicated to its originator and longtime editor, Dr Douglas J. Wurtele, professor emeritus of Carleton University in Ottawa. The Canadian Society of Medievalists/Société canadienne des médiévistes takes great pleasure in this opportunity to mark the scholarly achievements and professional contributions to medieval studies of one of its best-known and most respected members. With the support of several enthusiastic colleagues, Dr Wurtele began *Florilegium* more than twenty years ago as an interdisciplinary journal for classical and medieval studies. For a long time, that journal was one of the few venues in which Canadian medievalists might communicate with one another. It is not surprising then that, given his dedication to fostering medieval studies in Canada, Dr Wurtele became one of the earliest active supporters of the new Canadian Society of Medievalists/Société canadienne des médiévistes when it was first organised in 1993. The association of *Florilegium* with the Society was proposed almost from the beginning, when Dr Wurtele made a very generous offer to the Society that would be of enormous benefit to both the journal and CSM/SCM. It was expected then that he would continue to edit *Florilegium* and that the Society would be able to rely on his wide experience in running a scholarly journal. His expertise had also been conspicuous during his very successful tenure as editor of *English Studies in Canada* for the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE). Unfortunately, Dr Wurtele had to resign as editor because of ill health. Despite this setback, he worked as hard as ever to complete the final issue under his direction and turned over to our new editor, Dr Jane Toswell, a smoothly-functioning journal.

The wide range of articles in this issue of *Florilegium* is a reflection of Dr Wurtele's own interdisciplinary interests, particularly in medieval literature, theology, and allegory. He has published extensively in these areas with a particular focus on Chaucer, Langland, and Spenser. As associate research professor, Dr Wurtele is still actively engaged in research and publishing. He even continues to give the occasional medieval literature course in the Department of English at Carleton University where he has long enjoyed an enviable reputation as an engaging and committed teacher. The influence of his research and teaching can still be recognised in the work of many of his students and colleagues.

On behalf of all medievalists who have benefited from Dr Wurtele's dedication, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation for his contribution to medieval studies in Canada.

Bishop's University