



THE

NASIG

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the North American Serials Interest Group

Vol. 1, no. 3

September 1986

BRYN MAWR : LOOKING BACK by Tina Feick

It seems like eons ago, but it has been only eighteen months since we started to look for a site for NASIG's inaugural conference. I had suggested the Philadelphia area not only because it is my home territory, but also because of its proximity to New York (for those going on to ALA) and because of the many beautiful campuses in this area.

The first site that came to mind was Bryn Mawr College. I will admit that I was prejudiced. I had been raised in the area and was a local college professor's brat, so I was familiar with most of the colleges in the area, plus my sister had attended graduate school at Bryn Mawr. My gut reaction was that Bryn Mawr had just the right ambiance for NASIG's inaugural conference.

As I sat in Jane McGarry's (Acquisitions Librarian at Bryn Mawr College) office, I wondered how to broach the topic. I began by telling Jane about NASIG and how we were looking for a conference site. Jane immediately said, "Why don't you come here?" She then went on to justify why. She did not have to convince me, but I was thrilled by her reaction and encouraged her to contact John Riddick, NASIG's Co-Chair (Central Michigan University). Jane's enthusiasm and love for Bryn Mawr was a major plus for NASIG.

During May and June 1985 I returned several times to the campus. Jane showed me what she considered to be the highlights of the campus: the Cloisters, Glenmede, the Great Hall. With Jane's valuable inside knowledge, including knowing about "cinnamon meatballs", this conference was bound to be a success.

In August, Lenore Wilkas (University of Pennsylvania), John Riddick and I made a formal site visit to Bryn Mawr and two other area campuses. We selected Bryn Mawr because, most importantly, the time slot we needed was available. Bryn Mawr also had an enthusiastic conference director and a beautiful conference site. Also, we knew we had the support of the Bryn Mawr College Library.

Picking the site was only the beginning. Now came the hard part. Others, such as Leigh Chatterton (Boston College) and Mary Beth Clack (Harvard College), took on the task of putting together a program while Jane and I worked with Lisa Zernicke, the Summer Conference Director. We needed to select eating spots and meeting rooms, pour over menus, arrange a-v equipment and transportation, pursue insurance, and decide how to run a cash bar. At the heart of everything was John Riddick orchestrating all of the planning.

The most difficult part was determining numbers. As it was our first conference, we had no idea of numbers. John Riddick was sure that we would get over 200. Jane, Lenore, and I were initially not as optimistic--we thought we would be lucky to get 150 attendees. Were we ever wrong!!! The final registration was 251, of which 25 were one-day participants. For dormitory rooms and meals, I had to hand Bryn Mawr an exact figure.

As registrations were rolling in, I was on a trip in the West (doing my real job!). At this point, Jane was forced to enter the hospital due to injuries suffered in a car accident so we had to do without her valuable assistance. Peggy Schwind, the Head of Technical Services, lent a hand, thank goodness. My traveling companions were amused by long distance calls to Bryn Mawr --saying that we did not want broccoli twice in a row (that's the reason for beans on Tuesday night!), finding out that our eating tables would cost extra, ordering tea and cold drinks for our coffee breaks. This last request, to my chagrin, did not get to the people actually doing the work.

As our numbers soared near 200, we had to quickly make some adjustments. Another dormitory had to be opened. We were unable to use parts of Pembroke Hall, so we had to use Erdman Hall--unfortunately, not the best place. Though we had planned to have some meals outside, we had to count on these outside arrangements as Bryn Mawr's largest dining hall held only 185 people. For some reason, we did not get rain; someone was looking out for us. Don't worry, we did have a contingency plan!

Other crises arose--to be expected with serials matters. Insurance was nigh impossible to be had; Bryn Mawr, as most schools do, requires a \$1,000,000 liability policy. Several of us tried various sources with even "The Rock" turning us down because NASIG was a new organization without a proven record. We went back to the college and asked for help. Though the time delay was somewhat frustrating, Bryn Mawr was able to

attach a rider on their policy, so the conference was still on. Even up to two weeks beforehand, there were fears that we might have to cancel. For the time being we were saved, but NASIG still needs to have an ongoing policy. (Does anyone out there have an inside track to the insurance world?)

As we were awaiting a response on the insurance, we delayed mailing maps and other related material. Our apologies to those that received the information too late. The college offered to mail the information packet. In retrospect, we wish we had done it ourselves. In their kind haste, the maps were blurred and very hard to read. And the professional directional signs that we had been promised were unavailable.

Other minor crises occurred throughout--such as the Russians (another group on campus) had taken over one of our meeting rooms. Just a bit of switching and all was okay. As with serials, everything with a conference cannot be set in stone; we must be flexible.

Another interesting hitch -- Bryn Mawr College cannot purchase liquor nor sell it. So NASIG had to buy and then give out liquor free or have attendees purchase tickets. This ticket practice got us around the direct buying of liquor. With the knowledgeable assistance of John Merriman of Blackwell's. I purchased the liquor. We guessed right on everything but the beer. Fortunately, we were able to pick up beer from one of the local bars.

Arranging a conference, especially for the first time, is not easy. We all learned a lot - there are so many details! The Executive Committee walked away feeling that NASIG had three good days at Bryn Mawr. In the long run, it is what happens afterwards that really counts. We have heard from so many and there were many encouraging words echoed throughout ALA.

Our real test of success was the evaluation. Over 150 people returned their forms. The constructive criticism was extremely valuable. Overall, the Inaugural Conference at Bryn Mawr was given a rating of 4.45 (5 being the highest). We sincerely appreciate this vote of confidence.

A number of points came to light throughout the conference and through the evaluation forms. We need to repeat or have more discussion groups to give people an opportunity to attend another session and to talk more in smaller groups. Monday was a long day for everyone; an afternoon break would have been appreciated with a better mix of panels and speakers. Many requested that more information be put on name tags (such as library position and city). These are just a few of the considerations.

A local arrangements committee is already in place for the 1987 conference at Denison University. About forty-five miles from Columbus, Ohio, the campus is located high on a hill overlooking the quaint town of Granville, Ohio. If you are in the Ohio area and would like to assist in the planning, please contact John Riddick.

The dates for the conference are June 14th through the 17th; please set these dates aside. We hope to see Bryn Mawr NASIGers return to our conference and we look forward to seeing new faces.

Thanks for the support. Please help us spread the word.

(Tina is Director of Sales for the Boley International Subscription Agency Inc. and B. H. Blackwell's Periodicals Division.)

MINUTES OF THE NASIG BUSINESS MEETING, June 23, 1986

A NASIG Business Meeting was held at the Inaugural Conference at Bryn Mawr on June 23, 1986. Announcements concerning programs of interest at ALA for serials librarians were announced. John Riddick announced that 251 people had registered for the convention. Susan Davis followed with a Treasurer's report. As of that previous Friday, there was \$32,640.57 in the treasury. This balance did not reflect payment to Bryn Mawr for the conference. There were 381 paid NASIG members. John Riddick added that NASIG membership was not included in the Bryn Mawr conference fees. Some conferees had thought that it was included.

John Riddick reported the following from the June 22, 1986 NASIG Executive Board meeting: that there will be a membership card for 1987 members; that NASIG is close to choosing a publisher for the NASIG Conference proceedings which should be available by Christmas; that the question of extra costs for next year's conference can be decided when one registers; that the ideas of a job exchange between UKSG and NASIG members as well as a vacation/residence exchange are being explored. He also asked that the conference evaluation form be turned in at the end of the conference and that participants express their views concerning exhibits at future conferences.

The assembled then discussed the proposed NASIG Bylaws. Several suggestions as to appropriate wording were made. The decision was made that the Executive Board would work on these suggestions and send the Bylaws to the membership for a vote. It will need a simple majority to pass. It will be a mailed ballot because full NASIG membership was not represented at the conference.

John Riddick introduced the Nominating Committee: Ann Weller, Teresa Malinowski, and Mary Fugle.

John Riddick concluded the meeting with his own thoughts concerning the current state of NASIG: we need to grow; we need to explore and acquire grants as well as develop a solid financial plan; we need to further our relationships with other professional organizations such as ALA, Canadian Library Association, the Bindery Institute, etc.; we need to develop continuing education programs and to publish the NASIG Conference Proceedings; and NASIG needs to develop and execute our relationship with the UKSG.

Marilyn Gonsiewski
NASIG Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT / Susan Davis

Paid members have increased to 418 and we have had 5 renewals for 1987.

Balance on hand as of September 1, 1986: \$7,279.94.

Dues: There will be an attachment in the September newsletter for 1987 membership dues. A second reminder will probably appear in the next newsletter.

IMPORTANT ADDRESS CHANGE! Your treasurer now resides at 7721 Lewiston Road, Batavia, New York 14020. My new house has been completely funded without the assistance of the NASIG treasury. (A little \$\$ humor, folks!)

BRYN MAWR CONFERENCE

Rough figures indicate that we came out almost even:

Conference revenues:		\$32,608.25
Conference expenses:		
Bryn Mawr	(30,051.64)	
Tours	(486.00)	
Cancellations, other refunds	(774.00)	
Liquor expenses	(584.02)	
Total expenses		(31,895.66)

We are still liable for telephone deposit refunds (maximum of \$800.00). We have not been billed by Bryn Mawr for the calls. If we pay out the full \$800, then we lose \$87.41 on the conference. I think that is pretty good planning on Tina Feick's part. She estimated all the charges on which we based our registration costs. Good job, Tina!

SERIALS, LIBRARIES, AND CASTLES, March 28 - April 11, 1987

NASIG members! Attend the 10th anniversary meeting of the United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) in Oxford, England featuring dinner at Blenheim Palace! Then, spend a week in Scotland visiting libraries and a variety of castles in Edinburgh, St. Andrews, and Aberdeen. There will be time for shopping. Our Scottish guide and fellow serials librarian, Pat Napier, is planning a visit to a woolen mill and a whiskey distillery and, as a special treat, a trip to an authentic Scottish ceilidh. We will spend the last night in London and arrangements may be made to extend your trip if you wish to do so. The tour is limited to thirty persons because of a shortage of housing at Oxford University. In Scotland, we are using university housing, where feasible, in order to keep the cost as low as possible. Full details, including itinerary and price, will be in the December NASIG Newsletter. For further information please call Marcia Tuttle at (919) 962-1067 or Barbara Kiser of Meridian Travel, Research Triangle Park, N. C. at 1-800-331-7384.

NASIG EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The exchange of participants within the serials information chain on an international basis offers new life experiences of enormous impact. The opportunity to learn and to understand the other's achievements and despairs within an entirely different social-cultural milieu can enhance the capable use of the information chain. In addition to the professional interests might be the delight of a high tea, a hockey match, or a steam-boat ride.

At Bryn Mawr the NASIG Board approved the study and implementation of an exchange program. Mr. Woodworth, Chairman of the UKSG, indicated an interest and the desire to bring the matter before the UKSG Board. In the meantime, members who have interest, ideas, or help to offer in the running of such a program should contact: Minne Saxe, Graduate School, CUNY Library, Serials Dept., 33 W. 42nd St., New York, NY 10036-8099.

John Riddick
Co-Chairperson, NASIG

PUBLICATION OF NASIG PROCEEDINGS

Haworth Press will publish the proceedings of NASIG Inaugural Conference. They should appear early in 1987 as a supplemental issue of the Serials Librarian and as a separate monograph. Exact details will appear in the

December issue of the NASIG Newsletter.

CHARGES FOR CLAIMS?

A serials librarian from a major university library recently claimed a serial which had not been received for over two years. The terse response indicated that the editor/publisher lost a significant amount of time responding to claims such as this and, in the future, the charge for answering a claim would be \$10. The librarian would like to know if others have ever come across this problem of a charge for claiming and would like ideas on how to respond to it. All letters should be sent in care of the Editor.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The NASIG Newsletter will appear quarterly with issues in March, June, September, and December. We are awaiting our ISSN number. The newsletter encourages its members to contribute any item of interest to members in the serials information chain. Requests for back issues of the newsletter should be sent in care of the Editor.

1987 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Attached to this issue readers will find the 1987 NASIG Membership application. The fee is \$15. As in 1986, NASIG is accepting only personal memberships.

THE NASIG NEWSLETTER is published for the membership of NASIG (North American Serials Interest Group).

Editor: Lenore Wilkas, Serials Acquisitions Librarian, University of Pennsylvania.

Submissions for the December 15th issue are due December 1, 1986 and should be sent to: Lenore Wilkas, One Veterans Square, Apt. D-2, Media, PA 19063.

NASIG wishes to thank the University of Pennsylvania for its cooperation in producing this newsletter.