

From the Editor's Desk:

Be Thankful for Your Problems

When I first became the editor of *The Stained Glass Quarterly*, the magazine offices were located near a small, privately owned Chinese restaurant. This was not one of those mega-buffet, all-you-can-eat, MSG-fests that have become so popular in the last decade; this place had no buffet. They served good food, all of which was delicious and most of which was probably reasonably good for you. Nothing was deep fried.

One day I got a fortune cookie that — using classic fortune-cookie logic — said, “Be thankful for your problems. If they were any less difficult, someone with less talent might have your job.”

The cynic in me, of course, had the obvious comeback. Still, though, there is a certain nugget of truth in that statement; at least, I must have thought so at the time because I taped that fortune to the edge of my computer monitor so I would be reminded of it as problems arose. While that was three computer monitors ago, I still remember that little gem of cookie wisdom: *be thankful for your problems. If they were any less difficult, someone with less talent might have your job.*

I wrote in a recent editorial that the magazine was back on schedule after being thrown a full month off as a result of a series of computer hardware failures. It took some hard work and late nights to make up a full month. Now, just six months later, I find myself once again running about a month behind in the publication of this issue.

Looking at the bright side, though, I suppose I'm *glad* to be a month behind with the publication of this issue. It wouldn't have happened if the magazine offices and the Association headquarters hadn't been forced (in the name of progress) to move out of the building



Richard Gross

that has been our home for the last eight years; 62nd street is being relocated approximately half a block east of where it sat when our offices were on it. All of the buildings — of which ours was the last still occupied — are being torn down, and the city of Raytown is going to expand the library, put in a park and add room for a farmer's market. It's one more step in the redevelopment of downtown Raytown; it will be good for the people of Raytown, and, in the long term, it will be good for stained glass.

How can a farmer's market in downtown Raytown possibly have an impact on stained glass? Imagine this: you come to the SGAA Stained Glass School's new facility for an advanced painting workshop, and, in the morning, before the workshop begins, you are able to visit the farmer's market, enjoy the park, perhaps have coffee at one of Raytown's locally-owned coffee houses, and then return to the school for an in-depth look at new painting techniques. Then, that evening, it's off to the nearby Irish pub for a relaxing evening discussing the workshop with your fellow classmates.

This is no mere pipe dream; this is the reality toward which the Association is working. The SGAA Stained Glass School has been a physical school in the past, and it will be one again. As a result of our recent move, the Headquarters and the magazine offices are now located on a two-and-a-half acre piece of land, which gives us ample room to build a state-of-the-art teaching studio adjacent to the Headquarters.

Fundraising efforts have already begun; the vision is becoming a reality. We know what we want to accomplish, and we know where it is going to be. The overwhelming support expressed by the members at the Oakland Conference represents a mandate to move forward and to bring the vision to fruition.

Certainly, there will be bumps on the road; there will be problems. However, I am certain that the problems will be overcome. The talent present among the members and affiliates of the Stained Glass Association of America is more than capable of overcoming whatever problems we may encounter.

This is an exciting time to be involved with the Stained Glass Association of America. You will see much more in the coming issues on this topic from the SGAA Stained Glass School, from the President, from the Officers and Directors of the SGAA, from the committees, and, I'm sure, from individual members. The site of the 2010 Conference has been relocated to Kansas City so that our members can visit the new Headquarters and see firsthand what the future holds for the SGAA Stained Glass School.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Gross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.