

# 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 2007, Number 47

## From the Chair

If you haven't visited the RBMS website recently, you're in for a treat. Not only can you find it at a new easy-to-remember URL—just point your browser to “rbms.info”—you will also notice a whole new look. Thanks to Leab Award-winning designer Ken Williams and our expanded RBMS web team led by John Pull, our redesigned website was unveiled on August 31. More attractive and easier to navigate, it will soon contain some dynamic features, including an online form for Leab Award submissions and a searchable database of all past submissions (generously funded by Katharine Leab). It also integrates better with the ALA/ACRL website and takes advantage of its new features: the Seminars Committee has started a wiki, and there are plans to publish podcasts from the 2008 Annual Conference program.

In August, we printed a new section brochure to introduce new and prospective members to RBMS. As of the end of August, our section had grown to 1,748 personal members, up a little more than 2% overall from last year, including a 12% jump in student members who now make up 15% of our total membership.

After much labor, the new edition of *Your Old Books* was finally printed this past spring. The Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, whose logo appears on the brochure together with the inimitable Rare Book School lion, ordered 10,000 copies to distribute at book fairs. An HTML version is available on the RBMS website, and we are exploring ways to enable libraries to purchase packets of printed copies at reasonable cost.

ABAA and its member booksellers also provided generous support of our highly successful 2007 RBMS Preconference in Baltimore, which again set a new registration record with 381 attendees. ABAA secretary Sarah Baldwin did a marvelous job at organizing an all-day bookseller showcase that included twenty-one participants (see the 2007 Preconference website for a complete list of sponsors). We are grateful to Cynthia Requardt for coordinating the splendid local arrangements and Henry Raine for the excellent program on ephemera. Henry is presently editing a selection of Preconference presentations for the spring 2008 issue of *RBM*.

Thanks to the IMLS grant that supported the 2006 RBMS Preconference, 4,000 complimentary copies of the spring 2007 issue of *RBM* have been distributed among the library, archives, and museum communities. The grant also funded an RBMS program on library-museum exhibit collaborations at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Association of Museums.

RBMS has continued its engagement in program partnerships with other ALA units, including the ALA Map and Geography Roundtable (MAGERT), ALCTS Preservation and Reformatting Section (PARS), and ACRL Arts Section. Likewise our efforts to publish and maintain professional standards and guidelines are proceeding through the work of several task forces, including two new ones we are in the process of forming: a jointly-appointed ALA/SAA task force to complete the revision of the ALA/SAA *Joint*

*Statement on Access to Original Research Materials* begun by an RBMS-appointed task force in 2005, and a task force to explore the feasibility of developing guidelines for the digitization of special collections, following the theme of our 2008 RBMS Preconference in Los Angeles.

Plans are underway for the celebration of our 50th anniversary as a section next year and our 50th RBMS Preconference in 2009. See inside for details and lots more news.

- Christian DuPont

## 2007 Preconference Report

Johns Hopkins University and the city of Baltimore were hosts to the 48th Annual RBMS Preconference, “From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums,” from June 19 to 22, immediately preceding the ALA Annual Conference in Washington. The Preconference was sold out: 381 registered and thirty-three on the waiting list. A theme never before explored in a Preconference, a new location, and outstanding local arrangements combined to ensure the success of this event.

In his keynote address, “The Long-Term Significance of Printed Ephemera,” Michael Twyman (University of Reading) highlighted the importance of ephemera to social historians, lexicographers, and historians of printing, who must study the full range of print materials to understand techniques and innovations sometimes first encountered in the printing of ephemera. He stressed that print culture is often erroneously equated with book culture, and argued for the creation of a discipline, “ephemerology,” to complement the fields of bibliography, cartography, and musicology. He was followed in the second plenary by two scholars who spoke about how they have relied on ephemera for their historical research: Jon Solomon (University of Illinois) on the novel *Ben-Hur* and its place in American consumer culture, revealed through ephemera he has gathered on eBay, and Cheryl Ganz (National Postal Museum) on how ephemera has helped her understand the 1933 Chicago World's Fair as the first fair to fully embrace corporate capitalism.

The third plenary consisted of a panel of dealers, Robert Dalton Harris and Diane DeBlois (aGatherin'), and David Margolis and Jean Moss (Margolis & Moss). They talked about the contributions of ephemera dealers in acquiring, organizing, describing, and adding value to the ephemera they offer. The fourth plenary featured two noted collectors. William H. Helfand spoke on “Ephemeral Guides of the Medically Perplexed,” describing how street guides advertised medical services for men, and revealed men's anxieties about their sexual health. In “Spinning Straw into Gold: Gilding Junk through Collecting,” William P. Barlow, Jr. used his extensive collection of ephemera and other memorabilia tied to restaurants recommended by Duncan Hines from the 1930s to the 1950s to illustrate the role of collectors who contribute time, expertise, and connoisseurship to create collections with scholarly and esthetic importance.

(continued on page 7)

## RBMS Midwinter Meeting Schedule Philadelphia, January 11-15, 2008

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

**1:30-5:30 pm**

Bibliographic Standards, Thesaurus Subcommittee  
Bibliographic Standards Manuscript Working Group

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

**8:00-10:00 am**

2009 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  
2008 Preconference Program Planning

**1:30-3:30 pm**

Curators and Conservators Discussion Group  
Publications  
Security  
Seminars  
Task Force to Review *Guidelines on the Selection of General Collection Materials for Transfer to Special Collections*

**4:00-6:00 pm**

Budget and Development  
2008 Conference Planning  
2009 Conference Planning  
Public Services Discussion Group

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

**8:00-10:00 am**

Conference Development  
Diversity  
Collection Development Discussion Group  
Exhibition Awards II

**10:30 am-12:00 pm**

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

**4:00-5:00 pm**

Information Exchange

### MONDAY, JANUARY 14

**8:00-11:30 am**

Executive Committee

**1:30-5:30 pm**

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team I (closed)

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

**9:00 am-6:00 pm**

Bibliographic Standards Editorial Team II (closed)

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

## 2008 Conference Preview

With next year's Annual Conference in Southern California, it seems fitting to choose a theme that involves motion pictures. Most of us have moving images of some sort in our collections, be they film, VHS, DVD, or some other format. It is disturbing to think how many unique items in our care—such as documentaries, ethnographic films, newsreels, and home movies—are sitting on our shelves, silently decaying.

"Moving Image Collections: Surveying Tools and Preservation Basics" will be a practical program where you will discover techniques to assess and prioritize preservation efforts, find out when and how materials should be reformatted, and learn how conservators restore films. Our three speakers are Hannah Frost, Media Preservation Librarian for the Stanford University Libraries; Snowden Becker, IMLS and Harrington Foundation PhD Fellow at the School of Information, University of Texas at Austin; and Mike Pogorzelski, Director of the Academy Film Archive. Two co-sponsors, the Preservation and Reformatting and the Arts Sections, are generously supporting this program, which will be on Sunday, June 29, 2008, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in Anaheim.

## Annual Conference Program Report

Rare and antiquarian collections are most often associated with academic institutions, historical societies, and museums; however, special collections are also to be found right around the corner within your local public library. RBMS partnered with the Public Library Association to highlight these significant collections and the libraries that house them during the program entitled "Rare Books and Special Collections in Public Libraries: Collections and Locations, Old and New." A sampling of three public libraries, each varying in size, scope, and mission were represented.

Elaine Barone, Manager of the Humanities Division of the Buffalo Public Library, detailed examples of modern fine printing, Kelmscott Press publications, 4 copies of Shakespeare's first folio, incunabula, the Federalist Papers, and Mark Twain's manuscripts as some of the 40,000 titles found in their catalogue. These collections reflect the glory days of the BPL; it was one of the country's eleven largest libraries up until the 1950s. Discussing financial cut-backs, reduced staffing and hours, and the difficulty of making collection development decisions with fewer funds, Barone spoke to the role and impact of community pride in maintaining these treasures.

*(continued on page 6)*

## Committee News

### Bibliographic Standards

At the Bibliographic Standards Committee meeting in Washington, DC, outgoing chair Deborah J. Leslie authorized a new working group to develop guidelines for item-level description of modern manuscripts. The working group, made up of BSC and non-BSC members who have expertise and experience with manuscripts, has received its charge and is beginning its work. The Thesaurus Subcommittee, under the leadership of new editor Nina Schneider, and with the assistance of several interested volunteers, is working on developing scope notes for all of the existing terms. Their initial work will focus on Genre Terms.

Editorial work on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Serials)* is continuing at a steady pace. Several major issues were resolved during editorial meetings at ALA and the text is nearly ready for a close reading by BSC members and other volunteers. During the spring, some major issues were resolved between the rare materials and music communities and good progress is being made on *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Music)*. *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*, published in January 2007, is selling well, with an ever-growing number of institutions adopting it as the standard for cataloging rare books. It is now also available on the Cataloger's Desktop. During the 2008 RBMS Preconference in Los Angeles the BSC will be sponsoring a full-day workshop, tentatively entitled "Applying *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*," aimed at catalogers experienced in DCRB who are seeking training in the switch to DCRM(B).

### Budget and Development

At the Budget and Development Committee meeting in Washington the discussions centered on the financial outcome of the 2007 Preconference, fundraising for the 2008 Preconference, and plans for the 50th anniversary Preconference in 2009. Both the 2007 Preconference and its attendant fundraising were extremely successful, and our congratulations go out to the Preconference planners. The Booksellers' Showcase, in particular, was a notable fundraising success, thanks to ABAA, which handled all the arrangements. Prospects for the 2008 Preconference also look bright, with plans including one full day at the Getty Research Institute.

With the help of a guest appearance from Richard Noble, the incoming chair of the Exhibition Awards Committee, we also discussed the administration of the funding for the Leab Award. We hope to work with ACRL to improve communication concerning the status of the Award's funds, and if possible, the rate of return on those funds. In the meantime, our meeting proved once again to be a fertile source of information on the inner workings of RBMS. If you are interested in learning what really goes on behind the scenes, we encourage you to join us at the next Budget and Development meeting at Midwinter.

### Collection Development

The Collection Development Discussion Group began its meeting in Washington with a broad look at the management of acquisition budgets. We covered such topics as the pacing of expenditures, the vagaries of financial systems, collaborating (or not) with subject bibliographers, and providing for such related costs as cataloging and conservation. The role of Library Friends groups was

also discussed, though that topic was certainly not exhausted. Finally, we talked about the conundrum of adding to comprehensive collections which had little relevance for current faculty research, and finding ways to get faculty positively involved with collection building. We look forward to another good discussion in Philadelphia. We hope to focus on one or more different genres (children's books has been suggested), the expanding role of special collections departments as books in general become thought of as "legacy collections," and finding bargains. As always, the interests of participants will guide the discussion. Please send suggestions or comments to Alvan Bregman (abregman@uiuc.edu) or Caroline Duro-selle-Melish (cmelish@fas.harvard.edu). See you in Philadelphia.

### Conference Development

RBMS has been active in conference programming during 2007. In addition to the Preconference and Annual programs, two other programs were sponsored. The MAGERT Preconference on Cataloging Early Maps (co-sponsored by RBMS and ALCTS) was held June 22; almost half of the registrants were RBMS catalogers. In what is noted as an RBMS first, Hjordis Halvorson and Suzy Taraba presented the program panel "Library as Laboratory: Special Collections in Undergraduate Education" at the ACRL 2007 National Conference. Competition for program acceptance for ACRL National Conferences is stiff and this was the first RBMS program proposal to be accepted.

At its meeting in June, the committee discussed various ways in which the section can celebrate the RBMS 50th anniversary years of 2008 and 2009. Section leadership will seek resolutions honoring the 50th anniversary from both ALA and ACRL. While there are interesting historical materials in the RBMS Archives to aid in the celebrations, there are almost no photographs. Members who have Preconference-related publications, ephemera, or especially photographs are encouraged to contact Conference Development Chair Elizabeth Johnson (johnson1@indiana.edu). The 50th anniversary Preconference will return to the site of the first RBMS preconference in Charlottesville, Virginia. Because ALA Annual will be in Chicago after July 4, the Committee has recommended that the Preconference be held either June 12-16 or June 19-23, 2009. ALA has confirmed that the 2010 Annual Conference will be in Washington, DC. Possible host cities in the area include Washington, DC; Providence, RI; and Princeton, NJ.

### Core Competencies in Special Collections Librarianship

The meeting of the Task Force on Core Competencies for Special Collections Professionals held at ALA Annual in Washington focused on responses to *Draft 3* of the Task Force's report that had been circulated prior to the meetings, and was the basis for the Open Hearing held on June 22. That hearing was well attended and produced good remarks from a number of people. The Task Force summarized these responses and comments, and discussed how they should best be incorporated into the document. The Task Force is now working on *Draft 4* and preparing it for submission to RBMS's Executive Committee this October. Further information about this report should be available at the Midwinter Meeting.

## Curators and Conservators

There were twenty-eight people in attendance at our early morning meeting in Washington. The topic was decision-making and priority setting on a budget and we had a lively and productive discussion. Issues raised were planning and prioritizing work, working around the selection-by-being-on-the-desk method, selection when there are several collections sharing a conservator, and selection driven by exhibits or digitization.

We discussed models used by institutions already actively selecting and prioritizing. The system at the Folger Shakespeare Library was given as a good example. They have a curator/conservator slip on which the curator ranks significance to the collection and the conservator ranks conditions of storage and use. These slips are then used to pull work for the conservation lab and allows for batching of treatments or selection for interns.

The biggest need we identified is institutional education. Training for curators in different treatment options, and how much time they take, would help, as would training for conservators on importance to scholarship and the institution of specific collections. As a result of this discussion, an RBMS Seminar, "Selection and Prioritization for Preservation" was proposed and accepted for the 2009 Preconference. We also discussed a brochure or a Rare Book School class.

## Diversity

Anne Marie Lane of the University of Wyoming and J. Fernando Peña of the Grolier Club will be coming onboard as co-chairs, replacing outgoing chair Julie Grob. The Diversity Committee is moving forward with plans to hold outreach presentations on careers in special collections at universities, and possibly high schools, in the Philadelphia area during Midwinter 2008. The committee has also drafted an online Diversity Toolkit, which will help members provide similar presentations in their own regions. The committee is looking into the possibility of incorporating a podcast into the toolkit. In addition, the Committee has begun collaborating with the Seminars Committee to develop future seminars on the topics of ethnic collections and encouraging diversity in the special collections field.

## Exhibition Awards

Kathy and Dan Leab have added to their long history of support with a contribution of \$1,500 to fund the creation of a database of all Leab Award submissions, accessible and searchable from the RBMS website. This will become a key element in the Web presence that the Committee has been developing for the past several years. John Pull, RBMS Webmaster, is overseeing the programming of the database and acting as liaison with ACRL. The Leabs have further specified that any excess monies can be transferred to the Leab Award account to support the committee's administrative costs—a provision that is deeply appreciated by the chair.

For Midwinter our discussions had included how to make the display of Leab Award entries more effective than it was in the rather difficult space at the 2006 Preconference in Austin. In Baltimore, having decided to accept the risk of proximate coffee and buns, we were able to set ourselves up at breaks in one of the best multipurpose spaces the Preconference has ever had, under the very noses of the crowd. The high rate of impulse browsing that resulted, without archival mishap, was just what we had hoped for; more than that, the EAC display functioned as a complement to the Booksellers' Showcase.

Entries for the 2008 Leab Award are finding their way to Brown University and the new chair, Richard Noble. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2007. The submission forms for both print and electronic entries are available as PDFs via the EAC's pages on the RBMS website. 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 2008, the winners to be notified shortly after.

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

Publication of the February 2007 draft revision of the *Guidelines* on the ACRL website was announced in the May 2007 issue of *C&RL News* and to the RBMS listserv. A public hearing on the draft was then held at the Annual Conference. Comments received as a result of the hearing and e-mails will be incorporated into the revision and forwarded to the Executive Committee for review. Once approved by the Executive Committee, the *Guidelines* will be submitted to the ACRL Standards and Accreditation Committee for review during the 2008 Midwinter Meeting.

## Manuscripts and Other Formats

The Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group did not meet in Washington, but we are looking forward to a joint meeting with MASC in Philadelphia in January. In other news, Mary Lacy has assumed her responsibilities as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and Kate Colligan has stepped up to the challenge of new co-chair.

## *Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials*

The *Joint Statement on Access to Original Materials* Task Force met in Washington, undertaking one more revision to its statement. It also conducted a public hearing at which there was worthwhile discussion, but little that led to revision of the statement. The Task Force is about to be reorganized into a joint task force with SAA to see the statement through more review as well as through the approval procedures of both ACRL and SAA.

## MARC for Special Collections

Fifty-nine participants met for the MARC for Special Collections Discussion Group in Washington. After introductions and announcements, Susan Westberg (OCLC) updated us on integrating RLG and OCLC. We also discussed the 752 field and different geographic hierarchies currently being used. Our final topic was a rousing conversation about barcodes and RFIDs. No one present used RFIDs in their library, but many were using barcodes. Those institutions that had considered RFIDs did not pursue their use due to a number of factors, including cost and unknown longevity of the RFIDs. A variety of methods for keeping the barcode with the item were discussed. Barcodes adhere better to plastic than to paper and the use of polyethylene strapping was encouraged. One institution created a macro to print barcodes directly onto paper tabs. MASC will be joining the Manuscripts and Other Formats Discussion Group at Midwinter.

## Membership and Professional Development

Our activities at the Baltimore Preconference were very successful. Within the Committee's Buddy Program, eighteen pairs of buddies were matched for the Preconference and one pair was matched for the Annual Conference. The Scholarship Program awarded nineteen scholarships to attend the Preconference - fifteen full and four partial scholarships. Of the nineteen winners, seven were from under-represented ethnic communities.

The Conference Orientation and Introduction to RBMS—the kick-off event of the Preconference—was well attended, with about 105 people present, including 67 first-time attendees. Three handouts prepared by the Committee were available: a list of chairs of RBMS committees, task forces, and discussion groups; a list of RBMS events at ALA Annual; and a document containing hints for getting involved in the Section. In addition, we worked with the Local Arrangements Committee to arrange a New Member/ First Time Attendee social evening for the Preconference. This gathering was held at the Spy Club and was a well-attended and lively event.

During the meeting at ALA Annual, the Committee reviewed Preconference activities and discussed the idea of adding to the Conference Orientation and Introduction to RBMS next year in Los Angeles a repeating slide show with pictures of committee chairs. The Mentoring Program was also discussed at length and it was agreed that a Program evaluation form should be created. Members compared notes on mentoring experiences and decided to explore the idea of alternatives to the Mentoring Program that could be offered to those who might need specific advice but who are not seeking a mentor. An FAQ on the RBMS website was mentioned as a possibility, as was posting on the site a list of suggestions for those who would like to find jobs within the world of rare books and special collections.

## Public Services

The Public Services Discussion Group was led in Washington by Erika Dowell (Indiana University) and recorded by Jessica Pizga (New York Society Library). The discussion began with a review of ARL SPEC Kit 296, *Public Services in Special Collections*. The report is a survey of more than seventy repositories and their public services policies pertaining to the collection and reporting of statistics, staffing and position descriptions, and reprographic pricing and policies. Among those present, it was agreed that the challenge in collecting and recording statistics for special collections is due largely to the fact that institutions have multiple approaches to collecting statistics and that when compared to other divisions, special collections' statistics "look lousy."

While improved from previous years, statistics collected about special collections by the Association of Research Libraries fall short in the analysis and interpretation of the labor behind special collections statistics. For instance, ARL requests the number of collections and linear feet of new acquisitions, but it does not take into account the labor-intensive work that goes into acquiring and preparing collections for research use. Similarly, number of exhibitions is reported but not the number of hours to research, plan, and install exhibitions, catalogs, and accompanying online components. It was suggested that

different sorts of statistics may be needed to reflect the qualitative and quantitative work accomplished in special collections.

The second issue discussed was that of privacy versus security when collecting and gathering user records. Currently there are varying levels of systematic collection of request slips and reader registration. The reader's right to privacy is acknowledged, but the need to collect and keep records of use by patrons remains a necessity. The theme of data collection continued with the group's discussion of the development of a shared survey to identify areas in which the standardized collection of data would provide a fuller picture of the work done.

The pedagogical shift from lecturing to a collaborative method has led to more intensive time spent with individual students. The use of special collections by classes of students and working with professors to achieve course goals are excellent opportunities for special collections to attract and support the next generation of researchers. There exists a dilemma in protecting collections from mishandling and damage while guarding against perpetuating the elitism and inaccessibility traditionally associated with special collections.

Of those present, most allow the use of digital cameras in the reading room but they require that readers sign a form saying that the images are for personal use; permissions and fees apply to commercial use. The laws of copyright and fair use can be challenging to interpret. A future RBSC seminar on digital photography for patrons may address these and similar issues.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the possibilities of establishing standardized approaches to public services. Special collections staff and institutional leadership should pursue the development of a service quality model similar to that of LibQual, developed under the auspices of ARL. Now seems an especially good time to work more closely with ARL as it appears to be giving more attention to the issue of "hidden collections" and the acceptable levels of processing and cataloging required to make collections accessible.

## Publications

The Publications Committee has been involved in the overall revision of the RBMS website. The Web editing team for the section (John Pull, James Ascher, and Christopher Smith) serve *ex officio* as members of the committee. Both technical and design discussion have been lively. The design revisions supplied by Ken Williams at Cornell are much to be commended and are greatly appreciated. This is scarcely surprising since Cornell's library exhibition websites have been winning regularly in the Leab competitions.

The mention of the Exhibition Awards provides an opportunity to report on another area in which the Publications Committee has been engaged. The Web editors have led in devising an automated mechanism by which entries could be made to the Leab competition for both printed and online versions of library exhibition catalogs. The other members of the Publications Committee have been reviewing the functionality and esthetics of the online forms, and the newer technology will be available for this year's submissions.

## RBM

The Fall 2007 issue (8:2) of *RBM* is devoted to the subject of diversity. This issue was first envisaged by Penny Welbourne (Yale) several years ago. Penny invited Kathleen Burns (Yale) to work with her on putting the issue together, and they have presented an extraordinary collection of articles on collecting diversity. Included are Patricia Buck Dominguez and Joe A. Hewitt, "A Public Good: Documenting the American South and Slave Narratives"; Joan D. Krizack, "Preserving the History of Diversity: One University's Efforts to Make Boston's History More Inclusive"; Julie Herrada, "Collecting Anarchy: Continuing the Legacy of the Joseph A. Labadie Collection"; Laurie Block, "'An Invented Archive': The Disability History Museum"; Loretta Parham, "Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, Custodian of the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection: 'Until Further Notice'"; and, Timothy B. Powell, "A Drum Awakens: Partnership to Create a Digital Archive Based on Traditional Ojibwe Systems of Knowledge." This will be an issue of particular interest to all RBMS members. Subscribers should see it in their mailboxes in mid-November. If you are not a subscriber, please see the RBMS website for details on subscribing.

## Security

The committee received a report on the aftermaths of the E. Forbes Smiley map thefts and Meyer book thefts (Texas). The Map and Geography Round Table (MAGERT) and RBMS have prepared a joint resolution commending the booksellers and map dealers who cooperated with recent recovery efforts. The full text of the resolution is at [http://rbms.info/committees/security/commending\\_booksellers.shtml](http://rbms.info/committees/security/commending_booksellers.shtml). We proposed to combine the Security and Theft guidelines into a single document (which was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee). The Chair reported on his discussion with John Thomson, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America security chair, on the best way to provide access to information regarding stolen books. There are likely to be developments on this front in coming months.

## Seminars

At the upcoming Midwinter Meeting the Committee will finalize seminars for the 2008 Preconference. We already have a full slate of seminars on a variety of topics including: "Applying *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Books)*"; "Are Cultural Communities Entrusting Their Materials to Academic Institutions or Are They Collecting Themselves: Pros and Cons of Different Models"; "Preservation Decision-Making and Priority Setting"; "Teaching and Outreach in Special Collections: From K-12 to Undergraduates and Beyond"; "Donor Relations"; "Security Update"; "Digital Photography on a Budget"; "Blog Boot Camp"; and "Archivists' Toolkit".

Our Committee's wiki has moved to the ACRL website and can now be found at [http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/RBMS/Seminars\\_Committee](http://wikis.ala.org/acrl/index.php/RBMS/Seminars_Committee). This is a site where you can see recent seminars and examine progress on ideas for upcoming seminars.

In response to feedback received from Preconference surveys and in an effort at continuous quality improvement, the Seminars Committee has drafted guidelines for the development of seminars. The draft guidelines are currently in revision but will be posted to the Seminars website soon. Draft guidelines were distributed to all seminar organizers for the 2008 Preconference.

The intention of the guidelines is to emphasize the instructional nature of seminars. In conjunction with this goal, the Committee is launching a new campaign reminding everyone that seminars are intended to teach. Look for slogans such as SEMINARS TEACH and TEACH YOUR COLLEAGUES to appear on the Seminars web pages and on future mailings.

It is not too early to submit proposals for the 2009 Preconference. It is not necessary to be a member of the Seminar Committee to submit a proposal. For information about what to include, please see the form available on the RBMS website at <http://www.rbms.info/committees/seminars/index.shtml>, or contact R. Arvid Nelsen at [nels0307@umn.edu](mailto:nels0307@umn.edu).

## 2008 Preconference Preview

The 2008 Preconference will be held in Los Angeles immediately prior to the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, on June 24-27, hosted jointly by the UCLA Library and the Getty Research Institute. The theme for the Preconference is "Rare and Special Bytes: Digital Special Collections in the 21st Century." The 2008 Preconference Program Committee met informally in Baltimore and again in Washington to discuss potential plenary topics and speakers. Among the topics to be addressed are intellectual property rights, mass digitization projects, and access to and teaching with digitized primary resources. On the Tuesday before the Preconference, there will be workshops on using *DCRM(B)* and *Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO)*.

## Conference Report *(continued from page 2)*

She mentioned the use of exhibitions, publicity, and advocacy within the community as some successful methods for growing community support and investment.

Gladys Mahoney, rare book librarian of the Phoenix Public Library, discussed the Arizona Room's local history collection, and the Rare Book Room's community book art collection, Washington Press, and Alfred Knight Collection. She named components that sustain and enhance collections: public access, marketing and programming, and support and advocacy. The Library creatively implemented activities and policies to build its patron base, increase support, and maintain funding levels. A relationship with the Arizona University Book Arts Program was forged in 1981, access to the collections was increased via the online catalog, a regular presentation schedule was instituted for all ages, and a printing press was opened to the public.

Francine Henderson, Head of the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History, described her current role as the culmination of a lifelong journey and the melding of experiences. As the leader of the Nation's second largest archives specializing in the history of African Americans, she asserted that libraries need to develop a public awareness of collecting and maintaining historical information and materials; assess potential collections, donors, and topics of significance within the community; provide information that will help to demystify the process of collection building; and promote advocacy for better preservation and access to black culture and history at research institutions. Henderson also spoke to the public distrust of majority institutions. In summation, she said, "You don't have to die in order to donate your papers, give them now, and go to your own party!"

## Executive Committee, 2007-2008

Dr. Christian Yves Dupont - Chair  
University of Virginia  
Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library  
P.O. Box 400110  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4110  
(434) 243-1776; fax: (434) 924-4968  
dupont@virginia.edu

Mary A. Lacy - Vice-Chair  
Senior Archives Specialist  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave. Se  
Washington, DC 20540-1236  
(202) 707-8799; fax: (202) 707-6336  
mlac@loc.gov

Beth M. Whittaker - Secretary  
Head, Special Collections Cataloging  
Ohio State University Libraries  
1858 Neil Avenue Mall 036  
Columbus, OH 43210-1286  
(614) 247-7463; fax: (614) 292-2015  
whittaker.50@osu.edu

Edwin C. Schroeder - Past Chair  
Yale University Beinecke Library  
Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-7485; fax: (203) 432-4047  
edwin.schroeder@yale.edu

Charlotte B. Brown - Member-at-Large 2005-2008  
University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)  
UCLA University Archives  
Box 951575  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575  
(310) 825-7265; fax: (310) 794-7097  
cbbrown@library.ucla.edu

Melissa Conway - Member-at-Large 2007-2010  
Head Special Collections  
University of California UCR Libraries  
PO Box 5900  
Riverside, CA 92517-5900  
(951) 827-3233; fax: (951) 827-4673  
melissa.conway@ucr.edu

Hjordis D. Halvorson - Member-at-Large 2006-2009  
Vice President for Library Services  
Newberry Library  
60 W. Walton  
Chicago, IL 60610-7324  
(312) 255-3590; fax: (312) 255-3615  
Halvorsonh@newberry.org

Lynne O. King - Board Liaison 2007-2008  
Director Of Library Services  
Begley Library, Schenectady County Community College  
78 Washington Ave.

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

The fifth plenary was devoted to different aspects of the management of ephemera in institutions. In her talk, "Why Not Ephemera: The Emergence of Ephemera in Libraries," Georgia B. Barnhill (American Antiquarian Society) presented a survey of how changing attitudes in libraries are making ephemera collections more accessible to scholars. Nicolas Ricketts (Strong National Museum of Play) spoke from the museum curator's perspective in his talk, "The Truth is in the Details: Ephemera in Museum Collections and Exhibitions." John Pull (Library of Congress), in "Fugitive Bytes: Ephemera's Digital Horizons," extended the concept of ephemera in libraries to encompass "born digital" materials. In her conference wrap-up in the sixth plenary, "Immortalizing the Mayfly. Permanent Ephemera: an Illusion or a (Virtual) Reality?," Julie Anne Lambert (Bodleian Library) provided a summary of all of the Preconference sessions, including plenaries, short papers, and seminars, illustrated with examples from her work as the curator of one of the world's largest collections of ephemera, the John Johnson Collection.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the program included nine seminars on a variety of topics, organized by R. Arvid Nelsen and his Seminars Committee, and twelve short papers, for which we thank the presenters. Two all-day workshops were offered. "The New Philanthropic Environment: Fundraising for Libraries, Museums & Archives," was a reprise of the very successful workshop taught last year in Austin by Lisa Browar (New School University), and Chris Foley (University of Pennsylvania Library). "Cataloging and Organizing Ephemera" was sponsored by the Bibliographic Standards Committee and taught by Eleanor Brown (Cornell University), Ann Copeland (Penn State University), Todd Fell (Yale University), Jane Gillis (Yale University), and Stephen Skuce (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). This workshop was sold out, with twenty-six attendees and a sizable waiting list.

Many Preconference attendees arrived early enough to enjoy the Booksellers' Showcase, sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of the ABAA. This mini-book fair brought together twenty-three dealers who displayed books and ephemera. RBMS is grateful for the support of these dealers, and for the sponsorship of the ABAA. Most attendees remarked on the high quality of the local arrangements, courtesy of Cynthia Requardt and her committee, with strong support from Tory Ondrla. These included splendid accommodations at the Tremont Plaza Hotel, great opportunities for socializing, and lavish receptions for conference attendees.

Selected papers from the Preconference will be published in the Spring 2008 issue of *RBM*, and the Preconference web site continues online at <http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/special-collections/RBMS/>, accessible through the RBMS web site.

---

Schenectady, NY 12305  
(518) 381-1240; fax: (518) 370-4659  
kinglo@gw.sunysccc.edu

Adam R. Burling - Staff Liaison 2007-2008  
ACRL Program Coordinator  
American Library Association  
50 E Huron St  
Chicago, IL 60611-2788  
312-280-2521; fax: 312-280-2520  
aburling@ala.org

*(continued next column)*

# Transitions

**Kelley Wolfe Bachli** has accepted the position of Coordinator of the Center for Primary Research and Training in the Department of Special Collections, UCLA. **Anne Bahde** has been appointed librarian in the Special Collections and University Archives, San Diego State University Library. **Douglas A. Boyd** has been appointed Digital Services Program Manager in the Hoole Special Collections Library, University of Alabama. **Kate Contakos** has been appointed Preservation Librarian at Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library. **Katherine Carr** has joined the University of Missouri-Columbia Libraries as Print Collections Librarian. **Keith Chevalier** has been appointed College Archivist at Saint Anselm College. **Sarah Fisher** has been appointed Head of Printed Acquisitions at the Beinecke Library. **Will Hansen** is the new Assistant Curator of Collections at the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University. **Christopher Harter** is the new reference librarian at the Amistad Research Center. **Kathryn James** has been appointed Assistant Curator, Early Modern Books and Manuscripts and the Osborne Collection at the Beinecke Library. **Steve Jones** has been appointed Head of Public Services at the Beinecke Library. **Andrea Knowlton** is now Assistant Conservator for Special Collections at UNC-Chapel Hill. **Michelle Light** has been appointed Archivist at the University of California-Irvine libraries. **Jennifer Lowe** has been appointed Rare Books Librarian in the Department of Special Collections, Pius XII Memorial Library, Saint Louis University. **Mary Manning** has been named Assistant University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Adelphi University. **Ralph McCoy**, former dean of Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, and compiler of the three-volume *Freedom of the Press*, has died in Blacksburg, VA. He built up the Special Collections in Morris Library at SIU and was the founder of Morris Library as a Research Library. **Kate Murray** is now Audiovisual Archivist at the University of Maryland. **R. Arvid Nelsen** is now Archivist of the Charles Babbage Institute at the University of Minnesota's Andersen Library. **Laura K. O'Keefe** is now Head of Cataloging and Bibliographic Maintenance, New York Society Library. **Lea**

**Osborne** has joined the Columbia University libraries as a processing archivist. **John Overholt** has been appointed assistant curator of the Donald and Mary Hyde Collection of Dr. Samuel Johnson at Harvard University's Houghton Library. **Rochelle T. Pienn** has been named Interim Head of Special Collections at the University of Miami Libraries. **Nancy M. Poehlmann** is the new Head of the Humanities and Special Collections Cataloging Unit at the University of Florida's Smathers Libraries. **Jennifer Schaffner** has joined RLG Programs at OCLC Programs and Research as a Program Officer. **Kenichiro Shimada** has been hired as a cataloger for the Gordon W. Prange Collection and as a special collections cataloger at the University of Maryland. **Steven Escar Smith**, currently Associate Dean for Advancement and Director of the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, has been given responsibility for collection development and scholarly communication for the Texas A&M Libraries. **Gregory Thompson** is now Associate Director for Special Collections, University of Utah's Marriott Library. **Diane Turner** has been appointed the curator of the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection at Temple University.

*RBMS Newsletter* is a publication of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611, 800-545-2433, x2523. Editor: Marianne Hansen, Mariam Coffin Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, 101 N Merion Ave. Bryn Mawr PA, 19010, 610-526-5289, mhansen@brynmawr.edu. Assistant Editors: Christopher D. Cook, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 346 Library, 1408 W. Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-3174, cdcook@uiuc.edu; Steven Cox, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 615 McCallie Avenue, Lupton Library, Chattanooga TN 37403-2504, 423-425-2186, steven-cox@utc.edu. Typesetting and layout by Marianne Hansen using InDesignCS2. Typefaces are Lucida Sans and Times New Roman. Printed in the USA. RBMS Chair: Dr. Christian Yves Dupont, University of Virginia, Albert & Shirley Small Special Collections Library, P.O. Box 400110, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4110, (434) 243-1776, dupont@virginia.edu.

© American Library Association, 2007  
 ISSN 0743-1481 (paper)  
 ISSN 1098-4291 (electronic)

\*\*\*\*\*AUTOMATED AADC 460  
 0248852 T7 P1  
 ALVAN M. BREGMAN  
 2409 CHERRY HILLS DR  
 CHAMPAIGN IL 61822-7506

Nonprofit Org.  
 U. S. Postage  
 PAID  
 American Library  
 Association

RBMS Newsletter  
 c/o Association of College and Research Libraries  
 50 E. Huron Street  
 Chicago IL 60611