

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*

FALL 1995

NUMBER 23

From the Chair



reetings to all RBMS members. After last summer's Preconference in Bloomington, I feel as if I know many more of you than I did before. Here on the Indiana University campus we were welcomed back to the campus this Fall with a letter from Indiana University President Myles Brand declaring that "avoidance of change is not an option." His remarks were directed to his initiative to make Indiana University America's new public university. In later presentations he has admonished us with "change or be changed" and delivered a strategic directions document which has funding and resource allocation implications. Many of these same themes are being sent out to ACRL sections from the division headquarters. We as a section must respond and in fact have an opportunity now to direct the nature of the changes being made. In a recent letter to ACRL section chairs and vice chairs, President Patricia Breivik wrote concerning the recently adopted ACRL Strategic Plan: "Where can the interests of your particular memberships best match and support the overriding priorities of our total ACRL membership?" I urge each of you to read the ACRL Strategic Plan (*C&RL News*, September, 1995, vol. 56 no. 8, p. 571-572) and consider the goals and strategic directions included therein. I believe the diversity which RBMS brings to ACRL is a great strength for the division. If we substitute our section's initials for ACRL in the goals, I think they remain appropriate ones for us to strive for in this period of change:

RBMS as developer of people and practice. Provide development opportunities for academic and research librarians and other library personnel that enhance their ability to deliver superior services and resources.

RBMS as partner and advocate. Collaborate with other professional organizations and associations of higher education in order to promote mutual interests.

RBMS as player and advocate. Maintain at the national level a prominent role in planning and decision making for influencing information policy.

RBMS as an effective organization. Insure that RBMS's operating environment provides efficiency in its use of resources and effectiveness in the delivery of services to its members and constituent units.

This year will be a busy one for our organization. Work is well underway for our major activity of the year, the 37th RBMS Preconference in Ithaca, New York, on the Cornell University campus. Another important activity for this year will be the five year review of our *Guidelines for the Security*

of Rare Books, Manuscripts and Other Special Collections. This review will be led by the Security Committee. Highlights of the work of other committees are included elsewhere in this issue.

Communication is perhaps the most important element in successful change. Please make use of the directory information in this newsletter to be in touch with members of the Executive Committee. Participation of all RBMS members helps insure that we will fulfill our mission to represent and promote the interests of librarians, curators, and other specialists concerned with the care, custody, and use of rare books, manuscripts, and archives.

—Elizabeth Johnson

1996 RBMS Preconference

The 1996 RBMS Preconference will be held in Ithaca, New York, July 2-5. The theme of the conference is "Getting There from Here: Setting the Agenda for Special Collections in the 21st Century." The sessions will serve as a forum to explore and delineate those issues and concerns confronting Special Collections as we enter the next century. Plenary papers will focus on fundamental areas of Special Collections activity—such as administration, funding, utilization of electronic resources, collection development, and public services. The conference will open and close with an appraisal of the future role of special collections.

The topic is an appropriate one for the setting at Cornell University. A new, state-of-the-art special collections facility, the Carl A. Kroch Library, will be of interest to the membership and will enhance discussions regarding trends in administration, funding, and university support. Cornell University Library has become one of the leaders in the use of digitization of text and images in a research library setting. A variety of demonstrations and workshops on the utilization of electronic multi-media are planned.

A substantial offering of seminars on useful and diverse topics will also be included. A limited-enrollment seminar on "Special Collections Materials in the General Stacks: Developing Institutional Guidelines for Identification & Transfer" will be led by Charlotte B. Brown (UCLA) and Janet Gertz (Columbia University). In "Easy Come, Easy Go: The Why's and Wherefore's of Deaccessioning Materials from Special Collections," Sam Streit (Brown University) will explore historical patterns of deaccessioning from rare book and manuscript

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RBMS MID-WINTER CONFERENCE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, JANUARY 1996

Saturday, 20 January

- 8:30a - 11:00a** Conference Program Planning 1996
Bibliographic Standards I
Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group
- 9:30a - 11:00a** Publications
Security
- 9:30a - 12:30p** Exhibition Catalogue Awards I (closed)
- 11:30a - 12:30p** Nominating Committee (closed)
- 2:00p - 4:00p** Membership (ad hoc)
Budget and Development
Education and Professional Development
- 4:30p - 5:30p** Preconference Program Planning 1997
- 8:00p - 10:00p** Seminars
RBML Editorial Board

Sunday, 21 January

- 8:30a - 11:00a** Bibliographic Standards II
Curators & Conservators Disc. Group
Conference Development
Electronic Resources (ad hoc)
- 9:30a - 12:30p** Exhibition Catalogue Awards II (closed)
- 11:30a - 12:30p** MARC for Special Collections Disc. Group
Preconference Program Planning 1996
Conference Program Planning 1997
- 2:00p - 4:00p** Executive Committee I
- 4:30p - 5:30p** Information Exchange

Monday, 22 January

- 8:30 a - 11:30 p** Executive Committee II

This is the schedule that RBMS has requested from ALA. Be sure to check the program for any changes.

Preconference (from Page 1)

collections, Richard W. Oram (University of Texas) will report the results of a survey of current practice, and Dave M. Szewczyk will comment on the book trade's view of deaccessioning. John Bloomberg-Rissman (ESTC) and Deborah J. Leslie (Yale) will present "Mastering the New ESTC," teaching techniques for efficient use of this essential but expensive bibliographic resource. A discussion on "The Care and Feeding of Special Collections Friends Groups" will include panelists William Joyce (Princeton), Bernard McTigue (University of Oregon) and Kathryn Morgan (University of Virginia), with Isaac Gewirtz (Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University), acting as moderator and interlocutor. Ed Glazier (Research Libraries Group) will be the featured presenter in a seminar on "Format Integration: Its Impact on Special Collections."

Rounding out the seminar offerings will be sessions on library planning and design, outsourcing rare book cataloguing, working with guest exhibition curators, controlling and accessing sheet music collections, and the creation of new public service positions in special collections.

While the Preconference will highlight the unique resources and strengths of the Cornell Library, it will also offer attendees the opportunity to explore the scenic environs that make the Finger Lakes Region a popular summer resort area. Current planning envisions the establishment of a local 800 number for access to Cornell travel services in order to assist attendees in obtaining the best possible rate for air travel to Ithaca and New York City. For those attending the ALA annual meeting, chartered bus transportation will be provided from Ithaca to New

York City on the afternoon of Friday, July 5th. This trip should take approximately five hours. When these arrangements are firmly established, announcements will be made here and on Exlibris, as well as in the Preconference registration brochure that will be mailed to all RBMS members early in 1996.

A wide variety of housing options will be offered to conference participants, ranging from dormitory rooms (approx. \$42/night) to hotel housing on campus (approx. \$100/night), with additional local alternatives (approx. \$65/night). The Preconference committees hope to provide an exciting and challenging program and an enjoyable Fourth of July holiday.

Mark Dimunation (Cornell University, mgd1@cornell.edu) is chair of the Program Planning Committee; Tom Hickerson (Cornell University, hth2@cornell.edu) is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Both can be reached at (607) 255-3530.

Symposium

Books Illustrated: A Symposium Celebrating the Work of Ruth Mortimer will be held at Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts on April 12-13, 1996. The symposium will highlight four aspects of Ruth Mortimer's work: collecting, scholarship, teaching and librarianship. The illustrator, designer, and publisher, Barry Moser, will give the opening address. The symposium is open to all. For information, contact Mary Irwin, Neilson Library, Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063. Tel: (413) 585-2903. Email: mirwin@library.smith.edu.

RBMS Committee News

Seminars Committee

The meeting of the Seminars Committee in Chicago was notably well-attended despite a schedule change and its 8 to 10 p.m. time slot. Topics for the 1996 Preconference were discussed, including Cataloging Sheet Music; Working with Guest Exhibition Curators; Planning a New Building or Addition; Deaccessioning Special Collections; Outsourcing Rare Book Cataloging; MARC Format Integration: Implications and Practicalities; The Creation of New Public Service Positions in Special Collections; The Text Encoding Initiative; Non-traditional Researchers in Special Collections: How to Foster, How to Cope; Special Collections Materials in the General Stacks; Developing Institutional Guidelines for Identification & Transfer; Fundraising and Friends Organizations. A list of confirmed seminars is available from the committee chair, Elaine Smyth.

As the result of suggestions made during the summer meeting, the committee is undertaking two new projects this fall: 1) drafting new guidelines for seminar organizers and 2) preparing an "Orientation to RBMS for Seminar Presenters" packet that will be sent to seminar speakers. The purpose of the new draft guidelines is two-fold: to reinforce the Seminars Committee's effort to complete scheduling of each year's Preconference seminars during the early fall of the previous year; and to clarify for RBMS members the process by which seminars are selected. All RBMS members are invited to submit proposals for seminars. The committee hopes that the new guidelines will encourage more members to participate in seminar planning by laying out directions for proposing a seminar and a timetable for submitting proposals. The committee plans to circulate the draft guidelines for discussion in November and December prior to seeking approval from the Executive Committee at Midwinter in San Antonio. If you are interested in receiving a copy for review, please contact Elaine Smyth. (See page 7.)

Bibliographic Standards

The RBMS Bibliographic Standards Committee is currently dividing its efforts between two major projects. Under the leadership of thesaurus editor Deborah J. Leslie, the committee is preparing to begin revision of its six thesauri of terms pertaining to rare printed books. The revision process will encompass format as well as text. Now that MARBI has approved MARC authority fields for thesaurus terms, the committee is exploring the possibility of issuing the revised thesauri in electronic format—perhaps as a database of MARC authority records, possibly as a CD-ROM text file—as well as in traditional print form.

The committee has also undertaken a new publication project, provisionally entitled "A Handbook for Rare Book Cataloguers." The Handbook will contain brief essays on bibliographic subjects of particular interest to rare book cataloguers—format and collation, issues in provenance research, binding, etc.—accompanied by useful charts, tables, bibliographies and glossaries relevant to each subject area.

Internships are currently available on the committee for recent library school graduates interested in the field of rare books and special collections. Candidates willing and able to attend meetings of the Bibliographic Standards Committee at both the Midwinter and Annual ALA conferences should submit their names to Elizabeth Johnson, chair of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

Manuscripts and Other Formats

The Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group held a lively, wide-ranging discussion at its June 24 meeting in Chicago. Discussion topics included a lengthy, very positive review of the Bloomington Preconference and a continuation of a discussion begun at the Philadelphia meeting devoted to various issues surrounding the mounting of photographic images on the Internet. This latter topic is one which the Group hopes to continue discussing at further meetings and perhaps expand to include other Internet-related issues such as mounting exhibits onto the World Wide Web. Current co-chairs Tim Murray and Rebecca Johnson Melvin agreed to serve as co-chairs for another two-year term.

Security Committee

The Library Security Officer listserv will continue to be moderated by outgoing Chair Susan Allen. A recent "membership drive" by Committee members resulted in several new subscriptions to the list. About one-third of appointed Library Security Officers do not have e-mail access, however. Library Security Officers interested in joining the list should contact Susan Allen.

Everett Wilkie in December, 1994, mailed a survey concerning Stephen C. Blumberg to libraries that had been identified by the FBI as victims. He received a more than 50% response and replies continue to come in. He will send a follow-up mailing to libraries that did not respond to the first inquiry.

Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America now has a home page and is interested in trying to establish a universal list of missing or stolen items and linking that list to its page.

The Committee agreed to undertake the task of determining state laws in all 50 states concerning library thefts. The Committee felt such a survey would be useful to compare current state law with the model legislation found in Appendix II of RBMS's *Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries*.

George Arnold reported on the final arrangements for the jointly sponsored program with LAMA/BES/Safety & Security. Entitled "Stop Thief! Strategies for Keeping Your Collections From Disappearing," speakers included Frank De Rosa, Brooklyn Public Library; James Clark, Clark Associates; and Susan M. Allen, Kalamazoo College. RBMS's *Guidelines Regarding Thefts in Libraries* were available at the meeting.

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Memorial Resolution Honoring William Andrew Moffett

Whereas William Andrew Moffett brought honor to the professional community of rare book, manuscript, and special collections librarians through his distinguished career as both scholar and research librarian; and

Whereas he embodied the very best spirit of our profession by serving as a champion of intellectual freedom and unfettered public access to rare materials; and

Whereas he played a central role in our elevated awareness of the importance of library security through his apprehension of book thief James Shinn and his subsequent tireless insistence on the need to publicize thefts in order to discourage future thieves;

Whereas his many notable awards and honors have been well

chronicled in a memorial resolution of the Association of College and Research Libraries, which we endorse; and

Whereas Bill is perhaps best memorialized by a litany of his attributes as a principled human being, such as courage, integrity, perseverance, inspiration, enthusiasm, dedication, energy, and generosity of spirit;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of ACRL remember with joy the gusto with which Bill Moffett lived and worked, honor the memory of a truly admirable colleague, mentor, friend, and conscience, and extend our deepest condolences to his wife Deborah, his children, the rest of his family, and his many friends.

Memorial Honoring Holly Hall

It is with great sadness that the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section notes the passing of Holly Hall, Head of Special Collections at Washington University in St. Louis, who died on June 24 [1995].

Holly Hall was a dedicated special collections librarian for more than twenty-five years. After receiving an M.A. in literature from Leeds University, she took a position at Washington University in 1969 where she worked under the tutelage of William Matheson and Elsie Freivogel. After becoming Head of Special Collections in 1975, Holly built upon the work of both these individuals to help make Washington University one of the preeminent rare book and manuscript collections in the United States. In particular, she worked indefatigably to refine and develop Washington University's collections in contemporary literature and in the history of printing, publishing, and the book arts.

Holly Hall also had a defining influence on the growth of the St. Louis area rare book and archival community. She was a founding member of the Association of St. Louis Area Archivists and the St. Louis Rare Book Group and served on the boards of the Bixby Club of the St. Louis Mercantile Library and the Bookmark Society of Washington University. Al-

though Holly served these organizations in a variety of capacities, perhaps her greatest accomplishments derived from her ability to bring together St. Louis area archivists, librarians, conservators, and collectors and direct them towards the achievement of common goals. She was unquestionably the preeminent Special Collections librarian of her era in the St. Louis area.

Holly Hall's contributions to the profession were by no means limited to the St. Louis area. She was a frequent speaker at national and regional meetings, including RBMS, the Society of American Archivists, and the Midwest Archives Conference. She was a founding member of the Midwest Archives Conference and played a major role in the early development of that organization. Her most recent contributions to RBMS included service on the current exhibition catalogue awards committee and as a member of the program committee which developed the program for the Bloomington Preconference. We extend our deepest sympathy to Holly's family and friends, and to her colleagues at Washington University. Holly Hall exemplified the spirit and commitment to which all special collections librarians aspire and she will be sorely missed.

1995 American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards

Division 1 Winner (catalogues with cost of production over \$10/copy): HISTORY IN DEED: MEDIEVAL SOCIETY & THE LAW IN ENGLAND, 1100-1600. An exhibition of deeds & charters from the Harvard Law School Library. Exhibition and catalogue prepared by Carol Symes, with an introduction by Charles Donahue, Jr. Cambridge: Harvard, 1993. 68 p., illustrated.

Designed by Ethan Thomas, and printed by Puritan Printers, this catalogue was produced in conjunction with an exhibition

held October-December 1993 at Langdell Hall, Harvard Law School.

Drawing on a recently uncovered collection of deeds and charters from the Harvard Law School Library, Symes, who catalogued the collection and designed the exhibition, described how these medieval records not only document English land law and conveyancing practices, but also tell us much about the social life, family life, and religion of this period in

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Awards (from Page 4)

the countryside as well as the towns. Donahue's introduction provides an excellent overview for the non-specialist and a framework which is filled in by Symes in chapters such as "The ABCs of Written Record," "Law and Society," "Seals," "The Deeds of Women," and "The Washfield Saga: Land Tenure & Family History in Devon, 1275-1800." The oblong format mimics that of many of the deeds and accommodates the numerous well-produced illustrations.

Division 2 (catalogues with production cost between \$5 and \$10/copy): No prize was awarded in this division.

Division 3 Winner (catalogues with cost of production less than \$5/copy): ERIC GILL: THE CELL OF GOOD LIVING. By Margaret Smith. Cambridge: Houghton Library, Harvard University, 1994. One sheet folded to make four pages and opening to a broadside; illustrated. Designed and printed by Gino Lee, this catalogue was produced in conjunction with an exhibition held 13 April-3 June 1994 at Houghton Library, Harvard University. The handsome homage to Gill includes a succinct but wide-ranging summary of Gill's life and work, a chronology, and a checklist of the exhibition, all beautifully interspersed with examples of Gill's work.

Division 1 Honorable Mention: J.K. LILLY, JR., BIBLIOPHILE. By Joel Silver. Bloomington, IN: The Lilly Library, Indiana University, 1993. 79 p., illustrated.

Designed and printed by W. Thomas Taylor, this catalogue was produced in conjunction with an exhibition held 13 September-31 December 1993 and made possible by a grant from Mrs. Ruth Lilly.

Avoiding hagiographical excess, Silver's well researched and clearly written text gives us a fascinating glimpse into the building of an extraordinary collection. W. Thomas Taylor's design is elegant, and the execution impeccable.

Special Award of Merit for Exceptional Outreach Effort: THE LAST BEST HOPE OF EARTH: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE PROMISE OF AMERICA. By John Rodehamel and Thomas F. Schwartz, with a foreword by James M. McPherson. San Marino: Huntington Library, 1993. 80 p., profusely illustrated in color.

Design by Ken and Denis Parkhurst, Los Angeles and typeset by Central Typesetting Co., Los Angeles, this catalogue was produced in conjunction with an exhibition held October 1993-August 1994 at the Huntington Library.

Lincoln's vision of America and a government based on democratic ideals are the main ideas behind this catalogue and the exhibition it records. Visually appealing and intellectually solid, the catalogue is copiously illustrated by color photographs of the items in the exhibition: manuscripts, flags, cartoons, portraits, and other objects. The catalogue's eight sections are arranged chronologically and expertly demonstrate the evolution of Lincoln's ideas over time. Included in the catalogue are a checklist of the exhibition and a bibliography of Lincoln scholarship. Under the leadership of the late William A. Moffett, then director of the Huntington Library, the exhibition was made possible by a remarkable collaboration with the Illinois State Historical Library and the private collectors Louise

and Barry Taper. An extensive educational program for area young people and a scholarly symposium were also undertaken in conjunction with the exhibition. Printed in an edition of 20,000 copies, the catalogue records for posterity an extraordinary outreach effort and what was "arguably the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of Lincoln materials ever."

Catalogue Awards Exhibition

EXHIBITING EXCELLENCE: AWARD-WINNING EXHIBITION CATALOGUES, 1986-1995: An exhibition of forty-nine catalogues celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Katharine Kyes Leab & Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards for Excellence. This exhibition is scheduled for the Chicago Public Library, 26 June-15 July 1995; Honnold Library, Claremont Colleges, August-September, 1995; University of Colorado, Boulder, October-Thanksgiving, 1995; University of Miami, December-15 January 1996; University of Houston, 2 January-15 April, 1996; and possibly New York University, at an undetermined date.

Sponsored by the Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee of RBMS, the Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards recognize outstanding exhibition catalogues that accompany the display of special collections material in libraries in the United States and Canada. This exhibition, funded by the ACRL Initiative Fund, celebrates the select group of exhibition catalogues judged to be among the finest produced during the first ten years of the awards.

These exhibition catalogues come from a wide range of institutions and present a diverse gathering of subjects. They vary from lavish, full-color books to modestly printed pamphlets, showing that creativity and initiative can result in excellence in any production price range. As disparate as the assembled catalogues may be, each exemplifies some combination of the criteria for the awards: originality, accuracy, informational content, visual effectiveness, contribution to scholarship, and usefulness to the intended audience. While individual catalogues may offer interesting examples of one or more of these criteria, some of them attempt to establish new parameters for the definition of an exhibition catalogue. Some catalogues focus on the visual presentation of materials, while others concentrate on the publication of scholarly information. Many succeed in achieving the ideal blend of these two factors.

Perhaps the most important characteristic that these catalogues share is that they further our understanding of both the physical objects and the intellectual content of our special collections libraries. Exhibition catalogues provide a mechanism to visit, or revisit, familiar subjects and publications, often from innovative perspectives. They also introduce us to new and sometimes unique materials, occasionally with startling imagery and text. Exhibition catalogues are, in essence, a representation of special collections libraries. They are envoys to the world beyond the libraries' walls, championing their cultural mission, nurturing their development, and chronicling their success.

Bloomington Preconference

The 1995 RBMS Preconference, *Collecting Cultures: The Politics and Practice of Building Special Collections*, was held at Indiana University, Bloomington, from June 20-23. The conference was a major success, with over 210 registrants, 10 of whom were students.

The conference presentations and seminars focused on the questions pertinent to and the role of special collections in documenting cultures. Drawing on current trends in scholarship, the speakers, panelists, and participants addressed questions of the special collections role in the future of scholarship. Relevant questions included: What is culture? What should we collect? What role do special collections repositories play in determining what a culture is? What kinds of access or processing are necessary for culture collections? What cultures should we collect? The relationship of historical modes of collecting to historical modes of criticism was also explored.

Plenary session speakers included leading scholars in various cultural studies: Carolyn Deaver, Mark Dimunation, John Durham, Eugene Eoyang, Frances Smith Foster, Henry Glassie, Elisabeth Kennedy, Teres Mangum, Cathy M'Closky, Simon Morgan-Russell, Cary Nelson, David Nord, and Daniel Traister. Each was asked to explain the kinds of primary research materials used and how he or she locates them. They were also asked to relate their work to special collections and to evaluate how well special collections provide the materials needed for their research. Dimunation and Traister outlined the issues contemporary scholarship raises for the collecting of historical and literary primary resources. Plans are underway to publish the conference proceedings.

The IU campus was ideally situated for this conference. Bloomington has rich library resources, including the Lilly Library, the Kinsey Institute, the Archives of Traditional Music, and the School of Library and Information Science.

Oram Receives *RBML* Award

The *RBML* Award Committee selected Richard W. Oram of the University of Texas to be the recipient of the *RBML* Award, given to stimulate and increase the contribution of articles of superior quality to the ACRL journal *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. The \$1,000 award is funded by a contribution from Christie, Manson & Woods.

Oram's article, "The New Literary Scholarship, the Contextual Point of View, and the Use of Special Collections" appeared in *RBML*, 8 (1993): 9-16. The Committee Chair, Joe Springer, said of Oram's article, "Oram's thoughtfully presented article is a careful examination of his topic and a useful assessment of its implication for the practice of special collections librarianship. It meets well all the criteria of the award: significance, originality, thoroughness, timeliness, and pertinence to issues relating to the theory and practice of special collections librarianship."

The award is given in odd-numbered years for an article published in *RBML* during the two preceding volume years.

Committee News (from Page 3)

Electronic Information Technologies

Former chair Robert Martin resigned from the committee at the annual conference. The new committee chair is Steve Ferguson of Princeton University. At San Antonio the committee will consider a variety of issues, including RBMS's relationship with the listserv Exlibris and an electronic version of this newsletter.

1997 Preconference Committees

The 1997 RBMS Preconference will be held June 24-27 at the Claremont Colleges in Southern California. Judy Harvey Sahak of the Claremont Colleges is chair of Local Arrangements. The Preconference Program Committee, chaired by Nora Quinlan, is developing a conference on the theme of the "history of the book."

Membership Committee

The Committee (ad hoc) is charged with investigating a variety of membership issues, including recruiting new members, increasing participation of members in section activities, and retaining members. The Committee has had very fertile brainstorming sessions at Midwinter in Philadelphia and Annual in Chicago. After the first session, the Committee applied for the ACRL Initiative Grant for a membership survey. Unfortunately, the initiative was not awarded, although the proposal received considerable praise. (ACRL is beginning work on its own membership survey and prefers to have RBMS participate in that survey.)

Committee activities which are going forward include investigating membership issues in other parts of ALA and SAA and developing a "buddy" system for new members of ALA attending ALA. The "buddy" system will pair new members with more seasoned RBMS members to help make RBMS more welcoming. The Committee plans to begin the "buddy" system with the upcoming Midwinter meeting in San Antonio. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail Suzy Taraba at mstaraba@midway.uchicago.edu.

Education and Professional Development

The committee met at ALA-Chicago with an altered and expanded group of members. After a discussion on dissolving the committee, led at the Mid-winter '95 meeting by Terry Belanger, the 1995-1996 committee appears to be alive and kicking. Terry Belanger, although no longer on the committee, offered to collate and publish information on library school programs relevant to RBMS, to be available at Mid-winter 1996.

After considerable discussion among both new and ongoing members, the Committee decided to reconsider the wording of the charge, in order to emphasize a role as one of liaison and publicity among all committees and sections within ALA and ACRL which offers professional development opportunities for Rare Book and Special Collections Librarians. The decision was grounded in a perhaps intuitive sense that with decreasing

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Committee News (from Page 6)

budgets and increasing workloads, no one needs duplicate initiatives at any level of the profession, but that committees, sections and divisions share information in often limited and inadequate ways and that we could perform effectively as a clearing-house for information.

In the light of our intention to serve as broad a role as possible in RBMS professional development concerns, it seems both appropriate and valuable to include as many different kinds of institutions on the new committee, which includes continuing members Heather Moore, University of Virginia; Juliet McLaren (incoming chair), EngSTC/UC-Riverside; and Brad Westbrook, UC-San Diego. Enthusiastic new blood includes Karen Nipps, Library Company of Philadelphia; Katherine Reagon, Morgan Library; Priscilla Thomas, University of Delaware; and Michael Lora, Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. Our intern for the coming year is Julia Blakely, Oak Spring Garden Library.



Stephen C. Blumberg, currently being held in federal prison at Milan, Michigan, is scheduled to be released from custody no later than 1 January 1996.

Transitions (from Page 8)

Information Science at the University of Texas, Austin. **Karen Nipps** has been appointed Curator of Printed Books in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Barbara Nytes-Baron** has joined the reference staff of the Northwest Branch, Harris County Library, Cypress, TX. **Sally O'Neal** retired as archives librarian at Valdosta State University, GA, after 26 years of service. **Gerald E. Parsons**, a reference librarian at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, died in July. **Adrienne Petrisko** is reference librarian in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Chun Shum** was recently appointed curator of the Rare Books Collection in the Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University. **Ethel Houtz Slonaker**, retired assistant head of the Virginia State Library and Archives Reference Department, recently died. Slonaker joined the Virginia State Library in 1960. **Larry E. Sullivan** is professor and chief librarian, the Lloyd Sealy Library, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. **Bruce H. Tabb**, a rare book catalogueer at the University of Oregon, Eugene, was selected to represent ALA as a Library Fellow. Tabb will be in Leipzig, Germany, directing a catalogueing project until February 1996. **Manon Théroux** is now a member of the Rare Book Team in Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University. **Ellen Baker Wells**, head of the Smithsonian Institution Libraries Special Collections Department since 1979, died in April. Her contributions to the Smithsonian Institution Libraries were significant, and she had served as the exhibition officer since 1990. **Tanya Zanish** is curator of the Archives of Women in Science and Engineering at the Iowa State University Library, Ames.

RBMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Transitions

William E. Baxter is head of the Special Collections Department, Smithsonian Institution Libraries. **John Bidwell** is curator of graphic arts and head of the Visual Materials Division in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University. **Janice Braun** is now special collections librarian and director of the Mills Center for the Book, Mills College, Oakland, CA. **Steve Dalton**, former director of reprographic services at the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), has been appointed director of NEDCC's Field Services Program. **Erin Davis** has been appointed rare books and special collections librarian at Butler University, Indianapolis. **Donna Longo DiMichele** is project archivist at Brown University, Providence, RI. Wayne State University selected **Nancy E. Elkington**, assistant director of preservation services at the Research Libraries Group in Mountainview, CA, as its 1995 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for her contributions to the field of preservation. **Pat Finley** retired as head of the local history/special collections unit at Onondaga County Public Library, NY. **Dale Foster** is head of special collections at Auburn University, AL. **Kent Haworth** is Head of Archives and Special Collections at York University, Ontario. **James Green** has been appointed Assistant Librarian in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Ruth I. Hughes** is Rare Book Cataloguer in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Andrea Immel** is curator of the Cotsden Children's Library in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University. **John E. Ingram** is chair of the Department of Special Collections at the University of Florida, Gainesville. **Carolyn E. Jakeman**, a librarian who retired from the Houghton Library after 35 years of service, died at age 85 in Scarborough, ME. **Phillip Lapsansky** has been appointed Chief of Reference in the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Charles B. Lee**, former director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, received the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's (NHPRC) Distinguished Service Award for 1994. **Deborah J. Leslie** is now a member of the Rare Book Team in Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University. **Susan MacDonald** is now project archivist at Emory University.

Martha Mahard is curator of visual collections in the Fine Arts Library, Harvard University. **Robert S. Martin** is Director and Librarian, Texas State Library & Archives Commission. **Cindy Ann May** is now reference librarian in the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington. **Jan Merrill-Oldham** is Malloy-Rabinowitz preservation librarian in the Harvard University Library and the Harvard College Library. The North Suburban Library System in Wheeling, IL, named **Arthur H. Miller, Jr.**, Academic Librarian of the Year for his role in promoting the sharing of library resources. Miller is archivist and special collections librarian at Lake Forest College, Illinois. **Karen Motylewski** is director of Preservation and Conservation Studies at the Graduate School of Library and

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Newsletter Deadline

Camera ready copy for the spring issue of the *RBMS Newsletter* is due at ACRL on April 10, 1996. For items to be included in that issue, text needs to be in the editors' hands by March 11, 1996. Articles may be submitted by email using either of the editors' addresses listed in the box below.

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