

## **IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section**

### **Standing Committee Report 2008-9**

Standing Committee Meetings were held in Milan on August 22, 2009 (Saturday 14:30-17:20 Session 47: RBM SC I) and on August 27, 2009 (Thursday 11:30 – 13:00 Session 207: RBM SC II)

1. There was quite a large turnover in Standing Committee members this year. These changes also included the election of new Chair, Raphaële Mouren, and new Secretary, Anne Eidsfeldt. Chantal Keisper continues as Editor of the RBM Newsletter, and the section homepage is produced by Isabel Garcia-Monge.

2. RBM financial report from Secretary Marcia Reed detail the following expenses:

\$520.00 for design of the promotional bookmarks (incorporating maps and manuscripts from members' collections and manuscripts)

\$296.33 for printing 3000 bookmarks

\$816.33 = Euro 571.10 = Total expended section funds from a total of 610 Euros allocated to the section

Funds earmarked for publication of the English translation of the 2006 Hangzhou conference remain in an account administered by Jan Bos.

In addition, financial support was received from Division V section funds for the day registration of a non-IFLA member who will speak at the IFLA/RBM session in Milan (Margaret Lane Ford).

3. The section held a 2009 Preconference at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, 19-21 August on „Early Printed Books as Material Objects: Principles, problems, perspectives.“ RBM Chair Bettina Wagner planned this outstanding conference with presentations by scholars, librarians, and curators from diverse points of view (technical, material, descriptive, and digital). The three-day conference was accompanied by an exhibition of a superb selection of incunabula from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek which were described in a bilingual catalog. The pre-conference attracted 150 participants.
4. IFLA Conference sessions: To coordinate preconference and the IFLA conference themes, in 2009 the RBM section planned sessions on related subjects in cooperation with two other sections: Preservation and Conservation and Library History. Over 50 proposals were received, and the sessions were well attended.

August 26, 2009 Wednesday 9:30-12:45 Session 163: sponsored by the RBM, PAC, LH sections on „Dispersed cultural collections: Preservation, reconstruction, and access.“ Six papers (rather than seven as announced in the programme) will be given. Bettina Wagner briefly introduced the themes of the six papers.

On August 26, 2009 the RBM section sponsored an off-site visit to Parma. Guided tours to the Biblioteca Palatina and Bodoni Museum were organized by Standing Committee member Luisa Buson.

5. Papers of the Hangzhou Preconference 2006 were published in Chinese this past year. In Milan Standing Committee member Cheng Xiaolan presented copies to the Standing Committee. Former SC member Susan Allen reports that she continues to work on the English translation of papers from this conference.

6. Publication of the 2009 Munich Preconference papers is planned, possibly in the series of IFLA publications by K.G. Saur.

7. Updated section leaflets are now available on the website in Italian, English, French, Spanish and German. The Russian version still needs updating. Alexander Samarin volunteered to revise the Russian text. The leaflets can also be downloaded from the IFLA website.

8. RBM section bookmarks produced by Marcia Reed and her assistant at the Getty were distributed to SC members. Others were handed over to IFLA headquarters and distributed at the RBM conference session.