

DEDICATION

This issue is dedicated to Professor François Bucher who served as Faculty Advisor to *ATHANOR* from its first appearance in 1981 until his retirement this past summer.

When he arrived some eighteen years ago, one of his new colleagues described him as a tornado who whirled in and out leaving chaos in his wake. But it was the good old-fashioned kind of chaos from which ideas are spawned. He built a bomb shelter designed on the golden section, so comfortable that visitors refused to leave it. With his mind and hands and back he created a Renaissance scholars foundation from the scrub and swamp of rural north Florida. He persuaded us to try his idea for a graduate student publication that would give our youngest colleagues a vehicle for professional ventures. Of course, he also had an idea for its title, *ATHANOR*, the oven of the alchemists in the centuries when alchemy was a true science. In those times an *athanor* was for adventurous experimentation, for the mixing and cooking and distilling of opposites in a search for new ways to perfect the body and the spirit—the *ATHANOR*, a powerful analogue for the scholar's mind.

Through the intellectual cooking and distillation of our modern *ATHANOR*, ninety-six young Art Historians have seen their first works reach the public. This issue is dedicated to François with our thanks and theirs.