

Information Guide | Upperville

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 Upperville for your Rare Book School course.

This *Information Guide* will provide general information about what to expect during your course week. 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 take your RBS course; 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
University of Virginia
Post Office Box 400103
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4103
Telephone: 434-924-8851
rbsprograms@virginia.edu
www.rarebookschool.org

RBS in Upperville

UPPERVILLE, VA is a small town, founded in the 1790s, with a population of around 1,000. It is located in close proximity to Washington D.C. and is home to a number of historic Thoroughbred horse farms.



In addition to these attractions, Upperville is also home to the Oak

Spring Garden Foundation (OSGF). The foundation was established in 1993 by Rachel Lambert “Bunny” Mellon to preserve and share her gardens and significant library collection of materials related to botany, horticulture, landscape design, and natural history. The work of the Oak Spring Garden Foundation brings visiting scholars to the Oak Spring estate for scholarly and artistic research using Mrs. Mellon’s collection and gardens.

This year, the Oak Spring Garden Foundation will host the Rare Book School course “Six Hundred Years of Botanical Illustration” taught by Peter Crane, Roger Gaskell, and Amy Meyers (who will be providing instruction virtually). We’re excited that you’ve decided to join us in Upperville this summer, and we want to do all we can to deliver an exceptional educational experience. If you have any questions about the course, 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 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday. Please make your travel plans accordingly!

MONDAY **Opening Reception**

RBS students will convene for registration. We encourage you to plan your arrival at OSGF for between 1 and 4 p.m. Students will receive a copy of the *Student's Vade Mecum* and a name badge. A light dinner will be served with a welcome talk at 6 p.m.

Late arrival: Please do plan to arrive on Monday and not Tuesday morning. If you do meet with delays, please email us (rbsprograms@virginia.edu) or call the RBS main office (434-924-8851) and let us know.

TUESDAY through THURSDAY

Details of the schedule may vary from day to day to accommodate guest speakers and activities. Class on Friday will conclude early.

8–8:30 a.m.* **Breakfast**

RBS students may convene for breakfast.

8:45–10:15 a.m.* **First Period**

10:15–10:30 a.m.* **Morning Break**

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.* **Second Period**

12–1 p.m. **Lunch**

1–2:30 p.m.* **Third Period**

2:30–3 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

3–5 p.m.* **Fourth Period**

FRIDAY

8–8:45 a.m. **Breakfast**

RBS students may convene for breakfast.

9–10:30 a.m. **First Period**

10:30–10:45 a.m. **Morning Break**

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m. **Second Period**

12–1 p.m. **Lunch**

1 p.m. **Student Departure**

Evening Events

Details about dinners and evening events are forthcoming. At least one of the dinners will involve a group trip to a nearby restaurant.

* *Required activities are noted by asterisk*

Before You Arrive

Reading Lists

Most 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 plan to arrive at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation between 1 and 4 p.m. on Monday, though any time on Monday evening will be fine as well. Participants must check out of Oak Spring on Friday afternoon at the conclusion of class.

When you arrive at OSGF, you will need to check in with security at the entrance. They will provide directions for arriving at your check-in point.

Parking is available on site for free. Instructions regarding where to park will be provided upon arrival. If you are driving, please plan to send the color, make, model, and license plate of your vehicle ahead of time to rbsprograms@virginia.edu to aid in the security check in process.

Wifi and Phones

Wifi is available in the classroom space and in student rooms. OSGF is in a rural location, so the connection can be slightly slow, but it does work. Please be aware that cell phone reception can be spotty.

Problems

Please let us know if you encounter 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, an RBS staff member on site, or contact us at Rare Book School.

Accommodations

Accommodations for RBS students will be provided by the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Given the remote, rural location of OSGF, all participants must stay in the on-site accommodations. If you have not yet received an email from RBS staff with the registration form and instructions for paying the \$800 housing and food fee, please email rbsprograms@virginia.edu.

Transportation

The address for the Oak Spring Garden Foundation is 1776 Loughborough Ln, Upperville, VA 20184. There is no public transportation to this location, so you will need to drive or take a cab or ride share (such as Uber or Lyft) to the site.

Air Travel

The closest airport is Dulles International Airport (IAD), located 30 miles from Oak Spring Garden Foundation (<https://www.flydulles.com>). Alternative options include Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (<https://www.flyreagan.com/>) located approximately just over an hour from Oak Spring and Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (<https://www.bwiaairport.com>), approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes from Oak Spring. We *strongly* recommend that you plan your trip to arrive at Dulles as it makes the cab or ride share trip to the Oak Spring Garden Foundation much easier.

Driving to Upperville

The main highway into Upperville is US Route 50 / John S Mosby Hwy. Another option would be to take US Route 17 / Winchester Rd.

Taking the Train

The two closest Amtrak stations include Manassas station (9431 West Street, Manassas) and Washington Union Station (50 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington DC). Manassas Station is approximately 33 miles from Oak Spring. Washington Union Station is located 70 miles from Oak Spring, when avoiding toll roads. From these stations, one can either rent a car, order an Uber/Lyft, or find another means to travel the remaining distance to your accommodations in Upperville.

Advance Advices

What to Bring

At RBS, dress is business casual for all events. Summer in Upperville can range from mild to warm, with average temperatures ranging from the 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the daytime to 69 degrees at night. *With these temperatures and classroom comfort in mind, please pack appropriately.* In general, bringing comfortable shoes and an umbrella is also a good idea. The accommodations at Oak Spring will be stocked with linens, but students should plan to bring their own toiletries, including shampoo.

RBS participants are expected 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 and the reading list on the RBS website for specific instructions on what to bring. (It is not, for instance, always necessary to bring copies of your advance reading.)

Pharmacies & Medical Facilities

The nearest pharmacy is a Safeway located at 12 W Washington St (540-687-6438), approximately 8 miles from Oak Spring. The next closest pharmacy is Walgreens at 761 E Main St, Purcellville (540-751-0962), located approximately 19 miles from Oak Spring. The nearest hospital emergency room is located at Warren Memorial Hospital at 351 Valley Health Way, Front Royal (540-636-0314). This hospital is approximately 30 minutes from Oak Spring. As always, if you need immediate help, dial 911.