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And They Were There-Reports of Meetings-UKSG and SALALM

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And They Were There

Reports of Meetings

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United Kingdom Serials Group

Report by Arlene Moore Sievers <axs23@po.cwru.edu>

Edinburgh, Scotland was once again the setting for the annual meeting of the UKSG on this, its 20th anniversary. The location was the same as in 1992, Heriot—Watt University, a pleasant modern campus on the western outskirts of the city, but the weather was a tremendous improvement, a gorgeous sunny early Spring (April, 1997). Those who attended the conference here before in 1992 will recall torrential rains which lasted the entire duration of the meeting, closed roads in Scotland, etc. This time the weather matched the quality of the presentations, workshops, exhibits and the social events—a tremendous success. And of course there was Edinburgh and its countryside as a backdrop, complete with the Castle in the middle of fields of newly flowered daffodils, flocks of sheep and newborn black-legged lambs, visits to Scottish taverns, and cashmere shops, the Georgian Charlotte Square and quaint teashops, Jenners and the Holyrood Palace — you get the picture.

Pieter Bolman of Academic Press was the keynote speaker this year and launched into a discussion of electronic publishing, and consortia licensing, a pervading interest of this conference as it was of the recent NASIG meeting in Ann Arbor. Subsequent papers and discussions focused on the Internet and e-journal publishing, the future of serial publishing in an electronic environment, and that most alluring subject, electronic serial archiving.

Having attended a number of UKSG conferences over the years, this one was remarkable to me in the similarity of concerns of librarians, publishers and vendors in the UK with those on our side of the Atlantic. In years past there was still a discernible difference in the contents of programs and workshops between Britain and North American serials meetings. Whereas public interest and concern here was shifting almost totally to the subjects of electronic serial publishing, the Internet and e-journals, in Britain the shift was much slower and interest in such subjects limited to large institutions. Lack of adequate funding for computerization was one of the main reasons for the difference. Presentations, workshop discussions and talks with individual librarians indicated this year that we are indeed dealing with

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precisely the same issues and concerns.

The workshops were of an especially high quality and focused well on specific
concerns. One I attended on “Article Identifiers in an Electronic World” presented
by Norman Paskin of Elsevier Ltd. was essentially a mini-course on the subject
and of an exceptionally high quality.

One sad note at this anniversary confer-
ence was the untimely death of one of the
scheduled speakers, Bryan Coles, Chair-
aman of the Scientific Information
Committee of the Royal Society. His
presentation was to be on “Paper: the Re-
liable Technology.” His place on the pro-
gram was filled by Gordon Graham, pub-
lisher of LOGOS, past Chairman of
Butterworths Publishing Ltd., and one
of the most memorable speakers of the
1988 Charleston Conference. He pre-
sented a rich and beautiful speech on the
past and future of scholarly publishing, a
fitting tribute to Mr. Coles. [See ATG
v.94, September 1995, p. 28-29, 36 for
the paper which Gordon Graham deliv-
ered.]

The gala event of the conference was the
reception and conference dinner at the
Royal Museum, Edinburgh, a formal ban-
quett in the great hall of the museum, com-
plete with welcoming bagpipers, and an
after-dinner speaker of BBC renown,
Laurie Taylor. Evening socials and dance-
ing at Heriot-Watt were fun-filled as al-
ways, and a “quiz” the first evening was
great fun and very clever. It is this
American’s opinion that our British col-
leagues are far and away superior to us in
the area of having a good time at these
events.

Fellow Americans who attended were
relatively few this year, but some who
attended included Beverley Geer-Butler,
the NASIG president and official atten-
dee, Joseph Gabriel and Becky Breedlove,
both of the Boston area, Don Jaeger of
Alfred Jaeger, Inc., and myself. I can per-
sonally attest that all of us represented
America well in the serious and social
activities in Edinburgh. Next year’s UKSG
will be at the University of Exeter, in that
lovely but hilly cathedral city in mysteri-
ous Cornwall.

Religion in the Twenty-First
Century: SALALM 42 Focuses on
Latin America

by Sharon A. Moynahan (General
Library, U. of New Mexico)

There was a time when polite conver-
sation avoided the topics of Politics and
Religion. These days, politics generates
hours of discussion and religion is being
reevaluated as an important thread in the
fabric of society, especially in Latin
America. Religion and Latin America
in the Twenty-First Century: Libraries
Reacting to Social Change was the theme
of the forty-second Seminar on the Ac-
quisition of Latin American Library
Materials (SALALM) held in Rockville,
Maryland May 17-21, 1997. Librarians
and bookdealers from the United States,
Latin America and Europe met to discuss
mutual goals, challenges and opportuni-
ties to improve library collections and
service. Hosted by the Library of Congress
Hispanic Division, Hispanic Cultural
Society and the Directorate of Acquisi-
tions, the Oliveira Lima Library of the
Catholic University of America and the
University of Maryland, College Park
(Libraries and the Latin American Studies
Center), the conference offered partici-
pants the best of the cultural and academic
resources of the Washington, D.C. area.
Lectures and receptions featured the Or-
ganization of American States’ stately
facilities, the rare book room of the
Oliveira Lima Library, the remodeled
Library of Congress as well as conference
facilities at the hotel.

Panels and lectures which focused on
this year’s conference theme included
noted specialists examining the ever-
changing role of the Catholic Church in
Latin America. Edward Cleary of Prov-
idence College discussed the
Church’s past and current status while Phillip
Berryman of Temple Univer-
sity and Thomas Quigley of
the U.S. Catho-
lic Conference
looked at the
evolving pres-
tence of Liberation Theology and reactions to
it by the Catholic Church, governments and
society. Other speakers addressed the
role of Protestants in Latin America, par-
ticularly the very active Pentecostals and
Judiasm’s impact, notably in Brazil. In
keeping with a librarians’ conference,
many of the panels also focused on library
and archival resources needed to track cur-
cent and historical religious trends and
movements, from the Inquisition to the
near sanctification of Eva Peron.

The major impact of African and indig-
igenous religions was also examined in
considerable depth. Candomble, voodoo,
and santeria were featured in several panel
discussions while the lingering traditions
of Mesoamerican and Andean populations
in modern religious practices completed
the extensive study of religion in Latin
American today.

SALALM is an organization of librari-
ans and bookdealers which provides a
forum for improved collections of Latin
Americana in support of education and
research. In addition to theme panels,
SALALM committee meetings and pan-
els looked at the activities of libraries as
they attempt to increase library collec-
tions in areas that support current research
activities. As usual, electronic matters re-
ceived considerable attention, from the
bibliographers’ and catalogers’ reference librarians’ perspectives. Preservation policies and techniques, the
use of vendor records found on cataloging
utilities, and the need for collection devel-
opment cooperation were also discussed.
Two major cooperative projects spea-
headed by SALALM are the venerable
Latin American Microfilming Project
(LAMP) and the newer ARL/AACU coop-
erative acquisitions project. Working
groups reported on the efforts by major
collections to coordinate collection devel-
opment activities to increase coverage of
all bibliographic resources while coping
with static or shrinking budgets.

SALALM looks forward to next year’s
conference which will be held in San Jose,
for SALALM’s third conference in the
Caribbean will be: Caribbean Studies: Biblio-
graphic Access and Resources for the Past,
Present and Future = Estudios Caribeos: ac-
ceso y recursos bibliográficos para el
pasado, presente y futuro. This conference
will coincide with the centennial of the
Spanish American War and will present
an opportunity to put into perspective the
inter-relations of the islands, colonial-
ism past and present, and the wider world.
Panels will address the bibliography and
library services which support study of and
in the circum-Caribbean at the emergence of the new century.