The 42nd annual Rare Books and Manuscript Section (RBMS) preconference, "The Twentieth-Century," will be held June 12–15, 2001, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.

The preconference will explore the challenges and opportunities we face as builders of 20th-century research collections. The program will examine 20th-century collecting practices, formats, and constituencies, along with the evolutionary cultural and technological changes that bear upon the nature of 20th-century recorded information.

The preconference will offer an assortment of plenary papers, seminars, workshops, and tours. Topics will include: the history of computer science and technology; changes in the patterns of literary collecting; and the relationship between collection building and scholarship. Invited plenary speakers include: Stephen Enniss, Emory University; Marvin Taylor, New York University; and Libbie Rifkin, Folger Shakespeare Library.

Seminar presentations will provide a forum for discussing technical services, collection development, and public service issues, including: online manuscript finding aids; the experience of outsourcing the OPAC; oral history programs and collections; ethical and legal issues involved in donor relations; and subject access to medieval and Renaissance manuscripts.

On Thursday, June 14, conference participants will travel across the Bay for a day at the University of California, Berkeley, and a reception hosted by the Bancroft Library.

The Fairmont, one of San Francisco’s historic, world-renowned hotels, is centrally located on top of Nob Hill at 950 Mason Street on the corner of Powell Street. It offers panoramic views of the city and the San Francisco Bay. Renovated in 1999, the Fairmont has been restored to its original beaux arts design as conceived by the celebrated San Francisco architect Julia Morgan in 1906.

ALA single room rates for the Fairmont will be $186, with double room rates starting at $199 per night. A dorm option will be available at the University of San Francisco, a 20-minute ride on the bus line to Powell Street/Union Square. More information about the Fairmont Hotel can be found at: http://www.fairmont.com/hotels/index_SF.html.

Reservations for the Fairmont Hotel must be made through the ALA Travel Desk at (800) 999-0925 before May 11, 2001. Please identify yourself as an RBMS attendee.

Preconference registration fees will be $195 for ACRL members and $230 for nonmembers. Fees include entrance to all preconference receptions, coffee breaks, papers, and seminars.

Additional details about the 2001 RBMS Preconference are on the RBMS Web site at http://www.rbms.nd.edu/#preconferences. A printed brochure and registration form will be mailed to RBMS members in March. Questions about the preconference can be sent to Katherine Reagan, program chair (kr33@cornell.edu) or to local arrangements co-chairs Theresa Salazar, University of California at Berkeley (tsalazar@library.berkeley.edu), and John Hawk, University of San Francisco (hawkj@usfca.edu).—Katherine Reagan, Cornell University, kr33@cornell.edu

C&RL News ■ February 2001 / 137

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