

# RBMS Newsletter



Issued by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section  
of the Association of College and Research Libraries  
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## From the Chair

Spring is in the offing, and it's time to think about migration—cultural migration, that is. The theme of this year's Preconference, "Ebb and Flow: The Migration of Collections to American Libraries," reflects a concern whose vibrations are being widely felt in the academic world, libraries, museums, and the book trade. Migration raises a host of issues, historical, practical, and ideological: Where did our collections come from, and what ideals and assumptions shaped them? How can collections created in the 19<sup>th</sup> century or before be repurposed to meet 21<sup>st</sup>-century research needs? What can we do to restore the looted cultural heritage of countries where it may or may not be safe to store special collections materials now? In our future collection building, how can we document more effectively the diverse cultures that converge in the United States?

The 2004 Preconference will bring together distinguished faculty, librarians, and booksellers to address these and related issues. It's a coincidence, but an entirely appropriate one, that this stimulating discussion will take place against the backdrop of the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, held in New Haven every June. Our own international festival will range from the theoretical to the practical, with plenary sessions to scale the heights of cultural studies and book history, and a variety of seminars and workshops to bring us back to earth to review the "how to" of our ever-evolving trade. A panoply of tours will explore the rich resources of Yale, New Haven, and the surrounding area. And in between sessions, the revitalized downtown of New Haven offers plenty of opportunities for those other time-honored professional endeavors such as discovering good restaurants and poking around in bookstores. I hope you will join us for what promises to be a rewarding and richly varied cultural experience in its own right.

On the Sunday afternoon of the ensuing ALA Annual Conference, in Orlando, Florida, the RBMS program will continue the discussion of cultural heritage with a stimulating panel on "Documenting Cultural Communities in Florida." This program will complete our whirlwind cultural tour of the East Coast. Next year it's on to the Midwest: to St. Louis for the Preconference, and to Chicago for the ALA Annual Conference.

Meanwhile, RBMS committees continue to churn up the water. At ALA Annual, the meetings will include a public hearing on the revised *Guidelines for Interlibrary Loan of Rare and Unique Materials*, available on the RBMS website at <http://www.rbms.nd.edu>. The Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force continues to spur new initiatives across several committees. A new Collection Development Discussion Group will convene officially for the first time at ALA Midwinter. The Cataloging and Classification: Description and Access Committee of ALCTS, the technical services division of ALA, has invited the Bibliographic Standards Committee to form a joint task force to review the

cataloging rules concerning older monographs. RBMS is also participating in A\*CENSUS, a major survey of U.S. archivists that will help set the course for future archival education. Bravo, and *avanti!*

—Margaret F. Nichols

## 2004 RBMS Preconference

The 45th Annual RBMS Preconference will be held June 21-24 at Yale University, prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando. Entitled "Ebb and Flow: The Migration of Collections to American Libraries," the Preconference will focus on historical background and current issues pertaining to the movement of collections from the four corners of the earth into American repositories.

A full schedule of plenary speakers, short paper presentations, seminars and tours is in store for attendees. Plenary speakers include: Alice Prochaska, university librarian at Yale; James Raven, director of the Cambridge Project for the Book Trust; Michael Winship, professor of English, University of Texas at Austin; Robert Parks, curator, Pierpont Morgan Library; Dr. Thomas F. Staley, director of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center; Robert McChesney, director of the Afghanistan Digital Library Project at New York University; and Anthony Rota, Bertram Rota Ltd., Antiquarian Booksellers, London. Seminars will cover a variety of topics ranging from implementation of the Text Encoding Initiative to special collections funding opportunities to curating exhibitions. All of these sessions will examine different aspects of the increasingly complex duties of librarians and archivists who are responsible for acquiring, preserving, and providing access to cultural artifacts that have often traveled great distances before coming to rest in American repositories.

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to tour the Yale campus and the historic center of New Haven, as well as Yale's renowned libraries and special collections, including the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Yale Center for British Art, the Elizabethan Club, and the Yale Law Library. In addition, there will be tours to the Lewis Walpole Library in Farmington, Wesleyan University Special Collections & Archives in Middletown, and the Mark Twain House in Hartford. Evening receptions will include an opening reception in the gothic splendor of Sterling Memorial Library, a reception and dinner hosted by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and a reception hosted by the Yale Center for British Art. Other events will include two all-day workshops: one on cataloging manuscript music and a second on conservation.

As in recent years, no Preconference brochure will be mailed to RBMS members prior to the meeting. The Preconference website will provide the best and most current information about programs, registration, costs, events, and other opportunities. So please have a look at the website: <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/rbms2004/index.html>. We'll see you in New Haven!

## RBMS Annual Meeting Conference Schedule Orlando, June 25-28, 2004

**FRIDAY, JUNE 25****4:00-6:00 pm**

Bibliographic Standards, Thesaurus Subcommittee

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26****8:30-11:00 am**

Membership &amp; Professional Development

**8:30 am-12:30 pm**

Bibliographic Standards Committee

Exhibition Awards Committee

**9:30-11:00 am**

Manuscripts &amp; Other Formats Discussion Group

Preconference Program Planning, 2006

**11:30 am-12:30 pm**

Conference Program Planning, 2004

Conference Program Planning, 2005

Nominating

**2:00-4:00 pm**

Budget and Development

Public Services Discussion Group

Publications

Seminars

**4:30-5:30 pm**Public hearing on the revised *Guidelines for Interlibrary Loan of Rare and Unique Materials***8:00-10:00 pm**

Security

**SUNDAY, JUNE 27****8:30-11:00 am**

Conference Development

Curators &amp; Conservators Discussion Group

Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force

**9:30-11:00 am**

MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group

Preconference Program Planning, 2005

**9:30 am-12:30 pm**

RBM Editorial Board

**11:30 am-12:30 pm**

Preconference Program Planning, 2004

Task Force on Guidelines for the Loan of Special

Collections Materials for Exhibition

**1:30-3:30 pm**

Leab Exhibition Awards, followed by Conference

Program: Documenting Cultural Communities in

Florida

**4:30-5:30 pm**

Information Exchange

**MONDAY, JUNE 28****8:30 am-12:30 pm**

Executive Committee

This is the schedule RBMS has requested.  
Be sure to check the final conference schedule  
for any changes.

## Discussion Group Changes

At the Executive Committee's Midwinter meeting, several changes were approved that relate to RBMS discussion groups. First, the Collection Development Discussion Group was approved as a fifth discussion group. Second, in order to reduce scheduling conflicts, the chairs of the discussion groups agreed to a rotating schedule for meetings in which only four of the five groups meet at a conference and each group skips every fifth conference. The chair of the discussion group not scheduled to meet is encouraged to work with the chairs of other groups to arrange a joint meeting on topics of mutual interest. For example, at the Annual Conference in Orlando, the Collection Development and Manuscripts and Other Formats discussion groups will be holding a joint meeting. The rotation schedule for the next two years is as follows:

**Annual 2004** – MARC for Special Collections (MASC), Public Services, Manuscripts & Other Formats, Curators & Conservators. Collection Development is not meeting.

**Midwinter 2005** – Collection Development, Curators & Conservators, MASC, Public Services. Manuscripts & Other Formats is not meeting.

**Annual 2005** – Collection Development, Curators & Conservators, Public Services, Manuscripts & Other Formats. MASC is not meeting.

**Midwinter 2006** – Collection Development, Curators & Conservators, Manuscripts & Other Formats, MASC. Public Services is not meeting.

**Annual 2006** – Collection Development, Manuscripts & Other Formats, MASC, Public Services. Curators & Conservators is not meeting.

**Midwinter 2006** – Curators & Conservators, Manuscripts & Other Formats, MASC, Public Services. Collection Development is not meeting.

A complete schedule through Annual 2009 will soon be posted to the RBMS website.

# Committee News

## Bibliographic Standards

The energies of the Committee continue to be primarily engaged in the revision of DCRB, to be known in its new edition as *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, or DCRM(B). The beta version was unveiled in January, and the editors seek comments as they now work on the gamma version. The DCRM(B) beta draft can be found at: <http://www.folger.edu/bsc/dcrb/dcrmtxt.html/>. Jain Fletcher is heading a joint task force of Bibliographic Standards and the Music Library Association to formulate *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)*, which is sticking closely to DCRM(B) provisions as it progresses. The Committee will sponsor a full-day workshop on manuscript music cataloging at the New Haven Preconference.

A joint task force with the Association of Library Collections and the Technical Services Cataloging and Classification: Description and Access Committee, chaired by Robert Maxwell, has just commenced reviewing the portion of AACR2 chapter 2 (sections 12-18) on older monographic publications. The task force appointments have been made, but all interested persons are encouraged to follow the discussion as it is made available to the public.

The Thesaurus Team is progressing in its tasks of adding new and changed form/genre terms and relator terms. Under the editorial leadership of Beth Russell, the team is investigating various possibilities in the choice of a web-based thesaurus system.

We are happy to report that Gregory Pass's *Descriptive Cataloging of Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Manuscripts* has finally seen the light of publication! We are much pleased with this handsome volume, and hope that it quickly gains its rightful place as an international standard for MARC cataloging of manuscript codices.

As always, visitors are welcome to attend and participate in meetings of the Bibliographic Standards Committee; requests to be placed on the DCRB revision e-list or any other questions should be addressed to the chair, Deborah J. Leslie, at [djleslie@folger.edu](mailto:djleslie@folger.edu).

## Collection Development

The inaugural meeting of the Collection Development Discussion Group attracted twelve participants from nine institutions. The first topic of discussion was collecting artists' books. While some libraries, such as those in the Los Angeles area, belong to informal consortia, which allow for consultation and the avoidance of duplication, most libraries collect individually. In many cases, objects suitable for display or use as structural instruction aids are given priority, but there is also a considerable amount of collecting for posterity. In the absence of detailed written collecting policies or guidelines, purchases are often dictated by the personal taste of the fund manager. Location can also be a factor, since libraries in large cities or near artistic centers will be visited by more artists who wish to show and sell their work. Libraries off the beaten track

may have to buy mainly through catalogs, which do not always give a true sense of the artifact. There was consensus that artistic photographs were best collected by photography curators in specialized departments. Most special collections libraries seem more interested in collecting photography of a documentary nature. Issues of cataloging (often complex) interested a number of participants.

The rest of the session was devoted to a discussion of collection development policies. A written general policy not only helps guide decisions about purchases, but can assist when donations are offered that do not fit with the existing collections. Date guidelines were also examined. Nineteenth-century imprints and important scientific imprints of the twentieth century require special consideration.

Future topics of discussion will include: collecting history of science items, collecting contemporary materials, agencies providing funding for acquisitions, and the role of electronic resources. The group's next meeting, in Orlando, will be held jointly with the Manuscripts and Other Formats Group.

## Conference Development

After a brief retrospective of the financial and programmatic success of the 2003 Toronto Preconference, the Midwinter Conference Development meeting focused on future conference planning. The very organized and thorough team of Mike Kelly (Program) and Nicole Bouché (Local Arrangements) unveiled the details of what promises to be a lively and informative 2004 Preconference in New Haven. A generous assortment of tours, workshops, and receptions are planned to enhance a rich schedule of plenary sessions, seminars and papers. The Orlando conference program will examine the collecting of materials from diverse communities.

Plans for the 2005 St. Louis Preconference, with Eric Holzenberg chairing the program, are well underway on the theme of education for and by special collections librarians. Local Arrangements chair Anne Posega, of host Washington University, reported on housing, the varied resources of local libraries and museums, and the ever-popular receptions and meals. For the 2005 Conference Program in Chicago, Mary Lacy plans a session on Chicago's collections of culturally diverse materials.

Chair Judy Harvey Sahak informed the committee that Rich Oram and Cathy Henderson would co-chair the 2006 Preconference in Austin, Texas. Their proposal for the Harry Ransom Center to host the Preconference emphasized the availability of many tour opportunities, inexpensive housing, and the concentration of major resources in Austin. Sahak will solicit proposals for the 2007 Preconference nearby the ALA conference site of Washington, D.C. It is anticipated that the committee will recommend a site to the RBMS Executive Committee prior to the 2004 Conference in Orlando.

ACRL will hold its 12th National Conference in Minneapolis in April, 2005. RBMS members are urged to participate by proposing papers and workshops (deadline: 5/28/04), poster sessions (11/8/04), or roundtables (1/10/05) to inform other academic librarians of the work and issues confronting special collections librarians.

## Curators and Conservators

At the ALA Midwinter Meeting, the RBMS Executive Committee approved the creation of a new Collection Development Discussion Group and a new rotating schedule for RBMS discussion group meetings. Although RBMS members had debated over the past year whether collection development issues could be addressed under the umbrella of the existing Curators and Conservators Discussion Group, it was finally decided to keep the two groups separate.

Jennifer Hain Teper of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has agreed to chair the group following this year's Annual Conference. Thanks are due to Anne Marie Lane for stepping in to guide the Curators and Conservators Discussion Group during this transition period and to all RBMS discussion group chairs for developing an innovative solution to the time and space limitations of our increasingly busy ALA meeting schedule.

## Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force

The Task Force met in San Diego to review the Section's progress in implementing the strategic actions in the RBMS Diversity Action Plan. Committees across the Section have been actively working on diversity initiatives and their efforts are beginning to bear fruit.

The Scholarship Committee has begun advertising two 2004 Preconference scholarships for applicants of underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, one for a professional librarian and one for a student. Both the 2004 and 2005 Conference Program Planning Committees are working on programs with diversity-related themes. The Fall 2003 issue of *RBM* published Julie Grob's article, "RBMS, Special Collections, and the Challenge of Diversity: The Road to the Diversity Action Plan." And RBMS is forging a closer relationship to the ALA Office for Diversity, with Julie Grob serving on the ALA Committee on Diversity.

Among the many efforts in the pipeline are: facilitation of a web page for RBMS diversity initiatives by the RBMS webmaster, creation of a diversity insert for the RBMS brochure by the Publications Committee, and a new mentoring program from the Membership and Development Committee, which will have a strong diversity component. In addition, the Task Force is coordinating a letter promoting special collections librarianship as a career, which will be sent to graduate programs in cultural studies on behalf of the Chair of RBMS and the Director of the ALA Office for Diversity.

## Exhibition Awards

The Committee met in closed session during the Midwinter Meeting in San Diego to select the 2003 Katharine Kyes Leab & Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Award winners. There were forty-one entries in the four divisions of printed materials and twenty-eight entries in the electronic exhibitions category. The following are the catalogs, brochures, and electronic exhibition selected for awards.

**Winner, Division 1** (Expensive Catalogs): Folger Shakespeare

Library, *Elizabeth I: Then and Now*, Georgiana Ziegler, Compiler (2003).

**Winner, Division 2** (Moderately Expensive Catalogs): University of Alberta Libraries, Bruce Peel Special Collections Library, *First Impressions: The Fledgling Years of the Black Sparrow Press 1966-1970*, Michael O'Driscoll, et al.

**Winner, Division 3** (Inexpensive Catalogs): The Grolier Club. *The Auroral Light: Photographs by Women from Grolier Club Collections*, Anne H. Hoy and Kimball Higgs.

**Winner, Division 4** (Brochures): Getty Research Institute, Exhibitions Department. *Robert Motherwell: A la pintura/To Painting*, Barbara Anderson.

**Winner, Division 5** (Electronic Exhibitions): The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, *The California Grizzly at The Bancroft Library*, <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/Exhibits/bearinmind>.

This is the first year in which electronic exhibitions were included among the award winners; during the three-year pilot project, electronic exhibitions were only eligible to receive "Special Commendation." At Midwinter, the RBMS Executive Committee approved the Committee's request to create a "Leab Award Winner" graphic incorporating the RBMS logo. Institutions with award-winning electronic exhibitions, after requesting permission from the RBMS webmaster, will be entitled to mount this notice on their sites.

## Manuscripts and Other Formats

At the Midwinter meeting in San Diego, co-chairs Tara Wenger and Mary Lacy agreed with Alvan Bregman and Caroline Duroselle-Melish to hold a joint meeting with the Collection Development Discussion Group in Orlando in June.

Announcements were made regarding the following: an ALA/SAA/Association of Museums joint committee that is looking at cutting edge technology for making fragile material digitally available; the 2004 Preconference in New Haven; the processing of a major Eric Gill Collection under a Delmas foundation grant, and A\*CENSUS, a census of the archival profession funded by IMLS and coordinated by SAA in conjunction with 13 other archival associations, including RBMS. A\*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.), a comprehensive survey of the archival profession, will be mailed to U.S. archivists this spring. RBMS members should be on the lookout so that you are counted in this unprecedented effort to gather baseline data about the archival profession. For more info, see: <http://www.archivists.org/a-census/>.

The Group then had a discussion of the recent ARL "Hidden Collections" conference. We discussed backlogs, the advantages and disadvantages of making less-detailed inventories available, concerns with staffing, funding, security for material not processed to customary levels of specificity, and setting standards for minimal-level cataloging. Questions also arose about deaccessioning and how to find appropriate homes for out-of-scope material. An SAA survey to determine processing practices tied in with our discussion, since it included questions about whether modern material is processed differently from nineteenth-century material.

The Group also discussed collection development, including soliciting donors to underwrite processing and working with development offices. We ended with a brainstorming session on future topics.

## MARC for Special Collections

Forty-four people attended the MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group meeting in San Diego. Participants received reports from the CC:DA and MARBI on issues that impact rare book cataloging, and also on the outcome of ARL's "Unlocking Hidden Treasures" Conference. Among the issues raised and discussed at that conference were the need to have some sort of record for all material in a backlog, the potential use of collection-level records, and the need for institutions to balance acquisition budgets with cataloging and processing budgets.

The Group also discussed the treatment of laid-in materials and of bibliographic (510) citations for bibliographies also available on the Internet. Laid-in materials may be issued with or related to the book, such as a letter describing a reader's reactions, or have no relation to the book or its contents. Such material is often removed for security purposes or to prevent further damage to the book. Participants identified two common ways of treating laid-in material. The first practice is to remove it to other locations in the library, such as manuscript or photograph collections or a vertical file. In these instances, notes regarding the removed material are made in the catalog record and/or in the volume itself. The second practice is to remove the material and place it in a folder or case next to the volume on the shelf. Once again, notes are in made in the catalog record. Most institutions appear to do some combination of the two.

Two types of bibliographic sources were noted. One is an Internet copy of a printed bibliography. In this situation, the text remains the same as the printed version but is in a different format. The second type of online bibliography is dynamic and actively updated, though it may also have a CD or printed version. An example of this is the ESTC file. All agreed that the next version of *Standard Citations of Rare Book Bibliographies* needs to address the issue of bibliographies and the Internet.

Please join us in Orlando, where topics for discussion will include transfers from the open stacks and the notes made in online records for this material. Please send other ideas and comments to: [edwin.schroeder@yale.edu](mailto:edwin.schroeder@yale.edu).

## Membership and Professional Development

The RBMS Orientation Session for new members and first-time attendees at this year's Preconference will take place on Monday, June 21, from 5:00-6:00 at the Omni Hotel in New Haven. Representatives from the Membership and Professional Development Committee will be on hand to provide information and give an introduction to RBMS, and committee chairs and section officers will present overviews of their committees' work and explain how new RBMS members can become involved. The orientation is a good opportunity to meet your Section's leadership and to interact with other RBMS members, and it is a good place for anyone interested in becoming more actively involved in RBMS.

Scholarships are once again available this year for first-time attendees at the Preconference. Seven full scholarships, which include a waiver of the Preconference registration fee and partial reimbursement of housing and travel expenses, and four partial

scholarships, consisting of a waiver of the registration fee only, will be awarded. As part of its commitment to increased diversity in the Section, starting this year, two Preconference scholarships have been designated specifically for applicants of underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, one for a professional librarian and one for a student. For information on how to apply, please visit the New Attendees page on the Preconference website at: <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/rbms2004/attendees.html>.

If you are interested in pursuing rare books and special collections librarianship as an educational or career choice, the Committee's *Educational Opportunities: A Directory* is for you. It is updated on a regular basis to provide information about ALA-accredited graduate schools of library and information studies that offer courses related to rare books and special collections and it is available under the "Resources" section of the RBMS website.

The Membership and Professional Development Committee is offering a Buddy Program once again this year. If you a relatively new member of RBMS and would like a buddy to answer your questions about RBMS, help you plan your conference activities, and introduce you to other RBMS members, please fill out the Buddy Request Form on the RBMS website at: [http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/membership\\_and\\_professional/buddy\\_program/index.shtml/](http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/membership_and_professional/buddy_program/index.shtml/) or contact Committee chair Henry Raine at: [henry.raine@nyu.edu](mailto:henry.raine@nyu.edu) or (212) 485-9257. RBMS buddies are available for the Preconference, and for the ALA Annual Conference, and you do not have to a first-time attendee to request a buddy. If you are an experienced member of RBMS and would like to volunteer to be a buddy, please fill out the Buddy Volunteer form available at the above address or contact Henry Raine.

## Public Services

Approximately twenty-two people attended a spirited discussion in San Diego devoted primarily to the impact of the Patriot Act on special collections. Among the questions addressed were: How have special collections responded to the Patriot Act and related legal issues? Do they now treat their registration and circulation records any differently? Can they make a case for keeping these records permanently? Do they inform library users differently because of the changed legal environment, or what do they tell users about the confidentiality of their records? Do they share user information with their development office or other offices for mailing lists and other purposes? Several libraries brought examples of policies in place at their institutions. Members of the Security Committee who were present noted that this issue will be addressed at their meetings as well.

A brief discussion followed about topics for future meetings. Although previously addressed, the issue of training emerged as a topic of interest once again, specifically the notion of what constitutes a "minimal level" of training for paraprofessionals who work at public services desks.

Suzu Palmer noted that she will be stepping down from the PSDG—and from RBMS generally—due to a major shift in job responsibilities (from special collections outreach librarian to collection development team leader). Hjordis Halvorson will be the new chair and will convene the meeting in Orlando. She can be reached at: [halvorsonh@newberry.org](mailto:halvorsonh@newberry.org). More detailed minutes of this meeting are available from Suzu Szasz Palmer at: [sspalm01@louisville.edu](mailto:sspalm01@louisville.edu).

## Publications

The Publications Committee met at Midwinter in San Diego and discussed several items of interest. The Committee first approved the proposed guidelines for the position of web editor and the use of the RBMS logo. The texts of these proposals are available on the RBMS website. The Committee also approved the idea of subscribing to a fixed Internet domain name for the website, which would allow the URL to remain the same whenever the web editor or his/her institution changes.

The subcommittee's revision of *Your Old Books* has been posted to the RBMS website for comment and will be available for approval by the Executive Committee at the Annual Conference in Orlando. The Committee remains undecided about how to handle the appendix's internet links. Either the entire document will be made available online, including the appendix, which can be updated more easily this way, or a version without the appendix will be made available in print, with a separate list of links maintained online.

With regard to the Diversity Action Plan, an insert will be included in Section brochures, and information will be included on the RBMS website. The website information should be available soon, and a sample copy of the brochure insert, with information on printing cost and options, will be presented to the Executive Committee in Orlando. It was noted that the RBMS discussion list has about 500 subscribers.

## RBM

The Spring issue of *RBM* (5:1) will be landing in mailboxes in mid-May. Leona Rostenberg and Madeleine Stern offer their views on the book trade during the last fifty years and what the future may hold for dealers, collectors, and librarians. A companion piece by London dealer John Price (a transplanted Texan) considers the view from abroad, focusing on the contemporary antiquarian trade in London. In the first of a series of articles emphasizing international topics, Bettina Wagner of the Bavarian State Library offers an informative article on German approaches to the many dimensions of managing projects to catalog medieval manuscripts. The final article in this issue is an intriguing look at a major shift in the world of philanthropy and its effects on one cultural heritage institution, the Smithsonian Institution. Lisa Browar, former co-editor of *RBM*, has written a piece that will be essential reading for anyone who works with or aspires to work with donors.

The Fall issue (5:2) will be devoted to the ARL Conference on "Exposing Hidden Collections" held at the Library of Congress last September. This issue is being guest-edited by Barbara Jones (Wesleyan University) and Judith Panitch (UNC at Chapel Hill). The Spring issue for 2005 (6:1) will be devoted to the 2004 Yale Preconference and will be guest-edited by Mike Kelly (New York University). This will begin what is envisioned as a regular relationship of one issue a year (the Fall issue) of *RBM* devoted to the RBMS Preconference. This year the "Exposing Hidden Collections" issue occupies that spot, but with the Fall 2005 issue (6:2) devoted to the St. Louis Preconference, a regular pattern will be established.

Two new members of the Editorial Board, Sidney E. Berger (Simmons College) and Penny A. Welbourne (Yale University), were appointed at Midwinter and additional new members will be appointed at Annual.

## Security

The Security Committee continues work on its proposed Security Guide for rare book, special collections, and manuscript libraries. Several chapters are completed and others are being completed. Some of this work will involve brief surveys sent to libraries requesting information on matters such as security features of online cataloging systems, reading room practices, and reader registration procedures. The RBMS community could be of material assistance to the writers—and it is hoped eventually to the special collections community at-large—if those contacted could take a few minutes to respond to the surveys. In no case will identifiable information about an individual library's practices be used in print. If anyone has issues that s/he would like to see addressed in the Guide, please send such concerns to Everett Wilkie (ewilkie@ix.netcom.com), who will pass them along to Committee members.

Although the listing of state laws on the RBMS website is substantially complete ([http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/security/state\\_laws/](http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/security/state_laws/)), some minor gaps in coverage are being filled and research continues into any appropriate federal laws.

The Committee also has a couple of vacancies that it is seeking to fill. If you are interested in serving, please contact the Chair.

## Seminars

An interesting variety of topics will be examined in the seminars offered at the 2004 Preconference in New Haven. Topics include: teaching a new generation of researchers; using TEI for early printed books; usability testing; and funding opportunities for special collections projects. Full details are available on the Preconference website. At its Midwinter Meeting, Committee Intern Arvid Nelsen reported on his project to survey the topics offered at seminars held during the last ten years of RBMS Preconferences. His preliminary findings show a fairly even distribution among the categories of Public Services, Technical Services, Professional Issues, Library Resources, and Administration.

The Committee invites seminar proposals for the 2005 Preconference in St. Louis. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2004. All proposals will be reviewed in Orlando in June. It is not necessary to be a member of the Seminars Committee to make a proposal. For information on proposal submissions, please see the electronic form on the RBMS website at: <http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/seminars/index.shtml/> or contact the chair, Elizabeth Johnson, at 812-855-2452 or: johnson1@indiana.edu.

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## RBMS at ACRL in Charlotte

At the 11th ACRL National Conference, held in Charlotte in April 2003, RBMS was well represented at the Orientation session and in roundtable discussion programming. The Orientation session, designed to introduce first-time conference attendees to ACRL's many sections and activities, was very well attended. Each section was given an opportunity to speak briefly. Anne Marie Lane represented RBMS. After the program, several new RBMS members took the opportunity to introduce themselves to Anne Marie and chat informally about the Section.

The next day, several RBMS members participated in a roundtable discussion session entitled "Special Collections for All." Facilitated  
(cont. on p.7)

## Chair's Report, 2002-2003

RBMS maintained its high level of productivity in 2002-2003, and all members of the Section can take pride in the accomplishments of the past year. The energy which members contributed to the Section and to the practice of rare book and manuscript librarianship is inspiring, particularly in these extremely challenging times for special collections librarians and their institutions.

The Section actively addressed issues of diversity in its own operations as well as within the profession itself. Following approval of the RBMS "Statement on Diversity" at the Annual 2002 Executive Committee meeting, a task force was created to implement the strategic actions described in the RBMS Diversity Action Plan. As part of its charge, the Task Force serves as a contact point for all committees working to implement the plan. As documented in this newsletter, several committees are engaged in incorporating diversity initiatives into their work, and it is gratifying to see progress in various activities, including membership, mentoring, programming, publications, and scholarships.

RBMS committees developed and disseminated guidelines and standards for use by the national and international special collections communities. *Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries* and the *Code of Ethics for Special Collections Librarians* was approved by the RBMS Executive Committee and forwarded to ACRL. Two additional task forces were charged with reviewing *Guidelines for the Interlibrary Loan of Rare and Unique Materials* and *Guidelines for Borrowing and Lending Special Collections Materials for Exhibition*. The Bibliographic Standards Committee readied for publication its *Descriptive Cataloging of Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Manuscripts* and held an invitational conference for the purpose of creating *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, the successor to DCRB.

In addition to the activities noted above, various committees distributed information to the special collections community by means of electronic publications accessible through the RBMS website. These documents, found under "Resources" on the site, include cataloging aids, educational opportunities, exhibition awards, incidents of theft, compilations of state laws, and "Your Old Books."

In discussion groups at the Midwinter Meeting and the Annual Conference, RBMS members shared information, strategies, and opinions regarding a variety of public and technical service issues. After a review of discussion groups, a proposal was made to create a new discussion group devoted to collection development issues. Due to already tight scheduling at Midwinter and Annual, joint meetings of different discussion groups will be pursued in the future.

The Section organized a number of programs this past year. RBMS was present at the 2003 ACRL Conference in Charlotte with a roundtable discussion focusing on special collections. The Annual Conference program was devoted to "True North: A Canadian Approach to National Book History." Hosted by The History of the Book in Canada/Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada (HBiC/HLIC), the program included an overview of the project, an illustrated talk on the iconography of the book in Canada, and a panel discussion comparing HBiC/HLIC to other national book history programs.

It is a pleasure to report that the 44th RBMS Preconference in Toronto was both well-attended and well-received. "True/False: Facsimiles, Fakes, Forgeries and Issues of Authenticity in Special Collections" explored historical and contemporary aspects of forg-

ery, how facsimiles and digital surrogates have affected scholarship and the marketplace, and the cultural values assigned to authentic documents. I would like to thank the program and local arrangements committees for their magnificent work in making this Preconference a thought-provoking, instructive, and enjoyable experience for all.

The Section's accomplishments throughout the year are due to the hard work of its members. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of the Executive Committee, committee chairs and members, discussion groups, and liaisons whose commitment to RBMS has sustained its leading role in the special collections community.

—Daniel J. Slive

## Guidelines for the Loan of Rare and Unique Materials

The first set of *Guidelines for the Loan of Rare and Unique Materials* was approved in 1994. The *Guidelines* are intended to facilitate the inter-institutional loan for research use of special collections, including books, manuscripts, archives, and graphics. The Committee's objectives in preparing this document remain: to encourage and facilitate inter-institutional loan from special collections for research use; to affirm curatorial responsibility in decisions regarding the loan of special collections; to specify the responsibilities of lending and borrowing institutions; and to ensure the safety and security of items loaned.

After a well-attended Midwinter meeting that garnered input from many quarters, the Committee submitted a near-final version of its revisions to the RBMS Executive Committee, and in mid-March posted the document to websites and electronic discussion lists of pertinent groups, including RBMS, SAA, RUSA/ILL and RLGS SHARES, for general review and comment. After reviewing and incorporating feedback, we will send the final document to the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee in April 2004, and a final version will be submitted to the ACRL Board for consideration at the ALA Annual meeting in Orlando this summer.

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### RBMS at ACRL (cont. from p.6)

by Suzy Taraba with assistance from John Cullars and Nora Quinlan, three main topics were explored: career opportunities; user services; and collaborative opportunities. Questions considered included: What do special collections librarians really do? What opportunities exist for careers in special collections? What attracts new librarians to special collections? How can special collections participate in the institution's teaching mission? How can special collections librarians develop collaborative partnerships with other areas of the library and the institution (and beyond)? How can development and donor relations efforts in special collections be tied to the needs of the whole library and the whole institution? Like the Orientation, this session was very well attended, and we even had to expand to a second table to accommodate all participants. A lively discussion ensued, and participants agreed that this program was beneficial to both the section and individual members, and well worth repeating at upcoming ACRL conferences.

The next ACRL conference will be held in Minneapolis from April 7-10, 2005. Susan Stekel Rippley is coordinating RBMS participation.

## Transitions

**Alexandra Bernet** has been appointed project archivist in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University. **John Buchtel** has been appointed curator of rare books at Johns Hopkins University. **La Nina M. Clayton** has been appointed head of public services for special collections at the Princeton University Library. **Charles L. Egleston** has been appointed senior manuscripts cataloger for the Gilder Lehrman Collection at the New-York Historical Society. **Stephen Enniss** has been appointed director of special collections and archives at Emory University. **Jamie Hansen** is now special collections cataloging librarian at the University of South Florida. **William La Moy** is now curator of rare books and printed materials in the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University. **Debbie Landi** is now special collections librarian and university archivist at Furman University. **Bridget Lerette** has been appointed project archivist at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University. **Jonathan Lill** has been appointed project archivist/surveyor for the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University. **Naomi Nelson** has been appointed coordinator of research services in special collections and archives at Emory University. **George I. Paganelis** has been appointed the inaugural curator of the Tsakopoulos Hellenic Collection at California State University, Sacramento. **Loel Reinstrom** has been named special collections cataloging and music librarian at the University of South Florida libraries. **Eileen Smith** is now a rare book catalog librarian at Yale University Library. **Lynne Thomas** has been appointed rare book and special collections librarian at Northern Illinois University. **Frank Turner** has been appointed the director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale. **Tim West** has been named curator of the manuscripts department and director of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

We note with regret the recent deaths of: **Rob Roy Kelly**, historian of American wood type; **Martin Ridge**, director emeritus of

research at the Huntington Library; and **Gerald Wager**, head of reference and reader service in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress.

## Assistant Editor Sought

The incoming editors of the *RBMS Newsletter* are seeking candidates for the position of Assistant Editor. Primary responsibilities of this position include soliciting articles, editing text, and proofreading. Experience with desktop publishing software is desirable. Particularly busy periods of activity include the months of March/April and September/October, when the Spring and Fall issues are in production.

Candidates should be willing to begin serving a two-year term immediately following this summer's Annual Conference and also be willing to serve a subsequent two-year term as editor. This is an excellent opportunity for newcomers to RBMS to become involved in the Section's activities and come into contact with other RBMS members throughout the country. Interested parties should contact either Jeff Barton or Michael Forstrom to learn more about this position.

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