


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*

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NUMBER 24

From the Chair: "Where We Are Going"

fter a very well attended and productive Mid-winter Meeting in delightful San Antonio, RBMS Committee Chairs responded to my request for assistance in replying to an ACRL survey to identify our programs and activities which are in support of the goals of the ACRL strategic plan. The composite report I submitted in February was truly impressive in both current and planned activities.

Our strongest suit is in providing continuing education and development opportunities. The annual RBMS Preconference is the backbone of our continuing education program. The programs, workshops, and seminars being presented in Ithaca are exceptionally good examples of opportunities which enhance attendees' abilities to deliver superior services and resources. Planning is well underway for the 1997 Preconference at Claremont Colleges on the current field of the history of the book.

Other activities reported under this goal include the active participation of members in ongoing discussion of professional issues in the RBMS discussion groups, annual display at the preconference of all catalogues submitted for the Leab Exhibition Catalogue Awards and the travelling exhibition of the 10th Anniversary of Leab award winners, revision of RBMS guidelines, the conference "buddy system" organized by the Ad Hoc Membership Committee which pairs new RBMS members with more experienced RBMS members, publications of the Bibliographic Standards Committee, and the compilation of a directory of courses offered for rare book librarianship both inside and outside of the MLS/MLIS curriculum. RBMS is an effective partner and advocate, collaborating with other professional organizations and associations of higher education in order to promote mutual interests. A few examples under this goal include the Bibliographic Standards Committee's formal liaison relationships with MARBI, Society of American Archivists, OCLC, and RLG; the Security Committee's close association with the Library Security Officer list and its exploring cooperation with groups such as ABAA to establish better computer resources for tracing and reporting thefts of books and manuscripts; seeking endorsement of section standards and guidelines by SAA; and co-sponsorship of programs with other units of ALA. RBMS maintains at the national level a prominent role in planning and decision making for influencing information policy in the broadest sense. RBMS input was an

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1996 Preconference Program

The 37th annual RBMS Preconference will be held 2-5 July 1996 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. The theme of this year's conference is "Getting There from Here: Setting the Agenda for Special Collections in the 21st Century." The sessions will serve as a forum to explore the challenges and opportunities that will shape our operations, our collections, and our profession in the near future. Central to the theme is the question of how special collections librarians assess the past and current practices as part of the process for identifying and planning new initiatives, technologies, and strategies for Special Collections. The venue features the Karl A. Krotch Library, a new, state-of-the-art facility. Information and registration packets may be obtained from H. Thomas Hickerson, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, NY 14853.

The Preconference opens with an address, "Getting There from Here," by H. Thomas Hickerson. Plenary sessions include: "Reaching Our Constituency," by Sidney F. Huttner and Jean W. Ashton; "The Rediscovery of Special Collections: Technology's Influence on Cultural Institutions," by Deanna B. Marcum; "Thinking About Technology," by Clifford Lynch, Jackie M. Dooley, and Ricky Erway; and "The Image and Economics of Special Collections," by Wade Leftwich and Merrily E. Taylor. The sessions close with a reprise of the theme "Getting There from Here," presented by Alice Schreyer.

Seminars will include:

Special Collections Materials in the General Stacks: Developing Institutional Guidelines for Identification & Transfer: Charlotte B. Brown and Janet Gertz will lead seminar participants in reviewing general selection guidelines and examples of guidelines developed by institutions. Participants are encouraged to bring copies of their own institution's guidelines. Organized by: Charlotte Brown.

Mastering the New ESTC (offered twice): John Bloomberg-Rissman and Deborah J. Leslie will discuss what has changed, what new features are available, and tactics and strategies for searching the ESTC. Intended for those who have consulted the ESTC in the past but who are unfamiliar with recent changes, the seminar is designed to facilitate efficient use of an essential but expensive bibliographic resource. Organized by: Donald Farren.

Working with Guest Curators of Exhibitions: Pleasures and Pitfalls: Extrapolating from personal and institutional experience, Pat Bozeman, Daniel J. Slive, and Suzy Taraba will discuss benefits of working with guest curators of exhibitions and practical considerations for special collections librarians

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RBMS ANNUAL MEETING NEW YORK, 6-8 JULY 1996

SATURDAY, 6 July 1996

- 8:30a-11:00a Bibliographic Standards I
Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion
Group
- 9:30-11:00a Education and Professional Development
Security
Membership (Ad Hoc)
- 9:30a-12:30p Exhibition Catalog Awards
- 11:30a-12:30p Conference Program Planning 1997
- 2:00p-4:00p Budget and Development
Electronic Information Technologies (ad
hoc)
- 4:30p-5:30p Preconference Program Planning 1997
- 8:00p-10:00p Exec. Comm I

SUNDAY, 26 June 1996

- 8:30a-11:00a Bibliographic Standards II
Curators & Conservators Discussion
Group
- 8:30a-11:00a Conference Development
- 9:30a-11:00a Publications
- 11:30a-12:30p MARC for Special Collections Discussion
Group
- 11:30a-12:30p Preconference Program Planning 1998
- 2:00p-5:30p Program
- 8:00p-10:00p Seminars
RBML Editorial Board

Monday, 8 July, 1996

- 8:30a-12:30p Executive Committee II

Be sure to check final conference program for any last minute changes.

NOTES: 1) Information Exchange will not be listed separately in the program, but will occur during the last hour of the Program slot on Sunday afternoon, 7 July, 4:30-5:30 p.m. 2) The 1997 Conference Program Committee will meet in a joint, all section ACRL San Francisco Program Committee meeting. 3) Executive Committee II is scheduled for a longer period in hopes that we can get to all the new business and fulfill our role as planning body for the section.

Pre-Conference (from Page 1)

who do so. Organized by: Elaine Smyth

MARC Format Integration: Its Impact on Special Collections: Ed Glazier will lead off with a general history of how and why format integration is happening and its general impact on the bibliographic utilities and, by extension, their users. Melinda Hayes will discuss specific problems in adapting past practice to current standards, demonstrate the options format integration provides, and lead an open discussion of advantages and/or disadvantages of options as they may affect local systems. Organized by: Melinda Hayes.

The Care and Feeding of Special Collections Friends Groups: Moderator Isaac Gewirtz will lead panelists William Joyce, Bernard McTigue, and Kathryn Morgan in a discussion of administering successful Special Collections Friends groups and maintaining an effective Special Collections presence in Friends groups that have a wider institutional focus. Organized by: Isaac Gewirtz.

Easy Come, Easy Go: The Why's and Wherefore's of Deaccessioning Materials from Special Collections: Deaccessioning out-of-scope materials can be a difficult and controversial task. Placing the issues in context, Samuel Streit will discuss historical patterns of deaccessioning from rare books and manuscripts collections. Richard W. Oram will report on current practice as revealed in the results of a survey

he conducted. David Szewczyk will address the book trade's relation to and view of deaccessioning. Organized by: Everett C. Wilkie, Jr.

From the Ground Up (or Down!): Planning Your Library Construction Project: Speaking from recent personal experience, David W. Corson and Gary Menges will delineate the complexities and pitfalls that face special collections librarians in planning a new special collections building or renovating an existing facility. Organized by: Lois Fischer Black.

Locating Copyright Holders: An Update on the WATCH Database: Offering a new tool for the perennial problem of locating copyright holders, David C. Sutton and Cathy Henderson will demonstrate the new Web version of the "Writers and Their Copyright Holders" database, discussing both the genesis of and possible futures for the project. Organized by: Cathy Henderson and David Sutton.

In addition to the seminars and plenary sessions, there will also be two workshops: Anne R. Kenney will present "Digital Preservation and Access for Special Collections," and Jill Powell will present "Creating Your Own Home Page on the Web." Demonstration sessions include one concerning Cornell University Imaging Projects and another concerning the Interloc database. Tours feature visits to the Carl A. Kroch Library and the Preservation and Conservation program. For those inclined to fresh air and sunshine, walking tours of Cornell Plantations and a tour of the Finger Lakes winery country are offered.

From the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

The business of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section could not go on without the hard work and dedication of committee chairs and members. To all of you who have agreed to chair a committee or to serve on a committee for the 1996-98 term, or to be an intern, or to be a liaison to another ALA group, I thank you for your positive spirit in volunteering for the various assignments. Please be sure you have returned your "Appointment Acceptance" form to ACRL. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

— Susan M. Allen

ExLibris News

Rutgers University on 30 November 1995 shut down the server that had mounted the ExLibris electronic list. In the meantime, the list was set up again on a server at Berkeley, which was operational by the Rutgers' shut-down date. All archives were printed off by Peter Graham and sent to Terry Belanger at the University of Virginia. An electronic version of those archives was also captured by another site that will make them available in the near future. The archives that have been created since the list migrated to Berkeley are available now at the Berkeley site.

The new list is moderated by Everett C. Wilkie, Jr. As with the old list, ExLibris continues to run in an unmoderated mode, membership is open to anyone, and brief announcements by booksellers concerning catalogue availability appear from time to time. In a reversal of previous list policy, the new list is again open to postings by both members and non-members alike. Currently there are just over 900 subscribers to the new list, although more people than that read the list, because several of the subscriptions are for redistribution nodes at various institutions.

Discussions continue in RBMS concerning the relationship between ExLibris and RBMS. Currently, ExLibris is not the official RBMS list. However, to facilitate the dissemination of RBMS news and to answer questions about RBMS, the Section's current secretary, Deborah Leslie, does answer questions about RBMS posted to ExLibris. Various RBMS committees also post such announcements as agendas and minutes to the list.

To subscribe to ExLibris, send to: listproc@library.berkeley.edu the message, as a message, subject line blank: info exlibris

This will return a copy of the ExLibris Information Card, which includes instructions on subscribing.

It was through the efforts of Daniel Pitti of the Berkeley library staff that that institution's computer resources were made available for ExLibris. Janey Garey, also of the Berkeley library staff, was instrumental in actually setting up ExLibris on Berkeley's machine. She continues to be the person assisting the moderator in the day to day questions that arise, seeing to the daily care and feeding of the list, and resolving the technical problems that occasionally arise.

If anyone ever has any difficulties with, questions about, or comments on ExLibris, he or she should feel free to contact the Moderator (Everett C. Wilkie, Jr., ewilkie@ix.netcom.com).

Conference Program in New York

RBMS will participate in the overall leadership theme promulgated by ACRL during the 1996 annual conference in New York with its program "Beyond the Library Book Sale: Leading the Way into the Marketplace." The program will take place on Sunday, 7 July, 2-5:30 p.m. Sally Leach, Associate Director of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and Robert C. Ritchie, Director of Research at the Huntington Library, will elucidate issues of importance for libraries seeking to enter into partnerships and agreements for economic development. Such ventures market the content of special collections, but in no way limit access. Some of the topics covered will be publishing and licensing agreements, choosing items for special promotions to accompany exhibitions and sell in gift shops, and electronic packaging of special collections' materials.

MAGERT Program

The MAGERT program on map digitization is scheduled for Monday, July 8, from 2-4 p.m. GODORT and PARS, and RBMS are cosponsoring the program.

"Antique Maps on the Electronic Frontier: The Digitization of Cartographic Materials for Preservation and Access" is organized by David Yehling Allen and will be presided over by Donna Koepp. Panelists will describe recent projects involving the digitization of historic maps; the advantages and disadvantages of various methods of digitizing maps; image evaluation; standards for producing research-quality images; need for institutional cooperation in scanning projects; and bibliographic control of digitized maps."

Speakers include: David Yehling Allen (Map Librarian, SUNY Stony Brook), "Digitization for Every Library: Working with Kodak Photo CD and Kodak Pro Photo CD;"

Janet Gertz (Director for Preservation, Columbia University) and Susan Klimley (Geological Sciences Librarian, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University), "Preservation and Access for Texts Illustrated by Oversize Color Maps;"

Mary L. Larsgaard (Assistant Head, Map and Imagery Library, University of California at Santa Barbara), "Preservation through Digital Surrogate: Spatial Data Access through the Alexandria Digital Library;" and

Ralph E. Ehrenberg (Chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress), "The Map Scanning Program at the Library of Congress."

Recent Theft Reports

Gilbert Joseph Bland is sought by several jurisdictions in connection with the disappearance of numerous maps and plates removed from books in several special collections libraries. He often used the alias James Perry. Robert H. Smith is sought by authorities in Kansas and Arkansas in connection with the disappearances of numerous manuscripts from various repositories.

Condolence Letter to the Van Wingen Family

30 January 1996

Rachel Senner VanWingen

Dear Mrs. VanWingen,

The members of the Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries wish to convey our deepest sympathy to you and to your sons, Matthew and Jacob, on the loss of your husband. He was remembered during the section Executive Committee meeting at the recent Mid-winter ALA meeting in San Antonio.

Peter VanWingen was active in RBMS for two decades, and many of our members knew him well, as an officer (and mentor to other officers) in the Section, and as the creator of *Your Old Books*, one of the most useful ALA publications. He served both RBMS and its publics well, and we found him to be a warm and generous colleague.

Indeed, he was one of the best-liked and most highly-respected librarians in our profession. Our loss is a great one. His death leaves us saddened, but grateful for our great good fortune to have benefitted from his wisdom, leadership, and friendship.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth L. Johnson, Chair, RBMS

Memorial Resolution for Allen Poor (1958-1995)

WHEREAS Allen Poor was a valued and respected member of the library community at large, and particularly of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL; and

WHEREAS his keen intelligence, kindness, generosity of spirit, and sharp yet understated wit won him the respect of his colleagues on the Bibliographic Standards Committee and the many other library organizations with which he was affiliated; and

WHEREAS those same qualities worked often among his colleagues to produce deep and lasting friendships; and

WHEREAS those friends in the library profession and in the gritty world of Chicago politics, which was his second home, though diminished and saddened by this passing, are yet enriched by having known him;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL remember with joy and gratitude the all-too-brief presence of Allen Poor among us, honor the memory of one who accomplished so much unheralded good in his professional and private life, and extend our heartfelt condolences to his partner Jim Cosenza and his many friends.

Call for 1997 Preconference Seminar Proposals

The RBMS Seminars Committee invites all RBMS members to submit seminar proposals for the 1997 Preconference to be held in Claremont, CA. If you are interested in organizing a seminar for 1997, now is the time to contact prospective presenters and develop your seminar proposal.

Seminars are an important educational component of each Preconference and a valuable forum for the exchange of ideas and information on particular topics of relevance to rare book and manuscript librarians. Usually ninety minutes long, they can be organized in a range of formats, including panel discussions, workshops, topic-focussed information exchanges, multiple-session seminars with assigned readings, and paper sessions. For more information about planning a seminar, please request a copy of "Guidelines and Procedures for Organizing and Selecting Preconference Seminars" from the Seminars Committee chair (address below).

Seminar proposals should outline succinctly the purpose, content, and format of the seminar and provide the names and credentials of participants. If the seminar has special requirements (e.g., limited enrollment, extra fees charged to participants, equipment needs, or scheduling constraints), those must be carefully described. If a paper session is proposed, please include an abstract (50-100 words) of each paper.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Seminars Committee and evaluated according to how pertinent they are to the overall mission of RBMS and to the perceived needs of its members, how well they fit into the framework of the preconference for which they are intended, and how well-matched the seminar presenters are to the tasks they are being assigned. Selection will take place at the ALA Annual Conference in New York City, and those who have submitted proposals are asked to attend or send a representative.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1 June 1996. They may be submitted by e-mail, fax, or regular mail. Elaine Smyth, Chair, Seminars Committee, ATTN: SEMINARS, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA; Fax: 504-334-1695; E-mail: notebs@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu.

Transitions (from Page 8)

ence librarian in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Victoria Steele**, head of Special Collections at the University of Southern California, has been named a Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom's University of London for 1995-96. **Susan Thomas** has been named information services/special collections librarian at Valdosta State University, GA. **Bruce Whiteman**, former head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at McGill University, has been named Librarian at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library at UCLA. **Tom Wilsted** is head of the Dodd Center, University of Connecticut, Storrs. **Lisa Wood** has been appointed audiovisual archivist, Special Collections, at the University of Kentucky. **David S. Zeidberg** is the R. Stanton and Ernestine Avery director of the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA.

RBMS Committee News

Executive Committee

Most of the agenda items for the two Executive Committee meetings were either informational in nature or discussion items. Action items included:

1. Approved the revision of the charge of the Education and Professional Development Committee;

2. Approved co-sponsorship by RBMS with the Map and Geography Round Table of a program during the annual meeting in New York entitled "Antique Maps on the Electronic Frontier: Digitization of Historic Maps for Preservation & Access." (See p. 3.) Connell Gallagher is RBMS liaison for the program;

3. Recommended to ACRL that Henry Snyder be reappointed by ALA as representative to the IFLA Section for Rare & Precious Books and Manuscripts.

4. Clarified that the RBMS manual will state that appointments for interns on RBMS committees will be for one year. This stipulation is not retroactive.

5. In response to a request from ACRL to provide programming at the 1997 ACRL national conference, "Choosing our Futures," the Executive Committee will survey the programs offered at the 1996 RBMS Preconference in Ithaca, suggest what might be successful at a broader venue, and discuss assigning the responsibility of selecting continuing education programming from the section to offer to ACRL to an RBMS committee on a continuing basis;

6. Tabled a motion to eliminate Information Exchange. The discussion which took place detailed the history of the RBMS Information Exchange and focused on present problems with the overlap between Information Exchange and Executive Committee meetings both in terms of those who attend and what is reported. The issue will be on the agenda again in New York.

RBMS Archives

RBMS Archivist Nancy Romero encourages any current officers who have committee records transferred to them from past officers to send them to her for the RBMS Archives. Also, she has several duplicate issues of the RBMS Newsletter available to interested libraries. She may be contacted at University Library, University of Illinois, 1408 West Gregory Dr., Urbana, IL 61801; ☎ 217-333-7292; FAX 217-333-2214; e-mail: rarebook@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu.

RBMS Awards

The Awards committee is at present inactive, while it waits for ALA as a whole to determine its policy on awards.

Bibliographic Standards Committee Activities

The committee continues to explore options for electronic publication of its six rare book thesauri and the *Examples to Accompany DCRB*. No firm decision on electronic publication was reached at the meetings, but one option in particular—negotiating with the Library of Congress to include the thesauri

on their Catalogers' Desktop CD-ROM product—is being vigorously pursued. Textual revision of the thesauri is well advanced, however, and a thorough revision and correction of the *Examples to Accompany DCRB* is also in progress. Belinda Urquiza of LC reported that the long-awaited 2nd edition of *Standard Citation Forms* is in its final draft, and publication is expected in the near future. The untimely death of committee member Allen Poor had delayed progress on the electronic Latin place-names database. Bob Maxwell of Brigham Young University has now agreed to take on that project, and the committee is exploring the possibility of mounting the finished product on the planned RBMS Webpage. Work continues on a *Handbook for Rare Book Catalogers*, with a preliminary draft expected by Annual conference.

Those of you struggling with bibliographic control of rare serials were undoubtedly happy to learn at last year's RBMS Preconference in Bloomington that CONSER is developing a unit devoted to rare serials cataloging. The task force created to edit that unit will be working closely with the Bibliographic Standards Committee on issues of physical description, and will be reporting its progress to the committee on a regular basis.

Electronic Information Technologies Committee

Since EIT is working on issues of interest to other RBMS committees, those attending the midwinter meeting in San Antonio included members from other RBMS committees, others who had long worked with Exlibris, and others who had relevant experience to the work of the committee. This mix made for a useful and productive meeting.

The committee intended to review the two chief points of its charge: 1) examine means that RBMS may make use of electronic information technologies for conducting section business and; 2) consider means of fostering use of electronic information technologies in special collections. Because of time constraints, however, only the first point was discussed.

Peter Graham described briefly his and Liz Bishoff's effort to effect an ALA resolution that will result in ALA providing ways and means for sections to use and take advantage of such electronic technologies as listservs, World Wide Web, etc.

The committee next turned to the topic of an "official RBMS listserv" and identified a number of issues relating to this notion. The committee expects to have a memo about these issues for the RBMS Executive Committee's consideration at the summer, 1996, meeting.

The committee next turned its attention to the utility of the World Wide Web for the work of RBMS. As with listservs, the issues relating to a Web site are similar: standard vs non-standard, official vs non-official. The committee's consensus was that these issues need to be addressed, but concurrently there is a need to essay a Web site and use it on provisional basis. Toward that end, the committee acknowledged with acclaim the work of Peter Graham, whose efforts can be seen at the URL: www.aulnris.rutgers.edu/pgrbms.html. On the other hand, the committee will be working with the RBMS page now set up at the following URL: www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/

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Committee News (from Page 5)

rbms.html. ALA's Webmaster, Rob Carlson, has been asked to link this page to ACRL's main page.

Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group

At its San Antonio meeting The group discussed at length the topic of the growing amount of collection description and repository information for special collections available on the Internet. This trend was especially noted for the increased amount and level of information for manuscripts and other formats which, unfortunately, are often overlooked for various reasons and not described in OPACS. All seemed to rue the difficulties of getting manuscripts and other formats included in OPACS but welcomed the alternative to provide information via the Internet. The variety of collection description and types of repository information available were discussed. The benefit of improved access to view and compare finding aids was mentioned in context of the earlier discussion on standardization. Concern was expressed for time invested in changing formats, from gopher to HTML to SGML. Images online, often used for online exhibitions, were discussed. Sample copyright statements for some of these exhibitions were circulated and reviewed. The group seemed to like the statements which cautioned fair use and educational use of the images, and warned against commercial use of the images. The futility of protecting the images and an alternative to provide less-than-stellar resolution for images were related topics. Several members described exploratory interest on the part of their institutions to digitize image collections, but consensus seemed to be questioning the real value of such projects. One project seemed justified for preservation of the collection and improved access to oversize images. Another institution reaffirmed their commitment to microfilming for some collections after considering digitization. Discussion of the above topic lead to the suggestion of a related seminar at an RBMS Preconference. Mary Lacy and Rebecca Johnson Melvin will be working on this proposal.

The other major topic of discussion was security for manuscripts and other formats. Prompted by news of the recent thefts of maps from bound books, atlases, and folios, the group considered the vulnerability of unbound manuscripts and other formats. Vigilance of reading room supervision was advocated and different environments, one with an elevated observation desk, were described. Reader registration forms for non-book materials were examined as were ways to track specific use of discrete groups of manuscripts. The position of Library Security Officer was considered. Perhaps most interesting was news that UCLA Special Collections now requires bonding of students and staff before hire. This is a new development there, with existing staff grandfathered, and there were no experienced answers to the number of questions related to bonding. The group was interested to hear more about this at future meetings.

Security Committee

The Security Committee is continuing its project to survey laws in all 50 states relating to thefts from libraries. It was

agreed that the committee chair would write state librarians to see if they could readily provide this information. If the information cannot be acquired by this means, then individual committee members will conduct their own research into those states from which the committee has yet to receive copies of the pertinent laws.

Education and Professional Development

The RBMS Education and Professional Development Committee focused on consideration of the first section of the handbook of professional educational opportunities, drafted by Katherine Reagan at the Book Arts Press. After considerable discussion of the labor involved, it was decided that the Book Arts Press should mount it on their home page in its current short form. The second major concern was how to expand and revise this draft during the spring and early summer of 1996. It was agreed that the work would be divided among Committee members and should include Canadian library schools, related courses in other departments of the campuses currently offering library and information science degrees, summer institutes and workshops and post-MLS/continuing education opportunities across the country, and association activities. The third major item was the Committee's consideration of its charge and a revision of that charge to be submitted to the RBMS Executive Committee. After consideration by the Executive Committee at the San Antonio meeting, the following revised charge was adopted:

The Education and Professional Development Committee of RBMS is charged to: 1) Analyze and assess the education and professional development needs and interest of section members and education interest relevant to rare books and manuscript librarianship generally; 2) Coordinate and promote education and professional development opportunities for RBMS members and others; 3) Collect, coordinate, and publicize information about continuing education opportunities; 4) Develop and strengthen information exchange about such opportunities among RBMS committees and other ALA units as appropriate.

The RBMS Executive Committee also asked the Education and Professional Development Committee, as part of its charge, to cooperate in planning a shared program between RBMS and ACRL for the 1997 conference.

RBMS Membership Committee

At the Midwinter meeting in San Antonio, the Membership Committee (Ad Hoc) inaugurated its conference buddy system, which pairs new RBMS members with experienced section members. Five new members responded to a call on ExLibris for participants in the new venture, and ten experienced section members replied to the ExLibris invitation and the article in the last *RBMS Newsletter*.

New members who expressed interest in having a buddy, and who were going to be attending the San Antonio meeting, were matched with experienced volunteers on the basis of similar positions and interests whenever possible. Since twice as many experienced members volunteered, those who were

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Preconference Call for Papers

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of Association of College Research Libraries of the American Library Association, is seeking proposals for papers presenting current research related to the history of manuscript and print culture for presentation at the 1997 Annual Preconference to be held at the Claremont Colleges in southern California, June 24-27, 1997. The Preconference theme is "Rereading the Past: New Methodologies and Approaches to the History of the Book." Selected participants will have twenty minutes to present a paper on completed research or work in progress. Papers will be presented in small group sessions. Audience response will be encouraged. Research papers should not have been submitted for publication or published.

Four copies of the paper proposal should be submitted no later than September 1, 1996 to Nora J. Quinlan, Chair, RBMS Preconference Program Committee, c/o Archives and Special Collections, Richter Library, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, 33124-0320 (nquinlan@umiami.ir.miami.edu). Proposals should be no longer than one letter-sized page, double spaced (not to exceed 250 words), and should include a cover sheet with title, author's name and affiliation, mailing address, phone number and e-mail address, if available. Faxes and e-mail will not be accepted. Applicants should note if they are a member of RBMS. Please indicate if the paper has been previously submitted or accepted by any other national or international conference or convention, and, if so, how it has been revised. Final papers should not exceed 3000 words in length or ten double spaced letter-size pages. Speakers will be notified by January 31, 1997.

Submissions are encouraged from all interested individuals, although priority will be given to proposals from members of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section of ACRL, ALA. Final acceptance of papers will be based on the quality of submission, interest to the audience, relevance to the theme of the Preconference and overall theme and originality.

The Preconference will also include a variety of seminars organized by the Seminars Committee of RBMS. Seminar topics do not have to relate to the theme of the Preconference. For information about submitting a seminar proposal, please contact Elaine Smyth, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (notebs@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu).

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not initially paired with a new member were waitlisted. Because weather made getting to San Antonio so tricky, the waiting list came in handy!

The aim of the buddy system is to help demystify RBMS for new members. Experienced section members were asked to contact their assigned new member before the conference, arrange at least one face-to-face meeting in San Antonio, and assist with other questions that arose. For further information, please contact Suzy Taraba, Chair, Public Service Librarian, Special Collections, University of Chicago Library, 1100 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. ☎ (312) 702-8710; fax: (312) 702-3728; e-mail: mstaraba@midway.uchicago.edu.

NYPL Tours

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of The New York Public Library will offer tours of the Division and the Bryant Park Stack Extension to RBMS members during ALA at the following times: Saturday, July 6 at 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.; and Monday, July 8 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each tour group will be limited to 12 participants, who must reserve a place for the time slot of their choice; reservations will be taken on a first-come basis. For reservations contact Jennifer Lee, Head of Public Services, Rare Books and Manuscripts Division, The New York Public Library. ☎ 212-642-0107; FAX: 212/302-4815; email: jlee@nypl.org.

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important factor in the final version of the Modern Language Association statement on Primary Sources and section members continue to be involved in monitoring the next steps in the MLA process. RBMS standards and guidelines are exemplary, influencing not only how our everyday work is conducted, but also serving as models of the genre for other groups to use as examples.

The final ACRL goal of working to ensure an efficient and effective operating environment is an area requiring constant thought and attention on the part of the Executive Committee. Many RBMS committees are using electronic means whenever possible to conduct section business; the RBMS website is under construction; and several section members are continuing to work with ACRL to improve the administration and planning of preconferences.

A new initiative for our section which will further promote the ACRL strategic plan was approved at the Midwinter meeting. In the Fall all ACRL sections were approached by Carla Stoffle, Chair of the ACRL 8th National Conference, and invited to participate in the conference which will be held on April 11-14, 1997, in Nashville, Tennessee. In the past, individual section members have participated in ACRL national conferences, but the section has not sponsored programs. This conference seemed like an appropriate opportunity to expand our successful programs to a venue other than the annual Preconference or annual meeting. For the past two years, ACRL has encouraged us to explore ways to accomplish this. The theme of the conference is "Choosing our Futures" and is very close to the 1996 Preconference theme. The Executive Committee will review the programs offered at Ithaca and select one to submit to the conference program review committee. It is probable that we will reach a different constituency than for the Preconference and perhaps recruit some new members.

The most reasoned rationale for strategic planning which I have ever seen is found in a quote from a baseball sage: "If you don't know where you're going, you will wind up somewhere else." — Yogi Berra* After reviewing the current and planned activities of our section, I think we do know where we are going and I for one am enjoying the journey.

*Thanks to section member Margaret Nichols who uses this quote in her e-mail messages.

Transitions

Margaret H. Allen, Rare Book Cataloger at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt-Dietrich Library since 1969, died in December, 1995. **Hugh Amory**, senior rare book cataloger at Harvard University's Houghton Library, has retired after 23 years of service. **F. Keith Bingham** is the new head of Special Collections/Archives in the Frederick Douglass Library of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. **David C. Bosse** is Librarian of the Memorial Libraries in Historic Deerfield, MA. **Maynard Brichford** has retired as University Archivist at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. **Norman Brown**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, died in July. **Jo Burgess** has been appointed assistant head of preservation and head of the conservation section in the main library of Indiana University, Bloomington. **Michèle Valerie Cloonan** was appointed curator of books at Smith College. **Leslie Conniff** has been named project archivist in the University Archives and Records Center at the University of Louisville, KY. **Beth J. Dodd** is curator of the Architectural Drawings Collection in the Architecture and Planning Library at the University of Texas at Austin. **Ellen Z. Ellickson** is a catalogue librarian on the rare book team, Sterling Library, Yale University. State University of New York at Buffalo's university archivist, **Shonnie Finnegan**, recently retired after 28 years of service. The University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill Libraries recently appointed **Andrew Hart** as preservation librarian. **Janet Hodgson** retired as associate archivist at the University of Louisville, KY. **Mary Lutz Jones**, Principal Rare Book Cataloger in the Huntington Library, died in late November, 1995. **Kathryn Neal** is assistant archivist in the Iowa Women's Archives at the University of Iowa, Ames. **Sally O'Neal**, Archives Librarian, has retired from the Odum Library of Valdosta State University, GA, after 26 years of service. **Faye Phillips** is now assistant dean for special collections at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. **Sara J. Piasecki** is a catalogue librarian on the rare book team, Sterling Library, Yale University. **Jessy Randall** is now refer-

(continued on Page 4)

RBMS Elections

The following RBMS offices are due to be filled in the next election. All section members should receive ballots and other materials at the appropriate time.

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: **Laura Stalker**, Associate Director of Technical Services, The Huntington Library; **Marvin J. Taylor**, Head of Special Collections, New York University.

Member-at-Large: **William E. Brown Jr.**, Head, Archives and Special Collections, University of Miami; **Suzy Taraba**, Public Services Librarian, University of Chicago.

Newsletter Update

This issue is the last one to be edited by Daryl Morrison. The new newsletter editor is Everett C. Wilkie, Jr.; the new co-editor is Priscilla Thomas.

The deadline for submission of copy for the Fall 1996 issue is Friday, September 20, 1996. To be considered for inclusion in the Fall newsletter, text should be in the editors' hands by that date.

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