

RBMS Newsletter



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From the Chair

As I survey the long inventory of our activities this fall, it seems as if RBMS has never been more productive and creative in its achievements. As an organization devoted to the care of rare books, manuscripts, and other archival materials, and to the professional advancement of those who serve them, we have much to celebrate. RBMS remains one of the most dynamic sections of the Association of College and Research Libraries, with twenty-seven committees, task forces, and discussion groups. We maintain more than a dozen nationally distributed publications, standards, and guidelines, and our annual conference has a track record of success approaching the half-century mark. As of July 2005, RBMS membership reached 1,726, a jump of more than a hundred members since July, 2004. And it is especially gratifying to see a gain of 30% in our student membership in the past year: from 139 in 2004 to 180 in 2005.

The 46th RBMS Preconference, “Bridging the Gap: Education and Special Collections,” was a rousing success. I know that all those who attended will join me in thanking the Preconference Program Planning Committee, led by Eric Holzenberg, Tory Ondrla and the meeting and events staff at ACRL, Elizabeth Johnson and her Seminars Committee, and the hard-working Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Anne Posega, who made everyone feel welcome in St. Louis.

Also notable in our hall of achievements this year is RBMS’ first successful grant application. In June, we received the exciting news that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) had granted RBMS \$93,106 to support the 2006 RBMS Preconference, “Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?,” a program conceived to explore the cultural missions of museums, libraries, and archives, and to foster greater communication among them. The Preconference will be held next June in Austin, Texas, and hosted by the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. Christian Dupont, the Program Chair, will have more to say about the Preconference and its goals in his report.

Other initiatives are brewing. The RBMS Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force has become the standing Committee on Diversity, reflecting our profession’s commitment to ensuring that our membership and our collections reflect the full spectrum of our society. RBMS is also hard at work developing new professional guidelines: the Core Competencies for Special Collections Librarianship Task Force met formally for the first time at ALA Annual in Chicago and it plans to distribute a first draft of recommendations early in 2006. New revisions of the ACRL/RBMS *Guidelines for the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections* and the *ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials* are also in the works. You

can find out more about the many other activities of RBMS committees and discussion groups in the reports that follow.

Finally, as we pause to congratulate ourselves on another successful year, I urge everyone to take a moment to consider how you might assist those institutions and colleagues affected by the devastation on the Gulf Coast this summer. ALA maintains a website devoted to facilitating aid for hurricane relief efforts at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/cro/atlanta/atlanta.htm>.

Thank you to everyone who makes RBMS such a strong and vibrant organization. It is our collective efforts and our sense of shared mission that make involvement in the work of RBMS such a rewarding experience.

— Katherine Reagan

2005 Preconference Report

The goal of the 46th Annual Preconference—“Bridging the Gap: Education and Special Collections”—was to examine two related questions of crucial importance in our profession. First, what roles do special collections librarians play (or should be expected to play) in the interpretation, promotion, and development of collections under their care? And second, what is the state of educational opportunities available to prepare us for these responsibilities?

In laying a foundation for discussion on both topics, keynote speaker Deirdre Stam (Palmer Library School, Long Island University) established a leitmotif for the conference with her use of the term “pizzazz” to describe one kind of excellence in rare book librarianship. Suzy Taraba (Wesleyan University) gave an extended and thoughtful introduction to the second plenary session, which dealt with issues of outreach and scholarly use of special collections. Stephen Escar Smith (Texas A&M University) mused on the role of the librarian in the teaching and interpretation of rare books and manuscripts, and Margaret Mitchell (University of Chicago) tackled the role of the scholar with extraordinary pizzazz.

In the third plenary session, Alice Schreyer (University of Chicago), Beth Yakel (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), and Bill Landis (California Digital Library, University of California) summarized educational opportunities for special collections librarians in the United States. And in the fourth session, Patricia Fleming (University of Toronto), François Dupuigrenet Desroussilles (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Sciences de l’Information et des Bibliothèques, Lyon), and Mirjam Foot (University College, London) provided valuable contrasting perspectives from abroad. Although M. Dupuigrenet Desroussilles was unable to attend the session, his concise and informative paper was given a dramatic reading by Richard Noble (Brown University).

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RBMS Midwinter Meeting Schedule San Antonio, January 20-25, 2006

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

2:00-5:30 pm

Bibliographic Standards, Thesaurus Subcommittee

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00-10:00 am

Membership and Professional Development
Curators and Conservators Discussion Group

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Bibliographic Standards
Exhibition Awards (closed)

10:30-11:30 am

2007 Preconference Program Planning
Nominating (closed)

10:30 am-12:30 pm

2006 Preconference Program Planning

1:30-3:30 pm

Budget and Development
Publications
Seminars
Task Force to Review *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*

4:00-6:00 pm

Security
2007 Conference Planning

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00-10:00 am

Conference Development
Diversity
Exhibition Awards II

10:30-11:30 am

MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group

10:30 am-12:30 pm

RBM Editorial Board
ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access Review Task Force
Public Services Discussion Group (joint meeting with Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group)

1:30-3:30 pm

2006 Conference Program Planning
Core Competencies for Special Collections Task Force
Collection Development Discussion Group

4:00-5:00 pm

Information Exchange

MONDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00-11:30 am

Executive Committee

1:30-6:00 pm

Bibliographic Standards DCRM(B) editorial meeting (closed)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00 am-11:30 am

Bibliographic Standards DCRM(B) editorial meeting (closed)

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

Annual Conference Program Report

At the ALA Annual Meeting, RBMS and the African, Asian, and Middle Eastern Section of ACRL sponsored the program "Collecting World Cultures: African, Asian, Caribbean, and Native American Materials in Chicago Institutions." Speakers from Northwestern University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Newberry Library, and the University of Chicago discussed the issues, challenges, and responsibilities involved in collecting and managing treasured cultural materials.

David Easterbrook, curator of the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern, emphasized the role that inter-institutional cooperation has played in the development of African Studies libraries. He surveyed the present scope and formats of material in the Herskovits Library's collection—with emphasis on

issues related to acquiring African imprints—and he described examples of collaboration with African institutions.

Nancy R. Cirillo, associate professor of English at University of Illinois, Chicago, and her colleague Nancy John, associate professor and assistant university librarian, provided a visual overview of "Images of the Caribbean," a preservation-and-access project to serve scholars in such fields as post-colonial and Caribbean Studies, Black British Studies, history of the book, and cultural studies.

The H.D. Carberry Collection of Caribbean Studies presents a nearly complete picture of an influential intellectual and cultural tradition as it emerged in the latter half of the twentieth century. The book jacket art, especially of the novels, vividly illustrates the social, racial, sexual, and political iconography of post-war Britain during the dissolution of empire and the assimilation of new popu-

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Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

We held a public hearing on DCRM(B) at ALA Annual, attended by about a hundred people, and have also received institutional and personal comments, which will all help confirm the document's directions in many areas and resolve issues that have been controversial. Final steps involve incorporating these responses into the draft and working with the Library of Congress to agree on the final text. After that, we will submit DCRM(B) to the Bibliographic Standards and Executive Committees for final approval. We're hoping to send a final version to press soon after Midwinter.

We have also chosen a thesaurus software package, and our paper files have been converted in anticipation. We've been talking with a designer for the web interface and, at this point, are only waiting for funding. When it comes, we will work quickly to put the thesauri online and to make them readily available, supported by software that will allow a searcher to take advantage of the thesauri's syndetic structure.

In addition, we sponsored two successful programs at the 2005 Preconference: a full-day workshop (on *Descriptive Cataloging of Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, and Early Modern Manuscripts*) and a seminar on the impact of digital initiatives on cataloging departments. We will be sponsoring a seminar on artists' books at the 2006 Preconference. All our meetings are always open, and everyone is welcome to attend and participate.

Budget and Development

The Committee continued its discussion of fundraising for RBMS scholarships and support of the Preconferences. We will continue to explore ways of more prominently featuring vendors who support RBMS in our Preconference and professional literature.

Conference Development

In keeping with its charge to develop long-range plans for RBMS conferences and events, the Committee is involved in a variety of areas. Upcoming work this year will include finalizing our Southern California location for the 2008 RBMS Preconference, preliminary investigation of where—and how—to celebrate the Section's fiftieth anniversary in 2009, and ongoing exploration of the possibility of holding the 2010 RBMS Preconference in the United Kingdom. A new Chair for the Committee will be announced later this fall.

Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship

At its meeting in Chicago, the Task Force reviewed points about its charge that had emerged from the St. Louis Preconference, agreed on a set of assumptions to use in drafting a document for broad distribution, review, and input, and also established a timeline for its work. The document will be concerned with all types of special

collections environments and be intended for a very broad audience. It will also encompass all formats of materials, address special collections professionals (rather than support staff), and speak to the future of the profession (2010-2020).

Two types of competencies will be distinguished: "foundation" competencies—characteristics needed by all special collections librarians—and specialist, or functional competencies.

The goal is to have a first draft ready in time for discussion at an open meeting during ALA Midwinter. A revised draft will be distributed to other groups in spring 2006, including Oberlin and IRLA special collections libraries, and also form the basis of sessions at both the 2006 RBMS Preconference and the Society of American Archivists 2006 meeting. A meeting to review the draft may also be arranged under the auspices of the ARL Special Collections Task Force. Other avenues for input include sending the draft to ARL directors, publication in *C&RL News*, and posting on the RBMS website. The timeline provides for a final draft to be sent to the Executive Committee in 2007.

Curators and Conservators

We met in Chicago to discuss the topic of risk management and loss prevention in special collections. Mary Breighner, vice president of FM Global and coauthor of the recent ALA publication, *Risk Management Manual for Libraries*, introduced the topic by defining risk management and giving specific reasons for valuing special collections materials. The discussion covered how to best establish values for special collections materials, how to work with library administration to establish values and obtain insurance for high-value pieces, and how to find an appraiser. Also covered were different steps that libraries can take to prevent loss, including disaster planning, extra precautions during renovations, and additional insurance during exhibition and transit.

Diversity

The Diversity Action Plan Implementation Task Force was discharged following the 2005 Annual Meeting. The RBMS Executive Committee has created a new standing Diversity Committee to carry forward the work of the Task Force. The Diversity Committee will be chaired by Julie Grob, with members J. Fernando Peña, Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, Penny Welbourne, Kathleen Burns, and Petrina Jackson.

Exhibition Awards

The Committee held its annual awards ceremony at the McCormick Convention Center in Chicago, where representatives from each of the five winning institutions of the 2004-2005 Exhibition Awards received certificates from outgoing Chair Melissa Conway. The winning exhibitions catalogs, brochure, and electronic exhibition were previously announced in the Spring 2005 *Newsletter*. For a complete list of the winners and all entrants in the 2005 competition, see: http://www.rbms.nd.edu/committees/exhibition_awards/submissions/past/2005_winners.shtml.

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Exhibition Awards (continued from page 3)

Among the many items covered by the EAC at its open meeting at ALA Annual in June were the feasibility of constructing a website comprising all Leab winners and honorable mention recipients since 1986 and ways to publicize more effectively the Leab competition among non-RBMS libraries. The incoming Chair, Marcia Reed, was introduced and welcomed. Jennifer Ford and David Whitesell, two members rotating off the committee at the end of their terms of service, were thanked for their valuable contributions to the Committee.

Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections

The Task Force held its second meeting at ALA Annual. The agenda included finalizing editorial procedures for the *Guidelines* and discussing proposed edits submitted by Task Force members. It is anticipated that the Task Force will complete work on a first draft shortly after the 2006 Midwinter Meeting. The revision will then be submitted to the RBMS Executive Committee for review and comment. After the Executive Committee's review, RBMS members, librarians, archivists, and friends of special collections will be invited to comment on the revision. Announcements of the comment period will be sent via listserves and published in *College and Research Library News*.

Manuscripts and Other Formats

The next meeting of the Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group will be in San Antonio at ALA's Midwinter Meeting. It will be a joint meeting with the Public Services Discussion Group, and all are invited to attend.

MARC for Special Collections

The group participated in a joint meeting with the Public Services Discussion Group (PSEG) in Chicago. For the details of this meeting, please see the PSDG write-up. E.C. Schroeder has stepped down as Chair of the Discussion Group, having been elected Vice-Chair of RBMS, and appointment of a new Chair is pending.

Membership and Professional Development

The Committee rolled out the new RBMS Mentoring Program in December, 2004. By the Annual Meeting, twenty-two mentors and mentees had been paired up, with six of the mentees being from underrepresented groups. In addition, the Buddy Program matched fourteen pairs of "buddies" for the St. Louis Preconference. The Preconference Scholarship Program received nineteen applications

this year and awarded three full and five partial scholarships. The New Members Orientation was held in St. Louis, and thirty-six new members attended.

A subcommittee has been looking into virtual committee membership and it reported that virtual committee meetings are an expensive undertaking not yet in wide use within ALA. The subcommittee will continue to develop information on this issue, however, and will make a progress report at Midwinter.

Public Services

An overflow crowd of catalogers and public services librarians alike met for discussion in Chicago. Following the recent pattern of one RBMS discussion group rotating off the regular meeting schedule, the Public Services Discussion Group welcomed the MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group to its meeting. The group addressed issues relating to "hidden collections" initiatives, focusing on the intersections of cataloging and public service.

Participants agreed that it is important to provide access to hidden collections, but opinions varied on how to do it, who should do it, and how fast or how completely it should be done. There are many different approaches and staffing plans. Some examples: expediting the cataloging of backlogs with minimal-level cataloging, converting card catalogs to machine readable records, providing collection-level records, and creating EAD-encoded finding aids. Participants also highlighted the importance of collaboration between catalogers and public service librarians and the challenges of balancing access and security.

We then looked at the related issue of managing local databases. Such databases are used by some libraries to provide access to uncataloged collections (e.g., sheet music, chapbooks), other difficult-to-catalog special collections materials (e.g., ephemera), special collection indexing (e.g., printers, images), and special collections activities (e.g., conservation, accessions). There seems to be a trend of making some of these databases web-accessible. Several different programs were mentioned, including EndNote, FileMaker Pro, Access, and Ask Sam. The question of how to coordinate access and institutional standards for databases remained largely unanswered, although some expressed hope that federated searching would provide a degree of coordinated access.

Some of the liveliest discussion came in response to two questions: 1) What do public services staff think provides the most value in cataloging? 2) What do catalogers put in that adds value? Public services staff responded: provenance, printers, genre terms, autographs and inscriptions, links to images, full-level rare book cataloging, indexing, and classification.

At the 2006 Midwinter Meeting, the Public Services Discussion Group will join the Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group. Please join us for this joint discussion, and send ideas to Hjordis Halvorson at: halvorsonh@newberry.org.

Publications

A large part of the Publications Committee meeting at ALA Annual focused on possible changes to the RBMS website. There has been much discussion about moving the website from the current host server to one that will offer more flexibility and be better suited to the needs of Section members and other users. Many factors need to be considered before such a move can be made. The Committee approved the move of the RBMS-L discussion list to a new software program called Mailman, which will allow messages to be archived automatically. The existing list policies will remain in effect, but users will be asked to re-subscribe when the move has been completed, probably before Midwinter, 2006.

The update to *Your Old Books* is in the final stages of copy-editing. The diversity insert has been completed and is now available with the RBMS brochure.

Martha Lawler has completed her term as Chair and will be succeeded by Mike Kelly. The Committee expressed its thanks to her for her leadership at the close of its meeting in Chicago.

RBM

The Fall issue of *RBM* features a lead article by David Levy: "Contemplating Scholarship in the Digital Age." Many RBMS members will remember his plenary talk at the 2003 Toronto Preconference: "What a Vacuous Way to Spend So Many Years! Reflections on Materials and Materiality in a Digital Age." The subject of education for special collections librarianship is very timely, and will be the focus of *RBM*'s Spring 2006 issue, which will consist of selected articles from the last summer's RBMS Preconference in St. Louis.

Serving as a bridge to the Spring 2006 issue of *RBM* is Susan Stekel Rippley's article, "The Education and Hiring of Special Collections Librarians: Observations from a Recent Recruit," in the upcoming Fall issue. Preservation assessment for rare book collections is the focus of "Rare Condition: Preservation Assessment for Rare Book Collections," coauthored by Mary Ellen Starmer, Sara Hyder, and Aimée Leverette. Alberto Loza's article, "The Sala de Investigaciones-Fondo Reservado of the University of San Marcos Central Library, Lima, Peru," opens a fascinating window on special collections librarianship in Peru. And in the latest article in a continuing series, Dan Slive has again produced an exceptional interview with a major figure in the profession in connection with his retirement, Norman Fiering of the John Carter Brown Library.

Security

The Committee recently completed a mailing to various library groups and institutions urging them to appoint a Library Security Officer, if they had not already done so, and to enroll that person in the LSO list that Susan Allen has maintained for several years, through which she sends theft reports to list members. The response to the mailing was quite good, resulting in the appointment

of several new LSOs. If your institution is interested in participating, please contact Susan directly at: sallen@getty.edu.

The Committee continues work on its proposed security manual; several new chapters were discussed at the Chicago meeting. Although a number of RBMS members have expressed interest in seeing drafts, the Committee feels it is best to have the entire text of the manual written before sharing it with a wider membership.

The "Incidents of Theft" list has been taken over by Todd Fell. Reports may be sent to him at: Todd.Fell@Yale.edu.

Seminars

The nine seminars offered during the 2005 Preconference covered topics ranging from digital initiatives of various sorts to librarianship and the book trade. Titles of seminars presented were: "Digital Initiatives and the Impact on Cataloging Departments"; "Virtual St. Louis: A Digital Urban Archives"; "Redefining Rare, or, What's So Special About That Collection?"; "Current Trends in Fellowships"; "Preservation Education for Special Collections Librarians"; "Contemporary Issues and Initiatives Pertaining to Access in Special Collections"; "Going Over to the Dark Side: Librarianship and the Book Trade"; "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS), or What do EAD, MARC, APPM, ISAD (G), EAC, and ISAAR(CPF) All Have in Common?"; and "Digitizing Cultural Heritage: Academic Special Collections in Partnership with Native American Communities."

Feedback from Preconference evaluations was very positive overall, with particularly high marks for some of the sessions, including the ones on DACS, librarianship and the book trade, and contemporary issues and initiatives. Attendees also asked for clarification of the difference between the short papers and seminars and requested that more information about the seminars be printed in the Preconference program.

The Committee will work on providing more complete information to the Local Arrangements Committee for the Austin 2006 Preconference. Committee member Arvid Nelsen continues to work on expanding the scope of the "Seminars Presented Database." With only a few years not covered, the database is an almost complete record of RBMS seminar activity, providing a useful historical and evaluative tool. Nelsen is also working with other section members on making this database available on the Section website.

At its Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio, the Committee will be finalizing plans for the seminars at the Austin Preconference and considering topics for the 2007 Baltimore Preconference. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for consideration, information about what to include in a proposal, including an electronic form, is available on the RBMS website. You may also contact Elizabeth Johnson at: johnson1@indiana.edu. You do not have to be a member of the Seminars Committee to submit a proposal.

A*CENSUS Report

At the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Meeting in New Orleans this past August, the program session "A Sense of A*CENSUS" presented overviews of the general data analysis and special reports on graduate education, continuing education, and leadership, as well as information on accessing the A*CENSUS public data files. These reports are available on the SAA website at: <http://www.archivists.org/a-census>.

A second program session consisted of a lively question-and-answer period based on the findings presented. The working group met to plan for the release of the final report and its recommendations. A subset of the data file will be made available for use by RBMS.

2005 Preconference Report *(continued from page 1)*

The profession expects RBMS Preconferences to be enlightening, educational, and (with luck) entertaining. The final plenary session by Mark Dimunation (Library of Congress) was all of these, and the 230-odd attendees also found themselves deeply moved. Entitled "Red Wine and White Carpets: What We Didn't Learn in Library School; or, When the Dog and Pony Show Goes Bad," the presentation moved from humor to insight to strong emotion in a way that had the audience on their feet for a standing ovation. This almost unheard-of occurrence was followed by a similar outpouring of approval for Terry Belanger's thoughtful summation—not many Preconferences have ended on such a high note.

The attendees were responding not only to the plenary sessions, but also to the strong and well-chosen roster of seminars organized by Elizabeth Johnson (Lilly Library, Indiana University) and her Committee, the thought-provoking short papers, the workshops, and of course the stellar performance of Ann Posega (Washington University), John Hoover (Mercantile Library), and the other members of the Local Arrangements Committee.

There will be time and opportunity to ponder the issues raised by "Bridging the Gap: Education and Special Collections" in a special Spring, 2006 issue of *RBM*, which will collect the available plenary papers delivered during the Preconference.

Conference Program Report *(continued from page 2)*

lations of color. Brian Hosmer, director of the Newberry Library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, discussed how the Center has explored innovative ways to bridge the gap between tribal communities and the library's considerable holdings in American Indian history. This emphasis—bringing with it certain stresses and strains, misunderstandings, and a few missed opportunities—is driven by a conviction that research libraries must build reciprocal relationships with communities whose history and culture they represent and document, an articulation of the library's often discussed "stewardship" obligation.

James Nye, bibliographer for Southern Asia and director of the South Asia Language and Area Center at the University of Chicago, described their "catch and release" programs, which purchase collections from private collectors in South Asia, maintain the cultural patrimony in the subcontinent, deliver preservation surrogates to Chicago for use by U.S. scholars, and eventually cede the print collections to sister institutions in the subcontinent.

ACRL Preconference Scholarships

ACRL has approved an RBMS initiative request for additional scholarship money for the 2007 Preconference in Baltimore. The ACRL Board will be budgeting \$6,270 in the initial draft of the 2007 budget to fund up to fifteen scholarships for ACRL members who are first-time Preconference attendees, with up to eight earmarked for individuals from underrepresented groups.

Also of Note...

Rare Book School News

Terry Belanger Named 2005 MacArthur Fellow

RBS founder and director, Terry Belanger, was one of twenty-five Fellows named on September 20, 2005 by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. MacArthur Fellows each receive a \$500,000 no-strings grant, paid out over a five-year period.

Belanger announced that he would use the award to further the work of Rare Book School. "RBS is beginning its first capital fund drive, and the MacArthur grant will make an enormous difference in our ability to increase our endowment and ensure the permanence of the school and its collections," he said. For more information on the award, see: http://www.macfound.org/programs/fel/fellows/belanger_terry.htm.

New & Returning RBS Courses

New and returning courses to be offered in 2006 include:

- *Developing Collections of African-American Materials* (Lucious Edwards, Jr., Virginia State, and Michael Plunkett, UVa)
- *Introduction to the History of Book Illustration* (Erin C. Blake, Folger Shakespeare Library)
- *The Stationers' Company of London* (Michael Turner, Bodleian Library, retired, and Ian Gadd, Bath Spa University)

For more details on courses and schedule information, see the RBS website: <http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks/>.

BSA Fellowship Program

The Bibliographical Society of America (BSA) invites applications for its annual short-term fellowship program, which supports bibliographical inquiry as well as research in the history of the book trades and in publishing history. Fellows will be paid a stipend of up to \$2,000 per month for up to two months in support of travel, living, and research expenses. Applications are due by December 1, 2005. Read more about the fellowship program and download an application at: <http://www.bibsocamer.org/fellows.htm>.

APHA Fellowship Award

The American Printing History Association (APHA) announces a new fellowship award for the study of printing history. For 2006, an award of up to \$2,000 is available for research in any area of the history of printing in all its forms, including all the arts and technologies relevant to printing, the book arts, and letter forms. Applications are due by December 9, 2005. Read more about the fellowship program and download an application at: <http://www.printinghistory.org>.

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2006 RBMS Preconference Preview

"Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?" is the theme for the 47th Annual RBMS Preconference, which will be held in Austin, Texas, from Tuesday, June 20 through Friday, June 23, 2006.

The Preconference will bring together leading practitioners from the library, museum, and archival fields to investigate common concerns relating to their shared missions to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the world's cultural artifacts and historical documents. Plenary sessions will address a broad range of topics from comparative viewpoints, including collecting purposes and strategies, descriptive approaches and standards, audiences and communities, access and interpretation, fundraising and administration, professional education, and preservation. A variety of seminar sessions will complement the Preconference theme, and proposals are being reviewed for Preconference workshops.

ACRL/RBMS has received a \$93,106 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to support the Preconference. Part of this grant will be used to provide funding for speakers and conference logistics, but the largest portion will be used to provide thirty attendance scholarships to the Preconference. Scholarships will be available on a competitive basis to new and aspiring library, archives, and museum professionals, especially from professionally underrepresented backgrounds. An application process will be announced on the RBMS website and various electronic mailing lists in the coming months.

The Preconference hotel will be the Stephen F. Austin InterContinental (<http://www.austin.intercontinental.com/>) in downtown Austin. Room rates will range from \$99 to \$129 per night. Additional hotel and dormitory lodging options will be provided. The opening evening reception and morning plenary sessions will be held at the Preconference hotel. Shuttle buses will take participants to and from afternoon seminar and break-out sessions, which will be held on the nearby campus of the University of Texas at Austin. The recently renovated Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (HRC) will serve as the site of several of the afternoon sessions and of an evening reception too. Special tours of the HRC, the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, and other facilities will be available to Preconference attendees. Other outings will also be organized to help attendees take advantage of Austin's many dining and cultural offerings. A large Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chaired by Richard Oram and Cathy Henderson at the HRC is working hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly and that a good time will be had by all.

A website with more details on the Preconference, including program and registration information, is currently in preparation. It will be linked from the RBMS website (<http://www.rbms.nd.edu>) when it goes live later this fall. Any questions or suggestions for the Preconference can be directed to Program Chair Christian Dupont at: cydupont@syr.edu.

Transitions

Rare Book School founder **Terry Belanger** was one of twenty-five recently-announced MacArthur Fellows. This is a tremendously well-deserved honor, which will be a great boon to the profession in light of Terry's dedication to Rare Book School (see page 7 for more details). **Stanley H. Johnston, Jr.**, curator of rare books, Holden Arboretum, was recently honored with the Charles Robert Long Award of Merit from the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL). Congratulations to Terry and Stanley!

John Anderies is now the coordinator for special and digital collections at the Haverford College Library. **Janet Carleton** has been promoted to the newly-created position of digital initiatives coordinator for the Ohio University Libraries. **Robert Cox** has been appointed head of special collections and archives at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. **Charles T. Cullen**, president and librarian of the Newberry Library in Chicago, is retiring. **Deborah DeGeorge** is the new rare/nonbook cataloger at the University of Michigan. **Maria Estorino** has been named interim head of archives and special collections at the University of Miami. **Julie Grob** is now digital projects and instruction librarian for special collections in the University of Houston Libraries. **Kathryn James** is the new reference librarian at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. **Laura Kersting** has been named medieval and renaissance manuscripts cataloger at the Free Library of Philadelphia. **Jennifer Gunter King** is now head of archives and special collections at Mount Holyoke College (not at the Virginia Tech University Libraries, as reported in the Spring 2005 *Newsletter*, an error which the editors regret). **David Koch** has retired as director of the Special Collections Research Center, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, a position he held under various titles since

1980. **Ruth Landry** is now special collections librarian at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. **Craig Likness** has been appointed director of collection development for the Miami University Libraries. **Gail Rodgers McCormick** is now special collections librarian at Goucher College. **Katie Nash** has become special collections librarian and archivist at St. Mary's College of Maryland. **Marguerite Ragnow** has been appointed curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota. **Kevin Repp** is now curator for modern books and manuscripts at the Beinecke Library. **Joseph Ripp** has been promoted to rare book librarian at the Special Collections Research Center, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University. **Csaba Szilagyi** has joined the staff of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University as curator of the newly acquired Human Rights Watch Archives.

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