



Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Annual Report 2006-2007

Mission:

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information on matters of particular concern to rare book and manuscript librarians, including collection, preservation, bibliographic control of, and access to such materials, in all types of libraries.

Goals:

- 1. Promote the understanding of the significance of rare books and manuscripts for scholarly research, and as part of the heritage of civilization, in an international context.**

Actions:

1. A letter was sent by the section in protest of the sale of manuscripts from the Badische Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe, Germany. The sale has been stopped, at least for the time being.
2. In August 2007 at the annual section standing committee meeting, members unanimously endorsed the *Statement on the Commitment to Special Collections*, originally drawn up for the LIBER organization.

- 2. Develop international standards in the field of rare book and manuscript librarianship, and publish directories and bibliographies and build up sources of information that will assist rare book and manuscript librarians in their work.**

Actions:

1. Continued existing projects:
 - Discussion of security of rare books and manuscripts with IFLA and ILAB leadership continued. As a result, a former section member is now in discussion with OCLC to establish a way of tagging stolen books in WorldCat. Section members were encouraged to subscribe to the Library Security Officer Listserv.
 - Collected samples of policies and standards for digitization
 - Participated in Criteria for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register which during the 2006/2007 round resulted in thirty eight new inscriptions on the Register.
 - Sought members and corresponding members from under represented regions by sponsoring a successful 2006 satellite meeting in China attended by more than one hundred Chinese scholars and librarians

- Continued to augment the section's Web pages
 - Working group on ISBD(A) continued
2. Newsletter and Brochure:
- The section issued newsletters on schedule (both printed and online) edited with the kind help of the Staats bibliothek zu Berlin.
 - The Section's brochure was revised and posted on the IFLA Website, October 2006
3. Programs for IFLA World Congresses and satellite meetings presented:
- Hangzhou, China, August 2006: "Chinese Written and Printing Cultural Heritage and the Library Work in China," Zhejiang Library, Hangzhou, China (satellite meeting) organized by the IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section and the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government, China. Seventeen papers and talks were delivered during the formal sessions. This was followed by two days of cultural visiting and investigation to rare book libraries, museums, and historical sites in the Hangzhou, China region. More than 100 Chinese scholars and librarians attended from China and another thirty or more came from elsewhere in the world. The section was will represented both on the program and in the audience. The conference papers were published in Chinese by the Zhejiang Library, China. Currently, a project to translate the papers from this preconference is underway.
 - Seoul, Korea, August 2006: The section presented the program of four papers, "West by East – East by West: Cultural and Technological Exchange – Old technology, new technology, collecting and describing rare materials." It was inspired by the early invention of printing in Korea and the booming technological developments in Asian countries in recent years. The program was well balanced and received many positive reactions. There were some 140 in attendance. The paper by Izumi Koide, "Picturing Westernization and Modernization: A Woodblock Print Collection from Late 19th Century Japan," was nominated for publication in *IFLA Journal*. A visit to the Korean printing history museum, Jijki Museum, supported the theme of the conference program and was very pleasant and instructive for those who were able to participate in the bus trip.
 - Durban, South Africa, August 2007: The section co-sponsored the successful "Preconference on Mould, Pests and Dust" organized by the Preservation & Conservation Section. Sixty people attended, fifteen of which came from outside South Africa. Susan M. Allen and Jan Bos attended on behalf of the RBM Section.
 - Durban, South Africa, August 2007: In collaboration with the Preservation and Conservation Section, the section presented "Preservation in African Collections: Perspectives and Case Studies." More than 100 attendees were present.

- Future Satellite Meeting: Washington, D.C., United States, August 2008: A preconference entitled “The Map as Print, the Map as Page,” is being planned.
- Future Congress Program: Quebec City, Canada, August 2008: The program, “Expanding the Borders of Knowledge,” to focus on records of explorations and their preservation is being planned.

Leadership:

At the August 2007 Standing Committee meeting, Bettina Wagner, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, was elected chair of the section, and Marcia Reed, Getty Research Institute, was elected secretary/treasurer. Susan M. Allen and Jan Bos, chair and secretary/treasurer respectively, were thanked for their four years of service as officers to the section.