

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

Spring 2007, Number 46

From the Chair

What do ephemera, two dozen book dealers, and pre-twentieth century cartographic resources have in common? Each is related to one of the many different activities planned for the RBMS Preconference in Baltimore and ALA annual meeting in Washington this year.

This year's Preconference, "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," addresses issues that exist in nearly every rare book and special collections library. The Preconference Programming Committee has worked hard to organize an exciting conference which will appeal to a wide range of special collection librarians. In addition, for the first time since the 1999 Preconference in Montreal, the Preconference will feature a book fair, the Booksellers' Showcase. The Southeast Chapter of ABAA has organized this exciting opportunity for librarians to meet 22 booksellers who will be exhibiting during registration. Please plan to set aside time on registration day (Tuesday) to attend the Showcase.

The ALA Annual Meeting in Washington looks to be very busy for RBMS members. In addition to our regular meetings and an exciting program scheduled for Sunday afternoon entitled "Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries: Collections and Locations, Old and New," RBMS is co-sponsoring several other programs at Washington. These include a Preconference organized by the Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) entitled "Rare, Antiquarian, or Just Plain Old: Cataloging Pre-Twentieth Century Cartographic Resources," a program organized by the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT), Rare and Endangered Government Publications Committee entitled "What Difference Does It Make What Congress Published? American History in the Earliest Congressional Documents," and a program organized by the Anthropology and Social Science Section entitled "Native American Heritage in the Nation's Capitol: Representation, Repatriation, and Resilience."

On top of all that, three RBMS task forces have scheduled hearings to provide an opportunity for RBMS members and other interested parties to comment on their work. These task forces, the Task Force to Revise the *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*, the Task Force on Core Competencies for Special Collections Librarians, and the *Joint Statement on Access Review* Task Force, are addressing issues which are important to the profession. Please make time to attend.

Finally, RBMS will have completed two publication projects by the time of the ALA Annual Meeting. The first is a revised edition of *Your Old Books*; a version of this document is also available

on the RBMS website at www.rbms.info. A revised version of the RBMS brochure will also be available at ALA. This revision was funded by ACRL and includes RBMS' new statement on diversity.

One final and important note: RBMS' mentoring program aims to help new members navigate the rare book profession and become more involved in RBMS. The mentoring program is always looking for RBMS members to act as mentors. Volunteer today! For more information visit the Mentoring Program website at http://www.rbms.info/committees/membership_and_professional/mentoring_program/index.shtml.

Plan to participate in these many and varied activities! Join us in Baltimore and Washington!

E.C. Schroeder

2007 Preconference

The 48th Annual Preconference will be held from Tuesday, June 19, to Friday, June 22, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Entitled "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," the Preconference will celebrate the richness and variety of ephemera collections, and focus on their importance for historical research.

The keynote speaker will be Michael Twyman from the University of Reading, a noted authority in the fields of ephemera and printing history. Other plenary speakers include two scholars, Jon Solomon of the University of Illinois, and Cheryl R. Ganz of the National Postal Museum, who will speak about their use of ephemera in research; a panel of dealers: David Margolis and Jean Moss of Margolis & Moss, and Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris of aGatherin', who will discuss the ephemera trade; two private collectors, William H. Helfand and William P. Barlow, Jr., who will speak about their collecting activities; Georgia B. Barnhill, Curator of Graphic Arts at the American Antiquarian Society; Nicolas Ricketts, Curator at the Strong National Museum of Play; and John N. Pull, Web Specialist at the Library of Congress. The closing plenary speaker will be Julie Anne Lambert, Librarian of the John Johnson Collection at the Bodleian Library.

Twelve short papers will further develop aspects of the conference theme, and will offer the audience opportunities to hear a variety of perspectives on ephemera collections in libraries, museums, and archives.

(continued on page 2)

RBMS Annual Conference Meeting Schedule

ALA Annual Meeting

June 22nd - June 26th, 2007, Washington D.C.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22**1:30-5:30 pm**

Bibliographic Standards, Thesaurus Subcommittee

4:30-6 pm*Transfer Guidelines for General Collection Materials:*
Hearing**6:30-8 pm**

Core Competencies for Special Collections: Hearing

SATURDAY, JUNE 23**8:00-10:00 am**Conference Program Planning – 2008
Curators and Conservators Discussion Group
Membership and Professional Development**8:00 am-12:30 pm**Bibliographic Standards
Exhibition Awards (closed)**10:30-12:00 pm**Conference Program Planning - 2009
Nominating - 2008
Preconference Program Planning - 2008
RBMS/SAA Revision of the *Joint Statement on Access***1:30-3:30 pm**Budget and Development
Publications
Seminars
Security
*Transfer Guidelines for General Collections Materials***4:00-5:30 pm**Preconference Program Planning - 2009
RBMS/SAA Revision of the *Joint Statement on Access:*
Hearing**SUNDAY, JUNE 24****8:00-10:00 am**Conference Development
Diversity Committee
Public Services Discussion Group**10:30 am-12:30 pm**Collection Development Discussion Group
Core Competencies for Special Collections Task Force
MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group
Public Services Discussion Group**1:30-3:30 pm**“Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries:
Collections and Locations, Old and New”
Library Security for Maps (RBMS co-sponsor)**4:00-5:30 pm**

Information Exchange

MONDAY, JUNE 25**8:00-12:00 pm**

Executive Committee

1:30-6:00 pm

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team I (closed)

TUESDAY, JUNE 26**9:00 am-6 pm**Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team II
(closed)

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

2007 Preconference - cont'd.

Some of the nine seminars offered will also directly address the subject of ephemera, while others will cover topics as wide-ranging as collaborative digital projects, the management of special collections cataloging in libraries, and collecting contemporary events. Two workshops are being offered on Tuesday: one on cataloging and organizing ephemera, and the other on fundraising for libraries, museums, and archives.

The Preconference will be based in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood, home to the George Peabody Library, one of Johns Hopkins University's special collection libraries, the Walters Art Museum, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the Maryland Historical Society. Tours to these and other institutions of interest to RBMS members are planned for each day of the conference. The opening reception Tuesday night will be held at the Peabody Library, a magnificent cast-iron structure dating from 1878. There will be a reception Wednesday night at the Walters Art Museum,

with an opportunity to view some of its collections. Thursday, the Preconference will be held on the Johns Hopkins campus, followed by a picnic dinner at Evergreen House, an 1857 Italianate mansion housing another of Johns Hopkins University's special collections. As you make your travel arrangements, please plan to arrive early enough on Tuesday to visit a special Booksellers' Showcase, sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of ABAA, to be held in the registration area. There you will have the opportunity to meet over twenty dealers, view samples of their stock, and pick up handouts and lists.

The web site for the Preconference, <http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/RBMS/index.html>, includes program information, accommodation and travel options, and a complete schedule of events. Please register by May 16th to avoid paying the \$50 late fee. We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore.

Annual Conference Program

The RBMS program at this year's ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. will be held Sunday, June 24th from 1:30-3:00. The Leab Awards ceremony will follow immediately after. The program title is: "Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries: Collections and Locations, Old and New." Speakers will include Elaine Barone, Division Manager, Humanities & Social Sciences Department, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library and Gladys Mahoney, Rare Book Librarian at the Phoenix Public Library.

This program will primarily (but not exclusively) explore issues of management and the administration of rare books and special collections within public library systems. Questions of support and advocacy, exhibit creation, development and fundraising/friendraising, marketing, researcher needs, space planning, and preserving local history will be addressed.

Chair's Report 2005-2006

Thanks to the energy, creativity and dedication of our members, RBMS experienced a period of tremendous activity and achievement in 2005-2006. The year began with the exciting news of the Section's first ever national grant award. In July 2005 IMLS granted RBMS \$93,106 to support the 47th Annual RBMS Preconference, "Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?" With the largest part of the award designated for 30 Preconference scholarships, the 2006 scholarship program received a record-breaking number of applications, and the Preconference itself, based at the Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, was the largest in RBMS history with 350 attendees. The 2006 RBMS conference season was capped by an informative and enjoyable program at the Annual ALA Conference in New Orleans, entitled "Reimagining Special Collections: Building Designs and Considerations for the 21st Century". Thanks are due to Lois Fischer Black, 2006 Program Chair, and her committee members, along with an excellent panel of speakers for this fine program.

It is a pleasure to thank once again everyone who made the 2006 Preconference a success. Christian Dupont, chair of the Preconference Program Committee, provided exceptional leadership for both the conference and for our IMLS grant. The Scholarship Award Committee, led by J. Fernando Peña, had the gargantuan task of reading and ranking 352 applications and ensuring the smooth operation of our scholarship program. Local arrangements at the University of Texas were superb, with Cathy Henderson and Rich Oram at the helm. The Seminars Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Johnson, delivered another fine slate of Preconference seminars. We enjoyed generous support from many Texas institutions, as well as from the ABAA and its individual members. Finally, RBMS could not run its activities and conferences without the goodwill and support of our colleagues in ACRL's office, especially Mary Ellen Davis, Mary Jane Petrowski, and Tory Ondrla.

The activities and achievements of the Section's more than 20 committees and discussion groups are too numerous to cover in this brief Chair's report, but here are a few more of the year's highlights:

RBMS marked the 20th Anniversary of the Leab Exhibition Catalog Awards with a color publication and celebratory seminar covering the award's distinguished contributions to promoting special collections exhibitions. The RBMS Web site received a new home with its migration to www.rbms.info, and 2006 saw the completion of a revised text for *Your Old Books*. The Bibliographic Standards Committee completed its revision of *DCRM(B)*, along with a free online version of *RBMS Controlled Vocabularies*. The Diversity Committee continued its innovative program of organized visits by RBMS members to universities with high minority enrollment in or near ALA conference cities. The Security Committee completed its revision of its *Guidelines*, and RBMS had three task forces hard at work on new and revised national guidelines and publications: the Task Force on Core Professional Competencies, chaired by Katherine Beam, the Task Force to Revise the *Guidelines on the Selection of Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*, chaired by Charlotte Brown, and the Task Force on the *Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials*, chaired by William Joyce, all created new drafts now in various stages of review and revision.

The vitality of our organization is further reflected in the growth in our membership. Between May 2004 and May 2006 personal membership grew from 1,639 to 1,802, an increase of nearly 10%. It has been an honor to serve alongside such devoted and talented colleagues. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make RBMS and its growing roster of activities such a success.

Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books) is now published and available from the Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service. The domestic price is \$70, foreign \$80. A source code of "dcrmb" has been assigned and can be used immediately. *DCRM(B)* will be added to Cataloger's Desktop, probably in the second 2007 issue (May), but possibly not until issue 3.

Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials) is progressing well. There was an editorial meeting at the Folger in November 2006, and another one following the 2007 Midwinter Meeting. We are setting very tentative sights on *DCRM(S)*'s readiness for publication in late 2007 or early 2008. A public hearing for *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)* attracted about 25 people and was fruitful in working through some of the major discrepancies between *DCRM(M)*, *DCRM(B)*, and *DCRM(S)*. The BSC-sponsored workshop on cataloging ephemera at the 2007 Preconference in Baltimore has, alas, already filled up, but we are also sponsoring two seminars: "Where Does Special Collections Cataloging Belong? The Pros and Cons of Alternative Reporting Structures in Academic and Research Libraries" and "Demonstration of the *Hand Press Book (HPB) Database*, the *Latin American Short-Title Catalogue (CCILA)*, and the *English Short Title Catalog (ESTC)*." All are welcome at our meetings at the annual conference (all or any portion as schedules permit), committee meeting Saturday morning 8:00-12:30, and the thesaurus subcommittee on Friday 1:30-5:00.

Budget and Development

The Budget and Development Committee meeting in Seattle began with reports on the final financial outcome of the 2006 Preconference, fundraising for the 2007 Preconference, and plans for the 2008 Preconference. We also discussed approaches to funding special activities in connection with the 50th anniversary of the founding of RBMS in 2008 and the 50th anniversary of the RBMS Preconference in 2009. In addition, we discussed possible sources of funding for the production of the updated brochure *Your Old Books*. Fernando Peña graciously agreed to join the Budget and Development Committee and serve as its representative on the Preconference Scholarships Subcommittee.

Conference Development

The 2007 RBMS Preconference, "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," will be held in Baltimore, MD June 19-22, immediately prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC. A full array of plenary sessions, seminars, short papers, tours, workshops, and receptions has been planned. In addition, the Southeast Chapter of ABAA will be hosting a booksellers' showcase on June 19. RBMS is also co-sponsoring, with GODORT and ALCTS, a MAGERT Preconference on cataloging pre-twentieth century cartographic resources to be held June 21-22 at the Library of Congress. Registration will be limited to fifty participants. For more information, please contact Nancy Kandoian of the New York Public Library (nkandoian@nypl.org).

The 2007 RBMS Conference Program at ALA Annual, "Rare Book and Special Collections in Public Libraries," will include three speakers from public libraries addressing issues related to administering a unit which has a research library mission inside a public library setting. The Public Library Association is co-sponsoring this program. Also at ALA Annual, RBMS will be a co-sponsor of the Anthropology and Sociology Section Annual Conference Program entitled "Native American Heritage in the Nation's Capitol: Representation, Repatriation, and Resilience". A panel of scholars, curators, and other cultural heritage professionals will discuss the preservation and revitalization of Native American history and culture, focusing on institutions in the Washington, DC area.

Looking further ahead, the 2008 Preconference will be held in Los Angeles, hosted jointly by the UCLA Library and the Getty Research Institute (ALA Annual will be in Anaheim). The theme of the Preconference will be digitization. The 50th Preconference will be held in 2009 at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the site of the first RBMS Preconference in 1959 (ALA Annual will be in Chicago). Both 2008 and 2009 will be golden anniversary years for RBMS, with the section's 50th anniversary in 2008 and the 50th Preconference in 2009. A subcommittee is exploring ways to celebrate and recognize these milestones. RBMS members who have programs, Preconference-related publications, ephemera, or photographs from previous Preconferences which they are willing to share, please contact Conference Development Chair Daniel J. Slive (daniel_j_slive@sbcglobal.net).

Core Competencies for Special Collections Librarianship

The Task Force on Core Competencies for Special Collections Professionals met at ALA Midwinter in Seattle and focused on revisions of specific portions of Draft 2 of the Core Competencies document. The group is presently engaged in revising and writing Draft 3. That draft will be circulated via the RBMS web site prior to ALA Annual in June. A public hearing will be held on Friday, June 22. Everyone interested in this subject is urged to attend. The Task Force is hoping to have its work completed within the year. Questions, concerns, and remarks can be sent to the chair, Kathryn Beam (kjmb@umich.edu).

Curators and Conservators

The Curators and Conservators Discussion Group met in Seattle Saturday, January 20, from 8-10 am. There were seventeen people in attendance at this early morning meeting, an even mix of curators and conservators. The meeting began with a discussion of the trend for conservation being used as a function of public engagement and promoting awareness of special collections. We noted Laura Novak's March 29, 2006 article in the *New York Times*, "Trends: The Art of Conservation Sees Light at the Getty." We found that for libraries, conservation labs are not so much fishbowls as prime stops on donor tours. Between tours and talks to donors and friends groups around the country, awareness and support for conservation of special collections materials has been raised. Collaborative events with special collections and conservation departments have also been held, successfully raising awareness and funds. The discussion then segued into development options to sustain programs after grant projects, and to accomplishing the general work that is not getting done due to grant work and tours. Encouraging endowed giving from donors was discussed as an option. Finally the discussion moved on to grants for conservation and preservation work in special collections, both inclusively and in conjunction with other projects.

Our discussion topic for the ALA Annual Conference 2007 in Washington, DC, will be decision-making and priority setting on a preservation budget.

Diversity

During the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, RBMS Diversity Committee members Julie Grob (University of Houston) and Petrina Jackson (Cornell University) made two presentations to students at local universities. The presentations were intended to encourage students from under-represented racial and ethnic groups to consider careers in special collections librarianship. Grob and Jackson visited the Center for Career Services at the University of Washington and a class in African-American history at Seattle University, talking to students about their own career paths and displaying original and facsimile materials. Student feedback was positive, including such comments as "I think the presenters were enthusiastic and shined some new light on what exactly is done in their profession," and "I had never thought of library science, but am considering it as an option." The Seattle presentations were funded by a generous grant from the Friends of ACRL.

The committee is currently investigating the viability of doing similar presentations at the 2008 Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, which will be held unusually early in January this year. The committee continues to work on creating an online toolkit for RBMS members who wish to conduct outreach visits in their own areas.

The RBMS Diversity Committee has received our section's results from the ALA Demographic Survey, which were current as of January 2007. We had a very high response rate to this survey, so our data should be valid. Self-identification indicated our membership as 3.7% Hispanic, 1.2% American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.8% Asian, 4.5% Black or African American, 90.8% White, and 3.5% Other (includes multi-racial). No members identified themselves as Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. These figures mark a great increase in racial and ethnic diversity among members since our last survey ten years ago, when the RBMS Member Survey indicated that 96% of our members were White. Additionally, 3.3% of members self-identified as having a disability.

Exhibition Awards

On Saturday morning January 20, 2007 the Exhibition Awards Committee (EAC) convened in a closed session to evaluate this year's sixty-five Leab Award submissions: thirty-two paper catalogs, ten brochures, and twenty-three electronic exhibitions. Significantly, there was great diversity among this year's entries, although the total number of entries was down from ninety submissions in the previous year. At this year's award ceremony two divisions will have co-winners in recognition of innovative approaches to presentation of new types of collections with original types of designs and publications. In the best sense, it was a pleasure to see new collections and new approaches to the display and publication of unusual materials. Leab Award winners were contacted following the ALA Midwinter meetings, and letters were sent to the winning institutions. Award certificates will be given to winners at the Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. All entries will be displayed in Baltimore at the RBMS Preconference, and listed on the printed Lists of Submissions and electronically on the RBMS website.

At the Sunday morning EAC open-session business meeting the committee discussed progress on updating the Leab Award website which includes images of the winning catalogs' covers. Work is ongoing but coming along well. Other topics included more effective scheduling and display of the Leab Awards entries at the RBMS Preconference and mentoring new members to assist with evaluation of the exhibition award submissions. Due to a resignation there is currently one position open on the committee and three more slots will open up this summer. Anyone with potential interest in serving on the committee is urged to submit committee interest forms and to discuss the committee's work with Marcia Reed (EAC chair) or other EAC members.

Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials

The group continues with its work, and we are both putting finishing touches on our draft statement and engaging the Society of American Archivists in the statement as we work toward joint ratification of the *Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials*.

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

The Task Force held its fifth meeting at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting, completing the final edits to the revised draft of the *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*. The 2007 revised draft will be posted for comments to the RBMS listserv, and to the ACRL website prior to the ALA 2007 Annual Meeting. The ACRL website posting, along with a request for comments, will also be announced in an upcoming issue of *C&RL News*.

MARC for Special Collections

The MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group met Sunday morning in Seattle with fifty-six attendees. This was a joint meeting with the Collection Development Discussion Group.

Following an update on the progress of OCLC-RLIN integration, our first discussion topic concerned the response of libraries to the thefts of E. Forbes Smiley and others, and whether more detailed cataloging of vulnerable items such as maps and plates could help to deter theft or recover from it. The Beinecke Library at Yale is embarking on a project to enhance the cataloging on such items, particularly books with maps. We debated the positives and negatives of this treatment, with some attendees pointing out the near-impossibility of recataloging any significant percentage of items in a large collection, and observing that doing so might mean leaving other items completely uncataloged, itself a security risk. One way of framing the debate is to consider the cost of cataloging an item as part of the cost of acquiring it.

Our second topic centered on the recording and use of provenance information in catalog records. We discussed the potential for patron confusion in systems where all headings for an author are indexed together, regardless of relator terms or codes, making it difficult to distinguish (for instance) between books written by an author, and books owned by that author. Yale avoids the problem by tracing provenance in separately indexed 69X fields, while others leave the tracing off the bibliographic record entirely, or leave it on the bibliographic record but de-index it. Fundamentally, it was suggested that this is not so much a cataloging problem as a searching problem and that rather than adopting work-around procedures to get the desired result, we might be better off insisting that our vendors provide an ILS which can handle relator terms/codes appropriately. Catalogers also need to help train reading room staff on searching techniques that make optimal use of the data contained in their records.

MASC will next meet in June in Washington, D.C., and we are always grateful for suggestions of discussion topics. Please contact either of the co-chairs with your ideas: John Overholt (overholt@fas.harvard.edu) and Sarah Schmidt Fisher (slsf@udel.edu).

Manuscripts and Other Formats

The Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group met at ALA Midwinter 2007 with twenty-six attendees, many of them new to RBMS and attending their first conference. After announcements and reports on recent conferences attended, and a brief discussion of reporting to *ESTC*, and policies on reader use of digital cameras, the group focused on two main topics. The first was EAD encoding of finding aids and new methods of creating these and doing other archival management. Fourteen of the attendees' institutions have EAD finding aids online. The group discussed creation/conversion methods in use, including database entry and XML authoring tools; the relationship between finding aids and MARC catalog records and deriving one from the other; searching finding aids, whether through distributed searching across sites or by searching finding aids and catalog records together; and open source search software. Our second topic was collection development and how to identify potential acquisitions, discriminating among collections offered and criteria used. This included the need for written collecting policies and when to say no, dealing with ephemera in collections (with a plug for the upcoming RBMS Preconference in Baltimore), and collecting papers from student groups of under-represented populations and building trust with these communities. The co-conveners, Mary Lacy and Lois Fischer Black, are soliciting ideas for future discussion topics.

Membership and Professional Development

The Membership and Professional Development Committee met at the ALA Midwinter Conference to plan for the Orientation and Introduction to RBMS at the Preconference in Baltimore. It was decided that the three-part organization of the event introduced in Austin would be continued this year. The committee will also be in contact with the Local Arrangements Committee in Baltimore to assist in planning for new members' activities at the Preconference. An RBMS liaison is needed to assist those who organize the RBMS booth at the ABAA book fairs; a member of our committee will fill that role. The Buddy Program continues to flourish, with five pairs of buddies being matched for Midwinter. The Mentoring Program is, as usual, faced with a gap between the number of would-be mentees and those RBMS members willing to be mentors, although by the end of Midwinter some volunteers had made themselves known to committee members.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the following slate of candidates:

For Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:

Steven Escar Smith (Texas A & M University); Mary Lacy (Library of Congress)

For Secretary:

Erika Dowell (Indiana University); Beth M. (Russell) Whittaker (Ohio State University)

For Member-at-Large:

Ronald D. Patkus (Vassar College); Melissa Conway (University of California, Riverside).

The Committee is grateful to all for agreeing to stand for office.

Public Services

The Public Services Discussion Group meeting was held at the Hotel Andra in Seattle on the morning of January 21, 2007. The first of the topics discussed was reference collections - maintaining relevant print collections and keeping abreast of online resources. We covered how special collections reference collections are developed and by whom, as well as budgetary issues like justifying expenditures on rare book sources. Other topics discussed were: making users aware of reference holdings; offering bibliographic instruction; connecting with professors; creating bibliographies and finding aids; and developing the reference collection. The extent to which these activities are in competition with general collections was addressed, as was the need to work with administrators for acquisitions budgets, in order to provide the best service to patrons. The Preconference workshop by Joel Silver in St. Louis was noted; the wish that the Rare Book School would offer a reference course again was expressed; and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's summer program of Midwest Book and Manuscript Studies courses was mentioned.

Also explored was the potential and use of social software like wikis, blogs, and flickr to bring special collections to the attention of users. Subsequent to the discussion, an example of a wiki list of blogs having a focus on special collections and archives was brought to light and can be viewed at <http://archivalblogs.wikispaces.com/archivalbloglist>.

The use of interns was discussed, including issues of recruitment and where interns come from, the duration of internships, paid or unpaid internships, the nature of interns' roles and projects, the investment in training and supervision, and benefits of internships to both library and intern. The ways the programs benefited the library were mentioned, as were the need to make the internship valuable and interesting, the potential for the experience to serve as recruitment to the field of special collections librarianship, and the usefulness of the internship in adding the experience to the intern's portfolio or resume. Other discussion included how interns are trained, and whether they are supervised by library staff, curators, or conservators, and some of the problems that can lead to unsuccessful internships.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of the publication of the ARL *SPEC Kit 296, Public Services in Special Collections*, which will serve as one of the topics for the group's next discussion at the Annual Meeting this summer. The table of contents and executive summary of the *SPEC Kit* are available online at: <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/spec296web.pdf>.

Publications

The migration of the RBMS web site to private hosting is now complete, though this change should appear seamless to our users. John Pull, Section Webmaster, and Chris Smith, Assistant Webmaster, are working on new protocols that will streamline the making of changes to the site. The migration of the *Controlled Vocabularies* pages from the server at Ohio State University to the RBMS host is at the top of the Webmaster's agenda for the coming months.

The Publications Committee is also creeping towards the publication of a new edition of *Your Old Books*. Thanks to the generous support of the ABAA, we expect to have freshly printed copies available this spring. We are also at work overhauling the section brochure to fit the new section brochures template designed by ACRL.

RBM

The Spring 2007 issue (8:1) of *RBM* features articles from the RBMS Preconference in Austin last summer, addressing the theme of "Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?"

This augmented issue of eleven articles is guest-edited by Christian Dupont, and includes articles by Gerald Beasley, Bruce Whiteman, Andrew Robison, Marcia Reed, Deborah Wythe, Lawrence Pijaux, Michele Doucet, Joseph L. Sax, James Michalko, and Robert S. Martin. The Fall 2007 issue (8:2) will be devoted to the important role that special collections play in collecting and disseminating information that promotes the realization of diversity in cultures, ethnic groups, socio-economic backgrounds, health, sexuality, and religious beliefs. It is being guest-edited by Kathleen Burns and Penny Welbourne.

Security

Chair Rich Oram noted that Ex-Chair Everett Wilkie reported that work on the security manual is almost complete. This will thus become an "extra-curricular" publication of some present and past committee members. There were extended reports by David Cobb and Rich Oram on attempts to recover stolen items from Harvard (Smiley maps) and the Ransom Center. The major focus of the committee will be on revising the *Theft Guidelines* to include more information on recovery, on coordination of trade associations, law enforcement and RBMS, and on centralization of information about stolen items.

Seminars

We have a full roster of seminars scheduled for the 2007 Preconference. Several reflect the theme of ephemera, including collecting, preservation, and research. Other seminars address questions of archival processing and backlogs, administrative reporting structures for special collections cataloging departments, and updates of current online databases. A complete list including descriptions and speakers can be found on the Preconference website.

The Seminars Committee is already investigating seminars for the 2008 Preconference and proposals will be considered at the 2007 annual meeting in Washington, DC. To see ideas currently being investigated, check out the committee's wiki at seminars.pbwiki.com and look at the "brainstorming" page. This site can only be edited by committee members, but if you wish to submit a proposal please use the electronic form on the committee's official website at http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/2007_preconference_entry.shtml. The link still reads "2007" but it is the correct form.

Remember that you do not have to undertake the responsibility of organizing a seminar if you have an idea for something you want to see. The committee is always happy to work with individuals who do wish to organize a seminar, but if you simply want to contribute an idea for a seminar you would like to attend, you can use the form or send an e-mail to the committee chair at ranelsen@yahoo.com. Please use the word "Seminars" in the subject line.

News from ACRL

ACRL will offer a variety of programs at the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Hot topics include advocacy, blogs, gaming, mentoring, podcasts, winning friends and influencing people, and more Saturday, June 23 through Monday, June 25. Complete program information is now available on the ACRL Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/acrlvents/acrlatannual/ACRLannprog.htm>. Questions? Contact ACRL Program Coordinator Megan Griffin at mgriffin@ala.org.

Proposed ACRL Structure Changes:

The Board is engaged in a multi-year review process to enhance the ACRL governance structure to better advance the ACRL Strategic Plan. As part of the ongoing process that includes membership assessment, program review, and structural evaluation, the Board is engaged in reviewing opportunities for member involvement as well as its own composition and process for nominations.

At the Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, the ACRL Board discussed some proposed changes to ACRL's structure with ACRL leaders. These changes would establish a new form of ACRL unit, the Interest Group, and would change the way candidates are selected to run for the ACRL Board of Directors. FAQ's have been developed to give you background information about the general process and the development of recommendations for the proposed ACRL structure changes. The FAQ's are available at www.acrl.org/structure.

Future ACRL Events:

Institute for Information Literacy Regional Immersion Program
Illinois State University, Normal, IL • July 13-18, 2007

ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA • August 5-10, 2007

Institute for Information Literacy Immersion Program
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada • August 5-10, 2007

Transitions

Dr. Friederike Baer, Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies at Temple University, recently assumed the position of special collections librarian of the Horner Memorial Library of The German Society of Pennsylvania. **Kurt A. T. Bodling** has been appointed the Rare Books Librarian at the State Library of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA. **Susan Brady** has been appointed as an archivist at the Beinecke Library's Manuscript Unit. **Bridget Burke** is the new head of special collections and archives at George Mason University. **Lisa Conathan** has been appointed as an archivist at the Beinecke Library's Manuscript Unit. **Heather Dean** has been appointed as an archivist at the Beinecke Library's Manuscript Unit. **Rachel Doggett** has retired from her position as the Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library. **Steven Galbraith** has been appointed the Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Books at the Folger Shakespeare Library. **Connell B. Gallagher** has retired after thirty-six years in Special Collections at the University of Vermont, where he served as University Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts and as Director of Research Collections.

Eileen M. Heeran has been appointed assistant curator of rare books in Cornell University's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. **Sandra Markham** has been appointed as an archivist at the Beinecke Library's Manuscript Unit. **Linda Matthews** has retired from Emory University Libraries, where she was director of the special collections and archives division from 1982 until 2003. **Lisa Peet** has joined the staff of the Rare Book Room and Manuscript Library at Columbia University. **Gene Rinkel**, Curator of Special Collections in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has retired. **Elaine Smyth** is now Head of Special Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries. **Tara Wenger** has been appointed reference librarian at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence. **Molly Wheeler** has been appointed as an archivist at the Beinecke Library's Manuscript Unit.

RBMS Newsletter is a publication of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611, 800-545-2433, x2523. Editor: Marianne Hansen, Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr PA, 19010, 610-526-5289, mhansen@bryn-mawr.edu. Assistant Editors: Christopher D. Cook, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 346 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-3174, cdcook@uiuc.edu; Steven Cox, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 615 McCallie Avenue, Lupton Library, Chattanooga TN 37403-2504, 423-425-2186, steven-cox@utc.edu. Typesetting and layout by Marianne Hansen using InDesignCS2. Typefaces are Lucida Sans and Times New Roman. Printed in the USA. RBMS Chair: Edwin C. Schroeder, Beinecke Library, Yale University, Box 208240, New Haven, CT 06520-8240, 203-432-7485, edwin.schroeder@yale.edu.

© American Library Association, 2007
ISSN 0743-1481 (paper)
ISSN 1098-4291 (electronic)

Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
American Library
Association

RBMS Newsletter
c/o Association of College and Research Libraries
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago IL 60611