

Winter
2003

IFLA Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

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

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Glasgow 2002

From the Secretary we have got the minutes of the conference at Glasgow in August 2002:

Glasgow Conference 2002

Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts, Standing Committee
Minutes from IFLA 2002 General Conference in Boston

Meeting I August 17, 2002

Susan Allen, Annie Angremy, Ute Bergner, Jan Bos, Nicole Bouche, Luisa Buson, Mercèdes Dexeus, Mark Dimunation, Joana Escobedo, Cristina Guillén, Viveca Halldin Norberg, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, Joël Plassard, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Josephine Sche, Norbert Schnetzer, Andrey Serkov, Henry Snyder, Wolfgang Undorf, Bettina Wagner, Annette Wehmeyer

The meeting opened with a *welcome* and short presentations of everybody.

Wolfgang presented the *minutes from Boston* which were approved as circulated. Susan had a short reminder of the Library Security List Serv.

Alice reported from the *Division Board Meeting* which included among others interesting statistics. Next year, each section will have a total of 2 hours for its open session only. Sponsoring of IFLA core program UAP through The British Library will end by March 2003. Alice highlighted Division V's other sessions and workshops. In order to build up and strengthen our relations with national RBM organisations, the section should work for participation and / or representation at national conferences such as in Toronto, Canada, in 2003 and at Yale, USA, in 2004.

Wolfgang had an update of speakers and topics as well as of the practical arrangements for *open session and workshop*. Alice gave some background to Pollok House.

Marcia presented some of the results of Kelley Wolfe's analysis of our collection of *exhibition loan policies*. There were no real surprises. The documents showed great agreements in practical solutions, for example, loan for exhibitions mainly is for three to six months. It looks as if there was already a kind of de facto standard. Cooperation with the Section on Preservation would be useful: Our colleagues there should be interested in a summary of our analysis to put into their newsletter. Discussion then moved further to the question of how archives and museums are handling graphic materials with regard to loan and security? The meeting agreed that this asks for a joint meeting between the international organisations of librarians, archivists and museum curators.

Jan started a discussion on *organization charts* following his question on our list serv. The Royal Library at The Hague is about to reorganize its Collections and Research Division with focus on project and user oriented activities. The former Special Collections Department will disappear and become part of an information Division. Jan asked for organizational solutions from other libraries. A lively exchange of information started. Alice suggested a survey on organization charts and on the question of budgeting, responsibility, acquisition etc. Other aspects mentioned were the home of the curators, the position of the library archives, and curatorial expertise as opposed to project-based reorganization.

Rules and policies in *management of manuscripts and literary archives* were discussed on the initiative of Joana. We got insight in all kinds of management, from collection level to item level.

The programme for the *Berlin* conference still needed thorough discussion. The main focus, though, seems to be on Central and Eastern European collections and policies in rare books. Bettina informed about a German-Russian joint project on medieval manuscripts.

Leipzig had withdrawn its participation in hosting a preconference. Marc suggested that we at least should arrange for a study trip there.

There were several suggestions for a workshop, but no agreement settled.

Alice suggested as theme for the *Buenos Aires 2004* conference indigenous cultures in special collections with focus on oral history, sound or other non-book materials. Wolfgang has already contacted the section Audiovisual and Multimedia. Henry offered help with contacts. Viveca suggested cooperation with the section Latin America and the Carribean.

In Berlin, the section has to elect *new officers*. Susan has agreed to stand as chair. Mark offered himself as information officer. Regina Mahlke and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin do a great job with the Newsletter, so the section would be just too happy to go on with this arrangement.

Henry pleaded everyone in the committee to make a pledge to submit at least one contribution to the Newsletter once a year.

With Viveca's invitation to a out-of the programme presentation of a Swedish *turn the page-digitisation* of a Persian manuscript, the meeting was closed.

Meeting II August 23, 2002

Susan Allen, Annie Angremy, Ute Bergner, Jan Bos, Nicole Bouche, Luisa Buson, Edward Dacey, Mercèdes Dexeus, Joana Escobedo, Cristina Guillén, Viveca Halldin Norberg, Graham Jefcoate, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, Monika Linder, Joël Plassard, Alice Prochaska, Marcia Reed, Norbert Schnetzer, Andrey Serkov, Wolfgang Undorf, Bettina Wagner, Jutta Weber, Annette Wehmeyer

During the conference, Erland Kolding Nielsen, head of the Royal Library, Copenhagen, kindly offered its library as site of a *post-conference* for *Berlin 2003*. This conference could cover stewardship, access, ownership and focus on preservation, protection and presentation. All standing committee members are asked to send in suggestions for a good title. The whole arrangement could start in Berlin Friday evening at the Jüdisches Museum together with the section of Art Libraries (August 8, 2003). Transfer to Copenhagen on Saturday (August 9) and conference Sunday to Monday (August 10-11).

We had previously agreed on a rare book theme for the *open session*. Now Monika suggested to look at printing and reformation, which was discussed very lively. Alice ended this discussion by asking everyone to send in suggestions for speakers on the topic of "The birth of printing and the impact of upheavals on the (history of the) book in Eastern and Central Europe" to be sent to her or to Wolfgang. Graham suggested the section should ask Dr. Henryk Hollender, the director of the university library at Warsaw, to give a paper.

In connection to the theme of the open session, the committee discussed the conditions for engaging external, i.e. non-IFLA speakers.

With regard to a *workshop*, Graham Jefcoate presented a concise introduction to the musical city of Berlin, with important collections at the Staatsbibliothek as well as at the Deutsches Musikarchiv.

We looked several years in the future and suggested that the 20th century could be a topic for the next European IFLA general conference after Berlin, which will be in Oslo, Norway, in 2005.

Alice reminded everyone to help preparing a programme for *Buenos Aires* and suggested that maybe someone from Spain could give a paper.

Jan took up a new topic. After Michael Moss impressive paper during the workshop, the question of user expectations had arisen. Information on user differentiations and surveys in the rare book public in libraries. Further discussion touched questions of stewardship, the results of the use of rare books and manuscript collections, and teaching the usage of collections and services. Alice thought this to be a suitable theme for *Buenos Aires*.

The committee took up some topics *from meeting I*: organizational questions; inviting the section to participate in other Rare Books conferences in order to further support our work; the inclusion of a calendarium in the Newsletter – information should be sent to Wolfgang.

Wolfgang's idea of publishing a leaflet with Guidelines for loans for exhibitions gave the green light for a lengthy discussion of *exhibition loan policies*. Uppsala University Library is working on a database for registration of loans. Graham wondered whether the conservators at the National Library of Australia in connection to the centenary exhibition last year could contribute with experiences of different approaches from the various contributors. Restrictions or at least difficulties with loans for exhibition after September 11 at least is a question of some importance for American librarians. There were several suggestions for further analysis of the collected policy documents. Questions on multiple locations, what kind of exhibitions to lend to, or on the organization of the dealing with exhibition loans in different institutions have not been answered yet. The committee invited everyone to send information to Wolfgang. The committee further agreed on having Marcia, Mercèdes and Wolfgang working on Guidelines. These could be a topic for the Copenhagen post-conference.

The *book sellers and auction catalogues* should be removed from the brochure in the future. Richard finds it almost impossible to get reliable information from institutions on behalf of the content of their collections. Monika told us of a major private collector of such catalogues and of a German initiative. Beinecke Library will soon start cataloguing their collection.

Security matters involved Viveca's mentioning a national Swedish project on security marking and a reminder of the Library Security List serv.

Wolfgang presented the names of the preliminary candidates for the *new officers*: Susan Allen as chair, Jan Bos as secretary, Mark Dimunation as information coordinator.

The committee agreed upon the observation that it lacks *representatives* from two major libraries in our field, The British Library and the Bibliothèque National de France, as well as from Latin America. Thereafter, the meeting was closed.

Berlin 2003

The exact programme for Berlin is not yet out, however there was a meeting on the Section's Workshop:

Minutes from a meeting with regard to the workshop in Berlin

August 23, 2002

Graham Jefcoate, Wolfgang Undorf, Annette Wehmeyer

The three participants agreed upon a total number of 40 participants. The workshop could start at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin with papers by Prof. Dr. Christoph Wolff, Leipzig, and Juliane Bispinck, Berlin, on the topic of Bach autographs. Other papers would then cover Berlin – the city of music and the collections at the Staatsbibliothek.

This first half of the workshop would end with a light lunch (sandwiches) before transport to the Deutsches Musikarchiv, where coffee could be served.

During the afternoon, we, then, would hear of the collections of the Deutsches Musikarchiv, which is part of the Deutsche Bibliothek, the National Library of Germany.

In the meantime the number of participants - to our great regret - had to be reduced to 30. We have got the preliminary programme for the workshop from *Annette Wehmeyer*.

7. 8. 2003 Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Unter den Linden 8, Hoecker-Saal

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome (Director General Graham Jefcoate, and Chair of the Section)

9:15 - 10:00 Dr. Helmut Hell, Head of the Music Department:
The Music Department of Berlin State Library

10:00 - 10:45 Professor Dr. Christoph Wolff, Leipzig:
Restoring and digitizing of musical manuscripts

11:00 - 11:30 Juliane Bispinck, M.A.:
Video presentation of Paper Splitting Process

11:30 - 12:00 Susanne Hein, M.A.:
Famous Music Collections in Germany

12:00 - 12:30 Some special highlights from the Music Department shown in Lessing-Saal

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch (in Hoecker-Saal)

13:30 - 14:00 Transport by bus to Deutsches Musikarchiv

14:00 - 16:00 Guided tour through Deutsches Musikarchiv (Coffee break)

After the visit to Deutsches Musikarchiv participants are supposed to return to their hotels or other locations on their own.

Forthcoming Events

With details from IFLA not yet available, let us have a look at various other interesting conferences over the next few months.

ALA Midwinter Conference is just over, but ALA is looking ahead to the *Annual Conference*. It will take place in Toronto, Ontario, together with the Canadian Library Association from June 19 through 25, 2003 under the motto "Looking North to New Horizons". Details from <http://www.cla.ca/conference/cla-ala2003/>

A few days earlier, the 44th annual preconference of the *Rare Books & Manuscripts Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries* will also be held at Toronto. Starting on June 17th, the preconference's subject will be "TRUE/FALSE: Facsimiles, Fakes, Forgeries, and Issues of Authenticity in Special Collections".

Preservation and digitisation is the theme of several conferences and workshops earlier in the year. A two-day conference is held on March 24 - 25th, 2003 in Edinburgh. *Preservation and conservation issues related to digital printing and digital photography* is aimed at an international audience of conservators, preservation personnel, conservation scientists, photographers, the digital printing industry and ink and paper R&D departments. Though application will be closed when this newsletter goes into print you can certainly get more information from Leah Zeto, Conferences, The Institute of Physics 76, Portland Place, London, W1B 1NT United Kingdom.

On April 14th/15th, 2003 an International Workshop, organized by LIBER Preservation Division, Koninklijke Bibliotheek Den Haag, ECPA will be held in The Hague (Netherlands)

It is opened to 100 participants: library managers, curators, preservation, microfilming, digitisation managers and technical staff. Details from <http://www.kb.nl/coop/liber>.

In June, another Symposium on preservation will take place in Ljubljana: "Exhibiting archival and library material and works of art on paper: standards in preservation". It is organized by the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, the National and University Library, Slovenia, the National Gallery, Slovenia, the International Council on Archives / Committee on Preservation of Archives in Temperate Climates, the European Commission on Preservation and Access, and the Slovenian Conservation Society on 5-6th June, 2003. Working language is Slovene and English (simultaneous translation). Registration fee: 125 _ Registration deadline: 15th April, 2003. Program and registration: [www.gov.si/ars\(news\)](http://www.gov.si/ars(news)) . For more information please contact: Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, Zvezdarska 1, 1127 Ljubljana, Slovenia
tel: (386) 1 24 14 206 fax: (386) 1 24 269 ; e-mail: Jedert.Vodopivec@gov.si

The preliminary announcement for the pre-conference to IFLA on "Disaster Management" is out: Organized by the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section the theme will be:

“Preparing for the Worst, Planning for the Best: Protecting our Cultural Heritage from Disaster”, the dates are July 30 to August 1, 2003 in Berlin.

It will cover traditional and contemporary materials - books, paper, photographs, film, tape and disks, and national policy planning, plans in action, priorities for salvage, and new recovery technologies will be discussed. For further information look on the IFLA website <http://www.ifla.org>. Registration will be available at <http://kb.nl/iflapreconf/index.html>

The second “ journées professionnelles autour des collections spécialisées” of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France will be held in Paris, 31. March/ 1. April 2003. “Multimédia, unimédia, où en est aujourd'hui l'intégration des documents spécialisés dans les bibliothèques ?” and “Enjeux et contraintes de la numérisation des collections spécialisées” will be on the agenda. Programme details from Lyddie Rebboah 33 |0|1 53 79 50 05 / lyddie.rebboah@bnf.fr

SHARP will held their 11th annual summer conference from 9 July to 12 July, 2003 at Scripps College, Claremont, California. Conference members will visit Getty Research Institute on 12th July.

In October a conference and exhibition on “Religious Book Culture in Europe and Hungary” is organized by the Scientific Collections of Sárospatak Calvinist College.

‘The main purpose of the conference is to examine the European and Hungarian history of book culture, history of libraries and books, reading history.’ can be read in the announcement. According to the organizers the main themes of the conference are:

“1. Old books - modern technologies

1.1.) On-line catalogues of old books (methods, search, etc.)

1.2.) Digitizing old books - photos and / texts, digitizing full books, microfilm and digital photos, etc.

1.3.) Old books in e-libraries - methods, e-text editions, search, concordances in the digital corpus, etc.

2. 16-18th century European book culture and Hungarian connections

2.1.) Hungarian typographers, binders, book authors in the European book culture

2. 2.) Foreign influences on Hungarian book culture

2.2.a.) Foreign influences on private libraries, school and religious libraries

2.2.b.) foreign influences on the content and the form of printed books

2.2.c.) foreign influences on book binding

2.2.d.) foreign influences on reading culture

3. The Hungarian book culture and the churches upto the 18th century

3.1.) private libraries

3.2.) school libraries

3.3.) religious libraries

3.4.) protectors

4. Bibliographic processing of Old Books in Europe and Hungary”

More information is on: www.gradatio.hu/nagykonyvtar/conference

This should immediately remind you all that the rare book theme of the Open

Session in Berlin will be “The birth of printing and the impact of upheavals on the (history of the) book in Eastern and Central Europe” !!!

Exhibitions

Munich

Section's member Bettina Wagner sent the following announcement :

Deutsche Literatur des Mittelalters - German Literature of the Middle Ages

Exhibitions from 28 May to 24 August in the “Schatzkammer”

The library will put on display the recently acquired unique manuscript of Heinrich Wittenwiler's “Ring” together with 32 other outstanding manuscripts of medieval German texts from its collections, ranging from the oldest witnesses of Old High German texts (the Wessobrunn Prayers, the Muspilli and the Heliand) over illustrated manuscripts of Middle High German lyrics (in the Carmina Burana) and epics (the Nibelungenlied, Wolfram's Parzival and Willehalm, Gottfried's Tristan) to late medieval didactic and narrative literature.

An illustrated catalogue will be published; price ca. 10 Euro. For more details, see the website at <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/verwaltg/ausstell.htm>

Graz

Graz Library from February 2, to April 5, 2003 holds an exhibition “Scriptores monastici - Die romanischen Skriptorien in Seckau und in St. Lambrecht”. About 50 manuscripts from 12th century monastery St. Lambrecht and 70 from Seckau are shown. Apart from manuscripts written in the monasteries there are some codices imported either by the founders of the monasteries or from other monasteries: Originally, in order to copy the texts but somehow never returned to their owners. Most of those derive from Salzburg, some from Southern Germany, and some legal manuscripts from Bologna. Among the Seckau manuscripts there are some interesting prayer books: Seckau housed besides the Chorherrenstift (monks) also a nunnery. When the nunnery was closed in 1149, the books were given to the Chorherrenstift. It is not clear why they have not been print wasted as was the normal process for prayerbooks no longer in use.

Toronto

Marie Korey (Massey College), Richard Landon (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library) and Yannick Portebois and Dorothy E. Speirs (French Studies, University of Toronto) have curated the exhibition “Vizetelly & Compan(ies): A Complex Tale of Victorian Printing and

Publishing” at Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, held from February 3 to May 2, 2003. The exhibition traces the careers of James Vizetelly (1817-1897) and his brother Henry Vizetelly (1820-1894), as printers and engravers, and occasionally publishers in the 1840s and 1850s. The brothers were involved in the development of pictorial journalism, produced at times work for The Illustrated London News, and were founders of The Pictorial Times and other journals. More information about the exhibition, and its catalogue is at the Library's web site: <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/www/fisher/current.htm>

Getty Museum

There are many exhibition news from Getty museum - not all of them dealing with books or manuscripts, nevertheless all of them interesting for members of the Section. It all starts with "Surrealist Muse: Lee Miller, Roland Penrose, and Man Ray" from February 25 to June 15, 2003, focussing on Lee Miller (American, 1907-1977) as model, source of inspiration for other artists, and as a creative artist working in photography. Next comes "Robert Motherwell: A la pintura" from March 4 to June 22, 2003 in Getty Research Institute Exhibition Gallery. *A la pintura* is a sumptuous artist's book of aquatints and letterpress texts held in the special collections of the Research Library. From March 18 - June 29, 2003 there will be "Between Heaven and Earth: Images of Christ and the Virgin" showing drawings, prints, and illustrated books from the 16th through 18th centuries. Then follows "The Making of a Medieval Book" from May 20 - September 7, 2003, an installation explaining how illuminated manuscripts were made in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. A special exhibition starts on June 17 and goes to September 7, 2003: "Illuminating the Renaissance: The Triumph of Flemish Manuscript Painting in Europe". Over 130 works of art - the finest and most ambitiously illuminated books produced in Flanders between 1467 and 1561 - will form the first comprehensive view of this great epoch in Flemish illumination. It is organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and The British Library, and will be on view at the Royal Academy of Arts from November 25, 2003 to February 22, 2004.

"Nature Study" is the working title of an exhibition of one of the Museum's most popular manuscripts, the *Mira calligraphiae monumenta (Model Book of Calligraphy)*, written by Georg Bocskay and later illuminated by Joris Hoefnagel in the 16th century lasting from June 17 to September 7, 2003. And finally, there is another very important exhibition starting on November 4, 2003 running through January 25, 2004: "Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828): Sculptor to the Enlightenment". It is organized by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, in association with the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, and the Musée national du château de Versailles, Versailles/Réunion des Musées Nationaux, France, and will include Houdon's early works, garden statues, and over 40 portraits in terracotta, plaster, bronze, and marble. A scholarly catalogue will be published at Chicago University Press. The exhibition will start at the National Gallery of Art on May 3, 2003. In March 2004 it will be shown at Versailles.

Bilbao

Bilbao Fine Arts Museum will held an exhibition on "Bilbao in illustrated periodicals (1843-1900)" starting on 24 February and lasting to 4 May. Almost four hundred images of monuments and the military operations around the Siege of Bilbao in the Second Carlist War, which ended on 2 May 1874 from the main periodicals of the period (1843-1900), such as *La ilustración Española y Americana*, *El Mundo Pintoresco*, *The Illustrated London News*, *The Graphic* and *L'illustration* will be on show.

Provenance

Though the Section's *book sellers and auction catalogues project* is not in the first line any longer (v. Minutes, Meeting II) we have got two articles on the subject of provenance that show that in Special Collections at the moment provenance research is an important issue. Especially in Germany where it has been somewhat neglected in earlier years - except perhaps in Manuscript and Incunabula Collections - it seems to become more important. In the last issue we had a short note by Dr. Jürgen Weber from Weimar, with the promise for a more detailed article. Here it is:

Provenance information: steps towards cooperative recording and indexing

More often than not, our attention is drawn to copy-specific features only when we are confronted with the precarious situation of handling books in the event of damage or claims of damage. Ursula Baurmeister, for example, reports that it was only due to the recording of damage caused to books by water and mildew in the Bibliothèque nationale de France that individual copies could once again be physically studied and their provenance information could be briefly noted. ("The Recording of Marks of Provenance in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France and Other French Libraries." *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, 91 (1997) 525-538.)

This story seems to be trivial, yet it shows that something important is happening for, in addition to the author/title approach and the subject approach, a new and third step of stock exploitation is about to be established by means of copy-specific recording and indexing. This procedure is no longer confined to merely bibliographic descriptions. Copy-specific recording also deals with the individual physical details of a book, for example its cover and the tracing of its provenance. These characteristic features that have been neglected by cataloguing codes so far are increasingly arousing the interest of librarians and scholars of humanities and cultural studies. Copy-specific recording is all about the discovery and the description of the book as a physical object.

Copy-specific data describe details of provenance, binding, paper, printing and publishing. Once these details have been examined with regard to creator, function and date, they provide evidence that transforms the individual copies into documents that become a research topic in the arts far beyond the text they cover. The profiles of provenance and use that are established for individual copies and collections are an important aid for research and text editing. They serve as selection criteria when exhibitions and book presentations are prepared, and they are indispensable when decisions about preservation measures have to be made. The scientific interest of cultural studies' scholars is concentrated on the interpretation of evidence when they try to reconstruct the history of a collection, the reception of a book or the circulation for a certain type of cover or of binders' tools. For librarians, however, it is the question of how this evidence can be described and made accessible for research. The recording of provenance and binding information falls into the following areas of responsibility: defining the type and amount of copy-

specific features, developing a controlled vocabulary suitable for the description of these features, checking the existing data formats as a platform for recording and indexing, establishing guidelines for the description of copy-specific features both in a standardized and in a varied form, and adapting the processing of books to these tasks.

There is no real tradition of copy-specific recording for librarian documentation. It has only seemed to be of interest when it has come to the cataloguing of manuscripts and incunabula. Moreover it has been regarded as being highly-specialized, very costly and extravagant. Therefore, this step in stock exploitation has not seriously been taken into account so far for the cataloguing of old and new books.

Physical details are regarded as an obligatory element for a bibliographical description when they refer to the general features that can be found throughout an edition, such as size and format. They are very different from the copy-specific details that make a book or other materials a unique work of art. Besides a multitude of evidence like bookplates, marginal notes, dedications of a previous owner, binders' tickets and stamps, physical details also include significant damage (erasures and blackening) done to a book, for example in cases of censorship. It is precisely this difference between the individual and the general physical features that puts us on the trails of provenance.

Yet there are still no proper cataloguing codes for the description of copy-specific features in Germany and other countries. As a substitute, the copy-specific features have up to now been described in accordance with the rules for the author/title catalogue, merely summing up the copy-specific features in the note area. Thus the term "Provenienz" (provenance) was introduced in the "Regeln für die alphabetische Katalogisierung" (RAK-WB, §163a) for the first time in 1993.

New ways, however, have already been paved by the activities of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL/ALA). Since the middle of the 1980's, these have triggered some progress in the field of copy-specific recording and indexing. This progress is comprised of the enlargement of the data format MARC by fields that allow cataloguing at a minimum and a higher level, the development of various thesauri, and the establishment of specific cataloguing guidelines. (For more details cf. Jürgen Weber: "The copy in hand - Voraussetzungen und Ziele exemplarspezifischer Erschließung". Bibliotheksdienst, 36 (2002) 614-624, http://bibliotheksdienst.zlb.de/2002/02_05_06.pdf)

Inspired by these initiatives, a model of provenance description has been developed at the Weimarian Duchess Anna Amalia Library (Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek) since 1997. This model has been adopted from libraries in the Common Library Network (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Alte Drucke beim Gemeinsamen Bibliotheksverbund, <http://aad.gbv.de>) as a de-facto standard. In cooperation with the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon the Weimarian library has been testing the multilingual approach to provenance terms (English, French, German) based on a

polyhierarchical thesaurus. Meanwhile, the recording of provenance information is also being funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) along with other cataloguing projects.

The essential elements of the Weimarian model are as follows. The names of former owners and provenance evidence are described as chains. The copy-specific fields are indexed by keyword and string. Local authority files are created for personal and corporate names. Recording and retrieval of provenance information are presented in accordance with a thesaurus. Links leading to digital images are filed under a local data base of images. As a next step we intend to establish an internet access point for provenance information that includes a multilingual web-thesaurus and a search engine.

The initiatives of the ACRL and the experiences that have taken place with the Weimarian model show that in order to achieve an effective and varied form of copy-specific recording and indexing, the following six steps need to be taken:

1. Cooperative recording and indexing: The arrangement of provenance record description is a matter of more than just regional importance. The data obtained by means of copy-specific indexing will remain incomplete as long as we fail to integrate the circumstances of the copy described into a comparative analysis. It is of great interest, for example, whether a copy came into a library as a single book or as part of a collection. The collection, on its part, might have come to us either in fragments or in complete form. It is very rare when the ways and areas across which the contents of collections have been distributed coincide with today's local borders, let alone with the boundaries of the network. It is their strategic orientation and the potentials of their data systems technology, however, that significantly determine the volume and the quality of cataloguing projects nowadays. Yet there is a model which shows us how copy-specific recording can be carried out nationwide and in a cooperative way. It is the practice that was introduced in the Anglo-American countries at the beginning of the 1990's and that is, in spite of its high degree of standardization, so flexible that the individual capacities and interests of the participating libraries can be taken into account.

2. Authority files: Authority files will have to be created particularly for previous owners and for bookbinders correlating to already existing authority files for names of persons and corporations. These authority files will need additional hyperlink fields for the addresses of files containing more detailed texts or images of autographs, portraits and the characteristic features of the binding, for example.

3. Thesauri and cataloguing guidelines: For the recording of copy-specific features, a controlled multilingual vocabulary will have to be developed in correlation with the thesauri published by the ACRL. The thesauri and practice guidelines should be designed so as to allow the cataloguing of information on various levels depending on the contents of the collections, their capacities and their user groups.

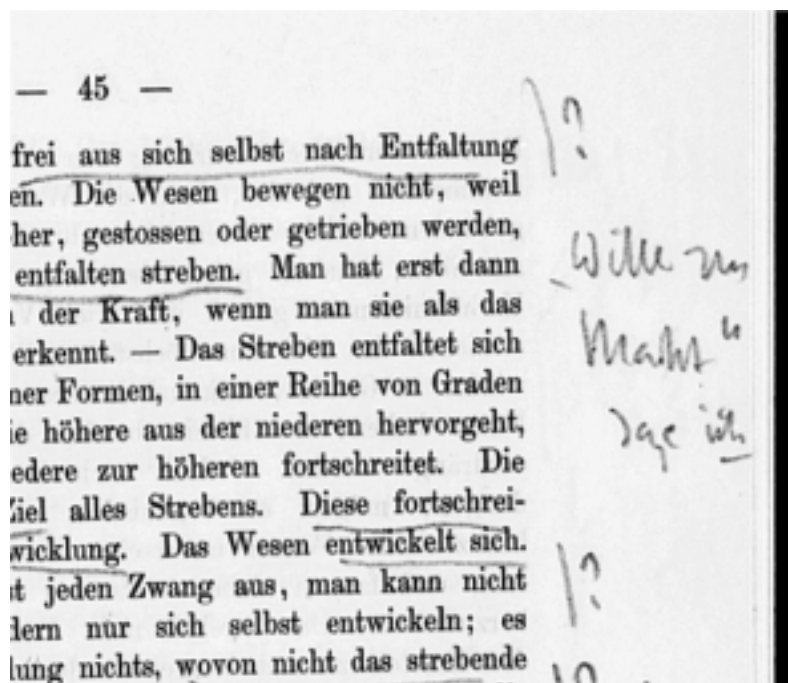
4. OPAC: The presentation of copy-specific data in the OPAC will have to become independent of the up to now exemplary catalogue card. Photographic stock exploitation and other forms of modern recording in museums could serve as a model.

5. Access points: It will be necessary to develop internet access points and search-

engines specializing in copy-specific features that will coordinate heterogeneous resources such as librarian databases, image databases, full text databases and electronic dictionaries and that will present them on a homogeneous surface.

6. Book Processing: The present time offers a good opportunity to put oneself into copy-specific recording. After the file cards are converted, there will be the possibility of combining the numerous emerging claims of preservation - restoration, conservation, microfilming and digitisation - with projects of copy-specific recording. To this end, team-oriented book processing needs to be introduced, taking into account the intended level of description, the capacity of staff, amount, size and quality of collections as well as the participation of users with special knowledge.

Fig.: Markings by Friedrich Nietzsche when annotating: M. Drossbach, Ueber die scheinbaren und die wirklichen Ursachen des Geschehens in der Welt, 1884 (HAAB Weimar, C 252).



Jürgen Weber, Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek Weimar, juergen.weber@swkk.de

In Glasgow, *Monika Linder* reported on a project of a catalogue of bookdealer's catalogues. Together with the cataloguer she sent us a description of the project that might be interesting especially for all those who were not able to be at the conference in Glasgow.

Gerhard Loh: a Leipzig cataloguer of a catalogue of bookdealer's catalogues

When I began to work at the University Library at Leipzig in summer 1996, I already head heard about Gerhard Loh, in connection with bookdealer's catalogues. But my first relation with him was per e-mail – sent at 6.15a.m. in the morning! Still today,

meanwhile retired, he comes to the library, punctually at 6 o'clock. With the same early-morning regularity and the same endurance since the sixties he is still working at the continuation of the project of the *Leipziger Zentraldatei von Antiquariats-, Auktions- und Kunstkatalogen*, The Leipzig database of catalogues of bookdealers, auctioneers and art-catalogues. This project fits very well in one of the projects of the Section of Rare Books and manuscripts, the checking und compiling of catalogues of bookdealer's catalogues. Often, it is difficult to find these kinds of indexations in library catalogues, though these informations are containing very important information on the existence and the distribution of rare books and manuscripts. The following lines are written by himself, the best *connaisseur de sa matière*.

The Leipziger Zentraldatei von Antiquariats-, Auktions- und Kunstkatalogen

Since the end of the fifties, catalogues of booksellers, antiquarian book dealers and auction houses from all over the world in an often very painstaking process have been catalogued and indexed by title and place. Originally, only catalogues from Leipzig University Library were described in the bibliography. The beginnings were a card catalogue - starting in the nineties with a computer the database grew to about 250.000 titles up to now. Thanks to the Internet, locations of copies in libraries all over the world could be added.

At the moment, you can search the database (some 100.000 titles) for sellers, dates of auction, dates of catalogue publication, auctioneers, or words from titles and special subjects. The card catalogue (i.e. titles not yet added to the database) is searchable only for booksellers.

From the beginning the bibliographical material was published as *Internationale Bibliographie der Antiquariats-, Auktions- und Kunstkataloge* (IBAK), one volume comprising two years of publication.

From 1965 onwards (to 1973), volume 1(1960-1961) to volume 5 (1968-1969) were published in Leipzig. There have been two supplements (published Leipzig 1983-1987) and an index of private libraries and collections 1960-1969 (Leipzig 1977).

Far more interesting is the production of catalogues by single vendors which cannot be shown by this chronological method. Therefore a *Bibliographie der Antiquariats-, Auktions- und Kunstkataloge* (BAK) was initialized, this time with full details on catalogue copies in public libraries. Parts 1 – 14 (Leipzig 1975-2001), an index for 1 - 10 (in two parts: 1-5 and 6-10, Leipzig 1980-1991) and a subject index for 1 - 10 (Leipzig 1992) have been issued so far. The work of 185 sellers is documented in this bibliography. Every three years a new issue will come out, the next one - part 15 - is due for February 2004.

As with this publication method the older catalogues from the fifteenth to the midtwentieth century are completely neglected it was decided to publish further bibliographies. The first one is a *Verzeichnis der Kataloge von Buchauktionen und Privatbibliotheken aus dem deutschsprachigen Raum* as these catalogues form the

most urgent problem for researchers. 3 volumes for 1607-1780 have been published as special volumes of BAK (1995-2002).

The main series for European catalogues are the *Die europäischen Privatbibliotheken und Buchauktionen. Ein Verzeichnis ihrer Kataloge* (including booksellers and auction catalogues). Three volumes for 1555 - 1699 have been issued (Leipzig 1996-2003).

Both bibliographies have several indices and give locations for the copies in libraries.

The database cannot be used from outside but questions or orders can be placed with Herrn Dr. sc. Gerhard Loh, Lausner Weg 36 b, D-04207 Leipzig, bestand@ub.uni-leipzig.de

Bibliographies and Databases

News from *Jan Bos*, The Hague:

Bibliopolis (www.bibliopolis.nl)

Bibliopolis is the electronic national history of the printed book in the Netherlands. It is a scholarly, interactive information system with which the researcher can gain insight into the state of affairs in the history of the book and access documentation. Bibliopolis is completely free accessible at www.bibliopolis.nl.

Contents

Bibliopolis is characterised by its use of innovative application of information technology in order to process and make available documentation and research results. Bibliopolis offers the researcher integrated access to various information sources:

- Survey of the history of the printed book in the Netherlands, in 158 parts written by 40 leading book historians;
- Image database: illustrations on the Dutch history of the book: a selection of highlights of the Dutch art of printing, portraits of printers and publishers, typefaces, printer's devices, watermarks etc.;
- Reference material: extensive search options into biographical data, bibliographical databases, information on book auctions, guide to book-historical websites;
- Full text secondary literature: widely-used book-historical studies have been digitized;
- Retrospective bibliography: cross-references to online catalogues at home and abroad that register and make available the printed book.

More information on these information sources can be found in the help screens. The help screens also contain information on the various search options the system offers.

The system, including the underlying database and the accessory search facilities,

are managed and maintained by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands, in co-operation with the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden, Nijmegen and Utrecht and the Nederlandse Boekhistorische Vereniging. Financial support was provided by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

Book History Online (www.kb.nl/bho)

In April 2001 the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), National Library of the Netherlands, was pleased to announce the launch of *Book History Online (BHO)*. *Book History Online* is a database on the history of the printed book and libraries and is posted on the website www.kb.nl/bho.

BHO contains titles of books and articles on the history of the printed book worldwide. It is based on *ABHB*, the *Annual Bibliography of the History of the printed Book and Libraries*. This annual book publication is a collaboration of book historians in more than 30 countries, under auspices of the IFLA Section on Rare Books and manuscripts. Since 1989, the Department of Special Collections of the KB has formed the editorial board and maintained a cumulative database.

A pilot version of *BHO* was demonstrated during the SHARP 2000 conference in Mainz. *BHO* is edited by the same team as *ABHB*. A demonstration of the state of art of *BHO* was given at the SHARP 2002 conference in London.

Subjects covered by *BHO* correspond with those of *ABHB*: all scholarly valuable books and articles relating to the history of the printed book and libraries and to book production, distribution, conservation, description and analysis. Also included are articles referring to the history of the arts, crafts, techniques, and equipment in relation to books; and to the book and library in their economic, social and cultural environment.

The online files can be searched by names of authors, editors, title words of books and periodicals, classification, geographical keywords, names of persons (printers, publishers etc.), firms and institutions, and by subjects and words in annotations.

The database contains ca 28.000 records. Volumes 20 (1989) to 29 (1998) of *ABHB* are already online. *BHO* includes also more recent entries that have not yet been published in *ABHB* (1999 and later). By January 2003, the site has been visited for over 32.000 times.

Future plans will concentrate mainly on two developments. Firstly, *BHO* needs to be more up-to-date. As all descriptions are based on autooption and the output of national bibliographies, the inclusion of recent publications poses a problem well known to all bibliographers, a fact that was pointed out once again at the *BHO* demonstration in London. Therefore, *BHO* encourages individual scholars to submit entries to *BHO*. These may at all times be forwarded to the address below. *BHO* is considering the inclusion of these entries prior to having them checked by the National Committees. The second development is in fact a long cherished wish by contributors and users alike, namely the use of more detailed keywords. Other

future plans focus on the inclusion of the older entries published in *ABHB* from 1973 to 1989 and the development of authority files. The general editor of *BHO* is always interested to hear your opinion of *BHO*. For questions, contributions and further information please contact: bho@kb.nl.

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E-mail bho@kb.nl

News from *Lin Zuzao*, Senior Research Librarian, Zhejiang Library, China:

Publication news:

A Bibliography of Zhejiang Library's Ancient Rare Books is officially Published
After "China's Bibliography of Ancient and Rare Books" was published, one of China's largest local ancient and rare books holding institution, Zhejiang Library has ultimately completed the compiling work of its ancient rare books bibliography. This is an excellent news for China as well as the world scholars, professors, specialists engaged in science research work of ancient and rare books.

„The Bibliography of Ancient and Rare Books in Zhejiang Library” was officially published in November 2002. It covers 970 pages with more than 1.600.000 Chinese characters and is divided into five sections of classics, history, philosophy, anthology and serials. It contains 6935 titles with 7506 sets of ancient rare books in this library. Meanwhile, it also collected the ancient rare books of transcripts, editions of wood or copper printed and rare books with comments and remarks by ancient Chinese scholars from Japan, Korea and Vietnam, which were stored in Zhejiang Library. Besides, this tool book also shows the editions situation of the library's treasure of "Wenlan Ge Siku Quanshu" (one set of four serials of classics, history, philosophy, and anthology of literature), and has a penetrating description of this national treasure of 3470 titles (36917 volumes) of rare books since 1785 AD. The distinguished features of this tool book are as follows:

1. This book collects all the library holdings of the rare books, manuscripts, transcripts, editions of wood or copper-printed and rare books with comments and remarks by ancient Chinese famous scholars before 1795 AD. Meanwhile, it is also gathers some transcripts, editions of wood-printed etc., which were rarely seen, and handed down after 1795.
2. On the description of each item, this tool book makes a great improvement on "China's Ancient and Rare Books Bibliography". The items of titles, authors, editions, collation, added entry etc., are all included. It also clearly shows the border bars, form and arrangement of the lines calligraphy in Chinese ancient rare books.
3. The arrangement of this bibliographic tool book is in accordance with the traditional Chinese bibliographic book of ancient and rare books. It is divided into four sections of classics, history, philosophy and anthology of literature. Anyhow, this book takes the miscellaneous writer's works and the records of particular events

from the section of philosophy and established another section which is recognized by the scholars in China.

4. For the convenience of the books' readers, this book also provides the title index of the code of rectangular for Chinese character, the titles' radical index and the authors' index of code of rectangular for Chinese character in the postscript of this book. This is rarely seen in traditional Chinese bibliography of ancient and rare books. It is also one of this book's characteristics.

Editors looking for assistance:

The *Papers of Abraham Lincoln* seeks help in completing a compilation of Lincoln documents. The project aims to identify, gather images of, and publish documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln. It is planned to publish an on-line electronic edition and a selective print edition. Major repositories of Lincoln papers have been identified, however, the editors are still trying to locate Lincoln documents in private hands and in small archives, libraries, or museums. Any information should be sent to the following website, where you can find a form to fill out:

<http://www.papersofabrahamlincoln.org/> or to Dr. Dennis K. Boman, Assistant Editor, The Papers of Abraham Lincoln, #1 Old State Capitol Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217/785-9130, fax: 217/524-6973, dboman@papersofabrahamlincoln.org

Voltaire Foundation is looking for people who might like to test the Electronic Enlightenment database, containing the complete correspondence of Voltaire. A test version of phase 1 will soon be available. People interested should email Robert McNamee (robert.mcnamee@voltaire.ox.ac.uk) with name, institution, role (students allowed), browser details and academic interests.

Updated or new:

The *Royal Historical Society Bibliography* announced on February 12, 2003 that it has just updated its database to include 2001 publications. Free access on : www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl

Universitäts- und Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, part of Erfurt University, has just given a new home to a large collection of letters of German emigrants to America from 1820 to 1914. The collection of 7.000 letters was begun in Bochum in the early eighties, at Ruhr University by Professor Dr. Wolfgang Helbich (Schnepfenthal), and was sponsored by Volkswagenwerk Stiftung. The letters were collected mainly from all parts of Western Germany, so Erfurt University will now try to get letters from people living in places in eastern parts. There are finding aids for the collection, background information on the letter writers, and to historical events and situations mentioned in the texts. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uni-erfurt.de/nordamerika/babs/index.html> or from Forschungsbibliothek Gotha, telephone number Germany 03621/3080-0.

Jena University began to scan 2.300 papyri from its Institut für

Altertumswissenschaften. In about six months the first texts will be online. The project is sponsored by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and will include material from Halle and Leipzig (about 5.200 papyri).

Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart has recently scanned 37.000 cards of the *Wasserzeichenkartei Piccard*. About two thirds of the collection of watermarks by Piccard had been published in 17 volumes in the years 1961 to 1997. Now the still unpublished watermarks have been digitized. The database can be found at <http://www.lad-bw.de/ladsu/piccard/> . The database is very comfortable to use, so one critic even suggested to scan the printed volumes in order to have all watermarks in the online database.

In late autumn last year Getty Research Institute opened the *Provenance Index Database*. Apart from artists or subjects you can search for auctions and auction catalogues. This is interesting for libraries, too, as often art works and books were sold at the same auction. The URL for the database is www.getty.edu/research/tools/provenance/ .

The *Bibliothèque de Troyes* has opened a virtual library of images in January this year. It gives access to 4700 images. There are miniatures from the Middle Ages, 'livrets de colportage' from the so-called Bibliothèque bleue, and old pictures from Troyes. The URL where you can find out more on this new search tool is <http://www.bm-troyes.fr> .

The University of Alberta, Canada, digitized the *Edmonton Collection*. It is a private collection of street literature held in Edmonton, and comprises a wide range of types, from street ballads through chapbooks and tracts to valentines, from Britain and mostly from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The website can be easily browsed or searched in a variety of ways. URL: <http://www.crcstudio.arts.ualberta.ca/streetprint/>

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA) recently made available a *Stolen Books Database* that contains information regarding to stolen or missing books reported by ABAA Members and the general public. The database can be found at <http://www.abaa.org/pages/php/mydbedit/mydbedit.php?tablename=stolenbooks>

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz opened a *E.T.A. Hoffmann database* in December last year. At <http://eta.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/index.html> a guide to material on Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann, author, composer, and artist is given as well as links to other important collections on the artist.

New Literature

DIGICULT, the European Commission's Digital heritage and Cultural Content programme is publishing a Web magazine called *Cultivate Interactive*. In the most recent issue - November 2002 - there are articles on various projects of DIGICULT

and on a new Irish national digitisation programme. *Cultivate Interactive* can be found at <http://www.cultivate-int.org/> .

The *Accès Multilingue Et Patrimoine* Heritage Programme, an international cooperation to provide multilingual access to heritage databases (AMP) aiming at facilitating access to scientific and cultural heritage data for specialists as well as the general public has issued its third newsletter by now. Available at <http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/mrt/numerisation/>

The papers given by *Susan M. Allen* - "Nobody Knows You're a Dog (or Library, or Museum, or Archive) on the Internet: The Convergence of Three Cultures" - and *Walter Undorf* - "Means before purpose - the development of cooperation between cultural heritage institutions in Sweden" - last year in Glasgow are on IFLA's website now.

SHARP winter newsletter is just out. Apart from conference reports, calls for papers and book reviews there is an interesting text on efforts to establish research on international history of the book in addition to regional history of the book research.

From the Libraries

Universitäts-und Forschungsbibliothek Erfurt/Gotha on January 30, 2003 opened access to the *Bibliotheca Amploniana*. In 1412, the scholar Amplonius Rating de Bercka gave his library to Erfurt university. Now, 591 years later, the new University has got this huge amount of manuscripts - over the years incunabula and printed books have been added - and thus houses the biggest intact library of a late medieval scholar. The manuscripts can be used at University Campus, Erfurt, Nordhäuser Straße 63.

Getty Research Institute in 1998 acquired the *Duveen Archive* from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In autumn last year they announced that the archive has now been catalogued and microfilmed for greater national and international access. Copies of the microfilms of the archive have been deposited in the Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum, the Witt Library of the Courtauld Institute in London, and the Institut national d'histoire de l'art in Paris. The records of the Duveen Brothers fine art dealership (who operated from 1869 to 1964 in London, Paris, and New York) amount to almost 450 reels of microfilm, and are very important for research on the history of collecting European art in America.

Beinecke and Walpole Libraries have launched a new interface to the digital image collections at http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/dl_crosscollex/. Cross-collection search is possible now for four collections:

- Beinecke Photonegatives collection
- Beinecke Digital collections which is the current repository for all new scanning projects at the Beinecke.
- The Marinetti Libroni: 23,000 press clippings and images on Futurism.
- The Lewis Walpole Library digital collection consisting of British 18th century satirical prints.

Searches available are keyword(s) or phrase, but advanced searching capability is planned for future development.

Also from *Yale* there is access to the *Franklin Papers* at www.yale.edu/franklinpapers/index.html

Cornell University Library in 1999 received a considerable grant to conserve its extensive *Samuel May Anti-Slavery Collection*. Full conservation treatment to restore the items - most of them pamphlets dating from the nineteenth century - to a useable state and the creation of electronic surrogates that are being made broadly and comprehensively available via the World Wide Web are under way. Full online cataloguing of the entire collection makes it possible to access both the original pamphlets and their digital surrogates. For details look at: http://www.library.cornell.edu/mayantislavery/project_description.htm

The manuscript of *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony* became World Heritage recently. There is part of the manuscript digitized on the homepage of *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*: <http://beethoven.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de>

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek has digitized ADB (Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie). Available at <http://mdz.bib-bvb.de/digbib/lexika/adb/> . The index for ADB and NDB (Neue Deutsche Biographie) is also online: <http://mdz2.bib-bvb.de/~ndb/ndbmaske.html>

From *Joana Escobedo* we have got the following news from the *Biblioteca de Catalunya*:

Exhibitions

Last year –2002- the centenary of the death of the Catalan poet Jacint Verdaguer (1845-1902), a writer important for his writings and for his contribution to the vitality of the Catalan language especially in its literary area, was celebrated as well as the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth year anniversary of the birth of Antoni Gaudí (1852-1926), the well known architect of the Modernist movement, author of such special buildings as the temple of the Sagrada Família (“Holy Family”) in Barcelona.

Among the collections of the *Biblioteca de Catalunya*, there is a monographic one dedicated to Jacint Verdaguer. Its holdings keep the most known and largest collection of his literary manuscripts as well as his personal library, books of study and work, which has been completed with editions, translations and studies on his works. On the occasion of his centenary, la *Biblioteca de Catalunya* organized an exhibition under the title, which could be visited in Vic, at the *Museu de l'Art de la Pell*, from the 7th June to the 14th July 2002; in Barcelona, at the *Sala Verdaguer del Palau Moja*, from the 10th September to the 30th November, and which can also be visited in Madrid, at the *Biblioteca Nacional*, from the 25th February to the 30th April 2003. The exhibited pieces are gathered together in a printed catalogue published by the *Biblioteca de Catalunya –Verdaguer, un geni poètic. Catàleg de l'exposició*

commemorativa del centenari de la mort de Jacint Verdaguer (1902-2002) (Barcelona: Biblioteca de Catalunya, 2002). Among the exhibit stands out a number of recently acquired letters: 23 letters that Jacint Verdaguer, Joan Mañé i Flaquer and Joan Maragall addressed to Ricard Monner i Sans, correspondent of the *Diario de Barcelona* in Buenos Aires, between 1881 and 1901. The correspondence held by Monner with Mañé i Flaquer, director of the *Diario*, between 1893 and 1898, deals with his contract terms and with the subject of his articles, in general referring to the current matters of the time in South-American countries. Most of the letters were written by Joan Maragall, then secretary of the newspaper, who directly signed two of them. The letters by Verdaguer to Monner, until now unknown, have a more personal character: they are letters from a friend over twenty years, between 1881 and 1901, most of them written during a conflictive period in the life of the poet, the moment of his confrontation with the Marquès de Comillas and the ecclesiastical hierarchy.

The relationship between Gaudí and the Biblioteca de Catalunya is more personal: the architect died within the walls of the center, when the building that now holds the Library was still the city hospital –the Hospital de la Santa Creu.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya spreads its diffusion policies to the lending of material for external exhibitions. This year we would like to underline the loan of Arabic manuscripts for an exhibition organized by the Institut Català de la Mediterrània, which took place in the Library of Alexandria -*Joies escrites. Llegat de la cultura àrab a Catalunya a través dels seus fons bibliogràfics*-, from the 6th February to the 29th March 2002; later augmented and exhibited in Barcelona, at the Pia Almoina, from the 23th April to the 23th June 2002. A fair number of Jewish manuscripts have also been sent for some exhibitions: *Los judíos españoles en las fuentes hebreas*, organized by the Consorci de Museus de la Comunitat Valenciana and exhibited at the Sala de la Cúpula of the Museu de Belles Arts de València from the 11th April to the 9th June 2002; *La Catalunya jueva*, organized by the Museu d'Història de Catalunya of Barcelona and exhibited at the same place from the 22nd May to the 29th September 2002, and *Sefarad. El recuerdo de la tierra perdida*, organized by the Sociedad Estatal para la Acción Cultural Exterior, S.A. (SEACEX) and exhibited at the Centro Cultural San Marcos (Toledo), from the 20th September to the 8th December 2002.

Lectures

On the 29th May 2002 the American literary critic Harold Bloom, on the occasion of being the winner of the Premi Internacional Catalunya 2002, presented his work *El futur de la imaginació*, published in Catalan. Later he gave a lecture at the Biblioteca de Catalunya on the literary canon. Bloom pointed out the importance of authors such as Ramon Llull or the Catalan poet Salvador Espriu in the forming of the western canon.

Acquisitions

Among the manuscripts acquired this year we would like to show the interest of one of them, donation of the heirs of the philologist Joan Gili: a lapidary –a treatise of

gem-stones and precious metals- from the XVth century, the only one complete Catalan manuscript belonging to this category of scientific texts especially valued during the Middle Ages.

Publications and presentations

The Institut Ramon Llull and the Biblioteca de Catalunya have republished in facsimile format a Catalan-German dictionary, the *Vocabolari molt profitos per aprendre lo Catalan Alamany y lo Alamany Catalan*, whose original printing –500 years old- is now commemorated. It was printed in Perpinyà in 1502 by the German printer Joan Rosembach. It concerns the learning of the two languages directed at the general public, particularly workmen, artisans, craftsmen, tradesmen, merchants and people who, for one reason or another, were related with Germany and the Corona d'Aragó. The item held at the Biblioteca de Catalunya is unique.

The presentation of this facsimile edition of the *Vocabolari molt profitos per aprendre lo Catalan Alamany y Alamany Catalan* took place at the Institut de Romàniques de la Humboldt-Universität of Berlin last 28 October, among other activities organized by *El pont blau*, promoted by the Institut Ramon Llull. Other presentations were held in Perpinyà and in Barcelona in January.

Biblioteca de Catalunya
Barcelona, February 2003

From the Editors

This newsletter has some articles from non-native speakers of English, so we think we should explain the editor's policy: We publish all texts normally in the state they are sent to us. Sometimes there are words or lines missing or there is some mistake in spelling - provided we see this, we 'll correct it (without further notice to the author). Being non-native speakers ourselves, we are not muddling with grammar or style. Up to now, we have translated texts coming to us in German (though German is an official IFLA language ...). All mistakes and bad English in those cases go completely on my account (R.M.), and I do apologize to you all.

Again, when this newsletter will be published, the New Year will be not very new at all. Nevertheless, we wish you all the best for a happy and peaceful 2003. Many things in the Section have to be done, some longstanding members will leave, new colleagues will join the RBM Section this year. And than there will be IFLA in Berlin in August: We hope to meet you all here and we are looking forward to show you around the library. Details on the activities you will find in the Summer Newsletter - together with lots of articles, news, and reports on the projects of your Collections that you will - no doubt - send to us till May 15th, 2003!

Sincerely,
R. Mahlke, A. Wehmeyer

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