

Minutes from Midwinter 2002 Publications Committee Meeting

RBMS Publications Committee
ALA Midwinter Meeting, New Orleans, LA
Saturday, January 19, 2002, 2-4 pm
Le Meredien, Henri Room

Members present: Margaret Nichols (Chair, Cornell University), Jean Ashton (ex-officio, Columbia University), Lisa Browar (ex-officio, Indiana University), Daren Callahan (ex-officio, Southern Illinois University), Christian Dupont (ex-officio, University of Notre Dame), Martha Lawler (Louisiana State University), Mary Lacy (ex-officio, Library of Congress), Judy Harvey Sahak (Claremont Colleges, recorder), Marvin Taylor (ex-officio, New York University), Manon Theroux (ex-officio, Yale University), Everett Wilkie (ex-officio, Kamico Instructional Media)

Members Absent: Abby Tallmer (Special Collections Consultant, NYC)
Visitors: Larry Creider (New Mexico State University), Jim Kapoun (Chair, ACRL Publications Committee), Jeffrey Makala (Wesleyan University)

Chair Margaret Nichols called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the RBMS Publications Committee from ALA Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 16, 2001 were approved as distributed. The Chair requested that one of the Committee be the recorder for this meeting. Judy Harvey Sahak volunteered.

2. Membership News and Chair's Announcements: Nichols announced that she would be leaving the Committee after the 2002 Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in taking over as Chair should talk to Dan Slive, RBMS Chair-Elect. [Abby Tallmer subsequently agreed to serve as Chair.] Joining the Committee is Martha Lawler (Louisiana State University). Diana Smith (Yale) is leaving. This is the last meeting for Manon Theroux and Daren Callahan, whose last issue of the Newsletter is Spring 2002. Jeffrey Makala will then become Editor.

Browar brought up the issue of an article on "special collections/ lost treasures" in the October 2001 American Libraries in which there was no mention of RBMS. Since RBMS is the ALA section concerned with special collections, the official journal of ALA should have included a mention of RBMS. Browar and Taylor wrote a letter to the Editor after the October issue appeared. The Publications Committee should be involved in a response to the article and recommend action to the Executive Board. One course of action would be to ask for space in a column of American Libraries for an article about RBMS. [When this issue was subsequently brought up at the Executive Committee meeting, the Executive Committee decided to handle the response on behalf of RBMS.]

3. Your Old Books: Nichols indicated that this publication needed to be revised. She asked for a volunteer to review and come up with suggestions for revision, such as suggesting websites to include. Abby

Tallmer volunteered to review the publication. Larry Creider will suggest appropriate websites. Christian Dupont asked if the brochure would be reprinted and suggested that an updated version be mentioned in the American Libraries column on raising awareness of ACRL/RBMS. Tallmer, Creider, and Dupont agreed to act as a subcommittee to review the document and suggest revisions.

4. RBMS Brochure: Nichols announced that 3000 copies had been printed. The Membership and Professional Development Committee is responsible for distribution. She will discuss appropriate places and events for distribution with that Committee.

5. RBMS Logo: A new RBMS Section logo was to have been ready to use on the new Section brochure; however, the Committee did not find a design it approved of in time to use it on the brochure. Christian Dupont works with a graduate student at Notre Dame with an interest in typography who has developed a few designs. This will be funded by an anonymous gift of \$500 for a logo design. [The donor subsequently agreed to raise the cap to \$700 or \$800 if needed.] In addition, Everett Wilkie has sent Nichols some proposed designs. A wide-ranging discussion followed the distribution of various logo designs. The major issues were the basic concept, i.e. what the logo should represent, and the qualities of various designs. Some members thought the logo should reflect the traditional, the "old," while others asserted that modernizing the look was preferable. The basic issue of how a logo functions and what constitutes a logo was discussed. It should "suggest" the substance of the Section. It will be used on the website, in type on publications, and alone as an icon. It should be as effective in black and white as in color. After looking at several designs, the Committee decided that one that looked like manuscript pages or a book opening best captured the concept of combining the modern, the old, with various formats, and also had a great deal of movement to it. The next step is for the Chair to take it to the Executive Committee, which would vote to adopt or not. Dupont volunteered to prepare the preferred logo in several colors and sizes with the letters and image arranged in various configurations for Nichols to take to the Exec Committee the next day. [The Executive Committee subsequently approved the logo, after the designer added a letterhead version and a version with the full names of ACRL and ALA included.]

6. RBM: Browar and Taylor reported that the last issue of RBM presented a wealth of papers from the 2001 Preconference on the state of special collections. The next issue will pick up on some of the ideas from the last issue, with an article by Jerome McGann and James O'Donnell's closing talk. Rachel Howarth's interview with Ken Carpenter will also appear. Browar and Taylor will be editors for three more years. They hope to continue featuring an interview in each issue, but people are becoming reticent about being interviewed. It is sometime difficult to match the interviewer with the interviewee. One upcoming interview is Dan Slive interviewing Bernard Rosenthal. The interview may become an occasional instead of a regular feature. Subscriptions have grown over the last two years by 100, from 489 to 583 subscriptions. Booksellers are pleased with the journal.

7. RBMS Newsletter: Theroux and Callahan will edit their last Newsletter in Spring 2002. Jeffrey Makala will take over with the Fall issue for two years. He will be seeking two Assistant Editors. The Chair of the

Publications Committee subsequently recommends the Assistant Editors to the Executive Board. March 1 is the deadline for the Spring issue, which will include the Section's Annual Report. The Editors reported that the Newsletter portion of the Section Manual needs updating, particularly in terms of the persons and groups the Editors coordinate with. Wilkie indicated that he had considered changing the look of the Newsletter when he was editor, but decided that the current design accommodates a lot of text. Dupont suggested that Tom, the designer of the logo, could possibly redesign the masthead to give the Newsletter a different look. The Committee agreed that he should pursue this possibility. It was mentioned that the Exhibition Award Committee would like to use the logo in conjunction with the electronic exhibits that receive awards.

8. RBMS electronic discussion list: Wilkie reported that the RBMS electronic discussion list has 500 subscribers. It is a useful location for agendas and Executive Committee minutes. Exlibris has about 1800 subscribers. He reported that UC Berkeley is looking at non-UCB lists on their server, such as RBMS and Exlibris. No action has been taken, but the University is planning to examine the situation. He suggested that the Publications Committee change wording in its charge to reflect that the copyright holder will not allow the use of the term "listserv," which is a proprietary name; the preferred term should be "electronic discussion list."

9. New Business: Nichols reported having received an inquiry about putting together a ClipNotes volume on special collections. This issue will come before Executive Committee. Nichols indicated that it would be good to have someone from RBMS help with this project. [The Executive Committee subsequently appointed Charlotte Brown to serve as the RBMS contact.]

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.