

RARE BOOK SCHOOL

Travel & Housing Guide

Winter 2011 Session at the Walters Art Museum

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Walters Art Museum

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Baltimore • FIRST EDITION

A Message from the Director



Michael Suarez in UVA Special Collections, September 2009.

PHOTO: JANE HALEY

Paul Needham, William Noel, the staff of Rare Book School (RBS), and I are excited that you are coming to study with us this winter at the Walters Art Museum. In collaboration with his colleagues and friends, my predecessor Terry Belanger—who founded RBS at Columbia University in 1983, moved it to the University of Virginia (UVA) in 1992, and developed it into the premier institution for the study of bibliography and book history—created and sustained a marvelous academy whose impact on the world of books is far-reaching indeed. For more than a quarter of a century, the bibliographical community has been supported and nourished by RBS. From its tentative beginnings in NYC, the School has educated two generations of librarians, collectors, academics, and booksellers, producing a network of loyal alumni, talented faculty, and dedicated friends around the globe. Terry’s creative vision, unremitting dedication, and sheer tenacity built an organization that is poised to have a highly significant and salutary impact on the community for many years to come. I am delighted that you will soon be part of our distinguished tradition and of our future filled with promise.

The RBS staff and its world-class faculty constantly aim to ensure that the School will continue to be a center of academic and professional excellence in the classroom and of enlivening conversation and genuine community during our social time together. Last summer, we had record enrollments in our Charlottesville courses; now, we are pleased to afford you the opportunity of a lifetime: to study 15th-century books with Paul Needham and William Noel at the Walters.

We’ve designed this *Travel & Housing Guide* to answer most of your questions about transportation, housing, and related matters.

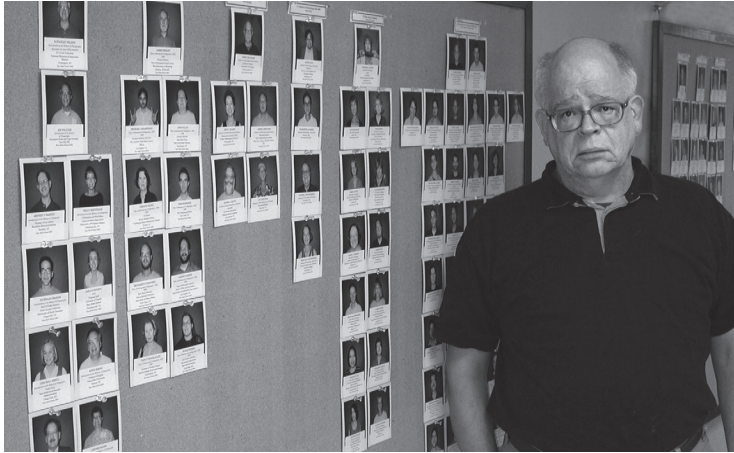
Upon arrival, you'll also receive a copy of the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum* with additional information to help ensure that your stay is as productive and enjoyable as possible. Please bring this guide with you when you come to RBS; it contains information not repeated in the *Student's Vade Mecum*. Welcome!

MICHAEL F. SUAREZ, S.J.
5 December 2010

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The RBS Week



Terry Belanger poses in the RBS "mug shot hallway" for a 2005 publicity photo.

RARE BOOK SCHOOL attracts a professionally diverse community of students who tend to return to the school. Terry Belanger, founding director of RBS, used to estimate that more than half of the school's students had attended RBS at least once before.

It's nice to welcome old friends back, but we encourage returning and new students alike to read this guide in preparation for the course.

All RBS students are expected to be in attendance on time for all of the regularly scheduled classes, labs, and field trips of the courses that they are attending. This is to ensure the quality and community of RBS as a school, and we insist that participants attend all sessions of all courses, unless under the most extraordinary of circumstances. Practically speaking, this involves a full-time commitment of 8-5:00, Mon-Thur, and 8-4 on Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

SUNDAY, 5 pm **Student Registration**

The Walters Art Museum

Students will register with Rare Book School in the Seminar Room, where they will receive the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum* and name-badge. We will also take your picture for a bulletin board near the seminar room to help us all connect each other's names and faces as quickly as possible.

Daily Breakfast

Students should have breakfast on their own before arriving at the Walters Art Museum main entrance just before 8:30 am each morning.

MONDAY, 8:30-10:00 am*

Because the Walters Art Museum does not open to the public until 10:00 am (and is closed to the public all day Monday and Tuesday), students must enter through what is essentially the back door, at 5 West Mount Vernon Place, a few houses to the east of the front door of the Engineering Society, all day Monday and Tuesday and before opening hours (10 AM) during the rest of the week.

** Required activities are noted by asterisk*

MONDAY through THURSDAY

8:30–10 am* **First Period**

10:00–10:30 am **Morning Break**

Refreshments are available within a short walking distance from the Walters Art Museum. You can find coffee close by at Milk & Honey (816 Cathedral Street). The Museum Café is open Wednesday through Friday for refreshments as well.

10:30–12:00 pm* **Second Period**

12:00–1:30 pm **Lunch**

There are several restaurants in the neighborhood. Students will find open restaurants listed in the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum*.

1:30–3:00 pm* **Third Period**

3:00–3:30 pm **Afternoon Break**

Refreshments available from local vendors.

3:30–5:00 pm* **Fourth Period**

EVENING ACTIVITIES

MONDAY, 5:30 pm **Evening Lecture**

John Buchtel, Director of the Special Collections Research Center at Georgetown University will present a lecture, *Books by Rail: The Baltimore & Ohio Employes' Free Circulating Library* in the Parlor Room of the Walters Art Museum. Please check the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum* for more information.

TUESDAY, 5:30 pm **Tour of Peabody Institute Library**

Students will be given a tour of the Rare Book room at the Peabody Institute Library. Check the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum* for information about the tour.

WEDNESDAY, 5:30 pm **Tour of Digitization Lab at WAM**

Students will be given a tour of the NEH funded digitization labs at the Walters Art Museum. Check the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum* for information about the tour.

FRIDAY

8:30-10 am* **First Period**

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

Refreshments available from local vendors.

10:30-12:00 pm* **Second Period**

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

Classes break for a long lunch. Students will find open restaurants listed in the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum*.

2:30-3:40 pm* **Third Period**

3:40 pm* **Course Evaluations**

Students receive course certificates and fill out RBS course evaluations. You will be asked to evaluate both course content and various elements of the organization of RBS as a whole. The remarks of your entire class will be gathered together and published on the RBS website. We're grateful for your comments, and we pay careful attention to them in planning future RBS sessions.

4 pm **Farewell Reception**

RBS will host a reception in the Parlor Room at the Walters Art Museum from 4-5:30 pm on Friday afternoon.



Chamber of Wonders at the Walters Art Museum

PHOTO: PATRICK O'BRIEN

Before You Arrive

Reading Lists

All RBS courses have advance reading lists or other assignments that RBS instructors expect their students to complete before they arrive for class. The reading lists for most courses are available on the RBS website: www.rarebookschool.org/reading.

Students should come to class prepared. Students who have trouble locating required readings might obtain them through a variety of sources, including inter-library loan (ILL), used and antiquarian booksellers, through the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America (ABAA) at www.abaa.org, or via online books services like www.bookfinder.com and www.vialibri.net. If you discover as your course approaches that you are going to be unable to get to the advance reading, please consider withdrawing from the course and reapplying in another session when your schedule eases.

Logistics

When thinking about and working on your transportation arrangements, please remember that staying over Friday night after your last day of class is an excellent idea, if you can possibly swing it. Baltimore early-evening ground and air travel on Fridays is seldom much fun. First-timers at RBS are often surprised at the intensity of the experience. Get some sleep before you come, if you can.

The Walters Art Museum

The Walters Art Museum is located at 600 North Charles Street in the heart of Baltimore's Mount Vernon District. See the Walter's website for information about the most convenient subway and bus stops (http://thewalters.org/visit_plan_museum/planavisit_parking.aspx).

Transportation to Baltimore

Baltimore is well-served by its local airport, BWI, and it is about an hour's drive from either of the major airports in Washington, DC. (Note: when comparing prices between flights into BWI with flights into Dulles or National, don't forget to factor in the cost of ground transportation from Washington to Baltimore.) MTA's light rail provides a direct and inexpensive link from BWI to Mount Vernon Place (the Centre Street stop is three blocks west of the Walters Art Museum) and Baltimore's Penn Station. In addition, Baltimore's Penn Station (located about a mile north of Mount Vernon Place and the Walters Art Museum) sits along Amtrak's northeastern (Boston-Washington-Richmond) service route. (The MTA no. 3 bus [north on Charles, south on St Paul] connects the Amtrak station and Mount Vernon Place [to the south] and the Homewood campus of Johns Hopkins University [to the north].)

Hotels

If you will need hotel accommodation, your best bet may be to go onto one of the many websites specializing in competitively priced travel arrangements, and see what you can turn up. For a full list of hotels in the vicinity of the Walters Art Museum, see the enclosed folding map under “Accommodations,” nos. 210-217.

The most inexpensive lodging option is the Peabody Inn and Elderhostel (reservations: 410-659-8100 ext.3085). The Inn is located right on MtVP, across the street from the Walters Art Museum and a short walk from the Engineering Society of Baltimore building. Visit www.peabody.jhu.edu/elderhostel for details about the Inn. Students staying here may check in no earlier than 4 pm on Sunday. Please note: there is no internet access at the Elderhostel. The closest full-service hotel is the Peabody Court Hotel (www.peabodycourthotel.com). Other attractive (though expensive) possibilities within walking distance of the Walters Art Museum include the two jointly owned Tremont Plaza and Tremont Park hotels (www.tremontsuitehotels.com/).

Bed-and-Breakfasts

If you prefer bed-and-breakfast accommodations, look online at sites, such as <http://www.bedandbreakfast.com/baltimore-maryland.html>.

Advance Advices

Here follows general advice and comfort about Rare Book School courses at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

Incoming Phone Messages and Mail

Phone messages can probably be left for you most easily at your hotel or bed-and-breakfast, but messages may also be left at the office of Will Noel (410-547-9000 x253). Mail and non-emergency telephone messages coming into the Walters Art Museum will be delivered to students in class.

Outgoing Phone Calls

Short, local calls may be made at the Visitor Information Desk.

Email and the Internet

Bringing laptops to class is discouraged. Please note that there is no Wi-Fi access on the Walters Art Museum campus.

Guests

You are welcome to invite guests to attend the Monday night lecture, Tuesday and Wednesday evening tours, and the Friday afternoon reception.

Privacy

RBS publishes a list of its participating students in the *RBS Student's Vade Mecum*. If you do not want your address information to appear in the *Vade Mecum*, please contact RBS's Program Director, Amanda Nelsen, a week in advance of the course.

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Fall and winter temperatures fluctuate widely in Baltimore: it can be 60°F one week

and 20°F the next. The rooms we will be using at the Walters Art Museum tend to be maintained at a cool temperature; if you chill easily under refrigeration, bring a sweater.

RBS participants are encouraged to come to class prepared, and they are required to be on time. Bring a watch. If you wish to take notes, plan accordingly. Pencils, paper, and other supplies are available nearby. While RBS faculty may occasionally assign homework, it is unnecessary to bring a computer. Before leaving home, check both your course homepage and reading lists for specific instructions on what to bring. It is not always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading, so be sure to refer to the course information on the RBS website. Additionally, you may find it helpful to read previous course evaluations online for information about what to bring. In general, a light rain jacket (and/or umbrella) is useful.

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

The nearest 24-hour pharmacy to MtVP is a Rite Aid located at 250 West Chase Street, a half-mile to the northwest of the Walters (telephone: 410-752-4473).

The most convenient emergency room is at Maryland General Hospital, 827 Linden Ave (non-emergency telephone: 410-225-8000).

Problems

If you encounter problems with tuition, please contact Danielle Culpepper using the information on the inside front cover of this *Travel & Housing Guide*. During class, please bring any concerns or questions you have to the faculty.

Lost and Found

Consult the Visitor Information Desk in the Centre Street Lobby at the Walters Art Museum for lost items at 410-547-9000, ext. 264.



The Walters Art Museum

PHOTO: BALITMORE BY PHOTOS

Sunday Restaurant Guide

There are any number of good and/or interesting restaurants in Baltimore, including good lunch and dinner spots in the vicinity of the Walters building. For a detailed discussion of local restaurants, purchase a copy of the Zagat survey of Washington DC/Baltimore restaurants, or go online to www.mvcd.org and click first on “Places to Go” and then on “Restaurants.” Consult your *RBS Student’s Vade Mecum* for a discussion of restaurants within walking distance of MtVP.

Useful Sites

Amtrak

www.amtrak.com

Airports

Baltimore/Washington International
www.bwiairport.com

Dulles International and Reagan National
www.metwashairports.com

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)

www.mtmaryland.com

Mount Vernon Cultural District

www.mvcd.org

Rare Book School

www.rarebookschool.org

Walters Art Museum

www.thewalters.org

