Wings to Paris: WESS European Conference 2004
By Yvonne Boyer, Vanderbilt University

The second WESS international conference was not only successful, but “it was the best of times.”1 ACRL WESS members joined with their European colleagues in Paris, coinciding with the annual Salon du Livre, the French book fair. Attendees, presenters, sponsors, and institutional representatives came from many geographical points to discuss the theme of the conference, “Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library.”

The conference began at the Bibliothèque National de France, at the François-Mitterrand-Tolbiac site.2 Entering at the east tower, the Tour des Lois, down the moving walkway into the immense “open-book” building, the participants were welcomed, oriented, and registered by the organizers. Guided tours of the Library were offered by the BNF staff. The tours included a discussion of the Library catalogue, the BN-OPALE, and a behind-the-scenes look at a section of the 8-kilometer rail system of the automated document delivery. Long, wood paneled hallways and interior thematic reading rooms offered a view of the courtyard garden filled with forest trees that was grand and inspiring. From garden trees to mechanized services, from paper pulp of the book pages to digital processing, the blending of nature with a high-tech environment contributed to the sense that the familiar and the modern coexist dynamically in a 21st century library.

Through the set of stainless steel doors, across the embossed and galvanized metal bridge way, we began our official program in the Petit Auditorium. The president of the BNF, Jean-Noël Jeanneney, welcomed the conference participants with a proper amount of pomp and savoir-faire. The opening session keynote speaker was Jean-Claude Guédon, Professor, Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Montreal. His presentation, titled “Open Borders, Open Access: On Growing Humanity’s Distributed Intelligence,” was provocative, albeit charmingly presented.

On the following day, conference attendees met at the Paris Expo/Porte de Versailles for the Salon du Livre. This year, the 24th Salon du Livre featured the country China. At the Pavilion of Honor, Chinese literature from history to calligraphy was highlighted. A complementary Chinese motif decorated the Expo interior. It was interesting to notice the number of school groups attending the Salon du Livre. The young students on their field trip seemed most fascinated by the display of miniature books of classic...
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Photocopies of back issues of this Newsletter, including the publication issued by the Western European Specialists Discussion Group under the title Western European Language Specialists Newsletter, may be obtained by writing to the Headquarters Librarian, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2795. There is a fee for each page photocopied.

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— Thomas Izbicki
WESS Chair

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EDITOR’S NOTE:

Due to budgetary considerations, this is an abbreviated version of the Newsletter. For the complete Newsletter, visit the electronic version at WESSWeb:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/nl

The electronic version of the Newsletter for Volume 28 is considered the issue of record.
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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR
Thomas Izbicki

This year saw a singularly successful WESS conference in Paris. We are faced now with the challenge of building on our success. Most immediately, we need to work toward publication of the papers. In the longer range, we have the possibility of another conference in Europe in 5 to 7 years. Moreover, Tom Kilton is spearheading an inquiry into the possibility of a French American Resources Project. All of these efforts will benefit not just WESS but the entire profession.

Equally important is the effort to recruit new librarians with knowledge of Europe and its cultures. WESS has created a Committee on Recruitment to the Profession. Jerry Heverley is the chair of this new committee. It will meet for the first time formally in Boston at ALA Midwinter. Look for more news of this effort in the Newsletter as it progresses.

(Wings to Paris continued from page 1)

French literature. Exploring the Salon at this popular venue was one of the highlights of the conference.

The morning session focused on the Syndicat National de l’Edition (SNE), the professional organization of the French book publishers. Jean Sarzana, president of the SNE, welcomed the attendees to the program in the Confucius Room. Speakers included representatives from Grasset, Seuil, and Gallimard. They discussed the state of French publishing, comparisons with other countries, particularly the United States, and the future direction of publishing in France. The afternoon session included presentations by select authors, editors, and publishers, discussing current trends in French publishing.

Conference sessions during the next two days were held at l’Espace Georges Bernanos, a multifunctional facility, part of the church of Saint-Louis d’Antin. The site is conveniently located near the Paris Opéra Garnier and the Gare St-Lazare. As the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee, Jeffrey Larsen, our Chair, professionally and enthusiastically guided the attendees through the week’s activities. Conference participants mingled with clergy, parishioners, and lay visitors, and were cautioned to veer to the left for the conference break room, as confessionsals were to the right. Sandrine Pothier, Manager of La collection Extraordinaire, and Max and Yves, the high techies, facilitated the technical and logistical demands of the conference space and speakers’ audio-visual requirements.

The sessions explored the “migration” theme of the conference, from migration literature, social history, culture and arts, to technological “migrations,” focusing on Western European and North American libraries and institutions. Session speakers were composed of a diverse blend of librarians discussing Dada to data migration, academics discussing Picasso to periodicals, book dealers discussing digital distribution, and publishers discussing paper to e-print.

Jean Touzot Librairie Internationale, the Paris book dealer, sponsored a special evening event at the Mairie (city hall) of the 6th arrondissement, near the church of Saint Sulpice. The area is noted for a cultivated blend of bookstores and boutiques, and events such as book fairs and Bastille Day balls. His Honor the Mayor, Jean-Pierre Lecoq, officially welcomed the conference attendees. Jean-Denis Touzot, president of Jean Touzot Librairie Internationale, also graciously welcomed the conference attendees and kindly introduced his niece, the Parisian caterer for the evening. Lionel Chaumontet, Director of Touzot Librairie Internationale, affectionately introduced the concert musicians. The soirée musicale featured 19th and 20th century French vocal and piano music. Charles Baudelaire’s poem, Invitation to the Voyage, was one of the musical selections, complementing the theme of the conference. After the concert, the reception guests were invited to the salon, featuring an eclectic sushi buffet.

Jean Touzot Librairie Internationale also sponsored a reception at the Centre Culturel Calouste Gulbenkian. Foundation director Francisco Bethencourt welcomed the conference visitors and offered a tour of the Library. The Center is devoted to the study of Portuguese culture in France. Its library collection is the most important center of documentation of Portuguese arts and letters outside of Lisbon. In addition, Stéphane Martin, President of the musée des arts premiers, discussed the Musée du Quai Branly. This new museum site along the Seine is dedicated to arts and civilizations from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas. The museum is scheduled to open in 2006. Currently, there is a web cam to view new developments on the construction site, literally a “site under construction.”

Near the refined and affluent area of the Champ-de-Mars, Gilles de La Rochefoucauld of Aux Amateurs de Livres International hosted a reception at the Aux Amateurs offices on avenue de Suffren. Following the reception program of conference acknowledgements, sponsor and participant appreciations, and offerings of champagne and hors d’oeuvres, Aux Amateurs sponsored a dinner at the Eiffel Tower. With invitations and elevator tickets in hand, we ascended to Altitude 95, located on the first platform of the Tower. The interior of the restaurant resembled a Jules Verne vision of the future, at 95 meters above the sea, overlooking the city lights of Paris. It was a perfect Parisian evening.

Reflections of a Conference Attendee:

From a European vendor’s perspective I experienced the Paris conference as a well-organized event enabling me to meet a range of interesting people, listen to enthusiastic presentations and have stimulating discussions in a pleasant informal atmosphere.

Willem-Jan Hooijmans
Nedbook International Booksellers/
Subscription Agents
Amsterdam; The Netherlands

(Continued on page 4)
with conference participants gathering to overlook this beautiful city.

It was a fortunate coincidence that Paris at this time presented several opportunities to explore the migration theme on a cultural level. The Centre Georges Pompidou offered a large exhibit of the paintings of the Spaniard Joan Miró, the Texan director Robert Wilson staged the tales of Jean de La Fontaine at the Comédie Française, and the Musée Picasso presented the exhibit “Picasso-Ingres.” These examples of cross-cultural and cross-geographical artistic activity were a timely accompaniment to our conference.

Paris also provided other typically Parisian diversions, such as the limited Metro strike and a demonstration by the city’s firefighters. These events, and the occasionally chilly and rainy weather with sunny interludes, served as topics of conversation in our breaks and added to a lively metropolitan experience.

For the concluding session, we convened again at the BNF for the keynote presentation by the highly esteemed Directeur of the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Roger Chartier. His talk, entitled “Books, Reading, and Libraries from Print Culture to the Digital World,” opened up vast challenges and opportunities presented to libraries and society today. His clarity and eloquence led us to a better understanding of the practical and conceptual issues related to this ‘migration’ from print to digital technologies.

At the “Tasks Ahead” section of the closing session, it was resolved to publish the proceedings of the conference; to enact a French-North American Resources Project, following from the session presentation by Tom Kilton, furthering the cooperative alliances between librarian counterparts; and to plan for another international conference in a European city. A spontaneous highlight of this session was a short address by Carla Hayden, then-President of the ALA and in Paris to tour the American Library. Her congratulatory address by Carla Hayden, then-President of the ALA and in Paris to tour the American Library.

Reflections of Conference Attendees:

I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and Paris was as wonderful as ever. The elongated lunch periods (1.5 - 2 hours) were more than a nod to cultural differences - they actively encouraged unhurried discussions.

It was a splendid opportunity to meet with friends. — The one (minor) criticism that I have is that it is better for a conference to have a central base - this certainly helps exhibitors.

William Pidduck; Publisher
Adam Matthew Publications

I was one of 12 delegates from the United Kingdom most of them members of the UK-based West European Studies Library Group. The Conference was a great opportunity to meet colleagues from Canada and the United States and to forge closer links between WESS and the UK Groups. As a French specialist I was disappointed that there were so few colleagues from France (and indeed the rest of Europe) present, but was very interested to learn about the proposed French-American Resources Project presented by Tom Kilton. Finally, on behalf of the French Studies Library Group, I would like to thank the Conference Planning Committee and its Chair, Jeffry Larson, for the huge amount of work that they put in to organise this important Conference and I very much look forward to attending the next WESS European Conference.

Teresa Vernon
Chair, French Studies Library Group
Curator, French Collections
The British Library

Apart from the inspiring papers on migrations and libraries I most vividly remember the inspiring people: multilingual and subversive librarians.

Tamara Pianos
Vascoda Office
National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) and University Library Hannover

North American and European colleagues. As an appropriate symbol of the WESS conference in Paris, the ancient Greek statue, Winged Victory of Samothrace, poised in flight at the top of a grand staircase in the Louvre, combines in one form conceptual, cultural, geographical, technological and political aspects of the theme of migration. As the conference applied these same perspectives to the theme of migration, it presented valuable lessons, the most lasting of which are that migration issues are highly complex and have a long and continuing history. The present understanding of that history has been articulated by this conference, preparing libraries for the future challenges of migration as an ongoing process.

2 Bibliothèque Nationale de France http://www.bnf.fr/
3 l’Espace Georges Bernanos http://www.espace-bernanos.com/
4 Centre Culturel Calouste Gulbenkian http://www.gulbenkian-paris.org/
5 Musée du Quai Branly http://www.quaibranly.fr/?R=1

Reflections of Conference Attendees:

It was a pleasure and an honour to work with the Wess group to help organise our international meeting. It was really special to see so many of our group in Paris and to get a sense of the focus and importance of this group. The meeting was a great opportunity for all of us to meet colleagues from throughout Europe and I sincerely hope that we will be able to organise a similar meeting in the not too distant future.

Patricia O’Loughlin
Erasmus Booksellers

Ho un bellissimo ricordo del convegno “Migrations”. I contribui tutti molto interessanti, le serate deliziose in una Parigi sontuosa, il senso che tutto era stato organizzato con estrema cura e, soprattutto, quell’atmosfera molto speciale che io chiamo “atmosfera WESS”.

Barbara Casalini
Casalini Libri
In March 2004 I attended the Leipzig Book Fair as a recipient of the Nedbook Northwest Europe Award. Both professionally and personally, this was a fruitful and interesting trip for me. Not only was this my first visit to a major European book fair and to Leipzig, but it was also an opportunity to attend several meetings of the 2nd Bibliothekskongress (German Library Conference) held prior to the opening of the book fair—another “first” that added to the value of my stay in Leipzig.

Before World War II, Leipzig had been the German “book capital,” laying claim to the largest German book fair, as well as the Deutsche Bücherei (German National Library) founded in 1912, the Büsenverein der Deutschen Buchhändler (Assoc. of the German Book Trade) since 1825, and publishers such as Brockhaus, Reclam, Insel and others. The ascent of Hitler, the bombing destruction of three quarters of the Gräphisches Viertel (Graphic Arts District) in 1943, and the emergence of the East German state changed all this. After the War, the distributor and publisher Harrassowitz, founded in Leipzig in 1872, moved its operations to the West, as did many other publishers. Frankfurt am Main became home to the western counterpart of the Deutsche Bücherei, the Deutsche Bibliothek (founded 1947), and the city ascended to become the main venue of German and international book fairs.

While I was in Leipzig, I was fortunate to be able to join tours of both the Biblioteca Albertina and the Deutsche Bücherei. While the University of Leipzig’s library as an institution dates from the 1543 absorption of several monastery libraries, the Albertina, the central library within a system of 40 branch libraries at various academic program sites of the University, was built in 1891. Although, fortunately, the holdings and catalogs had been removed during the War, two-thirds of the beautiful building was destroyed by bombing. Not until 1992 could the now-completed restoration commence. In addition to restoring the original magnificence of the central staircase space, the building program made highly tasteful and practical structural modifications to allow for closed stack capacity of 3.2 million volumes and open stacks with 400,000 volumes, serving 720 readers. The Deutsche Bücherei has a much more modern background, having been built in 1912 as the national library. It is now in the process of a major expansion, and the architectural plan and award was unveiled at a meeting in the adjoining Congress Center during the time of the Fair. Since reunification in 1990, the function of a national library is shared with Die Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt am Main and the Deutsches Musikarchiv in Berlin. Observations about Die Deutsche Bibliothek and other German libraries are contained in my article “Transatlantic Connections: a Tour of German Libraries and Publishing Houses” in the Spring 2003 issue of the WESS Newsletter (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/en/ Spring03/Kusmer.html).

With the reunification of Germany in Oct. 1990, the renewal of former East German cities like Leipzig was a conceivable goal, one which is by no means complete. The year 1991 saw a new start for the Leipzig Book Fair, debuting with the literary festival “Leipzig liest” (“Leipzig reads”), its constant program “companion.” Since then, the fair has grown in size and popularity each spring, attracting a record 102,000 visitors and 2,360 journalists in 2004. As one of those visitors, I hope to convey here something of the excitement and value of that experience. By way of an introduction, it should be noted that the organizers of the Leipzig Book Fair do not make it easy for those who make their way past the turnstiles into the huge Glass Hall and adjoining Halls 2 and 3 of the new exhibition center, which just opened in 1996. What makes it so difficult? Choice! The riches of program and exhibit offerings made it truly difficult to decide which to attend and which to pass by, especially considering that numerous events in the ample events program ran concurrently, making choice a necessity. The reason for this conundrum, then, is this: the Leipzig Book Fair goes beyond publisher exhibits, in essence being the critical core of a much broader program of offerings which emanate from it and are integrated with it. The first and foremost thematic focus is the literary festival “Leipzig liest,” which this year offered 1,200 events in the form of literary readings (some with accompanying classical music performances), podium discussions, literary prize presentations and author signings, dispersed not only within the fair but throughout numerous locations in the city. Other programmatic streams include a major emphasis on education, both at the academy level with the “Buchmesse-Akademie” (Book Fair Academy), the professional level with the “Fachprogram” (Professional Program) series for book trade professionals, and at the school level, with events aimed at teachers and a full program of offerings for children and youth (the “Comics” section notwithstanding), who heavily attended the fair as a “field trip” and often received assignments to be done at the fair. Popular facets of the fair include a special emphasis on travel, recorded books and the book fair bookstore, in which titles selected by the exhibitors are available. Since 2001 the “Leipziger Antiquariatsmesse” (Leipzig Antiquarian Book Fair) has been a part of the Book Fair as well, holding its own book sale in addition to the exhibitor booths.

A significant element of the Leipzig fair is clearly the emphasis on mutual inter-cultural understanding and historical reconciliation. This is manifested in a number of program series and literary prizes. The “Leipziger Buchpreis zur Europäischen Verständigung” (Leipzig Book Prize for European Understanding) exemplifies the orientation of the Fair toward the cultivation of pan-European communication. This year the prize was awarded to the Bosnian writer and literary critic Dzevad Karahasan, with honorable mention to the Hungarian publisher and translator Gábor Csordás. Indeed, Leipzig’s location and literary festival make it a fruitful meeting point between East and West, with many foreign writers seeking contact with potential German readers in the Fair’s “Café Europa” literary forum. The discussion venue “Vom Alten und Neuen Europa” (Of Old and New Europe) focused on the relationship of European countries with the United States. The “Leipziger Europaforum” (Leipzig Europe Forum)
this year raised the question for discussion, “Are we ready for a European Culture of Remembrance?” in which historical German-Polish relations were discussed. The series “Jüdische Lebenswelten” (Jewish Worlds) has been augmented over the years, this year offering twenty readings, discussions and musical events.

Contemporary literature in designated categories was honored in the “Deutscher Bücherpreis” (German Book Awards): American Michael Moore, *Stupid White Men* (non-fiction); Yann Martel, *Schiffbruch mit Tiger* (belles lettres); Eoin Colfer, *Artemis Fowl: der Geheimcode* (children and youth); Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, *Monseigneur Ibrahim und die Blumen des Koran* (public choice); Mirjam Pressler (life-long accomplishment); and Yadé Kara, *Selam Berlin* (debutant). The last-named category highlights another facet of the literary festival that Leipzig offers: not only the well-established make their appearances, but new writers do as well, “testing the waters” and seeking greater exposure among their potential readers. Leipzig is home to the “Deutsches Literaturinstitut Leipzig” (German Literary Institut Leipzig), now a division of the University of Leipzig that offers a degree program in creative writing. The Institute sponsored a number of readings by its students at the Fair and also held a session introducing its program. As with the Frankfurt fair, the Leipzig festival provides the occasion for numerous newspapers and weeklies to publish their literary supplements. The Alfred-Kerr-Preis (Alfred-Kerr-Prize) for literary criticism was also bestowed for the first time this year at the Leipzig Book Fair, going to Elmar Krekelber, chief of the weekly literary supplement section “Literarische Welt” (Literary World) of the newspaper *Die Welt*.

Overall, the Leipzig Book Fair might well be characterized as a “people’s fair,” in the sense that it encourages throughout not just the professionals, but “laymen” as well to attend it—which they do in droves, and increasingly so. The young, old, and “in between,” students and teachers, journalists and professors, librarians and book lovers, are all welcomed by those who write, publish and provide readings. While there are many programmatic streams, as noted above, the heart of the Fair seems to be contemporary literature in the broad sense of the word. And it is mainly about the medium of the book, both printed and recorded. This is a fair for readers (and listeners). While the Leipzig Book Fair is certainly not a competitor to the mammoth, internationally-oriented Frankfurt Book Fair, it has been slowly establishing its own unique identity—as a huge literary festival whose geographic focus is heavily on Europe (both German-speaking and otherwise), as a venue for inter-cultural programming and communication, as the highly popular spring event for the general public and youth. It exudes the energy of the city, which like eastern Berlin, is steadily re-establishing itself after decades of communist rule. One wonders whether the emphasis on reading and literature is not in some part a reaction against those years of censorship, when the representation of free thought in writing was suppressed. This visit to the Leipzig Book Fair, and to the city that offers so much, was certainly worthwhile.

As a recipient of the Nedbook Northwest Europe Award, I also made a stopover in Amsterdam, headquarters of the Dutch book distributor, where I met Willem-Jan Hooijmans and Director R. Evert Overeynder. Our conversation, the tour of operations, and Willem-Jan’s hospitality made the final leg of my journey pleasant, as did the sunshine and moderate temperatures of Amsterdam during my first visit to this city of canals, interesting architecture, famous museums and many other attractions.

Frankfurt Stipends Announced

The WESS Executive Committee has selected 4 members of ACRL to receive a $500 stipend for travel support to the Frankfurt Book Fair, October 6-10, 2004. There were a number of fine applicants for these stipends, and the four grantees are:

- James Burgett  
  Collection Development Coordinator,  
  University of Kentucky  
  William Miller  
  Director of Libraries  
  Florida Atlantic University

- Julia Gelfand  
  Applied Sciences & Engineering Librarian,  
  University of California, Irvine  
  Liza Vick  
  Research Librarian for Music and Dance,  
  University of California, Irvine

They will work with Beau Case (University of Michigan Libraries) who will be coordinating the effort on site.
Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Immanuel Kant, Wilhelm Röntgen, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Voltaire, Napoléon, Marie Curie, Gandhi, and more.

Continuing with autograph collections, and completing the Waller collection, the Eidgenössische Militärbibliothek has placed its extensive catalog of the autograph collection of Dr. Georg Heberlein online at http://www.milautograph.ch/. The collection includes approx. 1,400 autographs completed with historical and biographical data on the authors, permitting to place the documents contained in the database within their historical context. The online database expands on the original collection of Dr. Heberlein, by adding three smaller autograph collections from the possession of the Swiss military library, including autographs of predominantly French origin, stemming from general Guillaume Henri Dufour, and a collection of autographs of different personalities of the Swiss army. The database permits to view handwritten documents with the autographs of such personalities as the Cardinal Richelieu, Louis XVI, Albrecht von Wallenstein, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Admiral Nelson, Albert Einstein, J. F. Kennedy, and more.

The following may not be new to all, but GBV includes a database of old maps at http://ikar.sbb.spk-berlin.de/. The database contains bibliographic records of printed thematic and topographic maps, navigational and celestial charts, town plans, bird’s-eye views, globes, and atlases up to 1850 (the coverage is worldwide), as well as facsimiles, reprints and digital forms of these maps. The last count of January 2004 indicated records of approx. 224,600 map titles with about 277,900 locations and links to 1,440 digital historical maps at participating libraries. The database is keyword searchable and provides a title list and subject access.

Continuing with maps, Georg Wenker’s “Sprachatlas des deutschen Reichs” (data collected between 1876-1887), described as one of the most extensive language Atlases of the world, has been made freely accessible at www.diwa.info. Featuring data from approximately 50,000 locations, it represents a complete survey and cartographic depiction of dialects in German. Contains 1,668 hand-drawn maps. Unfortunately, the plug-in did not work well with Firefox, but IE had no problems.

If you are looking for free images on the web, http://www.pixelquelle.de/ would be one source, though these are amateur photographs and the quality can be lacking. For more scholarly relevant images http://www.prometheus-bildarchiv.de/ may be a good resource for users at associated partner institutions (individuals at non participating institutions may register for “temporary” access). At first sight, Prometheus provides a similar service as ARTstor, though this could not be verified for this column. Concerned subject specialists might want to investigate further.

IDC Publishers has recently released two new online resources, the Art Sales Catalogues online and the online edition of Taxonomic Literature, 2nd edition. The publisher describes the two database as follows:

· The Art Sales Catalogues online at http://asc.idcpublishers.info includes art sales catalogues from the period 1600-1900. At this moment about 3,000 art sales catalogues are available online, which will be extended to nearly 30,000 in 2005/2006. Lugt’s Répertoire online is the “entrance gate” to the images of the catalogues. The complete Lugt’s Répertoire online database has been included in this publication. The database can be searched by Lugt number, date, place, provenance, content, auction house and existing copies. An extra feature is the libraries database. This gives the opportunity to search through libraries with holdings of art sales catalogues.

· TL-2 online at http://tl2.idepublishers.info, the online edition of Taxonomic Literature, 2nd edition (TL-2), is the standard reference work for plant taxonomic literature from Linncean times to 1940. In the field of plant taxonomy, detailed information of particular publication dates is often critical in deciding matters of nomenclatural priority. With the many complexities of botanical and plant taxonomic publications that often were published in parts over periods of months if not years or decades, providing these bibliographic and publication data was a formidable task. It took Frans A. Stafleu (1921-1997) and Richard S. Cowan (1921-1997) fourteen years (from 1973 to 1988) to compile the original seven volumes and later Frans Stafleu and Erik Mennega (1923-1998) six years to add six supplements to the series. In this online edition you can browse the volumes and supplements of TL-2, and the original work is enhanced by the addition of various search options, including full text searching.

French Resources

The Agence photographique de la Réunion des Musées Nationaux has placed an image database online at http://photosrmn.fth.net/fr/index.html. Through the database, over 200,000 photographs of works of art collected in the national and regional museums of France, museums such as the Louvre, Orsay, the Centre Pompidou or the Picasso Museum, are now directly accessible via the net. While low quality thumbnail images may be downloaded illegally, one has to purchase copies of the images. Nevertheless a wonderful source for someone wanting to see all different versions of the Mona Lisa, for example.

Published by the INIST and CNRS, the Revue des études augustiniennes is now (mostly) available online at http://irevues.inist.fr/data/augustin/.

If you are ever wondering whether certain French fiction writers are worth reading, you can listen to a select number of them read from their works at the Centre National du Livre: http://www.centrenationaldulivre.fr/lectures/index.php. Featured authors are those who have received support from the centre.

A little known digitization project at the Université de Toulouse is accessible at http://www.biou-toulouse.fr/num150/accueil.htm. The small collection includes titles pertaining to the history of Toulouse and its region, closely entwined with that of the historical kingdom of Spain, thus comprising several Spanish publications.

La lettre volée, manuscrit 193 de Vendôme, has been made available online by the CNRS and the Institut de Recher-

Founded by the Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée and in partnership with the French literary research portal Fabula.org, the Dictionnaire International des Termes Littéraires (DITL) is available at http://www.ditl.info/.

A good source of info of new developments in the French literary world, Fabula announced the creation of two new web sites dedicated to Charles Baudelaire and to Michel Leiris. The first, http://baudelaire.litteratura.com/, provides full text access to the body of work by Baudelaire. It contains both the first and second edition of the Fleurs du mal, the correspondence, essays, and prose texts, complete with biographical information and commentary, as well as scans of historical documents and numerous photographs of locations frequented by the poet, personalities close to him, and more. Unfortunately marred by some technical problems, the site is nevertheless well worth investigating. The site on Michel Leiris at http://www.michel-leiris.com/HH/, provides a chronology and bibliographic information on works by Michel Leiris, as well as on critical studies pertaining to Francophone literature of those regions.

Not exactly French, but relevant to selectors of French language materials is CRITAOI, the “Bibliothèque de textes Critiques sur la littérature francophone de l’Afrique subsaharienne et de l’Océan Indien” at http://critaoi.org/. Created by scholars from Africa and countries/isles in the Indian Ocean, CRITAOI provides a database of critical texts and announces the creation of two new web sites dedicated to Charles Baudelaire and to Michel Leiris. The first, http://baudelaire.litteratura.com/, provides full text access to the body of work by Baudelaire. It contains both the first and second edition of the Fleurs du mal, the correspondence, essays, and prose texts, complete with biographical information and commentary, as well as scans of historical documents and numerous photographs of locations frequented by the poet, personalities close to him, and more. Unfortunately marred by some technical problems, the site is nevertheless well worth investigating. The site on Michel Leiris at http://www.michel-leiris.com/HH/, provides a chronology and bibliographic information on works by Michel Leiris, as well as on critical studies on the multifaceted writer. This includes book reviews of new publications. Also included are interviews and links to further resources on the net.

NEW PUBLICATIONS
OF NOTE

Column Editor:
Robert Kusmer
(For address, see page 2)

Reviews:
JKL = Jeffry K. Larson
RLK = Robert L. Kusmer
RS = Reinhart Sonnenburg

Abbreviations used:
Informationsmittel für Bibliotheken (IFB)
Reference Reviews Europe (RRE)

FRENCH


Following on the author’s Les pièces de théâtre soumises à la censure (1800-1830), this inventory of manuscripts of plays subject to censorship in Paris carried through to the end of censorship. A 112-page history of censorship during the 70 years covered precedes the following access tools: a table of the Archives Nationales call numbers (arranged largely by theater) and indices of plays, theaters, authors, musicians, and genres. Includes a 2-page bibliography. Two more volumes are foreseen to cover smaller theaters and cafés-concerts. [JKL]


Chronological monographic author bibliographies of 16 right-wing French writers from Gobineau to Brasillach; 2 more volumes are foreseen, covering 16 more authors. Included are books, brochures, theses, correspondence, prefaces, and special issues of reviews, but not separate periodical articles (except as off-prints), by and about the authors in question; each chapter ends with sections on associations and “divers”. Successive editions and translations of primary texts are noted, as is prior publication in a periodical. No index. [JKL]


A catalog of over 5000 largely political books, theses, and brochures by some 3500 authors openly published in France on the continent during the German occupation of France, between July 1940 and August 1944, considerably augmented from Francis Bergeron (author of Guide de l’homme de droite à Paris [1991]) and Vulfran Mory’s pseudonymously published Guidargus du livre politique sous l’Occupation: 1940-1944 (1990; not seen). Arranged by author or anonymous title, entries give bibliographical information, synopsis, extracts, critical press extracts, as well as a current (OP) market evaluation, all spliced into a brief biography. The commentaries reflect the authors’ right-wing leanings. Includes cross-references, lists of authors proscribed after the liberation, and a 5-page bibliography. [JKL]


A list of 19th-century booksellers and publishers catalogs from France and elsewhere held at the BNF. Short-title entries indicate the name of the firm, place, format, and holdings, but not BNF call numbers. Includes cross-references but no index. [JKL]


A political catechism for French right-wingers who need help in replying to opponents’ views. Signed entries briefly present the alleged stereotype to be opposed and then lay out a conservative response. Casually approves torture in occupied Algeria and Israel; claims to lack space to discuss the elements of l’affaire Dreyfus. Includes cross-references, an index of names, and a classified bibliography. [JKL]

An updated, expanded (100 more authors) edition of Walforf: 3/#8096. The dated entries are written as obituaries by the subjects themselves, largely established authors (note that some of the death dates are futurist fantasies). Some authors, e.g., Yves Bonnefoy, are omitted, evidently not choosing to play the game. Many articles have not been updated, though the following bibliographies have been. The index simply repeats the order of the entries. [JKL]


The author has written and published within the past two years three other works on the Paris Commune, concerning free masons, women, and Louise Micheld. Standard biographical works as well as archive and primary sources undergird his effort to rehabilitate the Communards from the status of rabble-rousers conferred on them by the “official” histories of the Commune to that of decent and industrious human beings. The entries number over 400, and are brief, without references or bibliography, but often accompanied by photographs. [SFR]


Entries name the weapon, the title and author, describe the method and give an extract from the version published in France. The motive and opportunity are up to you, dear. Cf. Perrot infra. [JKL]


A pocket guide to Paris for lovers, following the Routard’s format and style: where to eat, drink, sleep, etc. Indicates venues and activities for both romantics and libertines (the rubrics for the latter category are all on the Right Bank). Interesting tip: hourly rates are available only in 4-star hotels and must be reserved months in advance! Includes indices of establishments and of “culture”. [JKL]


An irregular directory of a chain of associated French restaurants catering to truck drivers. Arranged geographically, the entries offer brief descriptions with indications of menus, prices, and other services. The fore matter is in French, English, and German. Includes various practical sections, including directories of truck dealers/service agencies, as well as indices of establishments and communes. Contains display ads. The guide has lost ca. 100 pages in recent years. [JKL]


A guide to writers’ workshops in France. Entries give directory information, a brief description, and fees. Includes sections on online workshops and those for children. Includes indices of workshop names and by region, as well as 2-page bibliography. [JKL]


Abridged update of a directory of 379 “incontournable” special libraries in the Paris region noted in our Spring 1996 issue. Includes indices of library names and of specialties. [JKL]


A popular dictionary offering commentaries on historical personages commemorated by plaques around Paris. Arranged by arrondissement, the articles offer background on the person commemorated and, for authors, an extract from his or her works. Includes indices of arrondissements and personal names. [JKL]


Reflections by the ci-devant director of the BPI Pompidou. From the back cover blurb: “Le bibliothécaire sait lire les livres sans les ouvrir. Son regard transperce les couvertures. Il visite la page de titre, l’auteur, les éditeurs, va directement au colophon, relève la date, le format, le nombre de pages, s’attarde sur la table des matières, vérifie s’il y a des index...” No index. [JKL]


Devices, objects, places, themes, etc. from the detective novel, with illustrative examples (all published in France). Includes cross-references but no index other than the table of contents. Cf. Eibel and Monfört supra. [JKL]


(Continued on page 10)
A survey of French theses on 20th-century French literature presented since 1990. The annexes present specific information such as statistics on subjects of theses, as well as instructions on searching theses in the SUDOC database (http://www.sudoc.abes.fr/). [JKL]


A pocket guide to Paris for chic fitness freaks. Includes an index of establishments. [JKL]


A geographical guide to movies shot in Paris and its banlieue. Besides describing what scenes were shot in a particular place, entries provide practical information such as the nearest Métro, telephone, hours of service, and admission price, when appropriate. Includes indices of films and places. [JKL]

**GERMAN**


Comprehensive bibliography on the book arts and industry published in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The bibliography picks up where Danton’s Index to Festschriften in Librarianship, 1967-1975 (München; New York: Saur, 1979) left off. Organization of the citations, for which the table of contents provides an overview, is by topical areas, with considerable sub-differentiation of topics. Indexes are provided for authors, as well as for personal, corporate, geographic and topical subjects. [RLK]


Continues the bibliographies on this significant 13th century source document provided in Kisch’s ’Sachsenspiegel-Bibliographie’ in Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte, Germanistische Abteilung (90:1973), „Neue Literatur zum ‘Sachsenspiegel’: Fortführung der Bibliographie von Guido Kisch“ in Ruth Schmidt-Wiegand, ed. Text, Bild, Interpretation: Untersuchungen zu den Bildersammlungen des Sachsenspiegels (1986, p. 20) and Oppitz’s “Ergänzungen zu Guido Kischs Sachsenspiegelbibliographie” in Deutsche Rechtsbücher des Mittelalters. (1990, vol. 1, p. 87-94). Kümper brings the research up to date and fills in some older gaps while not claiming comprehensiveness. [RLK]
Complements but is not linked to Klaus Garber’s Martin Opitz, “der Vater der deutschen Dichtung”: eine kritische Studie zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte der Germanistik (Stuttgart: Metzler, 1976) [RLK]


Complementing Delfosse’s and Skrodzki’s Synoptische Konkordanz zu Franz Kafka’s Romanen (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 1993), the present work treats the posthumous works and fragments. Textual references are to Kafka’s Nachgelassene Schriften und Fragmente (I and II), “kritische Ausg.” (Frankfurt am Main: S. Fischer, 1992-1993). Indispensable for the Kafka researcher. [RLK]


An interesting “key” to 15,500 forenames. Each name is indexed to one or more topical or place-focused chapters to which it is related (e.g., Hildegard zu Allemannischem und Kampf). Within the chapter entries, the reader is again pointed to other chapters with further information, as well as to genealogical works referenced in the bibliography. Access is thus provided either from names (via the index) or from topics and places (via the chapter headings). One can find out which names are associated with certain places or qualities. There is also a keyword index to chapter titles and sections (e.g., Brand, siehe Kapitel “Schwert”; hand-). [RLK]


“Völlige Neuentwicklung.” All-German dictionary for those learning German as a foreign language. The vocabulary is aimed at candidates for the “Zertifikat Deutsch” (German language competency certificate), and all entry terms are clearly set out in blue. Many illustrations, including 12 full-page color illustrations with vocabulary identification, add to an overall pleasant presentation with stay-open flexible/hardback binding. Ample usage examples, including colloquial practice from all German-speaking countries. [RLK]


Taking its place alongside numerous recently published Metzler handbooks on German literary and intellectual figures (Bachmann, Heidegger, Hölderlin, Mörike, Nietzsche, Lessing, Hegel, Brecht), the present work similarly provides a comprehensive representation of its subject, in this case of a significant contemporary German dramatist. Sections focus on biography, overarching thematic elements, Müller’s work in the context of German and world literature, analyses of individual plays, other literary works, and Müller’s international reception. Signed articles by 59 scholars. An appendix includes a chronology, production-related information, a general bibliography (in addition to those within each article) and indexes for names, works and topics. [RLK]


A combined primary-secondary bibliography of 777 citations, chronologically arranged, with indexes for authors, editors, other persons, works and topics.
Bio-bibliographies of more than 800 20th-century women authors who write in Castilian. The linguistic restriction to only one of the languages of Spain excludes influential writers such as Mercé Rodoreda. Includes a 2-page general bibliography and an index by country of origin. To be reviewed in RRE. [JKL]


On the occasion of the European Cup, the catalog of an exhibit of 1246 manuscripts, books (classified by genre), periodicals, and graphic objects, and one musical score on sports, focusing on soccer. Includes indices of personal and corporate names, and of sports. [JKL]


Signed scholarly bio-bibliographies of Arabic-speaking authors born or active in Islamic Spain, 711-1492. Considerable attention is paid to name authority. A typical entry ends with primary, secondary, and tertiary bibliographies. Includes a 13-page general bibliography of sources. Each volume will include cumulative indices of authors’ names, titles of works, places, and subjects. Discouragingly, the publisher’s web site (http://www.legadoandalusi.es/) announces that this volume “will appear” at the beginning of 2002. To be reviewed in RRE. [JKL]


Asserting a need both scientific and national, this dictionary documents Catalan historiography, too long marginalized, and connects it to the Western tradition. Over 2,000 signed entries present historiography in the broadest possible way; they treat authors, historiographical trends and schools, major libraries and archives, academic institutions and centers of local studies, major works and periodicals, and more. Many entries contain cross-references, bibliographies, and suggested readings. There is a classified list of entries. Especially useful are treatments of library and archival collections and historical themes. [SFR]


A major English-Portuguese dictionary not found in OCLC or RLIN in August 2004. Entries provide phonetic transcription, geographical area of usage, grammatical category, semantic field, level of usage, translations, illustrative examples, idiomatic phrases, and cross-references. Includes an annex on English grammar and lexical notes by category, e.g., color. Same ISBN as the 703-page 1st edition (1997). [JKL]


A major Portuguese-English dictionary not found in OCLC or RLIN in August 2004. Entries provide phonetic transcription, geographical area of usage, grammatical category, semantic field, level of usage, translations, illustrative examples, idiomatic phrases, and cross-references. [JKL]


Finally, the publication of a major historical lexicon of early Ibero-Romance terms in the works since 1926. Entries offer meanings and quote dated sources. Includes cross-references and a 13-page bibliography. To be reviewed in RRE. [JKL]


A statistical survey of different aspects of the Spanish press, with many tables and charts. Includes a section on the digital press and detailed organizational charts of the major publishing groups. Some sections include bibliographies. Includes color advertisements; no index. [JKL]


A rigorously organized spelling and printing style guide for contemporary Castilian. Includes a 22-page bibliography and detailed subject index. [JKL]


A thorough survey of Golden Age literature and its context. Each chapter ends with a selective bibliography. Includes indices of concepts and of authors and anonymous works. [JKL]

**ITALIAN**

_Ape sebezia: giornale scientifico letterario: indici 1824-1827._ a cura di Pina Basile. Salerno: Edisud, [2003]. 194 p.; 21 cm. (Qua_ _derni del Dipartimento di letteratura, arte, spettacolo Università degli studi di Salerno; 5) € 10

Tables of contents with abstracts of a minor short-lived 19th-century Neapolitan literary journal. Only 4 or 5 copies of the review were found through the Metaopac, with no holdings shown; the introduction lists other copies in Naples and Rome. Includes indices of places, personal names, and subjects. Other titles in the
series index other journals from the same time and place. [JKL]


An alphabetical list of Italian homographs, with some obvious morphological and semantic exclusions. Previous editions not seen. [JKL]


A popular dictionary of foreign terms used in contemporary Italian. Entries provide only equivalencies or brief explanations without sources. Includes an index of terms by language of origin and a one-page bibliography. [JKL]


A project of the Centro di Ateneo per lo studio di Roma, this work takes advantage of numerous Roman bibliographical precedents, all well described in the introduction, as well as of bibliographies of other major cities. It focuses on recent works about Rome during the fifteen centuries from the beginning of the Middle Ages to the present. Active collaboration with cultural institutions produced over 10,000 entries drawn from library catalogues, databases, and over 140 periodicals from many disciplines; all sources are listed in an index. Entries are arranged in nine subject categories (e.g., territory and environment, cultural life and education). Indexes of personal names, corporate bodies, monuments and place-names, and nouns conclude the volume, which is also available on CD-ROM. [SFR]


A “Dictionary of catchwords and phrases recalling Italian events, episodes and personalities of note” [Casalini blurb]. Entries give brief historical explanations of terms. Includes cross-references; no bibliography or index. [JKL]


Cataloguing over 500 items, this work is the first to take a census of university student journals, reviews, and single items from the period between Unity and 1968. Essays present and analyze the publications of seven chronological periods. Entries list major contributors and principal themes treated as well as bibliographic information and holding libraries. Indexes treat names as well as periodicals by name and place of publication. [SFR]


A directory of 167 Italian film festivals arranged alphabetically by the name of the festival. Entries indicate the organizing body, director, category, format, address (postal and e-mail), telephone, fax, and URL; more important festivals also have expository descriptions. No index. [JKL]


This excellent research tool catalogs the publications of the Italian Archival Administration, edited by both the central and regional branches starting in 1951. This date marks the beginning of a coordinated and continuous editing program. In two parts, the work opens with the publications of the Direzione generale per gli archivi, organized by collections, which include inventories of the *archivi di stato* and of smaller collections, conference proceedings, editions of sources, studies, thematic issues of official periodical, etc. The second section lists by province the publications of its archival entities. An appendix brings these up to date to 2002; indexes treat names, corporate bodies, places, subjects, and collections of the state archives. [SFR]

This column is found in its entirety on WESSWeb.

PERSONAL & INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

COLUMN EDITOR: RICHARD D. HACKEN

(For address see page 2)

Those who attended the WESS International Conference on Migrations in Society, Culture, and the Library in Paris last March are aware to the very point of cognizance that said conference was a scholarly feast, an organizational success, a sure-fit surfeit of earthly delights in the City of Lights. Those who did not attend the conference, on the other hand, do not wish to hear yet more gushing stories of Parisian glories. They do not wish to hear, once again, about the highly informative sessions (which will be recapitulated to some faithfully elevated degree in an upcoming tome of proceedings). They do not wish to hear yet again about what was ingested in restaurants or digested in museums, about evenings of culture sponsored by local book dealers in cultural spaces or on famous iron towers, about post-conference jaunts to Versailles, Chartres, Avignon, Bilbao, Strasbourg or Oxford, about sheep grazing in the lobby of the Mercure Hotel, about WESSies standing on the terrace atop Les Galeries Lafayette at sunset, peering past the topmost pinnacle of the Opera House to the sinuous insinuations of the Seine and beyond… and so these things shall remain unmentioned, except to say: make yourself a mental note to attend the next such WESS happening.
To convey personal and institutional news within the spirit of alphabetical orderliness, this column shall now proceed from A to Z, with intermediate stops at such letters as J and S (just to mention two):

**Diane d’Almeida** was instigator, planner and executor of a Mugar Library Fair held at Boston University on September 14. As in past years, she has found this to be an extremely successful event that attracts approximately 1000 fairgoers. Not only do visitors enter the library premises voluntarily, but they also participate in demos of electronic sources. All librarians participate, and local merchants donate prizes (about 200 prizes this year — including a new computer).

**Robert Astoff** of Penn State attended music camp for a week at a lake near Peterborough, Ontario. She played chamber music in a chamber, plus she played early music in an early music ensemble. She would love to go back to Paris and make beautiful music there. Since the cello is her instrument, however, that would make a hardship on those seated around her in economy class. She only takes the cello with her if she can drive. In other good news, a tenure and promotion process has recently promoted her to associate humanities librarian and adjunct associate professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature. By the way, Penn State — where Roberta does her day job thing — is not to be confused with the State Pen, which has somewhat different job thing — is not to be confused with the State Pen, which has somewhat different job thing – is not to be confused with the State Pen, which has somewhat different job thing.

The new librarian for history and history of science at Princeton is **Elizabeth Bennett**. A medievalist by training (Ph.D. Yale, Medieval Studies ’89), Elizabeth spent some years outside of academia, and then returned to receive an M.L.I.S. in 1998 from Drexel. She has been at Princeton since 1998, first as the manager of JSTOR’s General Science digitization project; then briefly as acting librarian for classics, Hellenic studies, German & linguistics; and then as manager of CPANDA, a social science data archiving project (www.cpanda.org). CPANDA stands for “Cultural Policy and the Arts.”

“See Panda” is also something you can do at the London Zoo, but that’s a different story. Elizabeth was acting history librarian for the 2003-2004 academic year. Sometimes, now that she is not only acting librarian but also actual librarian for history and history of science, she has to explain to the curious how the science of history differs from the history of science. Elizabeth has been what we call in the trade an “intermittent WESSie,” yet we learned in seventh-grade social science class that intermittent reinforcement is the strongest of all inducements. Thus, Elizabeth is looking forward to meeting her colleagues (that’s us) and becoming more active in WESS-turned Europe.

**Paula Carns**, a new member of WESS, became the Librarian for Spanish, Italian and Portuguese at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign in December 2003. She arrived at this position in a very roundabout way. Originally, Paula was a painter (of pictures, not houses) and a textile designer. Art not being a lucrative career unless one can live on air, Paula became an art historian. Unfortunately, she picked the field of medieval art history, her choice being unfortunate in its dearth of potential remuneration and employ. Adoring libraries — she studies manuscript illuminations, among other things — and not knowing what to do with her seemingly useless Ph.D., Paula became a… (pause for effect)… librarian. Her interest in literature, in languages, in books, in staying in Urbana-Champaign (hometown of her husband; Paula is from Maine), in earning enough rubles to eat, and in being a member of WESS make her job a true joy. When not engaged in librarianship and research, Paula sews, collects silver, and hangs out with her husband and brood of cats (covey of cats? gaggle of cats? purrsonage of cats?).

**Charles Croissant**, Catalog Librarian at Saint Louis University (St. Louis, Missouri) spent three weeks this past June and July in Germany, where he presented workshops on Anglo-American cataloging practice and the MARC 21 format to audiences of German librarians (in German, very well received). Charles had been, you see, a very active member of the German-American team that translated AACR2 into German, which led to close professional and personal connections with several German catalogers. Ergo, he has been invited to conduct workshops in Germany covering various aspects of AACR2 and MARC21 for those dabbling or mainstreaming their way into these heretofore Anglocentric protocols. On this trip, he presented workshops at the Bavarian State Library in Munich, next at the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin, and finally at the headquarters of the Berlin-Brandenburg Library Consortium, also in Berlin. Charles provided an historical context for current Anglo-American practice; he provided assistance on specific questions for those struggling to adapt, evolve, or migrate; and he paid special attention to the cataloging of multivolume works — an area in which Anglo-American and German practices have traditionally diverged. Earlier this spring, Charles published a lengthy article auf Deutsch in a major German library journal, Bibliothek – Forschung und Praxis 28 (2004), Nr. 1, pp. 11-36. The article paralleled the workshops, bearing, like them, the title: MARC21 und die anglo-amerikanische Katalogisierungspraxis (MARC21 and Anglo-American cataloging practice).

**Jeff Gabel** is a catalog librarian at Long Island University in Brooklyn. He has also been known to show up at WESS meetings. Furthermore, his art shows are reviewed from time to time: a New York Times review of July 2, 2004 — entitled “Power, Corruption and Lies” — came to the following three conclusions (among others) about Jeff’s “scribbly, Roz Chast-meets-Giacometti-style portraits of people who may or may not be imaginary.” (1) “He… adds extensive hand written prose telling about problems in the person’s life… Mr. Gabel is a truly engaging writer.” (2) “Mr. Gabel also does translations …[His Stefan Zweig comic-book-style novella] is like listening to a truck driver tell the story in a bar in Alabama.” (3) “…[His] drawing is weak, his writing is fragmentary; and his translations are ridiculous. His art as a whole is pathetic and absurd, and that is the beauty of it. By failing, he succeeds delightfully.” – I wonder if Jeff’s supervisor at LIU makes a similar judgment about his cataloging? – Jeff’s
translation work developed out of his day job, and his latest work includes texts from German, Finnish and Veps (I wonder how you say “Schweppes” in Veps?). Not that he is well versed in these languages… he admits to being ill versed in English, too. The translations could be called “cultural excavations” that degenerate into expressions “on the periphery of the artist’s [and the viewer/reader’s] vision.” In the Vepsian case, they also help preserve a small nugget from a dwindling culture. Before shows in Madrid and Basel, before an MFA at the Pratt Institute, Jeff’s undergraduate BFA degree was at Kansas State University. So he knows well the kitsch and camp cultures of two cities that call themselves “Manhattan.” For more images and text, Google “Jeff Gabel.”

WESSie Fred Jenkins now carries the following title around with him: “Interim Dean of Libraries, Head of Collection Management & Professor, University of Dayton Library.” Because of fluctuations inherent but unexplained in those job titles, he has missed the last couple of ALA conferences. But we forgive him, don’t we? Fred has been teaching courses in Ecclesiastical Latin and Mythology concomitant with beginning his temporary assignment as interim dean of libraries. As he enters the administrative wing of the library, his grasp of mythology should serve him well. He will be teaching Latin again this fall. And, in his infinite, copious and capacious leisure time, he will be trying to finish the second edition of Classical Studies: A Guide to the Reference Literature.

On July 12 Jim Nissen gave a presentation on his Coutts Nijhoff project at the 6th World Congress of Hungarian Librarians in Budapest, entitled his Hungarian-language talk “The Acquisition of German Books in Three Large Budapest Libraries 1900-1990: Cultural Relations and Library Division of Labor.” There was particular interest in two issues: the French-inspired “boycott” of German scholarship after WWI, and the role of the Hungarian National Library in the distribution of books confiscated from church libraries by the Communist authorities after WWII. Jim would be interested to hear at niessen@rci.rutgers.edu from anyone who has encountered relevant information on either of these topics. One of the tours organized for participants was to the Andrassy University, Hungary’s German-language university (http://www.andrassyuni.hu). Founded in 2001 with support from the German, Austrian, and Hungarian governments as well as from several foundations, the private university recently completed its second academic year with 150 students in political science and law and a library of 6,000 volumes. Jim’s summer vacation travels to some of the western republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States gave him confidence to reassure WESSies: the eastward expansion of Western Europe will slow down, if not stop altogether. He found that cultural and familial ties – as well as economic and political ones – between the emergent national states and Russia make it extremely likely that these countries will continue to have very close relations with each other for many years to come.

Michael Seadle has given up selecting the German books (at least officially) at Michigan State in order to take over the Systems Department. For some reason related to the metabolic limits of intelligent mammals, he simply could not do German, systems, digital projects, and copyright all at once. Nonetheless, his involvement with Germany has not declined. This past summer he flew to Berlin to serve on a commission at Humboldt University on librarian education. He also has staff working on an OAI (Open Archives Initiative) harvester for specific sets of German-related materials (among them a project for the ARL/CRL “German-North American Resources Partnership,” which he hopes to show off at the Bostonian Midwinter conference). He also expects to go to the annual librarians’ convention in Düsseldorf next March, offering him an excellent opportunity to interact with his German colleagues. The timing this year makes it possible for him to slip on over to the Leipzig Book Fair as well.

Alessia Zanin-Yost, Reference Librarian at Montana State University in Bozeman, holds an MLIS from San Jose State University and an MA in art history from UC Davis (other WESSies with Cal Aggie educations on their résumés and a “Bossie Cow-Cow” fight song in their hearts include Beau Case, Dick Hacken, and Kai Stoeckenius). Alessia has Yost been working in her current position for a year, but already has accomplished a lot. She has published four articles so far, has been involved in various committees on campus, and has presented at three conferences (MLA, LOEX, and at one organized by the Biblioteca Multimodale in Italy). At the latter, in Bari, she was invited to talk about digital reference. The conference gave an opportunity for librarians to talk about why we need libraries in the twenty-first century. (Excuse the editorial side note: isn’t that a bit like asking why we need water in the desert?) Alessia is interested in reference, virtual reference, library instruction, art librarianship and diversity. Most of all she is interested in Western European Studies and in the means of collaborating with our colleagues in Europe. This is the reason she has become a member of WESS. Having been an instructor for several years, she turned to librarianship because she found this profession very similar to teaching: but never in her wildest thoughts (dreams, hallucinations, mental tangents) did she imagine that it would be so rewarding. Finally, she would like to address the WESS membership (that’s you): First, she would like to thank you all for your involvement in the profession. Second, she really would like to become more active in WESS, so please take note of her willingness to be a colleague, to correspond by e-mail (azaninyost@montana.edu) or other communicative possibilities. Alessia is interested in being more of a player than an observer, so please let her know how she can do that in the WESS way.
Upcoming Events

ALA Midwinter
Boston, MA
14 - 19 January 2005

Look for the WESS schedule on WESSWeb:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb

ACRL 12th National Conference
Minneapolis, MN
7 - 10 April 2005 Opening of Registration

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) invites you to register for the only conference dedicated to meeting the interests of academic and research librarians. The ACRL 12th National Conference, “Currents and Convergence: Navigating the Rivers of Change,” will be held in Minneapolis, April 7-10, 2005. Registration is now available on the Web at www.acrl.org/minneapolis. Register by February 7, 2005, and save more than 20% on your conference registration.