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# NASIG

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THE

NASIG

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the North American Serials Interest Group

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER / John F. Riddick

With the approach of the Second Annual NASIG Conference a step back makes it possible to gain a greater perspective of NASIG's achievements, its new growth, and its future aspirations. With only a few bumps and jars, NASIG's course over the past year has been essentially smooth with an ever increasing sense of momentum as the future is anticipated.

The Inaugural Conference emerged as a considerable success which subsequently stimulated additional new interest throughout the continent. Every day correspondence from North America and throughout the world is received inquiring of NASIG's programs, conferences, and membership criteria. Membership levels have increased with particular emphasis on new members in the conference's locale and the renewal of those members who attended the Inaugural Conference. The NASIG Newsletter has continued to appear in its timely fashion with an increasing number of submissions. The Executive Board has demonstrated its collective wisdom in its consideration of the development of broad policy in the governance and development of NASIG. Strong committees have been composed and have been working industriously in support of the Second and Third Annual Conferences and in site selection work for the Fourth.

Over the past seven months considerable organizational growth has occurred in the support of specific NASIG goals. For example, specific committees have been named in the support of the Librarian Exchange Program, Library Science Student Grants, Summer House Exchange, Continuing Education, and NASIG liaisons with professional organizations. Each of these committees is now in the process of formulating internal policies and procedures in the advancement of their ends. Their reports to the Annual General Membership Meeting should be of great interest.

As we look to the future, certain questions require NASIG's response. A broadly acceptable policy on gifts and grants is

needed. Obtaining the timely publication of the proceedings of the Annual Conference must be sought. The broader dispersal of the day-to-day administrative duties would be helpful in the conduct of NASIG's business. Finally, we must continue a breadth of vision which welcomes all members of the serials information chain to reason together for the sake of knowledge and understanding and to leave the notes of contention and adversary to ring out in our respective professional meetings.

The future of NASIG is promising. In the forthcoming year, under new leadership, additional growth through diversity of fresh minds and the maturing of programs now under way bode well for the organization. Financially, administratively, and emotionally NASIG exudes a sense of vitality which will successfully carry it forward with your interest and support.

NOMINATIONS/ELECTIONS COMMITTEE / John F. Riddick

It is a great pleasure to announce the selection of Earl Boyce (DYNIX), Sylvia Martin (Vanderbilt University), and Jan Scullin (Massachusetts General Hospital) as the members of the 1987 Nominations and Elections Committee. Attached as the last page of this issue of the newsletter is a formal nominations document on which we urge you to submit, after checking with the individual, the names of NASIG members for various offices or seats on the Executive Board. For those of you attending the Annual Conference, you may wish to consult directly with a member of this committee. The time and effort the committee will expend on this process is enormous and we are deeply grateful for it.

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DYNIX  
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Provo, UT 84601

Sylvia Martin  
Serials Librn.  
Vanderbilt Univ.  
Library  
419 21st Ave. South  
Nashville, TN  
37240-0007

Jan Scullin  
Treadwell Library  
Mass. General  
Hospital  
Blossom Street  
Boston, MA 02114

NASIG'S SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS / George Lupone

To date, the receipt of registrations for the annual conference at Denison University is surpassing last year's rate. Registrants are from all areas of Canada and the United States. Once again, there will also be representation from our European counterparts.

Plans are in place to make the stay at Denison comfortable. It is odd how the smallest matters, such as finding a bartender for the

conference party, can become so labor-intensive. But the bartender has been chosen, and hundreds of other similar details have been resolved. NASIG is fortunate to have a leadership team striving for excellence at the annual conference and a local arrangements crew eager to follow through on every detail. One last planning meeting is scheduled for mid-May to put the final touches on the local arrangements.

REMEMBER YOUR REEBOKS!

NASIG members planning to attend the Second Annual Conference are reminded to bring proper attire for the Fun Run/Fun Walk to be held at the conference. Details on the event will be available at the registration desk at the conference.

PRICE CHANGE FOR PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NASIG CONFERENCE

Haworth Press has notified NASIG that the new price for Serial Connections: . . . Proceedings of the First Annual NASIG Conference will now be \$17.48 prepaid for members submitting orders. State on your order that you are a NASIG member.

SCOTLAND: SERIALS, LIBRARIES AND CASTLES - A REPORT ON NASIG'S FIRST FOREIGN TOUR / Arlene Moore Sievers

It can now be duly reported that the eight NASIG participants in Marcia Tuttle's Scotland serials tour have all returned safely and happily from what was a highly informative, entertaining and successful working holiday. Thanks to the expert and cheerful guidance of Pat Napier, our Scottish colleague, and Marcia's superb management, the trip went off with scarcely a hitch - - we won't say anything about a certain manic van ride to the Oxford station, nor the little matter of a tripped alarm at Andrew Carnegie's birthplace in Dunfermline, which had us all held briefly captive. There were castles, libraries and shops aplenty, as well as enough kippers, scones, and Scottish libations for the heartiest appetites.

The first leg of the adventure, Oxford to Edinburgh was highlighted by a fascinating and rare tour of the Signet (Scots law) Library in Edinburgh, a Georgian architectural showplace as well as a working national law library. Our in-depth tour of Parliament House was concluded with a courtroom drama. A murder trial was in session and we all got a first-hand look at Scottish

justice in action, bewigged advocates and judges and all. A murder mystery come to life! The tour by Peter Wellburn of the National Library of Scotland took in the treasures as well as the everyday aspect of the library operation. I think my favorite Edinburgh event was our tour of Merchiston Castle, which is part of Napier College where Pat works. We were served a gracious tea and the best homemade scones by the college staff in this restored 16th century tower, home of the mysterious alchemist and mathematician, John Napier, who invented trigonometry.

En route to St. Andrews we stopped off at Culross, an intact 16th century Scottish village; at Dunfermline, famous for its magnificent abbey; and at Falkland Palace, a royal domain which was a favorite hunting lodge of Mary, Queen of Scots. St. Andrews was notable for many things such as its impressive ruined cathedral and castle, and the fog-enshrouded world-famous golf courses where people were teeing off in zero visibility. University of St. Andrews Library Assistant Director, Rex Pringle, guided us through the up-to-date library and the tour included a most interesting visit with the library's full-time conservator/restorer. Few libraries put as much meticulous care into the repair of valuable books as does St. Andrews. Reg also served as our guide to the historical sights of the University of St. Andrews, the oldest in Scotland, including the "old" library in the courtyard of which grows an ancient tree, reputedly planted by Mary, Queen of Scots. Our St. Andrews stay was capped off by a truly memorable dinner at Pinewoods, a gastronomic paradise of an inn outside of St. Andrews.

The journey from St. Andrews to Aberdeen was not graced by the best of weather --let's be frank, it rained and rained, but the memorable sights on the way, plenty of food, good spirits, and meeting a real countess made up for it. We visited the lovely Norman church at Leuchars, made a stop for Scottish goodies and coffee at a quaint farm store, and proceeded to Claypotts Castle, a fortified 16th century Scottish tower house that gave us an understanding of how people actually lived in those things. Glamis Castle, family home of the Queen Mother, was opened specially for us and, upon having learned beforehand that a group of American librarians were to visit, the Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne welcomed us personally to the castle. We were guided through fascinating chambers that house priceless works of art and historical importance, as well as a number of ghosts. Three brave members of our party defied the mud and the rain of a sodden farmyard on a trek that day to see an authentic 16th century dovecot and an Iron Age Pictish earth-house. They thought it was well worthwhile, but the cows that watched them were simply dumbfounded.

Good weather finally graced our final day in Aberdeen. There we received the red carpet treatment as we were hosted by the Lord and Lady Provost of Aberdeen; members of the district council; Peter Grant, director of the Aberdeen Public Library; and other

worthies at a civic luncheon in our honor at a restaurant in a blooming park setting. Afterwards we were taken on a private guided tour of the city, including Old Aberdeen where we walked narrow streets lined with 17th and 18th century stone cottages. Our excursion ended with a thorough tour of the Aberdeen Public Library, a recently enlarged and renovated model facility, which is noted for its Commercial and Technical Division which provides state-of-the-art information services to the off-shore petroleum industry which is the economic foundation of modern Aberdeen. Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology library, which we also visited in Aberdeen, had just installed the microcomputer laser disc Domesday Project. We were all entranced by this encyclopedic interactive database system about all aspects of Great Britain, which was conceived by the BBC and includes contributions by British school children to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the Domesday Book.

Well, I could go on and on. We made many acquaintances with our serials colleagues in Scotland and went away with a good taste of Scottish life, universities, libraries, castles, cities, and countryside. Pat and Marcia made the trip what it was with excellent planning, thorough knowledge, and a knack for improvising. The weather was often "dreigh" but the spirits were merry. Participants were: Kenneth L. Kirkland, De Paul University; Alice L. Lane, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Carol Magenau, University of Connecticut; Sylvia Martin, Vanderbilt University; Pat Napier, Napier College, Edinburgh; Elaine K. Rast, Northern Illinois University; John F. Riddick, Central Michigan University; Arlene Moore Sievers, Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne; and Marcia Tuttle, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Plans are already underway for the second NASIG foreign tour to occur the same time next year with the destination being the Netherlands. Information on this trip will be forthcoming in future issues of The NASIG Newsletter.

#### Treasurer's Report / Susan Davis

As of May 1 we have had 283 renewals and 198 new memberships. Membership cards were mailed to all renewees, and new 1987 members will (or already have) receive their cards very soon. We are grateful for your support.

With the influx of conference registration fees (155 registrants so far), we have a healthy cash balance of \$25,396.00. Conference expenses are estimated at \$30,000.00, so we are by no means wealthy.

The Finance Committee has recommended that NASIG become a non-profit corporation. Expect to hear more about this proposal at the Annual Business Meeting in June.

THE BINDER'S LEAF / Martin Gordon

QUESTION: "Why do we have to pay the binder more for just recasing a textblock (and not trimming its outer margins) than we do for traditional methods of binding?"

ANSWER: The new case (recase) option is becoming more and more popular among librarians making commercial binding decisions. In this process, the existing structure of the textblock is not substantially altered and therefore provides the greatest possibility for any future restoration work that might be needed as well as optimum flexibility in use. In fact, use of this method best typifies the popular adage that in making commercial binding decisions: "less is best."

Because this option precludes any trimming or sewing/adhesive leaf attachment of the individual signatures or leaves, commercial binding customers generally are surprised to learn that the process costs anywhere from 25 to 65 per cent more than other methods, with the exception of hand sewing.

In fact, the new case (recase) option involves more work and requires greater care on the part of the binder than any other method. The original case must be surgically removed. The detachment of the spine hinges and the cleaning of the textblock's bare spine without damaging the original method of leaf attachment is quite painstaking when compared to other methods of spine preparation such as freeing the leaves by milling off 1/16 of an inch from the inner margin.

Furthermore, by requesting that the textblock not be trimmed, the library is actually asking the binder to trim the endpapers by hand three times each (once for all but the inner margins). Normally, endpapers are fitted and trimmed with the rest of the textblock all at once. Thus, when the "no trim" option is requested, the binder makes six trims by hand instead of two by machine.

So while the new case (recase) no trim option is best suited to prolong an item's usefulness if the original textblock has not been damaged, it requires considerably more effort on the part of the binder and, because it demands somewhat individualized attention, it will cost the library more.

Editor's note: Any comments, questions or submissions to "The Binder's Leaf" should be sent to: Martin Gordon, Shadek-Fackenthal Library, Franklin & Marshall College, P.O. Box 3003, Lancaster, PA 17604 (717) 291-4216.

UKSG TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OXFORD, ENGLAND, 1987 / Tina Feick

The Tenth Anniversary Conference of the United Kingdom Serials Group (UKSG) took place in Oxford, England from March 30th through April 2nd. I was fortunate to be one of fifteen Americans attending the conference.

Overnight accommodations were arranged in Keble College, one of the "newer" colleges of Oxford University, having been founded in 1870. Though historians have complained about the architecture as it differs from the traditional limestone, I found Keble with its multi-patterned brick to have a charm of its own. Our meals, except for the conference banquet, and most of the evening entertainment took place in Keble. The stained glass windows and the long wooden tables in the dining room certainly gave one the feeling of being an Oxford student.

The meetings and exhibits were held at the Dept. of Experimental Psychology, a two-block walk from our rooms. Our lunches were actually served buffet style on top of lab tables. At times, some of us wondered if we were part of an experiment!!

The presentations, for the most part, were very well done. Two Americans were invited to speak. Rebecca Lenzini, The Faxon Company Inc., covered serials in the U.S. over the last ten years. Her speech was matched with one about the U.K. The final day ended with Sharon Bonk, SUNY-Albany, speaking about the next ten years. One of the British publishers covered the future of serials in the U.K.

New modes of communication was the theme for one afternoon. Presentations were given from the views of publishers, electronic document delivery experts, subscription agents, and librarians. CD-ROM, electronic messages, faxing, electronic journals, were all mentioned.

This year there were no workshops as this was a special anniversary conference. An interesting alternative was a panel composed of a publisher, librarian, subscription agent, and a representative from the British Library. This panel answered questions that had been sent in with the registration form.

One very rainy afternoon we went off on tours. We had our choice of a historical walking tour, the Bodleian Library, Oxford Polytechnic Library, Pergamon Press, Oxford University Press, Didcot Railway Centre, Waddesdon Manor, and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Research Library.

The Bodleian is the main library of Oxford University. As such, it receives a copy of every book published. As you can imagine, the catalog (in book form) is quite extensive as the library dates back to the 1300's. We were taken through a tunnel to see compact shelving from the early 1900's and we toured various reading

rooms. Just now the library is beginning to investigate automation.

We were entertained royally every evening. The first night we watched a light-hearted operetta that was about an obnoxious library patron being murdered in the library. The lyrics included references to Kim Dobbs (Library of Congress), Marcia Tuttle (Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill), and John Merriman (Blackwell's Periodicals Division). In reference to a missing issue, a line went "Get Marcia Tuttle to send it by the shuttle."

Other evening activities included before-dinner receptions given by various vendors and publishers with Blackwell's holding their reception at Rhodes House. Each reception gave the participants opportunities to meet and start networking. After dinner, a cash bar was available for further discussions.

On Monday evening, the annual General Meeting was convened. The major topic of discussion was an increase in dues. Quite a lengthy discussion ensued.

The "piece de resistance" was the conference banquet at Blenheim Palace, birth place of Winston Churchill. We were met by a major duomo in a brilliant red jacket. At the proper times, he barked the appropriate introductions, such as the signal that dinner was over and now was the time for the speeches. John Merriman, Director, Blackwell's Periodicals Division, received an award for his service to the UKSG. The after-dinner speaker was John Mortimer, noted author and playwright (Rumpole of the Bailey). He had been asked to speak (or so he said) about electronic communication and as he did not communicate via electronic means, he went on to give a humorous talk about his life. We concluded the evening by walking through this amazing palace. We felt, and in fact we were, entertained as if we were royalty.

One of the special highlights for me was the high level of recognition for NASIG. Several people came up and introduced themselves by saying that they were members of NASIG. I put out about a hundred brochures about our NASIG Conference on the UKSG table and all were taken. I doubt that we will get a hundred visitors from the U.K., but I am sure there is a high level of curiosity about this offshoot organization. Throughout the conference, I had opportunities to speak with our UK colleagues. They, too, are in the throes of automation or automation decisions. They, too, have fears for their serials budgets. They, too, want to meet and talk about their mutual concerns. Overall, I felt such encouragement for NASIG to continue, to grow at its own pace, and that we, in fact, are already on the right track. The UKSG Conference was a rewarding experience a good omen for NASIG's first ten years!

(THE NASIG NEWSLETTER is continued on reverse of Nominations Form)



## NASIG/UKSG HOUSE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE FORMING

The NASIG/UKSG House Exchange Committee is seeking committee members to explore the feasibility of arranging residence exchanges between the United States and the United Kingdom. The committee will be composed of four to five members who would look into the idea and recommend policies and procedures to the NASIG Executive Board. All members interested in participating may contact Mary Beth Clack, Serials Record Librarian, Harvard College Library, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 495-2422 by June 10, 1987.

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

# NASIG

April 30, 1987

Dear Member:

The North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) is now seeking nominations for election of officers and six additional executive board members for 1987/88 to serve for a term of one year. Names submitted for nomination will be reviewed by the Nominations/Election Committee and every effort will be made to insure the representation of the various groups which comprise our organization. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Nominations/Election Committee: Earl Boyce, Dynix (801) 375-2770; Sylvia Martin, Vanderbilt University (615) 322-2410; or Jan Scullin, Treadwell Library-Massachusetts General Hospital (617) 726-3161.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JUNE 25, 1987

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## NASIG Nominations

President _____	Vice President _____
Organization _____	Organization _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____
Treasurer _____	Secretary _____
Organization _____	Organization _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____

## Additional Members of the Executive Board (Six will be elected)

NAME _____	NAME _____
Organization _____	Organization _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____
NAME _____	NAME _____
Organization _____	Organization _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____
NAME _____	NAME _____
Organization _____	Organization _____
Phone Number _____	Phone Number _____

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