

RBMS Newsletter

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Preconference in North Carolina

"Keeping the Facts in Artifacts: Conserving the Physical Evidence of Special Collections Materials and its Impact on Research" is the theme of the 32nd Annual Preconference sponsored by RBMS. It will be held in Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina, June 25-28, 1991.

Topics to be discussed are current conservation practices, the history of American library conservation, the uses of book-binding history, and the research potential of the physical evidence of books. Speakers will be Nicholas Pickwood, Barbara Buckner Higgenbotham, Carolyn Clark Morrow, John Townsend, Margaret Child, Jan Paris, and Michael Winship. Additional seminars will address such issues as remote storage, library friends' groups, the use of special collections by undergraduates, reference materials for teaching the history of the book, in-house guides to special collections, the preservation of rare government documents, collecting popular culture, and security. There will be reports on ESTC, ISTC, and North Carolina special collections as well as the Blumberg theft case. There will be a workshop on the revision of BDRB.

On Tuesday, June 25, there will be an RBMS orientation session and tours of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and its libraries as well as a reception at the Preconference headquarters, the Carolina Inn at Chapel Hill. This last event will be sponsored by the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America. Wednesday is first full day of the conference ending with an evening reception and authentic North Carolina barbeque on the lawn at the University. On Thursday, June 27th the Preconference will move from UNC to Duke. During the evening a reception sponsored by Duke University Libraries and Special Collections will be held in the distinctive Gothic Reading Room in the Perkins Library.

The cost of the Preconference is \$125 for ACRL members and \$175 for non-members. Cost includes entry to all plenary sessions and seminars, the receptions, bus trip to Duke, three lunches, and the barbeque. For a brochure including more details of the Preconference, a schedule of events, housing and travel information as well as a registration form, write RBMS Preconference, ACRL/ALA, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611 (800-545-2433). Registration is limited to the first 250 and applications should be received by May 24. Late registration is available on a space-available basis for an additional cost of \$25 per person.

The Chair of the Preconference Planning Committee is David Zeidburg, (Special Collections, UCLA). The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee are Charles McNamara from UNC and Suzy Taraba from Duke.

RBMS Program at 1991 Annual

The topic of RBMS's Program at Annual Conference is "Scholarly Editing Projects in Libraries." Many research libraries house projects that are essentially scholarly in nature, with editorial offices producing printed and microform editions of the works of historical and literary

figures. Three librarians and two project heads will discuss the benefits and disadvantages of locating scholarly editions in libraries. The Program, chaired by Elizabeth Witherell of the University of California, Santa Barbara, will be on Sunday, June 30, 1991 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. It will be followed by the presentation of the Leab Exhibition Catalogue Awards from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Important note: Information Exchange will be at 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. following the Awards' presentation. This is a change from previous Information Exchanges, usually held on Saturday evening. If you have any news you would like to report, but will be unable to attend the meeting, please contact the Chair of Information Exchange, Charlotte Brown, Archives and Special Collections Dept., Shadok-Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003; 717-291-4225.

Committee News

The 1992 Preconference is being organized by Robert Martin (LSU) and Sid Huttner (Tulsa). In January, 1991 they selected the University of California, Santa Cruz, as the Preconference site (proximate to the ALA annual conference at San Francisco.) The subject of the conference will be special collections and scholarly communication. The dates are June 23-26, 1992. John Hoover (St. Louis Mercantile Library) has been appointed RBMS Archivist to create procedures for the establishment of the RBMS Archives at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, where ALA's archives are kept. The Gifts and Appraisal Brochure Committee, ad hoc (Chair: Steve Ferguson, Princeton) was discharged at Midwinter, having fulfilled as much of its charge as practical. The Internship Committee, ad hoc (Chair: Philip Metzger, Lehigh) has been renamed the Committee on Postgraduate Internships and Residences, ad hoc to avoid confusion about its intended targeted group. Sid Berger (UC, Riverside), chair of the Curators and Conservators Discussion Group distributed at Midwinter a draft list of committee discussion topics. He asked that those with additions, suggestions, etc. contact him at Special Collections Department, Rivera Library, University of California at Riverside, POB 5900, Riverside, California 92517. ☎ 714-787-3233. Responses will be tabulated, evaluated, and instrumental for guiding the discussions at the future meetings. The Bibliographic Standards Committee (Chair: Laura Stalker, ESTC) is about to complete its two current projects: the second edition of its *Genre Terms* thesaurus and the revision (in collaboration with the Library of Congress) of *Bibliographic Description of Rare Books*. Both publications should be available by the 1991 annual conference. The BDRB revision project is described in more detail elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. At its midwinter meetings, the Committee also decided to start work on two new projects: the compilation of a handbook of examples to accompany the new edition of the rare book cataloguing rules, and the preparation of a new edition of *Standard Citation Forms for Rare Book Cataloging* (1982), again in collaboration with the Library of Congress.

Security News

At Midwinter, the Security Committee (Chair: Gary Menges,

University of Washington) continued its exploration of the provision of an online database of valuable stolen books through a national bibliographic utility; two senior OCLC staff members and a representative of ABAA attended the committee meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, OCLC decided to mount the OCLC inventory of stolen books confiscated by the FBI and used as evidence in the Stephen C. Blumberg trial as an OCLC EPIC database. The database became available on March 9 and is the first step towards the development of a broader database of stolen books.

Stephen Blumberg went to trial in Des Moines on January 23 and on January 31 was found guilty of four counts of possessing and transporting stolen property. He will be sentenced on April 26.

At the Society of American Archivists' Annual Conference in September, there will be a program on "Insider Theft." Participants will include RBMS members, Daniel Traister (University of Pennsylvania) and Ellen Dunlap (Rosenbach Museum and Library).

April 1991 Elections

The following RBMS members are nominees in the 1991 elections:

For Chair:

Gary Menges (University of Washington)

Michael Ryan (Stanford University)

For Member-at-Large, 1991-1994 term:

Nancy Burkett (American Antiquarian Society)

Kathryn Morgan (University of Virginia)

For Secretary:

Janice Mathlessen (UCLA)

Elizabeth Johnson (Lilly Library)

Schedule for RBMS meetings at Annual Conference

(tentative)

• Saturday (June 29)

Throughout the morning and afternoon, RBMS Committee meetings running concurrently. More details perhaps in a forthcoming *C&RL News*.

• Sunday (June 30)

Throughout the morning, RBMS Committee meetings running concurrently. (More details perhaps in a forthcoming *C&RL News*.)

11:30 am - 12:30 pm: Executive I

2-5:30 pm: Program meeting, Exhibition Awards, Information Exchange

• Monday (July 1)

9 am - 12:30 pm: Executive II



AWARDS

The following are the Katherine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab *American Book Prices Current* Exhibition Catalogue Awards winners for 1991:

DIVISION I, 1ST PLACE:

"Stephen Harvard: A Life in Letters" • Houghton Library, Harvard University

DIVISION II, 1ST PLACE:

"The Face of the Moon: Galileo to Apollo" • Linda Hall Library

DIVISION III, 1ST PLACE:

"Fifteenth Century Italian Woodcuts from Biblioteca Classense, Ravenna" • Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto

DIVISION I, HONORABLE MENTION:

"Encyclopedism from Pliny to Borges" • Special Collections, University of Chicago Library

DIVISION II, HONORABLE MENTION (TIE):

"Thomas Merton: the Poet and the Contemplative Life" •

Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University

"Why is This Night Different? Passover Haggadot from the Stephen P.

Durchslag Collection" • Northwestern University Library

DIVISION III, HONORABLE MENTION:

"On the Edge of the War Zone: Women Writers and World War I" •

Special Collection, McFarlin Library,

University of Tulsa

Special recognition will be given to each of this year's seven winners at the RBMS Exhibition Catalogue Awards presentation on Sunday, June 30, 1991 at 4:00 p.m. at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Atlanta, immediately following the RBMS Annual Conference Program meeting. For further information contact Pat Bozeman, chair, Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee, Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries, Houston TX 77204-2091. • 713/749-2726 or FAX 713/749-3867.

RBMS Publications offered at discount!

The list of RBMS's publications gets longer and longer every year. Many of us try to keep up with purchasing them when they are issued, filling in gaps as we discover them. To facilitate the purchase of all RBMS related publications - for both new RBMS members and old - they are being packaged as two packets that can be bought together or separately. The two packets are as follows:

PACKET 1: RBMS Documents (eight items)

- ACRL Guidelines for the Security of Rare Book, Manuscript, and other Special Collections (1990)
- ACRL Standards for Ethical Conduct for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Libraries (1987; revision in process)
- ACRL/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials (1979; revision in process)
- Guidelines for Borrowing Special Collections Materials for Exhibition (1990)
- Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections (1987)
- Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries (1988)
- *Your Old Books* by Peter VanWingen (1988)
- Relator Terms (1987)

PACKET 2: ACRL Thesauri (five items)

[Pre-pack ISBN 0-8389-7513-5]

- Binding Terms (1988) • Paper Terms (1990) • Printing and Publishing Evidence (1986) • Provenance Evidence (1988) • Type Evidence (1990)

PACKET 1 is available at the discounted price of \$6. PACKET 2 is available at the discounted price of \$30. To purchase either one or both, send checks to ACRL/ALA, Publications, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. *Notes:* At the time the *Newsletter* went to press, the 2nd edition of the *Genre Terms* thesauri was in the final stages of revision, so the packet does not include it. It will be included in Packet 2 at a later time, with a revised total cost for the enlarged packet. The new edition *Genre Terms* will be available at this summer's Annual Conference. Also, the *ACRL Guidelines on Manuscripts and Archives* are in the process of being revised.

RBMS Liaison to ALCTS/Preservation of Library Materials Section (PLMS)

Within the past five years or so, the Preservation of Library Materials Section has been one of the fastest growing within ALA. It is a section which shares many concerns and interests of RBMS members. Because of this growth, PLMS has all it can handle to keep its organizational structure coherent and functioning. As a result, PLMS sometimes loses sight of the mutual concerns among Sections and of others who are able to assist them in meeting their goals. To this purpose, the PLMS liaison has an opportunity to assist both Sections. Following are reports on some of PLMS activities at Midwinter, from Charlotte Brown, PLMS liaison to RBMS.

PLMS Discussion Group

The Discussion Group is PLMS' equivalent to the RBMS Information Exchange Committee. Representatives from ARL, IFLA, NEH, SOLINET, etc. regularly offer summaries of preservation news and activities. At Midwinter, ARL reported that the Wilson Foundation has funded the creation of descriptive models for various preservation programs, depending upon the size of the collections. These models are due to be published in June 1991. ARL is also revising the enhancement of the preservation program self-study manuals. NEH announced the funding of two additional statewide preservation planning programs: Maine and Rhode Island. These states join Massachusetts, Nebraska and North Carolina as the first to receive such planning grants. All of these states submitted proposals which coordinate their preservation planning among the state library, the state archives, and major collections repositories. As a result, preservation planning is not only aimed at general collections residing in academic libraries, but will include special collections and archival materials and materials housed in public and governmental libraries as well.

PLMS/Preservation Administrators Discussion Group

At least 100 persons attended this semi-annual forum wherein administrators bring their colleagues up to date on institutional preservation programs. One area of concern was the absence of activity in the preservation of scientific literature and corresponding archival/special collections materials, especially on the part of the Commission on Preservation and Access and the National Science Foundation. The creation of budget lines for mass deacidification was also discussed. Northwestern University, by example, stating that it now budgets \$30,000 per year for deacidification.

PLMS Policy and Planning Committee

A newly completed reorganization of PLMS' structure created the Policy and Planning Committee. Their charge is to semi-annually review and revise the goals of every PLMS committee and to coordinate those goals with the ALCTS planning process. In short, if you attend the committee's meetings, you get a reliable summary of the Sections' activities. "Stressed-out" was the phrase that characterized those who attended this meeting, but they got the job done!

NOTE: RBMS members who are interested in coordinating the coverage of PLMS meetings should contact Charlotte B. Brown, PLMS Liaison, Franklin and Marshall College PO-Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604-5003; ☎ 717-291-4225.

Calendar of Events

May 3-4 - MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference) Annual Conference in Wilmington, DE.; theme is "Ethics, Security and the Law," addressing such issues as copyright, legal and ethical issues of collecting personal papers, scholarly ethics, and

archive thefts. Speakers include John Rothman (NY Times), Lisa Brower (NYPL), Roger Stoddard (Harvard), and Ron Lieberman (Rare Book Consultant and Dealer). For details/registration packet write: Max Yela, Chair of Local Arrangement/MARAC, c/o Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE 19717-5267; 302-451-6952.

May 9-11 - Modern Archives Institute: Training at the National Archives for those interested in entering the archives field. Contact: John Vernor, Office of Public Programs, Exhibits and Educational Programs, Division, Washington, D.C. 20408.

May 9-21 Western Archives Institute: University of California, Berkeley. An intensive introduction to modern archival theory and practice. Tuition \$400. Application deadline, April 1. Contact: Laren Metzger, Western Archives Institute, 1020 "O" Street, Room 130, Sacramento, Ca 95814.

May 15-19 - Society of California Archivists 20th Anniversary Annual General Meeting will be held in Concord, CA. (Contact: Sue Hodson, SCA Vice President, Telegraph Ave. & Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94720-1111; 818-405-2205)

June 3-8 - American Institute of Conservation 19th Annual Meeting in Albuquerque (Contact: Sara Wolf Green, AIC Vice-President and Program Chair, The Textile Museum, 2320 S St., NW, Washington, DC 20008; 202-667-0441)

June 25-28 - RBMS Pre-Conference, North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

June 28 - ALA Preconference workshop "Preservation Filming: Getting Started and Keeping It Going" sponsored by ALCTS, in Atlanta (Contact: Yvonne A. McLean, ALCTS/ALA, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611; 800-545-2433 x5035)

June 29-July 4 - ALA Annual Convention, Atlanta, Georgia

June 30 - Program "Knowing the Score: Preserving Collections of Music" will be held during ALA's Annual Conference; cosponsored by MLA, PLA, RBMS, and PLMS.

July 7-12 - Course in Descriptive Bibliography (Noncredit), offered at Indiana University, Bloomington, by the IU School of Continuing Studies and the Lilly Library. Tuition: \$330. (Contact: Alice Fleming, School of Continuing Studies, Owen Hall 204, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405; 812-855-6329; FAX 812-855-8997)

July 14-19: Reference Sources for Rare Books: A noncredit course offered by the Lilly Library in cooperation with the School of Continuing Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington. (Contact Alice Fleming at address above.)

July 8 - Aug. 2 - Columbia Rare Book School, in New York City (For a list of courses and application forms contact: Rare Book School, School of library Service, 516 Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027; 212-854-4734)

Aug. 18-24 - IFLA Annual Conference in Moscow (Contact: P.O. Box 95312, 2509 CH, The Hague, Netherlands)

Sept. 25-29 - Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, in Philadelphia (Contact: Jane Kenamore, SAA, 600 Federal St., Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605; 312-922-0140)

Jan. 25-30, 1992 - ALA Midwinter Meeting, in San Antonio (Contact: ALA at address above)

Publications

A limited number of *A Compilation of Exhibition Catalogues, 1986-1990: a Fifth Anniversary Keepsake*, comprising a complete list of catalogues submitted in competition for the Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Awards, are still available for free from the Chair of the *Awards Committee*, Pat Bozeman (c/o Special Collections, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-2091).

The report and background papers of the Working Group on Standards for Archival Description have been published in two issues of the *American Archivist*. "Archival Description Standards: Establishing a Process for Their Development and Implementation" comprises 106 pages of the Fall 1989 issue (Vol. 52, no. 4). It contains the complete report of the Working Group and seventeen specific recommendations to the archival community; supplementary materials published along with the report include a checklist of more than 100 technical standards and guidelines currently employed in archival description. An additional ten background papers prepared by members of the Working Group have been published in the Winter 1990 issue (Vol. 53, no. 1). Single copies of either of these issues of the *American Archivist* can be purchased for \$15.00 plus \$3.25 shipping and handling (both for \$25.00 plus \$4.75 s & h) from the SAA, 600 South Federal St., Suite 504, Chicago IL 60605.

Robert DeCandido devotes two installments of his *Conservation*

Administration Newsletter column "Out of the Question" to the problem of packing books for shipment to other libraries on interlibrary loan (in No. 43, Oct. 1990 and No. 44, Jan 1991).

The National Endowment for the Humanities (Division of Research Programs/ Reference Materials Program) has compiled a 75 page list of all awards given in the field of research and access from 1976 to 1990. These awards fall into such subject fields as Archeology, Art and Architecture, Folklore, History, Music, and Theater. They are listed by name of recipient, followed by affiliated institution, subject of research, and year awarded. If interested in obtaining this list write: Reference Materials Program/Access Projects, Division of Research Programs, Room 318, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20506; 202-786-0358. (Note: Grant deadline of interest. By September 1 for projects to begin after July 1, 1992: NEH Reference Materials program supports projects that organize essential resources for scholarship and improve access to information and collections. Awards are made in two categories: Tools and Access. (Tools: dictionaries, historical atlases, encyclopedias, concordances, etc; Access includes archival arrangement and description, bibliographies, records surveys, cataloguing projects for prints, graphic, film, etc.) For more information: Reference Materials at above address.)

Rare Book Cataloguing in the British Isles (BL Research Paper 94; ISBN 0-7123-3253-7; 53 p.), by Ann Lennon and David Pearson, is the result of an extensive survey conducted over the past few years to determine current practices in rare book cataloguing, with particular emphasis on the descriptive codes used and the impact of automation. The survey found that there is considerable diversity of practice and the need for improved codes, including UKMARC. The results of the survey will be of interest to anyone involved in the creation or exchange of catalogue records. The survey was carried out on behalf of the Rare Books Group of the Library Association and is available for £10.00 from the British Library Publications Sales Unit, Boston Spa, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7BQ, UK.

"Intellectual Access to Graphic Information" is the title of the Spring 1990 issue of *Library Trends*, edited by Mark E. Rorvig. Included are a number of articles on control and access of graphic collections through the use of various computerized systems and a description of the on-line *Art and Architecture Thesaurus* available through RLIN.

Collections Care: A Selected Bibliography, a project of the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property (NIC), lists related material which is annotated by national experts and includes ordering information. 119 p. \$15. for nonmembers + \$5. postage from NIC, 3299 K St., NW, Suite 403, Washington, DC; 202-625-1495.

Preservation Education Directory, 6th ed., tells where preservation is being taught in library schools in the US. ISBN 0-8389-7422-8. Available from ALA's Order Dept., 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Archives and You: The Benefits of Historical Records, a booklet published by the New York State Archives and Records Administration (12 pages, October 1990) helps to explain the fundamentals of historical records to a general audience. A free copy may be obtained from Terri Sewell, State Archives and Records Administration, 10A46 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

Guide to the Library Binding Institute Standard for Library Binding by Jan Merrill-Oldham and Paul Parisi (62 pages, October 1990) Copies are available for \$17.50 from the ALA Order Department, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Preserving Knowledge: The Case for Alkaline Paper (August 1990) has been issued as a revision of the ARL Briefing Package no. 3.

Copeis may be ordered for \$18 from ARL, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036

Now in process: The National Information Standards' Organization (NISO) has formed a Standards Committee MM on Environmental Conditions for the Exhibition of Library and Archival Materials to formulate written standards. This committee is currently working on a draft outline for what those standards would include and will finalize that outline at AIC's Annual Meeting in June.

The next issue of *Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship* will be a special issue devoted to MARC cataloging for Medieval Manuscripts. The guest editor is Hope Mayo of the Pierpont Morgan Library. The issue should appear in July. As a reminder, *RBML* subscriptions (\$25.00 for two issues) are available by contacting ALA Headquarters, Subscription Department, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Ill. 60611. ☎ 800 545-2433 ext. 1545.

BDRB Revised

by Jackie Dooley (UCSD), BDRB revision coordinator for the RBMS

The second edition of the Library of Congress rare book cataloging rules, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books*, is inching its way toward publication and will be available from LC's Cataloging Distribution Service sometime before the ALA Conference this June. As *RBMS Newsletter* readers are aware, the revision has been a joint effort of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee and the Library of Congress.

Here are some of the ways in which *DCRB* will be different from our old friend *BDRB*:

- To match the title change, LC has assigned a new cataloging rules code, "dcrb", for use in USMARC field 040, subfield e. The old code ("bdrb") will be obsolete. The new code is not to be used until *DCRB* is available.
- There will be an index, prepared by David Rich of Brown University (his *BDRB* index was published separately by the John Carter Brown Library in 1987).
- There will be six new appendices: on title added entries, transcription of early letter forms, minimal-level cataloging, use of the "dcrb" code in 040 \$e, rare serials, and a concordance between *DCRB* and AACR2 rule numbers.
- The *BDRB* appendix of ten examples has been dropped due to lack of time to do justice to a revised set of examples. The Bibliographic Standards Committee agreed at Midwinter that publication of a compendium of examples is its highest priority, so the gap will be filled, and in much more depth than would have been feasible within the covers of the rules.
- Extensive changes have been to the rules themselves. Many changes are simply to correct errors or improve the readability and organization of the rules, but others will result in changes to catalog records. The Preface to the 2nd edition will list some of the more significant changes.

The Bibliographic Standards Committee has plans for disseminating information about the revised rules in order to help catalogers become familiar with *DCRB*. These include presentation of a workshop at the RBMS Preconference in Chapel Hill this June and publication of one or more articles in the library literature.

Video

Shedding Light on the Case, a 15 minute video tape on the techniques of exhibition installation, has just been released by Columbia University Libraries. Produced by the Preservation Division of the Libraries and funded by the New York State Coordinated Preservation Projects

Program, the video uses professional actors playing the roles of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to demonstrate the proper techniques for installing books and other archival materials. Holmes and Watson plan and install an exhibition of Holmes's famous cases; through their lively interchange they highlight many important aspects of displaying books and other works on paper in a conservationally sound manner. The video tape, with its accompanying explanatory pamphlet, is intended for those individuals in small institutions, or for those with small budgets, who are responsible for planning and mounting temporary exhibitions. *Shedding Light on the Case* is a sequel to the video *Murder in the Stacks* (1987), in which Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson engage in a dialogue on the proper handling of books. Both video tapes are available for \$35 each (all orders must be prepaid), including postage and handling from: Gifts & Exchange, Columbia University Libraries, 535 W. 114th St., Room 104, New York, NY 10027.

Legislation on Permanent paper

The House passed its version of legislation to establish a national policy on permanent papers in September. S.J. Res. 57, introduced by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-RI), was signed into law (PL 101-423) on October 12. President Bush issued a short statement in which he said the measure "brings to public attention the fact that future generations of Americans will lose access to documents of enduring value unless we take action."

ISTC now on RLIN

Following news of the British Library's Incunabula Short Title Catalogue in *RBMS Newsletters* 13 and 14, the American Editor, Martin Davies, reports on recent developments:

After some delay, all the ISTC records were loaded into the RLIN Books file in December 1990 and monthly tapes keep the American network abreast of the central database in London. ISTC includes all the US locations recorded in Goff's Census of Incunabula in American Libraries and amendments made in the light of an active program to bring the Census up to date - copies in the hands of dealers and booksellers are no longer retained and are gradually being erased. Headings, bibliographical references and the codes of holding libraries are as in Goff, and so do not always correspond to the forms commonly used elsewhere in the RLIN Books file. The location field in RLIN runs together all the national fields used by ISTC, which adopts the form prescribed by union catalogs of the country concerned; these are generally a good deal more perspicuous than the codes in Goff and should not cause problems of identification. At some point in the summer of 1991 ISTC will begin to incorporate records of a major microfilming project being undertaken by Research Publications in conjunction with the British Library; the first two batches will concern printing at Mainz and the classics in vernacular translation.

There are now some 24,400 incunabula editions recorded in the database, out of an estimated total of 28-30,000. Work on the largest British collections, including our own and those of Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester Universities, is now complete. The major Paris collections, so far as they are catalogued, are now being systematically entered, as are those of the Royal Library at Copenhagen and the National Library of Finland. The German census based at Munich, which is organised as a satellite of the London project, has had a very satisfactory first year of operation with some 10,000 German locations so far entered and several hundred new editions registered. Plans are in hand for an adaptation of the Munich system to enable us to take in all current locations of incunabula in Italy, in concert with the Biblioteca

Nazionale Centrale in Rome. The Vatican incunabula catalogue in machine-readable form is all but complete, and we should be able to enter it in its entirety in the coming year. The union catalogue of Spain has now appeared, and that too (being held on computer tape) may be suitable for wholesale incorporation in due course. There is therefore good hope of reasonably complete coverage of fifteenth-century editions within the next few years. American librarians who know of acquisitions - or, God forbid, 'deaccessions' - made since Goff's Census, or of inaccuracies in the Census itself, are invited to notify them directly to Martin Davies, Incunabula, The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, UK.

EXLIBRIS

The electronic bulletin board EXLIBRIS now has over 220 subscribers. Recent topics have been curatorial or bibliographical in character. You may subscribe by sending a message to exlibris-request@zodiac.rutgers.edu (do NOT send such messages directly to the ExLibris list or to this author) with a subject indicating subscription request ("Subscription request" would do just fine) and a text which gives your name and electronic address. Give the address in as full a form as you can (i.e. include the domain), e.g.

Firstname J. Lastname address@node.domain.edu OR

Firstname J. Lastname address@nodename.bitnet etc. etc.

You may UNSUBSCRIBE by sending the request to the same address.

Messages may be sent to the discussion group by e-mailing to: exlibris@zodiac.rutgers.edu ExLibris is an unmoderated news and discussion group for the purpose of discussing matters related to rare book and manuscript librarianship, including special collections and related issues. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to subscribe. The contents are archived and will be printed off at a future date for hard-copy donation to an appropriate collection. The full membership will be circulated from time to time unless objections are heard.

Please be aware that your local system REPLY mechanism may or may not direct your message to ExLibris; it may only go to the email address attached to the message you are replying to. In such a case (you'll be able to see) you should MAIL to ExLibris rather than REPLYing to the message. It is considered a courtesy to include your name/institution at the top of your message for identification (our e-mail addresses are often a bit terse).

This discussion group has been set up and is maintained through the good offices of staff members of Rutgers University Computing Services at Rutgers -- The State University of New Jersey. Rutgers reserves the right to discontinue or modify this service for any reason.

Library Conservation e-mail

Walter Henry at Stanford is conducting an e-mail bulletin board similar to ExLibris. It's called *Cons DistList*. He also maintains an online directory of e-mail addresses of conservation professionals as well as a library of online text files relevant to conservation, known *The FileList*. For details, write him at: whenry@lindy.stanford.edu or telephone 415-725-1140. He can also supply details about how to be part of the discussion if you are on one of the commercial networks, such as CompuServe, Genie, or MCIMail.

Wisconsin Conference

From Barbara Tetenbaum, Silver Buckle Press UW-Madison.

"The Silver Buckle Press (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries) has received a grant to host a one-day conference 'to examine the book historically & discuss its future within the context of current changes in

electronic communications.' I hope to bring two or three speakers: one to present an illustrated talk on the history of the book, another to address current trends in book production and the book arts, and a third to speak about the state-of-the-art electronic interactive technology and the "library of the future." There will be on-campus displays and demonstrations as well as time for participant discussion. It will probably occur in September of 1991. My email address is: joebeets@wiscnacc.bitnet or a letter can be sent c/o Silver Buckle Press :: 1191 College Library 600 N. Park St. :: Madison, WI :: 53706 or phone me (608)263-4929."

Wellcome records on OCLC

The collections of the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, located in London, England, will be converted to machine-readable form by the OCLC Retrospective Conversion Division over the next year. The Institute has the largest and most comprehensive European collection of the history of medicine, containing more than 4000,000 printed books dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries. Included will be 66,500 titles in the Institute's Early Printed Books Collection, which contains more than 600 incunabula and also includes early printed medical books in English and books of the continental scientific renaissance in a variety of Roman alphabet languages. Subjects in the collection range from anatomy to herbal remedies. Eileen Yandolino of OCLC estimates that approximately 39% of the collection will be added as new records to the OCLC Online Union Catalog.

Special Collections Libraries Launch Collaborative Venture

The Pew Charitable Trusts have awarded a grant of \$2.77 million for a collaborative venture to improve access to important holdings of rare books, manuscripts, archives, films, photographs, and drawings in sixteen Philadelphia-area research libraries. This landmark project, called the "Initiative for the 1990s," is being undertaken by the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries.

Planned as a five-year project, the "Initiative" will result in the addition of a quarter-million computerized descriptions of holdings in Philadelphia libraries to the world-wide electronic cataloguing networks -- On-Line Computer Library Center (OCLC) and Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). The Pew grant, which is being matched by \$1.38 million from other private, public, and institutional sources, will underwrite expenses of staff and automation equipment in the project's first three years. Stephen Zletz has been appointed coordinator of the project.

Libraries participating in the "Initiative" project collectively hold an estimated 2.5 million printed volumes; 50 million manuscripts; and 20 million historical photographs, prints, maps, drawings, and works of art. Member libraries of the Consortium include the Academy of Natural Sciences, American Philosophical Society, Annenberg Research Institute, Athenaeum of Philadelphia, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Library Company of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Historical Association, Rosenbach Museum & Library, Ryan Memorial Library of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, and the rare books and special collections departments of Bryn Mawr College Library, Free Library of Philadelphia, Haverford College Library, Swarthmore College Libraries, Temple University Libraries, and University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

ACRL Support

Did you know that ACRL provides monetary support for librarians active in non-library professional and scholarly associations? Again this

year, the ACRL Professional Association Liaison Committee (PALC) will make ten awards of up to \$300 each. Membership in ALA is required; ACRL members have an edge.

The criteria for funding are broad enough to support a range of liaison activities. Preference will be given to efforts which contribute to the understanding or use of academic library resources or services. PALC encourages efforts which enhance the perception of academic librarians as part of the "education team."

Past awards have typically supported the presentation of conference papers, but many other possibilities exist. Organizing workshops, mounting poster sessions, preparing publications, creating new "special interest groups" within the disciplines -- these are just a few of the ways librarians might have an impact on academic associations.

Applications for funding should be submitted to the Chair of PALC one month prior to the Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference. The actual awards will be made after the event, following submission of receipts and other documentation, but you may seek prior approval. (Advance application is advised if your participation is contingent on PALC funding.) Travel, accommodations, and registration (but not membership fees) are reimbursable expenses.

To apply for funding, simply prepare a memo in outline format with the following information:

1. Your name, title, address, and telephone number.
2. Name of organization sponsoring the program.
3. Your relationship to the organization.
4. Summary of your participation (e.g., abstract of paper).
5. Statement of potential impact for promoting academic or research librarianship.
6. Budget and amount being requested.
7. Supporting documentation as relevant (e.g., receipts, program, etc.).

Send the application to the current chair of PALC.

For more information, contact: Chair, ACRL Professional Association Committee, Melvin George, Director of Libraries, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331. (503) 737-3411.

TRANSITIONS

Material for this column is gleaned from selected periodicals and newsletters. People with knowledge of relevant transitions are encouraged to contact the editor.

Susan M. Allen has been appointed head of the Special Collections Department at Hornold/Mudd Library, one of the libraries of the Claremont Colleges in California. Elizabeth Andrews has assumed her duties as reference archivist in archives and special collections at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. Martin Antonetti, currently Special Collections Librarian at Mills College, will become the Librarian of the Grolier Club in May. Jean Willoughby Ashton now directs the New York Historical Society Library. Sandra J. Beldler has been named head of special collections at the Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. In 1992, Professor Terry Belanger (Columbia SLS) will be moving to the University of Virginia to take up his new post as University Professor. William E. Brown, Jr. now heads the Archives and Special Collections Department of the University of Miami's Otto G. Richter Library, Coral Gables, Fla. Peggy Champlin is now Research Center administrator at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles. Stephen Charter is the new reference archivist in the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University Libraries. Joseph W. Constance, Jr. has been named director of the Geisel Library at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. He was previously head of the Archives and Manuscript Department at Boston College. D. Steven Corey, Special Collections Librarian at the University of San Francisco,

died on February 2, 1991. **Richard C. Davis** has been appointed manuscripts-archives librarian in the Special Collections and Archives Department at the University of Idaho Library. **Mark Dimunation** has been selected to head Cornell University's Rare Book Department in the Olin Library in Ithaca, New York. **Jacqueline A. Fessard** has been appointed reference/archives librarian at the Indiana University Southeast Library, Bloomington. **H. George Fletcher** has been appointed Astor Curator of Printed Books and Bindings at the Pierpont Morgan Library. **Joseph Freedman** is the new collection development librarian and university archivist at Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington. **Richard Fyffe** is the new curator of literary and cultural archives at the Homer Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut Storrs. **Isabelle F. Grant**, rare book room librarian at the University of Illinois, Urbana for many years died in October at the age of 94. She was instrumental in building the rare book collection. **Rosemary Haddad** has been appointed the Head of Rare Books & Preservation at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal. **Donna B. Harlan**, associate librarian and archivist at the Franklin D. Schurz Library, Indiana University at South Bend, retired in December after 24 years of services. **James D. Hart** director of UC/Berkeley's Bancroft Library since 1969 died July 23, 1990. **John Hoover** is now Associate Librarian at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. **H.G. Jones**, Curator of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina, is the recipient of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Distinguished Service Award for 1990. **Robin Leckbee** has accepted a position as special collections librarian at Lake Forest College, Illinois. **Kimberly B. Kelley** recently became chief librarian of Smithsonian Institution Libraries' Museum Support Center Branch, Washington, D.C. **Thomas H. Kreneck** has been appointed special collections librarian and archivist of the University Library, Corpus Christi State University, Texas. **Lee McLaird** has been promoted at Bowling Green State University Libraries, where she is now curator of rare books and special collections. **Bernard McTigue** has left the New York Public Library to become head of Special Collections at the University of Florida. **Walter Newman** is now senior conservator at Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, Massachusetts. **Sylvia McDowell** has become assistant to the director at Radcliffe College's Arthur and Elizabeth Scheslinger Library on the History of Women in America. **Charles G. Palm**, former associate director for library and archives at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, is now deputy director there. **Patricia E. Palmer** has been appointed preservation librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. **William Elliot Paplinski** now directs the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives' State Library Services Division. **Ann Pasquale** has been appointed Head of Special Collections at the New York Academy of Medicine Library. **Bonita Perry** is the new assistant director, research services, for Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington, D.C. **Claudia Rivers** became librarian/archivist of the Mexican American archival project of the University of Texas, Austin General Libraries' Benson Latin American Collection. **Valerie Roberts**, rare books cataloger at the University of Minnesota Libraries died July 29. **Don Skemer** will become Curator of Manuscripts at Princeton University Library in June. **Nancy Steen**, rare books librarian in the Center for Archival Collections at Bowling Green State University, retired in May. **Mark Welmer** has been appointed curator of special collections at the Syracuse University Library, New York. **Edwin Wolf 2nd**, long-standing member of RBMS and past Chair, died at the age of 79 at his home in Philadelphia February 20, 1991.

Poll of the Readership

The editors of the *Newsletter* would like to get a better sense of the reactions of the readership to the *Newsletter*. To this purpose are printed below the 1988 *RBMS Newsletter Content Guidelines*; these guidelines, which have been approved by the RBMS Executive Committee and ACRL's Publication Committee, serve us when putting the *Newsletter* together. We hope that if you have comments, suggestions, or criticisms about the contents, extent and/or depth of coverage, typographic layout, or any other aspect of the *Newsletter*, that you will take a moment to fill out the following poll.

The *RBMS Newsletter* serves as a voice for the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL by communicating current information on the official activities of RBMS committees (standing and ad-hoc), subcommittees, discussion groups, liaisons, and membership as well as information about the rare book and manuscript community at large. This service is provided for the RBMS membership, subscribers to the *Newsletter*, and other interested parties to inform and to encourage participation in the activities being reported on.

Contents

In accordance with this purpose, the following items are to be considered for inclusion in the *RBMS Newsletter* (the list is not definitive). Items are listed in general order of priority.

I RBMS Section Activities

1. Official business of the Section conducted at Midwinter and Annual Conference, including the proposed and/or recent election of new officers, the creation of new committees, motions passed, reports given, publications, and the various activities of the Executive Committee, individual committees and liaisons.

2. Calendar of upcoming Section committee meetings during Midwinter or Annual Conference.

3. Preconference activities. Including discussion of the contents and more practical information, such as scheduling, housing, and travel.

4. Program activities during ALA.

II. Transitions in the professional rare books and manuscripts community.

III. Calendar of events, to include ALA, ACRL & RBMS scheduled meetings; other meetings, conferences, symposia, etc., on national and international levels, of professional interest as space allows.

IV. Other professional activities. These should be both useful and appropriate, appealing to the largest audience possible.

1. ALA, ACRL and other division activities.

2. News of past and future activities of other related national professional organizations, such as APHA, ESTC, and NAIP. Regional activities should be kept to a minimum.

3. News of past and future activities of other related international professional organizations, such as the Library Association (Great Britain) and ILFA.

V. Other announcements, reports, notices of publications, and lists as are requested for submission and/or are found suitable.

Responsibilities of the Editor

It is the primary responsibility of the editor to organize and compose the *Newsletter* for publication. The news can come from a number of sources, including the Executive Committee Chair, committee officers, other members of RBMS, the professional community, and other publications. Submitted material can be in draft form or finished form. If in finished form and editorial changes are necessary, the editor will consult with the author. It is the editor's responsibility to revise, edit, and collate this material as is necessary for inclusion in the *Newsletter*. The editor may decline to include any material submitted. The editor will consult with the Executive Committee Chair and the Publications Committee Chair as is found necessary.

Reply form follows.

