

Editor's Adios

Dear *TL* Readers,

This is my sign off as Managing Editor, after being with *TL* in this capacity since its inception in 2007. I've had a swell time, and learned a valuable lesson or two. (Such as, "don't wait till you know what you're doing when you're starting something new." I seriously don't think there'd be a *TL* even now, had we waited until all the things we thought we needed were in place.)

Once in a great while someone will ask me what it's like to be an editor. There are so many metaphors to draw from, many of them quite useless. The truth is that in my experience here editing is *not* like "being a midwife," and *not* like "cranking the handle on a sausage machine," and *not* like "making bricks without straw." What stands out for me instead is that *TL* has been one way of convening — sometimes of energizing — a vital conversation within our community. With such a mix of voices! Some new, some old, some provocative and some reassuring, etc.

The eminent William Maxwell, a fiction editor at *The New Yorker* for many years, said once, "I can never get enough of knowing about other peoples' lives," and I think I understand in a small way what he meant: you need to find people (in this case theological librarians) and their work (theological librarianship or some near approximation) intriguing in order to enjoy a role like this, and find it rewarding, which I most certainly have. The whole idea is to draw people out, to get them talking (or, in this case, writing), so that the conversation grows more varied, more energetic, more creative, and more confident. To the extent that *TL* so far has cultivated that conversation, it's done something important and unique, and of enduring value.

To whoever ends up in this role after me, long may this conversation flourish.

Thanks for reading, and for writing,

DRS

P.S. One more thank you to my outstanding colleagues on the Editorial Board (Gary, Miranda, Ron, and Suzanne) who have been a constant pleasure and encouragement to work with.

