

Minutes of the 2008 Midwinter RBMS Publications Committee Meeting

1:30 p.m., Saturday, 12 January, in the Philadelphia Marriott

Attendees: James Ascher, Stephen Cox, Hjordis Halvorson, Marianne Hansen, William La Moy (chair), Kenneth Lavender, Christine Megowan, Richard Noble, Leigh Anne Palmer, Rochelle Pienn, Jessica Pigza, Martha Repp, E. C. Schroeder, Christopher Smith, and Everett Wilkie

Not present: Katherine Carr, Richard Clement, Christopher Cook, and John Pull

Attendees introduced themselves and confirmed e-mail contact information for William La Moy's records. Jessica Pigza was selected to record the minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting (24 June 2007) were reviewed and approved.

E. C. Schroeder reported on the publication *Your Old Books*. In the spring of 2007, fifteen thousand copies of this brochure were printed. From this original print run, ten thousand copies were delivered to the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America to reflect its contribution to this project. Five hundred copies were sent to the Library of Congress because of its support. Forty-five hundred copies were made available to the RBMS section through its allocated funding and the assistance of a friend of the section at the Rare Book School. This brochure was distributed at the 2007 preconference, the 2007 annual information exchange, and the RBMS booth at various book fairs. The remaining quantity of roughly thirteen hundred and fifty copies are at the Beinecke Library at Yale. E. C. Schroeder and his department have been shipping quantities to interested parties willing to cover the shipping costs.

There are outstanding issues concerning this publication. For example, what should the ongoing distribution arrangement be? Ideally, the ALA Store should be willing to sell it, but the current costs of handling and shipping orders to potential buyers may be prohibitive. Christian Dupont has plans to speak with Kathryn Deiss at ACRL about what arrangements might be possible.

How do we fund a reprint? The current run was accomplished with the support of outside organizations (the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the Library of Congress, and the

Rare Book School). ACRL has quoted the following costs to reprint the brochure: three thousand copies at \$0.61 each, and five thousand copies at \$0.47 each.

There is the possibility of creating a downloadable and printable PDF file designed to require fewer pages than the present Web version, which prints out in eight pages. William La Moy circulated a prototype that fits on two sheets of paper (8.5 x 11 inches in dimensions) if printed on both sides. This would allow anyone to print as many copies as needed, solving the problems of storing them and then shipping them on request. The possibility of bringing some of the design elements from the glossy brochure to this PDF version was discussed.

William La Moy presented Richard Clement's report on the journal *RBM*. Clement is resigning from his post as editor of *RBM*, and he has informed ACRL of this. ACRL, in response, plans to adhere to the following schedule in order to identify his replacement: a search committee will be formed by the end of January; advertisements will be placed in *College & Research Libraries News* and elsewhere in February; telephone interviews will be conducted with three to five candidates by 1 May; and finalists will be interviewed, with recommendations forwarded to the board at the annual meeting.

Marianne Hansen reported on the RBMS newsletter, and she indicated that she will step down as newsletter editor this spring. Stephen Cox will then commence his role as editor, and Christopher Cook will become the assistant editor.

A report on the RBMS discussion list prompted Hjordis Halvorson to point out that there is interest in a list with which subscribers could foster discussion and share ideas related to the rare books and manuscripts profession in general. At this point, this discussion list is intended only for posts relating directly to the business of RBMS. A discussion ensued concerning the possibility that the current RBMS discussion list could become less restrictive. As an alternative, a second discussion list for more general communications might be considered, but it was agreed that reshaping the current discussion list was more appealing. The possibility of considering a change in scope will be explored by Everett Wilkie in a general way before any official motion to propose new language is made, and he indicated that he would examine other discussion lists to see if a suitable model might be found. Wilkie also reported that he and his contacts at ALA are aware of the recent problems with messages not being disseminated, and he will continue to monitor the situation.

James Ascher announced the success of the redesign of rbms.info with the incorporation of more than five thousand Web pages in two months, completed by the Web team with exceptional assistance from Katherine Reagan and Ken Williams. The migration of the Bibliographical Standards Committee's pages onto rbms.info has also been completed and has proven to be quite useful. The Leab Exhibition Award database exists in a preliminary form, and the committee plans to have the

database available for consultation and searching before the annual meeting in 2008. Ascher ended the announcements by asking for volunteers with Web experience to contact the editor@rbms.info to assist with the Web team's ambitious plans. In view of John Pull's intention to step down in June 2008, Christopher Smith and James Ascher, who were instrumental in bringing the redesign of rbms.info to completion, are ready to serve as Web editor and assistant Web editor, respectively.

William La Moy reported on the liaison between the Publications Committee and the ALA publishing group and indicated that the ALA publications staff members are interested in assisting other units in completing projects. They wished to be regarded as potential sources of technical information and could conceivably assist with issues relating to production and distribution. Some of these services, however, have costs associated with them. In his capacity as liaison with ACRL publications, La Moy indicated that the primary discussion was occasioned by the resignation of Richard Clement as the editor of *RBM* and the need to select his successor.

William La Moy also reported that in order to fulfill the Publications Committee's own charge, the committee should offer to facilitate the projects of other units within the section. This could take the form of technical assistance, for instance, although it need not be limited to that. Richard Noble suggested that the committee could provide continuity for all the materials produced by RBMS (such as templates, logos, forms, pamphlets, table cards, and award certificates).

The Diversity Toolkit, currently nearing completion, is an example of a project that could conceivably benefit from the work of this committee, and issues related to the print run and the distribution mechanism could be explored. Martha Repp will communicate to the Diversity Committee the Publications Committee's interest in assisting.

In terms of new business or new projects, the seminars database is currently being built and is scheduled to be on the RBMS Web site by the 2009 preconference. The Leab Exhibition Awards database is nearing completion and may be ready as soon as the 2008 annual meeting. The work done on this database should help in shaping the seminars database. Related to the Leab Exhibition Awards database is another goal: the ability for exhibitors to submit electronically for award consideration. Richard Noble, chair of the Exhibition Awards Committee, is eager to allow the submission of library exhibition catalogs throughout the year, with data entry becoming the responsibility of the entrants. At the moment, only users of Adobe Acrobat Professional can make electronic submissions. It was agreed that the committee's charge to facilitate publications should include Web site publications as well as print ones. Simple updates to Web projects can be sent directly to the Web team, but new Web projects should initially be presented to the chair of the Publications Committee.

The meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.

[Source: RBMS Electronic Discussion List, Feb. 14, 2008]