

## *Report of the Associate Librarian*

ONE MAJOR personnel change this year was the resignation, effective July 1, of Richard Baker, chief book and paper conservator. Richard's wife was appointed dean of the university libraries at Washington University, and, after seven years at AAS, Richard departed for St. Louis with his family, where he will set up a private practice. Richard was a superb conservator, a vital member of our staff, and a good friend to all of us. He established our conservation lab and educated us in the principles of preservation and conservation. My heart sank when he announced that he was departing and only rose six months later with the appointment of Babette Gehnrich to the post. Babette trained at the Gutenberg School for the Graphic Arts in West Berlin while apprenticing at the firm of Jakob Kohnert. She had the highest recommendations from her colleagues and came to us from the position of assistant conservator and head of the bindery at Yale University.

During the past year we processed the applications of 962 readers during 3,437 days of research. The readers' services staff paged and reshelfed 16,769 volumes of printed works, answered over 800 telephone reference queries, and responded to more than 300 letters of inquiry. With the exception of interlibrary loan requests, our activity figures represent a decrease from last year's totals, and a significant decrease is also evident in the statistics of the newspaper and periodicals department. There are several probable causes for these declining figures. First, because of the nature of some of the fellowship topics, the reader services' department this year paged fewer published works for NEH-funded fellows than it paged last year. Also, many AAS-funded fellows concentrated on manuscript collections during their stays. Second, there were fewer readers at the Society during the summer months, traditionally our busiest time. Tourism was reported to be down in Massachusetts this summer, and it is possible the Society was affected by

this trend, particularly in terms of the number of out-of-state genealogists who frequently visit between May and September.

The readers who did arrive came from near and far to use the rich resources of the library. During one week in September, scholars from West Germany, France, England, Saipan, and the United States all worked with our collections in the reading room. Research interests of new readers included a study of the slave culture of colonial South Carolina; antirent wars and class relations in the Hudson Valley, 1830-51; illustrated nineteenth-century children's literature with chivalric and medieval themes; libraries in hospitals for the insane before the Civil War; the history of veterinary medicine in the United States; and a bibliographical study of Thomas Chandler Haliburton's *The Clockmaker*.

Marie Lamoureux was appointed assistant head of readers' services in December, a title that accurately reflects her departmental responsibilities and one that she has earned. Marie continues her role as the Society's genealogy specialist, and this year she was the curator of an informative exhibit entitled 'Genealogy, the Study of Family Lineage.' Richard Knowlton, a psychology graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, joined the department in September. In addition to his primary responsibilities of paging, reshelving, and photocopying materials, he worked on several projects during the year. Kristen Pelletier, a photography major at RIT, and Colleen Minnery, a journalism major at Northwestern University, provided excellent service as our summer pages.

During the year, Joanne Chaison, head of readers' services, played an active role on the Worcester Area Cooperating Libraries (WACL) Reference Committee, attended the American Printing History Association Conference in Philadelphia, and the RLG Public Services Committee meeting at the Library of Congress. She was elected a trustee of the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E), New England's great state fair and a highly popular New England tradition.

This past year has been one of major accomplishment for the graphic arts department. With the support of a grant by the Getty

Trust, four thousand entries have been added to the database of the Catalogue of American Engravings Project and excellent progress has been made with subject indexing and proofreading. The project should be completed in the next year.

Eight exhibitions were mounted in Antiquarian Hall, and the Society lent material to an additional eight exhibitions across the country. One extraordinary loan involved dismantling the Isaiah Thomas printing press in Worcester and sending the pieces to New York City, where they were reassembled for the New York Public Library's major exhibition on printing and the French Revolution.

The number of photograph orders increased over last year, generating a great deal of correspondence and associated work for Jane Neale. The department sent out some 575 letters, and scholars used the collections about 220 times. Among the most important acquisitions was a scrapbook containing proofs of lithographs published in New York in the 1860s and 1870s by the firms of Henry A. Thomas, Henry C. Eno, and J. Heppenheimer. The department now has two volunteers: Dr. Augusta Kressler, who continues to work with the sheet music collection, and Sally Levinson, who is working on exhibitions.

Georgia Barnhill, Andrew W. Mellon curator of graphic arts, celebrated her twentieth anniversary with the Society on October 1, 1988. She remains active on a variety of RLG committees including one that will advise on the MARC Visual Materials format. She wrote two book reviews for the journal *Art Documentation*, for which she also wrote an article on the format of the Catalogue of American Engravings Project. Her article on the bookplate collection of the Society was published by the American Society of Bookplate Collectors & Designers. She has completed the annotation of Ethan Allen Greenwood's manuscript diary and is working on the introduction to it.

It was also a busy year for the Manuscripts Department. Elliott G. Chesebrough was hired in October and worked through April processing the large gift of Johnson family papers received from

Mrs. Raymond B. Chrisman. Volunteer Caroline Wood, a junior at Mount Holyoke College, worked from late May through August processing some of the Society's archival records. Caroline also worked in the newspaper and periodicals department. The curator of manuscripts, Barbara Trippel Simmons, assisted with the Society's March fundraising gala exhibit and program book. During the summer, she wrote a grant proposal to be incorporated into an RLG proposal to NEH for funds for a retrospective conversion of manuscript collections at ten RLG institutions. Barbara continues to be an active member of the Society of American Archivists and New England Archivists.

In 1988-89 thirty-one items or groups of manuscripts were accessioned. One hundred and sixty-seven researchers read manuscripts and archives. Readers made almost eight hundred requests for over three hundred collections. AAS records were recorded as used sixty-seven times. Over two hundred reference responses were written and almost one hundred telephone inquiries were received.

Although statistics in some areas of the newspaper and periodicals department's work would make it seem not a very busy year, the staff did not notice a lessening of pace. Patrons requested only 793 titles of newspapers, as well as several amateur newspapers, a decrease of almost 50 percent from the previous year. The staff answered 575 inquiries by letter, telephone, and interlibrary loan, a slight increase over the previous year. As usual, newspapers were the overwhelming subject of reference letters and telephone calls. For the first time, however, newspapers were also the topic of the majority of interlibrary loan requests, due to the loading of the Society's newspaper records into RLIN.

The United States Newspaper Program at the Society drew to a close in December 1988 when the OCLC newspaper records were loaded into RLIN, with the interlibrary loan results noted above. Three months later, the final narrative report and the financial report were submitted to NEH. The staff continue to send worksheets to the technical coordinator at the Library of Congress

for new titles or for extraordinary additions to holdings. New information for newspapers is also added to RLIN, and Joyce Ann Tracy, curator of newspapers and periodicals, remains a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Massachusetts Newspaper Program.

Joyce was elected the chairperson of the WACL Union List Committee for the coming year. She attended a three-day international conference on the preservation of serials at the Library of Congress in May 1989.

The Society added to its collection the following: by purchase, 76 newspaper titles, 2 amateur newspapers, and 66 periodical titles; by gift, 123 newspaper titles, 2 amateur newspapers, and 34 periodical titles. The newspapers came from twenty-nine states and from Ireland. Interesting new titles include the *Deaf Mute Pelican* from the Louisiana Institute for the Deaf Mute, the *Baptist Chronicle and Georgetown Literary Register* (Kentucky), the *Missionaren* from Chicago, twenty volumes of the *Lancet*, the *Kansas Leader* (1858), issues of the *Boston News-Letter* and of the *California Star*.

Under the direction of Alan Degutis, head of cataloguing, the past year was one of accomplishment for grant-funded cataloguers and for regular AAS cataloguing staff alike. The American Children's Books project completed its first phase, having catalogued 5,400 works of juvenile fiction published from 1821 through 1860, and began the work of cataloguing undated editions and editions printed from 1861 through 1876. Laura Wasowicz, senior cataloguer, wrote the third application to NEH for the funding of the final phase of the project to support the cataloguing of McLoughlin picture books and pedagogical collections.

The North American Imprints Program (NAIP) now approaches the conclusion of its present, grant-funded phase in cataloguing seventeenth- and eighteenth-century materials. Cataloguing funded by a Title II-C grant, for the Readex *Early American Imprints, First Series, 1639-1800* (exclusive of sheet music and maps) is available in RLIN, with publication of a compact disk catalogue of the set in the planning stages. Preparation of eigh-

teenth-century records for communication to the Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue file in RLIN is substantially completed, and we hope that records will be transmitted to RLIN before the end of 1989. As funding for the eighteenth-century work runs out, more work remains to be done than had been expected, but the file is in a highly usable and useful state for researchers.

The North American Imprints Program was awarded a two-year NEH grant for the cataloguing of AAS holdings printed in the 1820s. This work began in July and is proceeding smoothly, although one cataloguer's position remains vacant.

AAS permanent cataloguing staff were again productive this year, but they did not match the record totals of a year ago. Effective July 1, all imprints through 1876 are being catalogued to rare-book standards. This means that these standards are being applied for the first time to records being created in RLIN as well as on the local system. To better coordinate the efforts of cataloguers on different projects using different online systems, a unified NAIP cataloguing manual is being developed.

Staff changes in the past year have included more departures than arrivals. Paula Biegay Huggard left the Title II-C-funded project in November to take a position at the Worcester Public Library. Pamela Meitzler left NAIP in February upon the birth of her first child. AAS cataloguer Richard Anders retired in January but continues part-time as a volunteer devoting his time to the cataloguing of nineteenth-century almanacs. In July, senior cataloguer Doris O'Keefe began a six-month job exchange with Vincent Kinane of Trinity College Library, Dublin, Ireland. Vincent is an excellent cataloguer, and the staff has enjoyed working and socializing with him. Finally, as the fiscal year ended, part-time NAIP clerical assistant MaryKate McMaster joined the staff of the NAIP 1820s project as a full-time assistant cataloguer.

The past year has been a difficult one for the acquisitions department primarily because of the resignation of Lynne Brown, who took a full-time position at another library, and because of the

reduced budget for acquisitions. Expenditures for library materials totaled just under \$200,000, about a 45 percent decrease from the previous year. Joan Pingeton continues to be a mainstay of the department, and Lorry Magnuson increased her own duties to help cope with all the work.

Sidney Berger, curator of printed books, worked hard to make the acquisitions department function efficiently and continues to expand his knowledge of the Society's collections. He attended two ALA meetings to represent the Society on the Rare Books and Manuscripts Standards Committee and the Exhibition Catalogue Awards Committee. For the former, he presented his own thesaurus of papermaking terminology, which will be published by ALA in 1990 in its series on typeface thesauri.

We are always eager to bring our resources to the attention of scholars, and every year we try to do this in a variety of ways. This past year, for example, the curators wrote an essay describing the Society's collections for the study of business history. We have submitted the essay to *Business History Review* for publication. AAS is not as well known for its business history resources as it is for other collections, and we would like to encourage more researchers to make use of these materials.

I organized a workshop at the 1989 annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians entitled 'Resources for Scholars at Independent Research Libraries.' A panel of librarians from six of the IRLA libraries outlined their institutions' histories, defining their respective collections, identifying collections of special interest to scholars of the OAH, and describing fellowship, publication, and exhibition programs. The panel was chaired by Prof. Mary Beth Norton of Cornell University. The session was very well attended, and we hope to make a similar presentation at an annual meeting of the American Historical Association.

Collectors' weekends are another example of the Society's outreach efforts. Books for American children was the focus of the first Collectors' Weekend to be held at the Antiquarian Society. Organized with the assistance of Ruth Adomeit, Lloyd Cotsen,

Linda Lapides, and Betsy Shirley, the conference presented an interesting variety of formal presentations, tours, discussions, and informal opportunities for the participants to talk with one another. Both Laura Wasowicz and Georgia Barnhill gave slide lectures describing our collections.

Several long-range projects—planning for a new building and designing an in-house, automated cataloguing system—remain on the back burner primarily because of financial constraints. Their implementation remains a goal for the coming year.

I continue to serve as vice-chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Northeast Document Conservation Center. I am on the ALA planning committee for the Rare Books and Manuscripts preconference in Minneapolis next June, and I am on the WACL executive board. The highlight of my year was being elected a member of the Antiquarian Society at the April meeting in New York City.

Nancy H. Burkett



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