

Information Guide | Philadelphia in June

Welcome to Rare Book School!

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, the bibliographical community has been supported and nourished by the work of Rare Book School (RBS). From its tentative beginnings at Columbia University, the School has educated two generations of librarians, collectors, academics, conservators, and booksellers, producing a network of loyal alumni, talented faculty, and dedicated friends around the globe. In the process, it has also earned a reputation as the world's premier institution for the study of bibliography and book history. We are delighted that you will soon be a part of that distinguished tradition, and of our School's promising future. We look forward to welcoming you to Philadelphia for your Rare Book School course.

This information guide should answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and other practical matters. Upon arrival, you'll also receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* with additional information to ensure that your stay is as productive and enjoyable as possible. (N.B. Please bring the present guide with you when you come to RBS; it contains valuable information not repeated in the *Vade Mecum*.) In the meantime, we eagerly await your arrival, and look forward to another wonderful session!

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RARE BOOK SCHOOL

114 Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Post Office Box 400103
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4103
telephone: 434-924-8851
fax: 434-924-8824
rbsprograms@virginia.edu
www.rarebookschool.org

RBS in Philadelphia



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, is a city of more than one and a half million, located at the confluence of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers on land originally purchased from the Lenape. A hub for North American cultural, artistic, and intellectual life for more than three hundred years, the city also boasts a central place in the history of print: Benjamin Franklin—arguably the most influential printer in early America—owned and operated various presses here during the eighteenth century.

This year, Rare Book School is excited to contribute to this storied bibliographical history with two courses taught at an exceptional satellite location. The University of Pennsylvania's Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts (3420 Walnut Street, 6th floor; 215-898-7088) will host "Fifteenth-Century Books in Print & Manuscript," taught by Paul Needham and Will Noel, and "The Stationers' Company to 1775," taught by Ian Gadd.

We're excited that you've decided to join us in Philadelphia this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the city, or about RBS generally, please email us at rbsprograms.virginia.edu.

The RBS Week

All RBS students are expected to be in attendance and on time for all regularly scheduled classes, labs, and field trips. This is to ensure the quality and community of RBS as a school, and we insist that participants attend all sessions of their courses, unless presented with the most extraordinary of circumstances. Practically speaking, this involves a full-time commitment of 5–6:45 PM Sunday, 9 AM–5:30 PM Monday through Thursday, and 9 AM–4:30 PM Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5–7 pm **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration and a meal at Sangkee Noodle House (Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel, 3549 Chestnut Street).

Once there, all students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. N.B.—If you plan to attend this event, RSVP by email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) no later than 27 May.

Late arrival: We strongly suggest attending the Sunday night registration, but if you are unable to make it, please email us (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) and let us know. If you do not attend, you will need to register at your course location at 8:45 AM sharp on Monday morning.

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:45 am* **Final Registration (Monday Only)**

Registration for those not in attendance Sunday evening. If necessary, this is also the last good opportunity to obtain wireless connection information from the library staff.

N.B.—Students who did not attend the Sunday Night Opening Reception *must* register before classes start at 9 AM.

9–10:30 am* **First Period**

Classes will take place on the sixth floor of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center at Penn.

10:30–11 am **Morning Break**

Coffee, tea, juice, and other light refreshments served in the lobby.

11 am–12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30–2 pm **Lunch**

Class breaks for lunch. There are several restaurants in the neighborhoods surrounding both locations; for ideas to get you started, consult the short list at the end of this guide (page 6).

2–3:30 pm* **Third Period**

3:30–4 pm **Afternoon Break**

Coffee, tea, juice, and other light refreshments served in the lobby.

4–5:30 pm* **Fourth Period**

TUESDAY, 6 pm **Evening Lecture**

Join your fellow students for an evening lecture, “American Subscription Publishers and German-American Readers” by Lynne Farrington, Senior Curator, Special Collections, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts. A reception will follow in the Class of 1978 Orrery Pavilion, Kislak Center, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, sixth floor.

* Required activities are noted by asterisk

The RBS Week (continued)

FRIDAY, 9-10:30 am* **First Period**

10:30-11 am **Morning Break**

Coffee, tea, juice, and other light refreshments served in the lobby.

11-12:30 pm* **Second Period**

12:30-2:30 pm* **Long Lunch**

Students traditionally treat faculty to lunch.

2:30-4 pm* **Third Period**

4 pm* **Course Evaluations**

Students receive course completion certificates and fill out RBS course evaluations.

4:30-6:30 pm **Farewell Reception**

Friday afternoon classes will break by 4:30 PM for a final reception on the Bennett-Gerschwind Terrace at the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library.

** Required activities are noted by asterisk*

Before you arrive

Reading Lists

All RBS courses have advance reading lists or assignments that RBS instructors expect their students to complete before they arrive. These are outlined at www.rarebookschool.org/reading.

Students should come to class prepared. Those who have trouble locating required readings might try obtaining them through interlibrary loan (ILL), from used or antiquarian booksellers through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA), or online via sites such as www.bookfinder.com or www.vialibri.net.

Arrival & Departure Logistics

When thinking about your transportation arrangements, please remember that staying over Friday night after the last day of class can be an excellent idea, if you can swing it. Early-evening ground and air travel is seldom much fun anywhere, but it can be especially difficult in a major city like Philadelphia. Arriving a day early may also be a good idea, as it can provide an opportunity to settle in, overcome jet lag, &c. RBS first-timers are often surprised by the intensity of the experience, so be sure to get some sleep before classes start!

Problems

Please let us know if you encounter any problems on any front. If such problems occur before you arrive, email (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) or telephone us (434-924-8851, 8:30 AM-5 PM; voicemail after hours). If you encounter issues with tuition payments, contact RBS Accounting Specialist Michael Taylor at 434-243-2920, or by email (michael.taylor@virginia.edu).

Should any difficulties arise during the course, please bring your concerns to a faculty member, a course follower, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Transportation

Air Travel

The major airport servicing Philadelphia is Philadelphia International Airport (PHL; 215-937-6937). It is located almost seven miles from Penn. It is accessible either by car or the airport line on the subway.

Driving to Philadelphia

The main north-south route into Philadelphia is Interstate 95, one of the nation's busiest, and potentially most frustrating highways. Coming from points to the west of the city will usually involve a combination of either I-76 E and I-70 or I-71. No matter what route you take, know that rush-hour traffic can be intense, and parking spaces in Philadelphia are rather pricey.

Taking the Train

If your place of embarkation is on the Northeast corridor it may be more convenient and affordable to use Amtrak (www.amtrak.com; 1-800-872-7245) as your means of travel. Philadelphia's 30th Street Station (PHL) (2955 Market Street, 30th Street Station, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2898) is the city's hub for Amtrak travel and is only a ten-minute walk from Penn.

Getting to Your Course

The Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts is located on the sixth floor of the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, in the heart of the Penn campus. Its main entrance is located on Locust Walk between 34th and 36th Streets.

Accommodations

The most convenient and inexpensive lodgings are available through Penn's Conference Services (215-898-9319; Mon-Fri, 9 AM-5 PM), which offers short-term summer housing in the Penn dormitories. To request housing, visit the Program Costs page on the RBS website, and click on the link to "Penn Hospitality Service," or visit www.rarebookschool.org/pennhousing. All students interested in staying at Penn require a sponsorship letter, which RBS will be happy to provide if you email rbsprograms@virginia.edu to request the letter. There is also the option of staying in a nearby hotel, these include Homewood Suites University City and The Inn at Penn. This year, RBS has blocked off a limited number of rooms at Homewood Suites University City for a discounted rate, (\$189/night). Email rbsprograms@virginia.edu for the link to secure these rooms.

Security

Students will have to pass through security when entering and leaving the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center. RBS will provide a list of student names to speed the process, but please always bring a photo ID with you.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summers in Philadelphia are generally hot and humid, but the weather can fluctuate wildly: it can be 75 degrees one day, and 100 degrees the next. The rooms we use tend to be cool, so if you chill easily under air-conditioning, you should certainly bring a sweater. In general, a light rain jacket or umbrella is also a good idea.

RBS participants are encouraged to come to class prepared, and are required to be on time. Bring a watch. If you wish to take notes, plan accordingly. Pencils, paper, and other supplies are available at nearby convenience stores. Before leaving home, check the course description on the RBS website and the reading list for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.) Other inside tips on what to bring can be found in the previous year's course evaluations, also available on the course webpage.

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

The nearest pharmacy to the Penn Libraries is a CVS (215-662-1333) located at 3401 Walnut Street, a one-minute walk west from the Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center.

The most convenient emergency room is at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, located at 3400 Spruce Street, less than a half mile from the Penn Libraries (non-emergency phone: 212-662-4000).

Incoming Phone Messages and Mail

Phone messages can be left for you most easily at your hotel or bed-and-breakfast.

Guests

Tuesday night's lecture is open to RBS students and their guests. However, given the size of the classes this week, the Friday closing reception will be students and faculty only.

Lost & Found

If you lose something in Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center, please note that valuable items are handled differently than non-valuable items. Wallets, cell phones, and similar valuable belongings are turned in to the Library Business Office on the second floor, Room 240, and can be picked up there Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM. If the lost item includes any identifying information, staff from the Business Office will attempt to contact you directly.

Articles of clothing, books, and similar non-valuable items are turned in at the Rosengarten Reserve Desk in the Goldstein Undergraduate Study Center and held there one day before being moved to a secure area for two weeks. Please call 215-546-3181, or visit the Reserve Desk on the ground floor.

Privacy

RBS publishes a list of its participating students in the *Student's Vade Mecum*. If you do not want your work information or email address to appear there, please indicate this in your myRBS profile.

Connecting to the Internet

Students will be provided a temporary login by Kislak Center staff.

Philadelphia Restaurant Guide

Philadelphia has one of the most varied restaurant cultures in the country. There is also a wide variety of food truck options, some of which may be found at <http://roaminghunger.com/phl/>. Some highly recommended trucks also come to Drexel University as well as Penn. The entries below should give you a good start.

Near Penn

Baby Blues BBQ. 3402 Sansom Street (215-222-4444). Barbeque. Open Mon–Wed, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Thu–Sat, 11:30 AM–11 PM; Sun, 12:30 PM–10 PM. \$10–\$20.

Bobby's Burger Palace. 3925 Walnut Street (215-387-0378). Burgers and Shakes. Open daily, 11 AM–10 PM. Under \$10.

Distrito. 3945 Chestnut Street (215-222-1657). Mexican fare. Open daily, 11:30 AM–10 PM. Entrees \$10–15.

Doc Magrogan's Oyster House. 3432 Sansom Street (215-382-3474). Seafood. Open Mon–Tue, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Wed–Thu, 11:30 AM–1 AM; Fri–Sat, 11 AM–2 AM; Sun, 11 AM–9 PM.

Greek Lady. 222 South 40th Street (215-382-2600). Greek fare. Open daily, 9 AM–11 PM. Under \$10.

Han Dynasty. 123 Chestnut Street (215-922-1888). Sichuan fare. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM. Entrees \$10–\$20.

HipCityVeg. 214 South 40th Street (267-244-4342). Counter-serve vegan cafe. Open daily, 11 AM–11 PM. Under \$10.

Kilimandjaro Restaurant. 4317 Chestnut Street (215-387-1970). African fare. Open Mon–Sat, 11 AM–12 AM; Sun, 12 PM–12 AM. Entrees \$20–\$30.

New Deck Tavern. 3408 Sansom Street (215-386-4600). Pub fare. Open daily, 11 AM–1 AM. Entrees \$10–\$15.

Pari Cafe Creperie. Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street (215-222-6500). Crepes. Open Mon–Fri, 8 AM–10:30 PM; Sat–Sun, 11 AM–10:30 PM.

Pattaya Thai Cuisine. 4006 Chestnut Street (215-387-8533). Modern Thai fare. Open for lunch Mon–Fri, 11 AM–3 PM; Dinner Mon–Thu, 5 PM–9:30 PM; Fri–Sat, 5 PM–10:30 PM; Sun, 5 PM–9:30 PM. \$10–\$15.

Potbelly Sandwich Shop. One Convention Avenue (215-382-0549). Counter-serve sandwiches. Open Mon–Fri, 6:30 AM–9 PM; Sat–Sun, 7 AM–7 PM. Under \$10.

Sabrina's Cafe. 227 North 34th Street (215-222-1022). New American cafe. Open Sun–Mon, 8 AM–4 PM; Tue–Thu, 8 AM–9 PM; Fri–Sat, 8 AM–10 PM. \$10–\$20.

Sang Kee Noodle House. 3549 Chestnut Street (215-387-8808). Chinese fare. Open Sun–Thu, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–11:30 PM. Entrees \$10–15.

Sitar India. 60 South 38th Street (215-662-0818). Indian fare. Open Wed–Thu, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 11:30 AM–10:30 PM; Sun–Mon, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Closed Tuesday. Buffet \$10–\$15.

The Fat Ham. 3131 Walnut Street (215-735-1914). Southern small plates. Open Tue–Thu, 5 PM–10 PM; Fri–Sat, 5 PM–11 PM; Sun, 4 PM–9 PM; Closed Monday. Entrees \$10–\$15.

White Dog Cafe. 3420 Sansom Street (215-386-9224). Eclectic fare. Open Mon–Thu, 11:30 AM–9:30 PM; Fri, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Sat, 10 AM–10 PM; Sun, 10 AM–9 PM. Entrees \$20–35.

Zavino. 3200 Chestnut Street (215-823-6897). Italian fare. Open Mon–Fri, 11:30 AM–10 PM; Sat–Sun, 11 AM–10 PM. Entrees \$20–\$30.

* Closed Sunday evenings