



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

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

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People



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From the Editors

As Jutta Weber and Regina Mahlke from the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin have ceased to be responsible for the newsletter, the present edition has been prepared by Chantal Keijsper and Bettina Wagner. Chantal has kindly agreed to take on the responsibilities of Information Coordinator and Newsletter editor in future. We are very grateful for her support!

The newsletter will only be published in electronic format in future. This gives us the opportunity to include illustrations in the text and thus to enhance the visual attractiveness of the newsletter.

So please keep sending us texts, and if you can, include a digital image, too!

IFLA 73rd General Conference and Council in Durban 2007

"Libraries for the future: Progress, Development and Partnerships" was the motto for the conference in Durban, South Africa from 19-23 August 2007. The session programme on Wednesday 22 August was jointly organized with the Section for Preservation and Conservation and had the theme '*Preservation in African collections: perspectives and case studies*'.



The following papers were included:

- Perspectives on African culture and heritage
ADAMA SAMASSEKOU (Académie Africaine des Langues, Mali)
- Memory and national identity
IAGUBA DJALO (Bibliothèque publique INEP, Bissau, Guinée-Bissau)
- Memory and national identity
KAY RASEROKA (University of Botswana Library Services, Gaborone, Botswana)
- International Library of African Music. Collection and efforts toward preservation and digitization
DIANE THRAM (International Library of African Music, Grahamstown, South Africa)
- Manuscript cooperation in Timbuktu
ALEXIO MOTSI (National Archives and Records Service, Pretoria, South Africa)
- The McGregor Museum's Photographic Collections with a special emphasis on the historic negatives
ROBERT HART (McGregor Museum, Kimberley, South Africa)
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the Boer War in South Africa: Conservation and digitization of an unique photographic collection in University Library Lausanne
DANIELLE MINCIO (Bibliothèque cantonale et universitaire Unithèque, Lausanne, Suisse)
- Bleek Collection. Overview and preservation efforts.
PIPPA SKOTNES (Michaelis Art School of the University of Cape Town, Cape Town, South Africa)

Some papers are available on the conference CD-ROM and on IFLANET:
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla73/Programme2007.htm>.



The World Library and Information Congress in Durban, South Africa

*A report by Jan Bos, National Library of the Netherlands
and former Secretary of the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section*

The WLIC was very well organised. The location in South Africa set a clear mark on the content, entourage and atmosphere of the programme. South Africa's recent history played an important part in the impressive opening, thanks to speakers such as IFLA president Alex Byrne, Dr Z. Pallo Jordan, Minister of Arts and Culture, and in particular to keynote speaker Justice Albie Sachs. Swinging African dance and songs were abundant during the receptions and social and cultural events. And many sessions focused especially on African libraries, collections, circumstances and phenomena, such as the intellectual property of oral traditions, African national bibliographies, African information networks and the like.



Programme

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, together with the Preservation and Conservation Section, organised the programme *Preservation in African Collections: Perspectives and Case Studies*. Two highly reputable speakers, Adama Samassekou (Mali), president of the Académie Africaine des Langues, and Kay Raseroka (Botswana), former president of IFLA, described the developments that threaten the survival of African languages and cultures. But they also gave examples of initiatives in several countries to preserve the African heritage in both simple and advanced ways. Returning elements in their speeches were concepts like national identity, international standards, partnerships, contextualisation and the cooperation between libraries, archives and museums.

A very fine example of cooperation within Africa was presented by Alexio Motsi (National Archives of South Africa). His institution's expertise is being used to give guidance to a manuscripts conservation project in Timbuktu, Mali. Incidentally, Timbuktu proves to be a very rich find-spot of manuscripts, both in libraries and in private collections. The oldest ones date back to the 15th century. Some of them have been written with Arabic characters in local African languages on imported European paper.



Preconference

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section was also co-organiser of the IFLA preconference *Mould, Pests and Dust: Preservation Policies and Management* in Durban on 15 and 16 August. The conference was attended by some 60 participants; 45 of them came from South Africa. The meeting was divided in three workshops of a very applied nature: how, in day to day practice, to prevent, recognise and control dirt, termites, bookworms, silverfish,

mould, etcetera.

Thanks to the great expertise and didactical qualities of the three main speakers, Helen Lloyd (National Trust, UK), David Pinniger (DBP Entomology, UK) and Diana Vogt-O'Connor (Library of Congress, USA), this was a very lively, interesting and successful preconference. One very important lesson: you should only accept large collections – however interesting they may be – after thorough examination of the physical state of the books or manuscripts, and under the condition of a (financially covered) preservation and conservation plan.



Business meetings

During the business meetings of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Standing Committee the recent LIBER Statement “European Research Libraries and their Commitment to Special Collections” (<http://www.libereurope.eu/node/166>) was unanimously endorsed. Parts of the phrasing of this text had been taken from a similar ALA statement, other parts from our Section’s brochure.

IFLA Headquarters and K.G. Saur Verlag have decided to publish a selection of the papers presented during our preconference on *Chinese Written and Printed Cultural Heritage* in Hangzhou, China, in 2006. The editing process has started.

Among the 38 new inscriptions on the *Memory of the World Register* are *El Primer Nueva Coronica y Buen Gobierno*, which was subject of a paper by Ivan Boserup during our Section’s programme in Buenos Aires in 2004, and the South African *Criminal Court Case No. 253/1963 (State versus N. Mandela and Others)*.

Susan Allen and Jan Bos resigned their positions as chair and secretary respectively, to be succeeded by Bettina Wagner (Germany) and Marcia Reed (USA), who were elected by acclamation.

Personal note

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Standing Committee for their support and friendship over many years. It has been a great pleasure to know and meet so many erudite, experienced and open-minded colleagues from different parts of the world, and to discuss with them a range of issues relating to the global cultural and documentary heritage. I’ve learned a lot, and I wish each and every one of them individually as well as the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section as a whole: all the best.

Jan Bos

And a personal note from his successors...

Over the last months, Jan has been extremely helpful in the process of taking over IFLA business – which involved more administration than we expected, but was also much more fun. His commitment to IFLA RBMS even extended so far that he travelled all the way to Australia to the UNESCO conference in Canberra (see below p. 13) with the updated version of the IFLA section leaflet in his luggage! His assistance has been highly appreciated, and we hope that he will stay involved in IFLA business in the future.

Bettina and Marcia

IFLA 73rd General Conference and Council in Québec 2008

A call for papers was issued for the section programme at the Québec conference which will be held from 10-15 August 2008:

Session Theme:

Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge: Documents of Exploration, Discovery, and Travel

The IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section invites librarians, researchers and others involved in this area of work to express their interest in making presentations at the Section's programme in Québec.

As the boundaries of the known world expand with explorations of land, sea, space, and parallel scientific experimentation, likewise institutional collections that document voyages, discoveries, scientific initiatives, and collected materials are developing and changing. This session is intended to complement the RBM Preconference on Maps which will be held at the Library of Congress, Washington DC.

Papers at the RBMS session in Québec should focus on records of explorations, diverse types of travel literature, and related documents of discoveries, including new media and electronic records. Materials and collections presented may be in any format (manuscripts, diaries, archives, prints, books, photographs (but excluding maps). They may date from any period, but should constitute a coherent and substantial group, either relating to discoveries made by individual explorers and their teams or from particular regions or periods. Collections may be preserved in a single institution or distributed over several collections. Discussions of a range of different holding institutions, including museums and archives as well as libraries, are encouraged.

Materials presented should be placed in a broader cultural-historical context in order to demonstrate their relevance to a wide range of (academic) subjects and users, taking up the theme of IFLA president Claudia Lux for 2007-9: "Libraries on the Agenda" and the conference theme "Libraries without borders: Navigating towards global understanding". Papers therefore should not only introduce audiences to surviving materials and potentially under-represented collections, but also describe innovative and appropriate methods by which they are made accessible, for example by catalogues, preferably in electronic form (databases, websites) or through digitization projects. Provisions for access should not focus exclusively on historians and other scholars, but also comprise outreach programmes (exhibitions, educational activities) by which a wider group of users can enhance their knowledge of old and new worlds.

The deadline for submissions of proposals was **31 December 2007**.



Pre-conference 2008 at the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Mark Dimunation sent the following information:

Title: Map as Page, Map as Print:

How maps intersect with books and prints – where curators meet

- Concerns and considerations of curators regarding maps in different contexts — pages or prints
- The nature of the map in the digital age and/or digitizing maps
- Security for maps
- Special needs of cartographic materials (descriptive cataloging, access)
- Special discussion and tour of the Library of Congress' Waldseemueller map exhibition

Dates: 1 and ½ day Preconference **6-7 August 2008**

Location: Library of Congress, Washington D.C. , USA

Contact person: Mark G. Dimunation
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Audience: Members of the 2 supporting Sections, American Library Association Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Members and map librarians in general. (approx. 60)

Sponsors: Rare Books and Manuscripts Section with Geography and Map Libraries Section



From the Libraries



Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

In November 2007, the Getty Research Institute welcomed Thomas Gaethgens as director just as the GRI celebrated its 25th anniversary. The Getty Center celebrated its tenth anniversary at the Brentwood site in December 2007.

In the past months there were several notable new acquisitions for the Research Library collections:

- Giovanni Battista Piranesi *Invenzioni Capric di Carceri all acqua forte datte in luce da Giovanni Buzard in Roma Mercante al Corso* or *Capricious Inventions of Prisons in Etching*, Fourteen etchings, c. 1749-1750. This complete first edition, first issue suite of Piranesi's Prisons is a monument of Western printmaking. In striking original condition, the etchings have never been folded or bound. The suite provides extensive insight into Piranesi's experiments with printmaking processes, composition, and perspective during the early years of his career, and they shed light on the development of his view of antiquity, monumentality, and the representation of architecture.
- Galerie Schmela Archive (1957-1992). Founded in Düsseldorf in 1957 by Alfred Schmela (1918-1980), Galerie Schmela was one the most important contemporary art galleries in Germany in the postwar period. Through an innovative and aggressive program of exhibitions, Schmela introduced and promoted innovative European and American artists and fostered collaborations among emerging artists from France, Italy, and Germany. Concentrated on the fifties, sixties, and seventies, the collection comprises business records, thousands of rare exhibition catalogues, invitations, posters and other ephemera, photographs of gallery installations, performances, and works of art, files of critical reviews, and several thousand items of correspondence, many illustrated, to and from artists, collectors, dealers, and critics. Among the artists represented in more than five-hundred letters are Joseph Beuys, Arman, Gerhard Richter, the Zero Group, Hans Haacke, Christo, Lucio Fontana, Robert Indiana, Yves Klein, Gordon Matta-Clark, Robert Morris and Yvonne Rainer, Jean Tinguely, and Richard Tuttle. The archive was acquired because it is a substantial resource for research in the emerging academic field of study of postwar European art.



Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España

Three important manuscripts have been examined or restored by the Department of Preservation and Conservation:

- "Breviari d'amor", a XIV-XVth century manuscript written on paper and decorated with 150 "grisalla" illuminations from the Old and New Testament. Inside the cover some pages of an Aquitan manuscript with musical notation ("pneumas") have been recovered.

- "Poema del Cid", an important manuscript written on parchment in the XIVth century. The former owners / researchers applied chemical products (trying to decipher some sentences). Due to this, the text shows spots and can't be read in some places.
- "Historia Bizantina de Skylitza", one of the more complete manuscripts of this work written in Greek in the XII-XIIIth century and decorated with more than 500 images. This manuscript will be shown in 2008 during *The International Congress on Greek Palaeography* which will be organized in Madrid.

Riverside, Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research, University of California

Henry Snyder, director of UC Riverside's Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research and a tireless advocate of preserving and cataloging California's historical newspapers, has received a National Humanities Medal on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007 in a ceremony at the White House. The medal, presented by President Bush, honors individuals or groups whose work has broadened citizens' engagement with the humanities or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to important resources in the humanities.

Snyder, 78, was recognized for his work on three extensive research projects that document the output of the press of the British Isles and North America in the early modern period:

- The English Short-Title Catalogue, a searchable database of every known publication in England and its dependencies from the birth of the printing press in 1473 to 1800. See <http://estc.ucr.edu/>.
- The California Newspaper Project, which began in 1990 to preserve and index the state's newspapers from 1846, when the first publication appeared, to 1922. See <http://cnp.ucr.edu/>.
- The Catálogo Colectivo de Impresos Latinoamericanos hasta 1851, a searchable database of Spanish- and Portuguese-language publications printed in North and South America, the Caribbean and the Philippines from about 1539 through 1850. See <http://ccila.ucr.edu/>.



Exhibitions



Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

This has been an active time for exhibitions from the Research Library collections. These include “China on Paper: European and Chinese Works from the Late Sixteenth to the Early Nineteenth Century,” on view November 6, 2007 - February 10, 2008, curated by Marcia Reed (GRI) and Paola Demattè (Rhode Island School of Design). Illustrated books, prints, and maps tell the fascinating story of mutual interest and collaborative works produced by Chinese and Europeans from the late sixteenth to the early nineteenth century. Highlights include a rare series of prints of the European Pavilions of the Yuanmingyuan, called the Garden of Perfect Clarity, designed in the mid-eighteenth century by the Milanese architect Giuseppe Castiglione for the Qianlong emperor. Related works explore Anglo-Chinese gardens, the interaction of Chinese philosophy and Christianity, and the cartography and astronomy of the Belgian Jesuit Ferdinand Verbiest, who redesigned the astronomical instruments at the imperial observatory in Beijing. The catalog can be ordered at www.getty.edu.

At the Getty Villa Museum “The Magnificent Piranesi” was displayed from December 6, 2007- March 10, 2008, curated by Louis Marchesano and Marcia Reed. Based on the Research Library’s extensive holdings of Piranesi’s prints and illustrated books, the exhibition presents a synthetic portrait of the extraordinary range of Piranesi’s graphic productions - from heated polemics on the ancients and moderns to the stylish marketing of his wares.

Offsite, an exhibition of photographs, “Julius Shulman’s Los Angeles,” was mounted in the Getty Gallery at the Los Angeles Public Library, October 6, 2007 – January 20, 2008. Featuring 150 rarely seen photographs from the Julius Shulman archive in the Research Library, the exhibition showcases Shulman’s stunning architectural photographs which serve as visual records of Los Angeles’s dramatic evolution and document Shulman’s love for Los Angeles. In San Diego, California, “Drawn to Rome: French Neoclassical Sketchbooks and Prints” principally from the Getty Research Institute collections appeared at the Timken Museum, October 12, 2007 - January 13, 2008.

Several forthcoming spring exhibitions will focus on Research Library collections. “Lessons from Bernard Rudofsky” in the GRI Gallery, March 11- June 8, 2008, co-organized by Wim de Wit (GRI) and Monika Platzer (Architekturzentrum Wien), analyzes his contributions to architecture, anthropology, design, exhibitions, and fashion; “California Video,” March 18- June 8, 2008, in the Getty Museum Temporary Exhibition Pavillion (curated by Glenn Phillips), surveys the history of video art in California and presents major works of single-channel video, video sculpture, and video installation from the late 1960s to the present. Works in the exhibition are from the Long Beach Museum of Art (LBMA) Video Collection, one of the most important and comprehensive single-channel video collections in the country, now held by the Getty Research Institute. Published catalogs of both exhibitions will be listed at www.getty.edu.



Biblioteca Nacional de España
*Custodiamos Todos
los Libros*

**Madrid,
Biblioteca Nacional de España**

La Noche en Blanco ("White Night"), an European cultural event held last September 2007 and dedicated to Medieval literature. The "Poema del Cid" was shown. More information: <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/nocheblanco07.htm>.

From October 2007 to January 2008, the exhibition "Biblioteca Hispánica: Obras maestras de la Biblioteca Nacional de España" shows the most important items (manuscripts, incunabula, rare books, drawings, engravings, pictures, maps and methods of music, etc.) held in the National Library of Spain and selected for the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica. More information and virtual exhibition: <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/bibliotecahispanica.htm>.

From November 27th, 2007 to January 27th, 2008, there was an exhibition titled "Arte en la tipografía y tipografía en el arte". More information: <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/artetipoarte.htm>.

2008 is the year of the 200th anniversary of the "Guerra de la Independencia". In March the National Library of Spain will inaugurate an exhibition called "Miradas sobre la Guerra de Independencia española (1808-1814)", in which a selection of pamphlets and rare serials titles will be shown, originating from the collection of Manuel Gómez Ímaz and purchased by the National Library in 1970.

**Munich,
Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek**

**450 Jahre BSB Bayerische
Staatsbibliothek**

In 2008, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München celebrates the 450th anniversary of its foundation. The library was established with the purchase of the private book collection of the orientalist Johann Albrecht Widmanstetter by the Wittelsbach duke Albrecht Vth in 1558.

The anniversary will be marked by a series of exhibitions covering the founding collections as well as highlights from the library's holdings of rare and special materials:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 2.1. – 27.1.2008 | Liebe, Götter und Dämonen. Wertvolle asiatische Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek (with catalogue) |
| 30.1. – 24.2.2008 | Die Münchner „Corvinen“. Handschriften im UNESCO-Weltdokumentenerbe (with publication) |
| 7.3. – 1.6.2008 | Kulturkosmos der Renaissance. Die Gründung der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek (with catalogue) |
| 9.6. – 6.7.2008 | Musikschätze der Wittelsbacher. Illuminierte Pracht-Chorbücher aus dem 16. Jahrhundert |

9.7. – 10.8.2008	Karten, Kriege, Kurfürsten. Atlanten der Mannheimer Palatina in der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek
18.8. – 14.9.2008	„Alles muss man selber machen!“. Neuerwerbungen für die Sammlung der Maler- und Künstlerbücher
18.9. – 19.10.2008	Illustrierte Künstler-Autographen der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek
23.10. – 16.11.2008	Königliche Geschenke. Ludwig I. und seine Hof- und Staatsbibliothek
20.11. – 23.12.2008	Gold und Glanz der Weihnacht in mittelalterlichen Handschriften

More information on the programme of exhibitions and the accompanying publications, lectures and other events is available under <http://www.bsb-450jahre.de/>.



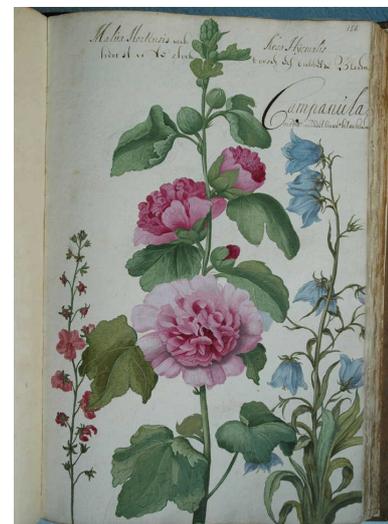
**Oslo,
The National Library of Norway**

In October 200, the National Library of Norway held an exhibition on the publication and reception history of a book first published in 1739 by a the Norwegian baroque writer, Petter Dass, called *Nordlands Trompet (The Trumpet of Nordland)*. The exhibition's aim was to show how changes in the reception of the book through the centuries also changed the book's physical features, such as size, paper, illustrations and binding.

Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma

The most important and successful event in the second half of 2007 was the exhibition *Erbe e speciali. I laboratori della salute (Herbs and Drugs. The Workshops of Health)*, that showed the use of medicinal plants and drugs from antiquity to the 18th century, when the experimental method was definitively applied and medicine and natural history acquired a new scientific status.

The exhibition was coordinated by Margherita Breccia Fratadocchi (BNCR) and arranged with the cooperation of a great number of Italian scientific institutions and universities; it was meant to highlight the evolution of the therapeutic methods through the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma holdings in the realms of botanic and ancient medicine. They mostly come from the monastic libraries suppressed in 1873, after the Italian Unity, the main of which being that of the Collegio Romano dei Gesuiti; in the adjacent spicery medicaments were prepared with the herbs grown in the «Giardino dei Semplici» (Officinal Garden) of the Collegio Romano itself. The focus of the exhibition was the reconstruction of the spicery, with its original furniture, together with manuscripts showing the map of



the Collegio Romano officinal garden and a catalogue of the plants grown in it. The exhibition was a further development of the participation in the project *PLANT: Plantarum aetatis novae tabulae. Medicinal plants in antiquity*, which the Library is carrying forward in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries in Washington, DC, and the National Museum of Natural History. The *PLANT* database will be available on the Internet shortly. (See also Projects, and Publications for the catalogue.)

Events

February 2008

Communities and memories: a global perspective. The third international conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme will be held at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, Australia, Tuesday 19 to Friday 22 February 2008, see <http://www.amw.org.au/mow2008/mow2008.htm>



April 2008

Exhibitions and other events will start for celebrating 500 years of printing in Scotland. A preliminary list of planned events is on <http://www.500yearsofprinting.org/index.php>.



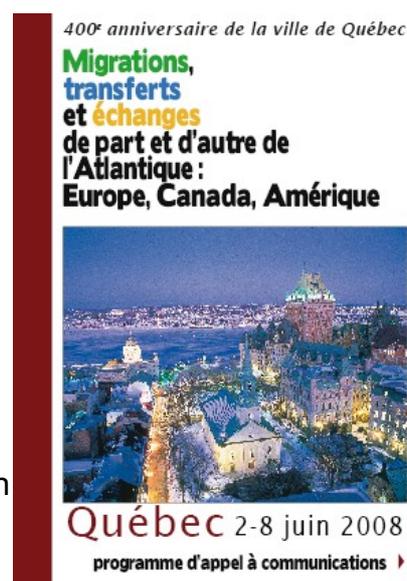
June 2008

400e anniversaire de la ville de Québec
Congrès Migrations, transferts et échanges de part et d'autre de l'Atlantique : Europe, Canada, Amérique

Ville de Québec, du 2 au 8 juin 2008

À l'occasion du 400e anniversaire de la fondation de Québec, le 133e Congrès national des sociétés historiques et scientifiques, organisé par le Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques en coopération avec l'Université Laval, se tiendra dans cette ville. Le thème retenu pour le congrès, « Migrations, échanges et transferts de part et d'autre de l'Atlantique : Europe, Canada, Amérique » correspond à la volonté du CTHS d'inscrire ses travaux dans l'espace de la francophonie et de développer une réflexion féconde sur les liens et les échanges très divers qui se sont établis, depuis quatre siècles, entre les deux rives de l'Atlantique, sur les enrichissements mutuels qui en ont résulté.

Les informations relatives au congrès sont disponibles sur le site www.cths.fr.



June 2008

The 49th RBMS Preconference, **Rare and Special Bytes: Special Collections in the Digital Era**, will be held from Tuesday, June 24 to Friday, June 27, 2008, in Los Angeles, California, a short distance away from Anaheim, the site of the ALA Annual Conference. This year's pre-conference will be co-hosted by the Getty Research Institute and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Digitization is a hot topic in all libraries, but has unique implications for special collections repositories. There is increasing pressure to provide digital objects for the classroom and for researchers in distant locations, yet mass digitization is generally not an option. The recognition among directors of Association of Research Libraries institutions that it is their special collections holdings that distinguish them one from another puts rare book and manuscript collections in a position to be the focal point of high-profile projects. The goal of the Preconference will be to explore the role of special collections in an increasingly digital world, focusing on some of the questions that both excite and vex special collections librarians and archivists. Five plenary sessions will address various aspects of special collections in the digital environment, including intellectual property issues, using digital special collections in the classroom, and mass digitization. In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be eight seminars on topics ranging from cataloging rare books to digitizing photographs, and from collecting materials of cultural communities to blogs.

October 2008

The National Library of Norway will hold a conference on **Nordic book history** in October 2008. More information will be made available on <http://www.nb.no/>.

Projects

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München (BSB) holds the largest collection of incunabula world wide, which currently comprises 9708 editions in nearly 20.000 copies. The collection is described in a printed catalogue (BSB-Ink) which is freely accessible online: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Inkunabeln.181.0.html>.



The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft has recently granted funding for a large-scale digitization of the collection. Over the coming years, one copy of each 15th-century edition held in the BSB will be digitized. It is intended to start digitization with the ca. 1150 incunabula in German and the ca. 680 editions of which the BSB holds the sole surviving copy in a German library. After that, books printed in the German-speaking countries in the 15th century and books printed abroad will be digitized. Illustrations (mainly woodcuts) will be indexed with an iconographic classification system.

The digital reproductions will be made accessible through the electronic catalogue BSB-Ink and other databases (e.g. OPAC, union catalogues). Currently, BSB-Ink online already provides access to digital reproductions of more than 800 incunabula, of which ca. 540 are broadsides. A list of digitized incunabula (by shelfmark only) is accessible via the Index Search: <http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/bsbink/einzelindex.html>.

Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma

The exhibition *Erbe e speciali. I laboratori della salute (Herbs and Drugs. The Workshops of Health*, see above under Exhibitions) was a further development of the participation in the project *PLANT: Plantarum aetatis novae tabulae. Medicinal plants in antiquity*, which the Library is carrying forward in cooperation with the Smithsonian Institution, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries in Washington, DC, and the National Museum of Natural History. The *PLANT* database will be available on the Internet shortly. More information on the project: <http://193.206.215.10/piante/index.html>.

Publications

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

The proceedings of a conference on cataloguing medieval manuscripts, which was held in 2005 at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, have just been published. Contributions are in German, English and French and cover collections of libraries in various European countries:

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (Hg.), Katalogisierung mittelalterlicher Handschriften in internationaler Perspektive Vorträge der Handschriftenbearbeitertagung vom 24. bis 27. Oktober 2005 in München. Bearbeitet von Claudia Fabian und Bettina Wagner. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2007 (Beiträge zum Buch- und Bibliothekswesen 53). More information and a table of contents can be found under http://www.harrassowitz-verlag.de/title_3529.ahtml.

Oslo, The National Library of Norway

Several Several research librarians at the National Library are engaged in research on the library's history and collection history, and collection history elsewhere:

- Elisabeth Eide: *Private book collections in Norway in the 19th century*.
- Anne Eidsfeldt: *The acquisition of history books at the University of Oslo Library from 1817 to 1865 – a collection analysis*.
- Espen Karlsen: *Latin Manuscripts of Medieval Norway. Studies in Memory of Lilli Gjerløw* (ed. Espen Karlsen.). Here Espen Karlsen will present: *Patristic manuscripts 1100–1350*, and together with Gunilla Björkqvall: *Fragments of 13th-century Related Manuscripts in Oslo and Stockholm*.
- Øivind Berg: *The library of The Royal Norwegian Mining Academy (1757-1814) – a collection analysis*.
- Johan Henden: *The University of Oslo Library and its dual function as National Library and University Library the years 1880-1940*.
- Bjørg Dale Spørck: *The collected letters of The Librarian A. C. Drolsum (1846-1927), edited and annotated by Bjørg Dale Spørck*.

Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma (BNCR)

The catalogue of the exhibition *Erbe e speziali. I laboratori della salute (Herbs and Drugs. The Workshops of Health)* (see Exhibitions) was published by the Aboca Museum. It included the following sections: 1) From the early natural remedies to the dawn of pharmaceuticals; 2) Plants from the New World in Rome and Europe; 3) The Botanical Garden in Rome; 4) S. Maria della Scala and Paolino da S. Bartolomeo; 5) The Herbs and Spice Garden at the Collegio Romano dei Gesuiti; 6) Spices and Spiceries in Rome; 7) Quack doctors; 8) Herbs and literature.

Web News

IFLANET

**Rare Books and Manuscripts Section
homepage**

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/index.htm>

The list of international **organizations and projects** related to Rare Books and Manuscripts on the website of the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts section has recently been updated:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/pubs/RareBooksOrganizations.pdf>

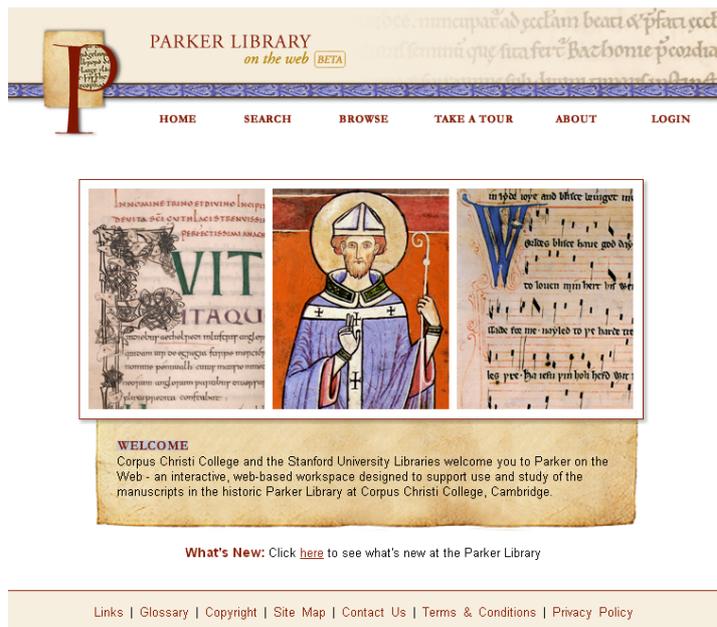
Please visit our website also for information about the section's **Strategic Plan, publications** (including past editions of the newsletter) and the **section leaflet**, which currently is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. German and Italian versions have been prepared by Bettina Wagner and Luisa Buson and will be put online by IFLA headquarters shortly. You can also find the list of current **standing committee members** there – so keep in touch!

Cambridge: Parker on the Web

Corpus Christi College (Cambridge), the Stanford University Libraries, and the University of Cambridge are pleased to announce the release of a beta version of their Parker on the Web service in early October, 2007.

Parker on the Web is an interactive, web-based workspace designed to support research and teaching with the manuscripts of the Parker Library at Corpus. The completed project will include high-resolution images of the Library's 538 manuscripts spanning the 6th to the 16th centuries; a fully-tagged version of M. R. James' descriptive catalog, updated and expanded; plus digitized editions, translations and secondary scholarship. The project is supported by the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The beta site will be freely accessible at least through 2008 at <http://parkerweb.stanford.edu>.



The beta version replaces the prototype made available in 2004, and offers a revamped user interface, enhanced searching and manuscript-viewing capabilities, and expanded metadata, bibliography, and page images for at least fifty manuscripts.

To obtain full access, users will need to register and accept an agreement covering permitted uses. The site's development and content are expected to be complete in late 2009, at which time full access will be available through institutional subscriptions only.

We encourage scholars and students in all relevant disciplines to visit the site, use it freely and frequently, and provide feedback. Instructors or institutions who wish to use the site for teaching or research are especially encouraged to contact the project team. Those seeking additional information, or wishing to communicate about the project are invited to send e-mail to parkerweb@lists.stanford.edu.

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Heidelberg, Universitätsbibliothek

The University Library of Heidelberg digitizes and makes available on the Internet its collection of German manuscripts from the "Bibliotheca Palatina", one of the most valuable collections of Medieval and Early Modern manuscripts. The collection counts 848 codices with approximately 270.000 pages and 7.000 miniatures, most of them not indexed by now. The text pages and illustrations of the codices are interesting for researches in the fields of German Studies, History, Art History, History of Law, History of Medicine, History of Science and Theology and can be consulted online under <http://palatina-digital.uni-hd.de>.



Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España

From March the "Hemeroteca Digital" is accesible at the National Library of Spain web page. This new tool allows one to read 143 titles which comprise 500.000 pages representing a wide variety of Spanish press from 1772 to 1933. It is possible to search it by title, place of publication and dates and also in the text. The images are PDF files with OCR. More information: <http://hemerotecadigital.bne.es/inicio.htm>.

From September the digital version with pdf of the "Inventario General de Manuscritos de la Biblioteca Nacional" with publications from 1953 to 1995 is accesible. 9.500 manuscrits are described and are accessible in the on-line catalogue. More information: <http://www.bne.es/esp/catalogos/inventariomss.htm>.

In December the "Biblioteca Digital Hispánica", the Spanish contribution to The European Digital Library, will be accessible. The most important items held in the National Library of Spain, selected by a group of experts in the history, literature, arts, science, cartography, philosophy, etc., are integrated here with a digital version.

Medieval manuscripts in the Netherlands on the web

The Hague, September 21, 2007 - Today all medieval manuscripts in the Netherlands are available on the website Medieval Manuscripts in Dutch Collections (MMDC), www.mmdc.nl. The website provides a portal to a database with short, uniform descriptions and photographs of all medieval manuscripts in the Netherlands, about 6000 items in all. Jos Biemans, Special Professor of Medieval Manuscript Studies launched the website today in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, by making the first click on the homepage.

Medieval snapshot

Medieval manuscripts provide a fascinating snapshot of the cultural and intellectual life of this period. Until now, information about these manuscripts and the related knowledge and expertise was dispersed, but MMDC brings all of this material together. MMDC has been set up by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the university libraries of Leiden, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Groningen, and the Atheneumbibliotheek Deventer and it is partly financed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).



One website for all manuscripts

MMDC is focussed on creating possibilities for progressive research based on medieval manuscripts, by building a database with uniform descriptions, digital images and links to facsimile editions and subject-specific websites. This way, all the disseminated information about medieval manuscripts in the Netherlands has been brought together and made available through one database. To benefit international use, all information is published in English.

Virtual platform

The website also contains more information on medieval books in the Netherlands. This website will function as a virtual platform for researchers and students in palaeography, art history, philology and other fields. Visitors will find an overview of all Dutch institutions with medieval books, along with information on the history of the collections, contact information and procedures of requesting manuscripts. The website also contains digital versions of several key out-of-print books about medieval manuscripts and an illustrated overview of medieval script.

For questions you can contact Saskia van Bergen, project coordinator Parchment to Portal, tel.: 070-3140430, e-mail: saskia.vanbergen@kb.nl.

Paris, Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève Blind-tooled bookbindings database

The Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève recently published the inventory of its blind-tooled bookbindings in the form of an online database:

<http://bsg-reliures.univ-paris1.fr>.



The technique of blind tooling or blind stamping is the only criterion for inclusion in the corpus without limitation as to chronology or to origin. Four hundred bindings are thus described, identified, indexed and digitized. The oldest are 12th century Roman bindings and the most recent, mid-18th century from the late Baroque period. Searches may use terms related to the works (author, title, place of publication, printer/publisher, copy or printing date), or to the bindings: iconography (ornament, roll, or panel stamp), geographic origin (region, bindery), material and technique. The corpus may also be consulted like a picture gallery of bookbindings. Each record is linked to one or more digitized rubbings. This database has been realized with the collaboration of bookbinding historian Denise Gid. It is a work in progress and will be enriched and expanded as new identifications are made.

Yann Sordet

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Cooperation

LIBER

The Third International Conference of LIBER's Manuscript Librarians Group, **Communicating Manuscripts**, was held in Berlin, 28-30 November 2007. See the website: <http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/liber/program/index.html>.

Especially for the Progress reports from European libraries with manuscripts collections:

Sharing Information in Europe: National Reports ("Backgrounds " and "Progress 2003-2007 ")

<http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/liber/program/session3.html>.

Grants, Scholarships

Erfurt/Gotha Amplonius Research Grant

The Bibliotheca Amploniana, Part of the University and Research Library Erfurt-Gotha, is the largest completely preserved collection of manuscripts written by a late medieval scholar. The medical doctor and scholar Amplonius Rating de Bercka (died approx. 1435) donated the collection to the then University of Erfurt in 1412. The Amploniana contains today more than 2500 manuscripts, incunabula and postincunabula from theology, law, medicine and philosophy. The Catholic-Theological Faculty Erfurt announces two research grants for the summer semester 2008.

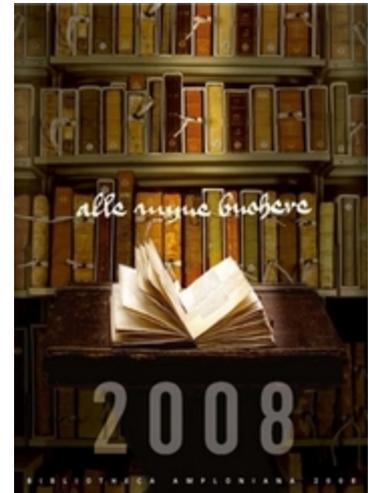
The grants will enable young post doctorate scholars from Germany and abroad to do research for a period of three months in the Amploniana in Erfurt.

Closing dates for applications: February 15, 2008.

Further details:

http://www.uni-erfurt.de/theol/dokumente/amplonius_stipendium_e.pdf

<http://www.uni-erfurt.de/amploniana/>



Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France Séjour 2008 de professionnels étrangers: appel à candidatures

Depuis 2004, dans le cadre du programme d'accueil "Profession culture" mis en place par le ministère français de la culture et de la communication, la Bibliothèque nationale de France a accueilli 34 professionnels étrangers : bibliothécaire, restaurateur, indexeur, musicologue, incunabuliste, numismate, iconographe, phonothécaire, sociologue, etc. Pendant leur séjour (d'une durée moyenne de trois mois), chacun de nos collègues étrangers (logé à titre individuel gratuitement à Paris et recevant une bourse de 1000 euros par mois), épaulé par un tuteur de la BnF, a pu mener des recherches approfondies dans son domaine. Le titre de transport aller-retour pays étranger-Paris est à la charge du candidat (ou de son institution).

Des relations étroites fondées sur l'échange de connaissances se sont ainsi nouées entre nos institutions.

Pour en savoir plus sur le programme "Profession culture" :

http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/international/prof_culture.htm