

RBMS Newsletter



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From the Chair

Happy anniversary RBMS! This year we turn 50. While some are concerned about the “graying” of our profession, we can celebrate the longevity of our organization, the good that we have accomplished thus far, and the ways we continually renew ourselves and prepare for the future. At its Midwinter Meeting, ALA Council passed a tribute resolution that mentions some of the contributions that RBMS has made to special collections librarianship over the last half century. You can find the text on our website at <http://rbms.info>. The ACRL Board also awarded us \$7,500 - our largest grant thus far - for a 2:1 matching program to raise scholarship funds for our 50th Anniversary Preconference, which will be held June 17-20, 2009 in Charlottesville, Virginia. The funds will be used to assist both newer members and former/retired Section leaders in attending the Preconference in order to promote valuable cross-generational knowledge-sharing and relationship-building. Thus far, through “checkbox” donations received as part of the 2008 Preconference registrations, we have already received close to \$1,000. Look for more invitations to contribute to our “golden” scholarship campaign in the coming months so that we can reach our ambitious matching goal of \$3,250.

As I write, registration for our 2008 Preconference has just reached capacity. We are excited by the continually growing interest and quality of our Preconference events, and will work toward adjusting venue sizes and program scheduling to meet demand while preserving the personal, intimate and interactive character of our gatherings. We have also submitted to the ACRL board a proposal to take some of our successful Preconference workshops and seminars on the road through a traveling workshop program similar to the one managed by the Society of American Archivists. Such a program will give more RBMS members opportunities to participate in valuable professional development opportunities and extend our reach to new audiences.

In keeping with the focus of the 2008 Preconference on special collections in the digital environment, our newly appointed task force charged with exploring the feasibility of developing guidelines for the digitization of special collections has been hard at work creating a “webliography” of relevant resources and drafting a core principles statement. In addition to its meeting at ALA Annual, the task force will also be hosting an open discussion at the Preconference; check the schedule for details. The group’s initial meeting at Midwinter drew an overflow crowd of more than seventy-five, including library administrators and others from outside RBMS, reflecting the strong and timely interest of the topic.

For reports on the progress of our many other task forces, committees, and discussion groups, please see the remainder of this issue - Marianne Hansen’s last as editor. I would like to express my personal thanks to Marianne for her good-natured diligence in gathering and publishing news from our section. I would also like to extend special thanks to Richard Clement, who is wrapping up his

last issue of *RBMS*. Rick has done a splendid job in building on the work of previous editors to augment and diversify the content of our ACRL section journal. Finally, my thanks go to all of the dedicated members of our section who contribute their time and talents across the broad scope of our activities - a theme that runs through the column from our past chair, E.C. Schroeder, who enjoys my continual appreciation for his leadership, advice, and friendship.

- Christian Dupont

2008 Preconference

“Rare and Special Bytes: Special Collections in the Digital Age” will be held June 24-27. Within a month of opening registration, the 2008 RBMS Preconference registration is already at maximum capacity. Both workshops, “Cataloging Cultural Objects for Rare Books and Manuscripts,” and “Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books),” are fully subscribed, as are the tours: the UCLA Special Collections and Clark Library tours on Tuesday, and the Huntington and Getty Villa tours on Friday. The Program Planning Committee is most pleased at the enthusiastic response to the program, and we look forward to seeing many of you in sunny Los Angeles! For more information, see the Preconference website at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/special/RBMS/>.

2008 Conference Program

“Action!” Setting Preservation Priorities and Ensuring Access to Your Moving Image Collections,” takes place Sunday, June 29, from 1:30-3 at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. With the ALA conference taking place in the motion picture industry’s backyard, we thought it would be appropriate to focus this year’s RBMS program on caring for moving image collections. Our three speakers will address surveying tools, current preservation approaches, and reformatting options, featuring film clips from recent preservation projects. Snowden Becker, founder of Home Movie Day, and IMLS and Harrington Foundation Ph.D. Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, will review the basics of surveying collections and preservation. Hannah Frost, Media Preservation Librarian at Stanford University, will take us to the next step, covering reformatting priorities and options. And finally, Mike Pogorzelski, Director of the Academy Film Archive, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, will explain what may be done when valuable motion pictures deteriorate, illustrating the process of restoring a film. The goal of the program is to provide you with the tools you need to get a handle on the moving image materials that may be lurking in your stacks. This event is co-sponsored by the Arts Section and the Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS). The Leab Exhibition Award presentation will take place at the conclusion of the program, from 3-3:30.

RBMS Annual Conference Meeting Schedule Anaheim, June 27 - July 1, 2008

FRIDAY, JUNE 27**1:30-5:30 pm**

Bibliographic Standards, Controlled Vocabulary
Subcommittee

SATURDAY, JUNE 28**8:00-10:00 am**

Preconference Program Planning 2008

8:00 am-12:00 pm

Bibliographic Standards
Exhibition Awards (closed)

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Membership and Professional Development
Nominating (closed)
Preconference Program Planning 2009

1:30-3:30 pm

Curators and Conservators Discussion Group
*Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection
Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*
Publications
Security
Seminars

4:00-5:30 pm

Budget and Development
Conference Planning 2008
Conference Planning 2009
Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group

SUNDAY, JUNE 29**8:00-10:00 am**

ALA/SAA *Joint Statement on Access Review* Task Force
Collection Development Discussion Group
Conference Development
Core Competencies for Special Collections Task Force

10:30 am-12:00 pm

Diversity
Guidelines for Digitization of Special Collections
MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group

1:30-3:30 pm

“Action!” Setting Preservation Priorities and Ensuring
Access to Your Moving Image Collections
Leab Exhibition Award Presentation

4:00-5:00 pm

Information Exchange

MONDAY, JUNE 30**8:00-11:30 am**

Executive Committee

1:30-5:30 pm

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team I *

TUESDAY, JULY 1**9:00 am-6:00 pm**

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team II *

* While originally scheduled as closed meetings, the Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team meetings will now be open.

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

Past Chair's Report

Looking back at the Section's activities for 2006-2007, two things are evident: time flies and RBMS is a very active section with activities and projects that benefit all of its members. This year the Section was very busy with publications. In January 2007, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* was published and distributed through the Library of Congress's Cataloging Distribution Service. This publication was the product of hard work by the Section's Bibliographic Standards Committee. The publication of *DCRM(B)* also lays the groundwork for the future publication of standards for the cataloging of rare serials and music.

Several years of work by members of the Publications and Executive Committees culminated in the publication in April 2007 of *Your Old Books*. This four-color, glossy brochure also received the endorsement of both the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and Rare Book School. The text for this brochure is available at the Section's website, www.rbms.info. Finally a new Section brochure went to press as the year ended. This brochure was part of a larger effort by ACRL to standardize the look of brochures for each of its sections.

RBMS's current task forces are nearing the completion of their charges. The RBMS Task Force on Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship continued working on *Drafts 2* and *3*, and held a hearing at the Annual Conference in June, as did the *Transfer Guidelines for Special Collections* Task Force. Both groups expect to submit final recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval in 2007/2008. The Task Force on the *Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials* submitted an initial report to the ACRL Committee on Standards and Accreditation.

The Section's very active programming year was kicked off at the bi-annual ACRL National Conference held in Baltimore March 29 - April 1, 2007. RBMS's panel, entitled "Library as Laboratory: Special Collections in Undergraduate Education," was organized by Hjordis Halvorson and Suzy Taraba. At the ALA Annual Conference, RBMS sponsored an excellent program, "Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries: Collections and Locations, Old and New," that was organized by Jeffrey Makala and his Program Committee. RBMS also co-sponsored the MAG-ERT Preconference (at the Library of Congress, June 21-22) on the cataloging of pre-twentieth century cartographic resources. And if that was not enough, RBMS also co-sponsored the following

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Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

The Bibliographic Standards Committee is hard at work on forthcoming components of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials*. At this writing, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* is being indexed and the final text should be submitted to the publisher before the ALA Annual Meeting. The editorial team working on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)* is making significant progress and is getting assistance from the Library of Congress in locating additional examples. Two working groups, to develop *DCRM* components for graphics and manuscripts respectively, have been formed and are conducting preliminary work. Interest in developing a *DCRM* module for cartographic materials is high and the Bibliographic Standards Committee hopes to establish a working group for this component in the near future.

The Controlled Vocabularies Subcommittee is working on several projects designed to improve the thesauri and relator terms databases, including a search feature in the online thesauri, refining the term submission form, developing scope notes for all the terms, and initiating a project to reconcile the relator terms with the relator codes.

During the 2008 RBMS Preconference the Bibliographic Standards Committee will be sponsoring a full-day workshop and a seminar. The workshop, on the application of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, is fully subscribed. The seminar, "Rare Book Cataloging: Making Decisions, Setting Priorities," will be geared towards those who make decisions about rare materials cataloging: administrators, managers, curators, and catalogers.

Budget and Development

At the Budget and Development Committee meeting at Midwinter, we discussed the final financial outcome of the 2007 Preconference, fundraising for the 2008 Preconference, and plans for the 50th Anniversary Preconference in 2009. ABAA was very pleased with the results of the Booksellers' Showcase at the 2007 Preconference, and has agreed to organize the Showcase for the next three years. Prospects for the 2008 Preconference continue to look bright. One happy development is that our recent increase in the registration fee for preconferences has reduced the amount of fundraising we need to do.

Other topics covered in our meeting included scholarship fundraising, and funding for an expanded issue of *RBM*. The amount available for scholarships is rising markedly, thanks to funding from the ACRL Action Plan, preconference surpluses, and donations from RBMS members. We approved Henry Raine's request for funding for an expanded issue of *RBM* to accommodate the 2007 Preconference proceedings, and passed it on to the Executive Committee, which subsequently approved it.

Thanks to another guest appearance by Richard Noble, the chair of the Exhibition Awards Committee, we continued our discussion of the administration of the Leab Award fund. After our Midwinter meeting, Richard and members of the Budget and Development Committee met with ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis, who gave us helpful suggestions as to how we might approach ALA about the Leab Award fund and whom to contact. If you are interested in the inner workings of RBMS, we encourage you to join us at the next Budget and Development meeting at ALA Annual.

Collection Development

Despite the early start time, about 25 participants (including several students and non-RBMS librarians) attended the Collection Development Discussion Group meeting at Midwinter 2008. The primary topic of discussion was a review of the recent publication *Celebrating Research: Rare and Special Collections from the Membership of the Association of Research Libraries*. The group discussed the process for submitting entries and the collections that were eventually included, and reflected on what the choice of particular collections might tell about the institutions involved. In addition, the group considered Nicolas Barker's introduction and the changes he noted in special collections over the past thirty or so years. The topic led to a discussion of the place of rare book and special collections departments in libraries in the new environment of the 21st century. We also discussed collecting faculty papers and publications, and the interaction of libraries and archives in this matter. In the course of the discussions, the group had many chances to digress and consider such diverse topics as the use of collection guidelines and times when diverging from them might be appropriate; how to prioritize acquisitions in the face of competing demands, especially by faculty members; inter-institutional competition and cooperation, and the possibility of finding new homes for out-of-scope collections; weeding and deaccessioning in special collections; and collecting articles written about items in a collection. The co-chairs thought it was a very good session, with broad participation by those who attended, and look forward to the next meeting, at ALA Annual. Suggestions for discussion topics are always welcome.

Conference Development

The Conference Development Committee meeting in Philadelphia included reports of the recent Preconference in Baltimore and upcoming Preconferences in Los Angeles and Charlottesville. One of the responsibilities of the committee is to review conference evaluations, and the committee devoted considerable time to a discussion led by Henry Raine on the most recent evaluation. We also heard preliminary proposals for sponsors for the 2010 and 2011 Preconferences. Eric Pumroy from Bryn Mawr College presented an invitation from PACSCL, the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, for the 2010 Preconference, and Elaine Smyth from Louisiana State University informed the committee that she will bring a formal proposal to the committee meeting at the Annual Conference at Anaheim for Baton Rouge as the site for the 2011 Preconference. For summer 2008, in addition to the Preconference and Annual programs, RBMS will co-sponsor a LAMA program on the housing of rare collections. This program will be held in Anaheim on Saturday, June 28th from 10:30 a.m. to noon, and we will discuss storage facilities with different climate control for different types of materials. E.C. Schroeder suggested that RBMS sponsor traveling workshops to increase educational opportunities and offer our Preconference workshops more broadly. The committee supports the idea and asked Schroeder to investigate further with the ACRL office. Celebrations and observances for the 50th anniversary of the founding of RBMS and the 50th Preconference were also discussed. The committee approved the request of funds from the RBMS Executive Committee for producing suitable anniversary keepsakes for 2008.

Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship

The Task Force submitted its "final" version of *Competencies for Special Collections Professionals* to the RBMS Executive Committee in February 2008. The Executive Committee approved that version on February 29 and has since forwarded it to the Standards and Accreditation Committee of ACRL for review. It is hoped that that committee will be able to assess the document and that the Task Force can make appropriate editorial changes prior to the 2008 ALA Annual Conference. By then the guidelines should be ready to be presented to ACRL. The Task Force is pleased that our document has reached this final stage. All of us look forward to having it available for reference, to help define our profession, and as a means of assisting present and future librarians and archivists develop careers in special collections environments.

Curators and Conservators

The Curators and Conservators Discussion Group met at Midwinter with a good mix of curators, conservators and library school students. The major topic of discussion was grants, focusing on the recent publication by the Library of Congress and the Foundation Center, *Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives, and Museums*, which can be found at <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/foundtn-grants.html>. This publication lists grants of \$5,000 or more for activities related to conservation and preservation awarded to libraries, archives, and museums from 2003 through 2007. The publication includes free online grant writing tutorials; introductions to foundations; statistical analysis of grant funding in the area of preservation; indexes by recipient, geographic area of the recipient, and subject; and a list of all foundations that have donated to preservation with their contact information and limitations. This document is a very helpful guide and should be a useful tool for libraries and archives in future planning for grant proposals. Discussion Group Chair, Donia Conn, has decided against a second two-year term as chair. If you are interested in the position, please contact Donia at dconn@nedcc.org.

Diversity

The Diversity Committee met in Philadelphia under its new co-chairs, Anne Marie Lane and J. Fernando Peña, and is thriving with new energy and enthusiasm: three of the Committee's current members are returning, but seven people have recently joined the Committee for two-year appointments. Much of the meeting in Philadelphia was spent revising the RBMS *Diversity Tool Kit*, intended as an online guide for RBMS members who wish to make presentations about careers in special collections librarianship to students and paraprofessional staff, particularly those from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. The *Tool Kit* will include outreach strategies and tips for making successful presentations as well as several documents, including a script, a sample announcement, and a feedback form/assessment tool. Current and past members of the Committee made such presentations to undergraduates and staff during ALA Midwinter Meetings in San Antonio in 2006 and in Seattle in 2007, and now the Committee would like to encourage all RBMS members to spread the word about special collections librarianship in their local communities. The Committee hopes to have the *Tool Kit* ready for Executive Committee review and approval before the Annual Conference this June.

Exhibition Awards

The Exhibition Awards Committee met in closed session at ALA Midwinter on Saturday morning, January 12, 2008, with its new chair, Richard Noble, to select the winners from among sixty-one entries for the Katherine Kyes Leab & Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Award: thirty-seven exhibition catalogs, divided into three categories (expensive, moderately expensive, and inexpensive); ten brochures; and fourteen electronic exhibitions. While we are seeing many old friends among the institutions represented, and often noting the maintenance of recognizable and sometimes previously award-winning house styles, there were, as we hoped, new faces this time around, some figuring among the five winners. Look for the Leab Award article in the April issue of *C&RL News*. The awards will be presented at 3:00 Sunday, June 29, immediately following the RBMS Program at ALA Annual in Anaheim, where the winners will be on view. All of the submissions will be displayed at the RBMS Preconference in Los Angeles on Wednesday morning, June 25.

The number of submissions this year represented a slight - and perhaps not statistically significant - decrease from last year's sixty-five; but that in turn had been preceded by a year with ninety submissions. The reasons for the decline are unclear. Does it reflect an actual decrease in the publication of catalogs? Are online exhibitions giving way to other means of presenting collections, as digital projects proliferate and emphasis goes to the development of databases of images more on the order of online galleries? At any rate, to augment broadcast publicity of various kinds, the Chair is compiling announcements of exhibitions as they appear, as the basis for direct solicitation of Leab Award submissions. Please send him notice of any that you are aware of (Richard_Noble@brown.edu).

At this point the EAC is developing an online application form that will make it much easier to submit entries and compile data for published lists and databases. With this facility in place, we can hopefully (i.e. not desperately) encourage institutions to submit catalogs and exhibitions as part of their production cycle, and avoid the deadline crunch in October. That, together with ongoing development of the EAC database, was the principal focus of our latest business meetings. The next one, to which are all welcome, will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 8 am.

Digitization in Special Collections

Our inaugural meeting in Philadelphia was attended by about 45 people. The Task Force has been charged with exploring the feasibility of formulating guidelines for the digitization of special collections materials, especially the management of large-scale and cooperative digitization projects, particularly as such guidelines may be helpful in articulating to institutional administrators and commercial partners the unique requirements that should be addressed with special collections. Discussion at the meeting was enthusiastic and energetic. Ideas were far-ranging and at times beyond the scope of a short-term Task Force. It is clear that the Special Collections community is looking for guidance in the areas of digitization.

A formal draft charge will be submitted to the Executive Committee in June 2008 at ALA Annual. We also discussed the following possibilities: drafting a professional statement of Core Principles for Digitization in Special Collections, a recommendation that RBMS establish a standing committee on digital issues; an open discussion session at the RBMS Preconference; creating a webliography of existing important literature and resources; and establishing a communication tool or network to support the ongoing exchange of information as related to digitization in special collections (suggested were a listserv, a blog, or a wiki).

Rebekah Irwin (Yale) will chair the committee and Jackie Dooley (UC-Irvine) is recorder. Other committee members are: Katherine Reagan (Cornell), Elaine Smyth (LSU), Jeffrey Marshall (U. Vermont), Merrilee Proffitt (RLG Programs), Mike Kelly, (NYU), and Susan Pyzynski (Harvard).

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

The 2008 Midwinter meeting of the Task Force identified last minute "touch ups" to the revision of the *Guidelines*. The revision was then submitted to the RBMS Executive Committee and approved in early March. The approved revised document - now known as the *Third Edition* (March 3, 2008) - was transmitted to the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee on March 10, 2008 for review.

Manuscripts and Other Formats

The Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group held a joint meeting with the MARC for Special Collections (MASC) Discussion Group at Midwinter 2008. Co-chair Kate Colligan was unable to attend the meeting, but MASC co-chairs Sarah Fisher and John Overholt ably assisted with preparation of the agenda and guided the discussion. Approximately 45 participants attended the meeting, which began with reports on internship programs, new acquisitions, and conferences attended. Attendees shared news of topics of mutual interest to RBMS and the Society of American Archivists, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and other associations.

In light of the joint meeting, the discussion groups tackled issues relating to technical services, including mapping metadata between MARC and Dublin Core, and discussed the difficulties presented by "crosswalking" to EAD. Discussion then shifted to Encoded Archival Context (EAC), described as an encoding format designed to ensure authority control for manuscript and archival collections. In addition to name authority control, EAC allows for inclusion of more detailed biographical information and can be used to unite material in multiple formats. EAC is more widely used in Europe, where it was adopted thanks to financial and administrative support. Finally, attendees turned their attention to federated searching. In a lively discussion, participants clarified the differences between federated and aggregated searching, indicating that the former can be slower as it sends out queries to multiple databases simultaneously.

All of the co-chairs appreciate the participation of attendees, and extend a special thanks to Randy Brandt (University of California-Berkeley), Chair of the RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee, and Bill Landis (Yale University), who contributed extensively to the discussion and provided helpful clarification. The co-chairs, Lois Fischer Black (lob206@lehigh.edu) and Kate Colligan (katec@pitt.edu), encourage the membership to contact them with suggestions for future discussion topics.

Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials

The *ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access* Task Force held its initial meeting on Sunday at ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia. This newly-formed joint task force, composed of members from the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and ALA, represented by ACRL/RBMS, is charged with reviewing, updating, and revising the *ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Original Research Materials*.

The task force's first order of business was to identify co-chairs. Tim Murray (University of Delaware) was named co-chair representing RBMS. A co-chair representing SAA will be named at a later date. After reviewing its charge, members of the task force examined the current *Joint Statement* and considered comments submitted by the SAA Standards Committee and the SAA Reference, Access, and Outreach Section. The task force will produce a draft revision of the *Joint Statement* and send it to appropriate groups for review and comments.

Membership and Professional Development

The Membership and Professional Development Committee continues to work out the idea of providing on the website general information for those who are new to the profession. This would be in the form of a FAQ and would deal with such issues as looking for a job, attending conferences, etc. In addition, there would be a list of experts ready to answer specific questions about particular fields. Having such a FAQ and ready referral list would help new librarians who do not want to sign up for a full-blown mentoring relationship within the Mentoring Program and would also ease the pressures on that program.

As always, mentors are needed for the Mentoring Program. Newer librarians who have already gotten jobs are urged to sign up to be mentors as well. Peer mentoring is a valuable exercise because the experience of newly hired librarians is in many ways much more relevant than the experience of those who got their jobs many years ago.

The Committee requests every member of the Executive Committee and the chairs of other committees, discussion groups, and task forces to send a digital photo of themselves for inclusion in a PowerPoint presentation that will be playing silently but continuously during the "Introduction to RBMS" at the Preconference Orientation in June in Los Angeles. Photos may be sent to Ellen Z. Ellickson (ellen.ellickson@yale.edu).

Nominating Committee

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

For Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:

Deborah J. Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library)
Charlotte B. Brown (UCLA)

For Secretary:

Mike Kelly (New York University)
Fernando J. Peña (Grolier Club)

For fuller information, please see candidate descriptions at http://www.rbms.info/committees/executive/officer_candidates2008.shtml.

Public Services

More than three dozen people attended the Public Services Discussion Group meeting on Saturday afternoon in Philadelphia. This meeting's discussion focused on the replacement of photocopying services with digital products, outreach, and reference collection development in special collections.

Responding to evolving digital imaging technology and patron demand for images may be a theme previously explored, but it is one that again proved to be timely and interesting to many of those in attendance. Rich Oram started off the discussion with a synopsis of the Harry Ransom Center's move to providing images in digital format in place of photocopies. He covered staffing, workflow, pricing, efficiencies of time and cost, metadata, and rights management, as well as details of image capture, production, format, delivery, and file and order management. Each of these aspects was touched upon during the lively discussion that ensued. Attendees asked many questions and shared much information, offering a wide variety of effective strategies and creative solutions to commonly-faced issues. Examples of image delivery ranged from allowing patrons to take their own photographs to providing in-house digital imaging services that produce PDFs, TIFFs, or JPEGs that then might be delivered via email, FTP, CD, or DVD.

Consideration of the subject of outreach began with a focus on making connections with new faculty and first-year graduate students and moved on to include constituents in the wider community. The importance of seeking out opportunities to develop personal relationships with faculty and students was emphasized. Suggestions included coffee or lunch with faculty, participation in campus-wide orientation sessions, and attendance at graduate student colloquia, and at meetings of other student organizations. The role of the special collections staff in relation to classes can range from facilitator to teacher, from monitor to mentor. The benefits of helping faculty and students achieve a level of comfort with using the library and its collections were articulated, and the challenges of accomplishing that were recognized. Many ideas were exchanged and initiatives described.

The afternoon's discussions concluded with consideration of reference collection development for special collections libraries, including such facets as the proximity of the collection to more general reference collections on campus, looking to faculty involved in related research for suggestions, and identifying sources of particular relevance to the strengths of the collection, especially including online and subscription database resources.

As we had hoped, the discussions that took place in Philadelphia at Midwinter indeed served as a forum for the exchange of ideas about promoting the visibility and use of original research materials.

Publications

The RBMS Publications Committee is pleased to be able to report that over 5000 webpages have been successfully transferred to the revised [rbms.info](http://www.rbms.info) site. With the generous assistance of Katherine Reagan and Ken Williams, the web team of James Ascher, John Pull, and Christopher Smith completed these major modifications. This same team migrated the Bibliographic Standards Committee pages to this site. The members of the team are confident that they will be able to have the Leab Award database available for online consultation by the time of our Preconference this June. They even suggested that submissions to the Leab Award competition will soon be possible online and available to all, not just those running Adobe Acrobat Professional software. Not content with these advances, the team is laboring on the seminars database with a view to having it on our site by the 2009 Preconference. All these enhancements have taken place under the deft guidance of John Pull, and we are keenly aware of all of his contributions. As of July 1, 2008, the responsibility for the Section's web content will be relayed to Christopher Smith as web editor and James Ascher as the associate editor. Others interested in participating in this dimension of RBMS publications are encouraged to contact a member of the web team.

This is also an excellent opportunity to remind our various constituencies that the position of editor of *RBM* has become available with the announcement by Richard Clement that he is stepping down from this post. We heartily commend him for his wonderfully skillful handling of this journal. Please bear in mind that this position is one that reports to the ACRL Publications Committee, and anyone interested should communicate with that group directly.

One other imminent change of position that we call to your attention is that of the editor of the *RBMS Newsletter*. Marianne Hansen has been most adeptly managing this bulletin, but, as of July 1, 2008, it will be time for Christopher Cook and Steven Cox to begin serving as co-editors. This means that an assistant editor will soon be needed. Anyone who is interested in this position should see the announcement in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

RBM

The Spring issue of *RBM* (9:1) is drawn from the 48th annual RBMS Preconference, "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," held in June 2007 in Baltimore. This issue was guest edited by Henry Raine who served as Program Chair for the Preconference. Henry selected the best papers from the Preconference and worked with authors to create publishable articles. It contains twelve articles, making it a double-sized issue, and it is the most heavily illustrated issue of *RBM* ever. If you are not a subscriber, please see the RBMS website for details on subscribing.

Security

Most of the Midwinter meeting was spent revising the combined version of the *Security and Theft Guidelines* (the working title of the new version, which eliminates much of the overlap between the two documents is *ACRL/RBMS Guidelines Regarding*

Security and Theft in Special Collections). The chair reported on efforts to create a central source of information for missing books. A full report on developments since the last meeting will be made this summer. In addition, a 2008 Preconference seminar on "Bringing It All Back Home: Recovering from a Theft" will examine current issues in the recovery of rare materials.

Seminars

The 2008 Preconference will feature seminars on topics including technical services (from rare book cataloging to archival management systems), collecting strategies and relationship building (from diverse, cultural communities to private owners), working with digital technologies (from digital photography to blogs), as well as teaching and outreach, preservation, and security. A complete list of the nine seminars being offered, including descriptions and speakers, can be found on the Preconference website.

The Seminars Committee seeks your input regarding seminars for the 2009 Preconference. The committee will discuss proposals at the Annual Conference in Anaheim. We particularly encourage the chairs and members of RBMS committees, discussion groups, and task forces to submit proposals that pertain to your current needs and interests. 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 you may simply contribute an idea for a seminar you would like to attend. To suggest a topic or make a formal proposal either send an e-mail to the committee chair at nels0307@umn.edu or use the form at http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/seminar_proposal_form.shtml.

Newsletter Editor Sought

The incoming editors of the *RBMS Newsletter* seek candidates for the position of Assistant Editor. Primary responsibilities of this position include soliciting articles, editing text, and proofreading. Experience with desktop publishing software is desirable. Particularly busy periods of activity include the months of March/April and September/October, when the Spring and Fall issues are in production.

Candidates should be willing to begin serving a two-year term immediately following this summer's ALA Conference and also be willing to serve a subsequent two-year term as editor. This is an excellent opportunity for newcomers to RBMS to become involved in the Section's activities and meet other members throughout the country. Interested parties should contact incoming editors Christopher Cook (cdcook@uiuc.edu) and Steven Cox (StevenCox@utc.edu) to learn more about this position or to apply.

Past Chair's Report - continued

conference programs: the ANSS Program "Native American Heritage in the Nation's Capitol: Representation, Repatriation, and Resilience," MAGERT's program "Library Security for Maps," and GODORT's program "What Difference Does It Make What Congress Published?: American History in the Earliest Congressional Documents."

In between the ACRL Conference and ALA Annual, RBMS held its 48th annual Preconference, "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," in Baltimore, Maryland from June 19th to June 22nd, 2007. The 380 attendees at the Preconference were the most ever and they

benefited from the excellent organizational skills of Henry Raine, Program Committee Chair, Cynthia Requardt, Chair of Local Arrangements, Arvid Nelsen, Chair of the Seminars Committee, and Tory Ondrla, ACRL conference planner. This Preconference was co-sponsored by the Ephemera Society of America and the Bibliographical Society of America. As a result of the financial success of the 47th Preconference in Austin, donations from Section members, and the award of strategic initiative money from ACRL for diversity scholarships, more than \$11,000 was available to support nineteen scholarship winners. For the first time, the Section held a "scholarship" breakfast, providing the scholarship winners an opportunity to meet Section leadership as well as each other. Sarah Baldwin and the Southeast Chapter of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) organized one of the highlights of the Preconference, the Booksellers' Showcase. During registration, the Showcase gave an opportunity for 24 booksellers to introduce their firms to Preconference attendees. Due to the overwhelming success of this event, ABAA has agreed to organize a similar event at the next three RBMS Preconferences.

The Section's fourteen committees and five discussion groups had very productive years. One highlight occurred during ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle: the Diversity Committee visited local universities and made presentations on careers in special collections librarianship that were specifically targeted to recruit more students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to the profession. In addition, the Membership and Professional Development Committee's buddy program for the Preconference and ALA Conference was again very successful; the Security Committee began revision of the guidelines for security and the prevention of theft; and the Seminars Committee developed new guidelines for Preconference seminars.

As always the success of the Section is due to the active and dedicated membership who made it a pleasure to serve as chair.

- E. C. Schroeder

Transitions - continued

Library and Archives. **Nina Schneider** has been appointed head cataloger at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library at UCLA. **Daniel J. Slive** is now reference and special projects librarian in the Mandeville Special Collections Library of the UCSD Libraries. **Gail Spears** is now archives and special collections cataloger at Atlanta U.'s Woodruff Library. **Karen Spilman** is the new collections archivist in Archives and Special Collections for the U. of Minnesota Libraries. **Stephanie Stewart** is now moving image archivist in the Manuscripts Department at UNC-CH. **Lee Stout** has retired as head of public services and outreach for the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at the Pennsylvania State U. Libraries. **Carla M. Summers**, University Librarian and head of the Department of Special Collections and University Archives, retired in June 2007 from the U. of Central Florida Libraries. **Michael L. Taylor** is now assistant curator of books for the Special Collections division of the Louisiana State U. Libraries. **Cherry Dunham Williams** has been appointed special collections librarian for the sciences and the William Sweet Papers archivist in the History and Special Collections Division of the Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library at the UCLA. **Sonia Yaco** has been hired as the special collections librarian at the Old Dominion U. Libraries. **Stephen J. Zietz** has been named head of special collections at Georgia State University.

Transitions

Thea Allen has been named special project cataloger in the North Carolina Collection at UNC-CH. **James Ascher** has been appointed cataloging librarian for the Special Collections Team, Cataloging & Metadata Services Department, at the U. of Colorado at Boulder. **Joshua Berkov** was appointed digital projects librarian at UNC-CH. **Greta Reisel Browning** has been appointed reference archivist/librarian for special collections at Appalachian State. **Lisa R. Carter** is now head of the special collections research center at North Carolina State. **Courtney Chartier** is now archives and special collections processing archivist at Atlanta U.'s Woodruff Library. **Robin Chen** is now assistant manuscripts reference librarian at UNC-CH. **Patrick Cullom** has been appointed visual materials archivist in the North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives at UNC-CH. **Maggie Dickson** was appointed the Watson-Brown Project librarian at UNC-CH. **Traci JoLeigh Drummond** is now archivist of the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State. **Christian Dupont** is now Aeon Program Director for Atlas Systems, Inc. **Jennifer Exum** has joined the U. of Michigan as the rare/non-book cataloger. **Brian K. Geiger** has joined the Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research as assistant director of the ESTC and resident manager of the Center. **Moira Fitzgerald** is the new assistant head of Access Services at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale. **Susan Graham** has been appointed special collections librarian for the Albin O. Kuhn Library at the U. of Maryland - Baltimore County. **Randy Gue** has been appointed manuscripts archivist (a two-year appointment) at Emory's Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. **Eva Guggemos** is the new research librarian at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale. **Ethan Henderson** has been appointed head of Special Collections and University Archives at Pepperdine U. **Elizabeth Hull** has been named assistant photographic archivist in the North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives at UNC-CH. **Petrina Jackson** has been hired as head of instruction and outreach at the Albert and Shirley Small Special

Collections Library, U. of Virginia. **Kenton Jaehnig** is now supervisory archivist for the Lowell Weicker Papers project in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, U. of Virginia. **Laura Wilson Larkin** has been appointed special collections conservator at the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Bridget Lerette** is now archives and special collections processing archivist at Atlanta University's Woodruff Library. **Lindsey Loeper** has been appointed visiting librarian for special collections at the Albin O. Kuhn Library at the U. of Maryland - Baltimore County. **Laila Miletic-Vejzovic** has been appointed head of Special Collections & University Archives in the U. of Central Florida Libraries. **Tara Olivero** has been appointed special collections librarian and college archivist at the Julia Rogers Library of Goucher College. **Gregory Prickman** has become assistant head of the Department of Special Collections & University Archives at the U. of Iowa. **Todd Samuelsen** is now outreach curator at Texas A&M's Cushing Memorial

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