

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

Now we are 50! As the section celebrates its 50th anniversary and plans for the 50th annual Preconference in Charlottesville next summer, we have many accomplishments to celebrate and much to look forward to. As always, there are many new faces to welcome as members and chairs of committees, discussion groups, task forces, liaisons, editors, and webmasters. To learn their names, please visit the updated committee roster on the RBMS website; to see what they will be working on, keep reading this newsletter! There are many ways to get involved in the work of the section, and committee chairs are always happy to provide guidance to prospective volunteers.

Our recent Preconference in Los Angeles was successful by every measure—attendance, excellence of programs, seminars, booksellers' showcase, and local arrangements. As the Preconferences continue to sell out early despite expanding registration limits, we must think about how to meet the needs of those who cannot attend due to closed registration, or physical or fiscal limits on travel. Web 2.0 is not just the topic of a wildly popular seminar, but is being incorporated into the work of the section as committees use wikis and as we explore online sharing of papers and outlines. Papers may also be published in the print publication *RBM*. Our recently approved "traveling workshop" pilot is another mechanism of getting content to RBMS members at a time and place separate from Preconferences or ALA meetings.

The RBMS Preconference scholarship program is thriving, thanks to the profitability of the Preconferences and funds granted by ACRL, as well as generous gifts such as that of Yale University in honor of Marjorie Wynne and donations of other individual members. Our newly formed Scholarship Committee will be very busy this spring! RBMS reported to ACRL on the success of scholarship funding on membership recruitment and retention between 2000–2007: we found that over 60% of scholarship recipients were still members after three years and that almost 30% of librarian recipients have since served as members of an RBMS committee or task force.

RBMS also excels at the creation and revision of guidelines and standards for special collections. Recently approved are guidelines created by the Task Force on Core Competencies, chaired by Kathy Beam, and the revised *Guidelines on Selection of General Collections Material for Transfer to Special Collections* (task force chaired by Charlotte Brown). A hearing on security guideline revisions will be held at 2009 Midwinter, and the RBMS task force on Digitization in Special Collections and the joint ALA/SAA task force reviewing the *Joint Statement on Access* continue their work.

The Bibliographic Standards Committee continues to expand the Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (DCRM) suite well beyond books and serials; it will soon include music, graphics, manuscripts, and cartographic components. I myself am particu-

larly excited by the manuscripts component, which is growing directly out of communication and collaboration between the Society of American Archivists and Bibliographic Standards; it is but one example of productive activities shared by our two organizations. RBMS's many liaisons to organizations within and beyond ALA can testify to the importance of these relationships as well.

(continued on page 8)

2008 Annual Conference Report

At this year's Annual Conference RBMS presented "Action! Setting Preservation Priorities and Ensuring Access to Your Moving Image Collections." It was co-sponsored by Arts Section (ARTS) and Preservation and Reformatting Section. The presentation aimed to highlight the necessary steps to preserving audiovisual collections in three perspectives.

Snowden Becker (Co-founder of The Center for Home Movies) discussed the basic steps of identifying, assessing, and preserving audiovisual materials. These steps were outlined: counting, identifying, assessing, describing, quantifying, prioritizing, preserving, and publicizing. She also advocated a pilot of the project, stating that it saves money, and will show how wrong things can go.

Hannah Frost (Media Preservation Librarian, Stanford University) presented "Reformatting Moving Images: Opportunities." *(continued on page 7)*

2008 Preconference Report

The 49th annual RBMS Preconference, "Rare and Special Bytes: Special Collections in the Digital Age," took place in Los Angeles from June 24 to 27. Co-hosted by the UCLA Library and the Research Library of The Getty Research Institute, the Preconference focused on the various challenges and opportunities that digitization presents to the special collections community.

Plenary topics focused on the digitization big picture; intellectual property and licensing; access issues; selection for digitization; and teaching and research using digitized special collections materials. Several of the plenary presentations will be published in the spring 2009 issue of *RBM*.

Discussion included how special collections libraries will translate traditional missions into a digital environment; advice on the risks involved in digitizing collections and making them available on the web; the need for us to remove barriers that prevent researchers from finding our materials; and the need for tools to enable scholars to use digital resources more effectively. Also discussed were six themes for selection of materials for digitization (ultimately don't select—just scan), the Digital Scriptorium as an example of the need for scanned text as well as images from medieval manuscripts, and the need to reuse and exchange digital objects to create new knowledge.

Nine seminar sessions covered topics including developing and sustaining relationships with cultural communities to archival management systems (Archon and Archivists' Toolkit); setting *(continued on page 7)*

RBMS Midwinter Meeting Schedule

Denver, January 23–26, 2009

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

1:30–5:30 PM

Bibliographic Standards, Controlled Vocabularies
Subcommittee

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team I

7:30–9:30 PM

Hearing, "Guidelines Regarding Security and Theft in Special
Collections"

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00–10:00 AM

2010 Preconference Program Planning

8:00 AM–12:00 PM

Bibliographic Standards
Exhibition Awards I (closed)

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Membership and Professional Development
2009 Preconference Program Planning

1:30–3:30 PM

Publications
Security
Seminars

4:00–5:30 PM

Budget and Development
2009 Conference Planning
2010 Conference Planning
Public Services Discussion Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

8:00–10:00 AM

Conference Development
Diversity
Collection Development Discussion Group
Exhibition Awards II

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group
Guidelines for Digitization of Special Collections Task Force
ALA/SAA *Joint Statement on Access Review* Task Force
Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group

4:00–5:30 PM

Information Exchange

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

8:00–11:30 AM

Executive Committee

1:30–5:30 PM

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team II
Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team III

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

8:00 AM–6:00 PM

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team IV

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

Executive Committee 2008–2009

Mary A. Lacy (Chair—2008–2009)

Senior Archives Specialist
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. SE
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Deborah J. Leslie (Vice-Chair—2008–2009)

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Beth M. Whittaker (Secretary—2007–2009)

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Adam R. Burling (Staff Liaison—2008–2009)

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Committee News

Bibliographic Standards

The Bibliographic Standards Committee (BSC) is continuing to develop components of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials*. At this writing, editorial work on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* is finished and the text has been submitted to the publisher; the expected publication date is November 2008. Editorial work on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)* continues, with assistance from the Library of Congress in locating additional examples. Editorial teams for *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Graphics)* and *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Manuscripts)* have been formed and are working on those components. At ALA Annual in Anaheim, BSC adopted a proposal for *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Cartographic)* and will establish an editorial team at ALA Midwinter. The initial print run of DCRM(B) has sold out and is now in its second printing.

A working group, led by Elizabeth Robinson, has been formed to undertake a revision of *Standard Citations for Rare Book Cataloging*. The revision involves both changing the principles for formulating citations and updating existing citations to conform to the new principles.

The BSC sponsored a full-day workshop on the application of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)* at the 2008 RBMS Preconference in Los Angeles and is planning a similar workshop on the application of *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* for the 2009 Preconference in Charlottesville.

—Randal Brandt (rbrandt@library.berkeley.edu)

Budget and Development

At the Budget and Development Committee meeting during the Annual Conference, we discussed the probable successful financial outcome of the 2008 Preconference and plans for the 50th Anniversary Preconference in 2009. Booksellers who participated in the showcase in Los Angeles seemed pleased with the results, and the event will again be scheduled for Charlottesville, thanks to ABAA's commitment to organize the showcase through 2010.

The committee discussed ways and means of handling special scholarship funding for Charlottesville, which will include support not only for new members of RBMS but also for senior members who may not have been active recently. We also discussed funding for a publication marking the fiftieth anniversary of RBMS. Looking farther into the future, Mary Lacy asked for input on ACRL action plan proposal due July 15, 2008. The committee supported a plan to request funding to offer scholarships for paraprofessionals working in special collections, placing, as we have in the past, an emphasis on increasing diversity in the profession. If the proposal is successful, we will receive funding for this initiative in 2010.

Richard Noble, the chair of the Exhibition Awards Committee, provided an update on the Leab Endowment. Despite the dismaying news that the principal has lost value due to market downturns, this year's income was adequate to the needs of the committee, thanks largely to cost sharing by committee members' institutions. The committee will be seeking an experienced RBMS member to volunteer for membership on the ACRL Budget & Finance Committee. Suzy Taraba is the latest RBMS member whose steadfast service on the committee has provided advocacy not only for RBMS but also for other sections. Her term will end in June 2009. We are grateful for her service and hope to find another willing

and seasoned volunteer. The committee thanked outgoing chair Margaret Nichols for her leadership and welcomed Elaine Smyth as new chair.

—Elaine Smyth (esmyth@lsu.edu)

Collection Development

The Collection Development Discussion Group held a joint meeting with the Public Services Discussion Group at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. Approximately forty people attended the meeting. After introductions and collection of news reports from participants, the discussion concerned varieties of interaction between public services and collection development staff. Those acquiring materials need to learn about patron interests, and those directly working with users need to know what is being added to the collection. A lively discussion developed on both traditional and novel means of getting and disseminating acquisitions and usage information: through face-to-face meetings, new acquisitions and "reader's choice" exhibits and printed newsletters; and increasingly, through blogs, RSS feeds, wikis, videos and e-publications. The group discussed the advantages of these new forms of communication, but acknowledged that the archiving and other organizational features of listservs, for example, needed to be developed in less mediated applications.

The other main topic of discussion concerned "nineteenth-century materials in the stacks and in the vault." While bibliographical descriptions and control for early printed material is quite well advanced, that for the nineteenth-century is less developed. Bibliographical records have generally not been created by rare book catalogers, and often gloss over the complexity of publication attested to by the Lucile Project and other studies. Policies for the transfer of hand-press books of the early nineteenth century, and of children's books, pamphlets and other fugitive publications, were discussed. It seemed to be agreed that the identification and protection of books considered "semi-rare" could be aided by the new ACRL Transfer Guidelines, and that rare book and special collections librarians should be active in advocating for their institutional colleagues to help implement these guidelines.

—Alvan Bregman (abregman@illinois.edu)
and Lois Fischer Black (lob206@lehigh.edu)

Conference Development

It is the responsibility of the Conference Development Committee to adopt a long-range view of conference planning activities. To accomplish that charge the Conference Development Committee hears reports from chairs of other section committees and section members of programs recently completed or in the planning stages. These include the RBMS programs at ALA annual meetings, the preconferences (programs, local arrangements, and seminars), and programs jointly sponsored by RBMS and other ALA groups, etc. The committee also reads the preconference evaluations. Reading the evaluations provides an opportunity to reflect on the success of the preconferences and to envision how the preconferences could be improved. Approximately 60% of attendees complete the evaluation forms and the evaluation summaries reflect high marks in all categories. One aspect of the preconferences that has changed over the past few years is the increase in the number of attendees. Planning a preconference for 250 attendees is quite different from planning a preconference for 400. After discussions at the June meeting in Anaheim, the Committee formed a sub-committee consisting of Elizabeth Johnson, Jane Gillis, E. C. Schroeder, and Dan Slive to

investigate the issues surrounding a larger preconference and report back at Midwinter.

In other action during the Annual Meeting, the Committee endorsed a proposal to hold the 2011 preconference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The host institution will be Louisiana State University. ALA Annual will be held in New Orleans immediately after the Preconference. The proposal was sent on to the RBMS Executive Committee for approval. The ALA Annual Meeting in 2012 will be back in Anaheim, California, June 21–27. The Conference Development Committee is seeking proposals from possible hosts of the 2012 Preconference (perhaps a San Diego preconference that year?). Information about site selection can be found in the RBMS Preconference Planning Manual on the RBMS website: http://www.rbms.info/committees/conference_development/manual.shtml#site.

—Elizabeth Johnson (johnson1@indiana.edu)

Curators and Conservators

The Curators and Conservators Discussion Group met at Disney's Paradise Pier on Saturday, June 28, at ALA. Dianne van der Reyden, Director for Preservation at the Library of Congress, spoke to the group of twenty-one about the role of preservation in exhibitions. Her presentation, entitled "Displays: The Role of Preservation in Exhibitions at the Library of Congress," contained many interesting slides of exhibit spaces and preparation techniques. She also spoke about curator/conservator concerns with major exhibitions. After her presentation, Dianne answered many questions from the floor on the topic of exhibitions and the use of digital exhibits to help promote collections.

The current chair, Donia Conn, has stepped down, and the new co-chairs are Ken Lavender of Syracuse University and Beth Kilmarx of SUNY Binghamton.

—Kenneth Lavender (klavende@syr.edu)

Diversity

The Diversity Committee met in Anaheim where co-chairs Fernando Peña and Anne Marie Lane welcomed visitors and returning members. A lively discussion of seminars sponsorship, the *Tool Kit*, and scholarship recipients transpired. The Committee is eager to explore outreach ideas within the special collections communities to new librarians to the field, as well as to those already entrenched in our ranks to champion diversity in the profession. Plans are underway by the new co-chairs, Athena Jackson and Verónica Reyes-Escudero, to continue the efforts of past chairs by pushing the completion and publication of the *Tool Kit* for our colleagues to use within their own professional communities. Moreover, steps toward site visits in Denver during Midwinter 2009 are underway. The goal is to enliven local aspiring librarians of diverse backgrounds into the special collections and rare books field by demonstrating the dynamic ways contribution can take place. With the 50th Anniversary Preconference in the planning phases, the Committee hopes to also contribute to seminars and sponsor one again for Diversity.

—Verónica Reyes-Escudero (reyesv@u.library.arizona.edu)
and Athena Jackson (Athena_n_jackson@yahoo.com)

Exhibition Awards

The real story of the Exhibition Awards Committee's work is the list of the winners and of all the submissions, which are always available on the website. The 2008 awards went to the Grolier Club, the Chicago Public Library Special Collections and Preservation Division, Vassar College, the Beinecke Li-

brary, and the North Carolina State University Special Collections Research Center, representing a wide variety of topics submitted from a range of institutions both new and old to this competition. The winners, and all the other entries, were on display at the Preconference in Los Angeles, in an idyllic (and properly shaded) outdoor space. We're on a roll, given the good experience of the display in Baltimore in 2007, so we'll go with high hopes and a couple more boxes to Charlottesville.

Entries for the 2009 Leab Awards are finding their way to Brown University, down to the office of the chair, Richard Noble. The deadline for submissions (postmark or shipping date) is October 15, 2008. The two submission forms, for print and electronic entries, are available as PDFs via the Exhibition Awards Committee's pages at www.rbms.info. Those who have the full version of Adobe Acrobat are encouraged to submit their forms (though not their printed catalogs) via email. We are still at work on interactive online forms, but the PDFs are sturdy and have worked well in the past. Once we have all the entries, boxes of catalogs and brochures will be sent out along the branches of the Committee's circulation tree. Final judging will take place at a closed Committee meeting at Midwinter 2009; the winners will be notified and the awards publicly announced in the early spring.

—Richard Noble (Richard_Noble@brown.edu)

Digitization in Special Collections

The Digitization in Special Collections Task Force met at ALA Annual 2008 with a mix of library and archives professionals, preservationists, and library school students. The Task Force charge was reviewed and finalized and can be found on the Task Force's website: http://www.rbms.info/committees/task_force/digitization/index.shtml. A brief discussion followed regarding whether born digital materials fit within the Task Force's scope. Due to the short-term and exploratory nature of the Task Force, its members and meeting guests were in general agreement that born digital records and archives were beyond the scope of this ad hoc group. Because this topic will only increase in complexity and urgency, a recommendation will undoubtedly be made to ensure that born digital objects will be within the scope of a standing committee charged to investigate and develop guiding policies for both digitization and "digital" special collections. The major topic of discussion was the recent RBMS Preconference, "Rare and Special Bytes: Special Collections in the Digital Age." It was shared widely that the preconference highlighted some of the challenges and opportunities that special collections face in the digital age and raised issues that remain unanswered, particularly around digital preservation and the stewardship of born digital materials.

Other topics covered in the meeting included a RBMS Preconference 2009 seminar proposal around the theme of digital and digitization in special collections, including sessions looking more closely at selection, scalability, collection building, outreach, and digital preservation. In addition, three documents were discussed, 1.) "Principles for Digitized Content" policy statement, 2.) a bibliography of online and offline resources, and 3.) a "manifesto" or toolkit modeled after work that began at the University of California System to confront mass digitization projects and to set standards for selection and handling for the point in time when special collections are brought into the flow of mass digitization projects with both not-for-profit and for-profit partners. Drafts of

these documents will be posted to the Task Force's website as they become available.

—*Rebekah Irwin (rebekah.irwin@yale.edu)*

Manuscripts and Other Formats

Thirty-three librarians, archivists, and curators met at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim to share news of recent conferences and new initiatives, as well as to discuss topics relevant to the profession. An in-depth discussion of student internships blossomed, as visitors shared their interest in establishing such programs. The creation of a national online clearinghouse of available internships designed to meet the needs of graduate students enrolled in online programs seeking regional appointments was suggested.

The group next addressed challenges associated with remote storage. One attendee became the subject of a case-study, as she coordinates supervision of a reading room in an off-site storage facility. Among the concerns raised were the risks associated with the transportation of materials between libraries, including insurance and safety issues.

Many of the concerns we face in the reading room, such as supervision of researchers and security cameras were evaluated in the context of off-site storage. The discussion shifted from patrons to staff, as attendees reported on staff producing more product with less process off-site. However, concern was addressed that staff working remotely are not fully integrated into the department workflow and are not seeing how collections are actually used. None in attendance were using Archon or Archivists' Toolkit remotely. Please send topics for future meetings to Co-chairs Lois Fischer Black (lob206@lehigh.edu) or Kate Colligan (katec@pitt.edu).

—*Lois Fischer Black (lob206@lehigh.edu)*

ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access Review

The ALA/SAA Task Force on revising the joint statement on access met at ALA Annual on Sunday, June 29, in Anaheim. The Task Force reviewed its current draft which included changes suggested by members of the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section of the Society of American Archivists. The Task Force also met at the annual conference of the Society of American Archivists in San Francisco on Wednesday, August 27, and Saturday, August 30. The Task Force reviewed the current draft and responded to feedback from various groups within SAA. The Task Force has requested a hearing at the 2009 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver and will submit the draft statement to *C&RL News*.

—*Timothy D. Murray (tdm@udel.edu)*

Membership and Professional Development

The Preconference Orientation and Introduction to RBMS held at the Luxe Terrace was well attended. The lovely California sunshine unfortunately interfered with the Hollywood-inspired "RBMS Head Shots" PowerPoint presentation designed by outgoing chair Ellen Ellickson that was to have played on a large screen in the background during the Introduction to RBMS segment of the program. "RBMS Head Shots" eventually had its official debut before the Information Exchange and will be reprised in 2009. More than sixty people attended the new members reception arranged jointly with the Local Arrangements Committee

that was held at the Bel-Air Bar & Grill following the opening reception.

The Buddy Program continues to be a popular and successful initiative. There were twenty-five pairs of buddies matched this year, which included six volunteers who had two buddies each.

A total of fifty-three mentor pairs have been matched through the Mentoring Program since it began in December 2004. M&PD is working on an evaluation form that could be used for both programs. The Committee is also continuing to work on a FAQ for those new to the profession along with a list of experts in various special collections fields who would be willing to answer specific questions from new librarians.

The 2008 Scholarship Committee, consisting of Fernando Peña (Budget), Verónica Reyes-Escudero (Diversity), Kathleen Burns (M&PD), and Melissa Conway (Member-at-Large), awarded 22 full, partial, or registration scholarships. Five of the scholarships went to students from underrepresented backgrounds. A total of \$12,015 was disbursed, with \$885 in donations from RBMS members. Next year's scholarship awards will likely include a "golden scholarship" campaign to subsidize the conference attendance of some of the Section's founders and early (now retired) members. Details and application information will be distributed in January 2009. At ALA Annual, the Committee also discussed the idea of a password-protected online photographic archive that would contain formal and informal photos of RBMS executive committee members, committee chairs, speakers, social events, etc. Ellen Ellickson announced at the Committee's meeting at ALA Annual that, in honor of RBMS co-founder and past section chair Marjorie Wynne, Yale University has pledged \$2,000 in general attendance scholarship funding for three years beginning in 2009.

—*Donna L. Davey (dd424@nyu.edu)*

MARC for Special Collections

The MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group met on Sunday, June 29, with 48 attendees. Following introductions and announcements, we heard a brief presentation from Matt Goldner of OCLC regarding WorldCat Local, a new initiative currently in the pilot program stage at the University of Washington and Ohio State University, among others. This initiated lively discussion and Goldner has promised to return for the MASC Midwinter Meeting. Discussion transitioned to our next agenda topic: the problem of "concealed" editions, where a resetting of type has occurred without any outward indication of a new edition. Standard practice is to describe the differences between editions in a note. However, without anything in the 250 field, the differences will not show up in brief record displays, and could be improperly combined into a single record. The few minutes left at the end of our meeting focused on explaining cataloging policies to non-librarians. All in all a productive and informative ninety minutes. We encourage Midwinter attendees to contact the co-conveners with agenda topics.

—*Sarah Schmidt Fisher (sarah.fisher@yale.edu)*

Public Services

As it was the Public Services Discussion Group's turn to rotate off the schedule, we joined the Collection Development Discussion Group at its meeting in Anaheim on Sunday morning. The meeting was well attended. Alvan Bregman and Lois Fischer Black, co-chairs of the Collection Development Discussion Group, led a lively discussion that covered topics of interest to both groups. Communication between public services staff and

selectors about patron requests, use of materials, new acquisitions, as well as library constituents and the wider world, was explored. Successful strategies ranged from traditional to innovative, from holding one-on-one conversations and mounting in-house exhibitions to implementing and incorporating Web 2.0 tools like blogs, wikis, and RSS feeds. Further discussion focused on the transfer of nineteenth-century printed works from the stacks to special collections. The Public Services Discussion Group will meet again in Denver in January.

—Susan Odell Walker (susan.walker@yale.edu)

Publications

The Publications Committee has recently accepted responsibility for the creation of a commemorative volume to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The understanding is that this committee will be responsible for the editing of the text that is to be included as well as the design of the book and oversight of its production. The Publications Committee will be working in association with the group that is assembling material on the history of the section.

An additional project that the Publications Committee is pursuing is that of establishing a closer linkage between the printed and online versions of *Your Old Books*. While the online iteration has the ability to include more content and a greater variety of it than the printed one, it is still desirable to have both of them be closely related. The committee is also endeavoring to create a compact PDF form of *Your Old Books* that can easily, economically, and even stylishly be printed from our website.

—William La Moy (wlamoy@sy.edu)

RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage

Beth Whittaker has assumed the editorship of *RBM* and thanks Rick Clement for his years of service. The editorial board also thanks section members for their ongoing interest in and support of the journal. The fall 2008 issue (9.2) is in preparation and should appear in mailboxes in November. Two articles in this issue underwent double-blind peer review, a first for *RBM*. Section members are urged to consider publishing in *RBM*. The editor is always ready to discuss potential projects with authors, and reminds the section that a personal subscription is available through the RBMS website.

—Beth Whittaker (whittaker.50@osu.edu)

Security

In addition to completing its work on the revised Security/Theft guidelines, the Security Committee heard reports on the new Missing Maps database and ongoing conversations between curators, law enforcement, OCLC, and the booktrade regarding the use of flags or markers on WorldCat records, thus creating a web-based source of information on missing books. The committee sponsored a seminar on the recovery of stolen special materials during the 2008 Preconference.

—Richard W. Oram (roram@mail.utexas.edu)

Seminars

The Seminars Committee is pleased to announce that the revised guidelines for seminar development are now available on the RBMS website. The revisions reflect the Committee's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of seminars. Look especially for definitions of roles in the process (do you know how a proposer is

different from an organizer?) and for the revised seminar preparation schedule.

Seminars in development for the 2009 Preconference cover topics including mold outbreaks, employing students for collection processing, using the new *Guidelines on the Selection and Transfer of Materials from General Collections to Special Collections*, managing the use of our "exposed" collections, Web 2.0 and its effect on donor relations, and digitization using the "Shifting Gears" model. You can keep up with seminar planning by visiting our Committee wiki, found on the RBMS wiki page at: <http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/RBMS>, or by contacting one of the Committee members.

It is not too early to contact the Seminars Committee with seminar proposals for the 2010 Preconference. We love to hear from people with ideas, even if they cannot commit to organizing the seminar they suggest. Anyone can submit an idea for a seminar either through our online form or by emailing the chair of the Committee, Erika Dowell.

—Erika Dowell (edowell@indiana.edu)

Security Committee Completes Final Draft of "Guidelines"

The Security Committee completed its work on a final draft of the revised and combined "Guidelines Regarding Security and Theft in Special Collections." This is available on the Security Committee website at <http://www.rbms.info/committees/security/security-draftfinal.pdf>. A hearing will be held on the document on Friday, January 23, 2009, 7:30–9:30 PM in Denver, room TBA. Advance comments may be sent to the chair, Richard Oram (roram@mail.utexas.edu).

2009 Annual Conference Preview

The 2009 RBMS Annual program in Chicago will be titled: "Documenting Tragedy: Special Collections on the Front Line and on the Front Page." The program is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 12, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. This session deals with institutional crises in the form of tragedies and the role that archives and special collections play in responding to these events. These responses serve the crucial function of documenting such events in their immediate aftermath. They also, however, play a role in helping the institution manage and respond to the event, sometimes even becoming a part of the institutional grieving process. Because these events are often emotionally charged and involve intense public and media scrutiny, the archival and library response can be challenging. The participants in this panel all have first-hand experience in such matters. Steven Smith was a part of the Cushing Library's response to the bonfire collapse at Texas A&M in 1999. Tamara Kennelly will discuss her work as archivist in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy. Ed Galvin is Director of Archives and Records Management at Syracuse University. He and his staff have been involved in collecting material relating to the Pan Am Flight 103 tragedy and Syracuse University for many years. Jennifer Paustenbaugh of Oklahoma State will moderate the session. Aaron Purchell, also of Virginia Tech, will offer a response. In addition to relating the experiences of individuals and institutions, the panelists will offer insights and advice in preparing for and responding to these events.

—Steven Smith (stevensmith@tamu.edu)

2009 Preconference Preview

The 50th annual RBMS Preconference, titled "Seas of Change: Navigating the Cultural and Institutional Contexts of Special Collections," will be held from Wednesday, June 17 to Saturday, June 20, 2009, in Charlottesville, Virginia, site of the first preconference in 1959. The fiftieth anniversary of the preconference suggests for many an opportunity to simply reflect on where we have been as a profession and a section, but rather than merely dwell on past achievements, this program aims to critically examine current and anticipated developments affecting the environments in which special collections departments and professionals work. The preceding fifty years saw innovations made by such professionals in response to dramatic social, cultural, technological, economic and academic changes. The world today shows, if anything, change occurring at an even faster rate. While our past experiences may inform our discussions, the program will strive to address issues of relevance to the profession today.

The program will feature five plenary sessions addressing a range of issues faced by academic research institutions, our research communities, professional organizations and library education, the booktrade, contemporary print publishers and editors, the global information ecosystem, and academic library systems. Plenary speakers currently include: John T. Casteen, III, President of the University of Virginia; Professor Francis X. Blouin, Director, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan; Beverly P. Lynch, Professor, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; Katharine Kyes Leab, Editor, *American Book Prices Current*; Ted Genoways, Editor, *Virginia Quarterly Review*; Eli Horowitz, Publisher, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*; Tod Lippy, Editor, *Esopus*; Siva Vaidyanathan, Associate Professor of Media Studies, University of Virginia Law School; Oya Y. Rieger, Associate University Librarian for Information Technologies, Cornell University; Ellen S. Dunlap, President, American Antiquarian Society; and Sarah E. Thomas, The Bodley's Librarian and Director, Oxford University. Additional potential speakers are currently being considered.

The program will also feature short papers and discussion groups, as well as the usual complement of seminars. The theme of the short papers is *New and Emerging Voices*. This session is designed to gather perspectives of new special collections professionals on the nature of our collections and institutions and on the future of our work. Recent graduates of library and information studies programs, experienced librarians making a career change, and representatives of groups traditionally underrepresented in the archival, rare book and manuscript library professions will share their points of view in half-hour prepared presentations. They will talk about why they have been drawn to the field at this point in time, what they hope to achieve, and where they see the cultural and institutional tides taking us in the future. Discussion groups are in preparation and will look to cover a range of issues from lessons learned in the history of the section to the future of the preconference, diversity within the profession, issues faced by smaller libraries and archives, and the application of Web 2.0 technologies in special collections.

The Omni Charlottesville Hotel will serve as the main Preconference hotel, meeting venue, and location of the opening reception on Wednesday evening. Single and double rooms at the Omni will be priced at \$189/night. Additional hotel and dormitory accommodations will also be available. On Thursday, Preconference sessions will be held at the University of Virginia's Newcomb Hall confer-

ence center. An evening reception will be held in the gardens and terrace of the Colonnade Club, located on the University's historic central grounds.

The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) and its Southeastern Chapter will be hosting a booksellers' showcase during the Preconference on Wednesday. Workshops are presently being organized for that day; more information will be available soon. Tours will be offered of local special collections libraries and cultural attractions, including the University of Virginia, Monticello, Ashlawn-Highland, and Montpelier. In addition, organized visits to local wineries and the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains are also being planned. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Christian Dupont, is also exploring the possibility of offering behind-the-scenes tours of conservation and other facilities at the Virginia Historical Society, Library of Virginia, and other libraries, museums, and archives in nearby Richmond.

Rare Book School will be offering summer courses immediately preceding and following the RBMS Preconference for the convenience of attendees. The Rare Book School also, with assistance offered by the Preconference Program Committee, will mount an exhibit on RBMS history in the UVa Rotunda.

A website with basic information about the Preconference is currently located at: <http://rbms.info/conferences/preconferences/2009/index.html>. A more complete website is in development and will be available soon. Please contact the program chair, R. Arvid Nelsen, with any questions or suggestions.

—R. Arvid Nelsen (nels0307@umn.edu)

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Compromises and Decision-making in Today's Media Landscape." YouTube presents a challenge to the list of new resources; although the argument can be made that it is a form of preservation, YouTube changes the expectation of the user, who in turn assumes that everything can be online. Analog tape or video are *really* things of the past. Frost advocates turning to digital technology. The audio community has a widely-held consensus on the specs for reformatting: 24 bit, 96 kilohertz (at a minimum) and uncompressed PCM data in a broadcasting format.

Mike Pogorzelski (Director, Academy Film Archive, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) presented "Essential Film: A How-To Guide to Photochemical Preservation in 20 Minutes or Less." He offered a basic definition of terms to help define the different elements involved (original camera negative, fine grain master positive, duplicate negative, preservation element, to name a few).

For more information, including access to the PowerPoint presentations, please go to the RBMS website at: <http://www.rbms.info/conferences/conf-docs/2008/index.shtml>.

—Serena Vaquilar (du0518@wayne.edu)

2008 Preconference Report - continued

preservation priorities to blogging boot camp, and recovering from theft.

Two day-long Preconference workshops were offered—Cataloging Cultural Objects for Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials. The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of American again sponsored the popular booksellers' showcase, with more than twenty booksellers participating, on the Tuesday preceding the Preconference. RBMS gratefully acknowledges the support of the ABAA and the many other sponsors of the Preconference.

Kristi L. Kiesling (kiesling@umn.edu)

From the Chair - continued

Preparations are well underway for the 50th Anniversary Pre-conference in Charlottesville. The program committee has already lined up notable speakers for the theme "Seas of Change: Navigating the Cultural and Institutional Contexts of Special Collections." Special features this year will include an exhibition on the history of the section, a keepsake publication, and attendance by former section leaders. Section members will have opportunities to contribute memories, artifacts, and documents towards an exhibition and publication on the history of the section, and to contribute towards preconference scholarships for new and returning RBMS members. Read more in this issue of the newsletter and watch the website for further news and ongoing information about the section's history and plans for the future!

—Mary A. Lacy (mlac@loc.gov)

Transitions

Jeff Barton is now Cotsen Children's Library Cataloger in the Department of Rare Books & Special Collections at Princeton U. Library. **Laura L. Carroll** is now Manuscript Archivist in the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library at Emory U. **Prudence Doherty** is now Special Collections Librarian for Public Services at the Bailey/Howe Library, U. of Vermont. **Chatham Ewing** is now Curator of Special Collections at the U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Rare Book & Manuscript Library. **Rebecca Fenning** is now the Manuscripts Librarian at UCLA's William Andrews Clark Memorial Library. **Nadina Gardner** has been chosen to be Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities' Division of Preservation and Access. **Lynn Holdzkom** has been appointed Head of Technical Services in the Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. **Douglas "Biff" Hollingsworth** has been appointed Collecting and Public Programming Archivist in the Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill. **Melissa Hubbard** has been appointed Rare Book Librarian for the Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois U.—Carbondale. **Petrina Jackson** has been appointed Head of Instruction and Outreach at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the U. of Virginia. **Kenton Jaehnig** is now Supervisory Archivist for the Lowell Weicker Papers Project in the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the U. of Virginia. **Beth Ann Koelsch** has been appointed Curator of the Women

Veterans Historical Collection, UNC-Greensboro. **Helice Koffler** has been appointed Manuscripts and Special Collection Materials Cataloging Librarian at the U. of Washington-Seattle. **Jessica Lacher-Feldman** was named Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections at the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library, U. of Alabama. **Laila Miletic-Vejzovic** has joined the U. of Central Florida as Head of the Special Collections and University Archives Department. **John Lovett** is now Curator of the Western History Collection at the U. of Oklahoma. **Jennifer MacDonald** is now Coordinator of Special Collections Cataloging and Processing Unit at the U. of Delaware Library. **Erin Passel** has been appointed Archivist/Librarian at the Albertsons Library, Boise State U. **Aaron D. Purcell** has been appointed the Head of Special Collections and Archives at Virginia Tech. **Garth D. Reese** is now Assistant Curator of Printed Books and Bindings at The Morgan Library & Museum, New York. **Jennifer O'Brien Roper** is now Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services at the U. of Virginia. **Jessica Sedgwick** was appointed Manuscripts Processor, UNC-Chapel Hill. **Daniel J. Slive** is the Head of Special Collections in the Bridwell Library of the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist U. **Holly Smith** has been appointed as Grace McSpadden Overholser Archival Fellow in African American Studies in the Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill. **Jason Tomberlin** has been appointed Public Services Librarian for the North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.

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