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# RBMS Newsletter

*Issued by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section  
of the Association of College and Research Libraries  
a Division of the American Library Association*

APRIL 1986

Number 5

## RBMS PRECONFERENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

The dates set for the 1986 RBMS Preconference, "Fine & Lively: The Arts in Special Collections," are now fast approaching. New York City, the site of the ALA meeting, is also the location for this June 24-27 event. Papers presented at the Preconference will focus on the development and use of special collections in the decorative and fine arts, costume, fashion, theatre, dance, and music, as well as the role of the antiquarian book trade in these activities.

The speakers will include: Lucien Goldschmidt, Proprietor of Lucien Goldschmidt, Inc.; James Gilreath, American History Specialist, Rare Book and Special Collections Division, The Library of Congress; Richard Martin, Executive Director, Shirley Goodman Resource Center, Fashion Institute of Technology; Ruth Mortimer, Curator of Rare Books, Smith College; Jeanne T. Newlin, Curator,

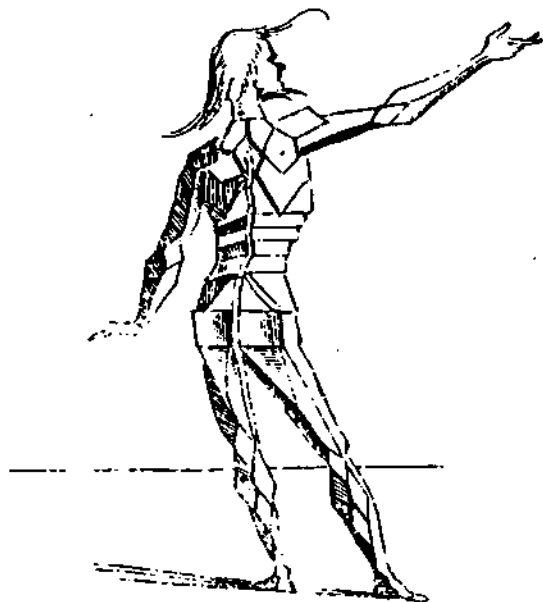
Harvard Theatre Collection; Genevieve Oswald, Curator, Dance Collection, The New York Public Library; and Harold E. Samuel, Music Librarian, Yale University Music Library.

To complement the plenary sessions, the Continuing Education Committee has planned a variety of seminars intended to enhance the program theme. Topics will include: artists' books; control of and access to sheet music collections; exhibiting the fine and performing arts; film archives; fundraising and development; microcomputer applications to special collections; preservation of fine and performing art collections; rare government documents; and reference and research sources for 19th-century illustrated books.

The Preconference will open on Tuesday, June 24, with a reception in the Trustees Room of The New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. No seminars are planned on this the opening day of the Preconference; the registration desk, however, will be open that afternoon from 3:00 to 7:00 PM in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Special events during the Preconference include a Wednesday evening (June 25) reception at The Pierpont Morgan Library where the exhibition, "From Merchants to Emperors: British Artists in India 1757-1930" will be on display along with a selection of music manuscripts by Gustav Mahler and Franz Liszt. Thursday evening, June 26, Preconference registrants will attend a reception, sponsored by American Book Prices Current, in the newly renovated Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Columbia University and view a special exhibition of materials related to the Preconference theme.

RBMS members planning to attend should remember that the lunch break on Wednesday, June 25, has been set aside for the formation of small groups by Preconference participants who wish to meet others with similar interests and concerns. Those interested in acting as a coordinator or participating in such an informal gathering should send their name and proposed topic (which may be a type of



library, type of activity, etc.) to Linda Kruger, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 by May 26, 1986. Information received by that date will be compiled and made available at registration.

Registration for the Preconference is limited to the first 250 applicants. The registration fee of \$90 for ACRL members, \$130 for non-members, includes entry to the Preconference receptions and to all Preconference papers and seminars. The deadline for registration is May 26, 1986. Late registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis after May 26 at an additional cost of \$15 per person. Copies of the registration form can be obtained by writing to RBMS Preconference, Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The Preconference hotel is The Waldorf-Astoria, on Park Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets. Rates are: single, \$110; double occupancy, also \$110; 3rd person, additional \$25. (The hotel will honor these rates through the ALA Conference.) Alternative housing will be available at Columbia University Residence Halls for approximately \$30 a night. (These rates also will be honored through the ALA Conference.) Information on alternative housing will be sent to those who check the appropriate box on the registration form of the printed announcement for the Preconference.

Those readers who have not yet received the printed announcement for this event, which includes the registration form, should immediately request a copy from RBMS Preconference, ACRL/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

#### REPORT FROM MIDWINTER

RBMS members gathered in Chicago to continue work on a variety of projects and to attend a full slate of committee meetings. Both of the Executive Committee meetings were attended by over thirty participants, reflecting widespread interest in the work of the Section.

The Developing Guidelines for

Borrowing Special Collections Material for Exhibition Committee (Ellen Dunlap, Chair) has changed its title--it was previously known as Committee on Developing Guidelines for Loaning Special Collections Material for Exhibition. This change was made to clarify the nature of its deliberations, which are not to limit the rights of lenders, but to stress the responsibility of borrowers. The committee has continued its work on examining existing policy statements and preparing a draft guidelines statement. The Continuing Education Committee (Lynda Claassen, Chair) reviewed the latest revision of Peter van Wingen's "What Do I Do with my Old Books" and has asked Peter to draft a response to the December American Libraries article on the same subject. A similar brochure prepared by Lisa Browar for manuscripts is under review by the SAA/ALA Joint Committee on Library-Archives Relationships. Continuing Education has also made preparations for seminars at the New York Preconference, covering fourteen topics, a few of which will be repeated. The success of these seminars will be evaluated. Conservators' Collations (Terry Belanger, Chair) is continuing to collect information and to prepare recommendations for establishing a standard system of practice which will meet the approval of all interested parties. The Curatorial Issues Raised by Conservation Committee (Donald Farren, Chair) has decided that a summary of documentation received and guidelines drafted should be distributed for comments. The work of the committee members will benefit from discussions at a March, 1986 symposium on curator-conservator relations organized at the Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin. The committee will meet in New York City to continue its work in developing guidelines for dealing with the question of how to define the areas of responsibilities of curators and conservators when decisions must be made about the conservation treatment of materials. The Developing Guidelines for Professional Ethics Committee standards were approved in July, 1985, with the exception of the second paragraph of the

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(Illustration courtesy of The Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection, Library of Congress)



preface. Its language has now been changed by the committee, and the revised guidelines were approved by the RBMS Executive Committee. (A final version is forthcoming.) Sally Leach, Chair of the Exhibition Awards Catalogue Committee, reported that her committee has met and has made its decisions on the first set of award winners listed elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter. The Legislative Information Committee (William Keller, Chair) met for the first time at Chicago Midwinter. This group is gathering information on the effect of current and proposed tax legislation on the collecting of research materials and the impact of 1985 IRS regulations on the acceptance of non-cash gifts by libraries. The Literary Rights Committee (Thomas Verich, Chair) met to prepare a draft of a pamphlet discussing literary rights. An outline for the draft was devised and assignments are being made for writing each section. The June, 1986 meeting of the committee will be devoted to work on the wording of this draft. Ann Gwyn of the Journal Advisory Board reported to the Executive Committee on the first issue of Rare Books Manuscripts Librarianship (which has now been released); April 15, 1986 has been set as the deadline for contributions to the second issue, which is due out in June. The ACRL Publications Committee is scheduled to evaluate the Journal during the New York City Annual Meeting. The Publications Committee (Joan Friedman) has established a selective complimentary mailing list for the RBMS Newsletter and has been discussing the possibility of publishing a RBMS membership directory. The Security Committee (David Zeidberg, Chair) has prepared guidelines (what to do before and after a theft occurs, and model state theft legislation) for review by the Standards Committee at its June, 1986 meeting. A FBI form used to describe a book was discussed at Midwinter; Sandra Mason is chairing a sub-committee to make recommendations regarding the content of this form. The Standards Committee (John Thomas III, Chair) recently reviewed the current status of standards being written by other committees, went over the response by the Library of Congress to their 755 proposal, and completed final review to the Printing and Publishing Evidence thesauri before approving it for publication. The committee also finished a near-final review to the binding terms thesaurus and preliminary review to thesauri for provenance, type faces, and graphic materials. The Committee to Consider Guidelines for the Transfer of General Collections Materials to Special Collections (Samuel A. Streit, Chair) met

to discuss further revisions of the draft guidelines; an open hearing is planned at the New York City meeting.

At Executive Committee meetings members heard reports from Sandra Mason (RBMS representative to ACRL) regarding deliberations on a new operating agreement establishing the relationship between ALA and its divisions, and Joan Friedman (member of the SAA/ALA Joint Committee on Archives-Library Relations) on the archival certification debate in the SAA. It was announced that Barbara Paulson is now the RBMS section historian, carrying on work previously accomplished by Marie Korey. Robert Blesse reported on the Midwinter meeting of the Manuscripts Discussion Group; those attending discussed the USMARC AMC format, copying collections on microfilm, fees for publication, and policies for reproduction and publishing of materials. Robert Martin reported that the Maps and Geography Round Table is proposing continuing co-organized and co-sponsored program meetings at annual conferences, beginning in 1987. (This suggestion will be evaluated in New York this summer.) There was discussion regarding the charge of the Standards Committee; the Executive approved the charge as it stands. The Standards Committee is preparing a handout which will contain guidelines for the procedures used to review standards as they are being prepared. RBMS has responded to a requirement imposed by ACRL to review the activity of all its committees and to determine the level of support they require. Donald Farren moved and Lynda Claassen seconded a proposal to create an ad hoc Committee to Review Committees; this motion was passed and Donald Farren was named Chair. He mentioned that this formal review process will allow RBMS evaluate its committee structure after a recent era of unprecedented growth within the Section.

#### PROGRAMS AT THE 1986 ALA ANNUAL MEETING

The RBMS Section is sponsoring one program and co-sponsoring an additional session this year at the Annual Meeting in New York City. Costume and Dance: Using Special Collections for Research is the topic to be explored at the RBMS general program on June 29th. Speakers will be Robert C. Kaufman, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and Parmenia Migel Ekstrom, dance scholar and collector, who is founder-director of the Diaghilev-Stravinsky Foundation. This program is intended to carry the theme of the RBMS Preconference into the Annual Meeting.

The session on Revised USMARC Format

RBMS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tentative Schedule for ALA Annual Meeting, New York City  
June 28-30, 1986

June 28th (Saturday)	9-11 AM	Exhibition Catalogues Legislative Information Standards I Curatorial Issues Raised by Conservation
	2-4 PM	Conservators' Collations Journal Advisory Board Guidelines for Transfer of General Collections Materials to Special Collections
	8-10 PM	Information Exchange Literary Rights
June 29th (Sunday)	9-11 AM	Standards II Developing Guidelines for Borrowing Special Collections Material for Exhibition Security I
	11:30-12:30	1987 Preconference Program Planning (San Francisco)
	2-4 PM	(RBMS Program)
	4:30-5:30 PM	Executive I
	8-10 PM	MARC for Special Collections Publications
June 30th (Monday)	9-11 AM	Continuing Education Manuscripts Discussion Group Security II Standards III
	11:30-12:30	Executive II

for Archives and Manuscripts Control (AMC), co-sponsored with the Society of American Archivists/ALA Joint Committee on Archives-Library Relationships, is slated to begin at 2 PM on Saturday, June 28th. The implications of the AMC format and its use will be explored by four speakers at this event.

#### INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Irene Moran will again moderate the two-hour RBMS Information Exchange tentatively scheduled for 8-10 PM, Saturday, June 28th. Since the meeting is designed to promote informal sharing of information regarding projects and upcoming events, exhibitions, publications, etc., the topic of your report is all that Irene needs to have before the meeting commences. This information can be provided prior to the event in New York City, or by contacting Irene prior to the ALA meeting at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 (415-642-3781).

#### A CALL FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Donald Farren, RBMS Vice-Chair/Chair-elect, invites those members who have the interest and the time to participate in committee activities to make their interests known to the committee chair, or to Dr. Farren, who is responsible for filling vacancies.

The RBMS committees and committee chairs are:

Guidelines for Borrowing Special Collections Material for Exhibition: Ellen Dunlap, Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia, PA 19103 / 215-732-1600.

Conservators' Collations: Terry Belanger, School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 / 212-280-2292.

1987 Preconference Program Planning: Samuel A. Streit, Brown University, Providence, RI, 02912 / 401-803-2146.

Continuing Education: Lynda Claassen, Special Collection, UCSD Library, La Jolla, CA 92093 / 619-452-2533.

--Curatorial Issues Raised by Conservation: Donald Farren, Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, College Park, MD 20742 / 301-454-4020.

Exhibition Catalogues Award: Sally Leach, Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 / 512-471-9115.

Legislative Information: William Keller, Special Collections, Gelman Library, 2130

H. St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20052 / 202-676-7497.

Literary Rights: Thomas Verich, Department of Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677 / 601-232-5861.

Publications: Joan Friedman, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, 178 Linden St., New Haven, CT 06511 / 203-436-3912.

Security: David Zeidberg, Special Collections, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024 / 213-825-4988.

Standards: John Thomas, Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 / 512-471-4240.

Developing Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections: Samuel A. Streit, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 / 401-863-2146.

#### CURRENT AND FUTURE RBMS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current (1985-86) members of the RBMS Executive Committee are the Chair, Anna Lou Ashby (Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 E. 36th St., New York, NY 10016 / 212-685-0008), the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Donald Farren (Special Collections, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 / 301-454-4020), members-at-large Jennifer B. Lee (Brown University; 1986) and Robert Nikirk (Grolier Club; 1987); and Lynda Claassen (University of San Diego), the most recent past RBMS Chair (1984-85). Judith C. Singleton (ESTC, Louisiana State University) is RBMS Secretary.

The following candidates have agreed to stand for election (terms of service for those elected beginning in mid-1986):

For Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Alice Schreyer (University of Delaware); Ann Gwyn (Johns Hopkins University)

For Member at Large (3 year appt.): James Green (Library Company of Philadelphia); Nora Quinlan (University of Colorado, Boulder)

For Member-at-Large (2 year appt.): Susan Lemke (National Defense University); Willard Goodwin (University of Texas, Austin)

Several RBMS members have been recently appointed to committee chairs (as of July 1, 1986): Cathy Henderson (University of Texas, Austin) will replace Donald Farren as chair of the Curator/Conservator Relations Committee; James Green (Library Company of Philadelphia) will become chair of the Publications Committee, replacing Joan Friedman. Susan Lemke (National Defense University) has agreed to coordinate meetings of the Information Exchange, replacing Irene

Moran, who will complete her duties at the ALA Meeting in New York City.

#### PROPOSED RBMS BYLAWS REVISION

RBMS members will be asked to authorize a change in the bylaws that will allow for the creation of special interest discussion groups. Such a revision will allow us to respond more quickly to shifting interests of our profession, since these discussion groups will not have to be given committee charges.

A request for this revision has gone to the ACRL Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and will, we hope, be submitted to the ACRL Board and authorized on June 28. After that, it will be possible for RBMS membership in attendance at the annual meeting and program on June 29 to pass the change by voice vote. (report submitted by RBMS Chair Anna Lou Ashby)

#### EXHIBITION CATALOGUE AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The RBMS Committee for Awards for Exhibition Catalogues has granted its first annual awards for the best catalogues published by American or Canadian institutions in conjunction with exhibitions of books and/or manuscripts. The catalogues reviewed for the awards were divided into three categories based on production costs; criteria for selecting the winners included the level of accuracy and consistency of presentation in the catalogue and its clarity, quality of design, and usefulness to the intended audience. Catalogues published between January 1, 1983 and August 31, 1985 were eligible for these awards. Entry forms for the 1987 awards and additional information may be obtained from Sally Leach, Chair of the RBMS Committee for Awards for Exhibition Catalogues, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, P.O. Drawer 7219, Austin, TX 76713.

**FIRST DIVISION AWARD:** Renaissance Painting in Manuscripts: Treasures from the British Library (J. Paul Getty Museum). Honorable mention: Bookbinding in America, 1680-1910 (Bryn Mawr College Library); Nature Disclosed: Books from the Collection of the John Crerar Library Illustrating the History of Science (University of Chicago Library).

**SECOND DIVISION AWARD:** The Survivors: An Exhibition of Rare Russian Books (University of Illinois Library, Urbana-Champaign). Honorable mention: The Dark

Side of the Enlightenment (Houghton Library, Harvard University); Theories of the Earth, 1644-1830: The History of A Genre (Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, Missouri).

**THIRD DIVISION AWARD:** The Mikado: A Centenary Celebration (The Pierpont Morgan Library) and He Has Long Outlived His Century: The 200th Anniversary of Johnson's Death (Houghton Library, Harvard University). Honorable mention: James Joyce at 101 (McFarlane Library, University of Tulsa).

#### RBML ISSUE IS RELEASED

The first issue of Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship (otherwise known as RBML) is now available and is being mailed to subscribers. The editor, Ann Gwyn (c/o RBML, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 21210) encourages RBMS members to contribute articles for the journal. Paul S. Koda (School of Library and Information Science, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064) is interested in hearing from people who wish to contribute book reviews for the journal or who can suggest titles for review.

The first issue of RBML contains articles by Anna Lou Ashby ("RBMS: An Overview"), Terry Belanger ("Rare Books and Special Collections in American Libraries: Seeing the Sites"), Edwin Wolf II ("Creating an Image"), and Anthony Rota ("The Collecting of Twentieth-Century Manuscripts").

Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship (ISSN 0884-450X) is published twice yearly at 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. The annual subscription price is \$20.00 in the United States and Canada and \$25.00 for overseas subscriptions. All RBMS members need to support (and have their institutions support) this worthwhile journal publication.

#### OPEN HEARING FOR TRANSFER COMMITTEE

The New York City meeting of the Committee to Develop Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections will be open to the entire ALA membership. The Transfer Committee document, having been published as a draft in the summer 1985 issue of C & RL News, is nearing final approval; this meeting provides an opportunity for the membership in general to express its opinion regarding the draft document before its release in final form. Samuel A. Streit (Brown University) will chair the meeting.

**LOOKING TOWARDS SAN FRANCISCO**

The RBMS is already actively working out plans for what promises to be an outstanding preconference in the San Francisco Bay area. Stanford University has been selected as the site for the event with Michael Ryan, Curator of Special Collections at Stanford as the Local Arrangements Chair. An excursion into San Francisco is planned.

The theme of the preconference will be the non-traditional use by scholars of our materials--how our collections reflect or do not reflect trends in scholarship and the kinds of knowledge and attitudes necessary to deal with scholars today. The invited speakers will be both scholars and librarians. Samuel A. Streit (Brown University) is the Program Chair.

This newsletter will feature additional information on the theme, dates, and locale of the 1987 Preconference in its Fall, 1986 and Spring, 1987 issues.

**SCARF REPLEVIN SOUGHT**

A brown scarf with a blue and white decorative flower pattern was accidentally left at the RBMS Executive II Midwinter Meeting in Chicago this last January. The true owner of said scarf may place a claim to Donald Farren (301-454-4020), who is holding it in temporary custody at the University of Maryland.

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 18-21: RTSD Collection Management and Development Institute, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (contact: RTSD/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611).

June 14-24: American Antiquarian Society. 2nd Annual Seminar in the History of the Book in American Culture--"The American Common Reader: Printing, Entrepreneurship and Cultural Change, 1759-1840." (contact: John B. Hench, AAS, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA. 01609-1624 / 617-755-5221.

June 16: Columbia University Rare Book School commences its summer program. (contact: Rare Book School, School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 / 212-780-2292.

June 27: Preservation for Collection Managers Preconference; ALA, New York City (contact: RTSD/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611).

August 26-30: Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Chicago (contact: SAA, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605).

January 17-22, 1987: ALA Midwinter.

June 27-July 2, 1987: ALA Annual Conference, San Francisco.

**TRANSITIONS**

G. David Anderson assumed the position of Head of Archives and Special Collections at Colgate University. Steve Ayers has accepted a position with Kenneth Nebenzahl in Chicago. Alla Barabtarlo has been appointed Rare Book Cataloger at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Jeffrey Barr has joined the Retrospective Cataloging Project, New York Historical Society. Margaret Bielefeld has been appointed Assistant Librarian in the Poetry/Rare Books Department at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Louisa Bowen has been appointed University Archivist and Manuscripts Curator at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Nicholas C. Burkel became Director of Public Services and Collection Development at Washington University Libraries, St. Louis. Robert L. Byrd has been named Curator of Manuscripts at Duke University. Tom Camden has been named Director of Rare Books and Manuscripts of the University of Georgia Libraries. Stephen Cape is now cataloger of Rare Books and Special Collections at Indiana University. Inge Dupont, formerly Rare Book Cataloger at the New York Academy of Medicine, is now Supervisor of the Reading Room at The Pierpont Morgan Library. Rosalie Fawcett has accepted a position with Kenneth W. Rendell, Newton, Mass. Jane Folger is now with the rare book firm of Jonathan A. Hill in New York City. Rebecca G. Gibson is now Assistant Curator of Manuscripts in the Lilly Library, Indiana University. David B. Gracy II, former Texas State Archives Director, has joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin library school as Professor of Archives and Special Libraries. (Chris LaPlante is the new Director of the Texas State Archives.) Doris Hamburg has been named Head of the Paper Conservation Section at the Library of Congress. Blanche Jantzen, Assistant Special Collections Librarian at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, retired in December after nine years of service. Cheryl Jones has been appointed Rare Books Cataloger at the University of Delaware, Newark. Charles Kronick has joined the Manuscript Division, New York Public Library. Richard Lindemann has joined the staff of the University of

