EDITORIAL

It is eighteen months since the last issue of *The Journal* was pub-
lished. My first task, as Editor, must be to apologize to subscribers
for the delay in producing the present issue, and to express
gratitude to them for their faith in its ultimate appearance. The
delay was caused by factors outside the Society’s control.

The type face used for *The Journal* was selected after much
careful consideration from a number of possible alternatives. It is
known today as ‘Janson’, but the first extant type specimen sheet,
dating from 1720, describes the types as ‘Holländische Schriften’.
They were, in fact, cut in Amsterdam by the Hungarian punch-
cutter and typographer Nikolas Kis (1650–1702). Janson possesses
the robust but unaffected qualities which Morris sought in a type,
and provided an alternative to the ubiquitous Caslon of the ‘Revival
of Printing’ period. For machine setting, the face is available only
in text sizes, but the problem of titling was solved when the
Schriftgiesserei D. Stempel, of Frankfurt-am-Main, generously
presented the Society with a number of founts of founders’
Original Janson Antique.

There remained the problem of the 8 point used for biographical
details and foot-notes. This was not held by the printers of *The
Journal*. A fount was kindly lent by the Printing Department of
Linotype & Machinery Limited for the production of the first
three issues, but obviously the Society could not continue to
trespass on the Company’s kindness. One attempt to have the 8
point matter set by one of the few houses that run the face in that
size proved prohibitively expensive. Of a number of possible
solutions, the only really practicable one, was for the Society to
invest in the necessary fount of matrices—the moulds in which
the type characters are cast. This involved considerable expend-
diture and a long delay in delivery, which in the event, has proved
longer than was foreseen. However, the Society, perhaps
unusually, now possesses this piece of capital equipment essential
to the production of *The Journal* and there is no reason why
issues should not henceforth appear at the originally intended rate
of two a year. It would, of course, have been possible to produce
*The Journal* in another type face; but that solution would have
been un-Morrisian.

R. C. H. BRIGGS