

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

December, 1984

Number 2

ISSN 0743-1481

2nd Editor's Greetings

David Warrington, who successfully guided into print the inaugural issue of the RBMS Newsletter earlier this year, has resigned his position as editor due the press of other responsibilities. The Newsletter has been well-launched; it is my duty to insure that it becomes a serial publication.

The fast-approaching 1985 ALA Midwinter Meeting is now commanding the attention of many hard-working members of the RBMS. I have decided to devote the bulk of this issue to the many important activities of the Section--activities that are making a significant contribution on many fronts to rare book and manuscripts curatorship.

It is anticipated that the Spring issue of the Newsletter will have sufficient space for the reporting of a wider spectrum of developments in the rare book and manuscripts world, as outlined by David Warrington in the first issue. I urge the readership to participate by submitting notices or short articles for the Newsletter. Please send these contributions to the editor by April 1, 1985, so that they can receive full consideration for inclusion in the 1985 spring issue.

It is a pleasure to serve you as editor. I look forward to frequent communications from many of you during the remaining months of the 1984-85 year.

Lauren Brown
Historical Mss. & Archives Dept.
McKeldin Library
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
(301) 454-2318

RBMS at Washington ALA Midwinter

RBMS section members will meet on nineteen separate occasions in the course of the Midwinter Meeting, January 5-9, 1985. A significant number of committees will meet for the first time, reflecting the active response of the Executive Committee to several issues (such as conservators' collations) raised at the Dallas Annual Conference in July, 1984.

RBMS members can expect to receive at the registration desk at the Sheraton Washington a chronological listing of all 1985 Midwinter meetings. A summary list of the RBMS meetings appears on page 7 of this Newsletter; briefer information on other ALA meetings of potential interest to RBMS members appears on page 5. The Washington map (on the verso of p. 7) may aid section members in their trek from hotel to hotel during the course of the conference.

An agenda of the RBMS Committee meetings follows. Notice that description of all committee activities concludes with the name, address, and phone number of the current committee chairs.

Conservators' Collation (ad hoc)

The Committee has been formed as a result of the following proposed charge which was approved by the Executive Committee at the 1984 Annual Conference in Dallas: 1) to gather information about the various special collation systems presently used by book conservators in marking the leaves and other component parts of books as an aid to their re-assembly after disassembly for conservation and other purposes, 2) to publicize the existence of these various systems to the community of rare book curators and other interested parties so as to receive information as to their relative merits and weaknesses, and to consult as appropriate with interested parties in order to 3) present and recommend for adoption a single such system which answers the needs of conservators and has their support as a system, and which meshes without conflict with such systems as the Greg/Bowers formulary, and 4) to recommend to the Executive Committee mechanisms by which the system can be formally proposed to the appropriate section of the American Institute for Conservation, and other organizations such as the Society of American Archivists, etc. for their approval and endorsement.

The ad hoc committee will begin its deliberations at Midwinter.
(Chair: Terry Belanger, School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 / 212-280-2292)

Continuing Education

Discussed at some length at Dallas by this committee was the usefulness of preparing a RBMS Section notebook and/or membership directory. Bill Joyce suggested that the Society of American Archivists Membership Directory be examined as a model for a potential RBMS Membership Directory. It is anticipated that he will report back to the Committee at Midwinter with information as to the project's feasibility.

High on the agenda for this committee is the 1985 Pre-Conference seminars and the working out of the final details for those set and resolved. The Committee will also continue its work on the brochures(s) "What Shall I Do With My Old Books" (a revision of Shirley Lebo's pamphlet) and "What Shall I Do With My Old Manuscripts."

(Chair: Alice Schreyer, Center for the Book, Library of Congress; 1250 31st St., NW, Washington, DC 20007 / 202-287-5221)

Curators/Conservators Relations (ad hoc)

At the Annual Conference in Dallas the RBMS Executive Committee approved the creation of an ad hoc committee to develop guidelines for dealing with the curatorial issues raised by the conservation of rare books and other special collections materials. The committee is meant to deal with the question of how to define the respective and joint areas of responsibilities of curators and conservators when decisions must be made about the treatment of materials in conservation. Issues emerge because curators and conservators have different areas of expertise and different perceptions and may have differing values. How can and should conflicts be resolved? The Committee will hold an organizational session at ALA Midwinter, and seeks the participation of both curators and conservators, especially those who have worked closely with their professional counterparts in making conservation decisions.

(Chair: Donald Farren, Special Collections, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 / 301-454-4020)

Developing Guidelines for Loaning Special Collections Materials for Exhibitions (ad hoc)

This recently-formed committee is planning a preliminary/organizational meeting at Midwinter; it will examine written policy statements, procedure manuals, etc. that are in current use in special collection repositories. Needs and issues to be addressed will be outlined and explored by the Committee prior to the writing of a draft statement.

Ellen Dunlap, Committee Chair, is now soliciting existing policy statements; please send any such documents your repository may have to the address below.
(Chair: Ellen Dunlap, Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia, PA 19103 / 215-732-1600)

Developing Guidelines for Professional Ethics (ad hoc)

The fourth draft of the Ethics Committee's "Standards for Ethical Conduct for Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Librarians" was published in C & R L News (July/August, 1984), in order to solicit comments. The Committee expects to hold its final meeting at Midwinter followed by submission of the final draft.

(Chair: Terry Belanger, School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027 / 212-280-2292)

Developing Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections (ad hoc)

The Committee will study recently suggested changes in the wording of the draft document; final editorial changes will be discussed. It is anticipated that the resulting draft statement will be shared with section members via a published draft in C & R L News in the near future.

(Chair: Samuel A. Streit, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 / 401-863-2146)

Exhibition Catalogs Award

This is now a full committee, replacing the ad hoc committee recently chaired by Ann Gwyn. The Committee is working on securing final approval of the award criteria from ACRL/ALA, and will study ways in which widespread publicity for the award may be achieved. The present document calls for awards in three separate categories (depending on the cost expended) for the best exhibition catalogs published by institutions in conjunction with an exhibit. Institutions, and not individuals, are to receive the awards; any library institution (but not museums) are eligible.

(Chair: Sally Leach, Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 / 512-471-9115)

Information Exchange

The Information Exchange expects to hold another lively session, with widespread participation from section members. Since the intent is to promote informally the sharing of new information, there is no formal agenda set far in advance. Contact Irene Moran if you wish to make a report or an announcement to the rest of the membership at Midwinter. The topic of your report, not the text for a presentation, is all that is required.

(Chair: Irene Moran, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720 / 415-642-3781)

Journal Publication

Further discussion of an RBMS Journal of Rare Books Librarianship (also known by other titles; refer to pp. 7-8 in the April, 1984 issue of this newsletter) is the agenda of this meeting. It is foreseen, incidentally, as the first meeting of the journal's editorial board. All section members are invited to attend.

(Contact person: Joan Friedman, Yale Center for British Art, Box 2120, Yale Station, New Haven, CN 06520 / 203-436-3912)

Literary Rights (ad hoc)

At the 1984 Dallas Annual Conference the Executive Committee created an ad hoc committee "to investigate and report upon the feasibility of compiling a central registry of the owners of the literary rights inherent in manuscripts, which are distinct from rights inherent in the ownership of the physical property of manuscripts." This issue will be discussed and recommendations made at the first meeting of the Committee at Midwinter. The Chair, Thomas Verich, would like to hear from section members regarding in-house procedures for maintaining information on literary rights holders.

(Chair: Thomas Verich, Department of Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677 / 601-232-5861).

MARC Cataloging for Special Collections Information Exchange (ad hoc)

The Committee met in Dallas to hear John Lancaster (Amherst) on the recent history and future prospects of the RBMS Standards Committee, Will Goodwin (University of Texas at Austin) on the writing of proposed guidelines for the cataloging of rare serials, Elizabeth Betz (Library of Congress) on the development of thesauri in MARC fields 655 and 755 for graphic works, and Linda Schneider (ESTC) on current progress at ESTC in Baton Rouge.

The Committee does not have a meeting planned for Midwinter, but will meet during the 1985 Annual Conference in Chicago.

(Chair: John Thomas, Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 / 512-471-4240)

Nominating Committee (1986)—see p. 6 below.Pre-Conference Program Planning Committee (Chicago, 1985)

"Changing Concepts of Value and Rarity" is the theme for the 1985 Chicago Pre-Conference. The dates have been firmly set for July 2-5, 1985; the Holiday Inn - Mart Plaza is the location for the conference. Russell Maylone (Northwestern University) is the local arrangements chair.

Speakers for this auspicious occasion will include Kenneth W. Rendell (Kenneth W. Rendell, Inc.), Robert Rosenthal (University of Chicago), Thomas Wright (Clark Library, UCLA), Paul Mosher (Stanford University), Arthur Freeman (Bernard Quaritch), and James Wells (formerly of the Newberry Library). The speakers above (and others) will be complemented by a full array of seminars arranged by the Continuing Education Committee.

Needless to say, the Program Committee is very busy. The spring issue of the Newsletter will contain many additional details on this important event.

(Chair: Linda Claassen, Special Collections, UCSD Library, La Jolla, CA 92093 / 619-452-2533)

Publications

Ways in which the RBMS Newsletter can be placed on a secure, ongoing foundation will be discussed at this meeting. ACRL draft policies on newsletter distribution and format will also be addressed.

The possibility of a journal devoted to rare books librarianship is another prominent topic on the agenda (refer to "Journal Publication" above for information on a meeting devoted specifically to this subject).

The Publications Committee Chair, Joan Friedman, welcomes the addition of other topics or issues to the agenda of the meeting.

(Chair: Joan Friedman, Yale Center for British Art, Yale University; 178 Linden St., New Haven, CT 06511 / 203-436-3912)

Security

Work has progressed on a draft document that will be shared with the section membership and other interested parties prior to its final publication.

The document is presently divided in three parts, with the following committee members having assumed responsibility for the initial drafts: 1) what to do before a theft occurs (Terry Belanger, Columbia University), 2) what to do after a theft occurs (Peter Hanff, UC Berkeley), and 3) guidelines for model legislation (Bill Keller, Maryland Historical Society).

Discussion of this document is the agenda for the Midwinter Meeting.

(Chair: David Zeidberg, Special Collections, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024 / 213-825-4988).

Standards

The Standards Committee is meeting three times at Midwinter, to work on a full agenda: 1) the second review of two thesauri--one a thesaurus of binding terms drafted by John Thomas and Anna Lou Ashby, and the other, a thesaurus of printing and publishing evidence, prepared by Sandra Mason and Patrick Russell (presented by Joe Springer); 2) review of the status of other thesauri of cataloging terms also being prepared; and 3) review of the status of a proposal for cataloging guidelines for rare serials.

All members of the section are welcome to attend the meetings and actively participate in the discussions.

(Chair: John Thomas, Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 / 512-471-4240)

 RBMS members who have the interest and the time to participate in committee activities are encouraged to make their interests known to the Chair-elect, who is responsible for filling vacancies: Anna Lou Ashby, Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 E. 36th St., New York, NY 10016.

Other Midwinter Meetings of Interest

ACRL Publications Committee	Jan. 5th (Saturday), 2-4 PM
SAA/ALA Library-Archives Relationship Joint Committee	Jan. 7th (Monday), 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
RTSD/ARL Cooperative Cataloging of Wing STC 2	Jan. 7th (Monday), 4:30-5:30 PM
RTSD PLMS (Preservation Section) Discussion Group	Jan. 6th (Sunday), 2-4 PM
RTSD PLMS Education Committee	Jan. 6th (Sunday), 11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Ad hoc Committee on Manuscripts Issues its Final Report

The ad hoc Manuscripts Committee, formed in 1982 to survey the interests of manuscripts curators in RBMS, issued a questionnaire to the membership in 1983 and submitted recommendations to the Executive Committee of RBMS (during the Dallas Annual Meeting) which were based on an assessment of the response to the questionnaire. One of the recommendations was for the Executive Committee to consider the points contained in a report written by Lisa Brower and Ellen Dunlap, offering suggestions to improve the effectiveness and visibility of the ALA/SAA Joint Committee. Other recommendations: 1) nine program/workshop suggestions, to be forwarded to the Continuing Education Committee for consideration, 2) not to form a permanent Manuscripts Committee, but to consider the forming of a manuscripts discussion group/caucus, which could be of considerable value to RBMS members, and 3) the creation of an ad hoc committee to study the feasibility of a national/international register on literary rights. The latter request (via a proposal made by Donald Farren) has resulted in the forming of the ad hoc Literary Rights Committee (see p. 4).

Clifton Jones of the DeGolyer Library (Southern Methodist University, Dallas TX 75275), served as chair of the ad hoc Manuscripts Committee, and can provide additional information on the content and current status of the proposals made by the Committee.

Current and Future RBMS Committee Members

The current (1984-85) members of the RBMS Executive Committee are the Chair, Lynda C. Claassen (Special Collections, Central Library, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093 / 619-452-2533), the Vice-Chair/Chair-elect, Anna Lou Ashby (Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 E. 36th St., New York, NY 10016 / 212-685-0008, x220), three members-at-large (Peter van Wingen, Library of Congress, 1985; Jennifer B. Lee, Brown University, 1986; and Robert Nikirk, Grolier Club, 1987); and Stephen Ferguson (Princeton University), the most recent past RBMS Chair. Anthony S. Bliss (UC Berkeley) is RBMS Secretary and Vickie Steele (UCLA) is RBMS's Representative to the RTSD Preservation Section.

The following candidates have agreed to stand for election (terms of service for those elected beginning in mid-1985):

For Vice-Chair/Chair-elect: Donald Farren (University of Maryland)
Samuel A. Streit (Brown University)

For Secretary (2 yr. term): Irene Moran (UC Berkeley)
Judith C. Singleton (ESTC, LSU)

For Member-at-Large: Willard Goodwin (UT Austin)
(3 year term) Earl Taylor (Brown University)

Stephen Ferguson (Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ 08544 / 609-452-3184) is chair of the 1986 Nominating Committee (referred to on p. 4 above). His committee is meeting at Midwinter to select a slate of candidates for the spring 1986 election.

RBMS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Schedule for ALA Midwinter, Washington, D.C.
January 5 - 9, 1985

January 5th (Saturday)	9-11 AM	Exhibition Catalogs Awards Shoreham--Rm. 863 Security Sheraton Washington--Calvert Rm.
	2-4 PM	Executive I Shoreham--Capitol Rm.
	8-10 PM	Information Exchange Shoreham--Forum Rm.
January 6th (Sunday)	9-11 AM	Publications Mayflower--Senate Rm.
	2-4 PM	Curators/Conservators Relations Sheraton Washington--Hall C, Cube C Standards I Mayflower--Senate Rm.
	8-10 PM	Conservators' Collations (ad hoc) Shoreham--Rm. 163 Nominating (closed) Sheraton Washington--Taft Rm.
January 7th (Monday)	9-11 AM	Continuing Education Shoreham--Embassy Rm. Guidelines for Loaning Special Collections Materials (ad-hoc) Shoreham--Capitol Rm.
	2-4 PM	Preconference Planning (Chicago) Sheraton Washington--Marshall Rm. Standards II Ramada Renaissance--Conference Rm. D
January 8th (Tuesday)	9-11 AM	Literary Rights (ad hoc) Shoreham--Rm. 263
	2-4 PM	Transfer of General Collections Materials to Special Collections (ad hoc) Ramada Renaissance--Conf. Rm. B Standards III Mayflower--Maryland Rm.
January 9th (Wednesday)	9-11 AM	Guidelines for Professional Ethics (ad hoc) Sheraton Washington--Wisconsin Rm. Journal Publication Sheraton Washington--Idaho Rm.
	2-4 PM	Executive II Sheraton Washington--Idaho Rm.



RBMS NEWSLETTER

 c/o Lauren Brown
 Historical Mss. & Archives Dept.
 McKeldin Library
 University of Maryland
 College Park, MD 20742
