The Logos experience has confirmed for me the belief I held before I started it: there is no art or industry or trade or profession closer to the welfare of humanity than the use of the written word to connect one mind with another.

In an attempt to illustrate, and possibly codify, [publishing’s] identity struggle – Should authors become their own publishers? Are editors necessary? Should publishers become booksellers? Should booksellers become publishers? Should libraries become social centres? – I developed, in the mid ’90s, a matrix designed to demonstrate that the e pluribus unum of the processes of transferring thought from one mind to another remains distinct and intact irrespective of format. …While I have applied the idea to the written word, it could, I believe, be adapted for any creative activity. It portrays a mental journey from aspiration...to understanding.

(Gordon Graham, “The Logos Experience,” Logos, 19/4, 2008 [excerpts rearranged])

First, somewhat apologetically, a backgrounder on the roundabout way I became the second editor of Logos, working closely with its first editor and founder, Gordon Graham, the subject of this Festschrift. Looking back, my joining Logos now seems almost foreordained. Both Gordon and I spent important periods of our publishing careers in Asia. In fact, our paths fleetingly intersected in 1972 at a reception held in Singapore by McGraw-Hill Far Eastern Publishers. Gordon, one of several visiting VIPs who ran McGraw-Hill’s international division, gave me a quick and penetrating once-over from across the room, and moved on. Not unexpectedly, he did not recall that first encounter when we did meet many years later to discuss my joining Logos. After all, back then I was the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed
publishing novitiate soaking everything in, and I seldom forgot a face. I did sympathize with Gordon’s dour demeanor at the time, because the Singapore joint venture was fast becoming a headache for the home office. But for me the local venture – a modern fully integrated publishing facility, with its own editorial, art, typesetting, printing and binding operations – provided an invaluable introduction to publishing, unobtainable at a London or New York publishing house. Though I had signed on at a local salary (and technically was a local hire, or a “tropical editor” I told friends), as an American expatriate I was given free rein of the place, and I could see and learn first-hand how a book was conceived, produced, manufactured, packed and shipped, from beginning to end, soup to nuts. Moreover, my various projects, destined for readers in the UK, Brazil and Jamaica, plunged me into the deep waters of international publishing and manufacturing. My first lessons of the book industry, as Gordon’s had been, were of a global creative business, serving people of all cultures, languages, and backgrounds. And like Gordon, I was quickly hooked.

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Fast forward more than thirty years to late 2005 when I received a call from a mutual colleague, Joseph J. Esposito, a member of the journal’s editorial board, who rang to say that Gordon was ready to step down as full-time editor of Logos, which role he had fulfilled since the journal’s first issue in 1990, and to ask whether I was interested in becoming the next editor. I asked myself, would I like to work on a unique journal covering book publishing around the globe, and to work on an equal footing with that publishing executive I caught a glimpse of in Singapore many years ago on my very first publishing job? Again, I was hooked.

When Gordon and I finally met, it became clear that our experiences in publishing, and in Asia, though very different, were comparable. We both experienced our worlds in the rough, from the ground up. He went to India during the Second World War and fought in the jungles of Nagaland on the Burmese border (described in his poignant memoir, The Trees Are All Young on Garrison Hill: An Exploration of War and Memory, The Kohima Educational Trust, 2005). I went to India during peacetime as a rural development worker to help impoverished farmers, living for two years like a native in a hot, dusty village. While in Asia, we both witnessed firsthand how books could elevate people’s lives and enrich them in body and spirit. In our various ways, we both became enamored with the business of publishing and its cultural impact internationally. And in separate but parallel ways, we both had become imbued with the values of service and sacrifice, and both saw publishing, from an international perspective, as a way to realize those values, while pursuing an edifying and rewarding profession. Thus, we were both prepped to work together closely to continue and advance the Logos tradition that Gordon had established.

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In 2006–2008, when I carried the editorial mantle of Logos, Gordon fortunately was still very active in writing articles and in enticing contributions from his extensive network of friends and colleagues. Without that help, I surely would have floundered as Logos’ editor. So, though officially called editor, I was happy to think of myself as co-editor with Gordon,