

BMS Newsletter

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

FALL 1998

NUMBER 29

From the Chair

In this issue of the *Newsletter*, you will find the results of the recent RBMS membership survey. It comes as no surprise that many members regard the RBMS Preconference as the organization's most important contribution. This is principally because the Preconference excels at providing *both* broad overviews of current professional concerns and more narrowly focused ones. For example, at the highly successful 1998 Preconference on "Getting Ready for the Nineteenth Century," one could attend a stimulating panel discussion of important large-scale preservation issues related to nineteenth-century printed materials, a hands-on workshop on the identification of those same materials, and attend a presentation on Owen Meredith's ever-popular (well, at least it was to the Victorians!) *Lucile* as a case study in bibliographic challenges. The 1999 Montreal Preconference will also provide this sort of multiple perspective. The wide-angle lens—Jean-Claude Guédon's keynote address—will look at a profession crossing the border between traditional special collections librarianship and a new digital age. Plenary sessions will then examine the Preconference theme as reflected in various aspects (intellectual property, public services, technical services) of special collections librarianship. Finally, there will be a panoply of workshops, seminars, and individual papers with a narrower, more practical focus on matters such as managing digitization projects and conservationally sound exhibition techniques.

The membership survey also identified communication as an RBMS strong point. Indeed, the use of the RBMS website has risen exponentially in the past year, and for the first time it is possible to consult all of the Section's important documents and guidelines in one place. The recent addition to the website of the online *Educational Opportunities Directory* will be tremendously helpful for those planning a career in special collections or seeking professional development opportunities. An equally important current emphasis for RBMS is improving communication with interested parties *outside* the field. You may be assured that the outreach initiatives to rare booksellers and to a more general public noted in this column by the past two chairs will continue in 1998-99. One other area in which RBMS can assist its members is advocacy. There has been some criticism in the scholarly community of libraries and archives charging permissions fees for use of special collections materials in what are clearly commercial publications projects. Such fees can, I think, be easily defended, and the issue is one which should be addressed by this organization.

1999 RBMS Preconference

The 40th annual Rare Books and Manuscripts Preconference will take place in Montreal, Quebec, Canada from June 21-June 24, 1999. McGill University and the Canadian Centre for Architecture are co-hosts for the Preconference. Note that this year the Preconference will begin on a Monday and conclude on Thursday, giving participants planning to attend the ALA annual conference in New Orleans a full day for travel on Friday, June 25.

The theme of the 1999 Preconference is "Border Crossings: Exploring New Territories for Special Collections." In keeping with the Montreal location, the first Preconference site outside the U.S. in nearly a decade, the Preconference will examine developments in North American special collections in a larger, international context. The theme encompasses a variety of metaphorical "border crossings" for special collections: changing roles for special collections libraries and their staff in the digital environment, problems and issues with intellectual property in the international and digital contexts, along with developing new constituencies of users and public service strategies for special collections materials.

Jean-Claude Guédon, Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Montreal and author of *La Planète Cyber* (1996) will deliver the opening address. Brian Schottlaender (California Digital Library) and Howard Besser (UC Berkeley) will discuss aspects of the convergence of digital technology and special collections librarianship. David Walden (Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board) and Françoise Hébert (former executive director of the Canadian Library Association) will deliberate on aspects of intellectual property, and Cathy Henderson (University of Texas at Austin) and Tom Hickerson (Cornell University) will address recent developments in the area of special collections public services.

The Preconference theme will be complemented with an ample number of short papers, seminar presentations, tours, workshops, and receptions. Three workshops are scheduled for Monday, June 21. They include a day-long workshop on digitizing special materials and two half-day workshops, one on description of graphic materials and the other on basic techniques for installing exhibits. A fourth workshop on cataloging rare serials will be offered on Thursday afternoon after the conclusion of the Preconference. Redpath Hall on the McGill University campus will be the location for the opening reception on Monday evening. On Wednesday, a dessert

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RBMS MIDWINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Philadelphia, January 30-February 1, 1999

SATURDAY, January 30

- 8:30-11:00a 1999 Preconference Program Planning
Bibliographic Standards I
Security
- 9:30-11:00a Guidelines for Borrowing & Loaning
Special Collections Materials for
Exhibition (Ad hoc)
Membership
- 9:30a-12:30 p Exhibition Catalogue Awards I (closed)
- 11:30a-12:30p Outreach Initiatives (Ad Hoc)
2000 Preconference Program Planning
Hearing on revised *Guidelines for the
Security of Rare Book, Manuscript, and
Other Special Collections*
RBML Editorial Board
- 2:00-4:00p Budget & Development
Education & Professional Development
Manuscripts & Other Formats Disc.
(joint meeting with PARS/Photo and
Other Media)
Publications
Seminars

SUNDAY, January 31

- 8:30-11:00a Bibliographic Standards II
Conference Development
Curators & Conservators Disc.
Public Services Disc.
- 9:30a-12:30p Exhibition Catalogue Awards II
(closed)
- 11:30a-12:30p 1999 Conference Program Planning
2000 Conference Program Planning
MARC for Special Collections Disc.
RBML Awards (closed)
- 4:30-5:30p Information Exchange

MONDAY, February 1

- 8:30a-12:30p Executive Committee I
- 2:00-4:00p Executive Committee II

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

1999 Preconference (Cont. from p. 1)

reception will be held at the Canadian Centre for Architecture. This reception will also feature a reading by the Quebec writer Nicole Brossard, author of the critically acclaimed *Mauve Desert* (1990).

Montreal is among the more charming of North American cities, with its eighteenth-century stone architecture and the strong French influence on every aspect of its culture. It is located only a few hours drive or a short flight from the major urban areas in the northeastern United States. Le Centre Sheraton is the Preconference hotel. This large full-service, four-star establishment is located in downtown Montreal and offers a spectacular panorama of the St. Lawrence River and the Montreal waterfront. Some attendees may recall that this was the hotel for the Society of American Archivists and Art Library Association conferences in the early 90s and that it received rave reviews. The daily room rate is expected to be

about \$140CA, or less than \$100US at current exchange rates. As many news articles have noted, the U.S./Canadian exchange rate makes Canada a very affordable and attractive destination for citizens of the United States.

On Tuesday, Preconference sessions will be held on the McGill University campus. The sessions scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday mornings, excepting tours and the Wednesday evening reception, will be held at Le Centre Sheraton.

A bilingual brochure and other registration materials will be distributed in early 1999 and made available on the RBMS website. The brochure will include a list of tours and the titles of the seminars and short paper presentations, as well as the times, locations, and registration fees for the workshops. Additional information on Preconference events and activities and links to other sites associated with the 1999 RBMS Preconference and Montreal should be available toward the end of 1998.

1997 RBMS Membership Survey Results

Introduction

In 1997 the RBMS Membership Committee was given the task of surveying section members to collect basic demographic data, including information on members' current positions and their involvement in RBMS and other organizations. Although RBMS is the national organization for rare book and special collection librarians, the section had never conducted a membership survey in its forty plus years of existence. Because of this, the survey developed was long and detailed. Future surveys (the committee recommends one every five years) can be more focused, using the 1997 survey as a starting point. The committee expects the survey to serve as a benchmark for recording changes and identifying issues that the section will face in the coming century. A literature review conducted by the committee highlighted the importance of membership surveys in determining whether organizations are meeting member expectations and emphasized their usefulness in identifying areas of member concern. Survey results can also be helpful in planning future RBMS workshops and Preconferences.

Methodology

With a grant from the ACRL Initiative Fund, the Membership Committee developed the survey questionnaire and distributed copies as an insert in the spring 1997 issue of the *RBMS Newsletter*. Of the 1,800 copies mailed, 221 were returned, for a response rate of just over 12%. The data was entered into a database in four different tables, corresponding to the four sections that made up the questionnaire. More than sixty questions were featured: the majority of questions were closed-ended, a few asked respondents to rate items by level of importance, and three questions were open-ended.

Findings

Membership Characteristics:

Respondents are predominately female (64%), white (96%), and between 45-54 years of age (41%). Ninety percent have an MLS; of those with an MLS, 48% have a second masters and 15% have a Ph.D. Forty-one percent have worked twenty or more years in the field of librarianship, but only 17% have worked twenty or more years in the field of special collections. A surprising number (14%) are not in the archives or special collections field. Forty-two percent of respondents have worked as a library or archives paraprofessional; of those who have worked as a paraprofessional, 9% have also worked in the book trade. The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) leads the list of other ALA division memberships held with 26%; roundtable membership is second at 16%. Thirty-four percent of respondents are

members of two or more divisions/roundtables. Fifty percent chose not to respond to the question of whether they are members of ACRL only. The University Libraries Section (ULS) leads the list of other section memberships with 32%; next is the Western European Specialists Section (WESS) with 18%. Many respondents are members of two or more sections. Twenty-nine percent chose not to respond to the question of whether they are members of RBMS only. The American Printing History Association (APHA) leads the list for membership in other professional organizations, followed by the Bibliographical Society of America (BSA), the Society of American Archivists (SAA), and the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP). Membership in other national, regional, and local professional organizations is strong.

As far as electronic resources are concerned, a very high percentage of respondents, 88% and 84% respectively, have access to e-mail and the World Wide Web at their workplace; half as many have this electronic access at home. Fifty-seven percent regularly read the Exlibris electronic discussion list; 46% read the RBMS discussion list. Many respondents also subscribe to a number of additional lists.

On the topic of conference attendance, 65% have never attended an ACRL conference and 75% have not attended an ACRL conference in the past six years. The primary reason given for not attending an ACRL conference was more active participation in other organizations. More interesting, the written reasons given for not attending an ACRL conference indicate a lack of interest in attending and the perception that topics are not relevant. ALA midwinter and annual conferences are more widely attended, 50% having attended midwinter conferences in the past three years and 59% having attended annual conferences in the past three years. RBMS holds meetings at both midwinter and annual conferences.

Regarding respondents' current positions in the workplace, California and New York lead the geographic breakdown by state. Eighteen percent of respondents are special collections department heads, 86% work full time, 51% state that their position consists entirely of special collections work, 36% have worked four years or less in their current position, 39% work in a special collections department, 28% report to their library director, 55% work in a university library, 26% work in a library with a collection of one to three million volumes, and 16% work in a special collections department with over 300,000 volumes. Under "current salary," an optional question, 14% responded that they make between \$40,000 to \$45,000 per year.

RBMS Involvement:

Twenty-four percent of respondents have been members of RBMS for five to nine years. Fifty-seven percent state that the opportunity to meet colleagues is the main motivation to join

Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

The Bibliographic Standards Committee (BSC) oversees a variety of standards-related projects, details of which may be found on the committee's website, <http://www.lib.byu.edu/~catalog/people/rlm/bsc/home.htm>. It maintains an ever-growing web listing of Resources for Rare Materials Catalogers, an online Latin Place Names File, and the six RBMS thesauri of terms used in rare materials cataloguing. An editorial subcommittee was recently given the additional charge of maintaining the RBMS list of relator terms. The committee has also published the *Guide to Rare Book Records in Online Systems*, a set of considerations for libraries moving to a new system.

At the 1998 Annual ALA conference, the committee approved a core standard for rare book cataloguing, to be used in BIBCO cataloguing; this standard will become an official Program for Cooperative Cataloguing standard as well. At the 1998 RBMS Preconference, the committee hosted a well-attended session on the cataloguing of nineteenth-century books, presented by Russell Martin and Manon Th  roux.

The committee is currently undertaking two major new projects: the formulation and approval of a set of cataloguing standards for codex manuscripts; and a revision of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Books*. The latter project is expected to take the next two years. Finally, libraries that have not yet completed the BSC survey on the retrospective conversion of rare materials are invited to do so (quickly!). The survey can be found at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/~catalog/people/rlm/bsc/survey98.htm>.

Education and Professional Development

The committee is most happy to report that the Education Directory listing pertinent coursework in the field of Rare Books and Manuscripts has been added to the RBMS website. The committee has now turned its attention to the updating and maintenance aspects of keeping such a directory. Other agenda items the committee will be addressing in the near future are the possibility of an internship, funding of a Preconference attendee, and proposals for upcoming Preconference seminars/workshops. The Committee is eager to hear from the membership on these issues and invites your attendance in Philadelphia.

Exhibition Catalogue Awards

The Katherine Keyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards Commit-

tee is currently preparing a digital exhibition of award-winning catalogues from the first ten years of the award's existence. Its intention is to reformat the traveling exhibition of award-winning catalogues assembled by the Committee in 1995, and to link the resulting constellation of web pages to relevant web resources. The project is still very much in a formative, dynamic stage and anyone eager to make suggestions is welcome to contact the chair, Michael Joseph at mjoseph@rci.rutgers.edu

Manuscripts and Other Formats

On Saturday afternoon, June 27, twenty-seven attended the Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group at the ALA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. After general news and reports from individual repositories, Henry Snyder (UC Riverside) raised several questions on behalf of the IFLA Universal Bibliographic Control Committee, not least of which was, "What is the definition of a manuscript?" The two primary topics of discussion were curatorial management and research use of scrapbooks (as an "other format") and privacy issues, especially third party rights, in archival collections.

The Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group is currently planning for a midwinter joint meeting in Philadelphia with the newly formed Photographic & Recording Media Discussion Group of ALCTS PARS (Preservation & Reformatting Section). The shared topic of interest is curatorial management of photograph collections.

Membership

In addition to analyzing the recent membership survey, the Membership Committee is finishing up work on the survey of targeted non-RBMS members and continuing the popular conference and Preconference buddy program. If you are interested in participating in the buddy program during the Midwinter conference in Philadelphia, please contact the chair, Suzy Taraba, at staraba@wesleyan.edu or 860-685-3375. A more formal call for participants will be issued through the RBMS electronic list closer to the time of the conference.

The Membership Committee has openings for new members. If you are interested, please contact Suzy Taraba.

Public Services

Our meeting in Washington, D.C. was devoted to discussion of the administration of reference services in rare book and manuscript repositories. We shared information on how we provide reference services to the public, taking into account considerations such as: mix of professional vs. paraprofessional staff; cross-functional vs. dedicated reference staff; liaison with general library reference; number of service hours provided; the issues related to remote vs. in-person reference;

the impact of new technologies on how we provide information about our collections and services, and the changing constituencies for these services.

Meeting agenda and minutes for the Public Services Discussion Group are posted on the RBMS electronic list. The chair welcomes suggestions for future discussion topics.

Publications

The *RBMS Newsletter* ran its first photograph in its Spring 1998 issue. The new editor is Priscilla Thomas, and the assistant editors are Daren Callahan and Manon Théroux. Current issues of the *Newsletter* are now accessible in electronic form through the RBMS website, with past issues to be mounted in the near future.

Candidates for editor of *RBML* were interviewed at ALA in June, and the new editor will be named shortly. Plans to mount past issues of *RBML* on the RBMS website remain in place. The Publications Committee is working out the details for getting this done.

The RBMS website continues to grow and remains popular, with the committee roster and *Your Old Books* continuing as star attractions. However, the first RBMS Preconference announcement and registration proved to be popular, allowing many to register for this year's Preconference through the website, including a first-time registrant from Japan.

Plans are underway to add to the RBMS site a digitized version of the Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee's traveling exhibition featuring winners of the Leab award during the first ten years of the award's existence. The Publications Committee discussed various alternative homes for this document, such as the ALA server, the server of a member of the Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee, or the University of Illinois, where the ALA archives are to be kept; but the committee settled on the RBMS website as the most practical place for it to reside given that committee membership and server affiliations change over time.

The RBMS electronic discussion list has a stable constituency of just under 500 subscribers. Committee chairs are encouraged to post the agendas and minutes of their committee meetings to the list. The list also continues to be a useful forum for announcements of concern to RBMS members. Instructions on how to subscribe may also be found on the RBMS website.

Security

The Security Committee continues to sponsor the Library Security Officer (LSO) electronic list, which is administered by Susan Allen at UCLA. This list, which is completely moderated and has no discussion, distributes information about library thefts, some of which is not available on Exlibris or other electronic lists. RBMS members should urge their directors to appoint an LSO and have them subscribe to

the LSO list if they haven't already done so. You may contact Susan at sallen@library.ucla.edu for further information.

The workshop "Reading Room Security and Beyond," sponsored by the Security Committee and the Public Services Discussion Group, was held June 23 before the RBMS Preconference. It was very well-attended and deemed a success. A number of people directly involved in the Bland case participated. Because of the sensitive nature of some of the discussions and remarks, no detailed record was kept of the proceedings.

Revisions to *Guidelines for the Security of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Other Special Collections* was the subject of a Preconference seminar, the main purpose of which was to gather opinions, comments, and suggestions from the audience regarding the proposed revisions. The document has now been completely revised and is available on the RBMS web page for public comment. The current guidelines may be found at <http://www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/secguide.htm> and the proposed revisions may be found at <http://www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/secguidraft.html>. Currently ACRL is revising its definitions of what constitutes a "guideline" and what constitutes a "standard." If a document is deemed to be the latter, outcomes assessment information will have to be included. The committee is still waiting for ACRL to rule on this matter and thus the revision process is on hold.

Seminars

During ALA in June, the committee reviewed lessons learned from the eleven seminars just presented at the very successful 1998 RBMS Preconference and evaluated proposals for the nine slots available for Montreal in 1999. Many of the proposals support the Preconference theme, "Border Crossings: Exploring New Territories for Special Collections." Among the proposals accepted or under development are: developing written collection development policies for special collections; physical examination and survey techniques (curators and conservators evaluate collections for treatment); collecting for the 21st century (case studies in environmental history); collecting Mexico (documenting and preserving Mexican collections); exhibiting collections on the World Wide Web; special collections materials as museum objects; the Janus Press and private press publishing; and, non-traditional methods of promoting special collections.

Transitions (Cont. from p. 8)

collections department of the University of Virginia, William H. Runge, has passed away. Jill Snider has been appointed manuscripts processing librarian at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. David T. Thackery died in July; he served the Newberry Library in Chicago as curator of local and family history.

1998 RBMS Preconference

The Thirty-Ninth RBMS Preconference, "Getting Ready for the Nineteenth Century: Strategies and Solutions for Rare Book and Special Collections Librarians," was held June 23-26, 1998, in Washington, DC. Some 304 participants explored strategies and solutions for the acquisition, preservation, and research use of published and unpublished materials from the nineteenth century. These scholarly materials, often not within the current purview of rare book repositories, archives, and special collections, present a significant and growing intellectual, financial, physical, and administrative challenge to librarians, archivists, and scholars. The program included plenary addresses, seminar sessions, paper presentations, and workshops designed to foster the investigation of collection development, preservation, public service, technical service, and administrative issues central to the work of rare book and special collections librarians and information professionals.

Plenary speakers included John Y. Cole, Center for the Book; Nancy Gwinn, Smithsonian Libraries; Abby Smith, Council on Library and Information Resources; Paul Conway, Yale University Library; Sandria Freitag, American Historical Association; James Green, Library Company of Philadelphia and James Neal, The Johns Hopkins University. Cole and Gwinn provided an entertaining and informative "two-person play" about the origins and development of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. With Alice Schreyer (University of Chicago) serving as moderator, Paul Conway, Sandria Freitag and Abby Smith collaborated on an intensive discussion of the future of nineteenth-century research materials and the roles that our professional organizations can play in influencing preservation and research initiatives. James Green provided perspective on the success and failure of managing nineteenth-century collections in libraries to date, and James Neal offered observations as the director of an academic research library with extensive nineteenth-century holdings and many other pressing priorities.

Seminar sessions included panels on the cataloguing of undated minor publications, collecting Western Americana ephemera, and the evolution of publishers' bindings; managing photographic collections; and the development of picture books and the "image populaire." Additional seminars focused on such diverse issues as printed booksellers' catalogues in the electronic age; the evaluation of exhibitions and exhibition catalogues on the World Wide Web; in-house rare book auctions for libraries; and the revised security guidelines proposed by the RBMS Security Committee.

Two all-day workshops were held at the Library of Congress. "Reading Room Security and Beyond," directed by Everett Wilkie and Katherine Reagan, included components relating to surveillance systems and techniques, the Bland Case, the role of the legal system, and practical demonstrations in maintaining and monitoring reading room security. Sue Allen, noted preservation expert, led the work-

shop "Preservation Selection for Nineteenth Century Books." Registrants received a workbook of readings, examples, and guidelines to assist in the process of identifying and evaluating nineteenth-century materials, and a practicum component allowed participants the opportunity to examine and evaluate a variety of nineteenth-century materials.

Research papers presented in panel sessions focused on such topics as nineteenth-century books in circulating collections; bindings; encyclopedic culture in the 1800's; publishing archives; and bibliographic instruction in nineteenth-century American history.



Attendees listen attentively to welcoming remarks at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

On Thursday afternoon, participants enjoyed a selection of special tours at such locations as the Library of Congress (Rare Books and Special Collections Division; Manuscripts Division; Prints and Photographs Division; Preservation Directorate; and National Digital Library); the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University; the Folger Shakespeare Library; the National Air and Space Museum Branch Library; and the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. On Friday, tours included visits to the National Library of Medicine; The Society of Cincinnati Library; the U.S. Holocaust Museum; and the National Archives.

Sixty-six percent of participants filled out evaluation forms, which represents the highest percentage of forms gathered to date. Some 52% of registrants had attended five or fewer Preconferences, and 67% noted 11 or more years in the profession (33.5% held 21+ years in the profession). The percentage of registrants between 1-5 years in the profession was 17%. The theme was the predominant reason for 71% of registrants attending the Preconference. While 17% noted no institutional support for attendance, 63% noted more than 50% of their funds were supplied. Perhaps most importantly, 95% of registrants rated the Preconference "good/very good," a fact supported by the 90%+ ratings for the appropriateness of the theme to the profession; the value of the seminar sessions; the use of local resources; and hotel accommodations.

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1997 RBMS Membership Survey (Cont. from p. 3)

RBMS, followed by the professional opportunities the section provides. Brochure and promotional information/web-site are of less importance. Sixty-three percent of respondents have never served on an RBMS committee. Of those who have served, 59% have served on two or more committees. Eighty-two percent of respondents have never held an office in RBMS. Seventy-six percent of respondents are satisfied or more than satisfied with their involvement in RBMS. A significant number (22%) chose not to answer the question, "How rewarding have you found your involvement with RBMS?" Eighty-five percent have never dropped their RBMS membership. Of those who did drop membership, the two main reasons given were the dropping of ALA membership and RBMS not being relevant to job duties. Forty-two percent of respondents would like to be more active in RBMS; 49% would not like to be more active. Factors that would encourage more active participation include easier access to committee membership and more institutional support.

Reading the *RBMS Newsletter* and *College & Research Libraries News* are the two main ways respondents get information about RBMS. The written responses to this question demonstrate respondents' reliance on personal contact with colleagues to inform them of section activities. Respondents chose RBMS Preconferences as the item they like most about RBMS. Areas for improvement include opportunities for involvement and diversity of membership. Quality of publications, quality of programming, and communication received the lowest response in areas for improvement. Although 33% of respondents have never attended an RBMS Preconference, 20% have attended at least six times. Fifty-two percent have not attended an RBMS Preconference in the past three years. The two main reasons given for not attending a Preconference are more active participation in other organizations and the costs involved in attending. Thankfully, Preconference topics not being relevant or interesting had the lowest response. Seventy-four percent of respondents prefer to read the *RBMS Newsletter* in paper format. Reasons given include the convenience, portability, and greater legibility of the paper version. The top two choices of new or expanded initiatives respondents would like to see RBMS pursue are continuing education and regional programs.

Conclusion

The 1997 RBMS membership survey provides a wealth of information for planning future section activities and identifies recruitment possibilities for our organization. Future surveys can be more focused, and therefore shorter, and will help keep RBMS officials in touch with members' concerns.

RBMS Executive Committee 1998/1999

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Transitions

Susan M. Allen, head of special collections at UCLA, will be the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section representative to IFLA. Mario Casalini, owner and director of Casalini Libri in Italy, died after a struggle with cancer. Supervising librarian for special collections at the Newark, New Jersey, Public Library, William J. Dane, was given the Art Libraries Society of North America's Distinguished Service Award for 1998. Former acting director of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Lawrence Dowler, retired from the Harvard College Library. Charles Egleston was recently appointed cataloger of medieval and renaissance manuscripts at the Pierpont Morgan Library. Kimball C. Elkins, retired curator of the Harvard Library, died at the age of 94. The University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill Davis Library recently named Joan F. Ferguson cataloger of the North Carolina collection. Peter S. Graham has been named University Librarian at Syracuse University. Graham has had an active role on the advisory board of Book Arts Press at the University of Virginia and been a member of the governing bodies of the ALA, the Bibliographical Society of America, and the Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities. Debra Holster is now government documents/special collections librarian at East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma. C. David Jackson is now the head of the North Carolina State University Libraries' special collections in Raleigh. The Iowa State University Library's special collections department has named Elisabeth Kaplan as their new collections archivist. Alice N. Loranth, recently retired head of fine arts and special collections at the Cleveland Public Library, died this past August. Charles Mann, Jr., Pennsylvania State University's Rare Books Librarian for four decades, died recently. Special collections librarian Emmy Mills has retired from the Walter Clinton Jackson Library at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro after 30 years of service. Nora Quin-

lan has recently joined the staff at Nova Southeastern Library at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as Reference/Instructional Technology Librarian. Retired curator of rare books in the special

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1998 Preconference (Cont. from p. 6)

ACRL has approved a request to publish the plenary papers delivered at the Preconference, and Laura Stalker and Bill Brown will serve as co-editors for this publication. Members of the 1998 Preconference Program Committee include: William E. Brown, Jr., University of Miami (Chair); Charlotte Brown, University of California, Los Angeles; Katherine Fox, University of Houston; Mary Lacy, Library of Congress (Ex Officio); Elaine Smyth, Louisiana State University; Laura Stalker, Huntington Library (Ex Officio); Bradley Westbrook, University of California, San Diego; and Bruce Whiteman, University of California, Los Angeles.

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