

## Draft Minutes

RBMS Exhibition Awards Committee Business Meeting  
ALA Annual Conference Saturday June 25, 2011  
Sheraton New Orleans--Bayside A/B

**Members present:** Molly Schwartzburg (Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas), Chair; Caryn Lazzuri (Folger Shakespeare Library); Jessica Lacher-Feldman (University of Alabama); Michael Taylor (Louisiana State University); Jason Kovari (Cornell University); James P. Ascher (University of Colorado Boulder); Jennifer Lowe (Saint Louis University); Cherry Williams (Indiana University).

**Guests:** Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara University); Juli McLoone (University of Texas San Antonio); Jeffrey Makala (University of South Carolina and RBMS Member-at-Large); Anne Garner (NYPL); Elizabeth Call (Brooklyn Historical Society).

**Call to order:** 8:10AM

**Designation of recorder:** Cherry Williams

### Welcome, introductions, announcements

Molly recognized the service and early retirement from the committee of Caryn Lazzuri, Folger Shakespeare Library, whose work demands have created a conflict for her with the work of the committee. Her contributions to the committee and the judging process will be sincerely missed!

### Review and approval of minutes of January 9, 2011 meeting

Minutes were approved as presented, with one correction: the Leab collection at the Bancroft Library is now fully cataloged.

### Financial update on the Leab account, current year expenditures, etc.

Molly noted that the funds are sufficient for us to accomplish the work of the committee. The account's current status is as follows:

Principle balance as of April 30, 2011	\$32, 404.32
Earned interest income 9/1/10—4/30/11	\$ 755.69
Bank charges 9/1/10—4/30/11	\$ 150.00
Committee reimbursements	\$ 188.74
Balance in spending account 4/30/2011	\$ 416.95

## Follow-up to action items in ALA Midwinter minutes 9 January 2011

### Midwinter Action Item 1: Completed

“Molly will contact the Leabs to discuss ways of recognizing that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Leab Exhibition Award.”

- A. Molly contacted the Leabs; they are very excited about our proposed activities, as confirmed at Midwinter
  - 1. The Web design team will keep the original Website, which depicts the winners of the awards through the first 25 years, intact in perpetuity. In addition, a new parallel Website will be added to showcase winners to the present with images of the covers of the catalogs included. (**Midwinter Action Item 10: completed**)
  - 2. Molly has submitted a resolution, recognizing the contribution of the Leabs to RBMS, to the RBMS Executive Committee and to ACRL. The resolution will be voted on at Executive Committee on Monday. (**Midwinter Action item 13: completed**)

NEW ACTION ITEM 1: Molly will contact recent winners requesting quotes for use in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary publicity and outreach—working with Jason on this. (**Midwinter Action Item 5**)

### Midwinter Action Item 2: Completed

“Molly will review documentation of the holdings at each institution.”

NEW ACTION ITEM 2: Molly will provide institutional data to the Web team

### Midwinter Action Item 3: Completed.

“James will explore funding from Grolier Club to catalog winners.”

Funding not available, and not essential, as Bancroft collection is cataloged.

### Midwinter Action Item 4: Completed

“Cherry will contact the Miniature Book Society, the Manuscript Society and FABS regarding information about the Leab award, its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and to encourage future submissions.”

NEW ACTION ITEM 3: Jessica will forward to Molly a list of additional regional archives list serves such as the National Council on Public History, AASLH—Association of State & Local History Societies, SAA, etc. (**Midwinter Action Item 6**).

NEW ACTION ITEM 4: Molly will maintain a master list of organizations & contacts of organizations to receive the annual announcements, as part of the chair checklist.

### Midwinter Action Item 7: Completed

“Submission form will remain as is, but website will state that all contestants must email submission forms (with an alternative option for contestants without email).”

The on line submission form is working well—tremendously decreases the amount of work required by the chair. Kudos & many thanks to the Web team.

**Midwinter Action Item 8: PENDING**

“Jason will ask the Web team to investigate whether it would be possible to have a web submission form that can populate a spreadsheet or database.”

Jason will see if this is doable; if not, we will continue as is. If this is possible we will try to institute for the 2013 award cycle.

**Midwinter Action Item 9: PENDING**

“Molly will contact Richard about putting his files (in pdf format) on ALA connect.”

**Midwinter Action Item 11 & 12: Completed**

“Introduction and discussion of proposal for EAC-sponsored online seminar on issues in electronic exhibitions. James will update us on the status of the *digress.it* seminar project.”

James and Jason presented an extensive review of the on-line seminar utilizing Sara Goodwin Thiel’s work *Build It Once: A Basic Primer for the Creation of Online Exhibitions* (Scarecrow Press, 2007).

General discussion was held regarding possible repetition of the seminar and the continued use of *digress.it* as a discussion arena more generally. It was proposed that we sponsor a second round of the same project for Spring 2012 with a paid moderator, but with free participation for those interested.

NEW ACTION ITEM 5: Jeffrey & Molly will explore funding for the paid moderator position for an 8-week commitment with an honorarium (perhaps \$200).

NEW ACTION ITEM 6: James and Jason will present recommended moderators to the committee Midwinter.

**Midwinter Action Item 14:**

“The committee will discuss the brochure category at ALA Annual based on Caryn’s observation that it does not account for a significant number of items produced by exhibitions in conjunction with an exhibition. We will also review the current arguably problematic requirements for brochures to be produced on acid-free paper and a cost of less than \$1.00.”

Rigorous & vigorous discussion followed regarding the following points:

- A. Categorization, primarily based on cost, at the discretion of the chair. It is very time consuming and difficult to determine at times. Cost to produce vs. cost to consumer.
- B. Catalogs are seen as a somewhat complete record of an exhibition.
- C. Brochures identified variously as a keepsake, advertisement, a record.
- D. **Caryn:** noted that the brochure category is a catch-all for a very large diverse grouping of materials.

- E. **Key question: what is the goal of the award?** Recognizes documentation of an exhibition.
- F. Definition of a brochure vs. a keepsake. Is a keepsake then out of scope? James read out definitions of keepsake. Mission: the awards or the archiving of the exhibition? Would we then lose the memorialization if we do not include keepsakes?
- G. Charge reviewed. Key issues discussed: overall informational content; reviewed criteria from the RBMS Website: “enough real information—not an advertisement.”
- H. **Jeffrey:** AAM has 12 categories for exhibition awards and suggested that perhaps reviewing their language might be helpful.
- I. **James P.:** the purpose of the brochure is to orient the reader/viewer; introduce the subject to the audience; memorialize the event.
- J. **Jenny:** mission is to encourage quality printed products.

NEW ACTION ITEM 7: Molly will contact the Web team for a new *digress.it* site so the committee can discuss the submission guidelines and the brochure guidelines criteria with possible suggestions for “tweaking” the brochure category. Suggestion was made for an October 1-15 comment period.

### **Further review of 2011 award cycle and anticipation of 2012 award cycle**

Molly reviewed the timeline for submissions & judging and offered the following tips to new members:

- Earmark your favorites
- List of nominees for your strongest contenders
- Keep written notes regarding the pros & cons particularly for your favorites.
- The judging meeting at ALA Midwinter usually consumes all of the 4 hours allotted.
- Every catalog gets its “moment in the sun.” Feel free to advocate for any item about which you are passionate even if you feel there is a better choice for the winner but save the fight for the one you feel is definitely a winner.
- Democratic process—everyone gets an equal voice.
- Save your comments for the Chair to use when presenting the award winner presentations at Annual.

Committee members added the following recommendations:

- On first pass through, keep notes on every item and then refine and add more detail to your favorites, including notes about why you don’t like an item
- Clear a space in which you can process the catalogs and review them is very important
- Remember how they were packed in order to get them all back in their original boxes.
- Chair should send URLs the online exhibitions as soon as available
- If you find something remarkable about a catalog, that you note where in the catalog it can be found or perhaps earmark it with a photo from your cell phone.
- Recusals: If your institution where you currently work is submitting an item in a particular category, you must recuse yourself. Otherwise not a problem. If in doubt, contact Molly for advice.

**Other Business**

There has been a request from the 2012 Pre-Conference Organizing Committee that the winners be on display for a longer period of time than the current practice of 8:00AM-12:30PM on Wednesday morning.

NEW ACTION ITEM 8: Molly will follow-up with the Pre-Conference Organizing Committee to see what all of our options are. Discussion was held about holding it in conjunction with the Book Seller's Showcase but it will also entail a longer time commitment from committee members to man the tables if we decided to change the current format.

Discussion was held regarding the geographical location of exhibitions & submissions. Current guidelines imply a limit to submission of catalogs produced in the US and Canada, but what about Latin America, South America, and the Caribbean?

NEW ACTION ITEM 9: Molly & Jeffrey will explore the boundaries and legalities.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cherry Williams, Recorder

Lightly revised by Molly Schwartzburg, 7/15/11