

Summer 2004



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

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

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Members - Errata

Unfortunately, there have been some mistakes in the last newsletter. We do apologise and hope, there have been no too great inconveniences so far:

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IFLA 70th Conference in Buenos Aires, August 22nd to 27th, 2004

Susan Allen and Jan Bos have sent the Section's programme for Buenos Aires, and some suggestions for other interesting meetings:

Wednesday 25 August 2004, **13.45 - 15.45**

Rare Books and Manuscripts: *Migration and reunification of collections*

- *The journey of a chronicle from the New World to the old and back: Martin de Murua's 'Historia General del Peru' in the Paul Getty Museum*
Viaje de una crónica del Nuevo Mundo al Viejo y su regreso: la Historia

general del Perú de Martín de Murúa del Museo J. Paul Getty
BARBARA ANDERSON (Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, USA)

- *Novum Regestrum, Catálogo colectivo de impresos de los siglos XVI-XIX en las bibliotecas de Iberoamérica, España y Portugal*
Novum Regestrum. The Union Catalogue of Printed Books from 15th to 19th century in Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese Libraries
MARIA CRISTINA GUILLÉN BERMEJO (Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Spain)
- *The manuscript collections of Europe: a mirror of migration, separation, and reunification as seen in the Alexander von Humboldt Collection in Berlin*
Les collections de manuscrits européens : le reflet d'une migration, d'une séparation et d'une réunification tel qu'observé dans la collection Alexander Von Humboldt de Berlin
Las Colecciones Europeas de Manuscritos: Un Espejo de la Migración, Separación y Reunificación, tal como se refleja en la Colección Alexander von Humboldt de Berlín
JUTTA WEBER (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preußischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Germany)
- *The World of the Islamic Manuscripts database: a prerequisite for writing the Muslim history of science with emphasis on Abdul Hossein Haeri's viewpoints*
EHSANOLLA SHOKROLLAHI (Parliamentary Library of Iran, Teheran, Iran)
- *The manuscript and the Internet: digital repatriation of cultural heritage*
El manuscrito y el Internet: la repatriación digital de legados culturales
IVAN BOSERUP (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen, Denmark)

The **Standing Committee Meetings** will take place on Sunday 22 August, from 11.30 to 14.20 hrs and Saturday 28 August, from 11.30 to 14.20 hrs

Other interesting programmes for RBMS librarians may be:

Monday 23 August, 13.45 - 15.45:

Newspapers of Latin America

Tuesday 24 August, 16.00 - 18.00:

Preservation and Conservation (PAC) with National Libraries and Preservation and Conservation - SI: Safeguarding our documentary heritage: do national libraries have a disaster plan?

Wednesday 25 August ,08.30 - 10.30: **Art Libraries:** *Outside the commercial corridor: art libraries and the capture, compilation and use of gratis information*

Wednesday 25 August, 08.30 - 12.45: **Preservation and Conservation with Audiovisual and Multimedia:** *Sights and sounds: preserving the new media*

More details are on the IFLA web site. All papers of our Section are online, some of them in different languages. We are also happy to inform you about two recent additions to the Section's website (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/index.htm>):

- The Section's brochure in Spanish

- A provisionally list of International Organisations and Projects related to Rare Books and Manuscripts (At one of the Standing Committee meetings in Buenos Aires the definite parameters for this list will be discussed.)

From the Libraries

Austin: Texas A&M University Libraries celebrated the acquisition of its three millionth volume in April this year. It was a first edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, 1855. Cushing Library now owns every major edition of Whitman's book. Last year, the library acquired the *Roger Asselineau Walt Whitman collection*. Another important collection of Cushing Library is a *Don Quichote collection* focussing on illustrated editions. With more than 200 items, the collection contains numerous important editions, beginning with the 1620 printing, the first edition of both parts published in English. Other highlights include a 1655 Madrid edition and a unique copy of the John Bowle edition of 1781. There will be an exhibition and a symposium in 2005. More details can be found on <http://www.cSDL.tamu.edu/cervantes>.

Berlin: The *Music Department* of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin celebrated the conclusion of *Bach Patronat*, the restoration of the Bach autographs, in March this year.

Some *interesting acquisitions* have been made in the first months of 2004: The *Manuscript Department* acquired an important manuscript by Adelbert von Chamisso. It is on one he wrote during his voyages. As the library owns Chamisso's papers, this autograph fits perfectly into the collection. From an antiquarian bookseller a Czech bible was bought. It is the second edition, dated 1489, printed by Martin von Tischnowitz of Kuttenberg. No other copy of this incunabulum is known in German libraries.

The *Department of Early Printed Books* bought several cooking books for the library's Sammlung Deutscher Drucke 1870 – 1912 at an auction in April. The library owned a large collection of cooking books, however, most of it was lost during War World II.

The *Music Department* received the papers of Gerhard Rosenfeld, a modern German composer who died in 2003.

The *Map Department* acquired a collection of maps printed on silk, dating from mid-20th century, recently.

In cataloguing work some interesting discoveries and re-discoveries have been made. So, a rare incunabulum was found when cataloguing books for the library's ST16. It is a Paris print of a French verse version of Justinian's *Institutiones* by Richard d'Annebaut. The book was printed in 1486 by Antoine Caillaut, and there are only three copies known today.

Some important works illustrated with original photographs were rediscovered, too: The library owns a copy of the *Ordnance survey of the peninsula of Sinai* by C.W.Wilson and H.S.Palmer. The survey was undertaken in 1868/1869, and published in 1869 in 5 volumes with more than 150 mounted photographs. Another trouvaille is Isidore van Kinsbergen's *Oudheden van Java*, published in 5 volumes in 1872. The mounted photographs were taken by van Kinsbergen in 1863 to 1867. The volumes were bought by the Königliche Bibliothek in 1904 together with the Library of the Netherlandish India Academy (Instelling voor onderwijs in de taal-, land- en volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indie) from the city of Delft. Finally, a copy of Maxime DuCamp's *Egypte, Nubie, Palestine et Syrie*, the famous voyage with Gustave Flaubert in 1849 – 1851, bought in 1917, was discovered in connection with preparations for an exhibition. Though the paper of the copy is a bit spotted, the salt paper photographs of this incunabulum of photographically illustrated books are in excellent condition.

Canterbury: The Telegraph recently (21.6.2004) announced that a famous first edition of *Caxton's Polychronicon* was given on permanent loan to Canterbury Cathedral Library: The *Polychronicon*, one of the first books to be printed in England is given to the library by Tenterden council, Kent. The book, written in Latin by Ranulph Hugden in 1360 and translated into Middle English by John of Trevisa in 1387 will be put on display at exhibitions for the first time. It was given to Tenterden council, the birthplace of William Caxton, in 1921. Though about 30 copies of the *Polychronicon* survive, the Tenterden edition is believed to be the original. It has handwritten annotations in its margins and is signed by the printer. Sarah Gray, assistant librarian to the Cathedral, told that the *Polychronicon* – which is in superb condition – fills a major gap in the tremendous collection of rare books at the Cathedral library.

Dresden: In February, the Art Library of Dresden's Staatliche Kunstsammlungen was opened to the public. Though a small library, it owns

books published in the 16th century. Details via www.kunstabibliothek-dresden.de

Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Library is the new owner of the *Native American collection*. The collection was transferred from Huntington Free Library, its former owner, to Cornell University by mid-June. Highlights of the library include early printed books on travel and exploration with accounts of encounters with native peoples; rare dictionaries of Native American languages; original drawings of American Indians by the artist George Catlin; field notes by 19th-century ethnographers and papers of archaeological expeditions; a German prince's account of travels in North America's interior – considered one of the finest early 19th-century works on American Indian life; a 1765 original manuscript peace treaty between the Delaware Nation and Britain's superintendent of Indian affairs; and papers of the Women's National Indian Association. Cornell University Library plans to make available about 1,300 rare books from the collection – some 40,000 volumes in all – on the web.

London: The Royal Academy of Music acquired the archive of the late Yehudi Menuhin. The archive contains the correspondence of the musician, photographic records of Menuhin's life, and original musical scores. There are letters from Edward Elgar, Bela Bartok, Benjamin Britten, Albert Einstein and the Indian prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, as well as autographs from the Royal family.

Munich: Bettina Wagner sent news from Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich has completed the retro conversion of its *catalogue of books printed between 1841 and 1952*. The catalogue is now online under <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/opac/qk.htm>. The catalogue has been converted as images of the old, frequently handwritten, catalogue cards. It can be browsed alphabetically; an improved search facility is under development. Instructions on the sorting order used in the catalogue are available under "Hinweise zur Recherche". With the completion of this retro conversion, the entire holdings of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek since 1501 are now searchable electronically.

Oslo: Elisabeth Eide sent us the following article:

Some information on a little known multimedia database from The National Library of Norway, Oslo.

One of Norway's really prominent linguists, Georg Morgenstierne, professor of Indo-Iranian languages and author of *Indo-Iranian Frontier Languages* and a multitude of other publications, was also a pioneer photographer and sound recorder – at least in the inhospitable surroundings of the mountainous regions of Afghanistan.

As early as 1923, when he went on his first linguistic expedition in the area of Afghanistan, India and Pakistan (formerly the North-Western frontier territories), he carried with him equipment for photography. In 1929 he also carried with him equipment for sound recordings and for filming live. In addition he took extensive notes of his experiences, not only of interest to the linguists, but of great information value to a broader audience.

His daughter donated most of his papers, photos, films and sound recordings to the nation, i.e. to the national collections first of the University of Oslo Library, later the Oslo division of The National Library of Norway.

The library decided, together with academic staff from the University of Oslo, to make a multi-media database from this audio-visual material, focusing mainly on the material from Afghanistan, but also including some material from India, Pakistan and Persia (Iran). The material from Afghanistan is of special interest because it comprises photos taken at intervals from 1923 to 1968; live film from 1929 containing what must be some of the last pre-Muslim rituals to be held in Afghanistan, sound recordings from dialects now more or less disappeared and of course copious notes. Before 1923 this region had not been much frequented and the languages of these Indo-European tribes not studied.

The film sequences clearly demonstrate how the common people lived in 1929; it gives indication of the position of women at that time, of sacrifices to traditional gods etc. The combination of Morgenstierne's scholarly notes, information from his assistant who later became lecturer at the same institute, data expertise and technical know-how from the library, the dedication of the library's photo conservator and the unique collection of photos, films and sound recordings makes this an excellent mine of information about a country that has been in turmoil for some decades now, and where its rulers apparently have preferred to ruin its historic past rather than furthering studies in that field.

Anyone especially interested in the topic or the technical qualities of the database may freely visit our website:

<http://www.nb.no/baser/morgenstierne>, or contact our conservator, Wlodek Witek, for further information.

Washington: The Library of Congress announced the release of a new online collection "Spalding Base Ball Guides, 1889-1939." It is available on the Library's American Memory Web site at:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/spaldinghtml/> and reproduces 35 of the guides, which were published by the Spalding Athletic Company in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs Division announced that between January and March 2004, it added thousands of catalogue records and images to the Library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog (PPOC) <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html>, bringing the number of images in the catalogue to nearly 1 million. New materials include:

- National Child Labor Committee Collection (NCLC):

5,100 NCLC photographs [ca.1908-1924] which were primarily taken by the photographer Lewis Hine.

- U.S. News and World Report Magazine Photograph Collection:

more than 100 photos taken between 1952 and 1983, including the struggle for African American civil rights, presidential campaigns, and the visits to the United States of foreign dignitaries, as well as life in Vietnam, the Middle East and Russia.

The Prints and Photographs Online Catalogue contains catalogue records and digital images and provides access through group or item records to about 60 percent of the division's holdings. About 90 percent of the records are accompanied by one or more digital images. For information on new collections and upcoming programs in the Prints and Photographs Division, go to the division's "What's New" page <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/whatsnew.html>

Collection Policies

Majid Saeli Kordehdeh, the Majles-e Shora-ye Eslami (Islamic Consultative Assembly), Teheran, has sent us the following article:

The Majles Library's Activities with Manuscripts

Introduction

Manuscripts found at the Majles Library are a testimony of the long intellectual history of Muslims to promote sciences of all kind. These works have played a central role in the cultural development of Muslim and Iranian history and civilisation. They are a source of knowledge about the past. This article will look at some of the efforts that are undertaken by the Majles Library to preserve its collection of manuscripts, to make them accessible to researchers and the general public.

Although Iran manuscripts can still be found in many libraries, mosques, old schools and in private collections, there are five main centres where many important manuscripts are held. These centres are the Majles (Parliamentary) Library in Tehran, the Ayatollah Marashi-yi Najafi Library in Qom, the Astan-e Qods-e Razavi Library in Mashhad, the Central Library of Tehran University and the Malek Library in Tehran. The Majles Library, however, holds the most important collection of manuscripts in Iran. The Majles Library's collection of Islamic manuscripts is internationally

renowned. The collection is one of the largest and finest of its kind in Iran and in the Muslim world. The many treasures it contains and the breadth and scope of the subjects they cover make this collection one of the most important storehouses of Islamic and Iranian documentary heritage in the world. The collection contains some 24,000 volumes, with about 80,000 titles of manuscripts, ranging from the 3rd to the 14th century Hijri / 9th to the 20th century CE.

The collection is unique for two reasons. First, it contains many important items, that is, some of the finest illuminations and calligraphy with a variety of scripts of the Holy Qur'an, calligraphic art works, and other high-quality copies of many important works. Secondly, the collection is one the most diverse in terms of the subjects that are covered by the manuscripts. The manuscripts include copies of: the Holy Qur'an, works of Qur'anic sciences, Hadiths (reports from the Prophet and the Imams), Kalam or theology, Islamic law, prayers and sermons, mysticism, philosophy, ethics and politics, biographies, histories, geographical works, Arabic and Persian grammar, lexicography and philology, rhetoric and prosody, poetry and prose, anthologies and other literary works, alchemy, astronomy, medicine, pharmacy and pharmacology, natural history, chemistry, etc. This outstanding collection is now accessible to libraries, cultural and academic institutions and researchers from all over the world.

This article will present, first, a short history of the collection. Then, the article will present the main activities that the library undertakes in order to protect its collection and the measures it takes to restore manuscripts. Then, the article will present the various activities related to manuscripts: purchase, donation, exchange, evaluation, researching and cataloguing, and preservation and conservation. Then, the article will discuss the services offered by the Library: library and information services concerning the manuscripts, its databases, microfilm, CD-ROM and photocopy services, and the bibliographical information about manuscripts to be found on the Majles Library website. And finally, the article will discuss the editing and the publishing of manuscripts in order to preserve this priceless intellectual heritage, along with the publication of festschrifts to honour important Iranian cataloguers.

History of the Manuscripts Collection in the Majles Library

The establishment of the Parliamentary Library of Iran has been laid down in Art.135 of the local by-law of the National Consultative Assembly approved on Jan.7, 1909. In this law the "library office" is named as one of the "administrative offices" of the National Consultative Assembly. Arbad Keikhosrow Shahrokh, representative of Zoroastrians in the second period of the National Consultative Assembly, Director of the Administrative and supplier of the National Consultative Assembly at that time was the person who played an effective role in the achievement of the said article. But due to heavy loads of administrative affairs, fulfilment of duties as representative

and lack of finance the establishment of the said library was delayed. The Majles Library was established in 1912 by purchasing 202 books from Mirza Abolhassan Jelveh. 105 books were handwritten. Therefore the establishment of the Majles Library coincided with the providing of the first manuscripts. Special attention was paid to the establishment of the Majles Library by educated persons, great educated men, politicians and compilers. Several manuscripts were donated to or purchased by Majles. Some of these donated manuscripts bear the name of the grantor and the year they were granted. The granted books are as follows:

Collection of Mirza Mahmud Khan Ehteshamossaltaneh: He granted 1888 printed and handwritten books in 1912 and 1923. There are very precious handwritten books among the granted books.

Collection of Seyed Mohammad Tabatabaei in 1945: 1438 handwritten books

Collection of Najmoddoleh in 1949: 115 handwritten books

Collection of Firouz in 1957: 368 handwritten books

Collection of Lalani: 26 handwritten books

Collection of Seyed Jamaladdin Asadabadi in 1963: 28 handwritten books

Collection of Khoei, The Friday Imam, in 1965: 260 handwritten books

Collection of Rahi Moayyeri in 1968: 23 handwritten books

Collection of Soltan Algharaei in 1969: 179 handwritten books

Collection of Holacu Rambod in 1972: 46 handwritten books

Collection of Mohtasham Nouri in 1980: 5 handwritten books

Collection of Sorod in 1983: 147 handwritten books

Collection of Moezzi Dezfouli in 1993: 420 handwritten books

Collection of Karimzadeh Tabrizi in 1999: 1000 handwritten books

Collection of Malek Madani in 2000: 51 handwritten books

Collection of Sadrolafazel during 2000-2001: 70 handwritten books

Activities

The main activities of the Majles Library with manuscripts are about cataloguing, library and information services, preservation, publishing and encouragement of the researches to research about manuscripts. The detailed description of such activities is as follows. The following classification is based on the library sections of the Majles Library.

A) The Manuscript Section

1. Donation and purchase

Every year, 250 to 300 manuscripts are purchased for the Majles Library. The sum of RIs.700,000,000/- (equivalent to 87500 USD) is allocated for such purpose. On average 243 manuscripts were granted to the Majles Library every year from 1998 to 2003.

Manuscripts shall be studied in a council named "Assessment Council" or "Evaluation Council" before purchasing. The said council consists of famous version recognisers and listing experts. This council holds its session once a week. In these sessions the scientific, historical, artistic and monetary value

of these manuscripts shall be studied. If the result of the assessment is positive, they will be bought. The considered purchasing priorities are: age, being rare or unique, the handwriting of one of the famous calligraphers, penmen and writers, written by the author, trimmed to illumination, having a superior cover, existence of historical and cultural notes in the manuscript. If the purchased manuscripts have been damaged they will be sent to the preservation and conservation section for repair purposes.

2. Manuscripts Cataloguing

In the cataloguing of the manuscripts, bibliography and codicology have been considered. Finding the title and subject of the manuscript and the name of the author shall be done in the bibliography stage. In codicology usually articles such as the style of writing and graphology, the date of copying (transcription), the name of the copyist (scribe), notes added to the main hand written book by scientific and cultural authorities in the lapse of time, decorations and motifs such as illuminations (gold works), paintings and drawings, letter-heads, book-cover properties as material and size, properties of the paper as type of paper and the place of the manufacturing of the paper shall be under consideration.

Up to now most of the manuscripts were catalogued and 38 volumes of the Majles Library manuscript catalogues were published.

Professor Abdol Husain Haeri, a well-known bibliographer who has been working in the Majles Library for 50 years and whose scientific reputation is highly regarded by the bibliographers of the world, says about his cataloguing method "I will never catalogue a manuscript unless I know its title and name of author exactly. Sometimes cataloguing a manuscript requires one or two months studying. Muslims scientific history is incomplete and during studying we will face many unknown scientists whose names are mentioned in no history of science. Even we find unknown books written by well-known scientists".

In order to achieve a complete and accurate compilation of Muslims' scientific history he offered:

"For compiling history of science by the Iranian and Muslims I offer to collect the duplicate copies (reproductions) of all manuscripts existing in the world in a certain centre that could be available to every person. I mean to make a worldwide databank of all manuscripts written in Islamic periods so that accessibility to them would be easy."

3. Research Activities

Other important activities in this section are:

Compiling the "Gonahnameh Ashshariatu Ila Istidrak-i Zzariah Magazine".

The said magazine is compiled in order to complete the great Shiite bibliography entitled "Azzariatu Ila Tasanif-I Ashshiah" by Sheikh Agha Bozorg-e Tehrani.

Preparing the brief catalogue of the Majles Library's manuscripts that have

not been fully catalogued until now. The brief catalogue has been prepared for 4000 manuscripts so far and about 6000 other manuscripts are being catalogued now.

B) The Film Section

Manuscripts are a valuable written heritage and will be destroyed if they are used too much. Thus we try to provide a copy or digital copies to those who wish to study. For the achievement of such aim the Film Section has been established.

1. History

This section was established in 1951. Since then the Film Section has prepared microfilms from manuscripts and also provides other services. Since 1971, Mr. Abdollah Riazi Eng., speaker of the National Consultative Assembly, paid special attention to the library and allocated a certain amount of budget to it. From 1974 to 1975 Mr. Mohammad Shahdadi was appointed as director of the library. He made a great effort in photography and film taking as well as in the operation of the printing machines. He travelled to Germany for the purpose of learning and in order to complete the equipment. He purchased modern equipment during his studies. The purchased equipment were: a camera suitable for preparing microfilms, some reading devices, a film processor and a portable camera. We could name him the founder of photography in the Majles Library. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 a new camera labelled "OK 200" was purchased from "Zeutschel", the German Company. In 1996 the Majles Library was separated from the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament of Iran) for administrative and organisational reasons and obtained an independent budget that showed the financial improvement. Again special attention is paid to the Film Section and modern devices such as a book scanner, and a micro scanner or roll film scan station were purchased from an English Company. These devices change microfilms into digital information.

2. Services and Duties

The main duties of this section are the preparation of duplicate copies (reproductions) such as microfilms, prints in A3 and A4 sizes, CD-Roms, floppy disks and others from the main manuscripts. It should be stated that formerly a reader printer device supplied copies in A3 and A4 sizes. Due to the high expenses and the low quality the use of this device has lessened. Electronic information is first collected from microfilms by a micro scanner and then printed on an ordinary printer. Two CDs are being prepared from every manuscript. One CD is used for service providing purposes and the other one is kept as a back-up copy. Usually the provided services of this section are printing and providing CDs and microfilms. Legislators, professors, researchers, students, libraries and scientific and cultural

institutions either in Iran or abroad are the users of these services.

3. *Statistics*

There are 35mm and 16mm films used in this section. Every loop of a 35mm film contains 600 frames and every loop of a 16mm film contains 1,200 frames. Every frame can hold two handwritten pages. Presently 4,300 loops of 16mm microfilms and 35mm microfilms are kept in the archive. These microfilms contain 14 manuscripts. Out of 14,000 manuscripts saved on microfilms, about 2,500 were digitised.

C) *The Preservation and Conservation Section*

1. *History*

This section was officially established in 1982. Before the establishment of this section, the books were only bound and covers repaired.

Objectives: To prioritise and optimise the preservation and maintenance of resources of the Majles Library, especially the valuable cultural heritage such as manuscripts.

2. *Duties*

This section has two main duties: Bookbinding, conservation and the repair of printed books; pathology and conservation of manuscripts and historical documents. The main tasks in the bookbinding section are: bookbinding, stitching periodicals, the repair of damaged books, and cover repair.

3. In the damage recognition and conservation of manuscript section the following activities are done.

3.1 Laboratory and damage recognition:

Studying and testing type, material and colour of paper, ink, spots and chemical compounds.

Doing scientific operations for the determination of the PH value, acid removing, spot removing, cleaning and strengthening of collapsed papers of manuscripts.

3.2 Conservation workshop:

To carry out any required activities for correcting the physical structure of manuscripts.

To prepare visual material such as photographs of all states of conservation, adjustment, removing old unsuitable conservation and repair of manuscripts and old volumes by using more suitable methods.

3.3 Disinfection (Sterilisation) and de-acidification:

To do precise biological tests on manuscripts in order to study and determine the pest type, biological factors and micro-organisms and to provide prevention methods. To periodically inspect the manuscripts, the sampling and pollution control in the stacks, and to prepare instructions for creating suitable conditions for preserving and maintaining manuscripts and other archived materials.

To research for common methods, styles and standards of antiseptic

treatment of manuscripts and to provide suitable solutions.

To make antiseptic those stacks containing manuscripts by applying standard methods.

4. Statistics

Since every manuscript has its special damage condition therefore we could not consider a fixed and common conservation period for all of them, because type and degree of damages are different. Usually the damage of manuscripts is categorised in grades 1, 2 and 3. Based on damage type and degree, the quality and time of conservation shall be determined. Presently 9 persons are active in conservation affairs. 2 persons are students, 6 persons bear a master degree in the field of conservation and 1 person bears a bachelor's degree in the said field. These persons have 2 up to 25 years of experience and in average every person has 7 years. From March 20, 2002 to March 20, 2003, 750 manuscripts and in the 9 remaining months of the year 2003 (March 21, 2003 to Dec.22, 2003) 526 manuscripts were conserved.

D) The Information Centre:

1. History

This centre was established in 1998 for providing electronic services.

2. Duties and Activities

This section has several activities. One of them is preparing the bibliographic database for manuscripts. Specific descriptions of the manuscripts are kept in this database and the users have access to those manuscripts though different fields. 31,917 records were entered into this database up to Jan.25, 2004.

Our future program in the information service about manuscripts is to put the complete text of the manuscripts in the Intranet (local network of the Majles Library). Users would be able to access them very easily. The library also intends to publish the complete text of the manuscripts in the Internet. Of course some rules and regulations shall be constituted to determine the access rights of the users to these texts.

E) The Research and Education Centre

1. History

The Research and Education Centre of the Majles Library was established with the help of some researchers in 1997 with the aim of correcting, researching and publishing of manuscripts.

2. Duties and Activities

The revival of the written heritage is the main task of this centre. This centre, by inviting well-educated and famous professors and researchers, established a scientific council with six expert groups in the fields "Persian

Language and Literature”, “Arab Language and Literature”, “Jurisprudence and Islamic Law”, “History and Geography”, “Philosophy, Kalam and mysticism” and “Art and Book craft”. Expert groups are liable for the examination and investigation of manuscripts and scrapbooks and after the delivery to the research council and after having obtained the confirmation of this council the well-known researchers of each field shall do the required research. The said centre consists of the following different units:

The Correction Unit: Activities of this unit are the critical correction of manuscripts of the library. By considering determined research priorities the valuable manuscripts of the library that are not published previously are recognised. Rare and valuable manuscripts are selected based on the point of view of the experts and technicians to be studied in the research council consisting of well-known researchers of the country. After confirmation and approval of this council a contract shall be signed by the researchers and correctors for correction purpose. In this case a reproduced copy of the manuscript subject to the contract that exists in the library shall be given to the corrector. Meanwhile, this section tries to provide the photocopies of the manuscripts with the same title and author for correctors and editors who are under contract to the Majles Library by asking the other libraries and cultural centres.

The Translation Unit: Some of the activities of this unit are selecting those books relating to the subjects of the manuscripts, books and the whole library in order to do translations from foreign languages to Persian and to publish them. This unit tries to select up-to-date and important books so that we take an effective step towards a broad dissemination of studying culture across the country.

The Production unit: In this unit, different stages for book preparation and the printing process such as typing, sample reading, editing, indexing, list extraction, paging and lithography are done. In this unit, first of all the handwriting of translators and correctors have been studied. They will be edited by the editors and experienced experts, if deemed as necessary. Then these works will be typed and the contents of the typed copies will be compared with the handwriting. Then sample reading of the work will start. In this stage sample readers, who are familiar with those subjects, are used in proportion to the subject. After this stage the wrong words found are corrected and then after a basic page layout the second print is prepared. In this stage while studying the new print and comparing it with the first all deficits and shortages will be removed and basic actions for extracting technical lists are done. Then the final sample is prepared and after the technical preparation of the final sample of these lists, the final page layout shall be done and will be sent to the publishing house for lithography and print. In this stage the books of the Majles Library will be prepared for utilisation after having passed different stages e.g. lithography, montage, print and bookbinding.

3. Statistics

This unit published more than 30 books from Mar.20, 2001 to Mar.20, 2003. Now about 30 titles are under publication. Also 15 books are published in 2003. The activities of this centre are as follows:

Published books: 41 titles

Books ready to be published: 5 titles

Books under correction: 34 titles

Books under translation and compilation: 6 titles

Books under typing and sample reading: 31 titles

4. Plans under Execution

Correction and publishing of manuscripts.

Ganjine-ye Baharestan (The Treasure of Baharestan): publishing of rare and valuable treatises.

Karname-ye Mosahhehan (Correctors Record).

Editing and re-compiling of "Noqabaolbashar", compiled with Sheikh Agha Bozorg-e Tehrani: We try to edit and publish all sections of this book either printed or non-printed.

Editing and re-compiling "Alkeramolbararah", compiled by Sheikh Agha Bozorg-e Tehrani: We try to edit and publish all sections of this book, either printed or non-printed.

F) The Payam-e Baharestan Magazine

Payam-e Baharestan Magazine is a newsletter of the Majles Library that we publish every month. This magazine, in addition to have articles about library and information sciences etc. prints some articles about manuscripts existing in libraries and cultural centres in the world, a summary introduction to the manuscripts of the Majles Library, about research on and cataloguing of manuscripts, news and conferences related to manuscripts and photos of valuable and precious manuscripts. The said magazine is sent to legislators, cultural institutes, institutes for oriental, Islamic and Iranian studies, libraries and state high rank authorities.

G) The Name-ye Baharestan Magazin

Name-ye Baharestan is a special magazine for studying and researching on manuscripts. It is published every six-months in Persian, Arabic and English. The said magazine has an international writing board and the members are among those persons who are well-known Iranologists. In fact, it is an Iranian international journal for Islamic manuscript research and an encyclopaedia for manuscripts and book craft in the Islamic civilisation. Encouragement to researchers, finding of manuscripts and scientific research in the fields of manuscripts and handwritten documents are the main aims of the publication of the Magazine. Name-ye Baharestan welcomes the co-operate researches in the following subjects:

a. Manuscript copying:

1. the history, principle and practice of manuscript copying
2. the schools and networks of copying
3. censorship and cryptography in manuscripts

b. Codicology:

4. the history, principle and practice of codicology
5. scriptoriums, scribal chambers and bookshops
6. the dedication and donation of manuscripts
7. ordering for writing and/or illuminating manuscripts
8. writing introductions for books
9. ranks and guilds of scribes and warraqs (scribesbook sellers)

c. Documents and Documentation:

10. types of documents, the principle and practice of document writing
11. the originality, language, script and size of documents, the material used
12. chartularies and seals
13. correspondences and epistolaries

d. Bibliology:

14. the early procedures and practice of bibliology
15. bibliologists in the Islamic world (past and present)
16. the bibliography of manuscripts and printed books

e. Cataloguing:

17. bibliographers, cataloguers and their methods
18. catalogues of manuscripts of private and public collections

f. Islamic manuscripts and the west:

19. the transfer of Islamic manuscripts to the west
20. Islamic manuscripts treasures in the west
21. orientalists and the cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts
22. orientalists and the editing and annotating of Islamic texts
23. publishing Islamic texts in the west

g. Book craft:

24. types of book-covers and bindings (shapes, sizes, materials, decorations and motifs)
25. the history of bookbinding in the Islamic world
26. distinguished bookbinders
27. bookbinding tools and the terminology
28. the mutual influence of Islamic and European bookbinding
29. Islamic scientific instruments in manuscripts
30. paintings, drawings and illuminations in Islamic manuscripts
31. painters and illuminators of Islamic manuscripts

32. calligraphy and calligraphers of Islamic manuscripts
33. types of paper, paper-manufacturing and manufacturers

h. Writing utensils:

34. different inks of writing tools
35. pen and the art of pen-case making in the Islamic world
36. ink and rubric

i. Preservation, repairing and restoration:

37. the study of chemical, physical and biological damages
38. the procedures of prevention and fighting against the damaging factors
39. the componential analysis of materials used for manuscripts
40. preservation and repair of paper and binding

j. Dissemination of information:

41. dissemination of information on manuscripts via advanced technologies
42. library services for manuscripts researchers
43. the methods for preservation of manuscripts in computer systems
44. Adoption of microfilms and CDs for the preservation of manuscripts

k. Printing industry:

45. printing industry in Iran (from the beginning to 1300/1880)
46. the history of printing in Islamic countries (from the beginning to 1800, with particular reference to printed texts on Islam and Iran)
47. the art and methods of printing in the 15-18th centuries
48. the early printing offices and printers in the Islamic world

l. Book review:

49. reviews on edited and translated texts
50. reviews on manuscripts and printed texts
51. the analysis and practice of critically editing the text
52. reviews on the books on this subject

m. News and reports:

53. the latest news in the field
54. special reports
55. introducing projects under way (editing and translation of texts, research projects, M.A. and Ph.D dissertations)

H) The Pre-seminar of manuscripts:

A pre-seminar of manuscripts was held for the first time in Iran in 2000 by the Majles Library. The aim of this pre-seminar was finding and studying the modern, advanced and best methods of advanced technology for the editing and publishing of manuscripts.

In this seminar, in addition to presenting selected articles by distinguished

scholars and researchers, some lectures about different subjects were given. Six specialised commissions were established and the different viewpoints were studied. The above mentioned six commissions were active in the following subjects: Preservation and conservation, documentation, text correction, library and information services concerning manuscripts, codicology and cataloguing, book layout. The full text of the lectures, articles and interviews was published after the seminar. Also a "manuscripts and information system exhibition" including the oldest manuscripts, illumination, miniature, scrapbooks, a conservation workshop, bookbinding and lithography, and a demonstration of software for information services on manuscripts had been held. This exhibition was well-attended by the invited persons and visitors.

Commemoration in Honour of the Supporters of Manuscripts:

Every year, in order to encourage and persuade researchers, especially those young people engaged in research affairs with manuscripts; to appreciate those people who have spent their lives editing and publishing manuscripts; and to inform people about the scientific, historical, artistic and material values of the library's manuscripts as well as about the importance, place and role of manuscripts in promoting science, culture and civilisation in the world and in the history of writing in Iranian and world sciences, the Majles Library holds "Commemoration in Honour of the Supporters of Manuscripts" at the beautiful historical building of the National Consultative Assembly during the Book Week in Iran.

In this ceremony, those people who are active in the various fields of manuscripts such as donation, exchange, cataloguing, preservation and conservation, library and information services, correction and research, publishing and printing, providing data bases, microfilms and CD-ROMs, finding and introducing manuscripts, publishing special magazines in the field of manuscripts (codicology and text recognition), writing articles about manuscripts (codicology and text recognition) in newspapers and magazines, publishing of old texts and providing manuscript software and those students who provide their papers, treatises and doctoral theses on manuscripts are honoured. Also in this ceremony every year one of the top manuscript cataloguers is appreciated. The said gathering is gradually finding its real place in the scientific community of Iran and is becoming a forum for discussion to scientists, researchers and great literary men.

Conclusion

Presently, the Majles Library provides the best services across the country and succeeded to satisfy domestic and foreign researchers. The Majles Library intends to hold an educational course for cataloguing of manuscripts in the future. Compiling Muslim and Iranians history of science based on manuscripts of the Majles Library is one of the future plans of this library. In the end, it should be stated that the existence of national and historical

documents at the Majles Library is one of the very valuable resources of this library. The number of these documents is about 12 millions. The said collection contains letters, orders, decrees, contracts, national documents, deeds, endowment deeds, etc. Publishing 4 books containing documents relating to the clergymen at the National Consultative Assembly, abstracting and cataloguing of historical and national documents, and creating databases having 15,000 documents are the part of activities of this centre.

The Majles Library sincerely welcomes critics and suggestions of the readers. [At the time of writing this article (Jan.28, 2004) the exchange rate was: 1 US dollar = RIs.8,000.]

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Jan Bos, our Section's secretary sent in the following text – hoping it will start a vivid discussion on the subject:

For the times they are a-changing

Is it a worldwide phenomenon that many Special Collections curators have a profound aversion from thinking about the organisation and - possibly - reorganisation of their work? It is at least my experience that many of them stick their heels and heavily resist any change. "It takes oceans of time and keeps you from all your real work," I was told recently by a curator of a university library whose department is in the middle of a reorganisation process. Obviously he knows very well what his real work is, and also how it can be organised best.

Nevertheless it has become clear to me that for libraries with special collections there are as many organisation models as there are libraries. So the activities related to special collections may take many different shapes. Of course, much depends on the size of the library and of the special collections themselves, in terms of books and staff. The type of library is important as well: a national library has another mission and other tasks than a municipal or museum library. Moreover it proves that while studying organisation charts one cannot rely completely upon the names of the departments. In some libraries incunabula are assigned to manuscripts, in other libraries to early printed books. Maps, engravings, printed music, children's books etc. may be a department in their own right, but somewhere else they are, in alternating compositions, subdivisions of bigger departments.

Within these departments a large range of activities is being carried out. Staff take care of the physical state of the materials. There are special facilities for preservation, conservation and security. If there is money, attempts are made to expand the collections. The rare books, manuscripts and other materials are being described and indexed - often in a much more elaborated way than the general collection. Documentation is kept up to date. The works are being microfilmed, digitised, exhibited and given on loan. And they are supplied to selected users in special reading rooms.

However different the organisation models may be, the basic principle seems to be the same everywhere: the starting point is the institution's own collection. Keeping the library's manuscripts, early printed books, maps, bindings, engravings (often labelled as 'the preservation of our cultural heritage') requires special care and special expertise - and therefore special departments, seems to be the reasoning. So the nature of the collections determines the organisation of the library.

A different approach, however, is also possible. In this time of digitisation and internet it is unimportant in many cases where a book or manuscript actually is, since users can consult it in a virtual form. In the end we work for our users, so their needs and desires must be at the centre of our work. Our users want to acquire knowledge, consult texts, study illustrations, but preferably without travelling to numerous distant libraries. And also without ploughing through thousands of useless hits of a search engine. Modern users want information exactly fitting their demands, fast and reliable, on their own computer screens and regardless of the originating source. It is the task of libraries, including their Special Collections Departments, to satisfy these needs.

If we want to put the user in the centre of our work, we have to know who he or she is. We probably think we know the users in our reading rooms: mainly academic researchers and students, usually from historic domains. But virtual users might prove to belong to quite different categories. For instance interested laymen, or high school pupils, who perhaps take a different retrieval route than traditional researchers, and who need much more explanation and context. Special Collections stewardship means that we should ask ourselves if we really know our users and how we can be of service to all of them. Modern techniques provide the opportunities for new forms of research and teaching: more interdisciplinary, more interactive, more based on collaboration between persons and institutions that are - literally and figuratively- remote from one another. We must anticipate these developments and participate in them.

Recently the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands, has reorganised the four traditional departments for Special Collections,

Collection Care, Bibliography & Documentation and Restoration into three new departments in which user services take central positions. The first is the *Expert Services Department*, which produces and manages a large number of electronic information systems, such as *Bibliopolis - History of the Printed Book in the Netherlands*, the *Short-Title Catalogue Netherlands*, *Book History Online*, the *Linguistic Bibliography*, the *Legal History database* en the *Poortman Bibliography on Philosophy in the Netherlands*. The contents of these systems reaches far beyond the collections of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek.

The *Information & Collections* (in this order!) *Department* is responsible for the information on and content management of all collections, including the special collections. The department still has subject specialists for the individual materials (Medieval manuscripts, modern manuscripts, early printed books, bindings etc.) and the individual disciplines (history, arts, languages, law etc.), but broad and flexible employability of all staff is aimed at.

The *Collection Care Department* is in charge of the physical care of the materials, including preservation and conservation. This department also takes care of the transport of books to and from the Special Collections reading room, supervises this reading room and instructs the users in the handling of the books.

The reorganisation did not elapse without striking a blow or two, and it is still too early to say if it was successful in all aspects. No doubt the hardest part is the U-turn staff members have to make from content experts to information specialists. But anyhow it is a process worth thinking about.

Exhibitions

Bochum: Bochum University Library, together with the Institut für Geschichte der Medizin an der Ruhr-Universität put on display rare books from the former Deutschen Ärztebibliothek Berlin in February. The Ärztebibliothek was founded in 1797 as part of the Péripière, the Prussian academy for military physicians. At the end of the exhibition in April the books went to the institute where they will find their final place in the library. The collection recently was returned to Germany from Tiflis.

Dresden: In June the Buchmuseum of Sächsische Landesbibliothek - Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek (SLUB) opened an exhibition on the letters of August Wilhelm Schlegel *Papiers à Mr. Schlegel - Nachlass der Romantik - romantischer Nachlass*. Over a long period, Schlegel's letters have been thought to be lost until they were discovered in 1929 in a castle at lake

Geneva. In 1998 they were bought on auction by Saxonia. This year, they are shown to the public for the first time.

Dublin: With Bloomsday Centenary this year, the *National Library of Ireland* for the first time exhibits some of the notebooks of James Joyce acquired in 2002. The exhibition, *James Joyce and Ulysses at the National Library of Ireland*, marks the beginning of a new chapter of the library's history: the opening of a newly refurbished and enlarged exhibition facility in its Kildare Street premises. Much of the graphic material in the exhibition has never been displayed in public before.

Dunedin, New Zealand: Special Collections, University of Otago, launched *41 Stunning Books: a Selection of Modern Private Press Books* recently. The show lasts till September and includes the Kelmscott Press, the Doves Press, and Lucien Pissarro's Eragny Press, to the Welsh Gregynog Press, the Ashendene Press, and local New Zealand operations such as Caxton Press and The Pear Tree Press.

Hamburg: The Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg has shown *Deutsche Südamerika-Reisende des 16. Jahrhunderts - Hans Staden und Ulrich Schmiedel* in June. The exhibit displaying books and maps was curated by University Library Kiel.

Heidelberg: The University Library started an exhibition *Vom Bodensee an den Neckar* in May. It will go through December and show rare manuscripts from the library of the Cistercian monastery at Salem. The oldest object shown is an illustrated page from a liturgical manuscript dated Verona 800 and bound in the so-called Salem Codex in the twelfth century. The most heavy text is a codex finished in 1601 after 50 years work weighing 28 kilograms. This Gradual was never shown before.

Newark, Delaware: The University of Delaware Library, Special Collections, have made available online a new exhibition on the illustration of literature. *Literature Reimagined* can be accessed directly at: <http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/text/index.htm> . Book illustration from Beowulf to Derek Walcott is the subject of this new exhibit.

Paris: The Bibliothèque Nationale de France has just closed an exhibition on Chinese manuscripts: *Chine, l'Empire du trait (Calligraphies et dessins de la Bibliothèque nationale de France)* was shown at Site François-Mitterrand, Grande Galerie. More details can be found on the homepage <http://chroniques.bnf.fr/> . When visiting, go to événement>Expositions à la BnF>Chine, l'Empire du trait.

Princeton: Princeton University Library last year's *Unseen Hands: Women*

Printers, Binders, and Book Designers is on the web now. To see it go to:
<http://libweb2.princeton.edu/rbsc2/ga/unseenhands/>

Toronto: Under the motto Philosophy and Bibliophily Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, commemorated the gift of an outstanding collection by Michael and Virginia Walsh from January to April this year. Parts of the collection of over one thousand volumes were exhibited with numerous works of art on loan from the Walsh family. The books on display were printed between the fifteenth and the twentieth centuries, with particular emphasis on the pre-1870 period, covering the broad scope of philosophical inquiry, from the Platonists to the Scholastics, the Cartesians, Humanists, and Logical Positivists, to the Empiricists of the twentieth century. One of the highlights shown was a superb 1476 edition of Duns Scotus, the only known copy printed on vellum. The exhibition and accompanying catalogue were prepared by Michael Walsh. For more information read the Library's web site:
<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/www/fisher/current.htm>

Events

CILIP RARE BOOKS GROUP: This year's conference will be held 1st through 3rd September in Brighton. 2004's annual study conference is under the motto *Rare Book Futures: curating collections in the 21st century*. Details at:
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/groups/rbg/2004confprog.html>

Conservation Centre for Art and Historic Artefacts, University of Maryland, College Park, MD: Also in July, there is another workshop for museum managers that might be interesting for librarians, too. The subject on July 19th is *Fundraising for Preservation and Conservation*. Details at:
<http://www.ccaha.org>

IMLS, Chicago: The 5th annual conference was held in Chicago in March this year: *Web-Wise 2004: Sharing Digital Resources*. Conference details at
<http://www.ims.gov/pubs/webwise2004/wbws04.htm>

ICHIM: The eighth *International Cultural Heritage Informatics Meeting* will be held in Germany from August 30th to Sept. 2nd, 2004, at the "Haus der Kulturen der Welt", Berlin. Focus is on digitisation of cultural heritage and on the emergence of new digital art and culture forms. The programme for *Digital Culture and Heritage* is on <http://www.ichim.org/jahia/Jahia/pid/201>

MLA: This year's *Modern Language Association Annual Convention* will be held in Philadelphia on 27th to 30th December 2004. One of the subjects is particularly interesting for special collection librarians: *Digital Preservation*

and *Electronic Scholarly Editions*. The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) will organise sessions on the complex issues of long-term preservation.

KOOP-LITERA Tagung 2004: The 10th Workshop of Austrian Literary Archives took place this year in St. Pölten. The program was mostly dedicated to preservation strategies; the papers held are available under <http://www.onb.ac.at/koop-litera/termine/archivtagung2004.html>

LIDA 2004: The papers of Libraries in the Digital Age Conference 2004 in Dubrovnik in May are all online now. Cf. <http://knjiga.pedos.hr/lida/>

Musée du Louvre: In March, an international conference *Le livre ouvert: conservation, exposition et consultation des manuscrits enluminés* was held on occasion of the exhibition *Paris 1400 - Les arts sous Charles VI*. Aspects of showing manuscripts in exhibitions were discussed. The head of the Manuscript Department of Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Dr. Eef Overgaauw, spoke on *La politique de prêt de la Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin*.

RBMS: This year's RBMS preconference was held at Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, from June 21st till June 24th. Entitled *Ebb and Flow: The Migration of Collections to American Libraries*, the preconference focussed on the history and current issues surrounding the movement of collections from the four corners of the earth into American repositories. Section member (and former chair) Alice Prochaska spoke on *Some Issues Relating to the Ownership of Manuscripts*. Details on the programme at: <http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/rbms2004/index.html>

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin: An international symposium will be held from November 25th till November 27th 2004, entitled *Kunst, Literatur und Wissenschaft in den Inkunabeln. 100 Jahre Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*. Please contact holger.nickel@sbb.spk-berlin.de

University of East Anglia, Norwich: There will be a workshop on the *History of collections - An interdisciplinary workshop for the discussion of 18th and 19th century museums and collecting* on 9th July 2004 organised by the University of East Anglia. Details at: http://www.uea.ac.uk/art/sru/polynesia/events/july_event.htm

Projects

The Section has published *exhibition guidelines*, derived from the discussions over the last few years. The text can be found on the Section's homepage.

The *LEAF* project which started in 2001 as a project co-funded within the 'Information Society Technologies Programme' of the 5th Framework Programme of the European Commission finished in May 2004. The 15 partner institutions from 10 European countries have successfully collaborated in developing a model architecture for the establishing of international authority files. Invited experts discussed during the final workshop held at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin the results and exploitation possibilities of the project. LEAF is maintained by the MALVINE/LEAF Maintenance Agency located at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin - Preussischer Kulturbesitz. Please visit: <http://www.leaf-eu.org>

RBMS, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries (a division of the American Library Association) has revised its *Guidelines for Loan of Rare and Unique Materials*, originally published in 1994. The document specifically applies to the interlibrary loan of materials for research purposes. It can be accessed at the RBMS website: http://www.rbms.nd.edu/standards/ill_guidelines.shtml

In Germany, libraries and archives have started a programme *Strategie Bestandserhaltung* (preservation strategy). To learn more about this project of the recently founded *Deutsche Allianz zur Erhaltung des Schriftlichen Kulturgutes* go to <http://www.forum-bestandserhaltung.de/>. Dr. Bansa, editor of the journal *Restaurator* and former head of the Preservation Department of Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, is involved in this work and has written an article to be found under "Thema im Fokus Mai 2004".

In Austria, a new web site has been published: *Digital Heritage in Austria* is the national reference and information transfer site for digitisation projects, programmes and initiatives. Launched in November 2003, the Austrian Digital Heritage Initiative is an ongoing activity carried out by Salzburg Research on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture. Cf. <http://www.digital-heritage.at/>

Co-operation

The Deutsche Bibliotheksverband (DBV), section IV (Wissenschaftliche Universalbibliotheken) has installed a working group with the participation of archivists and librarians which aims at preparing new and better co-operation facilities between archives and libraries. Better co-ordination of the professional training, of cataloguing, preservation and acquisition policies are some of the themes which will be dealt with in the next time. A public discussion on the subject will be held at the Deutsche Bibliothekartag 2005 in Düsseldorf. For information please contact: jutta.weber@sbb.spk-berlin.de

Publications

Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar, Germany, has just published the first volume of its catalogue of the medieval Latin manuscripts. Here are the details:

Stiftung Weimarer Klassik und Kunstsammlungen / Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek: Die lateinischen Handschriften bis 1600. Beschrieben von Betty C. Bushey unter Mitwirkung von Hartmut Broszinski. Band 1: Fol max, Fol und Oct. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz. 2004. LXVII, 615 S. (Bibliographien und Kataloge der Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek zu Weimar). 86.00 Eur. ISSN 1613-0049. ISBN 3-447-04709-7

Münster University Library owns the personal papers of Bettina Schinas, born Bettina von Savigny. The daughter of Friedrich Carl von Savigny had married in 1834 and went to Greece with her husband. Ruth Steffen, former head of the manuscript department of Münster University Library has edited the letters Bettina Schinas sent home:

Leben in Griechenland 1834 bis 1835 : Bettina Schinas, geb. von Savigny, Briefe und Berichte an ihre Eltern in Berlin/ Herausgegeben von Ruth Steffen. – Münster: Lienau, 2004. - 320 S. ISBN : 3-934017-00-2 - 42,00 Eur[D]

University Library Erlangen-Nürnberg has published a catalogue on its pamphlets: Die Einblattdrucke der Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg./ Bearbeitet von Christina Hofmann-Randall. – Erlangen: Universitätsbibliothek, 2003. Copies are available from Universitätsbibliothek Erlangen-Nürnberg, Schuhstraße 1a, 91052 Erlangen for 138 Euro.

W. A. Kelly, Research Fellow at the Scottish Centre for the Book, has sent us the following text:

The State Library in Berlin has made available on its website at altdrucke.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/kelly an enormous bibliographical handbook, *Reference resources for cataloguing German and Low Countries imprints to ca. 1800*, which is the fruit of over thirty years of recording in notebooks the bibliographical details of reference works on innumerable subjects which I have found in antiquarian and second-hand booksellers' catalogues and other sources.

The focus of the work is the printing output of the Dutch- and German-language areas of Europe; the former includes The Netherlands and Flanders and the latter not only those countries of parts of countries in western Europe where German is the dominant language but also areas of central and eastern Europe, now incorporated into other countries, where German was the language of the intellectual and commercial elite for many centuries.

The aim of the work, whose main text is supported by a subject and a names and titles index, is a practical one, to provide rare book cataloguers,

antiquarian booksellers and book historians in the English-speaking world, who have little or no knowledge of German and Low Countries imprints, with a list of references on the printing output of what I regard as the two intellectually most important areas of Europe.

So rich in secondary literature is the history of printing in these areas that the more than seventeen hundred and fifty titles listed here are not complete. I hope to persuade the relevant members of the State Library in Berlin to issue some two years from now another edition containing around another two hundred titles whose details I now have time to investigate. I am grateful to the head of the Scottish Centre for the Book, Prof. Alistair McCleery, for impressing on me the advisability of making a work of this nature available online.

Bernie Sloan from Graduate School of Library and Information Science at University of Illinois, Urbana, has made available a *Digital Reference Services Bibliography* on the web in November, 2003. More than 600 items on the subject are listed on <http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/~b-sloan/digiref.html>

Bettina Wagner gives the following information:

Online Bibliography of Secondary Literature on Manuscripts, Modern Papers and Rare Printed Books

For more than 50 years, secondary literature on the holdings of the department of manuscripts and rare printed books of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München has been recorded in a card index only available for consultation locally in the reading room.

Recently, this important tool has been converted into electronic form and is now available free via the internet. For the project, 109,000 index cards with more than 113,000 bibliographical references dating back as far as the 19th century were scanned, enhanced with search terms and integrated into a database, which will in future serve as the platform for a continual update of the bibliography. The conventional card catalogue will be discontinued.

The project was funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (www.dfg.de).

The database is accessible via the homepage of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/handruck/hsslit.htm>
Further information can be obtained from Dr. Brigitte Gullath, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Abteilung für Handschriften und Seltene Drucke, D - 80328 München, E-Mail: handschriften@bsb-muenchen.de

Zeitschrift für Bibliothekswesen und Bibliographie 51,4 (Juli/August 2004) will be a special issue on "Kooperative Altbestandserschliessung". There are articles on German VD 16, VD 17, the VD 18-project, Hand Press Book Database, Cerl Thesaurus, EROMM, the Database of Bindings, and a project of cataloguing provenances.

Web News

As usual, you will find here notes on diverse new or updated pages on the web. This is only a selection, but we do hope that at least some parts might be interesting.

Greg Prickman has set up an information blog for rare books librarians under <http://specialcollections.blogspot.com>. It is called *Reading Room*, compiles all sorts of interesting news, however is difficult to describe here. So, just have a look!

The University of Iowa's Hardin Library for the Health Sciences announced the completion of its latest digitizing undertaking: *Johann Remmelin's Catoptrum Microcosmicum*, the most extensive anatomical "flap book" of the 17 century. Published in 1619, the work consists of three large plates, each of which contains several multi-layered illustration of the human body. Go to <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/rbr/imaging/remmelin/>

University of Toronto Libraries' latest digital collection is *Anatomia 1522 - 1867: Anatomical Plates from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library*, featuring examples of early anatomical illustration from the Library's Hannah and Academy of Medicine collections. Approximately 4,500 images published between 1522 and 1867 are included. *Anatomia* may be found at: <http://digital.library.utoronto.ca/anatomia>

Special Collections and Archives at the University of Idaho Library announced a new instalment in the Webpage *Digital Memories*. This time it is an early Idaho song. In 1864, the gold discoveries in Idaho prompted a mining rush and a national interest in Idaho. In response, a Chicago music publisher issued an illustrated song sheet about going to Idaho to seek one's fortune. *Digital Memories* can be accessed through the URL <http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/>

Jack Kessler in a note to Exlibris list recently informed on the *Mellon Project* at the BNF, Paris:

"The digitisation of the Dunhuang collections

In February 1908, a young French sinologist, Paul Pelliot, arriving at the final lap of his mission to Central Asia, came to the site of the 'Cave of the Thousand Buddhas', at Dunhuang, a military outpost established during the 2nd century in the western regions of the Chinese Empire. He was struck by the beauty of these stone sanctuaries. He came upon an ancient meditation cell, muralled in the 11th century, filled with thousands of manuscripts and paintings. After three weeks spent compiling an inventory of the documents, he knew that this was 'the most formidable discovery of Chinese manuscripts

which the history of the Far East ever had recorded'. In 1910, the fabulous collection which he acquired was received at the Bibliothèque Nationale, for its manuscripts, and at the Louvre for its paintings.

Since 2001, the BnF has participated in an international program, directed by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the Mellon International Dunhuang Archives: to present to researchers the images from the caves and those of the manuscripts, which were found at the site but became dispersed all over the world. The requirement of high quality, the burden of exhaustivity of such a vast project, and the complexity of the documents produce immense challenges for their digitisation, which is taking place now at the BnF. One additional innovative element: the images will be tied to metadata in non-Latin characters."

More on this project at: <http://chroniques.bnf.fr/> (follow international et réseaux > Le projet Mellon: numériser les collections de Dunhuang).

Library of Congress and National Library of Brazil launched a joint web site dedicated to U.S.-Brazil Interactions. *The United States and Brazil: Expanding Frontiers, Comparing Cultures* includes some 9,800 images from the rare book, manuscript, map, print and photographic collections of the Library of Congress and the National Library of Brazil. The site can be accessed at <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/brhtml/>

Equally new on LoC's web site are selections from the Naxi Manuscript Collection, a collection of ceremonial writings of the Naxi people of China's Yunnan Province. The Library of Congress' collection is the largest outside China. More than 185 manuscripts from that collection can be viewed under <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/naxihtml/naxihome.html>

35 guides of the important *Spalding Base Ball Guides, 1889-1939* are on the web now. Go to <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/spaldinghtml/spaldinghome.html>

United States National Agricultural Library have digitised images from *Curtis Botanical Magazine*: <http://www.nal.usda.gov/curtis/index.shtml>. Major *Talmudic manuscripts* from libraries throughout the world can be viewed at <http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/talmud/>. More manuscripts will be added.

The Royal Library of Denmark has just digitised Ronald B. McKerrow: *Printers' & Publishers' Devices in England & Scotland 1485-1640*. – London, 1913. To find it go to <http://www.kb.dk/elib/bhs/mckerrow/index.htm>

The *Autograph Collection Dr. Georg Heberlein* of the Eidgenössische Militärbibliothek Bern has been digitised (<http://www.milautograph.ch/>)

OCLC has ended the test phase of the *Open WorldCat Pilot project* now.

Details can be found under <http://www.oclc.org/worldcat/pilot>. Google and Yahoo users can now find links to libraries when searching for a book.

And another important reference work is online now: The book on 15th century printers by Voullieme:
http://www.digitalis.uni-koeln.de/Voullieme/voullieme_index.html

Fashion of the 50ies to 70ies in photographs and text is available now from the *London College of Fashions Woolmark Company collection* via AHDS Visual Arts: <http://vads.ahds.ac.uk/collections/LCFWOOL.html>

The American Antiquarian Society launched a new site about American children's book trade. The very important *Nineteenth-Century American Children's Book Trade Directory* is now online under:
<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/btdirectory.htm>

The British Library is going to digitise *newspapers of the 19th century*, including *The Morning Chronicle* and *The Morning Post*. The newspapers will be fully online in 2006.

MALVINE is online! After a complete re-launch the search engine MALVINE with seat in and maintained by the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin provides access to millions of post mediaeval manuscripts and letters, which are kept and catalogued in European libraries, archives, documentation centres and museums. Please visit: <http://www.malvine.org> and do contact the MALVINE/LEAF Maintenance Agency in case your institution wants to join the consortium (co-ordinator@sbb.spk-berlin.de)

The state of the art in digitisation is explained in a long interview with Michael Keller from Stanford University. If ever you wanted to know "How to digitise eight million books" read the interview in *The Book and the Computer*. But, aware! You might have to buy a robotic scanner:
<http://www.honco.net/os/keller.html>

Reinhard Feldmann from University Library Münster is the editor of a web site *Forum Bestandserhaltung*, dealing with all aspects of conservation and preservation. The site is online about three years now. There are texts on recent events, news, and about every two months a so-called "Thema im Fokus", book reviews, a calendar of conferences and workshops, and, and, and... To find out more go to <http://www.forum-bestandserhaltung.de/>

In the winter newsletter we wrote about the projects funded by *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*. There is another very useful list on these projects: <http://www.hki.uni-koeln.de/retrodig/> done by Historisch-Kulturwissenschaftliche Informationsverarbeitung of Cologne University.

From the Editors

Collection policies is the topic of this issue of our newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy the text of our colleague in Tehran who provides much interesting detail information about the organisation of work in this famous library. Please read this article also as an introduction to the paper which will be presented by Ehsanolla Shokrollahi in Buenos Aires. The article of Jan Bos instead wants to be understood as an invitation to discuss "the U-turn staff members have to make from content experts to information specialists". But also those who might have expected broader information about digitisation will not be to disappointed, as indeed almost every announcement of events, projects etc. are dedicated to digitisation which very clearly shows that our work is increasingly dealing with this. What is new in this newsletter? We added a column titled "Co-operation". Experiences might be proposed here, we are very much interested in hearing about results which are due to co-operation e.g. between archives and libraries, libraries and universities, collectors and libraries. We are sure that also the workshop to be held in Buenos Aires will very much contribute to this theme: it will show that organising new world wide co-operations will be not only important for providing better information to our users but that the status and the survival of some of our collections will be depending on co-operation. Let us grasp the chance!

We hope to meet many of you in Buenos Aires.
¡Hasta luego y buen viaje!

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