CONTRIBUTORS

Lesley Brown is an Assistant Reference Librarian and Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Prior to her work as a Public Services Librarian, she was the Information and Communications Officer at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia. She has published on student mentoring and reference service models. Her current research focuses on the research and help-seeking behavior of college students.

Michele Christian is the Archivist and Special Collections Librarian for the South Dakota State University Library. Before working for South Dakota State University, she was the Collections Archivist and University Records Analyst for the Special Collections Department of the Iowa State University Library. Prior to that, she was the Labor Archivist at the State Historical Society of Iowa. She has written articles on various topics including managing artifacts in archives and using oral histories in collection development. She received her MA in history and MLIS from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

Lori Dekydtspotter is the Head of Technical Services at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, where she has worked since 1996. Lori also teaches two courses for the Department of Information & Library Science, Indiana University, in the history of libraries and rare books cataloging. Her current research, with her colleague Cherry Williams, focuses on the importance of special collections outreach, especially with grades K–12, and the use of primary sources.

Cherry Dunham Williams, curator of manuscripts, has been with the Lilly Library at Indiana University, Bloomington since 2009. Before coming to the Lilly, she was Special Collections Librarian for the Sciences at the UCLA Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, History and Special Collections for the Sciences, 2007–2009. In addition, Ms. Williams is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Information and Library Science, where she teaches classes in the History of the Book and manuscript studies, as well as a member of the core faculty of MEST, the Medieval Studies Institute program at IU. She has completed rare book school coursework at the London Rare Book School at the University of London, CALRBS at UCLA, and the Rare Book School of Virginia, where she was recently awarded her Certificate of Proficiency in the Specialized Area History of Medieval & Early Modern Books & MSS. Currently, in collaboration with a Lilly colleague, she is engaged in developing outreach programs to introduce K–8 students to medieval book production and the use of primary sources as well as digital surrogates for the study of medieval manuscripts.
Sarah Passoneau is the Education Librarian/Assessment Coordinator at Iowa State University Library. She has presented nationally and internationally on a variety of library assessment topics. The research described in this issue is the outcome of a rigorous fruitful five-year collaboration with Michele Christian. This project has garnered national interest. Both Michele Christian and Sarah look forward to growing this project across multiple institutions.

Jae Jennifer Rossman is the Assistant Director for Special Collections at the Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library at Yale University. She previously worked at the library of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Brandeis University Libraries. She holds master’s degrees in Library and Information Science from Simmons College and in Modern History and Literature from Drew University. She is the proprietor of the jenny-press, which aims to further critical literature on book art by publishing the Book Arts Essay series.

On the Cover:
“”The Party,” hand-colored wood engraving from: The Little Traveller, or, A Sketch of the Various Nations of the World : Representing the Costumes, and Describing the Manners and Peculiarities of the Inhabitants: Embellished with Fifteen Beautifully Coloured Engravings by J. Steerwell. (London: Dean and Munday, Threadneedle-Street, [ca. 1830]). The copy of the book from which this illustration is taken is in the Cotsen Children’s Library, part of Princeton University Library’s Rare Books & Special Collections Department.

This illustration was also reproduced on the website and print brochure for a Cotsen Library conference at Princeton on September 11-13, 2013, titled, “Putting the Figure on the Map: Imagining Sameness and Difference for Children.” The conference explored how children’s books were important vehicles for the expression of senses of national identity during the nineteenth century, a time when the world seemed to shrink, thanks to improved communications and transportation that facilitated travel, whether for commerce, conquest or leisure. Similarly the wonders of the world could be brought into the home via photography, maps, travel writing, and fiction. The representation of foreign lands inevitably required the illustration and description of their residents, which gave rise to a rich repository of colorful images of diversity. Through a tangle of national types, stereotypes, and archetypes, children’s books shaped discourse as much as they reflected mainstream adult culture.

Exploring these themes, and others, this interdisciplinary Cotsen conference featured presentations that drew on the approaches of imagology, history, anthropology, psychology, and literary criticism, to discuss modes of expression arising that either targeted children, within or without the classroom, or appropriated discourses for them, to present competing, complimentary or contradictory images of foreign nations.

For more information about the Cotsen Library or this conference, visit the Cotsen website: http://www.princeton.edu/cotsen/