

Second thoughts...

Did I have second thoughts about starting a literary journal called **THEMA**, back in 1988? Of course! What did I know about publishing a literary journal? *Nothing*. My job was to edit medical manuscripts for publication in various medical journals. But the challenge had been sent to friends—write a story using the theme: *Fortune Cookies*. How would the stories differ? The creative challenge is described here: <http://themaliterarysociety.com/about.html>. We did it; it was fun. What to do with the stories? That's when the idea came to me, to publish our efforts in the form of a literary journal.

Here's where the second thoughts intruded in my mind. Should I do this? What did I know about publishing a literary journal? (*Nothing...* I already told you!) What would happen if I did it?

Then it hit me. Third thoughts: What would happen if I *didn't* do it? Would I always wonder "What if?"

So now **THEMA** is in the middle of its 29th year! I like to tell people that I was only eight years old when I started this adventure, but for some reason, nobody believes me.

—VHoward