

RBMS 2011 Regional Workshop

Building Collections: Acquiring Materials and Working with the Antiquarian Book Trade

Presenters: E.C. Schroeder (Director, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University) and Daniel J. Slive (Head of Special Collections, Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University).

Time: Thursday, February 10, 2011. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: University of California, Berkeley
C.V. Star East Asian Library, Saul and Sherry Yeung Art History Seminar Room
Berkeley, California

The workshop is primarily intended for librarians working at all types of institutions and with all levels of budgets who are responsible for the acquisition and collection development of special collections materials. The session will also be of interest to individual collectors and dealers. The purpose is to provide attendees with practical information which can be utilized for building collections and developing beneficial relationships with members of the antiquarian book trade. Although the emphasis will be on printed materials, manuscripts and archives will also be discussed. The workshop will include the context and history of special collections, collection development, and institutional interaction with the trade, particularly in the United States. Practical matters will include collection development policies, materials on the market, auctions, online sources, comparing prices, purchasing collections, deaccessioning, and provenance issues. A full reading list will be provided.

Fees:

ACRL member: \$189

Non-member: \$239

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Welcome and introductions. Introduction: Outline, purpose, and goal

CONTEXTS

Life cycle of primary sources

Special collections and collection development in the United States

Twentieth century, particularly after WWII, and early twenty-first century

Brief review of the trade / interactions with special collections

Contexts for collections

Institutional history (mission and core collections)

Type of institution

Purpose(s) of collection, intention, audience, potential users

Purpose(s) for collecting

Funds: endowed funds, grants, special purchase opportunities, outside funds

Other institutions, cooperative collection development

Staff (acquisitions, collection development, processing, cataloguing, outreach)

Matrix decision making process

PRACTICAL MATTERS

Collection Development Policy

Materials on the market

Dealer catalogues, lists, and websites; direct quotes; visits, book fairs

Auctions, dealers as agents

Online sources

Comparing prices / competitive prices

Collections for sale

Donors, Friends groups, (Very good) friends groups

Provenance

Appraisals

Acquisition process

Auctions

Deaccessioning

Wrap-up

Readings:

*Recommended reading prior to workshop.

(All website links active as of January 18, 2011.)

ABA: Antiquarian Booksellers Association. *The Handbook, 2006*. Edited by Michael Silverman. London: Antiquarian Booksellers Association, [2006].

See especially the following chapters: "The Terms of the Trade," "Modern First Editions," "Coming to Terms with MSS," and "Code of Good Practice."

These chapters are available at the ABA website at: <http://www.aba.org.uk/index.html>

*"The Terms of the Trade" by Roger Gaskell is highly recommended.

*ABAA: Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America. *ABAA Membership Directory, 2010*. New York: Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America, [2006]. See especially: "Objects of the Association," "ABAA Code of Ethics," "Geographical Index," and "Index of Member Specialties."

Also see the ABAA website: <http://www.abaa.org/> for code of ethics, glossary of common trade terms, and member book sellers.

ABC: *ABC for Book Collectors*. Eighth Edition, by John Carter and Nicolas Barker. New Castle, DE and London: Oak Knoll Press and the British Library, 2004.

Also available as a PDF at the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers website: http://www.ilab.org/eng/documentation/30-john_carters_abc_for_book_collectors.html

ARL: *Celebrating Research: Rare and Special Collections from the Membership of the Association of Research Libraries*. Edited by Philip N. Cronenwett, Kevin Osborn, Samuel A. Streit. Washington, D.C.: Association of Research Libraries, 2007.

Introduction by Nicolas Barker, "Library Overviews & Collection Profiles" available at: <http://www.celebratingresearch.org/index.shtml>

Archer, H. Richard, ed. *Rare Book Collections: Some Theoretical and Practical Suggestions for Use by Librarians and Students*. ACRL Monograph Number 27. Chicago: American Library Association, 1965.

Chapter 2: Edwin Wolf 2nd. "The Development of Rare Book Collections in the United States," pp. 11-25.

Chapter 3. Howard H. Peckham. "Acquisition of Rare Materials," pp. 26-34.

*Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library Technical Services Links Wiki:

<http://brbltechnicalservices.wikispaces.com/>

Beasley, Gerald. "Curatorial Crossover: Building Library, Archives, and Museum Collections." *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*. Vol. 8, No. 1: 20-28. (2007) (ALSO SEE: Whiteman, below.)

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/8/1/20.full.pdf+html>

*Cave, Roderick. *Rare Book Librarianship*. London: C. Bingley; Hamden, Conn.: Linnet Books, 1976.

Chapter 2: "The Nature of the Rare Book," pp. 17-33.

Chapter 3: "Acquisition of Materials I," pp. 34-53.

Chapter 4: "Acquisition of Materials II," pp. 54-66.

*A basic introduction for those with little or no experience acquiring rare materials.

Dickinson, Donald C. *Dictionary of American Book Collectors*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986.

Goldschmidt, Lucien. "The Arts and the Antiquarian Book Trade: The Inherited Past and a Viable Future." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 2, No. 1: 7-17. (1987)

*Landon, Richard. "Embracing the Flood: Questions about Collecting Twentieth-Century Non-Literary Works." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 2, No. 2: 81-93. (1987)

Mandelbrote, Giles, ed. *Out of Print & into Profit: A History of the Rare and Secondhand Book Trade in Britain in the Twentieth Century*. New Castle, DE: Oak Knoll Press, 2006. SEE: Michèle Kohler, "The British Trade and Institutional Libraries," pp.177-184.

Matheson, William. "Institutional Collecting of Twentieth-Century Literature." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 4, No. 1: 7-41. (1989)

RBMS. ACRL Guidelines on the Selection and Transfer of Materials from General Collections to Special Collections (2008).

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/selctransfer.cfm>

*ALSO SEE: Reagan, Katherine. "Books in the Age of Anxiety."

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/3.2.ReaganDESIGNED.pdf>

RBMS. Publications Committee. "Your Old Books." (2005 / 2006)

<http://www.rbms.info/yob.shtml>

Reese, William S. "A Talk at the Library of Congress." (2001 / 2002)

<http://www.reeseeco.com/papers/lctalk.htm>

*Reese, William S. "Books in Hard Times / The Rare Book Market Today." (2009)

<http://www.reeseeco.com/papers/biht.htm>

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/2.1.ReeseDESIGNED.pdf>

Reese, William S. "Fighting over the Scraps: Icon and Text in the Marketplace." (1992)

<http://www.reeseeco.com/papers/harvard.htm>

Reese, William S. "The Rare Book Market Today." (1999 / 2000)

<http://www.reeseeco.com/papers/market.htm>

Rota, Anthony. "The Collecting of Twentieth-Century Literary Manuscripts." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 1, No. 1: 39-53. (1986)

Ryan, Michael T. "Shopping Around." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 4, No. 1: 43-52. (1989)

Saenger, Paul. "In the Age of the Web: Strategies for Building a Collection of Primary Sources for European History from the Middle Ages to the Eighteenth Century." *Library Trends*. Vol. 52, No. 1: 30-48. (2003)

http://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/8516/librarytrendsv52i1e_opt.pdf?sequence=1

Slive, Daniel J. "Interview with Bernard M. Rosenthal." *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*. Vol. 4, No. 1: p. 45-64. (2003)

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/4/1/45.full.pdf+html>

Slive, Daniel J. "Interview with Roger E. Stoddard." *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*. Vol. 5, No. 2: p. 127-140. (2004)

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/5/2/127.full.pdf+html>

*Smyth, Elaine B. "A Practical Approach to Writing a Collection Development Policy." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 14, No. 1: 27-31. (1999)

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/rbml/14/1/27.full.pdf+html>

Streit, Samuel A. "Acquiring Rare Books by Purchase: Recent Library Trends." *Library Trends*. Vol. 36, No. 1: 189-213. (1987)

http://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/7527/librarytrendsv36i1n_opt.pdf?sequence=1

Tree, Roland A. L. "Fashions in Collecting and Changing Prices." *Library Trends*. Vol. 5, no. 4: 476-482. (1957)

http://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/5719/librarytrendsv5i4j_opt.pdf?sequence=1

Whiteman, Bruce. "Cooperative Collection Building: A Response to Gerald Beasley." *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage*. Vol. 8, No. 1: 29-34. (2007). (ALSO SEE: Beasley, above.)

<http://rbm.acrl.org/content/8/1/29.full.pdf+html>

Wolf, Edwin. "Great American Book Collectors to 1800." *Gazette of The Grolier Club*. New Series. Number 16, June 1971: 3-25. Note: Pages 26-70 is the text of The Grolier Club exhibit "Great American Book Collectors to 1800."

ZINMAN: "The Book Eater" by Mark Singer. *The New Yorker*. February 5, 2001: 62ff. Also in: Singer, Mark. *Character Studies: Encounters with the Curiously Obsessed*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005. Pages 206-226.

2009 "BOOKS IN HARD TIMES" CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

"Books in Hard Times: The Impact of the Recession on Collectors, Librarians, & the Antiquarian Booktrade." A conference held at the Grolier Club, September 22, 2009.

<http://www.grolierclub.org/default.aspx?p=DynamicModule&pageid=293990&ssid=175123&vnf=1>

*See especially the following papers:

*Juvelis, Priscilla. "Neither Here nor There, or, What about Book Arts?"

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/2.3.JuvelisDESIGNED.pdf>

*Reagan, Katherine. "Books in the Age of Anxiety."

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/3.2.ReaganDESIGNED.pdf>

*Reese, William S. "Books in Hard Times / The Rarer Book Market Today."

<http://www.reeseeco.com/papers/biht.htm>

<http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/2.1.ReeseDESIGNED.pdf>

*Samuels Lasner, Mark. "A Collector's View."

http://www.grolierclub.org/Files/4.1.Samuels_LasnerDESIGNED.pdf

DEACCESSIONING

Deaccession in Research Libraries: Papers Read at a Symposium Held at Brown University June 11-12, 1981. [Providence: Brown University Library, 1981.]

Oram, Richard W. "Current Professional Thinking on the Deaccessioning of Rare Books in Academic Libraries." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol. 12, No. 1: 9-18. (1997)

Streit, Samuel. "Going, Going, Gone: Case Studies in Library Deaccessioning." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol.12, No.1: 21-28. (1997)

Streit, Samuel A. "Research Library Deaccessioning: Practical Considerations." *Wilson Library Bulletin* 56, no. 9: 658-62. (1982)

Szewczyk, David. "Library Deaccessioning: A Dealer's Perspective." *Rare Books & Manuscripts Librarianship*. Vol.12, No.1: 30-33. (1997)

1996 RBMS Preconference seminar on deaccessioning:

"Easy Come, Easy Go: The Why's and Wherefore's of Deaccessioning Materials from Special Collections," moderated by Everett C. Wilkie, Jr. Papers by Richard Oram, Samuel A. Streit, and David Szewczyk were published in RBML, Vol. 12, No. 1.

Additional RBMS Preconference seminars concerning deaccessioning:

1993 ("Downsize or Die? Deaccessioning, Reformatting, and Off-site Storage")

1990 ("Selling Off: The Mechanics of Deaccessioning")

1982 (Deaccessioning: Sic et non")