

Minutes from Midwinter 2001 Publications Committee Meeting

RBMS Publications Committee
Minutes, ALA Midwinter Meeting
Saturday, January 13, 2001
Massachusetts Room, Capitol Hilton

Members Present: Margaret Nichols (Cornell University, Chair), Jean Ashton (Columbia University, ex-officio), Lisa Browar (Indiana University, ex-officio), Christian Dupont (University of Notre Dame), Deborah Leslie (Folger Shakespeare Library), Judy Harvey Sahak (Claremont Colleges, Recorder), Diana Smith (Yale University), Marvin Taylor (New York University, ex-officio), Manon Theroux (Yale University, ex-officio)

Members Absent: Darren Callahan (Southern Illinois University, ex-officio), Priscilla Thomas (Dallas Public Library), Everett Wilkie (Kamico Instructional Media)

Visitors: Jeffrey Makala (Wesleyan University), Dawn Mueller (ACRL)

Chair Margaret Nichols called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

Charge: Nichols led the discussion on revising the charge of the Publications Committee requested by the Executive Committee. At the Midwinter 2000 Executive Committee meeting, the subcommittee charged to review the structure of the Section had recommended that the Publications Committee review its charge. During the discussion, it was suggested that the charge be explicit about who is considered ex-officio. The statement on Coordination was revised with wording changed to: Coordination: RBMS section chair; and the following ex-officio members of the Publications Committee: editor of the RBMS Newsletter, the RBMS Webmaster, the editors of RBM who are also members of the ACRL Publications Committee. The chair of the RBMS Publications Committee serves as liaison to the ACRL Publications Committee. Nichols agreed to synthesize ideas, rework the wording and distribute by e-mail. The revised charge will be taken to RBMS Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting 2001 for approval.

RBMS Brochure and Logo: Nichols distributed the latest draft of the brochure. Discussion included: the use of the large "RBMS" on the front fold, considering the agreed use of "RBMS" as the logo on the same page; the use of dots instead of leaves as bullets; the use of large caps in acronyms throughout text; using Website or web site. Taylor suggested following the Chicago Manual of Style by using Web site. Discussion continued on the wording of various sentences. The Committee decided to proceed with the publication of the brochure. A subcommittee (Theroux, Dupont, and Nichols) was formed to carry out final copy editing. The designer will send Dupont a Corq file after February 6. Dupont will correct and have brochure prepared for publication. The Executive Committee will be sent PDF files in early March for approval. The old brochures will be used at the ACRL National Conference with the new ones

available for the ABAA bookfairs.

RBM: Taylor reported that Vol. 1, no. 2, on cultural repositories and cultural heritage, is out. The next issue will be on collections and collecting (V2, n1) and include the history of theft and repatriation of cultural material. The following issue (V2, n2) will focus on the role critical theory has played in developing book history/cultural studies. Daniel Traister will be the guest editor of the latter issue. Browar gave some statistics. Total subscriptions as of 1/1/2001 numbered 581, with 26 new and 9 cancelled with a net gain of 17. The increase is due to the changes in the journal and more intense marketing efforts such as at ABAA bookfairs and a mailing by the Grolier Club. Browar will distribute subscription flyers at this conference. She will also ask the ACRL Publications Committee to offer RBM at a reduced rate for students. Design issues were discussed. The paper has been changed, with less bleed-through. Some problems have been perceived with the type, e.g. the amount of white space and the boldness of the type. The editors have received many positive comments on the articles and content. A recent ACRL survey showed that of all ACRL journals, RBM was actually the most heavily read. The editors aim to limit the issues to 96 pages, with four articles and an exit interview. Taylor would like to see more subscriptions and contributions from museum personnel and archivists. They will send sample issues to museum associations as well as to state and local historical associations. The suggestion was made to send RBMS members reminders on the listserv and the Web site of upcoming articles.

RBMS Newsletter: Jeffrey Makala (Wesleyan University) was introduced as the new Assistant Editor. The Fall issue has been published and the Spring issue is in preparation.

RBMS Web site: Dupont reported having created a preliminary version of a new site. He is working on: 1. Conversion of content from old to new sites; 2. Formalization of graphic design, waiting for the new logo; 3. Switchover to new URL when content is on new site.

RBMS-L: In the absence of Wilkie, there was no report. The question was raised of using RBMS-L just for RBMS business, as there seems to be an increasing use of RBMS-L as a second Exlibris. There is not a lot of traffic on RBMS-L.

With no new business, Nichols adjourned the meeting at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Harvey Sahak