

April 2007



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

Section's Homepage: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/srbm.htm>

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People

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IFLA 72nd Conference in Seoul: Minutes

Standing Committee Meeting I, 19 August 2006

Minutes

Members, Honorary Members and Corresponding Members present: Susan M. Allen (chair), Jan Bos (secretary/treasurer), Björn Dal, Mark Dimunation, Sirkka Havu, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, HyeEun Lee, Monika Linder, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Andrey Serkov, Henry Snyder, Bettina Wagner

Observers:

Jeanette Clough (USA), Isabel García-Monge (Spain), Johan Mannerheim (Sweden), John Meriton (UK)

1. Susan *opened* the meeting and welcomed the members of the Standing Committee and the observers. Apologies for absence were received from Louisa Buson, Elisabeth Eide, María Cristina Guillén-Bermejo, Kristian Jensen, Fabienne Le-Bars and Jutta Weber. Joana Escobedo is unable to attend this first meeting. All present introduce themselves.

2. Two items are added to the *Agenda*:

- The Chapbooks Bibliography Project (under New Business)
- Papers to be nominated for publication in the IFLA-Journal.

The agenda is then approved.

3. The *Minutes* from the SC meetings in Oslo 2005 are approved as circulated.

4. Jan presented the *Financial Report* September 2005 – August 2006. On 1 September 2005 the Section's bank account showed a credit of € 495,-.

Income:

The financial outcome of the Copenhagen 2005 Pre-conference was a credit of € 697,-.

Expenditures:

Day ticket for one speaker at the Oslo Conference: € 125,-
Hangzhou Pre-conference fee to IFLA Headquarters: € 200,-
Gifts to the organizers of the Hangzhou Pre-conference: € 50,-
Bank costs: € 40,-
Total expenditures: € 415,-
Bank account on 19-08-2006: € 778,-
Expenditures for another € 610, - could be claimed from IFLA Headquarters this year, according to the new financial system. Jan concluded that the Section's finances are healthy. The Financial Report was approved.

5. Jan reported on the first *Coordinating Board (CB) Meeting* of the Collections & Services Division:

- More input is needed for the review of all sections. There will be a hearing on this subject on Sunday. All Standing Committee members are invited.
- The draft of the IFLA Strategic Plan will be published in *IFLA Express* on Monday. Comments are welcome in the second CB meeting.
- Special attention is asked for the FAIFE Open Discussion on the Danish Cartoons on Monday.
- In December an IFLA "Code of Ethics" will be presented.
- So far most Sections have little or no experience with the new financial system, so it is too early for an evaluation.
- The deadline for new projects is 1 October. Proposals are awaited in the second CB meeting.
- It has been decided that Sections' Newsletters in electronic form only are acceptable. However, if any member asks for a printed copy, this should be made available. IFLA Headquarters still archives the printed copies.
- Most of the Sections in the Collections & Services Division have mid-term meetings. This year many of them also had pre-conferences.
- The new guideline for calls for papers has resulted in mixed experiences and evaluations. The best practice is to invite preferred speakers to respond to the call for papers.
- Sections were requested to discuss whether a Division brochure would be a good idea. The outcome of the immediately following discussion was that, although the activities of the Sections are very diverse, such a brochure might be helpful to attract more attention.

6. Susan reported that the *Evaluation* form of our Section was accepted without any comments.

7. There was ample discussion on the Recommendations for the *Future of IFLA's Professional Structure*. They will affect smaller sections in particular, as the number of members seems to be the only criterion. Small sections may nevertheless represent important interest groups. If a Section becomes a Discussion Group, it would become hard for members to get funding to attend the conferences. It is suggested that such a future situation might offer an opportunity for the RBMS Section to

become an umbrella for all kinds of special collections, including newspapers, maps, ephemera and even art libraries. "Rare Books and Manuscripts" could be broadened to "Special Collections". But then the Section in fact would need to become a new Division, because it would be impossible to give attention and visibility to all such collections in a single two- or four-hour session.

In many libraries more commitment to IFLA would be a desirable thing. There should also be an IFLA mechanism to promote and strengthen this commitment. IFLA Sections could communicate better as well. Virtual interest groups could be a good start.

Susan will present the Section's visions at the hearing on Sunday.

8. Discussion on the *IFLA Strategic Plan* is postponed to the second business meeting.

9. *Old Business*:

- Susan announced the *Section's programme* for Monday. There were no particularities to report. She thinks it will be a fine session. We will count the number of attendees.

- The *evaluation of the pre-conference* is very positive: "It was really spectacular" --- "We learned a lot on Chinese culture." --- "First papers, then practice: fitted very well." --- "Wonderful opera!" --- "Splendid organisation" --- "Many Chinese participants." --- "Exciting excursions" --- "Also beneficial for the Zhejiang Library" --- " Completely different from Copenhagen: less professional discussions, more learning" --- "Thanks to Lin Zuzao, Xiaolan Cheng and Jan Bos."

As to publication of the pre-conference papers: the Chinese prepublication will probably be followed by a complete Chinese publication. Jan will contact IFLA Headquarters about the publication of a selection of ca. 20 papers in English in the official IFLA/Saur series. It is suggested that Oak Knoll might be interested in publishing or distributing the selected English papers.

- There was nothing to report on ongoing projects.

10. *New Business*:

- John Meriton introduced the *International Database of Chapbooks in English or printed in England*, and answered questions. The database is supported by the Bibliographic Society. It could be considered as an English Union Catalogue of Chapbooks. Many libraries never catalogued these kinds of materials. Therefore there is not too much overlap with the ESTC. The chapbooks are very rare. Often only one copy of an edition is extant, so probably many editions or complete texts have been lost. For the moment the project focuses on English chapbooks, including song sheets, but other languages may be included later on.

Alice Prochaska pointed at the ARL "Hidden Collections Program" from American Research Libraries. Several other countries have similar programmes. John asked all present to inform him about hidden collections of English chapbooks. He proposed that the Section initiate a

small project by distributing a questionnaire. Susan asked him to bring forward a written proposal. Henry Snyder offered to send a list out of the ESTC.

- Susan proposed that the programme for the *2007 Durban World Congress* would be planned in close co-operation with the Preservation and Conservation Section. This includes a pre-conference and a 4-hour conference session. The general theme will be "Preservation in African Collections". Arrangements will be made during this conference and will be presented at the second business meeting. The members agreed with these plans and procedures.

- On Wednesday Susan and Jan will discuss the *Illicit traffic* of books and other documentary heritage with the president of the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers, other IFLA Sections and Sjoerd Koopman of IFLA Headquarters. They will report on it at the second business meeting.

11. Jan explained the arrangements for the Section's *Excursion to the Jikji Museum*.

Susan adjourned the rest of the agenda to the second business meeting.

Standing Committee Meeting II, 25 August 2006

Minutes

Members, Honorary Members and Corresponding Members present:
Susan M. Allen (chair), Jan Bos (secretary/treasurer), Björn Dal, Mark Dimunation, Joana Escobedo, Sirkka Havu, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, HyeEun Lee, Monika Linder, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Andrey Serkov, Bettina Wagner

Observers:

Per Cullhed (Sweden), Graham Jefcoate (Netherlands), Johan Mannerheim (Sweden), John Meriton (UK), Hartmut Walravens (Germany)

Before the meeting HyeEun Lee distributed nice presents from the National Library of Korea.

Susan *re-opened* the meeting. She added one more item to the agenda: suggestions for the *Programme for Quebec 2008*, which was discussed immediately.

Richard Landon depicted *Quebec* as a beautiful "European" city in the French style. Quebec holds many historical collections. The first Canadian press was set up there. The *Institute for the History of the Book in Canada* will certainly be interested in our programme. There might be a contrast

between English Canada and French Canada. Richard offered to act as liaison person. He suggested that the programme focus on the New World. Alice proposed that it focus on manuscripts in particular, e.g. on indigenous manuscripts of Canada. The native traditions, however, are mainly oral. We could also try to organise a joint pre-conference with the Geography and Maps section. Marcia Reed will contact this Section to find out if they are interested. Hartmut Walravens proposed a joint pre-conference with the Newspapers Section, e.g. on best practises in digitization. Jan suggested a mid-term meeting on this topic in The Hague in the spring of 2008. Mark Dimunation offered Washington D.C. as location for a 2008 pre-conference. Other options might be Montreal, Toronto or Quebec itself. Marie Korey is willing to investigate these options, if necessary. From the point of view of sponsorship, it may be preferable to select another city than Quebec. Richard and Marie, Alice, Mark, Marcia (Chair of the organising committee) and Monica Linder offered to form an organising committee for the Quebec 2008 activities, together with the new officers to be elected in 2007. The question of sponsorship of mid-term meetings and pre-conferences arose. What is IFLA's policy? Would we be able to receive some funding from the Delmas Foundation? From a vendor? Jan will check on this at IFLA headquarters.

10. *New Business (continued)*

- Susan reported on the arrangements with the Preservation and Conservation Section for a *joint pre-conference and a joint 4-hours session in Durban*. The topic of the 4-hour conference session will be *Preservation in African Collections: Perspectives and case studies*. The session will be divided into two parts: "Perspectives on African Culture and Heritage" and "Perspectives on Preservation in Africa". The major part of the programme is fixed already. Keynote speakers include Adame Samassekou (President de l'Academie des langues africaines), Kay Raseroka (University of Botswana and former president of IFLA) and Francis Marie Zogo (Director of the National Library of Benin). The pre-conference will probably take place on the 15th and 16th of August and will deal with more practical questions regarding the preservation of the African heritage. The theme will be *Dust, mould and integrated pest management in Heritage Collections*. Several speakers have been named or even approached already. The Preservation and Conservation Section is taking care of the major part of the organising work. The RBMS Section will be co-sponsor and will provide names of possible speakers.

The SC members agreed with all the arrangements. It was noted that the Art Libraries Section will organise a session on indigenous cultures. There were some suggestions as to visits organised by the Section, but there are not too many libraries in and around Durban with rare books and manuscripts collections. If the occasion arises, Jan will take action.

- Susan reported on the *discussion with ILAB on illicit traffic*. The main

outcome was that it should be investigated if the "Guidelines for the Security of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Other Special Collections" of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the American Library Association, could be endorsed by IFLA, and thus become the universal standard. Susan asked all members to study and comment on these Guidelines, which can be found at <http://www.rbms.org>. She proposed putting the recommendation to IFLA Headquarters to endorse these Guidelines, on our agenda for next year.

There was ample discussion about building and maintaining a database of stolen materials, possibly in collaboration with ILAB. Susan stressed that from her experience the practical implications would be prohibitive. But she will contact OCLC to find out if it would be possible to use WorldCat to establish a list of stolen books.

- The Section's *session on Monday* was evaluated. Everybody agreed that it was successful. There were some 140 attendances. The programme was well balanced and received many positive reactions. The paper by Izumi Koide, "Picturing Westernization and Modernization: A Woodblock Print Collection from Late 19th Century Japan", will be nominated for publication in *IFLA-Journal*.

11. *Old business (continued)*

- The visit to the Jikji Museum was very pleasant and instructive. It was proposed to send emails of acknowledgment to the director of the Museum. The financial surplus (€ 46.-) will be added to the Section's budget.

12. In the "*Round Robin*" lots of new projects, exhibitions, conferences and other activities were presented. Jan encouraged the members to send all their announcements to the Newsletter as well.

13. Jan has been invited to represent IFLA in the *UNESCO Memory of the World Register Subcommittee*.

14. Susan closed the meeting, thanking all present for their input and wishing them a safe trip home.

The texts of the Workshop are at IFLA website
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm>

Report on the Pre-Conference in Hangzhou

A Wonderful Seminar with an Unforgettable Gathering

– A Record of the 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference in Hangzhou, China

The 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference in Hangzhou, which took place on Aug.14-16, 2006, came to a successful and satisfactory close. This pre-

conference was lauded by all the participants. Our chair, Dr. Susan M. Allen said that it was one of the largest pre-conferences in IFLA RBMS history. There were 158 participants from twelve countries and regions of Asia, America, Europe and Oceania. Altogether sixty-three papers concentrated on the subject of "Chinese Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and Library Work". Fifteen people made welcoming speeches, keynote addresses and paper presentations, including our chair Dr. Allen, Mr. Yang Jianxin, Director of the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government, Dr. Marian Koren, on behalf of IFLA, Dr. Zhan Furui, Director of the China Society for Library Science and Director of China National Library, and Dr. Jan Bos, secretary of RBMS, who made a wrap up speech. There was also an exhibition on China's Ancient Libraries, a cultural evening at the China Yue Opera where "The Family of the Book Collector" was presented, and two days of visits to see ancient Chinese papermaking, book printing, book binding, damaged rare book and manuscript repair and recovery, the Chinese Writing Brush Museum, and the collection of 15,000 pieces of woodblocks for printing etc. All these speakers and activities made the attendees excited and enthusiastic. Dr. Alice Prochaska, our former chair said: "Everything went so well, and the papers were all fascinating. The rest of the program all fitted so well, too, with the theme of the papers. I learned a great deal about Chinese rare books and print culture, and it was a great pleasure to make contact with you and so many other Chinese colleagues." Dr. Hartmut Walravens, chair of the IFLA Newspaper Section, expressed his feeling in his E-mail: "I can only summarize that you and your colleagues deserve the highest praise for arranging such a wonderful conference; the hospitality was truly magnificent. I also find the several publications that we were given most enlightening." Dr. Bjorn Dal, our Section's Standing Committee Member, said: "After all, it was one of the most interesting conferences I have been visiting ever. It was all very well arranged and all the talking between the participants afterwards was full of enthusiasm. You can be very satisfied with the job done! I'm absolutely honest when I say that I really hope to be able to visit China again. If there will be another conference further on I will do all I can to be able to come!" Prof. Li Guoqing from China Tianjin Library said: "Being an attendant, I have participated in many seminars at home and abroad I compared with the different conferences, no matter on the contents of the announcement or the final program; the welcoming speeches or the keynote speeches, or paper presentation; the pre-print papers or the special cultural evening; the exhibition of the Chinese ancient library or the excursion on the conference theme, it was really worth as an international level conference because of the hosts and sponsor's hard working, the detail planning and good arrangement". Dr. Jan Bos said: "I returned home, still full of sweet memories of our wonderful pre-conference in Hangzhou! It was a magnificent experience. The hospitality, the organization, the welcome speeches, the papers, the visits, the unforgettable cultural evening, the many gifts, everything was perfect." Dr. Susan M Allan said: "The three days of papers and tours were extraordinary, and your many gifts and kindnesses to me and the

other attendees at the meeting were very much appreciated. I will long remember my first visit to China with warmth and happiness. Thank you very much for all that you did to make this important conference a successful event in every way. I hope you will also tell your staff how meaningful it was to us all, and thank them for taking such good care of those of us visiting from other countries. "

Therefore, this pre-conference made a lasting impression on all the attendees.

The title of the pre-conference attracted many participants. The attendees from China believed that this conference theme will have a good result for strong support of the preservation of China's material and non-material cultural heritage and will strongly promote the preservation of rare books and manuscripts in China.

The keynotes and paper presentations were all wonderful and fascinating. During the Pre-conference, three keynotes speeches and nine papers were warmly welcomed by all the attendees. "The papers selected for presentation were high in quality and they reflect the latest development and trends of the study on Chinese printing, Chinese papermaking, Chinese ancient libraries, preservation work on Chinese woodblock for printing, as well as Chinese ancient and rare books preserved by libraries in China and Europe" said Dr. Sim Chuin Peng (from Singapore National University Library).

In a word, almost all the attendees suggested having an official publication of these high quality papers in order to share them with more and more colleagues across the world.

The sites chosen for cultural visits matched the pre-conference. On Aug. 15-16, 2006, we arranged for all the participants to visit the Ancient and Rare Books Department of Zhejiang Library to see the repair and recovery of damaged rare books, traditional papermaking, book printing, and book binding, the 440 years old Tianyi Ge Library, the museum of the Chinese writing brush and 15,000 pieces of woodblocks for printing collected in Jiaye Tang of Zhejiang Library. The arrangement was a great success. Dr. Björn Dal said: "The excursions were extremely important for me as I was able to see this with my own eyes, notice the details in fabrication and enjoy the whole impression. You know, there are in many aspects no similarities between east and west culture of books."

Special Features of the Chinese Ancient Library Exhibition

Many people know that the history of book collecting in China can be traced back 3000 years. Literature, in the form of books and precious materials, was handed down from generation to generation, from dynasty to dynasty. Unfortunately, China has suffered from foreign invasion and internal disturbance in recent centuries and the traditional Chinese ancient libraries have barely survived. According to an uncompleted estimate, there were more than one thousand ancient libraries in Zhejiang Province

during Song dynasty (960-1279AD). Only fourteen of them have survived. Around twenty of them still remain in the whole of China. To support this pre-conference, Zhejiang Library prepared an exhibition, which introduced the surviving fourteen ancient libraries in Zhejiang. The contents of the exhibit showed pictures and a written explanation of each one. The superb exhibit of the beautiful ancient libraries was attractive and a feast for all to see. It added to the enjoyment of the conference. Dr. Jan Bos, our secretary said: "Sorting out my pictures after I returned home, reminded me of the very nice exhibition in the hall of your library. I hope it will be possible to make a small e-publication of it."

The Special Cultural Evening, Local Yue Opera Performance touched everyone's heart

In China, book collecting, which is a good quality of the noble character, has been carried forward from generation to generation. Therefore, there were many stories, which had circulated among the people. "The Story of Fan Family Library (Tianyi Ge Library)" was one of them. The Preparatory Committee of the 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference, arranged for the performance of the Yue Opera with its soft melody of Zhejiang Local Style. This was a great success. Dr. Hartmut Walravens said: "I was at first a little doubtful about the Yue Opera but after the performance I can only congratulate you on including it in the programme. It seems unique that a library story was made the theme of an opera, and when I mentioned this at the Seoul World Library and Information Congress colleagues were extremely interested. I must also say that the cast was excellent and the performers were first rate."

In a word, the 2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference in Hangzhou obtained such a great success, because of its hosts who attached the utmost importance to it, and were supported by the committee members of our Section and the hard-working sponsor and co-organizers. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and many thanks to our chair, Dr. Susan M Allen, to our secretary, Dr. Jan Bos, our Newsletter editor, Dr. Jutta Weber, and all members of the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section.

By Cheng Xiaolan and Lin Zuzao (Zhejiang Library, China)
Completed on Jan.22/2007,
Hangzhou, China

Pictures from the pre-conference are at the Section's homepage.

From the Libraries

Helsinki, National Library of Finland. Sirkka Havu tells on the activities celebrating 300 years of legal deposit:

300th Anniversary of legal deposit copy activities in Finland

This year the National Library of Finland is celebrating the 300th

Anniversary of its legal deposit copy activities. To mark the occasion the library has organized an exhibition depicting the various phases of the legal deposit system as well as the development of the National Library's ideology in Finland.

In 1707 the Academy of Turku's library – Bibliotheca Academiae Aboensis – was granted legal deposit rights to all materials published in the Kingdom of Sweden. These deposit copy regulations, including seemingly "unimportant" ephemera, formed the conceptual basis for a national library for Finland, at that time the eastern province of Sweden.

The idea of establishing a Finnish National Library within the Kingdom of Sweden was most vigorously advocated by Henrik Gabriel Porthan (1739-1804), Professor of Rhetoric (Latin) at the Academy, also known as The Father of Finnish History. In 1780 Porthan stated: "If possible, I will endeavor to subsequently acquire for the Academy's library all that belongs to the nation's Historia Litteraria", and the following year he defined his objectives more specifically: the Academy's library would deposit every book that Finns had published and preserve them for future generations.

Finland became an Autonomous Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire in 1809. That same year the Russian Emperor Alexander affirmed the Imperial Academy of Turku's right to obtain legal deposit copies of all products printed in Finland. Beginning in 1820, all Russian printing presses were required to send two legal deposit copies to Finland. After Finland gained its independence in 1917, its legal deposit regulations were specified in the Freedom of the Press act enacted by the Finnish Parliament in 1919.

Exhibition details:

From Agricola to Donald Duck / Finding it all in the National Collection!

The Legal Deposit Act, 300 Years

National Library of Finland, Unioninkatu 36, Helsinki 00170

30 March – 2 November, library hours

An exhibition catalogue will be published in three languages (Finnish, Swedish, and English). URL:

http://www.lib.helsinki.fi/english/culture/cultureseason_spring2007.htm

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute. Marcia Reed sent in the following details:

The Archive of the International Design Conference in Aspen was recently donated. For more than 50 years, IDCA has served as a forum for designers to discuss and disseminate current developments in the related fields of graphic arts, industrial design, and architecture. Many famous artists, such as Herbert Bayer, Josef Albers, Louis Kahn, Charles Eames, and Buckminster Fuller, have spoken at the annual conferences alongside well-known businessmen.

The Clark Duveen Archive was received from the Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, and will be on deposit at the Getty Research Institute. It supplements and completes the extensive archive on Duveen presently at the Getty Research Institute.

The Josef Capek Collection of 102 Czech Avant-Garde Books and 41 pieces of ephemera, 1915-1969. This donation consists of 102 volumes and 41 pieces of ephemera designed by the Czech avant-garde painter, printmaker and writer, Joseph Capek.

Pierre Rossier, Negretti & Zambra Paper Stereographs of China, 1858-59. Taken by Pierre Rossier in 1858-59 for the London firm of Negretti and Zambra, the eight paper stereographs of scenes from Canton are the first commercial photographs of China.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional. From María Cristina Guillén Bermejo we have news from Spain.

On July 30th, 2006, two projects have been finished in the Biblioteca Nacional de España.

- The General Index of printed books, where the printed books from the XVIIth century to 1830 are described on catalogue cards, is now accessible in Ariadna (the online catalog). More than 100.000 bibliographic records have been introduced from 2002 to nowadays. The catalogue cards have been made since the XIXth century following different cataloguing rules applied in the Biblioteca Nacional (see the digital version of these rules in

<http://www.bne.es/esp/servicios/reglascatalogacion1815-1999.htm>).

- More than 2.000 bibliographic records describing incunabula and post-incunabula held in the Biblioteca Nacional de España are now accessible in Ariadna. These descriptions are taken from the Catálogo General de Incunables en Bibliotecas Españolas, published in 1989-1990 under the direction of Francisco García Craviotto and the two supplements published by Julián Martín Abad in 1991 and 1994. It is possible to select the button labelled "Tipo de documento" and then scroll down to "Incunables" to make easier the search of the books printed in the XVth century.

- In December 2006, the online cataloguing of one of the most important of our manuscripts collections was concluded. It is the whole collection of illuminated and autographed manuscripts under the call number Vitr and Res.

Recent Publications

- Guía de los catálogos impresos de la Biblioteca Nacional / Juan Delgado Casado. – 3^a ed. / redactada por Lourdes Gutiérrez Gutiérrez ; Purificación Lafuente García ; Ana Vicente Navarro. – Madrid : Biblioteca Nacional, 2006

- Joan Lluís Estelrich : inventario de su archivo personal / [elaboración del inventario, introducción e índices, María José Rucio Zamorano]. Madrid

- : Biblioteca Nacional, 2006. (Colección singulares de la Biblioteca Nacional ; 9)
- Seminario de archivos personales (Madrid, 26 a 28 mayo de 2004).
 - Madrid : Biblioteca Nacional, 2006

Other projects in libraries of Spain:

- Biblioteca Real: The current project of the Biblioteca Real is the web catalogue "Encuadernaciones de la Real Biblioteca", in which the important library binding collection is described, classified, studied and, of course, divulged. It is based in the structure and design developed in the British Library database for the same purpose.

Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale. Francesca Niutta sent news from Maria Grazia Villani in the library's Press Office:

Some cultural events in the first semester 2007

A workshop for music. *The Siciliani Collection*

A one-day symposium (12.2.2007) and an exhibition (12.2-7.4.2007) to honour, ten years after his passing, Maestro Francesco Siciliani, one of the most distinguished Twentieth Century artistic directors.

Priceless music editions from his book collection now in the holdings of the national Library of Rome will be on display, and multimedia stations will be set up to enable visitors to access the digitized music sheets.

Seasons of the Twentieth Century - Falqui, Vittorini, and the "New Writers"

A day devoted to Enrico Falqui and his role in the literary society of the Twentieth Century celebrating the recent reprint of *Scrittori nuovi* (New Writers), the celebrated anthology he edited jointly with Elio Vittorini. This one-day conference will include a small exhibition of unpublished documents and handwritten papers from Enrico Falqui's own files and library.

The conference (1. 2. 2007) is organized jointly with the University of Chieti and the Twentieth Century Archive of the La Sapienza University.

The Health Workshops. *Medicine and pharmaceuticals before the year 1700* (21.3. – 19. 5. 2007)

The exhibition will provide a historic and scientific overview on the evolution of botany and its applications up until the year 1700 which marked the transition from an empiric culture to the medical and botanical science. The research work of the most important scientific clusters and schools of thought (Salerno Medical School, congregations and religious orders of the Rome area) will be highlighted, along with the activities of distinguished botanists such as Liberato Sabbati, Francesco Maratti, Nicolò Martelli, and Giorgio Bonelli, and the medical and pharmaceutical tradition in Rome with a special emphasis on the scientific impetus from the introduction of plants from the New World.

Exhibitions

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

Art, Anti-Art, Non-Art: Experimentations in the Public Sphere in Post War Japan, 1950-1970 from March 6 through June 3, 2007. At the end of World War II, Japan was left in ruins and in a cultural void. Numerous anti-establishment artistic collaboratives emerged during this period, notably Experimental Workshop, Gutai, Group Ongaku, Tokyo Fluxus, Yomiuri Independent artists, High Red Center, VIVO, and Provoke. These collectives eschewed traditional commercial art practice in favor of radical work that provoked their audience conceptually, politically, and socially. In experimenting with new materials and processes of art making and disruption of conventional art forms, the work of these artists reflected the dramatic changes and disjunctive character of everyday life in Japan over the course of two decades following the war.

Drawn exclusively from the Research Library's holdings, the works presented in *Art, Anti-Art, Non-Art* range from musical scores and photo essays to performance documentation and interactive art kits.

It will be followed by a summer exhibition of Performance Documentation from July 10 through October 7, 2007. This exhibition presents a selection of performance art materials from the 1960s to the present from the collections of the Research Library such as photographs, prints, drawings and videos from art movements such as Fluxus and Viennese Actionism and artists such as Carolee Schneeman, Allan Kaprow, Vito Acconci, and Tony Oursler.

Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional.

"Centenario de Ayala" (September-November). To celebrate Francisco Ayala is 100 years old, this exhibition shows manuscripts and printed editions of his works with pictures and photographs of his life altogether.

"Secundino Zuazo y la arquitectura en el Madrid de la Segunda República" (October-November). The Biblioteca Nacional de España holds the Archive of Zuazo, an important architect of Madrid in the 1930s. This exhibition shows the urban growth of Madrid in the XXth century with plans and photographs of his projects.

"A pesar de todo dibujan: la Guerra Civil vista por los niños" (December 2006-February 2007). To commemorate the 70th anniversary of Spanish Civil War breaking out, this exhibition shows a collection of drawings made by children who lived in camps during the Civil War.

"España y el Mediterráneo: la construcción del espacio" (December 2006-March 2007). Manuscripts, pictures, drawings and scale models show, in this exhibition, the development of civil engineering during the XVIth century.

On February 1st, 2007 the "Museo de la Biblioteca Nacional" has been opened. Museo is a new and permanent cultural space showing the history of the National Library, their collections and the work of librarians and their researches through eight rooms. Also it will offer several activities as workshops, guided visits, conferences, concerts, etc. (see <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/museobiblioteca.htm>)

Madrid, Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

The exhibition "Bibliotheca Mágica" opened last November and will continue till February 28th. Books showing the ancient beliefs about magic, conjures, divination, monsters, etc. give an idea on how scholars explained the cosmos working before the mathematical theories.

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.

Bettina Wagner sent in the following report on a recent exhibition:
Bookbindings from 1000 years in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München

From 28 August until 15 December 2006, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München presented the exhibition *AußenAnsichten. Bucheinbände aus 1000 Jahren* (External views. Bookbindings from 1000 years). The show comprised c. 100 exhibits and illustrated a representative sample of the Library's collection of historical bookbindings. Objects dating from the Carolingian Era up to the 20th century were displayed.

Choice selections from the Library's binding collection have been presented to a general public on several occasions before. In 2001, the exhibition „Prachteinbände 870-1685" attracted large numbers of visitors; the catalogue is out of print. Several of the precious objects shown then were on display again in 2006. In addition, the exhibition provided the opportunity to see bindings acquired by the Library in recent years, among them a medieval girdle book, a baroque binding from the monastery of Ettal, a Parisian Fanfare-binding and several books designed by 20th-century artists. In accordance with the Library's collection, most books were bound in South German workshops. However, the exhibition also included bindings commissioned for Bavarian owners abroad as well as outstanding examples of international styles which influenced local artists. Thus, the regional focus of the Library's holdings was placed in an international perspective.

Richly decorated luxury bindings from the High Middle Ages like the gold book chest of the Uta-Codex were shown alongside bindings created for everyday use: vellum bookcovers ('tacketed bindings'), girdle books and leather bindings with blind-tooled decoration from the Ottonian, Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance periods. Three 15th-century cuir-ciselé bindings were particular highlights. In addition to volumes bound in monasteries and city workshops for monks and humanists, books for the use of eminent and even noble collectors like Jean Grolier, Matthias

Corvinus, the Medici family and François I of France were shown. Amongst the precious objects from the early modern period, three silver bindings and an English silk embroidered binding stood out.

A special emphasis was placed on collections formed in Bavaria by the Augsburg merchant Johann Jakob Fugger, the Nuremberg humanist Hartmann Schedel and the polyglot Orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmanstetter. These were acquired by the Wittelsbach duke Albrecht Vth in the late 16th century when he founded the library which was to become the Bavarian State Library. Two Fugger bindings document the introduction of gold-tooling in Germany, and several books decorated with the portraits and coats of arms of Bavarian princes contrast the use of supralibros plates in Southern Germany with typical Italian presentation bindings given to Bavarian dukes, electors and kings.

Even though high-quality bindings were produced for the Munich court already in the 16th century, bookbinding as a profession developed only slowly. Bookbinding manuals and archival material document standards and practices, while bindings from workshops in South German cities and monasteries illustrate mutual influences. Outstanding examples of international styles were produced in Italy, Austria, Britain and the Netherlands, and in the 20th century, French artists took a leading role in the design of innovative bindings.

The exhibition documented the Library's exceptional collection of historical bindings as well as its numerous activities directed at new acquisitions, preservation and conservation as well as cataloguing and presentation. The exhibition catalogue includes detailed descriptions of each item, a bibliography and an index of binders and provenances: Wagner, Bettina: *Außen-Ansichten : Bucheinbände aus 1000 Jahren aus den Beständen der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek München ; Ausstellung anlässlich der Tagung des Arbeitskreises Einbandforschung 28. August - 15. Dezember 2006.* - Wiesbaden : Harrassowitz, 2006.

Yale, Sterling Memorial Library

March 1st through April 30th, 2007, *Early Women Healers and Health Advocates - Works by Women from the Medical Historical Library Cushing/Whitney Medical Library – Yale University*. Details on this exhibition, displaying works by Hildegard of Bingen, Louise Boursier, Elizabeth Blackwell and others, are at <http://resources.library.yale.edu/online/news.asp>

Yale, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Collecting an Empire: The East India Company (1600-1900) for March 26 through early June 2007, *Trees in Fact and Fable - An Exhibition of Illustrated Books* for April 9 through May 25, 2007.

Events

March 2007

In Leipzig not only the Buchmesse opened on March 21st, 2007 but also the 3. Leipziger Kongress für Information und Bibliothek "Information und Ethik" started on March 19th, 2007. Though the congress was mainly on problems of digitization and library policy, the *AG Handschriften und Alte Drucke der Sektion 4 des DBV* stages an interesting meeting on handling and care of special collections: "Umgang mit historischen Sammlungen". Topics were manuscripts and rare books in library interloan and loan for exhibitions, digitization and cataloguing of manuscripts, and manuscripts and special collections in the education of librarians. Details on the programme: <http://www.bid-kongress2007.de/>.

April 2007

"At the Turn of the Centuries: The Influence of Early 20th Century Book Arts on Contemporary Artists' Books" is the title of a one-day conference to be held on the campus of Yale University on April 13th, 2007. The programme can be found at <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/centuries> .

May 2007

Two workshops will be held in Philadelphia on May 11th, and May 12th, 2007:

Disaster Mitigation for Cultural Collections: Risk Assessment and Crisis Communication and *Protecting Cultural Collections: Emergency Preparedness and Response*. Lead speaker on both occasions is Julie Page, Preservation Librarian for the University of California, San Diego Libraries, and coordinator for the statewide California Preservation Program and SILDRN (San Diego/Imperial County Libraries Disaster Response Network). Details: <http://www.ccaha.org/>.

June 2007

The 48th annual RBMS Pre-conference, *From Here to Ephemerality: Fugitive Sources in Libraries, Archives, and Museums*, will be held from June 19th to June 22nd, 2007, in Baltimore, Maryland. Full programme and details on the conference are at <http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/RBMS/index.html>

October 2007

This year's annual conference of the American Printing History Association will be held at University of California, Los Angeles on October 11th -13th, 2007 and will be on *Transformations: The Persistence of Aldus Manutius*. Full details on the programme are not yet out (21-3-07) but there is some information at www.printinghistory.org where you can also find the call for papers.

The annual meeting of *Arbeitskreis für die Erfassung und Erschließung*

Historischer Bucheinbände will be in Wolfenbüttel starting October 18th and going through October 20th. Programme details will be available at <http://aeb.sbb.spk-berlin.de/> soon.

November 2007

"Architecture in the digital age: a question of memory" is the title of a conference in Paris, 8th – 10th November 2007. It is on the long-term preservation and use of architects' digital archives and will be held at Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine and at the Institut national d'histoire de l'art. A first call for papers was issued in March. More details can be found at www.architecturearchives.net where you can find a database on archives, museums and libraries holding material on architecture.

Projects

Topography of the Book Trade in the Habsburg Monarchy 1750 – 1850 is a project by Gesellschaft für Buchforschung in Österreich. A database at the Gesellschaft was implemented in 1998, and lists now over 3000 enterprises. The dates for Vienna have been completed and will be published in a new series by Harrasowitz Verlag. More details on this project can be found at http://www.buchforschung.at/content_en/projekte.php.

In December 2006, a meeting of *MICHAEL* (Museums, libraries and archives online - Multilingual inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe) took place in Rome. There for the first time three inventories were put together to form the European portal: You can now use one portal for France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Other countries will join in 2007. Details on MICHAEL are on <http://www.michael-culture.org/en/home>.

Also in December 2006, Bettina Wagner sent (on behalf of Professor Kugler from Institut für Germanistik at University of Erlangen) information on a new project about a Nuremberg library: "We would like to introduce to you the new project "Dokumentierende Rekonstruktion des Bibliotheksbestandes des Nürnberger Katharinenklosters" ("A documented reconstruction of the library of the Katharinenkloster at Nuremberg") sponsored by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). This project, begun in April 2006, is housed at the institute for German medieval philology (director Prof. Hartmut Kugler) of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg (<http://www.germanistenverzeichnis.phil.uni-erlangen.de/altgermanistik/projekte.html>). It is the aim of the project to reconstruct with the help of a databank the medieval library of the Dominican cloister as well as the use of the books during the readings in refectory. It will be possible to exploit the databank according to different categories, for example the medieval signature of a given book or its writer. Thus, the databank will give the opportunity to do research in

many topics, not only literary history, but also library, cultural, ecclesiastical, and liturgical history. Furthermore, the data available will be presented in a printed version. Since we would like to reconstruct the items of the library in a way as complete as possible, we will be very grateful for further indications of manuscripts stemming from the Katharinenkloster at Nuremberg. These could also be manuscripts from the Dominican abbeys at Tulln, Pforzheim, Bamberg, Altenhohenau, Gotteszell, Regensburg, Medingen, Engelthal, and Schönensteinbach which were in close contact with the Katharinenkloster at Nuremberg."

In Germany, Kulturstiftung des Bundes und Kulturstiftung der Länder, launched a new programme for conservation and restoration of movable objects: "KUR – Programm zur Konservierung und Restaurierung von mobilem Kulturgut". To find details on this programme go to <http://www.kulturstiftung-des-bundes.de/>.

Biblioteka Uniwersytecka we Wrocławiu is looking for sponsors for a project to digitize all catalogues available of the Wrocławian publishing firm Wilhelm Gottlieb Korn. The catalogues mirror the book production of Korn as well as the books imported by the bookseller from all over the world. The publishing house started work as early as 1732 and soon published books both in German and in the Polish language. More details are at <http://www.bu.uni.wroc.pl/wydawnictwo/korn.html> or in an article "Die "Bücher-Brücke" der Familie Korn" written by Marian Pacholak, librarian at Wrocław University Library, in *Gross Wartenberger Heimatblatt* - 2006, nr 2, s. 1-2.

In our newsletter Winter 2003 we published a short note on Bibliotheca Amploniana Erfurt (From the Libraries: paper edition p. 13, online edition p. 20). Now we can tell you that the project just opened its own homepage: <http://www.uni-erfurt.de/amploniana/>. Here you can find interesting news about the project, contents of lectures on the Amploniana, some scans of manuscripts from the collection and bibliographical material. The catalogue of Amploniana manuscripts by Wilhelm Schum (Berlin, 1887) is now online, too.

Publications

Two new journals from libraries in Germany started publication recently: one is *Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte* and the other one *Bibliotheksmagazin. Mitteilungen aus den Staatsbibliotheken in Berlin und München* you might know under a slightly different title as *Bibliotheksmagazin. Mitteilungen aus der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*.

Zeitschrift für Ideengeschichte was published for the first time in February and is a joint venture of Ulrich Raulff, director of Deutsches Literaturarchiv

Marbach, Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer, director of Herzog-August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, and Hellmut Th. Seemann, president of Klassik-Stiftung Weimar. The journal is published by Verlag C. H. Beck. There will be 3 issues per annum, each of those with a leading theme. Volume 1 was on "Alte Hüte", volume 2 on "Anfänger", and volume 3 on "Die Rückkehr der Wahrheit". A look at <http://www.z-i-g.de/> will give you an idea (!) on what you can expect from the journal.

Bibliotheksmagazin will be the journal of both the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek at Munich and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz and will report on events, projects and holdings of the two libraries. There is a paper edition; however, you can read the magazine online, too. Just go to <http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/deutsch/bibliotheksmagazin/>.

Rare Books Newsletter 79, issued February 2007, had a report by John Meriton on the SC meetings and the Open Session of our Section in Seoul (pp. 51-52).

Paris Bibliothèque Nationale has recently published a catalogue of the collection of 3240 dealers' catalogues in the BNP: Lesage, Claire: Catalogues de libraires : 1473 - 1810 / catalogue rédigé par Claire Lesage, Ève Netchine et Véronique Sarrazin - Paris : Bibliothèque Nationale de France, 2006. - 632 S. More details at <http://editions.bnf.fr/fiche.aspx?id=2006350067>

Cooperation

Commitment to Special Collections in European Research Libraries

In November 2005 an international workshop was held in Weimar, Germany, on Special Collections in the 21st Century. The workshop was organised by the Anna Amalia Bibliothek (Weimar), the Initiative Fortbildung für wissenschaftliche Bibliotheken (Berlin) and Nijmegen University Library. A follow-up workshop was held at Berlin in September 2006: 'Moving special collections to the centre: a workshop for special collections administrators and curators'.

One of the most pressing topics at the workshops was how special collections can be moved up the agenda of parent institutions (and more widely). The work of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in the United States was seen as a possible model. The ARL statement on 'Research libraries and the commitment to special collections' (2003), for example, was regarded by many as a *de facto* benchmark for special collections policy and practice in North America.

With the support and encouragement of the LIBER Board, an informal working group with members from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK

has drafted a statement from a European perspective. The text was drawn up by Graham Jefcoate (Nijmegen) in cooperation with Michael Knoche and Jürgen Weber (Weimar) and David Pearson (London), and with significant contributions from Jan Bos (The Hague), Jutta Weber (Berlin), Bettina Wagner and Claudia Fabian (Munich), Dorothea Sommer (Halle) and others.

The text of the draft is as follows:

Draft Statement: European Research Libraries and their Commitment to Special Collections

Most academic and research libraries in Europe hold collections of rare and special materials, which may be variously defined. These encompass a wide range of documentary formats and other media, including historic and modern books, manuscripts and archives, music and maps, ephemera, photographs and sound recordings, and digital archives. Many of them represent primary sources, essential for research across a range of disciplines, or significant accumulations of materials relating to particular topics. They may have artistic, historic or research importance beyond their purely textual content that justifies their preservation as artefacts whatever surrogates may be available. They provide important evidence for our material, intellectual and cultural heritage and reflect our human diversity.

Members of the Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER), in common with other academic and research libraries internationally, recognise the value and the particular obligations that the stewardship of these special collections represents. We collect, preserve and provide access to them on behalf of our parent institutions and also to serve the needs of international scholarship. We regard these collections and our commitment to them as crucial to the fulfilment of our mission.

In recognition of the obligations associated with special collections, members of LIBER therefore commit to the following principles:

- To ensure that the crucial importance of special collections to the missions of our libraries is clearly stated and widely understood;
- To include special collections in overall strategic planning and library development;
- To continue to build special collections, including new collections where appropriate, in line with institutional collection development policies and other commitments;
- To focus on the needs of users; to consult and collaborate with scholars and other user communities wherever appropriate;
- To recognise the need to provide appropriate levels of funding for the proper maintenance and preservation of special collections and for enabling the widest possible access to them for users;

- To provide adequate information about the materials held in special collections for users and to make as much information as possible about our special collections accessible online, following established guidelines;
- To ensure the proper security of special collections and to ensure they are stored in conditions that are environmentally sound, following established guidelines;
- To work collaboratively with appropriate partners on matters relating to collection building, preservation and improving access, including the digitisation of materials and the provision of metadata to appropriate standards;
- To stimulate contacts with other memory institutions (including museums and archives) in order to exchange ideas, develop best practice and promote practical cooperation in the interest of users;
- To ensure that awareness of the significance of special collections is preserved and enhanced among young professionals, and especially by offering training opportunities and support wherever possible;
- To inform stakeholders in parent institutions and the wider communities we serve about the obligations represented by the stewardship of special collections.

We are seeking your feedback!

For further information and the feedback form see:

http://www.ru.nl/ubn/nieuws/commitment_to/commitment_to?mode=addReactie&ShwReactions=true

Please note, that the closing date for your comments is 30 April 2007.

Web News

FotoBibl - Biobibliografie zur Fotografie in Österreich is a database hosted by Albertina Museum Vienna. Timm Starl, Austrian photohistorian, who initiated the database in 1995, has started in 2006 going through non-Austrian journals and magazines to find biographical and bibliographical material on Austrian photographers. The database was last updated in November 2006 and has now about 20.000 entries. It is not only possible to look up photographers but you can search the source material of the database as well and find interesting titles of exhibition catalogues (e.g. "Ballon-Photographie-Ausstellung 1907 – 1908, Ausst.-Kat., Wien: Langer & Comp., 1907", but also catalogues of the World exhibitions) and other book material. For more details go to <http://alt.albertina.at/d/fotobibl/ueber.html>.

In November, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek and Studienbibliothek Dillingen launched a website with medieval manuscript fragments from Dillingen. 28 parchment fragments dating from the 8th to the 16th century are now available online for research. Together with all Dillingen manuscripts they have been catalogued, and whenever necessary also restored at Handschriftenzentrum der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek. The small collection is quite remarkable. 13 fragments derive from the 8th and 9th century, among them texts by St. Augustine, from the so-called Fredegard chronicle, from medical manuscripts, and from an old Alamannic translation of the psalms. Of special interest for experts in German Studies are some verses from "Wartburgkrieg" written on a leaf of the famous "Jenaer Liederhandschrift", not to mention fragments of Wolfram von Eschenbach "Willehalm" or Gottfried von Straßburgs "Tristan". The idea to digitize the fragments arose when Handschriftenzentrum catalogued all Dillingen medieval manuscripts in a project sponsored by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. The results of this cataloguing work have been published in a special catalogue: Wunderle, Elisabeth: Katalog der mittelalterlichen Handschriften der Studienbibliothek Dillingen Wiesbaden : Harrassowitz, 2006. XXXVIII, 570 S., ISBN 978-3-447-05388-4 . One of the most important findings during cataloguing the manuscripts was that of an up to now unknown fragment of a medical text dating from the end of the 8th century.

The descriptions of the items in the online catalogue of Bayerische Staatsbibliothek come from the above mentioned catalogue and lead directly to the digitized texts.

For finding the fragments go to www.bndlg.de/~studbib or to www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/handschriften, either.

The Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania has published the results of a questionnaire survey on Rare Book Collections in their newsletter in November 2006. The CDNLAO – newsletter is published by the National Diet Library in Tokyo and you can find the special issue under <http://www.ndl.go.jp/en/publication/cdnla0/057/57ind.html>.

A reminder: It is always useful to have a look at <http://www.biobibdata.net/> as this site of biographical and bibliographical data is updated regularly with news on the book in Belgium.

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alte Drucke beim GBV* has recently updated its bibliography on databases and reference works on printers and publishers. It is very helpful not only to find the titles of printed bibliographies but also for the addresses of databases. Details at <http://aad.gbv.de/ressourcen/listeDV.htm> .

CERL Thesaurus has a new interface since August last year. In February, after the latest update, the thesaurus comprises 650,043 records. URL: <http://cerl.sub.uni-goettingen.de/ct/>. More news on recent additions to CERL databases and activities are at <http://www.cerl.org/news.htm>.

From the Editors

As you may have read in the minutes above the newsletter does not need to be published in a print version any more. We have therefore decided that we start with this issue to promote the newsletter only in an online version, visible to those who are accustomed to look from time to time at the RBM section's website.

We have also thought about how the newsletter might be known to and read by those who are not visitors of our website: Therefore we suggest

1. linking the newsletter to a largely visible point at your own website
2. informing your readers about the newsletter in other due ways, e.g. by putting information about it in your reading areas.

We are happy about this new issue of the newsletter: It contains a lot of information about ongoing activities in our sector, there is a widespread number of contributors this time and we are especially happy to have been able to include the draft of the Commitment to Special Collections in European Research Libraries. Please do contribute to the finalisation of that fine paper.

Wishing everyone good days, be it winter or summer, and hoping to meet many of you in Durban,

Best regards,

Jutta and Regina

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