

## From the Executive Director

Over the past several months, the country has suffered economic blows and the stresses of an unsettled time, much like eighty years ago when Ohioana was founded in October 1929. Then as now, we have seen sales drop in nearly every sector. It was a pleasant surprise to read in the *New York Times* that, “at a time when booksellers are struggling to lure readers, sales of romance novels are outstripping most other categories of books” (April 8, 2009). As it was during the Depression-era, readers are again seeking relief from daily worries and escaping into science fiction and fantasy, and romances with happy endings.

We are blessed that many outstanding romance novelists call Ohio home. It seems only appropriate that we feature romance writers in this issue of the *Ohioana Quarterly*. Ohioana has a great relationship with the Central Ohio Fiction Writers, and one of its celebrated authors, Karen Harper, who has written an article for this issue as well as an interview with Ohio native, Susan Elizabeth Phillips. Nancy Down, Head Librarian of the Browne Popular Culture Library at Bowling Green State University, wrote an article on Romances and Ohio for us.

Economic times have left us without enough funds to fill the position of editor of the *Quarterly*, and we appreciate the board members and staff who went above and beyond to see that this issue made it to press. Several other writers and readers offered to help us and we thank you all. We will be calling on you in the future!

We plan to have the fall issue of the *Quarterly* to you in late September. It will highlight the 2009 Ohioana Award winners.

Please renew your membership and subscriptions promptly. If you are reading this *Quarterly* and you are not a member, please consider becoming a member. The membership application can be found on the last page of this issue.

As always, we thank the publishers and authors who have donated their books to Ohioana and the reviewers that have donate their time to read and write the reviews contained in this issue.

