

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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From the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As we approach the ALA Midwinter meeting, it is good to remind ourselves of where we are and where we are going. We are a large section — about 1,800 members — of ACRL. Our Preconference has been successful for thirty-seven years, and we look forward to many more. And we do not seem to tire of finding ways to capture the power of technology to advance the cause of rare books and manuscripts librarianship.

Last spring when as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect I appointed committee chairs and committee members, I had the pleasant task of filling more than fifty slots on the committees that keep the programs of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section vital. I describe this process with the word “pleasant,” because virtually everyone I asked to accept a responsibility agreed to do so. In addition, I was able to find places on committees for all first-time volunteers. I believe this willingness to serve is a great strength of our organization. I hope you will take a look at the current committee rosters on the RBMS Web Site, make suggestions to our committee members; lend a hand, if you can; and think about becoming a committee member or running for office in the future.

You will find in this issue of the *RBMS Newsletter*, detailed descriptions of the committee activities and section programs that are planned for 1996-97. The 38th annual Preconference described in the adjacent column is well on its way to being a memorable event for all who will participate. I have just returned from California where I joined the Program Committee Chair, Nora Quinlan, and the Local Arrangements Committee Chair, Judy Harvey Sahak, for a site visit. I am extremely excited by the way the focus of the program, History of the Book, will be uplifted and enhanced by the physical surroundings and library resources of The Claremont Colleges and The Huntington. This will be a Preconference not to be missed. Mark your calendar for June 24-27, 1997!

Another important meeting coming up is the 8th National Conference of ACRL which will take place in Nashville from April 11-14, 1997. Programs sponsored by RBMS at this meeting will include a look at the use of special collections by undergraduate students in liberal arts colleges. RBMS members who must wear many hats at their institutions and who will be attending this ACRL National meeting should look for the RBMS sessions in the conference program.

If you have not visited the RBMS Web Site or subscribed to the RBMS listserv, you will find out how to do both in this

(continued on Page 5)

1997 RBMS Preconference

The 38th annual Preconference will be held at The Claremont Colleges in southern California, June 24-27, 1997. Entitled “Rereading the Past: New Methodologies and Approaches to the History of the Book,” the Preconference will look at how research in the history of the book has developed since the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section first looked at the subject at the 1980 RBMS Preconference, “Books and Society in History.” No longer the sole purview of the bibliographer and the scholar-librarian, the field has expanded in ways that many rare book librarians may not yet realize. Scholars from many disciplines have entered the field and have given new meaning and purpose to the subject of the history of the book, changing the way we will view the “Book Age.” How does this new scholarship affect rare book and manuscript librarians and curators? And how will it influence collection development, programming, cataloging, teaching, and scholarly research?

The RBMS 1997 Preconference program will look at the new history of the book, hear some of its most innovative scholars, examine ways in which librarians can take advantage of this burgeoning field for their own use and development, and discuss ways of servicing this interest. Scheduled speakers will include Robert Gross, Jeffrey Groves, Rosalind Remer, Steve Ferguson, and Ellen Dunlap. In addition, there will be a series of short paper presentations on research in the history of the book primarily by members of RBMS.

The Preconference will also include a variety of seminars, selected by the RBMS Seminars Committee, on subjects that both complement and contrast with the Preconference theme.

A seminar on “Supporting Teaching and Research in The History of the Book” will examine the impact of this current scholarly interest on special collections librarianship. The session will explore teaching the history of the book in conjunction with a rare book library, the provision of public services, and an overview of www resources useful to librarians and academic researchers. Moderated by Daniel J. Slive, the session will include presentations by Alain Veylit, Richard W. Oram, and John Bloomberg-Rissman.

In “History of Science, Technology and Medicine Collections: Development, Promotion, and Building Constituencies” panelists will address three key challenges facing history of science, technology and medicine collections: collection development and management, promotion of collections, and building and responding to our constituency. Margaret R. O’Brien will moderate a panel including Bruce Cammack, Lois Fischer Black, and William E. Baxter.

(continued on Page 2)

RBMS Meeting Schedule ALA Midwinter, Washington, D.C.

Saturday, February 15, 1997:

- 8:00 - 9:00 RBMS Award (Closed)
- 8:30 - 11:00 Bib. Standards I
Preconference Program Planning, 1997
Security
- 9:30 - 12:30 Exhibition Cat. Awards I (Closed)
- 11:30 - 12:30 Nominating (Closed)
Preconference Program Planning, 1998
- 2:00 - 4:00p Budget and Development
Ed. and Prof. Development
Seminars
Manuscripts & Other Formats Dis. Group
- 2:00 - 5:30p Publications AND Electronic I. T.*
- 4:30 - 5:30p RBML Editorial Board
- 8:00 - 10:00p Membership

Sunday, February 16, 1997:

- 8:30 - 11:00 Bib. Standards II
Conference Development
Public Services Discussion Group
Curators & Conservators Dis. Group
- 9:30 - 12:30 Exhibition Cat. Awards II (Closed)
- 11:30 - 12:30 Conference Program Planning, 1997
Conference Program Planning, 1998
MARC Special Coll. Dis. Group
- 2:00 - 4:00p Executive Committee I
- 4:30 - 5:30p Information Exchange

Monday, February 17, 1997:

- 8:30 - 11:00 Executive Committee II

*These two committees will meet in the same room. Publications will begin at 2:00; E.I.T. will begin at approximately 3:30.

☞ This is the schedule RBMS has requested from ALA. Be sure to check the final conference program for changes.

Preconference (from Page 1)

Exhibition loans will be the topic of a presentation organized by Theresa Salazar. Renee Montgomery will discuss the purpose and value of facilities reports, loan agreements, and condition reports. Cathy Henderson will provide information on environmental standards for exhibitions (light levels, temperature, and relative humidity). Nancy Turner will review the evaluation of objects for exhibition and loan, including handling and conservation issues: packing, book structure and degree of opening, making your own cradles, case design and sealing, making a microclimate in an exhibit case. Mary Ellen Conway will focus on transportation and insurance, international loans, and working through customs.

A review of history-of-the-book projects in the English-speaking world will be discussed in a seminar organized by Bruce Whiteman. Michel Brisebois will talk about projects in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand; Robert Gross will discuss the American effort, and Richard Landon will review projects in Britain, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

Based on their work at the University of North Carolina, Tim Pyatt and Elizabeth Chenault have organized a session on collecting and interpreting publisher's archives. Outreach efforts, including exhibitions, classroom and public presentations, and the establishment of a Faculty Working Group on Print Culture, will be described.

"Preserving the Nation's Past: The United States Newspaper Program" will give an overview of where we are now and the history of the project, including presentations by Henry

Snyder and Lynne Hayman on bibliography and access; Steve Stappenback on preservation; and Marilyn P. Fletcher on impact.

"Internet Resources for the Rare Book Cataloger" will be the subject of a seminar organized by Eric Holzenberg. Seminar presenters will demonstrate some Internet sites and services of potential interest to members of the rare book cataloging community. The discussion and demonstrations will include online library catalogs and how to search them, online rare book cataloging and policy manuals from various institutions, and special-interest web sites on watermarks, bindings, and other topics of cataloging and bibliographical interest.

"Cancellantia in the 90s: Three Bibliographic Works in Progress," organized by Everett Wilkie, will introduce three significant projects currently underway in descriptive bibliography. Presenters will be Donald Farren, Kenneth Carpenter, and Brett Charbeneau.

In "Medieval Manuscripts in a Digital Age," Hope Mayo, Melissa Conway, and a representative of the Electronic Scriptorium will report on three projects designed to enhance access to medieval and renaissance manuscripts, addressing problems of locating materials, cataloging them and using digital imaging as a tool for paleographic investigations.

Events currently scheduled include receptions, campus and local tours, a hand printing workshop at the Scripps College Press, a mini-book fair with members of the Southern California Chapter of the ABAA participating, and a trip to UC-Riverside featuring the ESTC. June 26 will be spent at the

(continued on Page 6)

RBMS Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

The Bibliographic Standards Committee covered a great deal of ground at its two most recent meetings, held during the ALA Annual Conference in New York this past July. In the course of the meetings, the committee pushed ahead on some longstanding projects, discussed plans for new initiatives, and retired or modified some others.

Members Juliet McLaren and Jane McGillis reported on the progress of the joint Bibliographic Standards Committee/CONSER effort to develop a rare serials cataloging module for the *CONSER Serials Manual*, which had been announced at Midwinter meeting. A timetable has been set, and Jane and Juliet are working closely with Michael Gago of CONSER, in order to have a working draft for the committee to discuss by Annual meeting 1997. On the theme of standards development, member Jain Fletcher talked about her involvement in LC's Core Level Record project, and the committee determined to pursue development of a 'core level record' standard for pre-1801 printed books. Finally, Hope Mayo, director of the Electronic Access to Medieval Manuscripts project, reported that grant funding for the project had been obtained, and suggested some ways in which the committee could aid in the development of this proposed new standard. In consequence of this conversation, the committee agreed to sponsor a seminar on "Medieval Manuscripts in a Digital Age," to be held at the 1997 RBMS pre-conference.

Additional seminar topics were put forward in the course of the meetings, and the committee has determined also to sponsor a two-hour workshop at the 1997 pre-conference on "Electronic Resources for the Rare Book Cataloger." Belinda Urquiza and her valiant editorial team were on hand to celebrate publication, at long last, of the second edition of *Standard Citation Forms...Used in Rare Book Cataloging*, which was issued by LC just in time for the conference. There was cautious optimism that the committee's six rare book thesauri would eventually see publication in electronic form, but that project is still in the preliminary negotiation stage. After much discussion, it was decided that the proposed *Handbook for Rare Book Catalogers* would not lend itself to committee publication in its present form. The committee has decided instead to pursue partial publication of at least some of the relevant charts and other documents on the recently established RBMS website. Member Bob Maxwell has taken over development of the Latin Placename File, which will form part of a projected Rare Book Cataloger's Homepage. And in a final bit of publications news, member Melinda Hayes has begun revising the sample MARC records in the committee's *Handbook to Accompany DCRB*, in order to bring the publication into line with Format Integration and other recent changes in USMARC.

Electronic Information Technologies (ad hoc) Committee

The current news in a word is: Results. Starting the week of August 25th, the long-awaited RBMS list began operation. The University of California, Berkeley is generously hosting the list

and the day-to-day overseer is Everett Wilkie. Making the list happen has been a long standing project of the committee since its first meeting nearly two years ago.

The RBMS website is operating well. Members continue to contribute copy. The Publications committee is discussing the permanent role of the website in the work of the Section. New copy to be added includes the brochure (now out-of-print) "Your Old Books." Princeton University's server support continues unabated, and the site logs about 25 contacts per day. The URL for the site is: <http://www.princeton.edu/ferguson/rbms.html>

Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee

The committee considered a complaint by a Rare Books and Manuscripts Section member that catalogues were not being fairly assigned to cost categories prior to judging. The committee discussed various ways of changing the process, but could not settle on any that did not introduce an unacceptable level of arbitrariness. It was, therefore, decided that the process be left unaltered.

A subcommittee was appointed to consider the logistics of including electronic catalogues in the judging.

Executive Committee

The committee met for a total of six hours in New York. Saturday night's meeting did not draw a big audience, encouraging a motion to eliminate scheduling Saturday night meetings in the future. Member-at-Large Oram amended his motion on the RBMS Information Exchange to the elimination of all committee reports, providing a separate time slot for Information Exchange, extending the RBMS program at the annual meeting by an indefinite period of time to include informal reports and providing an informal period of information exchange following the first Executive Committee meeting at the midwinter meeting. After much discussion, some of it referring to the probable effectiveness of the Section's website and listserv in providing avenues for the kind of information shared at Information Exchange, the motion was defeated thereby keeping Information Exchange as currently described in the Section manual. Two resolutions proposed by the Electronic Information Technologies (ad hoc) Committee were passed thanking Peter Graham for his vision and hard work in inaugurating and maintaining the electronic list ExLibris and Vincent Anderson at Rutgers University for his technical support of ExLibris.

The Executive Committee was mandated to develop a proposal to change ACRL fiscal policy so that all or a percentage of excess revenues generated by a Section activity could be returned to the Section, at its request, to be used as seed money for the purpose of developing other Section activities that support the ACRL strategic plan. In committee action, the charge of the Publications Committee was changed, an addition to the manual entitled "General Guidelines for the Electronic Publication" was approved; the Membership Committee status was changed to that of standing committee of the Section with the same charge it had as an ad hoc committee; and an RBMS

(continued on Page 4)

Committee News (from Page 3)

Public Services Discussion Group was established. In order to formalize responsibility for Section participation in ACRL national programs, this planning function was added to the responsibility of the section vice-chair/chair-elect, who is already charged with planning for programs to be held during the term of office as chair.

Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group

The Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group addressed a wide-range of interests during its meeting in New York. Discussion topics included the Gilbert Bland map theft case, problems and solutions for handling original artwork housed in manuscript repositories, and the ever-increasing impact the Internet has had on manuscript curators. Our primary order-of-business was a discussion of format integration issues which featured a report from Rutherford Witthus, University of Colorado-Denver and Society of American Archivists representative to MARBI. Also participating in this segment was Ellen Caplan of OCLC. Witthus gave a brief introduction to some of the basic issues involved in format integration and went on to outline SAA's efforts at preparing a discussion paper on the topic. Although the response of archivists and manuscript curators to initial reports about format integration was generally one of dismay, especially towards the loss of the amc format and at some of the odd interpretations of the new "mixed materials" format, SAA hopes to have ongoing discussions on the topic and plans to solicit input from ALA and other relevant groups, including the Canadian archival community. SAA's Committee on Archival Information Exchange (CAIE) will prepare a draft proposal for ALA Midwinter in Washington, D.C. One other concern which grew out of this discussion was the need for the cataloging concerns of manuscript curators to be represented formally within RBMS. A recommendation was made to bring this concern to the RBMS Standards Committee, and an attempt to do so will be made during the Midwinter Conference.

Membership Committee

Things are looking up for the RBMS Membership Committee! Despite last year's rejection, the Committee again submitted a proposal for ACRL Initiative Funds to develop a membership survey. Although only minor changes were made to the request for funding, this year's proposal was successful. The Committee was awarded \$750.00 to pursue the project, with the proviso that the survey be distributed to RBMS members through the insert in the newsletter. The Committee is preparing a draft of the survey for Midwinter and is exploring ways of identifying non-RBMS members to receive a special version of the survey. ACRL is targeting RBMS in its own membership activities, although exactly how this will affect us remains unclear at this point.

The conference buddy system, inaugurated at the Midwinter conference in San Antonio, again paired several new mem-

bers with more experienced RBMS members. The buddy system was offered for both the Pre-conference in Ithaca and the Annual Conference in New York. Somewhat surprisingly (to the chair of the committee, anyway), all of the the new members who participated were interested in having a buddy for the Pre-conference rather than for the RBMS meetings at the ALA Conference. Many thanks to experienced members who helped the new members feel welcome. If you're interested in participating in the buddy system for the upcoming Midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C. in February, please e-mail Suzy Taraba at mstaraba@midway.uchicago.edu. Assignments will be made a few weeks before the meeting. Building on the success of the buddy program, the Membership Committee is beginning to develop plans for a mentoring program for RBMS. These plans will be highlighted in a future issue of the newsletter. At the final session of the RBMS Executive Board, the Membership Committee requested a change in status from ad hoc to permanent. This request was granted, and the future of the Committee and its activities are now secure and bright.

Curators and Conservators Discussion Group

A variety of preservation librarians, conservators, and special collections curators—24 persons in all—attended the discussion group meeting this past July in New York.

Applications to special collections materials for the recently developed Minolta face-up copier was an agenda item which generated much discussion.

Shannon Zachery/University of Michigan and Marc Reeves/New York Public Library, who have both used early versions of the Minolta copier, described their experiences, for the most part, as promising. Everyone agreed that a representative from Minolta should be invited to give a presentation at the discussion group's 1997 Midwinter meeting.

The Seminar session we presented at the RBMS Preconference in Ithaca dealt with Special Collections materials in the general stacks. A repeat of the RBMS session is expected to be offered as a one-day workshop preceding the September 1997 Society of American Archivists meeting in Chicago.

The use of survey forms for conducting condition surveys of rare book collections was mentioned as a topic for a future meeting. The Countway Medical Library at Harvard, New York Public Library, Cornell University, and Widener University (with assistance from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts) are conducting rare book condition surveys and compiling data. The discussion topic for the Midwinter meeting in Washington, D.C. will focus on whether condition information, treatment reports, mass deacidification information, etc., be included in the bibliographic record accessed by the public.

Education and Professional Development Committee

An unusual meeting for the Education and Professional Development Committee was held on Saturday, July 6, in that it was scheduled for the morning instead of the afternoon

(continued on Page 5)

Committee News (from Page 4)

resulting in a short meeting and an absence of the usual crowd. The most urgent discussion centered around the continuing work on the Committee's Guide to Library Schools offering Rare Book and Manuscripts training, or other courses pertaining to RBMS Librarianship. It is hoped that a final draft of the first section of the directory will be ready for electronic distribution before Midwinter, and tasks were assigned to Committee members with this in mind.

Committee members continue in their efforts to attend as many other meetings as possible in order to share pertinent information between all of our varied interests. Other issues put on the table were the development of a professional Internship to be sponsored by the Committee as a way to encourage RBMS librarian development, the ways and means towards an endowment, and possible funding for a Rare Book School Scholarship. The group also talked about the need for outreach to those librarians concerned with rare books and manuscripts who are unable to attend the Preconference or the ALA annual meeting; e.g., many public librarians in our field who receive little if any support from their administrators and usually no guidance or special training.

All members were present, as well as our new intern, Scott Carlisle. Despite the schedule, the shared discussion was stimulating and fruitful.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee revised its charge, which was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee, to include oversight of the RBMS Web site and listserv, as well as appointment of the administrators of both services. The Committee also examined ways in which *RBML* authorship could be promoted. Also, after learning that the pamphlet "Your Old Books" had been dropped from the ALA graphics catalog, it gave us the opportunity to publish it electronically on the RBMS Web site which is now available for all to see. Arrangements are underway to ensure that the actual pamphlets, now out-of-print, be made available through other means.

Security Committee

The Security Committee continues to consolidate and make available various information regarding thefts from libraries and means of reporting and publicizing thefts. Among items of interest along those lines are:

1) The Incidents of Theft report, which is done for the committee by member Heather Lloyd; the list now contains over a decade of reports. She has left off names on recent reports and included source information to facilitate follow-up. The information is available on the RBMS home page: <http://www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/theft96.html>. People with thefts to report should submit reports to her (with source information) for inclusion in the Incidents report.

2) Susan Allen reported that the LSO listserv now has about 120 subscribers. Theft reports on the LSO list are usually more detailed than the information that is available on ExLibris. People appointed officially as their institution's Library Security Officer are welcome to join the list and should contact Susan for information on how to do so (sallen@kzoo.edu).

3) Catherine Barnes discussed the formation of the Professional Autograph

Dealers Association in 1995. They are currently compiling a comprehensive list of missing manuscripts, including not only current missing items but also older thefts and unrecovered items. They would like to work with the Committee on security issues and are ready to receive reports if librarians wish to send them. Current thefts should be reported to: 1-888-338-4338; older thefts should be mailed to Catherine Barnes, P.O. Box 30117, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

4) Ron Lieberman distributed copies of the report form from the ABAA web page (<http://www.abaa-booknet.com/stolen.html>) which will enable libraries to report thefts electronically and contribute to the ABAA database. They are compiling a database of current stolen materials and plan to compile a retrospective database in the future.

The Committee is seeking to obtain copies of every state law pertaining to library thefts. Currently information on laws relating to library theft for about 20 states has been obtained. Plans are to put these laws on the RBMS home page to make them widely available. The purpose of this project to discover which states lack formal laws pertaining to library theft, how the laws and penalties differ between states, and to make recommendations for effective, "ideal" legislation.

The second round of questionnaires regarding Blumberg has been mailed. 138 letters with questionnaires went in this second mailing. This will be the final mailing on this project.

At its Midwinter meeting in Washington, the Committee will begin work on revising *Guidelines for the Security of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Other Special Collections*.

LEABS INCREASE ENDOWMENT FUND

1996 marked the 10th anniversary of the Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards. In honor of the occasion Mr. and Mrs. Leab presented the awards during the RBMS annual conference program in New York. Before presenting certificates to the winners, the Leabs made a surprise announcement of an additional contribution of \$1,000 to the award endowment. Stephen Tabor, chair of the Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee, reported that the total gift to ACRL from the Leabs in support of the awards now totals \$17,000.

From the Chair (From page 1)

issue. While it is important to the section to maintain this paper newsletter, the Electronic Information Technology Committee (Ad Hoc) has been working to enhance the communications of the section for some time. In recent months we have seen wonderful results. The Web Site is up and many section documents can be found there. In September the RBMS listserv was inaugurated providing a forum for discussing section business and for disseminating information about the section.

So, RBMS is where the action is! Volunteer for a committee; come to the programs; read the Web Site; and subscribe to the listserv. Above all, communicate your ideas to the Executive Committee and the committee members of this vital professional organization.

—Susan M. Allen

RBMS Executive Committee

Full committee rosters may be found on the RBMS web page.

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New RBMS Discussion Group For Public Services

During the 37th annual RBMS Preconference held at Cornell University this past July, seventeen librarians and archivists gathered for an informal lunch to exchange ideas on public services in special collections repositories. Among those attending were: Charlotte Brown, Ellen Cordes, Cathy Henderson, Elizabeth Johnson, Jenny Lee, Rebecca Johnson Melvin, Margaret Nichols, Richard Oram, Jean Rainwater, Katherine Reagan, Jane Siegle, Dan Slive, Suzy Taraba, Marvin Taylor and Brad Westbrook. After a brief but engrossing discussion on several of the public service issues we all currently grapple with in our respective institutions, there emerged a consensus that the Section would benefit from a formal mechanism for the regular exchange of views on public services within RBMS.

Five days later, at the ALA annual meeting in New York City, a motion to establish a new discussion group dedicated to addressing public service issues related to rare book and manuscript collections was drafted and brought to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved the motion and the following statement of purpose:

The Public Services Discussion Group serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas on promoting the visibility and use of original research materials. Discussion will focus on a range of public service issues, including but not limited to, reference services and reading room operations, public outreach through instruction, exhibitions, and other programs, the integration of special collections programs and agenda into wider library or institutional goals, and the use of electronic technologies for reaching constituencies.

The Executive Committee then appointed Katherine Reagan as chair of the new discussion group. The first meeting of the Public Services Discussion Group will take place at the next Midwinter meeting in Washington DC. All those who have an interest in public service issues are invited to attend and to bring ideas and items of concern to the table. For questions or more information about the new group, contact Katherine Reagan at kr33@cornell.edu.

Preconference (from Page 2)

Huntington Library with Preconference sessions enhanced by tours of the Library, Galleries and Gardens. Dinner in several of Old Town Pasadena's acclaimed restaurants will cap off the day.

Meeting facilities and housing accommodations will be centered on the adjacent campuses of Scripps and Claremont McKenna Colleges. The Scripps College campus, designed in the 1920's in the "California style," has been described as one of "uplifting and breathtaking" beauty. Preconference participants staying in one of the Scripps residence halls listed on the National Register of Historic Places will feel that they are visitors in a comfortable and elegant large home. In contrast, rooms in the modern CMC dorms provide both single and double accommodations. Also available at CMC are a few student apartments with kitchens and suitable for families. For

(continued on Page 7)

Transitions (from Page 8)

who supervised the construction of Gleeson Library and was its first librarian (1947-1964) died 21 June 1996. **Lorraine Moore**, head of cataloguing at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, and former head of cataloguing in the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI, died on 6 June 1996. **Karen Nipps** is Senior Cataloguer in the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. **Brenda Peterson** has been named head of special collections, university archives, fine arts, and maps at the University of British Columbia. The New York Public Library recently named **Rodney Phillips** curator of the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature. **Keven P. Ray** is Head of Special Collections at Washington University, St. Louis, MO. The University of Notre Dame recently named **Joseph Ross** rare book cataloger. **Charles Schultz** has been named the first recipient of the Irene B. Hoadley Professorship in Academic Librarianship. American Online recently named **Michael Shumate**, a cataloger in special collections at Duke University, winner of the "Best of the Net 1995" award. Shumate maintains a World Wide Web site devoted to postmodern fiction. **Regina Sinclair** joined the staff of the University of Iowa Libraries as preservation librarian. **Kathleen Smith** is now reference archivist in special collections and university archives at Vanderbilt University. **Susan Garretson Swartzburg**, well-known author and teacher in preservation at Rutgers University, died in October. **Joyce Ann Tracy**, curator of newspapers and periodicals at the American Antiquarian Society died in June. Tracy had been curator for 23 years with the Society. The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia has appointed **Glenys A. Waldman** librarian and curator. **David R. Whitesell** has joined the staff of Harvard University's Houghton Library as rare book cataloger. After 21 years of service as archivist to the Birmingham Public Library, Alabama, **Marvin Yeomans Whiting** retired in June. **Erwin Wodarcza** is now records analyst/archivist at the University of British Columbia Libraries.

Preconference (from Page 6)

those who prefer commercial housing, the Claremont Inn is within easy walking distance.

A small college town, Claremont claims a nearby charming village area with shops, art galleries, and restaurants. In addition to early morning walks in the town's scenic, historic residential areas, recreation facilities include a golf course, swimming pools, tennis courts, a new exercise facility, and outdoor tracks. Nearby are trails at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and on Mt. Baldy.

Within a two hour's drive area are nearly fifty ABAA booksellers, countless academic, public, and private libraries, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and in the desert, Palm Springs and the magnificent Joshua Tree National Park. An hour away from Claremont are beaches, professional sports stadiums, museums, performing arts venues, television and movie studios, theme parks, and world-class shopping areas.

Preconference participants who wish to see more of south-

New RBMS Listserv

In early September the Section launched its own listserv. It is hoped that this new list will facilitate communications among Section members and others interested in the Section's work. The RBMS list is unmoderated and membership in the list is open to anyone who wishes to join. One need not be a member of RBMS, ACRL, or ALA to belong to the list or to send messages to the list.

Because it is a list devoted to RBMS, the list accepts postings relating to that topic only. Among acceptable postings are: 1) Official RBMS, ACRL, or ALA announcements; 2) Agendas or meeting minutes for RBMS, ACRL, or ALA meetings; and 3) Discussion of items *directly* related to the business, operations, policies, or philosophy of RBMS, or ACRL and ALA, as they affect RBMS. Some items of interest to list members might nevertheless be unacceptable for posting. Among topics not acceptable for posting on this list are: 1) Any commercial activities, such as announcements of items for sale or the availability of catalogues; 2) Any questions about books, manuscripts, and other special collections materials. Such questions might include those about bindings, exhibitions, conservation, bibliographical points, or cataloguing questions that do not relate to the content of RBMS business in some way; 3) Any long printed RBMS/ACRL/ALA document (e.g., Guidelines); and 4) Announcements of available positions.

To join the list, send to: listproc@library.berkeley.edu the message, as a message, subject line blank: `subscribe rbms [your name]`, substituting your own name for the requested information and omitting the brackets.

Operation of the RBMS list is made possible by the generosity of the University of California at Berkeley Library Systems Office and Digital Library Office, who maintain the host machine. The list liaison is Everett C. Wilkie, Jr. List policies are set by the RBMS Publications Committee, which is charged by the RBMS Executive Committee with oversight of the list.

ern California should start making plans for personal or family vacations after the Preconference. (Early and late stays in the residence halls can be arranged.) Early birds wishing information on local arrangements can reach Judy Harvey Sahak, Local Arrangements Chair, at jharveysahak@rocky.claremont.edu.

Registration is \$175 for RBMS members, \$210 for non-members. Late registration, after May 15, will be \$225 for members and \$265 for non-members. Additional fees will be charged for workshops. Housing and some meals are not included in the registration fee. Claremont is located east of Los Angeles, and is a 20-minute drive from the Ontario, CA, airport.

Registration material will be available after March 1, 1997. For more information please contact ACRL, c/o ALA, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795 (1-800-545-2433, ext. 2511) or see the RBMS Web site at URL: <http://www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/rbms.html>.

Transitions

At Western Michigan University, **Thomas Amos** is now head of special collections. **Jeffrey Barr** was appointed librarian in special collections for the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida, Gainesville. **Christopher P. Bickford** resigned in December as Executive Director of The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford. **J. Richard Blanchard**, university librarian emeritus at the University of California-Davis, has died. **Lisa Browar** is head of the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington. **William E. Brown, Jr.**, head of the archives and special collections department at the University of Miami Libraries, is the recipient of a faculty research award given by the Smithsonian Institution. Brown will work at the Smithsonian this fall preparing a collection development policy and long-range plan for the institution's archives. **Clarence Carter**, rare books librarian in the University of Minnesota, died in June, 1996. Former librarian in the University of Chicago's rare book department, **Lianne Schroeder Clark**, 65, has died. This year's recipient of the President's Award from the District of Columbia Library Association is **John Y. Cole**, director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress. **Maud Cole**, retired Keeper of Rare Books at the New York Public Library, died in March 1996 after 25 years of service to that institution. Cole served as RBMS Secretary from 1977-79. **Mary Karen Delmont** has been named archivist and special collections librarian of the Butler Library, Buffalo State College, New York. Noted scholar and distinguished bibliographer in residence at the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, **Jerome Melvin "J.M." Edelstein**, distinguished scholar in residence in the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, RI, and former UCLA Librarian, died on 13 June 1996. The Harvard Theatre Collection at Harvard University has named **Mary E. Edsall** assistant curator. **Ellen Z. Ellickson** was appointed catalog librarian in the Rare Book Team at Yale University Library. University of Houston Libraries recently appointed **Katherine Fox** special collections librarian. **Kathryn W. Fuller** is now archivist for the Archive of the Vietnam Conflict at Texas Tech University, Lubbock.

Robert R. Garrett was named librarian/archivist at the Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota. The University of Alabama Libraries, Tuscaloosa, has appointed **Ellen Garrison** curator of special collections. **Isaac Gewirtz** is Director of Special Collections in Saint Mark's Library, General Theological Seminary, New York City. **Catherine L. Giaimo** has been named assistant librarian at the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. **David Jackson** was recently appointed assistant curator of special collections at the North Carolina State University Libraries. After 26 years of service to Buffalo State College, **Sister Martin Joseph Jones** has retired. **Vicki Jones** was recently named archivist for reference services in the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University, Lubbock. **David Kahn** is now Executive Director of The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford. **Milton Kenin** is now archivist at the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. **Irena McGill** is head of the department of rare books and special collections at McGill University. **Julie Mellby** is now assistant curator of the department of printing and graphic arts in the Houghton Library at Harvard University. **John H. C. Minott** has been appointed assistant curator at the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. **The Rev. William Monihan, S.J.**, the University of San Francisco's director of library relations

(continued on Page 7)

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