

Richard W. Clement

Editor's Note

INTEGRATING RARE BOOKS into the undergraduate curriculum has been a challenging enterprise for many of us. Not too long ago undergraduates were distinctly unwelcome in many university special collections, which were considered to be the preserve of senior professors and researchers. Graduate students were carefully vetted and lucky to be admitted. But such exclusivity has become a thing of the past almost everywhere, and we are now working hard to engage both undergraduates and their instructors in making use of our collections. In the first article in this issue, Pablo Alvarez discusses several approaches to using rare books in undergraduate classes at the University of Rochester.

I am particularly pleased to include Karen Underhill's article on the development of the protocols to be used with Native American archival materials. We have all become much more sensitive to cultural heritage issues over the last few decades, and her article, and the Protocols themselves, provides an important element in our approach to collections and materials.

The three articles by Ellen Cordes, Susan Allen, and Beth Whittaker form a group. The three were originally given as papers in a session at the RBMS Preconference in St. Louis in 2005. Organized by R. Arvid Nelson, the session was devoted to contemporary reactions to Daniel Traister's well-known article, "Is There a Future for Special Collections? And Should There Be? A Polemical Essay," which appeared in the first issue of *RBM* in 2000.

With our current emphasis on increasing access to rare materials, Everett Wilkie, Jr., proposes a new approach to reading room security. His proposal that weighing materials as they are issued and returned in the reading room is worth serious consideration as greater access engenders ever-increasing attempts to steal rare materials.

Finally, I wish to note the departure of Christian Dupont, whose term on the Editorial Board recently ended. Christian's contributions were always thoughtful and substantive. But he can't get away from *RBM*, because he will be acting as guest editor for the 2006 Preconference issue next spring (2007). And concurrently, two

new members join the Board: Martha Lawler and Beth Whittaker (formerly Russell). Martha served on the Editorial Board in an ex officio capacity for several years as the Chair of the RBMS Publications Committee, and we welcome her continued participation as a regular member. Beth may be the first Board member to have an article published in the same issue that notes her new Board membership, and we welcome her lively contributions.



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