

# 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*

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NOVEMBER 1987

Number 8

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## GREETINGS

The RBMS newsletter baton has been passed to a new editor. I would like to thank Lauren Brown for his hard work and perseverance over the last few years. Now that the newsletter is an established serial publication the RBMS Executive Committee has decided that the editorship should be a two year renewable position; future editors will be nominated by the Publications Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. It is the editorial policy of this newsletter to first report RBMS Section news, providing news of the wider national and international rare book community as space allows. I hope all will participate in the production of the newsletter by sending me suggestions for its improvement as well as alerting me to relevant news items. Looking forward to hearing from you - Karen.

## RBMS PREPARES FOR SAN ANTONIO

Another busy agenda has been planned for RBMS's committees at ALA's Midwinter Meeting, to be held in San Antonio this January. All those interested in becoming involved in these activities are encouraged to attend.

The Standards Committee (Chair: John B. Thomas III, Humanities Research Center, Austin) is busy with projects of its own and reviewing standards developed by other sections and committees. Revised editions of its relator terms thesaurus and genre terms thesaurus appeared in the October 1987 C & RL News. Its binding thesaurus is expected

to be published by the end of the year. Its paper thesaurus, type thesaurus, and provenance thesaurus are all under review by either ACRL or the committee. All of these are expected to appear in either C & RL News or as separate publications soon. The Nominating Committee (Chair: Anna Lou Ashby, Pierpont Morgan Library) will be meeting in January to discuss the upcoming April elections. The Borrowing for Exhibitions Committee (Chair: Ellen Dunlap, Rosenbach Museum) awaits responses to its article, "Borrowing of Special Collections Materials for Exhibitions," which was in RBML's spring issue, both from a general audience and the Standards Committee; the latter is producing formal guidelines based on that article. A seminar was held in San Francisco this summer addressing this issue. In January the Continuing Education Committee (Chair: Barbara Paulson, Columbia University) will be working on the seminars suggested for the Preconference in July in New Orleans. The 1989 Conference Planning Committee (Chair: William Joyce, Princeton) will meet in January to discuss the possibility of having an RBMS conference in early September 1989 in Cambridge, England; also under discussion will be the regularly scheduled Preconference before ALA's Annual Conference, to be held in Dallas in June of 1989. The Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee (Chair: Sally Leach, Humanities Research Center) has planned two meetings for January to choose award winners for 1988. Three catalogs will be chosen from over forty submissions for the three categories,

RBMS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**Tentative Schedule for ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Antonio  
January 9-11, 1988**

<b>Jan. 9th (Saturday)</b>	8:00-9:00 AM	GODORT/MAGERT/RBMS Joint Committee
	9:00-11:00	Exhibition Catalogs Awards I (closed) Security <u>RBML</u> Editorial Board
	11:30-12:30	Curators/Conservators Discussion Group 1988 Preconference Planning Borrowing for Exhibitions (ad-hoc)
	2:00-4:00	Continuing Education Legislative Information (ad-hoc) Standards I Orientation Manual (ad-hoc)
	4:30-5:30	Information Exchange
	8:00-10:00	Nominating (closed) Mss. and Other Formats Discussion Group
<b>Jan. 10th (Sunday)</b>	9:00-11:00 AM	Publications Exhibition Catalogs Awards II (closed) MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group
	11:30-12:30	1989 Conference Planning Literary Rights (ad-hoc) 1988 N.O. Conference Program Planning Committee
	2:00-4:00	Conservators' Collations (ad-hoc) Standards II 1988 N.O. Conference Security Program Committee
	4:30-5:30	Executive I
	8:00-10:00	Standards III
<b>Jan. 11th (Monday)</b>	9:30-12:30 AM	Executive II

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expensive, moderately expensive, and inexpensive. The committee will also discuss the publication of checklists of previous entries for both reference and ordering purposes. The Publications Committee (Chair: James Green, Library Company of Philadelphia) is still working on the membership directory; finding a mechanism for obtaining the necessary data and a way in which to make the directory self-supporting are the two issues of most concern at this point. \*\* (Along this line, RBMS members are asked to fill out their ALA membership forms completely, including telephone numbers, as these forms may be used in the compilation of a directory.) \*\* An ad-hoc committee to explore the possibilities of an policy and procedures/orientation manual has been established (Chair: Donald Farren, University of Maryland) and will meet for the first time in January to discuss scope and whether the two should be separate publications or integrated. The Preconference Planning Manual has been reviewed by ALA; maintenance of this manual will remain with the Publications Committee with regular input from Past Chairs. Consideration is being given to publishing a directory of resources to teach the history of the book. The Security Committee (Chair: William A. Moffett, Oberlin) and the Legislative Information Committee (Chair: William B. Keller, George Washington University) will be working in San Antonio on legislation for library thefts. There will be a program in New Orleans this summer on insider thefts and an ad-hoc committee with Donald Farren as Chair will meet in January to organize it. The Security Committee guidelines have been revised and will be reviewed by the Standards Committee in January. The Legislative Information Committee is drafting a guide addressing the issues raised by its report on the 1984 tax revisions. RBMS will be co-sponsoring, with William Keller as its representative, an ACRL program planned for the 1988 ALA Conference entitled "Information Access: Issues and Action." The Conservators' Collations Committee

(Chair: Terry Belanger, Columbia University) will be reviewing its report for conservators and curators in January. The Literary Rights Committee (Chair: Cathy Henderson, Humanities Research Center) will discuss the possibility of creating a national data-base of American literary rights and copyright holders. The Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group (Chair: Bob E. Blesse, University of Nevada/Reno) is planning to conduct a survey on the security of manuscripts and other formats in American repositories. Bob Blesse represented RBMS at the Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Conference in New York in September, where RBMS hosted an open house to encourage more dialogue between the two organizations; more than forty people attended. At SAA he also presented for review the ACRL Guidelines for Manuscripts and Archives, which had previously been reviewed by the Standards Committee and the manuscript group. The January meeting of the Curators and Conservators Discussion Group (Chair: Cathy Henderson) will focus on collational formulas used by conservators when taking apart printed books. Also under discussion is the Conservators' Collations Committee's report previously mentioned. Cathy gave a talk for the Book and Paper Group of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) last May in Vancouver about the activities of the RBMS conservators' groups. The Committee for the Development of Transfer Guidelines (Chair: Samuel Streit, Brown University), now dissolved, saw publication of its Guidelines in the September 1987 C & RL News.

#### LIASON NEWS

A joint ALA committee of RBMS and GODORT (Government Documents Round Table) met for the first time in San Francisco with Nora Quinlan (University of Colorado/Bolder) as liason. MAGERT (Maps & Geography Round Table) is joining this committee in January. The

committee's first project is the creation of a questionnaire on institutional holdings of government documents which will be distributed to RBMS members.

In San Francisco, the Joint ALA/SAA Committee (Joan Friedman, RBMS liason) discussed the shared concern for professional education and standards. Relevant RBMS standards are being read by the committee and a session was held at the SAA Conference entitled "MLS & Employment: Perspectives from the Accreditation Teams, Conservators & Rare Books/Manuscripts Fields" addressing educational issues.

Michael Ryan (Stanford University) has been named the new liason to the Western European Specialists Section of ACRL.

#### INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Susan Lemke will be moderating a one hour Information Exchange at Midwinter from 4:30 to 5:30 on Saturday January 9. Anyone interested in participating is welcome. Please notify Susan in advance should you have information but cannot attend. She can be contacted at Special Collections, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C. 20319-6000 (202-475-1187).

#### NEW RBMS OFFICERS ELECTED; 1988 SLATE ANNOUNCED

ACRL has announced the results of the 1987 elections, with these RBMS members elected to the Executive Committee for terms beginning this past summer:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect: William L. Joyce (Princeton University); Secretary: Lisa Browar (New York Public Library); Member-at-Large (1987-1990 term): Dianne M. Chilmonczyk (Stanford University).

Other members of that Committee are:

Chair: Alice D. Schreyer (University of Delaware); Past Chair: Donald Farren (University of Maryland); Members-at-Large: 1985-1988 term - Susan Lemke (National Defense Library); 1986-1989 term - James N. Green (Library Company of Philadelphia).

The following members are nominees for

the 1988 elections, which will be held next spring:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Sally Leach (Humanities Research Center); Peter Van Wingen (Library of Congress).

Member-at-Large 1987-1990 term: Rosemary Cullen (Brown University); Joe Springer (Mennonite Historical Society).

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO NEW ORLEANS

Planning for next summer's activities in New Orleans will be the focus of much attention in San Antonio. Ann Gwyn (Johns Hopkins), 1988 Preconference Planning Chair, has announced that the Preconference's topic will be "The Relationship of Special Collections Libraries with the Museum World." Its dates are July 5-8 and the location is the Royal Orleans Hotel in the French Quarter. Robert Martin (Louisiana State), Local Arrangements Chair, is working on the local flavor.

At the ALA Conference following, RBMS will be holding a one day program co-sponsored with GODORT and MAGERT on government documents as rare books. James Green is the Chair of the Program Planning Committee.

More information on the Preconference and Conference will be provided in the spring issue of this newsletter.

## Rare Books & NOW OFFICIAL! Manuscripts Librarianship

After a two year probationary period, Rare Books and Manuscripts Librarianship was incorporated this summer as a permanent ACRL journal by the ACRL Publications Committee. Now four issues young, over the past year and a half RBML's biannual issues have provided a utilitarian and entertaining service to both librarians and aficionados in general. The most recent issue is representative: it includes articles on

institutional collecting of 20th century non-literary works; appraising and accessioning the papers of Congresswoman Marjorie S. Holt; conservation decision-making in institutions; and the 1987 exhibition catalogue award winners. There is also an annotated bibliography of the standards and guidelines produced by RBMS. ACRL's enthusiastic response to the contents of RBML and the journal's ability to generate revenue through its advertisement campaign was a welcome one, indicating just how much vitality the RBMS Section as a whole contains. However: \*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: RBML does not come with membership in RBMS. YOU MUST SUBSCRIBE\*\*\* For just this purpose an order form is provided below.

Library Trends Summer 1987 issue is dedicated to "Recent Trends in Rare Book Librarianship." It is over 250 pages of informative essays by well-known figures in the field who treat such hot topics as conservation, technology, funding, and changing concepts of rarity.

The Abbey Newsletter's new address is 320 E. Center, Provo, UT 84601. Ellen McCrady remains editor.

**LEAB AMERICAN BOOK PRICES CURRENT EXHIBITION AWARDS**

The ALA/RBMS Exhibition Catalogue Awards program has received an \$8,000 endowment from Katherine Kyes Leab and

Daniel J. Leab to maintain and support the awards program. The Leabs have long provided invaluable service to the rare books and manuscripts community as editors and publishers of American Book Prices Current and as creators of BAM-BAM (Bookline Alert! Missing Books and Manuscripts), the national database of stolen and missing books and manuscripts. They have once again outdone themselves, providing great encouragement for the continuance of the RBMS Awards program. For further information on the awards program contact: Sally Leach, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, PO Drawer 7219, Austin, TX 78713 (512-471-9115).

**AMERICAN PRINTING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

APHA held its 12th annual program at Columbia University on September 26. The theme was "Government Printing in the Western Hemisphere", an issue of growing interest as indicated by this program and RBMS's upcoming ALA Program for July. Topics ranged from the history of government printing in Canada and Brazil to American philatelic history; the speakers were Norman Manchevsky, Sarah Jordan Miller, Laurence Hallewell, James M. Bruns, and Gay Walker.

APHA's annual meeting will be January 30, when the 1988 awards for distinguished contributions to the field of

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printing history will be presented. The recipients of the 1987 awards, for an individual and an institution respectively, were G. Thomas Tanselle of the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Antiquarian Society.

#### ESTC/NA

The 18th-Century Short-Title Catalog/North America has obtained funding from NEH for the reporting of the 18th century British holdings of the major libraries at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The records will be sent to ESTC/NA at the University of California/Riverside and entered in RLIN's ESTC database. Work at the Bodleian and Balliol College libraries at Oxford and at Trinity College and University libraries at Cambridge has already been completed. NEH is also providing support for a canvass of the ESTC holdings at the Public Record Office, London.

In July, ESTC/NA and the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles sponsored a day-long conference on scholarly uses of the ESTC database. The success of the program, which included both informal lectures and online demonstrations, has encouraged the ESTC staff to plan for more such conferences at other institutions.

#### IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

A conference on teaching the history of the book was held at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts on June 12 and 13. Co-sponsored by the Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, it consisted of presentations on the theoretical and practical aspects of such instruction and the actual availability of courses. The Antiquarian Society is publishing a number of the presentations and syllabi; to find out more about these write John Hench, AAS, 185 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609.

The North American Imprints Program (NAIP) staff continues to input records

for 17th & 18th century items from libraries around the country into the NAIP database. So far 14,413 records not held by the AAS have been entered; 58,207 additional locations have been added to already existing records.

#### FROM OVERSEAS

There are a number of active organizations akin to RBMS outside of the United States. Provided here are the names of three such groups which produce newsletters similar to this one; these serials include relevant articles, news of an international nature, and book reviews. This listing can be expanded in future newsletters should interest warrant it: please let me know what you think.

The Library Association/Rare Books Group (Miss J. Archibald, English Antiquarian Accessions, British Library, Great Russell St., London WC1B 3DG). 2 issues annually; £4.00 to subscribe.

Book Trade History Group (C/o Simon Eliot, Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 AA). Three issues annually; £5.00 for individual subscriptions; £3.00 for an institution.

Gazette du Livre Médiéval (Gazette du livre médiéval, Éditions CEMI, B.P. 254, F-75227, PARIS CEDEX 05) 2 issues annually; 60 French francs for payment in advance; 80 if billed with first issue. Payment in international check or postal money order only made out to "Éditions CEMI."

Vincent Kinane (Dept. of Early Printed Books, The Library, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland) writes:

An Irish middle-grade rare books' librarian seeks an exchange with an American counterpart for 6 months in Spring-Summer 1988. He hopes to gain experience in the computer cataloguing of early printed books. He will take his salary with him but envisages a swap of accomodation and car.

Further details can be had from Mr. Kinane or myself.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 9-14 - ALA Midwinter Meeting, San Antonio (Contact: ALA, 50 E. Huron, Chicago, 60611)

Jan. 30 - APHA Annual Meeting, New York City (Contact: APHA, P.O. Box 4922, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163)

June 1-5 - American Institute for Conservation, New Orleans (Contact: AIC, 3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008)

June 6-July 1 - Columbia Rare Book School (For course descriptions & applications write: Rare Book School, School of Library Service, Columbia University, NY, NY 10027)

July 5-8 - RBMS Preconference, New Orleans (Contact: ACRL/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago 60611)

July 9-14 - ALA Annual Meeting (Address as above)

Aug. 30-Sept. 3 - IFLA Annual Meeting, Sydney, Australia (Helen Sweeny, Library Assn. of Australia, 376 Jones St., Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia)

Sept. 4-19 - Study tour for librarians and archivists in China (Susan Schwartzburg, Alexander Library, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ 08901)

## TRANSITIONS

Material for this column is gleaned from ALA periodicals and other available newsletters. People with knowledge of relevant transitions are encouraged to contact me.

Robert Babcock has been appointed curator of early books and manuscripts in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. Paul N. Banks, Director of the Conservation Programs of the School of Library Service at Columbia University, resigned on June 30 to devote more time to teaching, research and writing; Guy Petherbridge is the new Director of Columbia's Conservation Program at the School of Library Service. Beverly Bishops is now reference archivist at Emory University. John Bloomberg-Rissman has been appointed cataloger for the 18th-Century Short-Title Catalog/North America (ESTC/NA) at the

University of California/Riverside. Katherine E.S. Donahue has been appointed head of the History and Special Collections Division of the Biomedical Library at UCLA. Peter Drummey became the Stephen T. Riley Librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society on Sept 1, having worked at the library since 1978. Stephen Ferguson, Curator of Rare Books at Princeton University, has been appointed to a 3 year term as Assistant University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections; he will continue in his duties as Curator while assisting Associate University Librarian, William Joyce, in the management of the Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections. Chuck Forbes is the new Colbeck/Thesis Librarian in Special Collections at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Vincent Giroud has been appointed curator of modern books and papers in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. Hollee Haswell has been appointed curator of the Columbiana Library and reference librarian/bibliographer in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University. Edith G. Henderson, curator of the Treasure Room in the Law School Library at Harvard since 1960, has retired. John B. Hillis is the new head of Special Collections at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. Bernice Jackson, rare books librarian at the University of Kansas Clendening History of Medicine Library, Kansas City, retired at the end of June after 28 years of service. J. Elias Jones retired June 1 as professor emeritus at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, following 30 years of service, which included being head of Special Collections there from 1973-1987. Anne Kenny has been appointed conservation liason librarian at Cornell University. Edward R. Kukla has been appointed the first Head of the Department of Special Collections at the Minneapolis Public Library and Information Center as well as Minneapolis Athenaeum Librarian. William Matheson, chief of the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress for 19

years, retired on August 28. During his tenure the library acquired the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection and the Hans and Hanni Kraus Collection of Sir Francis Drake. He has also served as the Chair of RBMS and is a standing member of the Rare and Precious Books Section of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). F. Thomas Noonan is now the European Specialist in the Rare Book Division of the Library of Congress. Genevieve Oswald retired September 18 as the first curator of NYPL's Dance Collection. Eve Cohen Pasternak has been appointed Mellon Cataloguer at the Pierpont Morgan Library, where she will be cataloguing early children's books. A recent graduate of the Columbia University School of Library Service, she was formerly assistant cataloguer at the Annenberg Institute for Research in Jewish Studies in Philadelphia. Randy Penninger has been named 1987/88 Archival Administration Fellow in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at the LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University. Jeremiah Post is now print and picture curator at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Louis A. Rachow is now curator of the Hampden-Booth Theatre Library, The Players, New York. Kathleen Reed is now Assistant Professor at the College of Information

Sciences, Drexel University, where she is teaching courses in rare books librarianship, cataloguing, and the history of the book. Gerald Saxon is now Assistant Director for Special Collections at the University of Texas/Arlington. Laura Stalker is now Assistant Director for the ESTC/NA at the University of California/Riverside. Stephen Tabor has been appointed cataloguer for the ESTC/NA at the University of California/Riverside. Griselda Warr has been appointed the Rare Book and Manuscript Conservator at the Princeton University Library. Marjorie J. Wynne, Edwin J. Beinecke Research Librarian in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, retired June 30 after 45 years of service.

John D. Cushing, who had retired from his post as the Stephen T. Riley Librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society on August 31, died on September 16. He joined the library's staff in 1960, became Librarian in 1963, and was named the Riley Librarian when that post was established in 1982. Jacob Zeitlin, one of this county's leading and most beloved book dealers and bibliophiles, died in Los Angeles on August 30 at the age of 84.

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