



## 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 2006, Number 45

### From the Chair

For many rare book and special collection libraries, the fall marks the beginning of a new year. It is an opportunity to look back at the accomplishments of the past year and the plans for the upcoming year. RBMS's fall newsletter provides a similar opportunity for the chair to review both the past accomplishments and the future plans of RBMS. As the reports in this newsletter demonstrate, the activities and accomplishments are diverse and extensive.

As the more than 300 participants can attest, the 47th annual RBMS Preconference, "Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?" was a huge success. Thanks go to the hard work of the Preconference Planning Committee, chaired by Christian Dupont, and the Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Rich Oram and Cathy Henderson, as well as others for organizing an unforgettable conference. The mix of sessions, receptions, seminars, and discussion groups provided an opportunity for all to explore the similarities and differences of libraries, archives, and museums. The 47th Preconference was particularly notable for the IMLS grant, which underwrote the Preconference and funded 30 scholarships for first-time attendees.

The Section's committees, task forces and discussion groups make important contributions to the special collections profession. Three highlights from the past year are excellent examples of the range of activities in which members are involved. This fall the long awaited *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* will be published. In addition, both the *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* and the *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)* are in the editorial stage. All three of these publications are a product of much hard work by the Bibliographic Standards Committee chaired by Deborah Leslie.

During ALA's Midwinter 2006 meeting in San Antonio, the Diversity Committee met with students of two local universities with high minority enrollment in order to encourage students to consider careers in special collections. The Diversity Committee plans to implement a similar program during the Midwinter 2007 meeting in Seattle. In order to improve the Section's outreach to underrepresented groups, the Diversity Committee would like to encourage members to participate in the ongoing ALA Member Demographics Survey. Log in at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/researchstatistics.htm> to complete the survey.

Recently, the Seminars Committee created a database containing the topics and presenters of all past Preconference seminars. Expansion of this database is ongoing and will provide an important resource as the Section plans its 50th Preconference in 2009. This database can be accessed from the Seminars Committee's web page at <http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/index.shtml>.

With such a large and active organization, a librarian might wonder how to become involved in RBMS. Here are a few suggestions:

- Attend a committee meeting. Committees are always looking for new members with new ideas, and need volunteers for ongoing projects.
- Attend one of RBMS's Discussion Groups, which offer the opportunity to discuss current topics relating to rare books and special collections in an informal setting.
- Finally, attend the Information Exchange on Sunday afternoon. This is a great way to learn more about all of the activities of RBMS in an hour.

Finally, a few important reminders. Thanks to the hard work of the web editor, John Pull, the RBMS website is now located at <http://www.rbms.info>. The 48th Annual Preconference will be held in Baltimore. For more information see the report of the program chair, Henry Raine, in this newsletter. And, for those who like to plan way ahead, RBMS's 50th Annual Preconference will be held where it all started in 1959 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

As always, thanks to everyone for their involvement and enthusiasm. The members of the section make RBMS such an exciting professional organization. I hope to see everyone in Seattle.

- E.C. Schroeder

### 2006 Preconference Report

"Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?" was the theme of the 47th annual RBMS Preconference, held June 20-23, 2006 in Austin, Texas. The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin served as conference host. The Preconference brought together practicing and aspiring professionals from the library, museum, and archival fields to investigate common concerns relating to their shared missions to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the world's cultural artifacts and historical documents.

The Preconference was generously funded by a number of sponsors, including the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS), which awarded a \$93,106 grant. Much of the grant money was used to offer scholarships to new and aspiring professionals in the allied fields. A total of 33 scholarships were awarded from a pool of 352 applicants, including 14 to members of professionally underrepresented groups. From the record-breaking total of 364 registered attendees, nearly one in ten were scholarship winners, which added an exciting dynamic to the meeting.

Lawrence Pijaux Jr., president and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and president of the Association of African American Museums, described how BCRI grew from a collaboration with the archives of the Birmingham Public Library and has extended its reach through IMLS-funded educational partnerships. James Michalko, president and CEO of RLG, followed with a meditation on libraries, archives, and museums as memory institutions that need to function on the deep and "slow" levels of culture while achieving presence at the "network scale."

(continued on page 6)

## RBMS Midwinter Meeting Schedule Seattle, January 19-23, 2007

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

2:00-5:00 pm

Bibliographic Standards, Thesaurus Subcommittee

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

8:00-10:00 am

Membership and Professional Development  
Curators and Conservators Discussion Group

8:00 am-12:30 pm

Bibliographic Standards  
Exhibition Awards (closed)

10:30-11:30 am

2007 Preconference Program Planning  
2008 Preconference Program Planning

1:30-3:30 pm

Budget and Development  
Publications  
Seminars  
Task Force to Review *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*

4:00-6:00 pm

2007 Conference Planning  
2008 Conference Planning

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00-10:00 am

Conference Development  
Diversity  
Exhibition Awards II  
Public Services Discussion Group

10:30 am-12:30 pm

MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group  
ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access Review Task Force  
Core Competencies for Special Collections Task Force  
Manuscripts & Other Formats Discussion Group

1:30-3:30 pm

Open time per ALA

4:00-5:00 pm

Information Exchange

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00-11:30 am

Executive Committee

1:30-6:00 pm

Bibliographic Standards DCRM(B) editorial meeting  
(closed)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00-11:30 am

Bibliographic Standards DCRM(B) editorial meeting  
(closed)

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

## Annual Conference Program Report

Approximately 225 conference attendees assembled in the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans on Sunday, June 25, 2006 to participate in the RBMS program "Reimagining Special Collections: Building Designs and Considerations for the 21st Century." The conference program, co-sponsored by LAMA's Building and Equipment Section (BES), featured three speakers offering different perspectives on planning new special collections facilities.

The first speaker, Jeanne Hammer, Assistant Director for Finance & Administration, North Carolina State University, outlined aspects of her experience planning a new facility at the University of Virginia, as well as her contributions to a renovation project at the NCSU Libraries. Janette Blackburn, Senior Associate with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, an architectural design firm in Boston, followed up with advice regarding working with architects. She brought attendees up to date on the developments in design she has witnessed over the last few years. Finally, Pat Bozeman, Head of Special Collections at the University of Houston, presented her perspective as a special collections librarian, and shared her experience planning and ultimately moving into a new facility.

A lively question and answer session followed the speakers' presentations. The panelists elaborated on factors influencing renovation and new construction of rare book and manuscript libraries cited earlier, including the availability of off-site storage facilities, new technologies, preservation, and reduced allocations of space.

## 2007 Conference Preview

The 2007 Conference Program Committee met in New Orleans to finalize the topic and speakers for next year's program. RBMS's 2007 Annual Conference Program in Washington, D.C. will be titled "Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries: Collections and Locations, Old and New." The program will bring together representatives from 3 diverse public library special collections to explore issues of collection development, maintenance, outreach, fundraising, and the administration of special collections in this unique environment. Presenters will include: Elaine Barone, Division Manager of Humanities and Social Sciences, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library (NY); Chrys Jochem, Department Head, North Jersey History Center, Morristown & Morris Township Library (NJ); and Gladys Mahoney, Rare Books Librarian, Phoenix Public Library (AZ). This program is co-sponsored with the Public Library Association.

## Committee News

### Bibliographic Standards

Newly stable URLs for the Bibliographic Standards web pages, secured by RBMS Web Editor John Pull, are now operational. A link to the main Bibliographic Standards site is available from [http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic\\_standards/index.shtml](http://www.rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/index.shtml). Eventually the pages themselves will be moved to the rbms.info server, removing the need for an intermediary link. The RBMS Controlled Vocabularies (comprising the thesauri and the relator terms) will have already been moved over by the time of this newsletter publication, available directly at [http://rbms.info/committees/bibliographic\\_standards/controlledvocabularies/](http://rbms.info/committees/bibliographic_standards/controlledvocabularies/).

Editorial work on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* is nearing the final stages. Intensive proofreading by a veritable army of volunteers (to whom many thanks!) has identified a few lingering glitches and put the final polish on the text. The Library of Congress Cataloging Distribution Service has announced a print publication date of November 1, 2006; *DCRM(B)* will be added to Cataloger's Desktop sometime after that. Editorial work on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* is in full swing and has recently gained momentum with the appointment of an editorial team. We held a public hearing on *DCRM(S)* during ALA Annual, sparsely-attended but successful in resolving some difficult issues. The *DCRM(S)* editors are meeting in Washington, D.C. in November. There is no projected completion date yet, but with the publication of *DCRM(B)*, we hope *DCRM(S)* will be able to wrap up in short order. The third component of *DCRM*, *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)*, which is the work of a joint task force between Bibliographic Standards and its counterpart in the Music Library Association, is preparing a release of its text in anticipation of a public hearing at Midwinter 2007. All are welcome to Bibliographic Standards meetings and the public hearing (even if you do not know much about music).

### Budget and Development

The Budget and Development Committee meeting at ALA Annual in New Orleans began with reports on the financial outcome of the 2005 Preconference, fundraising for the 2006 Preconference, and plans for 2007 Preconference fundraising. Congratulations go out to the 2005 and 2006 Preconference planners for their fundraising success (not to mention the success of their Preconferences)! The Committee also discussed possible sources of funding for special activities in connection with the 50th anniversary of the founding of RBMS, in 2008, and the 50th anniversary of the RBMS Preconference, in 2009. In addition, we brainstormed about possible sources of future funding for Preconference scholarships. The discussion on these topics will continue at ALA Midwinter 2007, so if you would like to participate, please feel free to join us in Seattle.

### Collection Development

At the ALA conference in New Orleans in June 2006, the Collection Development Discussion Group spent most of the meeting discussing the preservation issues that must be considered when accepting (or refusing all or parts of) a collection, as well

as the role of conservators in evaluating the cost of conservation treatment of a collection prior to its arrival. If you would like to see a particular issue discussed, feel free to contact the co-chairs Alvan Bregman ([abregman@uiuc.edu](mailto:abregman@uiuc.edu)) and Caroline Duroselle-Melish ([cmelish@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:cmelish@fas.harvard.edu)).

### Conference Development

The 2007 Preconference, "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums" will be held in Baltimore June 19-22, immediately prior to ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. The Preconference will address numerous aspects of ephemera held in libraries, archives, and museums, a collecting area which has often been neglected by institutions and underutilized by scholars. Challenges in cataloging, preservation, and access as well as collection development will be discussed by librarians, archivists, collectors, dealers, and printing historians. A program proposal submitted by Hjordis Halvorson and Suzy Taraba, "Library as Laboratory: Special Collections in Undergraduate Education," has been accepted for ACRL's 2007 national conference, to be held in Baltimore March 29-April 1. Also in 2007, RBMS is co-sponsoring with MAGERT and ALCTS a Preconference on cataloging pre-twentieth-century cartographic resources. Scheduled to be held June 21-22 at the Library of Congress, registration will be limited to fifty participants. For more information, please contact Nancy Kandoian of the New York Public Library at [nkandoian@nypl.org](mailto:nkandoian@nypl.org).

Looking further ahead, the 2008 Preconference will be held in Los Angeles, hosted jointly by the UCLA Library and the Getty Research Institute. The theme of the Preconference will be announced later this year. Both 2008 and 2009 will be 50th anniversary years for RBMS, with the section's 50th anniversary in 2008 and the 50th Preconference in 2009, which will be held at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the site of the first RBMS Preconference in 1959. A subcommittee is exploring ways to celebrate and recognize these milestones. Finally, preliminary investigations have begun for Preconference sites for 2010, pending confirmation of the location of ALA Annual that year.

### Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship

The meeting of the Task Force on Core Competencies for Special Collections Professionals held at ALA Annual in New Orleans focused on the Discussion Group held during the Preconference in Austin, Texas, and the various responses received concerning Draft #1 of the Task Force's report. The Task Force revisited issues concerning intended audience, the inclusion of instructions on how to use the document, and other aspects of content and presentation. Assignments were given to each member of the Task Force, some charged with rewriting and some to be responsible for securing further input from selected organizations such as SAA, AAM, and ARL's Task Force on Special Collections. That input will be incorporated as appropriate into Draft #2 which will be ready by Midwinter 2007, with the final draft to be submitted to the RBMS Executive Committee at ALA Annual 2007.

## Diversity

In May, the Diversity Committee submitted a proposal to the Friends of ACRL requesting funds to support our upcoming outreach visits to university students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. Our proposal was approved, and the Friends of ACRL will be underwriting some expenses for our presentations in Seattle during ALA Midwinter in 2007. The presentations will focus on special collections librarianship as a career choice. The Diversity Committee is also creating an online toolkit for RBMS members who wish to conduct similar outreach visits in their own areas.

The Diversity Committee invites you to participate in the ongoing ALA Demographic Survey. We would like to request updated demographic data for the section, and the more RBMS members who participate in the survey, the more accurate the results will be. To participate, log in at <http://www.ala.org/ala/ors/researchstatistics.htm> and answer six brief questions. The committee also gladly welcomes Verónica Reyes of the University of Arizona Library and Vernica Downey of Harvard Law School as our newest members.

## Exhibition Awards

Members of the Exhibition Awards Committee focused on several projects related to the Leab Exhibition Awards this past year. For purposes of updating the Leab Awards website with an additional ten years' listings and images of winning entries, Peggy Price and Sarah Goodwin Thiel traveled to the University of Texas after the ALA Midwinter meetings to scan covers of winning catalogs and brochures. These have been forwarded to John Pull (RBMS Webmaster) who is attempting to locate 1998 entries missing from the Ransom Center and Grolier Club archives in order to complete the update project. To confirm permission to display the covers of the award winners on the website, Lois Black has sent "opt-out" letters to institutions that published the catalogs and brochures. To date, she has received predominately positive responses from libraries that are pleased to have their entries featured on the website.

A second EAC project commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Leab Awards. Four 2005-6 members of the committee presented talks at the Austin Preconference. Subjects included: the history and criteria for the competition (Richard Noble); differences between library and museum exhibitions (Marcia Reed); critical decisions concerning the production of printed catalogs (Will La Moy); and considerations for the design of electronic exhibitions (Sarah Goodwin Thiel). Relating closely to her work on the EAC, Thiel's book *Build It Once: A Basic Primer for the Creation of Online Exhibitions* will be available from Scarecrow Press in Fall 2006. To mark the 20th anniversary of the Leab Awards a special color-illustrated brochure was published with information on all submissions and images of the 2006 winners. Further information and ordering details are now available at the RBMS website.

Concerning a future publication project, Rick Clement, editor of *RBM*, visited the EAC's June meeting to suggest that the EAC write articles for *RBM* that describe each year's Leab Award submissions. Although these were a feature of earlier *RBM* volumes, no articles were written in recent years. EAC members felt such written reviews should be revived, and made plans for articles on recent catalogues, brochures, and electronic exhibitions to appear in future issues of *RBM*.

Entries for the Leab Awards have filled EAC chair Marcia Reed's mail basket from late August through the early fall. Following

the October 15, 2006 deadline for the Leab Award submissions, EAC members will embark on reading and evaluating the entries as the boxes of catalogs and brochures circulate among all members of the committee. (Electronic exhibitions make a lighter load!) Final judging takes place at the ALA mid-winter meeting in January 2007, and the winners will be contacted shortly afterward.

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

The Task Force to Revise the *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections* held its fourth meeting at the 2006 ALA annual conference and completed the initial editing of the *Guidelines*. The revised draft, now known as DRAFT-1 Revision, will be available to RBMS members, librarians, archivists, and friends of special collections for comment in early 2007. The DRAFT-1 Revision will also be published in *College and Research Library News*, prior to the 2007 ALA Annual Conference.

## Manuscripts and Other Formats

The meeting of the Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group at ALA was attended by approximately twenty RBMS members. The group welcomed Lois Black, the incoming co-convenor of the discussion group. The primary topic of discussion was the use of students, interns, and volunteers in archives and manuscript repositories. Black led off the discussion by discussing how North Carolina State University has formed partnerships with its academic departments, library school, and public history programs for mutually beneficial internship and fellows programs which provide much-needed assistance for manuscripts and archives. The group discussed issues of training, funding, and supervision in both academic and non-teaching libraries. One topic for the next meeting at ALA Midwinter may be effects of the OCLC-RLG merger, with implications for the RLG's archival programs and the content of a merged catalog; suggestions for other topics are welcomed.

## MARC for Special Collections

The MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group (MASC) met at ALA Annual with forty-five participants. The first topic for discussion concerned the Library of Congress decision to no longer trace series or create new series authority records. Many institutions plan to wait and see what other institutions will do, while others are talking with their public services and acquisitions departments before making a final decision. Still other libraries have decided to relinquish control of unnumbered series and retain authority control over numbered series. Several participants mentioned how important series control is for certain materials, including children's collections and certain foreign language material. One participant mentioned how this contributes to the loss of the notion of indirect service to patrons by technical services; that it is the hard cases that our library catalogs are about, but the easy ones are those which are often exemplified when making this sort of decision. Many wondered what will be next from the Library of Congress and commented that LC no longer seems to want a leadership role in cataloging.

The discussion then moved on to the RLG/OCLC merger. Rich Greene and Susan Westberg attended on behalf of OCLC, answering questions and reporting concerns to OCLC. They stated that the goal is to incorporate everything RLIN has that WorldCat does not and vice versa. Merrilee Proffitt from RLG mentioned that the RLG Union Catalog Advisory Group has been formed specifically to address the database merger. Concerns mentioned included problems with edition statements and automatic "fixes" that improperly change DCRB and DCRM records. RLIN libraries are concerned with training issues beyond using Connexion.

We welcome discussion topic suggestions for ALA Midwinter. Please feel free to e-mail any ideas or questions to the co-chairs: Sarah Schmidt Fisher (slsf@udel.edu) and John Overholt (overholt@fas.harvard.edu).

## Membership and Professional Development

The Preconference event formerly known as the New Members' Orientation was reorganized for the Austin Preconference to become the Preconference Orientation & Introduction to RBMS. This was a three-part event: first, a general introduction to, and history of, RBMS; second, an introduction to the Preconference itself; third, specific information about RBMS committees and about how to become involved in the section. Because of the IMLS grant of 30 scholarships and 3 ACRL-funded scholarships for the Preconference, this was a record year in terms of scholarship applications as well as scholarship recipients. There were 352 applicants, 59 of whom were from underrepresented groups. Thirteen of the IMLS scholarships, and one ACRL scholarship, were awarded to members of those groups. Scholarship recipients were fairly evenly distributed among the regions of the United States; one recipient was from Canada. Twenty-six Preconference and two Conference pairs were matched within the Buddy Program, and seven pairs of mentors and mentees have been matched since Midwinter within the Mentoring Program.

## Public Services

Approximately a dozen participants gathered on Sunday morning of the ALA Annual Meeting to discuss some of the perennial practical problems of public service. The public services discussion group shared experiences in working with pre-college (primarily high school) patrons, with most attendees reporting some type of work with students. Some libraries have age restrictions while others do not, and some require an adult to accompany the student. Several reported active outreach programs, generally focusing on introductions to special collections materials rather than providing gateways into actual use of the collections. Most of the successful outreach programs for youth use carefully scripted presentations and tours; a few match to a particular curriculum. Exhibits were cited as a compelling means to reach teachers and students. Downsides were also recognized. Such programs demand a good deal of staff time and other resources. Finding materials that are intellectually accessible to youth can be challenging, and individual students who want to use special collections often do not have adequate preparation for working with primary source materials.

The group then discussed the hours of service of our special collections reading rooms. Nearly everyone reported that there is pressure to add public service hours. Quite a few of the institutions represented offer Saturday hours, which generate

active use, sometimes the busiest of the week. A good number also offer some evening hours, usually one evening per week, open until 8 p.m. being the most common practice. The success of evening hours was mixed, but mostly favorable, and in some cases very popular. All acknowledged that staffing resources are the basic issue in adding or shifting hours.

The third major topic of discussion dealt with handling problem patrons, including those gray areas such as a reader who has been suspected of prior thefts but who has not been convicted. The knotty problems of difficult patrons have no easy solutions, as evidenced by the anecdotes shared during the discussion. Other discussion focused on our institutions' approaches to documentation, response, and policies.

New co-chairs were announced: Sue Walker of the Walpole Library/Yale and LaNina Clayton of Princeton. Please join our discussion in Seattle during Midwinter, and send ideas to Sue Walker at susan.walker@yale.edu.

## Publications

As many of you will have heard, the RBMS web site has moved from the servers at Notre Dame to a private web hosting service. Among the new features this service provides is the increased stability and flexibility for web applications. Soon the Controlled Vocabularies developed by the Bibliographic Standards Committee will be available and fully searchable through <http://www.rbms.info>. This changeover introduces vastly improved archival redundancy and business contingency. Arvid Nelson's database of Past RBMS Preconference Seminars is also now available online. We hope to gather further documentation of the section's history as our 50th anniversaries approach.

A new print edition of *Your Old Books* should be forthcoming from ACRL Publications. The revised online version of *Your Old Books* should be up and running by the time you read this.

## RBM

The Fall 2006 issue (7:2) of *RBM* features an article by Pablo Alvarez on integrating rare books into the undergraduate curriculum. Karen Underhill discusses the development of the protocols to be used with Native American archival materials. Three articles, by Ellen Cordes, Susan Allen, and Beth Russell, are contemporary reactions to Daniel Traister's well-known article, "Is There a Future for Special Collections? And Should There Be? A Polemical Essay," which appeared in the first issue of *RBM* in 2000. These were originally given as papers in a session at the RBMS Preconference in St. Louis in 2005. And Everett Wilkie, Jr. proposes a new approach to reading room security.

*RBM* has augmented the submission process and offers contributors the option of a double-blind peer-reviewed track. Contributors are also able to opt for the traditional track of editorial review. Finally, it was hoped that the Fall issue would highlight the first of an annual series on exhibition catalogues, but the timeline was simply too short to prepare this first article, which will include a retrospective review. Look for that article next Fall.

## Security

The Security Committee sponsored a seminar at the RBMS Preconference in Austin to explore the possibility of developing a joint statement with other organizations for identifying and dealing with materials of dubious provenance in the marketplace.

(continued on page 6)

**Security** (continued from page 5)

Speakers were Chris LaPlante, Dave Szewczyk, Susan M. Allen, and Alvan Bregman. About 100 people attended, and the presentations were followed by a lively discussion about the problems such items present for both libraries and the trade.

The Committee continues to add lists of missing library materials to its portion of the RBMS web site. Institutions with lists of missing materials are urged to send them to the committee chair so they can be put on the web site. The proposed security manual continues apace, and it is hoped that the first draft will be completed in the next few months.

Everett Wilkie has finished his term as Chair; the new Chair is Rich Oram of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin (roram@mail.utexas.edu).

**Seminars**

Nine seminars were offered at this summer's Preconference: "What Difference do We Make? : Outcomes-Based Evaluations"; "Acquisition and Ownership of Cultural Property: Legal and Ethical Considerations"; "Developing a Collaborative Model for Researching 19th-Century Books and Presenting Them to a Larger Audience: Issues and Prospects"; "Cataloging Artists' Books: Challenges and Solutions"; "The WATCH File (Writers, Artists, and Their Copyright Holders): Past, Present, and Future"; "The Past, Present, and Future of the Sale and Purchase of Cultural Materials"; "Getting It Together on Stolen Materials:

Old Problems, New Plans"; "The Leab Awards: 20 Years of Special Collections Exhibitions"; and "Authors' Libraries".

A list of all past Preconference seminars, along with topics and presenters, has been generated from the Preconference database and mounted on the RBMS website. You can find a link from the main Seminars page, <http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/index.shtml>. The expansion of the database to include more information about the Preconferences continues. The Committee is currently seeking an RBMS member with Microsoft Access skills to assist in this development. If you are interested, please contact the chair, R. Arvid Nelsen at [ranelsen@ucsd.edu](mailto:ranelsen@ucsd.edu). At the upcoming Midwinter meeting the Committee will finalize seminars for the 2007 Preconference. We have a full slate and many of the seminars have confirmed all speakers. Seminars will offer a variety of topics including the institutional context of special collections cataloging departments, a demonstration of the Hand Press Book (HPB) Database and the Latin American Short-Title Catalog (CCILA), culinary ephemera, the scholarly uses of scrapbooks, teaching with ephemera, collaborative digitization projects with diverse partnerships, and much, much more.

It is not too early to submit proposals for the 2008 Preconference. It is not necessary to be a member of the Seminars Committee to make a proposal. For information about what to include in a proposal, please see the form available on the RBMS website at: <http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/index.shtml>, or contact R. Arvid Nelsen.

**Preconference Report** (continued from page 1)

The second plenary session included presentations by Deborah Wythe (Brooklyn Museum), Michelle Doucet (Library and Archives Canada), and Marcia Reed (Getty Research Institute). Wythe pointed out some of the organizational differences and values among libraries, archives, and museums, suggesting that convergence will most likely occur in the technological arena. Doucet reported on the recent merger of the former National Library and National Archives of Canada, which was driven by a concern for access and a desire to become a new kind of knowledge institution. Reed offered a strikingly illustrated presentation on collaborative library-museum exhibitions.

A third plenary session on legal issues surrounding cultural heritage collections featured Joseph Sax, a legal scholar best-known in library and museum circles for his book *Playing Darts with a Rembrandt*, and Guido Carducci, a cultural property law advisor for UNESCO. Sax and Carducci examined tensions between private property rights and historical patrimony from national and global perspectives.

Gerald Beasley (Avery Library, Columbia) engaged with Andrew Robison (National Gallery of Art) in a session titled "Curatorial Crossover: Building Library and Museum Collections," which was co-sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America. Bruce Whiteman (UCLA Clark Library) responded to both papers, pointing out similarities between libraries and museums that transcend differences in curatorial attitudes, and suggesting that the two types of institutions cooperate in collection building.

A fifth session on "Educational Needs and Trends for Library, Archives, and Museum Professionals" brought together Brenda Banks, deputy director of the Georgia Archives, Margaret Hedstrom, School of Information at the University of Michigan, and Bryant Tolles, professor of history and art history at the

University of Delaware and former director of its museum studies program. The panelists held a question-and-answer period with the audience, during which many of the IMLS scholarship participants related their struggles and successes in preparing for careers at cultural heritage institutions.

Former IMLS director Robert Martin provided the closing remarks, observing that libraries, archives, and museums diverged from common origins, and that convergence will result more from the way the public perceives us than the ways in which we have looked at ourselves.

The afternoon programming featured nine seminar sessions ranging on topics from authors' libraries to the acquisition and ownership of cultural property, and the cataloging of artists' books (see the Seminars Committee report for details). Attendees also had the chance to join discussion groups related to the morning plenaries. Lisa Browar (The New School) and Chris Taylor (University of Pennsylvania) offered a well-attended Preconference workshop on the current fundraising environment for libraries, archives, and museums. The local arrangements committee, skillfully orchestrated by Richard Oram and Cathy Henderson, organized tours of the HRC and other UT campus libraries as well as guides to restaurants and Austin's famous live music scene. Evening receptions at the Intercontinental Hotel, HRC, and Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum rounded out the social events that helped make the conference an enjoyable and memorable event.

*RBM* will publish selected proceedings from the Preconference along with analysis of the post-conference attendee evaluation and survey on library, archives, and museum issues. Reporting on Preconference outcomes will also take place during the 2007 annual meetings of the American Association of Museums and Society of American Archivists. The Preconference website remains online at <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/rbms2006>.

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## 2007 RBMS Preconference

### Preview

The 48th annual RBMS Preconference, entitled "From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums," will be held from Tuesday, June 19 to Friday, June 22, 2007 in Baltimore, Maryland, a short distance away from Washington, D.C., the site of the ALA Annual Conference. This will be the first time that an RBMS Preconference will explore the theme of ephemera in libraries, archives, and museums. Ephemera collections have traditionally been neglected by institutions and have been underutilized by scholars; they provide unique challenges in cataloging, preservation, and access. The goals of the Preconference will be to examine these issues, and to uncover the value of building and using ephemera collections to their full potential. There will be five plenary sessions encompassing: ephemerality; the scholarly uses of ephemera; dealers' perspectives on ephemera; collecting and collectors of ephemera; and the care and management of ephemera collections in institutions. The sixth and final plenary session will be a wrap-up of the entire conference. Plenary speakers include internationally renowned scholars, collectors, and library and museum curators. In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be nine short papers further developing aspects of the theme, and nine seminars offering a more practical or case-study approach to the topic. Two full-day workshops, to be held on Tuesday, June 19, are also currently under consideration.

The Preconference will be based in Baltimore's Mount Vernon neighborhood, home to several institutions of particular interest to RBMS members, including the Walters Art Museum, the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the Maryland Historical Society. The Preconference will include one day of sessions on the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University, with shuttle-bus transportation provided from the Preconference hotel. Sessions will also be held at the Tremont Grand meeting facility, next door to the Preconference hotel, the Tremont Plaza, an all-suites hotel conveniently located in the Mount Vernon neighborhood, with easy access to many of Baltimore's attractions. Room rates will range from \$159 to \$189 per night. There will also be inexpensive dormitory accommodations available on the Johns Hopkins campus. A mid-price option in the Mount Vernon neighborhood is currently being negotiated.

The 2007 Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Cynthia Requardt of Johns Hopkins University, has been hard at work providing a rich menu of entertainment options for Preconference attendees. The George Peabody Library, one of the most beautiful cast-iron structures in America, built in 1878, will be the site of the opening reception. Other events include a reception at the Walters Art Museum, as well as a picnic dinner at Evergreen House. There will also be a variety of tours to libraries and museums in the Baltimore area. Baltimore has never hosted an RBMS Preconference, and our colleagues at Johns Hopkins University and other institutions around the city are eager to showcase their collections and their magnificent city. A website with more information about the Preconference will soon be available, with a link from the RBMS website (<http://www.rbms.info/>). Henry Raine is the Chair of the Program Committee and can be reached with any questions or suggestions at [HRaine@nyhistory.org](mailto:HRaine@nyhistory.org).

## Transitions

The new assistant editors of the *RBMS Newsletter* are **Christopher Cook** of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and **Steven Cox** of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. **Kelley Wolfe Bachli** has accepted the position of Western Americana Manuscripts Librarian in Special Collections at the Libraries of The Claremont Colleges. **Lois Black** was appointed Curator of Special Collections at Lehigh University. **John Blake**, former chief of the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine died September 24, 2006. **John Hassett Brady** has been appointed Director of Reader Services/American and British History Bibliographer at the Newberry Library. **Noel Carroll** became the Development Services Assistant at the Pritzker Military Library. **Catherine Carson** joined Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library as an archivist for the Amnesty International USA collection. **Amanda Catanio** has joined the staff of the Pritzker Military Library as a Library Assistant for Access Services. **Jackie Dean** has been appointed manuscripts reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. **Theresa Embrey** was promoted to Senior Librarian at the Pritzker Military Library. **Katherine Fox** is now public services lead in the historical collections of Harvard University's Baker Library. **Kenneth Giese** is the new professional assistant to the director of Rare Book School, Terry Belanger. **Hjordis Halvorson** has been appointed Vice President for Library Services at the Newberry Library. **Eileen M. Heeran** has been appointed Assistant Curator of Rare Books in Cornell University's Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections. **Jeffrey Marshall** has been appointed Director of Research Collections at the University of Vermont. **Coleen McFarland** is the new head of special collections and university archivist at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. **Katie McMahon** has been appointed Reference Services Librarian at the Newberry Library. **Barbara Paulson** retired as a senior program officer in the Division of Preservation and Access

of the National Endowment for the Humanities. **Henry Raine** is now Head of Library Technical Services at the New York Historical Society. **Molly Schwartzburg** is now the Curator of British and American Literature at the Harry Ransom Center. **Michael T. Ryan** has been appointed director of Columbia's Rare Book and Manuscript Library. **Richard Szary** was named Director of the Louis Round Wilson Library and Associate University Librarian for Special Collections at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. **Matthew Turi** has been appointed manuscripts reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. **David R. Whitesell** has been appointed Curator of Books at the American Antiquarian Society. **Cherry Dunham Williams** has been named archivist of the William H. Sweet, M.D., D.Sc. Collection and appointed Special Projects Librarian in the History and Special Collections Division of the UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library. **Rachel Wise** has been named special collections processor in Baker Library's historical collections at Harvard Business School. **Ryan Yantis** has become the executive director of the Pritzker Military Library.

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