

**IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section**  
**Standing Committee Meetings, Milan 2009**

**Minutes**

**August 22, 2009 Saturday 14:30-17:20 Session 47: RBM SC I**

1. Welcome and introductions

Standing Committee Members present: Luisa Buson, Joana Escobedo, Marcia Reed, Bettina Wagner, Sirkka Havu, Björn Dal, Cheng Xiaolan, Isabel Garcia-Monge, Raphaële Mouren, Chantal Keisper, Anne Eidsfeldt, Claudia Fabian, John Meriton, Pilar Moreno Garcia, Angela Nuovo, Alexander Samarin, David Farneth.

Standing Committee Members absent: Elisabeth Eide, Cristina Guillén Bernejo, Fabienne Le Bars, Hye-Eun Lee, Barbara Paulson, Denis Tsyarkin, E.C. Schroeder, Winston Tabb.

Regrets from Monika Linder.

Observers at 8/22 meeting: Boujdad Mkaem Abdelhamid, Susan Allen, Sid Berger, Per Cullhed, Mark Dimunation, Brian Geiger, Marie Korey, Richard Landon, Erland Kolding Nielsen, Francesca Niutta, Jessica Parland-von Essen, Henry Snyder.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the August 2008 Minutes.

One correction to last year's minutes: Cristina Guillén Bernejo's report was given by Isabel Garcia-Monge.

4. Financial report (Marcia Reed)

Expenses:

\$520.00 for design of the promotional bookmarks (incorporating maps and manuscripts from members' collections and manuscripts)

\$296.33 for printing 3000 bookmarks

\$816.33 = Euro 571.10 = Total expended section funds

(A total of 610 Euros was allocated to the section)

It was noted that funds earmarked for publication of the English translation of the 2006 Hangzhou conference remain in an account administered by Jan Bos.

In addition, financial support was received from Division V section funds for the day registration of a non-IFLA member who will speak at the IFLA/RBM session in Milan (Margaret Lane Ford).

5. The RBM Newsletter is edited by Chantal Keijsper and published online on the section homepage by Isabel Garcia-Monge. Members were reminded to send information to Chantal Keijsper and encouraged to supply images whenever possible. Next deadline for submissions is December 31, 2009.

In addition to the Newsletter, it is useful to share timely information and announcements via the RBM-IFLA mailing list which is maintained by Wolfgang Undorf. All can register by sending an email to Bettina or Marcia, who will pass requests on to Wolfgang Undorf.

6. Nominations for new officers and elections. This year's candidates are:

Raphaële Mouren (Ecole nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques) for Chair, and Anne Eidsfeldt (National library of Norway) for Secretary.

Both candidates were asked to introduce themselves and to present proposals and ideas for new activities of the RBM section. Raphaelae Mouren suggested sharing more information on library exhibitions around the world, not only twice a year, but regularly on the RBMS website. The candidates regretted that there might not be enough time to organize a mid-term conference for next year, but perhaps do so the following year.

Information coordinator's office: This year after moving to new webpage with assistance from the IFLA HQ, information can now be added directly by the coordinator.

No further nominations for officers were proposed. Raphaële Mouren and Anne Eidsfeldt were elected.

7. 2009 Preconference in Munich, 19-21 August: „Early Printed Books as Material Objects: Principles, problems, perspectives.“ The preconference attracted 150 participants.

Resolution: The Rare Books and Manuscripts Standing Committee wishes to extend its commendation and gratitude to RBM Chair Bettina Wagner for organizing this outstanding conference with contributions by scholars, librarians, and curators on the early printed books (and related manuscripts) as physical objects. The accompanying exhibition brought together a superb selection of incunabula from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek which was presented in a bilingual catalog, and the conference speakers presented excellent papers from diverse points of view (technical, material, descriptive, and digital).

To coordinate the preconference and the IFLA Conference themes, the RBM SC this year planned linked sessions on related subjects in cooperation with other sections: Preservation and Conservation and Library History. Over 50 proposals were received; only one person Louis Burle cancelled due to a fire in his library.

8. The times for IFLA RBM SC meetings in Milan were announced:

August 22, 2009 Saturday 14:30-17:20 Session 47: RBM SC I

August 26, 2009 Wednesday 9:30-12:45 Session 163: sponsored by the RBM, PAC, LH sections on „Dispersed cultural collections: Preservation, reconstruction, and access.“ Six papers (rather than seven as announced in the programme) will be given. Bettina Wagner briefly introduced the themes of the six papers.

August 26, 2009 Wednesday Off-site visit to Parma, Guided tours to the Biblioteca Palatina and Bodoni Museum were organized by Luisa Buson The IC train to Parma leaves at 15:00. Participants will meet in the station at 14:45.

August 27, 2009 Thursday 11:30 – 13:00 Session 207: RBM SC II

Due to the preconference schedule, no members of the SC could attend the Coordinating Board meeting on Friday 21 August which was the last such meeting for Division V. Future plans and organization of IFLA will be discussed in the Leadership and Officers' Training sessions which the incoming officers will attend.

Certificates of Appreciation were distributed to Standing Committee members rotating off the committee.

9. Projects:

- a. The Papers of the Hangzhou Preconference 2006 were published in Chinese this past year. Cheng Xiaolan presented copies to the Standing Committee and was thanked for the work which the Chinese colleagues invested into the preconference and the publication of the papers. Susan Allen reported that she continues to work on the English translation of papers from this conference.
- b. Publication of the papers of the 2009 Munich Preconference is being planned, possible in the series of IFLA publications with K.G. Saur. Bettina Wagner will contact Sjoerd Koopman for details (cost, number of pages, illustrations).
- c. Updated section leaflets are now available on the website in Italian, English, French, Spanish and German. The Russian version still needs updating. Alexander Samarin volunteered to revise the Russian text. The leaflets will be distributed at the IFLA conference booth and at the RBMS conference

session on Wednesday; they can also be downloaded from the website for distribution by the SC members.

- d. The bookmarks produced by Marcia Reed and her assistant at the Getty Library were distributed to SC members; some will be handed over to IFLA headquarters and distributed at the RBM conference session.
- e. A proposal sent in to the RBM committee for a second conference on preservation of African Manuscripts at Addis Ababa in 2010 was announced. It will also be distributed to the SC members by email.
- f. The RBMS representative for the UNESCO Memory of the World register, Jan Bos, was unable to come to Milan; however, he passed on information concerning new additions to the register. These are the Anne Frank Diaries, and the Nibelungenlied manuscripts. Concern was expressed that some manuscripts listed on the UNESCO homepage are not well described and lack full information on holding libraries. It was agreed that RBM SC members should monitor the UNESCO website to make sure info on the register is appropriate and relevant.

Concerning The World Digital Library planned by UNESCO, the SC should look into ways to promote objects. It was stressed that this site, administered by the Library of Congress, is intended to feature significant items for research rather than the treasures which tend to be recommended by library administrators.

- g. It was noted that the new IFLA website and particularly the RBM section of this website provide a place for announcements and information on projects, guidelines, possibly a wiki. There is a need for current information such as guidelines for digitizations and news on current exhibitions; the website can accommodate special sections on exhibitions or perhaps handle these as news items.

Susan Allen announced that the ALA/ACRL/RBMS Guidelines for Security and for the Prevention of Theft have been merged into one document and are available on the ALA website. Endorsement from the IFLA RBMS for the new guidelines would be appreciated.

Susan Allen provided information on the Missing Materials website and blog on WorldCat.org which allow libraries to post missing items in the OCLC database. The list is open to institutional postings. A flyer about this will be distributed at the second meeting.

10. A discussion of 2010 Göteborg programme planning concerned the theme for RBMS session, possible partners, and a possible pre- or post-conference.

It was noted that SHARP (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing) meets in Helsinki, August 17-21, 2010 just after IFLA. The conference theme is „Book

culture from Below“ on popular readers and dispersed cultures. RBM could sponsor a session (three papers) in coordination with SHARP.

Per Cullhed (speaking on behalf of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section) suggested a joint preconference on new technologies for analyzing material evidence in books at Uppsala: „Preservation, Book History and Science“. This could be a joint initiative between Sweden and the National Library of Norway. Similar initiatives were mentioned by other institutions on the continent, such as the University of Leiden.

Others suggested extended themes of books as objects, e.g. cultural vehicles, religious objects, personal items, hidden evidence in books. A broad theme, bringing in popular culture, e.g. secret lives or inner lives of books. The subcommittee to consider the theme during the conference week consists of Jessica Parland-von Essen, Björn Dal, Anne Eidsfeldt. They will report back at the second meeting.

#### **August 27, 2009 Thursday 11:30 – 13:00 Session 207: RBM SC II**

11. Reports about meetings during the Milan conference:

- a. Coordinating Board Meeting, Collections & Services (Div. V) Friday, 21 August 2009. Due to the preconference schedule, no members of the SC could attend the Coordinating Board meeting on Friday 21 August which was the last such meeting for Division V.
- b. Leadership Forums: Milan, Sunday 23 August 12:15-13:30
- c. Officers' training sessions:  
Monday 24 August 2009, 13:45-15:45 and 16:00-18:00 (Room: Green).  
General information's were given to new officers.
- d. New structure of IFLA. The professional structure has changed. RBM is now in division II, while Library History is in division IV.

Changes in professional structure were principally a smaller number of divisions. RBM is in Division 2 – Collections. The Library History SIG is in Division 4: Support of Professions.

- e. Web-editors Meetings:  
Session 128: Tuesday 25 August, 11.45-12.45, Room: Orange (1 hour)  
Session 160: Wednesday 26 August, 9.30-11.30, Room: Orange (2 hours)
- f. Evaluation of conference session and off-site meeting on Wednesday. The joint session with Library History and Preservation and Conservation worked very well. There were good papers, and about 200 attendants at the

beginning, ending with about 120. A lot of sections are interested in preservation and conservation

## 12. Round Robin reports and announcements:

### From SC I, August 22.:

- Erland Kolding Nielsen announced that ProQuest has started the new project EEBO (Early European books online), organized along the lines of Early English Books online. For this project, the Royal Danish Library will be digitizing all Danica (Danish books printed in Denmark and abroad) at high quality, including all external aspects (binding with spine and edges). The project will begin with incunabula and continue into the 17th century. All features (illustrations, manuscript notes) will be marked up; OCR will be used wherever possible. Metadata will consist in scans of a handwritten catalogue and the entries from the national bibliography. The digitized images will be only made accessible by ProQuest for a period of ten years after digitization.
- Alexander Samarin announced that information on the collections of the Russian State Library and recent publications can be found on its website. Two conferences on rare books were organized in the past year: reform of type under Peter the Great; books as sources of history.

### From SC II, August 27.:

- Isabel Garcíá-Monge speaking on behalf of Cristina Guillermo.. National Library of Spain is open to researchers and providing wider access with cooperation, new exhibitions, and a new facsimile and commentary on Leonardo's Madrid Codices.
- Björn Dal reported that Lund Library has a new digitizing project on landscape photography taken in the course of travel [by Martin ...beck?]
- Claudia Fabian reported that in Oct. 2009 there will be a BCB conference in Munich on 17th-century German-language bibliography project. She recommends the CERL files on line, particularly the provenance thesauri.
- Raphaële Mouren spoke about the Saint Andrews University Project for 16th-century bibliography (short-title catalogue) with the suggestion that we have a joint session with bibliography section, and that it is now time to join the national catalogue projects for international listings of holdings]
- Marcia Reed passed around copies of the new Getty Research Institute journal.
- John Meriton spoke about the new Victoria & Albert Renaissance galleries. A detailed catalogue of the illuminated manuscripts is being prepared.

- Sirkku Havu spoke about a provenance project in cooperation with Russian libraries. This is a new entry for the UNESCO Memory of the World project.
- Jim Neal reported on projects from Columbia University: APIS project – online collection of payrology; Digital Scriptorium – mediaeval manuscripts database. They have just received a large grant from the Mellon Foundation to digitize and integrate digital, archives, and manuscripts, with particular focus on human rights collections.
- David Farneth reported on added terms in Chinese and Dutch to broaden the Art & Architecture Thesauri, and also the Getty Research Institute digitizing projects for emblem books and festival books.

### 13. Other business or announcements:

#### OCLC Missing Materials databases

Susan Allen provided more information on the OCLC Missing Materials databases and blog: It is intended for librarians, security/police, and booksellers, and she distributed leaflets.

#### Publication of the München pre-conference papers

Bettina Wagner discussed plans for the publication of the pre-conference papers which will feature the research-oriented papers. She will speak with IFLA HQ about it. It was suggested that PowerPoint presentations be put on online. It was suggested that the pre-conference publication might be part of the CERL series.

#### Bookmarks

Bookmarks have been completely distributed; the remaining ones (another 500 printed by mistake on lighter paper stock and given to us by the printer rather than discarded) will be sent to Raphaële Mouren to be used for professional meetings next year. Members may request bookmarks directly from her. If needed, they can also be reprinted.

#### IFLA conferences 2010

Proposals for main conference session: Initially it was an idea to continue the theme of this year, using proposals not selected. This was brought this to the Preservation and Conservation SC, but there was no interest in cooperating. For the main conference we will propose „Physical evidence for the history of libraries and collections.“ This will be proposed to the Library History Special Interest Group. More focus was suggested on reconstruction, using digital methods and virtual assemblage.

#### Further ideas:

Include considerations on the physical evidence for reconstruction. Recording provenance could be covered.

Catalogues of collections: catalogue cards are currently being destroyed

Contrasts of various collections in which sub-collections (often separate libraries and collections) are discrete, and/or others are integrated.

Duplicates could be further defined.

There will be a call for papers by the end of September 2009 with deadline for submissions at the end of December.

For the 2010 conference Björn Dal volunteered to arrange a visit (with bus) similar to the Parma tour.

Suggestions for a 2010 post-conference at Uppsala or Stockholm with PAC: „New techniques to assist with conservation.“ Coinciding with SHARP on 16 / 17 August in Helsinki. Now that the 2012 conference is in Helsinki, it was thought that we should go to Sweden. It was proposed that SHARP members in the RBM section propose a co-sponsored session at the Helsinki meeting.

#### IFLA conference 2011 and 2012

According to IFLA Express, the conference after 2012 will be in South Asia or Oceania.

The conference after 2011 in Puerto Rico will be in Helsinki.

2011 conference theme in Puerto Rico is „Libraries beyond libraries: Integration, Innovation for all.“ Ideas for 2011 pre- or post-conference: Regional histories or the colonial heritage 1) Mexico; 2) Guadalupe or Martinique (which would cover the history of the French Antilles)

Isabel Garcíá-Monge proposed a 2011 mid-term meeting in Madrid, its subject could be the encounter of different manuscript traditions: European and American.

Meeting adjourned at 13:00