

IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Standing Committee Minutes

I SC Meeting

August 13, 2011 Saturday 12:00-14:30

1. Welcome and introductions

Standing Committee Members present: David Farneth, Isabel Garcia-Monge, Anne Eidsfeldt, Eric Holzenberg, Raphaële Mouren, Krister Östlund, Alexander Samarin, Garrelt Verhoeven

Others: Sidney Berger, Jan Bos

Standing Committee Members absent: Chantal Keijsper, Pilar Egoscozábal Carrasco, Chu Shuqing, Mark Dimunation, Claudia Fabian, Celine Gendron, Bente Granrud, Laurent Hericher, Fabienne Le Bars, Pilar Moreno Garcia, Angela Nuovo, Edwin C. Schroeder, Winston Tabb, Marina Venier,

Regrets from: Chantal Keijsper, Marina Venier, Céline Gendron,

2. August 2010 Minutes were approved.

3. The times for the IFLA RBM SC meetings in San Juan were announced

August 15, 2011 Monday 09:30-12:45

August 15, 2011 Monday 14:30 Off-site visit to Casa del Libro, old San Juan

August 16, 2011 Tuesday 09:30-12:45 RBMS and LACS

August 18, 2011 Thursday 08:00-09:30

The activities of the RBMS in Puerto Rico included a Preconference with Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (PAC), three working meetings on 13th, 15th and 18th, the RBM session with LACS and a visit to Casa del Libro in San Juan. The session with Latin America and the Caribbean Section had the theme: "Rare and special collections in the American context".

4. Financial report – Anne Eidsfeldt

The section annual sum received from Headquarters (€ 700) had been fully invested in expenses associated to the Preconference with Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) "Libraries in Islands: Setting-up Collections, Promoting Cultural Heritage and Networking"; apart from a coffee and lunch for the speakers, there were other hidden associated costs that

surfaced in the last moment. As this has been a problem for different activities, IFLA is going to develop more specific guidelines on this subject.

5. Nominations for new officers and elections

During this conference, officers finished their term and new had to be elected: Raphaële Mouren stays as chair of the section and there were elected new secretary and treasurer (Isabel García-Monge) and new information coordinator and newsletter editor (David Farneth). David Farneth proposes to open discussion for the improvement of the section newsletter. The section thanked Anne Eidsfeldt and Chantal Keijsper for their work. There were some discussions about the problems of membership and participation in the Standing Committee activities. The importance to register in the mailing list was also stressed. As John Meriton had left the section, his place was to be offered to Chu Shuqing, Director of Hangzhou Public Library. Jan Bos joins the section as corresponding member, a status that also enjoys Olga Vega.

6. Review of this year's preconference in San Juan

The preconference "Libraries in Islands: Setting-up Collections, Promoting Cultural Heritage and Networking", organized with Core Activity on Preservation and Conservation (PAC) and celebrated on August 18th in the Museum of Art of Puerto Rico, was the opportunity for librarians from the Caribbean to present their collections and their programs for preservation and dissemination. RBM section also presented its project and first draft of Digitization Guidelines. Preservation and Conservation (PAC) was to publish a report on this conference.

7. RBM Section projects

a) Digitization Guidelines

The Digitization Guidelines first draft had been compiled from the notes of the Madrid midterm meeting by David Farneth and Anne Eidsfeldt and distributed for comments. This text was discussed during the last working meeting.

b) Strategic plan and objectives

The RBM section has to contribute to one of the IFLA key initiatives: both the Digital Content Programme (initiative 1) and the Outreach Programme for Advocacy and Advancement of the Profession (initiative 3) are related to the section activities.

The first priority action for our section is the definition of rare books and cultural heritage and its possible implications for the change to the section name. Among the objectives it should be included to emphasize the importance of special collections and its position in cataloguing.

The Strategic Plan was discussed in the second meeting.

The RBM Section has also as objective to strengthen contacts with other IFLA sections and with other entities, such as LIBER and CERL.

c) Information about the IFLA workgroup on ISBD and manuscripts, by Isabel Garcia-Monge

The Inclusion of Unpublished Resources in ISBD Study Group (part of the ISBD Review Group) was established at the IFLA General Conference (Gothenburg, Sweden, 10-15 August 2010) in order to investigate the possibilities of integrating the description of all types of unpublished resources and the repercussions in the ISBD. As a representative of the RBM section, Isabel Garcia-Monge had participated in the draft that was presented for discussion and approval to the ISBD Review group. During the report of the results in the Cataloguing Standing Committee meeting there was an important debate about the general application of the ISBD to manuscripts with the result of the decision to revise the scope of ISAD(G) while establishing that ISBD should be applied to individual items and to recognize two levels of granularity: to keep very general rules for the description of unpublished resources (which can afterwards be developed as a more specific code) and a more detailed level for published ones. This revision will be done by the entire ISBD Review Group and not by the study group which disappears as such.

d) Other projects

Hangzhou and Munich satellite proceedings were published in 2010 and presented during the previous year's conference.

8. 2012 midterm meeting Anvers

In February 2012 the Conference 2012 Midterm Meeting: Ambassadors of the Book: Competences for Heritage Librarians, will take place in Antwerp, on the subject of which would be the studies needed for the rare book librarians in the future.

9. 2012 Helsinki programme planning

The committee discussed the organization of Helsinki sessions (including one offsite session in the National Library in Helsinki) and their themes: improving the visibility of special collections (whose call for papers would be prepared by Garrelt Verhoeven and Eric Holzenberg), and the

problem of new cataloguing standards applied to special collections (the Cataloguing Section was going to be contacted as this had been a common subject commented in previous occasions).

10. 2013 midterm proposal from A. Samarin

Alexander Samarin proposes a midterm meeting for 2013, which could include visits to exhibitions and libraries. The proposed theme for the meeting would be old books in Russian collections and Russian books in foreign countries. The committee discussed the possibility of broadening the theme to include the study of how foreign collections can be handled in a library.

11. 2013 programme planning

Other subjects were discussed for the following year's Conference in Singapore, such as the difficulties of managing an extraordinary famous collection and how this consumes the resources of the institution, proposed by David Farneth; the concept of authenticity and how it varies in different traditions; or the subject of stolen books from the point of view of the actual situation in Asia. The possibility of a preconference in Singapore or in other country, maybe in cooperation with PAC, was also mentioned.

12. Reports from the section members about current projects

During the meeting different projects were mentioned: Eric Holzenberg informed about a forthcoming exhibition and a colloquium about French printing; Anne Eidsfeldt informed about the National Library of Norway's planned participation in the *The Ligatus Project* (<http://www.ligatus.org.uk/>), an international project that aims to describe bookbinding structures in a common database, so that the database can become an important tool in book binding studies. Jan Bos reported on a very important exhibition of mediaeval manuscripts in the National Library of the Netherlands and how there are different digitization programs with Google and other commercial companies in progress. Garrelt Verhoeven commented how in the Amsterdam University Library there is a considerable investment in exhibitions, such as one on Armenian books which could later travel to other countries.

II SC Meeting

August 15, 2011 Monday 09:30-12:45

Standing Committee Members and other present: Benoit Ferland, David Farneth, Ellen Namhila, Garnelt Verhoeven, Isabel García-Monge, Jan Bos, Joyce Myeza, Juanita Marrero, Kazuyuki Sunaga, Lucile Tremel, Luigina Orlandi, May-Ling Liu, Ornella Foglieni, Philippe Vallas, Russell Lynch, Sidney Berger, Sonia Pacheco, Alexander Samarin, Steve Urgola.

During the introduction to the meeting, the strategic plan and vision of the RBM section were outlined but the rest of the discussion was dedicated to the redefinition of old and rare books and of special collections, with its possible implications for the change of the name of the section itself.

The RBM section's vision is focused on the history of the book, and the international definition of special collections and bibliographical heritage. The strategic plan contemplates:

- 1 - to increase the visibility of special collections
- 2 – to increase the attention for the special collections in their libraries
- 3 – to encourage networking for special collections and associations around the world
- 4 – to promote the attention to the bibliographical heritage
- 5 – to help specialist to face new problems and adapt to the evolution of the profession.

The debate about the special collection is open and will become a document; this meeting included questions regarding the different definitions of rare books and special collections in different countries and the concepts implicated in the definition; the creation and preservation of special collections; the definition of heritage and its relation to preservation and the need of collection policy and collection description.

III SC Meeting

August 18, 2011 Thursday 08:00-09:30

Standing Committee Members and other present: Raphaële Mouren, Isabel García-Monge, Anne Eidsfeldt, Luigina Orlandi, Jan Bos, Garrelt Verhoeven, Krister Östlund, Alexander Samarin, David Farneth, Wiston Tabb, Maresh C. Sharma.

The third standing committee meeting was dedicated to the discussion of the first draft of the Digitization guidelines; the results and commentaries were to be included in the second draft of the document and then circulated.