



Newsletter

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

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IFLA Preconference in Copenhagen Responsible Stewardship towards Cultural Heritage Materials

On 11 and 12 August 2005, the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section organized a preconference to the 71st IFLA World Information and Library Congress. The theme of this conference was *Responsible Stewardship towards Cultural Heritage Materials*. The Kungelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen (Denmark) hosted the gathering; co-sponsors were Bruun-Rasmussen International Auctions and the Museum Tusulanum Press. The conference was attended by 54 participants from 17 countries.

At the end of the meetings Jan Bos, the Section's Secretary, presented the following wrap-up.

Dear colleagues,

I do hope you don't expect me to give a summary of each and every paper that we have heard yesterday and today. Of course that would be impossible. First of all it would do absolutely no justice to the rich and diverging talks that we have heard. Moreover, everyone of you is very well able to make your own abstracts in the way you like best. And in the third place, a conference such as this is more than the sum of its lectures. The discussions, the talks during coffee or lunch breaks, the networking, the getting acquainted with experts in all sorts of areas are quite as important and stimulating as the content of the papers. But that part of the conference can only be mentioned – not summarized. I can only hope that you found it as enjoyable and interesting as I did. So, instead of summarizing, I'll try to draw some lines and to focus on a few points that struck me most. On one of the slides that Theo Vermeulen showed us, he pointed out the aim of some co-operation project in the Netherlands, but at the same time that was the shortest wrap-up one could ever make of any conference: the analysis of trends, the exchange of information and the communication of best practices. And I think this is exactly what we've been doing.

I must admit that I had some mixed feelings at the end of yesterday. We had been talking about legal problems, illicit trade, thefts, fires, war, terrorism and many more disasters. And though I enjoyed the open and sometimes even provocative way these issues were discussed, and the honest feelings of embarrassment that came with some of the examples,

it somehow looked as if the stewardship of cultural heritage would merely bring sadness and sorrow. Of course this can't be the intention, and happily it is not always the case. Today we had some very fine examples of the joy and satisfaction of working with rare books and manuscripts, and in particular of sharing cultural heritage material and our knowledge of it with other librarians, with scholars and students, with the general public and also with other cultures. (Now I'm referring of course to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, which bridges the gap between the Arab world and the European libraries.)

Nevertheless, Kristian Jensen was completely right in saying that we should care for what *might* happen, that risk management is a part of responsible stewardship. I think not one of us can say any longer that he or she is not aware of that. But being aware of these risks is not the same as being able to cope with them. One of the things I learned at this conference is that it is really important to make use of professionals: external consultants, lawyers, security officers (even burglars?) to deal with these problems. No curator, and not even a library director, can at the same time be an expert on preservation and conservation, security matters, illicit trade, digitization standards, database building, web design etc. etc. Maybe Sir Thomas More would have been capable of that –at least in his *Utopia*- but even copies of that book have been stolen and the Louvain edition gets confused with the one from Basel.

Professionalism is one thing, international co-operation and standardization is another. That goes as much for the ratification of international treaties like the Unesco Convention and the Unidroit Convention, as for the participation in the Hand Press Book file of the Consortium of European Research Libraries. It struck me how many recommendations for international communication and cooperation were made: to discover terrorist activities; to co-ordinate the library aid to Iraq (IFLA should do that, René Teygeler said); to identify the provenance of books that are offered for auction or sale; to co-operate between the antiquarian world and the libraries in general (in short, between ILAB and IFLA). Alvan Bregman made a plea for the international adaptation of the ACRL/RBMS Guidelines on the security of rare books and on thefts. Several international options to register stolen books were signalled. International cross searching facilities were mentioned as well as sharing and sometimes reunifying collections by making them digitally available on the Internet. The market for antiquarian books is an international one. And it is clear that internationally operating thieves and terrorists require the same international communication and cooperation by cultural heritage institutions.

I had a look in a dictionary before I came to this conference, to find out the precise meaning of the word "stewardship". One of the definitions was: "The individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others". So stewardship is a responsibility,

and so you might say that “Responsible Stewardship” in the title of this conference, is a pleonasm. Nevertheless, it is quite correct, because I think we do have a double responsibility: the responsibility to preserve the heritage we received from our ancestors and predecessors, to take good care of it and protect it against the many dangers of this world. But also the responsibility to transfer it and make it available to our successors, to the generations to come, so that they may see it, study it and enjoy it as much as we do.

“Good stewards must take a roll of *advocacy* for the collections by speaking up effectively”, Kristian Jensen told us in his opening speech. The speakers have showed themselves good stewards by speaking up. And if they did so “effectively” –and I think they did–, this has been a very fine conference.

Jan Bos

IFLA - 71st General Conference and Council – Oslo 2005

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Standing Committee Meeting I, 13 August, Minutes

1. Introductions of those present and regrets from those absent Members and Corresponding Members present:

Susan M. Allen (chair), Jan Bos (secretary/treasurer), Luisa Buson, Björn Dal, Elisabeth Eide, Cristina Guillén, Viveca Halldin Norberg, Sirkka Havu, Kristian Jensen, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, Fabienne Le Bars, Monika Linder, Barbara Paulson, Anna Perälä, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Andrey Serkov, Bettina Wagner, Lin Zuzao.
Observer: Andrew Stephenson (Australia)

Susan *opened* the meeting and welcomed the members of the Standing Committee and the observer.

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Dimunation, François Dupuigneret Desroussilles, Joana Escobedo, Francesca Niutta and Jutta Weber. All present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the agenda

Three items were added to the *Agenda*: Elections, and (under New Business) Cataloguing Standards and a Mid-year meeting. The agenda was then approved.

3. Approval of August 2004 Minutes

The *Minutes* from the Section's meetings in Buenos Aires 2004 were approved as circulated.

4. Financial Report

Jan presented the *Financial Report* September 2004 – August 2005. On 1 September 2004 the Section's bank account showed a credit of € 144,-. The annual contribution by IFLA was € 466,-. So the total income was € 610,-. Expenditures so far: the Preconference fee to IFLA: € 100,- and bank costs: € 14,-. Expected expenditures within this budget year: one-day registration for one of the speakers: € 125,- and bank costs: € 15,-. Remaining credit: € 356,-. However, it was not yet clear if the costs of the preconference could be paid entirely out of the subscription fees from the participants and the contributions *in natura* by the Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen. So some part of the remaining credit might have to be spent on that. The Financial Report was approved.

5. Report of the Coordinating Board Meetings, Collections & Services (Div. V)

Susan expressed the great *Acknowledgement* of the Section to the Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen for their excellent and generous hosting of the preconference. It was decided by acclamation that official letters of gratitude be sent to Erland Kolding Nielsen, Ivan Boserup and Jesper Düring Jørgensen.

Past-Chair, Alice Prochaska, was asked to chair the *Election* procedure. Susan and Jan declared to be willing to be re-elected chair and secretary respectively. There were no other nominations from the floor, and they were re-elected by acclamation.

Susan postponed the report from the *Division Board* meeting to Friday, as this meeting had coincided with the preconference, and, as yet, there was no report.

6. Evaluation of the Section

Jan gave an overview of the *Section Review* procedure. IFLA has initiated these reviews for all Sections, programmes and services to evaluate their usefulness and effectiveness. Before 15 November 2005 the Section has to complete a questionnaire. The first part of this questionnaire deals with factual data over the period 2001 – 2004, such as the number of Section Members and Standing Committee members, the attendance at the Section's Open Sessions, and the number of papers and other publications. The second part is an evaluative self-assessment, which includes a review of achievements, goals, collaboration with other sections, projects, communication, membership development, etc. Several members indicated that the Section's activities had increased over the years, pointing at the recent preconference, the recommendations to UNESCO, the high quality of the Newsletter and the brochures in many languages. Moreover, the number of Standing Committee members and the countries they come from has grown. Next year Susan and Jan will inform the Section on the outcome of the review.

Susan announced the *Section's Programme* on Monday "Embracing the Flood: Managing the 20th Century as the Past" including the papers by Richard Landon, Marcia Reed, Christiane Caemmerer and Elisabeth Eide. She called to mind that the Art Libraries Section had also chosen the 20th century as theme for their programme.

7. Old Business: 2005 Oslo World congress program; Evaluation of the Copenhagen Preconference; Report on the Criteria for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register; Ongoing projects

The *Preconference* in Copenhagen was attended by 55 people from 17 different countries. The evaluation was very positive, both regarding the content and the practical organization. It was considered to have been a very useful, energetic and stimulating event thanks to the diversity of the papers and activities, and the participation of professionals from different areas such as antiquarian booksellers, lawyers, and security officers. Many members had received positive feedback from other participants. Susan thanked the working group in Buenos Aires for the good suggestions it had come up with. She gave thanks to the Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen once more for their tremendous support and to Bruun-Rasmussen International Auctions and the Museum Tusulanum Press for their receptions.

Jan gave a short overview of the activities and recommendations by the working group on the *Criteria for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register*. The final document had also been distributed via the Listserv. It was still unknown if and to what extent UNESCO had accepted the operationalized criteria. The topic led to a short discussion on the role of UNESCO and national libraries in safeguarding cultural heritage in Third World Countries. It was stressed that our Section should strive after more members from Third World Countries as well. At present the Standing Committee has corresponding members from Sierra Leone and Cuba.

Jan reported that the final printed volume of the *Annual Bibliography of the History of the Book and Libraries (ABHB)*, covering the year 2000, is being printed. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek will continue to maintain its electronic equivalent Book History Online (BHO). Springer Verlag has not yet decided on publishing printed volumes on its own.

8. New Business: 2006 Seoul World Congress program planning; Proposal for a 2006 Preconference on Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and Library Work in China, to be held in Zhejiang Library, Hangzhou, China; Additions to the Section's Website; Other New Business

Suggestions for the Section's *next year's Programme* in Seoul included the history of printing in Korea, the history of papermaking, integrating and describing foreign cultures' materials and technology transfer. 'Technology from dawn to present days' could be the umbrella title. A working group was formed, consisting of Bettina, Fabienne, Kristian, Marcia, Monica, Sirkka, Susan and Jan, to elaborate on these themes and to come up with

a proposal to be presented on Friday.

Lin Zuzao presented the ideas and proposals for *next year's Preconference* on "Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and Library Work in China", to be held in Zhejiang Library, Hangzhou (China). The preconference is scheduled for 14-17 August 2006. On the first day 8 to 10 papers will be presented, and there will be a cultural evening with an old Chinese opera. The second and third day are reserved for excursions. Lin Zuzao then answered many questions. The expected number of Chinese and other participants is 30-40 and 120-160 respectively. Most papers will be given by Chinese scholars but there is room for papers by non-Chinese participants. The papers will be available for evaluation before the conference; Jan will be the contact person for this. The conference fee will be of the same size as this year's preconference. Provisions for simultaneous interpretation are being made. There are good flight connections to Seoul.

It was obvious that Zhejiang Library had already done a lot of good preparations and is very willing and motivated to host the event. In the end it was decided that the Section indeed would have this preconference. Lin Zuzao was encouraged to continue the preparations and to keep in touch with Jan, in particular on the papers that will be presented.

9. "Round Robin" reports from business meeting attendees

A *Round Robin* concluded the first session. Jan stressed that the information for the Round Robin should also be sent to our Newsletter.

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Standing Committee Meeting II, 19 August Minutes (continued)

Members and Corresponding Members present:

Susan M. Allen (chair), Jan Bos (secretary/treasurer), Luisa Buson, Björn Dal, Elisabeth Eide, Cristina Guillén, Viveca Halldin Norberg, Sirkka Havu, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, Monika Linder, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Andrey Serkov, Bettina Wagner.

Observers: Cengir Aydin (Turkey), Joanna Ball (UK), Ivan Boserup (Denmark), Anne Christophe (France), Graham Jefcoate (Netherlands), Guiwon Lee (Korea), Rémi Mathis (France).

Susan *opened* the meeting by thanking Elisabeth Eide most warmly for the wonderful evening we had at her house.

10. Report of the Coordinating Board Meetings, Collections & Services (Div. V), continued

She then reported on the *Co-coordinating Board meeting*.

- All Sections were urged to send out calls for papers for their programmes instead of finding speakers only from their own Section

or through their own networks.

- There will be changes in the financial administration. Sections will no longer receive their annual sum in a bank account but should send declarations of their expenses to IFLA Headquarters. The annual sum per Section depends on the number of Section members. Our Section has 120 members. Susan will send out a membership recruitments call to try to increase this number.
- Deficits in IFLA overall finances are being projected.

In connection with her report several questions were asked. What proportion of IFLA income did the Congress provide? Can Section income revenues be used to pay speakers? Why was registration so cumbersome this year? Susan promised to forward these questions to the second Co-ordinating Board meeting.

11. Additions to the Section's WebPages

The next item on the agenda, *Additions to the Section's WebPages*, was moved forward to next year.

12. Cataloguing Standards

Sirkka Havu introduced the issue of *Cataloguing Standards*. The draft revision of ISBD (A) is out. Many people in different countries participated, or commented on this draft. Gunilla Jonsson, Chair of the Cataloguing Section of IFLA, which is home to the ISBD review group, is asking for more comment. Louisa Buson stressed that our Section can't ignore this development and proposed a working group. Thus it was decided that she, Cristina Guillén and Monica Linder would become this group, together with Sirkka, who will be the liaison person with the review group. Sirkka will also send announcements to the Standing Committee members who could not be present. [Some weeks after this meeting Fabienne Le Bars also joined the working group.] Revision of the cataloguing standards for manuscripts is also highly desirable. Monica Linder will be initiator of a working group to deal with this matter.

13. Mid-term meetings

Louisa Buson proposed and advocated *mid-term meetings*. These meetings could stimulate the work on special programmes or other activities and create an opportunity to meet more than just once a year. They would also provide an opportunity to lobby for IFLA in general and for the RBMS Section in particular. And they would raise our profile in IFLA. Susan agreed, but stressed that official business meetings should only take place at the annual conference. Announcements and reports of mid-term meetings should be done on the Section's WebPages and via the listserv. The proposal was generally accepted. Louisa will get in touch with Jan on the arrangement of a mid-term meeting, probably in Italy in early spring.

14. The Seoul programme

Susan reported on the results of the working group on the *Seoul*

programme. Inspired by the Korean invention of printing, the proposed title and theme are “West by East – East by West : Cultural and technological exchange - Old technology, new technology, collecting and describing rare materials”. The programme will focus on the integration of materials from other cultures, in particular the view of countries like Korea and Japan on Western cultures: the “Occidentalism” in the East compared to the Orientalism in the West. There are already several suggestions for speakers, but following the general exhortation that was mentioned earlier, a call for papers will be distributed as well with a 15 November deadline. The proposal to arrange a dinner for all Standing Committee members in Seoul received general support. There will be an official IFLA post-conference tour to the Jikji Early Printing Museum, so it is not very efficient to organize another one just for the Section.

15. A joint 4-hours programme in Durban South Africa in 2007

The Preservation and Conservation Section has proposed to organize a *joint 4-hours programme with our Section in Durban South Africa in 2007*, focusing on the conservation of digital library materials. As this issue is a serious problem in many libraries and co-operation with other sections is very much in line with IFLA President Alex Byrne’s themes, the proposal was warmly accepted. A subcommittee, consisting of Björn Dal, Monica Linder, Louisa Buson and the chair and secretary, was established to keep in touch with the Preservation and Conservation Section and to elaborate the theme.

16. Certificate of Appreciation

A *Certificate of Appreciation* was presented to Viveca Halldin Norberg for all the work she has done for the Section and for IFLA during her eight years of membership on the Standing Committee.

17. Varia

In the second part of the *Round Robin* lots of new projects, exhibitions, conferences and other activities were presented. Jan encouraged the members again to send all their announcements to the Newsletter.

Susan closed the meeting, thanking all present for their contributions. As usual the minutes are a draft that has to be approved in Seoul.

From the Libraries

Helsinki:

Helsinki University Library – the National Library of Finland

In 2006 the name of Helsinki University Library will be changed to the National Library of Finland.

Helsinki University Library has been playing a dual role, as part of the University of Helsinki providing the services for the University but also as the National Library of Finland, and, even today, most of its financing,

about 80 %, comes directly from the Ministry of Education, the remaining 20 % comes from the University. Along with the change of the library's name, the role of the National Library in the provision of national information content and the development of the library network will increase considerably.

Gifts and acquisitions

The library has received a most valuable gift of books, the private library of Professor Heikki A. Reenpää, former Managing Director of the Finnish publishing house Otava. The Reenpää Collection, consisting of 25,000 titles, focuses on old Finnish literature printed in the Swedish period, before 1810. Finnish fiction is also well represented in the gift, *belles lettres* being one of Otava publishing house's main themes. The literary substance and the bibliophilic value of the collection are exceptional because Professor Reenpää, a renowned Finnish bibliophile, has always emphasized the intrinsic material value of books.

The library has purchased two rare books:

- a previously unknown 17th century Finnish hymnal *Yxi wäähä suomenkielinen wirsikirja*. Stockholm: Ignatius Meurer ca 1660
- an extremely rare Psalter from South Germany *Psalterium*. Nürnberg: Friedrich Creussner, non post 1484. There are only two copies extant of this *Psalterium*; the other copy belongs to the British Library'.

(Sirkka Havu, Erikoiskokoelmat / Special collections, Helsingin yliopiston kirjasto / Helsinki University Library)

Madrid:

Projects of the National Library of Spain

In February was presented the Portal Clasicos in the National Library in the web page of the Virtual Library Miguel de Cervantes.

In this institutional portal the National Library shows the editions of the most important spanish authors and some bibliographical jewels as the Poem of Cid, Chacon manuscript with the poems of Gongora and the first editions of Quijote.

The National Library of Spain digitalizes the original materials and the Digital workshop of the University of Alicante applied the information technologies for the creation editions in the web. It is possible search in the text of the image.

Other project was presented in April Digital Press in the National Library. This project began in 1999 to give easy access to the newspaper published at the present time. The newspaper are selected according to the following criteria: they haven't own web page, they are published in different parts of Spain and they are very consulted.

The National Library has inverted 855.000 euros and there are near 40 millions of images. This images were preserved in 26.000 cd-rom and now the most consulted were in a server. This images can't be showed in

Internet because they have copyright.

The last project developed will provide access to the authority file in the web. Until now the web showed the term and the relationships of an authority but not the complete records, and the access was alphabetically only. Now is possible to see the authority record of the terms established with source, variants and validations.

The access has been modified, to search by words in the authority file. Also can be access the authority record linked to the bibliographic record. (María Cristina Guillén Bermejo, Servicio de Manuscritos, Incunables y Raros, Biblioteca Nacional de España)

New York:

Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library acquired an archive of papers from Amos Vogel, avant-garde film curator, educator, and historian who co-founded the New York Film Festival in 1963. The collection includes manuscripts and printed documents related to Vogel's Cinema 16 film club and the New York Film Festival, as well as thousands of notes, photo stills, and promotional materials for films viewed or screened by Vogel, notes and slides from Vogel's university lectures and his film history, *Film as a Subversive Art* (1974). Also in the collection is Vogel's correspondence with several film enthusiasts including John Cage, Elia Kazan, Dwight MacDonald, Arthur Miller, Nelson Rockefeller, and Upton Sinclair.

More at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/news/libraries/2006/2006-01-11.amos_vogel.html

Columbia University's Rare Book and Manuscript Library also acquired the papers of Hubert Henry Harrison (1883–1927), prominent Harlem writer, public speaker, and activist whose work influenced a generation of African American intellectuals and radicals.

Columbia's C. V. Starr East Asian Library was granted \$126,000 for the digitization and online publication of images from the Library's Barbara C. Adachi Japanese Puppet Theater Collection. The collection consists of more than 12,500 slides and nearly 7,000 black-and-white photographs of rehearsals, performances, and workshops, theatre programs in Japanese and English, texts of the plays performed, and audio recordings of interviews with masters of the modern Japanese puppet theatre. More at the website:

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/eimages/eastasian/bunraku>

Melbourne:

The University of Melbourne Cultural Collections Group

The University of Melbourne's Information Division has recently formed the Cultural Collections Group, bringing together Rare Books, Special Collections, Archives, the Print Room and the Grainger Museum into a collaborative unit. As well as combining these elements of the University Library the Group has a broader leadership role in the care, preservation,

access to and promotion of the University's Cultural Collections – over thirty individual collections held by various faculties and departments across the University. The Group takes a leadership role in working co-operatively with the managers of the collections through the development of plans, principals, policies and projects to achieve improved access, preservation and development.

A major component of this role is managing the Division's public exhibition programme, with a reformed Exhibitions Committee which will develop a co-ordinated University-wide programme of exhibitions, events and publications to raise the profile of the Cultural Collections.

A University-wide Cultural Collections Committee has been established to co-ordinate and provide support for the diversity of collections and the archivists, librarians, curators, managers and staff who care for them. Part of this co-ordination involves developing the web presence of the collections with new and updated pages and centralised access through an over-arching Cultural Collections web site. Access will be provided to digital content where available and details and catalogues of exhibitions will be archived and kept accessible online. A programme of student projects has been developed in co-operation with the new Master of Cultural Materials Conservation degree, whereby students undertake projects on the materials in the collections to fulfil the practical components of their course. Thus as well as providing the students with direct practical experience the projects contribute to the preservation, management and public profile of the collections.

The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer – Kelmscott Press Edition

Recent Acquisition by Rare Books Collection at the Baillieu Library

The Rare Books Collection at the University of Melbourne's Baillieu Library has recently acquired *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* – printed by William Morris (1834-96) at the Kelmscott Press, Hammersmith, 1896.

This publication took four years to produce and included eighty-seven woodcut prints designed by celebrated Victorian painter Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Morris designed a font for the edition appropriately titled 'Chaucer'.

The recently acquired edition is one of 425 copies printed on paper (a few were printed on vellum) but it is very significant because it was bound in white pigskin with a medieval-style tooled surface design by William Morris. Bound by William Cobden-Sanderson, Morris' personal binder at Doves' Bindery, it was one of only four produced with this treatment in the last year of Morris' life. It is hand printed on handmade paper in black and red ink. The book is in extraordinary condition.

With the recent acquisition of the Kelmscott edition of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, the Rare Books Collection at the University of

Melbourne's Baillieu Library has now collected the entire body of fine-printed books produced by the Kelmscott Press – a first in the Southern hemisphere. The Library also holds a range of important support material related to the collection including receipts and invoices from the Press, as well as prospectuses, proof pages and engravings.
(Andrew Stephenson, Cultural Collections, University of Melbourne Library)

Washington (D.C.):

Laura Gottesman, Reference Librarian, Digital Reference Team, of The Library of Congress sent news about the Prints and Photographs Division to Mailing List H-MUSEUM (address of the list: <http://www.h-museum.net>) on November 28th, 2005. The Division celebrated a new landmark: the millionth image from its collections is now available online. She gave details on the Division and the catalogues:

"Digital images from the Prints & Photographs Division are available through the Prints & Photographs Online Catalog (PPOC) <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>>. The catalog provides access through group or item records to about 65% of the Division's holdings, a portion of which are accompanied by digital images. The records represent the variety of materials held in the nearly 14 million items in the Division's collections. In addition to photographs, these include fine and popular prints and drawings, posters, and architectural and engineering drawings. The collections are international in scope and are particularly rich in materials produced in, or documenting the history of, the United States and the lives, interests and achievements of the American people. In addition to the growing pool of digitized images available through PPOC, recently added records make it possible to search several categories of material more comprehensively and to expand searches in new ways:

- American fine prints: Almost 10,000 American fine prints by more than 1,200 different artists now have online records in PPOC containing information compiled in the 1960s for the book *American Prints* in the Library of Congress by Karen Beall. About 4% have digital images for online viewing. To search the fine prints, go to the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>>, select the blue button labeled: "Search the Catalog," and then scroll down the alphabetical list of collections to "Fine Prints."
- PH Filing Series photographs: More than 2,500 selected individual photographic prints of special aesthetic, technical, or historic importance and similarly significant sets of unbound prints in published or unpublished portfolios, ca. 1841-2001. About 30% have digital images for online viewing.

For more information, see <<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/phhtml/phabt.html>>

- Third Reich Collection: More than 450 presentation albums, scrapbooks and groups of photographs related to the Third Reich in Germany (1933-1945) described through group records, with some links to selected digitized items. Images in the collection portray Nazi leaders; political events after World War I and the rise of the Nazi Party; the 1936

Olympics; World War II scenes; art and architecture; and industries. To search for these materials, go to the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>>, select the blue button labeled: "Search the Catalog," and then type into the search blank "Third Reich Collection."

- Thesaurus for Graphic Materials in PPOC: The standardized subject, genre, and image process terms and their cross-references have been integrated into the online catalog. Links enable researchers to look up related terms or to look for pictures indexed with the term, offering a new means for exploring topics and types of images represented in Prints & Photographs Division collections. To search or view the thesaurus terms, go to the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>>, select the blue button labeled: "Search the Catalog," and then scroll down the alphabetical list of collections to "Thesaurus for Graphic Materials."

For information on new collections and recent and upcoming activities in the Prints and Photographs Division, see the division's "What's New" page <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/whatsnew.html>>.

For questions about the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog or the holdings and services of the Prints and Photographs Division, consult our Ask a Librarian service: <<http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-print.html>>."

Sterling Memorial Library at Yale is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2005/2006. Unfortunately, Alice Prochaska had to send a letter (<http://library.yale.edu/>) to patrons now: Instead of being able to celebrate, library staff had to fight damage from flooding on January 7th/8th – a steam valve burst, sprinklers were set off, and the heat caused condensation to drip on to collections and equipment. Yale Daily News wrote that no special collections are involved. Anyway: We feel with you, Alice, and do hope that the damage is not too bad! Details about the celebration events, by the way, can be looked up at <http://www.library.yale.edu/75th/>.

Exhibitions

Berlin 2006:

The Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin in 2005 started a series of one day exhibitions called „Literatur im Foyer“, which are dedicated to special themes or persons: In 2005 there was an exhibition of letters of famous women on Women's Day, a presentation of manuscripts and letters of Friedrich von Schiller and Thomas Mann, celebrating their 200th and 50th year of death respectively. This series has been continued by an exhibition about Dietrich Bonhoeffer on his 100th birthday on February 2nd and an exhibition about E.T.A. Hoffmann will take place at the beginning of April. Online presentations will be accompanying these exhibitions.

Los Angeles 2006:

In fall 2005 the Research Library at the Getty Research Institute mounted an exhibition based on the recently acquired archive of a well-known Los Angeles architectural photographer. "Julius Shulman, Modernity and the Metropolis" was shown from October 11, 2005 through January 22, 2006. The exhibition honours the 95th birthday and life's work of Shulman who created one of the most comprehensive visual chronologies of modern architecture and documented the development of the Los Angeles region for 70 years. Featuring iconic photographs that capture the essence of architects' vision, prints in the exhibition were selected from an impressive portfolio of more than 70,000 images in the Shulman collection now held by the Research Library.

At the Getty Villa reopening in late January 2006, an exhibition (from January 28 through May 1, 2006) on "Antiquity & Photography: Early Views of Ancient Mediterranean Sites" highlights more than 100 photographs created between the 1840s and 1890s, representing some of the most celebrated ancient monuments of Italy, Greece, Asia Minor, and Egypt. Combining early photographs from the collections at the Getty Research Institute and the Getty Museum, the exhibition is accompanied by a heavily illustrated companion publication that offers critical perspectives on how such early photographs influenced and transformed conceptions of antiquity.

From February 21 through May 28, 2006, the GRI Gallery displays the Research Library's collections of John Heartfield's work in "Agitated Images: John Heartfield and the German Photomontage, 1920-1938." Focusing on the designs and publications of the German photomontage artist, the exhibition includes both German and American periodicals in which Heartfield's work appeared. The exhibition concentrates on the period between the wars and includes examples of original press photographs from the Stefan Lorant collection and correspondence between Heartfield's widow and the renowned typographer Jan Tschichold. More details can be found at: www.getty.edu. (Marcia Reed, Getty Research Institute)

New York 2006:

During Bibliography Week (v. Events) The Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University will present an exhibition "The Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum at Columbia University" at *Alan and Margaret Kempner Exhibition Gallery*. The exhibition started on September 30th, 2005 and will go on to February 17th, 2006. It shows theatre posters, prints, photographs, puppets, masks, set models, manuscripts, books, and ephemera. James Brander Matthews (1852-1929) was the nation's first professor of drama, and the exhibition celebrates the history of one of the oldest theatre collections in the United States. The Dramatic Museum exhibition catalogue is on sale in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library for \$15, with a \$5 surcharge for mailing and handling,

when necessary. It may also be ordered by e-mail at rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu.

On December 7, 2005, the Grolier Club opened to the public an exhibition of polar materials entitled "Books on Ice: the British and American Literature of Polar Exploration." The exhibit includes many of the classics of expedition literature as well as more unusual materials through 1950 related to the Western perception of the Arctic and Antarctica, ranging from historical materials to the printed ephemera of polar expeditions. Details on <http://www.grolierclub.org/ExCurrent.htm>

Also at the Grolier Club there is another exhibition scheduled for January 26th, 2006 through March 10th, 2006: "The Extraordinary Life of Charles Dickens". A website is accompanying the exhibit: <http://www.charlesdickensonline.com/>

Starting February 21st, through April 29th, 2006 there will be [Claire Van Vliet & the Janus Press: Celebrating Fifty Years](#) at the Grolier Club. This exhibit will be curated by Ruth Fine and Neal Turtell.

Events

October 2005

Munich:

Die Katalogisierung mittelalterlicher Handschriften in internationaler Perspektive, Internationales Kolloquium der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek München

München, 24. - 26. Oktober 2005

More than 150 manuscript librarians and mediaevalists from 21 countries met in Munich from 24-26 October 2005 to attend a conference organized by the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (BSB) on „The cataloguing of mediaeval manuscripts in an international perspective“. The event continued a long-standing tradition of conferences organized by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) since the 1960es as part of their funding for projects aiming at cataloguing mediaeval manuscripts in German libraries. The conferences are primarily intended to facilitate exchange between manuscript cataloguers and librarians as well as researchers in Germany and abroad.

The new methodological approaches stimulated by current research as well as new forms of presentation were the theme of the conference, which focussed more specifically on four areas: 1) Aims and methods of manuscript cataloguing, 2) Manuscripts on the internet, 3) Illuminated manuscripts, 4) Special problems of research on manuscripts and their provenance. After the conclusion of the official programme, a workshop for participants from Eastern European countries provided an opportunity for discussions related to smaller projects.

Abstracts of the conference papers with URLs of the databases and projects presented are available on

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/hsstagung/index.htm>

Some of the presentations for papers given at the workshop for participants from Eastern Europe are available on

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/hsstagung/program2.htm>

The conference proceedings will be published in print.

(Bettina Wagner)

London:

"Exploring Medical History: What's happening in Libraries & Archives Royal Society of Medicine, London" was the theme of a one day conference on 17 October 2005.

<http://www.rsm.ac.uk/medicalhistory05/>

November 2005

Berlin:

A two day symposium on Newspapers was held November 10th, and 11th, 2005. "Über den Tag hinaus: Berliner Zeitungskonferenz" was organized by Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – PK in cooperation with Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften and Bundesverband Deutscher Zeitungsverleger to commemorate 400 years of newspaper publishing. On the first day, two papers were held on politics and media and concentration of the press. On the second day, several authors presented details of their collections or projects. Dr. Joachim Zeller, director of the Newspaper Division of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, reported on the history of the holdings, and on problems of digitisation and filming of "Amtspresse". On the website of the Department you can search "Verfilmungsprotokolle" (collation notes made during filming process): <http://zeitungen.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/de/projekte/protokolle.php> Reinhard Rinn from Die Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt/M reported on difficulties forming a national collection and the problem of deposit copies. Other papers were on Newspaper archives (FAZ, Zeit) and the "Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache", a database collecting words from various sources, also using newspapers (URL: <http://www.dwds.de/>). More details on the programme: <http://www.berliner-zeitungskonferenz.de/>

Tunis:

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held in Tunis, 16th - 18th November 2005 with a pre-conference by IFLA at Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The programme of the pre-conference is at <http://www.bibalex.org/wsisalex/agenda.htm>, that of the WSIS conference at <http://www.ifla.org/III/wsisis.html>.

Weimar:

Between Cultural Management and Research: Special Collections in the

21st Century. Organisation, Services, Resources.

Conference of the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in cooperation with the Initiative Fortbildung wissenschaftliche Spezialbibliotheken und verwandte Einrichtungen e.V. and the University Library of Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen (22nd to 25th November 2005)

The conference was announced as follows:

“The future of special collections is emerging as a key issue for research libraries in Europe, North America and overseas. Once often regarded as somewhat marginal, in recent years special collections have increasingly been recognised as central to the research and teaching missions of major libraries. The renewed interest in their potential has raised a wide range of questions about the role and management of special collections. What do we expect of special collections and their curators? What level of resources should be allocated to them? How should those resources be managed? How can additional funding be obtained to develop them and services based upon them? How can the collections be better integrated into research and teaching programmes? What role should special collections play in the digital library environment?”

In five sections stimulating papers were given concerning the following topics which in a very good manner were referring to one another:

1. To have and to hold: Collection building
2. Setting out the wares: Collection description and collection access
3. Taking responsibility for the past: Cultural inheritance in Weimar
4. For the benefit of users – redefining the role of special collections:
User services
5. Resources and resourcefulness – a need of additional funding and future skills”

Graham Jefcoate, one of the two organizers of this conference, sent a short summing-up which he named:

The “Spirit of Weimar”

In recent years it has become customary to use conferences or meetings of experts in specific cities to construct policy statements or practical guidelines on professional practice. This trend seems to have begun with the EU or the UN but has quickly spread around the library and information world -- cf. the “Dublin Core”, the “Lund Principles”, the “Berlin Declaration”, etc. etc. The workshop at Weimar wasn’t really intended to agree any statements or principles about special collections – for example, delegates did not attend in order to represent specific organisations - but a “Weimar Spirit” did appear to emerge, suggesting that such a process might not be inconceivable.

The present writer may well have been guilty of this in that he introduced into the discussions at an early point the ‘Statement of commitment to special collections’ agreed by library directors in the US during a meeting of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in 2003. This seemed a useful “benchmark” or at least the nearest that we had come to so far in

the way of an international standard. One problem is agreeing such statement in Europe was that there was no clearly equivalent organisation on this side of the Atlantic, unless LIBER fulfilled the role. One participant encouraged us to think about extending a statement to collecting institutions beyond libraries (for example, museums and archives).

If participants were not formally representing their parent institutions or organisations, then the workshop as a whole can be said to have brought together specialists from an impressive number of institutions and from a wide range of countries. The presence of our American speakers provided the link to those important developments across the Atlantic.

Simultaneous translation (English/German/English) and regular discussion sessions encouraged active participation and captured a wide range of views. Of course no one disagreed with the central thesis of the workshop – and the first principle of the ARL ‘statement’ – that special collections were key to the development of the modern research library. Among the subjects dealt with in the sessions and the points raised in discussion were:

- The need for special collections to promote awareness of their importance and potential in supporting teaching and research;
- The importance of the preservation of “authentic” and “original” materials as distinct from digital surrogates;
- The importance of a user-centered approach;
- The need to integrate special collections in teaching programmes and to use them in promoting information literacy;
- The need for flexible structures and working methods that could develop in response to a rapidly changing environment;
- The need to redefine curatorship and to define core skills and competencies;
- The importance of innovative methods of registration and presentation;
- The need to build bridges to other collecting institutions in the cultural sector;
- The great sensitivity required in collecting institutions in view of heritage and restitution issues;
- The particular importance of discovering “hidden collections”;
- The need for collaboration across institutions and sectors.

This brief checklist hardly does justice to the range of issues addressed and discussed, but the need to continue the dialogue and to take a number of practical further steps became clear. At the end of the sessions it was announced that the papers and presentations would be made available via the web relatively quickly; a formal publication of the proceedings was also being planned. In addition, the workshop organizers agreed to work with a number of other colleagues in drawing up proposals on further steps. These might include:

- A draft European statement of commitment to special collections

(sponsored, for example, by the Anna Amalia Bibliothek and Nijmegen University Library);

- A series of follow-up sessions on specific topics (for example, in the form of a summer school);
- A network enabling interested parties across Europe to remain in contact on these important issues.

The "spirit of Weimar" will not soon be forgotten. Reports will doubtless be appearing in various specialist journals. The present writer will be traveling to Berlin in February to give a paper on the results of the workshop and to meet colleagues who want to take the agenda forward. Weimar as a location resonates with issues of heritage and responsibility – the workshop, like this unique city, will be difficult to erase from the memory.

January 2006

New York:

Bibliography Week in New York City starts on January 24th, 2006. Julie Stone Peters, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, will speak on "Theatre Beyond the Book", and Steven Escar Smith, Director of Cushing Memorial Library & Archives, Texas A&M University on "Edwin Forrest and William Evans Burton: The Comedy, History, and Tragedy of Two 19th-Century Shakespeare Collectors". There will be exhibitions and annual meetings. David Pearson, Director, University of London Research Library Services, will speak on bookbinding studies and provenance research at the annual meeting of the [Bibliographical Society of America](http://www.grolierclub.org/bibliographyweek2006.htm). For more details go to <http://www.grolierclub.org/bibliographyweek2006.htm>.

March 2006

Albuquerque:

Museums and the Web 2006 conference will take place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, starting March 22nd. The full programme is available at <http://www.archimuse.com/mw2006/sessions/>. There are abstracts of the papers and a list of the "Best of the Web" nominations.

June 2006

Austin:

The 47th Annual Preconference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association will be held June 20-23, 2006, in Austin, Texas prior to the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year's theme is "Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Twenty-First Century: Intersecting Missions, Converging Futures?". Programme at <http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/rbms2006/>

July 2006

The Hague:

The 14th annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) will be held in The Netherlands, organised by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands) in co-operation with the Universities of Leiden, Utrecht, Nijmegen and Amsterdam. The conference 'Trading Books - Trading Ideas' seeks to highlight the importance of the European and the North American heritage for the book and print cultures of the world. A preliminary programme is out: <http://www.kb.nl/hkc/congressen/sharp2006/index-en.html>

Projects

Wellcome Library is engaged in a project called "Medical journals backfiles digitisation project". It is a project to digitise the complete backfiles of a number of important and historically significant medical journals. The digitised content will be made freely available on the Internet. Details from <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk/node280.html>

The library of *The Royal College of Surgeons of England* owns a collection of an estimated 25,000 pamphlets ranging over all aspects of medicine, as well as natural history. The majority of those date from the 19th century, but there are works from as far back as 1570. British, American and continental European items are joined by exotica from Calcutta, Shanghai and Rio de Janeiro. Thanks to two grants awarded from the Research Resources in Medical History grants scheme, the library will be able to catalogue these rare tracts by March 2006. Details: <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library/projects/tracts.html>

Supported by the European Commission Italy, France, and the UK are working together on *MICHAEL* (Multilingual Inventory of Cultural Heritage in Europe). November 15th, 2005, there has been a conference in Bristol. Latest details on the project are on <http://www.michael-culture.org/index.html>. There are also details on conferences in Paris in September, and Rome in November.

Publications

A Catalogue of Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century now in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Alan Coates, Kristian Jensen, Cristina Dondi, Bettina Wagner and Helen Dixon.

6 vols.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Price: £600.00 (Hardback)

ISBN 0-19-951373-2

Publication date: 7 July 2005

3088 pages, 276 mm x 219mmmm

Description

Represents a major contribution to the study of the history of the book
Catalogues the world's fifth largest collection of fifteenth-century western
printed books Includes a valuable provenance index Compiled to the
highest modern standards

The Bodleian's incunable catalogue describes the Library's fifteenth-century western printed books to the same standards expected in the best modern catalogues of medieval manuscripts. It records and identifies all texts contained in each volume, and the detailed analysis of the textual content is an innovative feature. Further information about authors, editors, translators, and dedicatees is given in an extensive index of names, complete with biographical and other information; this index will be of interest to textual scholars from the classical period to the renaissance. The detailed descriptions of the copy-specific features of each book (the binding, hand-decoration and hand-finishing, marginalia, and provenance) form another important contribution to scholarship. The provenance index will be of great value to all those interested in the history of the book from the 1450s to the present day.

Readership: Scholars and students of the history of the book from the 1450s to the present day; textual scholars from the classical period to the renaissance.

(Bettina Wagner)

Im Zeichen von Anker und Delphin : die Aldinensammlung der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin / hrsg. von der Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz. [Red.: Karla Faust ...]. - Leipzig : Faber & Faber, 2005. - 239 S. : Ill. ; 31 cm, 1300 gr.

ISBN 3-936618-70-4 *Gb.: EUR 98.00, sfr 175.00 was published last year in October. One of the most precious special collections of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, the Aldine Press Collection, is presented in this catalogue for the first time. Most of the volumes in this collection have been acquired in 1847 when the private library of Comte Étienne de Méjan (1766 – 1846) was bought for the enormous sum of 64.000 Taler by the then Königliche Bibliothek in Berlin. Méjan was a bibliophile, and his books have been bound by the most famous Paris bookbinders of his time. Thus, the Aldines from his collection are not only important for the history of the Venice press of Aldus Manutius and his family, but also for the history of French bookbinding in the 18th and early 19th century. The Berlin Aldine Press Collection today consists of about 850 imprints in 1.150 volumes, and is one of the most important worldwide. The catalogue is lavishly illustrated and gives details on the Aldines in chronological order. There are indexes on authors, editors, translators, printers, publishers, and bookbinders, as well as on anonyma and provenances. Articles by Karla Faust, Cornelia Wolff, Dr. Holger Nickel, and Andreas Wittenberg give an introduction to the history both of the Aldine Press and the collection. For

a longer article by Andreas Wittenberg from Department of Early Printed Books on this publication read the new *Bibliotheksmagazin* published by Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The first issue is just out (January 2006) and an online version on the homepage of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin will follow soon.

RBM, 2,6 (Fall 2005) has articles on "Contemplating Scholarship in the Digital Age" by David M. Levy on the education of Special Collections Librarians by Susan Stekel Rippley, and on preservation assessment for Rare Book Collections by Mary Ellen Stammer, Sara McGough Hyder, and Aimée Leverette.

Collections 2, 2 (November 2005) is dedicated to education and training in the Conservation Profession.

Rare Books Newsletter 76 (December 2005) is mainly on Provenance Research, giving details of the annual RBG study conference, held in New Hall, September last year. There is an update to *Provenance Research in Book History* (1994, repr. with addenda 1998) on pages 45 – 78: "Provenance Indexes available in UK Libraries. A selective update" by David Pearson himself.

National Library of Spain:

A new inventory of Personal Papers has been published in the series "Colecciones Singulares de la BN". There are several volumes published to describe the partial or complete personal documentation of very important musician or writer as Bretón, Rodríguez-Albert, Zunzunegui.

Also has been published a new appendix to the Catalogue of incunabula in the National Library describing the new acquisitions.

(María Cristina Guillén Bermejo, Servicio de Manuscritos, Incunables y Raros, Biblioteca Nacional de España)

Web News

The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) announced a list of 38 collections in libraries and archives across England recognised as having outstanding national and international importance under the Designation Scheme. The details – names, locations, and outstanding holdings – can be found on <http://www.mla.gov.uk/>. Go to Press Releases, and then (via "previous") to October 28, 2005.

"English Book Owners in the 17th-Century" is the title of a list by David Pearson on BIBSITE, the site of the Bibliographical Society of America, <http://www.bibsocamer.org/default.htm>.

Also new – last revision in November 2005 – is "First-Line Indexes Of English Verse, 1650-1800: A Checklist" by James Woolley at the same site. You can find the list at

<http://www.bibsocamer.org/BibSite/Woolley/index.html>.

You might know some of the older articles, e.g. "18th-Century Materials In Library & Manuscript Collections" by James May. But BIBSITE is a good place to return to from time to time, as there are usually some new items:

<http://www.bibsocamer.org/BibSite/bibsite.htm>

The *Bonefolder* volume 2, number 1, fall 2005 has interesting articles on "molded paper spine", "flag books", and "Edelpappeinband" :

<http://www.philobiblon.com/bonefolder/vol2no1contents.htm>

The *Catalogue of American Engravings* describing engravings issued as separate publications or as illustrations in books and periodicals from the early eighteenth century through the year 1820, provided by the American Antiquarian Society is updated regularly and can be searched at

<http://catalog.mwa.org:7108/>

Readers of several mailing lists were alarmed on December 6th, 2005, when on a press conference the publication of the *Heritage Health Report on the state of America's collections* was announced. The survey was performed by the Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services and looked at conditions at 3,370 museums, libraries and archives. The findings are published under the title "A Public Trust at Risk" at <http://www.heritagepreservation.org/HHI/full.html>

The [Missouri Botanical Garden Library](http://www.missouri.edu/botlib) and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation digitize and preserve beautifully illustrated and botanically significant books in their private holdings in order to make them available to an international audience. The project will result in a large database of botanical and gardening illustrations and text available to scholars, gardeners, and book enthusiasts. Currently online you can view 50,744 pages and 12,357 botanical illustrations. Go to <http://www.illustratedgarden.org/mobot/rarebooks/>

The complete archives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin, the Metropolitan Museum Journal, Metropolitan Museum Studies, and the stand-alone issues of Recent Acquisitions and Notable Acquisitions are now available in electronic format through JSTOR at www.jstor.org. The archives do not include publications issued in the past five years; these issues will be added one year at a time. The year 2005 marked the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Bulletin, which has been published continuously since its first edition in January, 1905.

In December, exactly on December 9th, 2005, the new virtual museum "Discover Islamic Art", a project of *Museum With No Frontiers*, went online. The aim of this project is described in the mission statement as follows: "At the invitation of the Museum With No Frontiers, 14 countries from around the Mediterranean and the European Union have agreed to

collaborate on producing a virtual museum on the Internet that explores Islamic art and material culture in the Mediterranean region. This collaboration brings together a representative selection of Islamic objects, monuments and historical sites from Portugal, Spain and Italy on the northern shores of the Mediterranean; Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt on the southern shores; and Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Syria and Turkey on the eastern coast. Relevant Islamic collections from museums in Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom complete the virtual museum's collections. All these artefacts, monuments and sites cover the various Islamic dynasties and cultures of the Mediterranean region spanning some 1,280 years from 634 when the Muslim Arab armies first entered the Levant, to the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century. Although the Islamic world and its artistic traditions stretch from Kashghar in China to Dakar in Senegal, this project is focusing on the countries surrounding the Mediterranean basin to tell the story of Islamic art. Two practical factors determine this choice. The first is a financial one: that being the generosity of the European Union, which is funding this project through its Euromed Heritage programme. The second factor is historical: that being the position of the Mediterranean at the centre stage of Islamic history, and the interdependence of its shores economically and culturally throughout this history. The consortium's objectives are to bring together these inter-related collections, monuments and sites, exploiting the wealth of scholarship within the participating institutions. The exploration of the history and art of Islam in the Mediterranean aims to create a more complete knowledge of the historical relationship between Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, and to make this information accessible to the general public in the countries represented in the consortium and beyond. The consortium's aim is to promote deeper understanding between the peoples of Europe and their Muslim communities and the Islamic world on their doorsteps, and ultimately to celebrate the contribution of Islamic civilisation to world culture and art." To find out more on the museum go to <http://www.discoverislamicart.org/>

From the Editors

This new issue of our newsletter shows once again how very active our libraries are, worldwide, in promoting the knowledge and the appreciation of the precious material which is curated by us. Did you ever count how many exhibitions and presentations take place every year to celebrate one of the world's great poets, artists, musicians, scholars or politicians? We hope to encourage those who keep most interesting personal papers and libraries to find new ways of communicating their value to a broader public and to make their special intrinsic value visible to the world. But there are, unfortunately, also more profane things to be done: Concerning the activities of our section we would like to encourage all of

you to contribute to the working group occupied with the revision of the cataloguing standards for manuscripts and to the group which is preparing the joint activities concerning the preservation of digital library materials with the Preservation and Conservation Section.

We hope to see you in Seoul, have a very good and healthy year,

Jutta and Regina

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Printed by Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin – Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin,
February 2006