

# 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*

NOVEMBER 1986

Number 6

## RBMS PREPARES FOR MIDWINTER

An extensive series of meetings are planned for the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section at the Chicago ALA Midwinter Conference this coming January. RBMS members will gather to work on a variety of projects and to discuss topics of mutual interest.

Recently a number of changes have occurred in the RBMS committee configuration, reflective of work accomplished and the changing needs of the membership. The Committee to Consider Guidelines for the Transfer of General Collections Materials to Special Collections (Samuel A. Streit, Chair) held an open hearing on a draft of the guidelines during the Annual Conference in New York City and then submitted its final version of the draft document (via the Standards Committee) to the RBMS Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has thanked the Transfer Committee for the successful completion of its charge and has forwarded the draft guidelines to the ACRL Committee on Standards and Accreditation. (Draft guidelines prepared previously by the Professional Ethics Committee are also under review by the ACRL Committee on Standards and Accreditation). The Curatorial Issues Raised by Conservation Committee was discharged in June 1986 and reconstituted as the Curators and Conservators Discussion Group, with Cathy Henderson, (University of Texas at Austin) as Chair. In June the name of the Tax-Deductible Gift Legislation Committee was changed to Legislative Information; William H. Keller (George Washington University) remains as Chair. Keller will convene this committee at Midwinter to evaluate the results of a survey of insti-

tutions regarding the implications of the tax reform acts of 1969, 1984, and 1986. The Manuscripts Committee has become a discussion group titled Manuscripts and Other Formats (see below for a report on this group's June, 1986 meeting). In a similar move, the MARC Cataloging for Special Collections Information Exchange Committee is now called the MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group; John B. Thomas III (University of Texas at Austin) continues to lead this group.

Noteworthy developments are occurring elsewhere in the committee work of the Section. The Guidelines for Borrowing Special Collections Materials for Exhibition Committee (Chair: Ellen Dunlap, Rosenbach Museum & Library) has decided that its work calls for a printed statement which brings to the attention of borrowers certain professional responsibilities they have in making requests that are well presented and will serve to help lending institutions expedite their requests. The committee is planning to submit an article on this topic to Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship. The Conservators' Collations Committee (Terry Belanger, Columbia University, Chair) will meet in Chicago to consider the results of a questionnaire recently distributed to conservators and curators and to prepare a first draft of guidelines slated for open hearing review at the June 1987 San Francisco Annual Conference or shortly thereafter. The 1987 Preconference Program Planning Committee (Sam Streit, Brown University, Chair) has met and has selected the topic "New Perspectives on Humanistic Research" for the June 1987 Preconference, which will be

RBMS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tentative Schedule for ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago  
January 17-19, 1987

Jan. 17th (Saturday)	9:30-11 AM	Exhibition Catalog Awards (closed) Security--Open Hearing on Guidelines
	11:30-12:30	Borrowing for Exhibition Conservators' Collations Journal Advisory Board
	2-4 PM	Legislative Information Standards (I)
	4:30-5:30	Continuing Education Curators & Conservators Discussion Group
	8-10 PM	Information Exchange
Jan. 18th (Sunday)	9:30-11 AM	Exhibition Catalog Awards (II) (closed) 1987 Preconference Program Planning
	11:30-12:30	Literary Rights Publications
	2-4 PM	Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group Security Standards (II)
	4:30-5:30	Executive (I)
Jan. 19th (Monday)	9-11 AM	Nominating (closed) 1988 Preconference Planning Standards (III)
	11:30-12:30	Executive II

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held at Stanford University. (Michael Ryan, Stanford University, is Local Arrangements Chair.) The committee will meet at Midwinter to perfect its plans. The Continuing Education Committee (Lynda Claassen, University of California at San Diego, Chair) received a report during the Annual Conference in New York City from Peter VanWingen on the pamphlet he drafted, "Some Questions and Answers about Rare Books and Values"; Lisa Browar (Vassar College) reported on a comparable publication about manuscripts. Fifteen topics have been suggested for seminars at the 1987 Preconference and the committee will pursue these ideas at Midwinter. The Exhibition Catalog Awards Committee (Sally Leach, University of Texas at Austin) will meet this coming January to evaluate thirty-five entries competing for awards for the period of September 1, 1985 to August 31, 1986. Information regarding the results of the first cycle of awards by this committee appears in the April 1986 issue of this newsletter. There is an article by Sally Leach on the origin of the exhibition catalog awards and the first round of selection, with a list of all catalogs submitted, in the Fall 1986 issue of Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship. The Literary Rights Committee (Thomas Verich, University of Mississippi, Chair) will continue its work on a draft of an informational pamphlet on literary rights and on a central registry of information about the holders of literary rights. The Publications Committee (James N. Green, Library Company of Philadelphia) is planning to discuss at Midwinter the prospects of publishing a membership directory for RBMS members; committee member Bill Joyce (Princeton University) is investigating this possibility. The Security Committee (David Zeidberg, University of California at Los Angeles) will hold an open hearing at the Midwinter meeting to receive reactions to the draft guidelines on security that is published in the November 1986 issue of C & RL News. RBMS members are encouraged to read the draft guidelines (containing information on what to do before and after a theft occurs and model state theft legislation), and to participate

in the open hearing, which is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. on the morning of Saturday, January 17. A subsequent meeting of the committee is planned at Midwinter on January 19. The Standards Committee (John Thomas III, University of Texas at Austin, Chair) has recently reviewed both the security and transfer guidelines mentioned above. At the June meetings in New York City, the committee gave a final look at three of its own thesauri: "Printing and Publishing," "Binding," and "Graphic Materials." It gave an initial review to the provenance thesaurus and approved some additions and changes to the published genre list. (These changes are to be published in C & RL News.) The committee will work on reviewing the ALA Guidelines on Manuscripts and Archives (1977) and the ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials. The committee plans to hold three meetings at Midwinter. Included in the meeting of the Journal Advisory Board (Ann S. Gwyn, Johns Hopkins University, is editor of Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship) will be consideration of the review of RBML by ACRL that is scheduled after the Spring 1987 issue is published. Recent discussions by the advisory board have centered on attracting submissions of articles to the journal and on design and binding problems. (For information on the second issue of the journal released earlier this fall, see "RBML Revisited" below.)

The ACRL Board has mandated a regular triennial review of units of ACRL in order to assure that units are active and are receiving necessary support from ACRL. In order to carry out this review the RBMS Executive Committee established a committee to review committees, composed of the two immediate past chairs of the Section (Anna Lou Ashby and Lynda Claassen) and Donald Farren (University of Maryland), current chair of RBMS. Chairs of RBMS committees and discussion groups were recently asked to consider these issues and to report any problems regarding communication, decision-making, or support within RBMS. Review of the results confirm current perceptions that RBMS is an active, productive, and well-functioning unit in ACRL.

### INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Susan Lemke will moderate the two-hour RBMS Information Exchange at Midwinter this coming January. The meeting is scheduled for 8-10 PM, Saturday, January 17th. The meeting is designed to promote informal sharing of information regarding projects and upcoming events, exhibitions, publications, etc. Susan would like you to let her know before the meeting the topics that you would like to report on. This information can be provided prior to the event in Chicago or by contacting Susan prior to Midwinter at Special Collections, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. 20319-6000 (202-475-1187).

### MANUSCRIPT GROUP DISCUSSIONS AT NEW YORK CITY: A REPORT

The RBMS Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group met at the ALA Annual Conference in New York City and explored a diverse number of topics covering all formats except rare books. In the spirit of reflecting such a broad interest, Elizabeth Betz Parker (Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress) was invited to give an informal presentation on the MARC-Visual Materials format.

Parker began by mentioning the source materials available and what titles were in revision. The "Thesaurus for Graphic Materials; Topical Terms ..." is the new title for the revision of Parker's 1980 "Subject Headings..." It will incorporate cataloger notes, term explanations, and an increased number of scope notes. The "Graphic Materials Manual" has been approved for use in the 650 field; the source code is "L.C.T.G.M." Parker made it clear that the manual will function as an adjunct to AACR II/Chapter 8, not as a substitute, as Hensen's manual does for the MARC/AMC format.

The goal of the "Graphic Materials Manual" is to conform to national standards and to reflect the subject access and documentary needs of the user. Parker emphasized that

the goal did not include the in-depth art/iconography requirements of visual art collections; it is the job of others to provide such access and it can be done within the parameters established by the MARC format.

Parker then announced the progress made in compiling "Thesaurus of Genre and Physical Characteristics Terms for Graphic Materials." Originally this project was begun by the RBMS Standards Committee, but recently the Library of Congress has taken it over and will produce the thesaurus in the Fall of 1986. Helena Zinkham is co-authoring this publication with Parker. Copies of both manuals can be obtained from the Cataloging Distribution Service, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. Parker assured the group that the new edition of the National Union Catalog for audio visual materials is coming out. The two issues due for 1986 will be produced by Fall 1986.

At the close of the meeting, the Chair of the Discussion Group, Robert Blesse (University of Nevada at Reno) mentioned a new manual, available from him, on the processing of architectural records.

The Manuscript and Other Formats Discussion Group will meet again at Midwinter; the meeting is open to anyone interested.

(Report submitted by Charlotte Brown, Franklin & Marshall College)

### NEW RBMS OFFICERS ELECTED; 1987 SLATE OF CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

ACRL has announced the 1986 election results, with the following RBMS members elected to terms beginning in the summer of 1986:

Vice-Chair/Chair-elect: Alice D. Schreyer (University of Delaware); Member-at-Large (1986-88 term): Susan Lemke (National Defense University); Member-at-Large (1986-89 term): James N. Green (Library Company of Philadelphia).

Other members of the RBMS Executive Committee are: Chair: Donald Farren (University of Maryland); Past Chair: Anna Lou Ashby (Pierpont Morgan Library); Secretary: Judith Singleton (University of California at River-

side); Member-at-Large (1984-87 term): Robert Nikirk (Grolier Club).

The following RBMS members have agreed to serve as nominees for the 1987 elections: for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Ellen Dunlap (Rosenbach Library and Museum) and William Joyce (Princeton University); for Secretary: Lisa Browar (Vassar College) and Philip Metzger (Lehigh University); and for Member-at-Large (1987-90 term), Dianne Chilmonczyk (Stanford University) and Cathy Henderson (University of Texas at Austin).

#### ESTC/NA HEADS WEST

The Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalog Project/North America has left Baton Rouge and has relocated at the University of California at Riverside. Henry L. Snyder and Judith Singleton remain in place as project and assistant project directors respectively.

ESTC/NA continues to receive grants from NEH and the Mellon Foundation and recently has been successful in obtaining matching funds from the Los Angeles-based Ahmanson Foundation. Ms. Singleton urges contributing libraries to finish the reporting of titles soon so that planned publication of a microfilm catalog can occur in 1989. The catalog will include all ESTC titles and information on holdings of ESTC titles in North America. It will offer an added opportunity for access to ESTC other than through the RLIN database.

Those interested in additional information on ESTC/NA developments may write or call Judith Singleton, ESTC/NA, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521 (714-787-5841).

#### RBML REVISITED

The second issue of Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship (otherwise known as RBML) has been released recently. Articles in this second issue are "The Rare Book Librarian's Day" (Daniel Traister), "Beyond the Guidelines, or Better Access to Access Projects" (Marcella Grendler), "Work-

flow for Processing Manuscripts in Automated Systems" (Margaret L. Kimball), "How the RBMS Exhibition Catalogue Awards Got from There to Here, from Then to Now" (Sally Leach) and "The Antiquarian Micro" (Joan Friedman). The journal issue also contains an extensive number of book reviews and notices on recently-published books of interest to the rare books/manuscripts readership.

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.

#### NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

Ann S. Gwyn (Johns Hopkins University) has been appointed to chair the 1988 New Orleans Preconference Program Committee. James N. Green (Library Company of Philadelphia) will chair the 1988 Conference Program Planning Committee. Anna Lou S. Ashby (Pierpont Morgan Library) is to chair the Nominating Committee which will select candidates for the Spring 1988 RBMS elections.

New liaisons to various other ALA organizations have been appointed: Nora J. Quinlan (University of Colorado) as Representative to Government Documents Round Table, Robert S. Martin (Louisiana State University) to the Map and Geography Round Table and Charlotte B. Brown (Franklin & Marshall College) as Representative to the RTSD Preservation of Library Materials Section. Stephen Ferguson (Princeton University) continues as RBMS Representative to the ACRL Board of Directors.

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO STANFORD AND SAN FRANCISCO

Plans are well underway for the 1987 RBMS Preconference, "New Perspectives on Humanistic Research," to be held at Stanford University, California, from Wednesday to Friday, June 24-26.

Wednesday presentations will focus on the context, and Thursday and

Friday on research in rare book librarianship. The program will include prominent scholars who are actively involved in research as well as curators of several major research institutions. There is a trip to San Francisco (located forty miles north of Stanford) planned for Thursday, and transportation to the airport and San Francisco will be available on Friday as the Preconference comes to a conclusion and the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco begins. Housing for the Preconference will be in recently-constructed Stanford University dorms. Michael Ryan (Stanford University) is the Local Arrangements Chair.

At the ALA Conference immediately following the Preconference, participants will have an opportunity on Sunday afternoon (June 27) to attend the 1987 RBMS Program titled "State of the Book Arts in the Bay Area." It will be co-sponsored with the Art Section and the English and American Literature Discussion Group of ACRL. The Program Chair, Martin Antonetti (Mills College) is working on what promises to be an outstanding event.

RBMS is also planning to co-sponsor a program at the 1987 ALA Conference with the Western European Subject Specialists Section (WESS). The program, scheduled for the evening of June 29th, is entitled "New Directions in Old World Research."

Additional information on the 1987 RBMS Preconference in Stanford and the ALA Conference in San Francisco will be forthcoming in the Spring 1987 issue of this newsletter.

#### APHA ACTIVITIES

The American Printing History Association held its 11th Annual Conference at Columbia University on September 27, 1986. The theme of the conference was "The Printing Surface." The speakers were Roderick Stinehour, Clifford Harvey, Edward A. Egerton-Williams, Philip J. Wimerskirch, and David Pankow. On November 6, 1986, Claire Van Vliet (Janus Press) delivered the first APHA J. Ben Lieberman Lecture at Mills College, Oakland, CA.

The Annual Meeting of APHA will be held on Saturday, January 24, 1987

at 2:00 PM in the Trustees' Room of the New York Public Library. At that time individual and institutional awards will be made for contributions to the field of printing history.

On September 26, 1987, APHA will hold its 12th Annual Conference; plans call for a day-long program of speakers on the general topic of government printing. David Heisser (Wessel Library at Tufts University), is program chair. For further information concerning the American Printing History Association, address inquiries to APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163.

#### NEW BOOK ARTS/CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin has announced plans to open an Institute of Fine Binding and Book Conservation in April of 1987. Institute program participants must be skilled binders or book conservators intent upon reaching the highest levels of their craft.

The Institute is being founded to provide a locus for beneficial interaction for recognized experts and qualified students. The intent is to encourage the perpetuation and development of the crafts of fine binding and book conservation. Two three-month sessions are planned for 1987, the first to begin in April with an emphasis on fine binding and the second to start in July with a focus on book conservation. The program will expand in 1988 to three sessions.

Interested and qualified applicants may request one of six positions available in either or, if appropriate, both 1987 sessions. Resumes and vitas may be sent to Frank Yezer, Conservation Department, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Drawer 7219, Austin, TX 78713-7219 (512-471-9117).

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The University of Alabama Graduate School of Library Service now offers a Master of Fine Arts in the Book Arts program. The emphasis is on developing craft skills based on historical principles and techniques rather than on artistic expression.

Students may select either the printing or binding curricula. Two academic years are required to complete the degree. Information may be obtained from Richard-Gabriel Rummonds, Director, Institute for the Book Arts, University of Alabama, Graduate School of Library Service, P.O. Box 6242, University, AL 35486.

A new book arts program has also been inaugurated at Occidental College, Los Angeles, California. Current college librarian Tyrus G. Harmson, who has been named director of the program and professor of bibliography, wants to involve students in all aspects of the craft of book making, including learning how to operate the College's two antique printing presses.

For further information, contact Robert H. Berger, Public Information Office, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041 (213-259-2677).

#### "SPECIAL COLLECTIONS IN COLLEGE LIBRARIES" NOW AVAILABLE

Librarians considering expanding or refining special collections will want to consider ordering "Special Collections in College Libraries," the latest addition to the CLIP (College Library Information Packet) Notes series published by ACRL.

Compiled by Christine Erdmann (Beliot College), the publication documents formulation of special collections policies and covers other topics including publicity, financial support, archives, preservation and use policies.

Copies may be ordered from ALA Publications Services, Order Department, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. The 97-page book is \$18.00 (\$15.00 to ACRL members).

#### TRANSITIONS

Whitney Bagnall has been appointed Head of Special Collections at the Columbia University Law Library, New York. Phyllis Ball, first Head of Special Collections Department at the University of Arizona, has retired after over forty years of service at

that institution. Katharine Boyd, a graduate of the School of Library Service, Columbia University, is now employed in the History Division of the National Library of Medicine. Pat Bozeman is now Head of Special Collections at the University of Houston. Karl Buchberg has been appointed Paper Conservator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. He was formerly at Princeton University. Timothy Cary, former Assistant Curator of Special Collections at the University of Alabama, has joined the faculty of the State University of New York at Stony Brook as Assistant Special Collections Librarian. Erica S. Chadbourn, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives in the Harvard University Law School, has retired after nineteen years of service. Richard Clement has been appointed Assistant Special Collections Librarian at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Jeffersonian scholar and legal historian Charles T. Cullen has been named President of the Newberry Library, Chicago. Susan W. Davis has been appointed Preservation Librarian in Special Collections at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee. Ralph Draughon is the new Curator of Manuscripts at The Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans. J. M. Edelstein, having recently been awarded a Guggenheim fellowship to prepare a bibliography of Harry Duncan's Cummington Press and Abattoir Editions, is also leaving the National Gallery of Art after fourteen years as Chief Librarian to become Senior Bibliographer and Resource Coordinator at The Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, Santa Monica, California. James Fox, formerly at SLS, Columbia University, is now Rare Book Cataloger at Yale University Library. Evelyn Frangakis has joined the staff of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia as its Field Services Officer. She previously worked in the Preservation Office, Rutgers University Libraries, and the Archives of Franklin & Marshall College. Isaac Gewirtz, formerly a librarian at the Jewish Division, New York Public Library, is now in the Rare Book Division of that institution. Diana Grimwood-Jones has been appointed National Preservation Officer at the

British Library. Sam Hammond has been appointed Assistant Curator of Rare Books at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Steven L. Hensen, formerly Senior Manuscript Cataloger, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, has accepted the position of Assistant Curator for Technical Services in the Manuscript Department at Duke University. Gary A. Hunt has been appointed Associate Director of Libraries for Subject and Special Collections at Ohio University, Athens. Neil Jacobowitz has been appointed Rare Book Cataloger at the Columbia University Libraries. Katharine Johnson, '86 graduate of SLS, Columbia University, is now in the Prints and Photographs Division of New York Public. Anne R. Kenney has left her position as Associate Director of the Western Historical Manuscript Collection in St. Louis to edit the Dr. Thomas A. Dooley Papers in New York. Marion G. McGuinn has been appointed Rare Book Librarian at the Washington University School of Medicine Library, St. Louis. Timothy D. Pyatt is now Rare Book Librarian at the University of Oregon. Cynthia Reguardt, previously at the Maryland Jewish Historical Society, is now Manuscripts Librarian in the Special Collections Department, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University. Glen Ruzicka, formerly Senior Conservator/Rare Bookbinder at

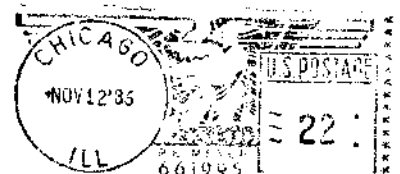
the Library of Congress, is now Collectons Maintenance Officer at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University. Sheila Ryan has been named Curator of Manuscripts at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She was formerly the Curator of the Goodman Theatre Archives at Chicago Public Library. Joe Springer, previously Assistant Special Collections Librarian at Spencer Library, University of Kansas, is now Curator of the Mennonite Historical Library, Goshen College, Indiana. Victoria Steele has resigned her position as Head, History & Special Collections Division, Biomedical Library, UCLA, to become Director of Development, UCLA Research Libraries and Graduate School of Library and Information Science. David G. Vaisey was recently appointed Librarian of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, England. He formerly served as Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian. David Warrington has left his post as Head of Reference in the Lilly Library, Indiana University, and is now Assistant Librarian for Special Collections in the Law School Library, Harvard University. Layne Wool-schlager, formerly Manuscripts Curator at the Oregon Historical Society, has joined the staff of the Oregon State Archives as Deputy State Archivist.

Deadline for Spring, 1987 Issue: March 15

RBMS Newsletter

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