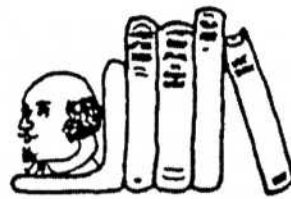


BIBLIO-NOTES



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News from the Chair

This has been an exciting and busy year for EALS—our first full year as a section within ACRL. The transition from section to discussion group has involved many bureaucratic details; as we warned ourselves from the beginning, things are a lot more complicated than in the old days of EALDG. But now most of these initial details are behind us, and we have been turning our attention more and more to the real business of EALS. Our new bylaws state that this business is "to represent members of ACRL who specialize or are otherwise professionally involved in the selection, acquisition, organization, and use of information resources related to literatures in English, to enhance those members' professional development, and to promote the improvement of library resources in support of study and research activities in this field." When we translate those words from "Bylawese" to plain English, it appears that we have set ourselves some ambitious tasks.

What has really impressed me is the number of people who have devoted time and energy to making this possible. It says a lot for our membership that we were able to find a full complement of members for all of our new committees, each of which has been working hard to help our fledgling section meet the needs of its members.

Our section bylaws were approved by the ACRL Board in Chicago, and will appear on the spring 1996 ALA ballot. I urge everyone to vote in that election. (Dare I urge you to vote "yes" on the bylaws?)

Our Chicago program, "The Humanist and the Librarian: Creating a Collaborative Partnership,"

was very well attended and received praise from many quarters. ACRL leadership was particularly impressed that we had a head start on this year's presidential theme, "Every librarian a leader"! In keeping with the New York venue, next year's EALS program will concentrate on the theater. We have two co-sponsors for this program: the ACRL Arts Section and the Theatre Library Association. Unlike many co-sponsorships which are in name only, all three groups are contributing actively to the program, and ARTS and TLA have representatives on our Program Planning Committee, under the able leadership of Susan Peters. TLA's Richard Buck has been instrumental in rounding up exciting speakers and in arranging for the use of facilities at Lincoln Center. Our program, entitled "Beyond the Stage Door," will focus on how creative people in the theater make use of library resources. Speakers will include playwright Edward Albee, actress Marian Seldes, and a stage designer and a costume designer to be announced. Be sure to set aside Monday night in New York for this dramatic event!

Even though they did not exist "officially" until after this year's conference, our four new committees plunged gleefully into their work in Chicago. The Publications Committee is exploring a number of projects, including a sequel to EALDG's 1987 collection, *English and American Literature: Strategies for Collection Development*. The Membership Committee is looking at ways to increase our number of members, at 251 already quite impressive for such a young section. In particular, they will be focusing on diversity within our membership. These two committees will also be collaborating to produce a membership brochure. And a spin-off

group from the Publications Committee is exploring the possibility of an EALS site on the World Wide Web.

The Planning Committee is starting to draft a strategic plan in order to set some priorities among the many activities and goals our members have proposed for our section, and will also help to write some of the required reports for ALA and ACRL. Lately, the Executive Committee has been discussing the possibility of some sort of corporate sponsorship, and what uses the section might make of such funds if they were forthcoming.

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Amidst the flurry of new activities and sometimes overwhelming bureaucratic details, we want to be sure that we maintain those activities for which our members have most valued EALS and its predecessor, the English and American Literature Discussion Group. *Biblio-Notes* continues to flourish under Scott Stebelman's editorship. And of course, true to our origins as a discussion group, we will continue to make room for open-forum discussions at our midwinter and annual meetings. This winter in San Antonio we will try a new twist on our group discussions. Richard Fyffe will lead the first in a series of informal discussions that might be entitled "Everything Librarians Ever Wanted to Know About Current Critical Schools But Were Afraid to Ask." Richard will start us off with a forum on the philosophy of Richard Rorty and its connection with current critical theory.

A hundred thanks to all of you who have helped get our group rolling--and a special note of thanks to our past-chair Michaelyn Burnette, who so ably saw us through our first year as a section. I hope to see many of you in San Antonio.

Timothy Shipe
University of Iowa

Minutes from the General Meeting

The EALS program at ALA 1995 was entitled: "The Humanist and the Librarian: Creating a Collaborative Partnership," chaired by Michaelyn Burnette (Univ. of California, Berkeley, and EALS Chair). The three panelists were Stephen Wiberley, associate professor and bibliographer, University of Illinois-Chicago; J. Paul Hunter, Chester D. Tripp Professor in Humanities, University of Chicago; and Marcia Pankake, professor and bibliographer, University of Minnesota.

Stephen Wiberley began the session with his talk, entitled "Types of Humanities Scholarship: Opportunities for Collaboration between Librarians and Humanists," which was based upon his research on the typology of humanities research. He described five different types of

humanities research, and the different types of library use common to humanists in these different categories, and therefore the opportunities presented by the different kinds of humanities research for collaboration.

1) Bibliography. Since bibliographers must look at as many copies of a book as possible in order to describe it accurately, libraries and librarians are very important to their work. Bibliographers need print versions, not electronic ones (unless they are bibliographers of electronic editions, which has another set of complicated issues).

2) Editing.

Editors need to look at many copies, editions, witnesses as possible, and, as with bibliographers, library collections and librarians are central to their work. Digitized or electronic copies are acceptable, and may be the end product. The Text Encoding Initiative Guidelines provide a structure for collaboration between libraries and humanists, through the TEI header that is required for each document.

"The Text Encoding Initiative Guidelines provide a structure for collaboration between libraries and humanists..."

3) Historical scholarship. Historians look at biography, historical context, genre, and use original editions and manuscripts a great deal. They spend a good deal of time in Rare Book collections.

4) Formal criticism. Formal literary critics generally use modern or standard editions for their work, with not much need for libraries. They could use electronic editions.

5) Theory. Theorists challenge and orient ways of thinking. Generally, they cite other theorists or philosophical texts and are idiosyncratic, with no need to be thorough in finding sources.

Stephen posited that while there is not much room for collaboration in the last two categories, the first three present many opportunities for collaboration between humanities scholars and librarians.

J. Paul Hunter began his talk, entitled "New

Directions in Faculty Research and the Role of the Librarian," with a look at current trends in literary studies. There will be fewer faculty and librarians in the future. Literature faculty are in the libraries more often now than in the past, and so are students. Modes and fashion change quickly in literary studies, with current emphases in historicism, cultural studies, and studies of new cultural areas.

Purely theoretical works are being published less frequently, with new historicism but one part of this. The rise of American Studies and Feminism has rediscovered and resuscitated older,

neglected texts. Scholars with historicist interests will continue combing the collections for new materials.

Humanists are interested in introducing a wider range of texts and wider range of cultures into scholarship and instruction, viewing all texts as cultural documents. This broadened range has left many scholars ill-equipped for the interdisciplinary work that is necessary, and they will require collaboration with librarians who have a broader perspective outside of single disciplines.

Combined with the shrinking faculty size, English departments are covering a wider range of literatures than previously. Where formerly an English department at a large university would have five or six medievalists, it now has three or four. They must turn to colleagues outside of the department, including librarians, for expertise.

Marcia Pankake, in her talk entitled "Librarians and Teachers as Colleagues," looked at ways in which she collaborates with humanists in her position as English and American literature subject specialist. Humanists work largely alone, relying on library collections without consulting librarians. They use other sources for information, such as footnotes, information from their colleagues, and formal bibliographies. Librarians must therefore anticipate the needs of scholars, and as a result, use different

patterns of information gathering than humanists.

Marcia uses several channels, some indirect, to provide information to humanities scholars. She is active in training graduate students in research methods (an activity no longer done within the department). She is involved in the interviews of candidates for faculty positions, which she sees as an opportunity to inculcate the value of the library in prospective faculty members. She works with the technology expert in the department, providing instruction in new resources. She participates in accreditation requests for information.

One looming crisis in humanities is in editing and bibliography. Graduate students are not being instructed in even the basic techniques or principles in these fields. Its importance is increasing, but developments in the past 40 years have de-emphasized it.

In closing, Marcia noted that a major form of collaboration will occur as librarians shape collections. As there is little or no consensus in priorities or directions in literary studies, librarians will play an important role in developing priorities by developing collections.

Perry Willett, Secretary
Indiana University

Recent Studies of Interest to English and American Literature Librarians by Scott Stebelman



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