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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**  
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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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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 au courant 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



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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 conference was the untimely death of one of the scheduled speakers, **Bryan Coles**, Chairman of the **Scientific Information Committee of the Royal Society**. His presentation was to be on "Paper: the Reliable Technology." His place on the program was filled by **Gordon Graham**, publisher of *LOGOS*, past Chairman of **Butterworths Publishing Ltd.**, and one of the most memorable speakers of the **1988 Charleston Conference**. He presented a rich and beautiful speech on the past and future of scholarly publishing, a fitting tribute to Mr. Coles. [See *ATG* v.9#4, September 1995, p. 28-29, 36 for the paper which **Gordon Graham** delivered.]

The gala event of the conference was the reception and conference dinner at the Royal Museum, Edinburgh, a formal banquet in the great hall of the museum, complete with welcoming bagpipers, and an after-dinner speaker of BBC renown, **Laurie Taylor**. Evening socials and dancing at Heriot-Watt were fun-filled as always, and a "quiz" the first evening was great fun and very clever. It is this American's opinion that our British colleagues 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 attendee, **Joseph Gabriel** and **Becky Breedlove**, both of the Boston area, **Don Jaeger** of Alfred Jaeger, Inc., and myself. I can personally 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 mysterious Cornwall.

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

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

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There was a time when polite conversation avoided the topics of Politics and Religion. These days, politics generates hours of discussion and religion is being reexamined 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 Acquisition 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 opportunities to improve library collections and service. Hosted by the **Library of Congress Hispanic Division, Hispanic Cultural Society** and the **Directorate of Acquisitions**, 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 participants the best of the cultural and academic resources of the Washington, D.C. area. Lectures and receptions featured the **Organization 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 **Providence College** discussed the Church's past and current status while **Phillip Berryman** of **Temple University** and **Thomas Quigley** of the U.S. Catholic Conference looked at the evolving pres-

ence of Liberation Theology and reactions to it by the Catholic Church, governments and society. Other speakers addressed the role of Protestants in Latin America, particularly the very active Pentacostals and Judaism'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 current and historical religious trends and movements, from the Inquisition to the near sanctification of **Eva Peron**.

The major impact of African and indigenous 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 librarians 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 panels looked at the activities of libraries as they attempt to increase library collections in areas that support current research activities. As usual, electronic matters received considerable attention, from the bibliographers' as well as the catalogers' and reference librarians' perspectives. Preservation policies and techniques, the use of vendor records found on cataloging utilities, and the need for collection development cooperation were also discussed. Two major cooperative projects spearheaded by **SALALM** are the venerable **Latin American Microfilming Project (LAMP)** and the newer **ARL/AAU cooperative acquisitions project**. Working groups reported on the efforts by major collections to coordinate collection development 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, Puerto Rico, May 23-28, 1998. The theme for **SALALM's** third conference in the Caribbean will be: Caribbean Studies: Bibliographic Access and Resources for the Past, Present and Future = Estudios Caribeos: acceso y recursos bibliograficos para el pasado, presente y futuro. This conference will coincide with the centennial of the **Spanish American War** and will present a good opportunity to put into perspective the inter-relations of the islands, colonialism 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. 🌿

