

ABS Bulletin

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BAHÁ'Í STUDIES—NORTH AMERICA

27th Annual Conference plans are underway

Plans are proceeding for the 27th Annual Conference of the Association, to be held 29 August–1 September 2003 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott. There is still time to submit proposals for presentations and workshops, but don't delay because the deadline is almost here!

This year's theme is "Religion and Community in a Time of Crisis." The theme statement is posted on the conference page of the ABS Web site, <www.bahai-studies.ca>. Proposals must include (1) an abstract or description of the presentation you wish to present (250–400 words), (2) biographical information about the presenter, and (3) current address,

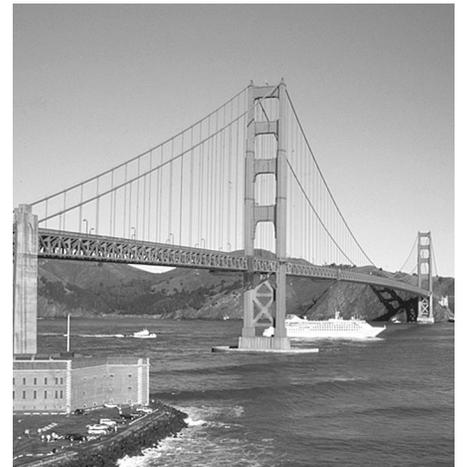
phone number, and e-mail address. Presentations must be substantially original work, unpublished and not previously presented. Papers will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*. The deadline is **15 April 2003**. Send proposals to: Association for Bahá'í Studies, 34 Copernicus St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1N 7K4; fax: 613-233-3644; e-mail: <abs-na@bahai-studies.ca>. The Special Interest Groups of the Association, which will be meeting at the conference, are also seeking presentations. Their calls for papers, and updates on the conference, will be posted on the Web site as they become available. ☛

First international conference on Bahá'í libraries and archives held

The First International Conference on Bahá'í Libraries and Archives was held at Landegg International University, 2–4 January 2003. This historic conference was attended by 31 individuals from 16 countries who came together to share their experiences, to learn about best practices in Bahá'í libraries and archives, and to begin developing a structure for world interaction among those who handle and organize Bahá'í library and archival materials.

The conference was convened by Landegg International University and Barbara Geisey, the University's

visiting librarian. The conference opened with a wide-ranging keynote address by William P. Collins, former director of the Bahá'í World Centre Library and currently at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The address, entitled "Challenges and Myths: Making Libraries and Archives Relevant in the Bahá'í Community," provided observations on the process of establishing functioning Bahá'í libraries and archives, key challenges ahead that will need attention after the conference, and some of the "myths" that may bedevil us along the way.



Don't miss the boat this year! Come to the Annual Conference (San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photo)

Solutions to these problems will come from consultation and the involvement of other colleagues not present at the conference.

Friday began with a session on a number of themes. Graham Hassall of Landegg University surveyed current developments in Bahá'í archives and libraries. Louise Mould, the current director of the Bahá'í World Centre Library, discussed the origins, development, collections, and current challenges of the Bahá'í world's premier library. Pauline Tuttle, from Canada, reviewed indigenous audiovisual col-

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Libraries and archives conference

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lections and archival development from an ethnomusicological perspective.

The following session reviewed case studies of the establishment of libraries. Jan Jasion from France proposed minimum standards and requirements necessary for the establishment of national Bahá'í libraries. Masoud Rowshan presented an overview of the development of Australia's national Bahá'í library and made proposals for developing the library further. Guido Cooreman of Belgium presented a case study of the establishment of that country's Bahá'í library, which is unlike the others covered in the conference because it also serves as a lending library for the community.

The third session of the day was dedicated to case studies in the establishment of archives. Anita Graves, archivist for the National Spiritual Assembly of Cyprus, reviewed the results of her survey on the present state of Bahá'í archives in Europe, which showed the significant challenges facing the continent's Bahá'í institutions. She also shared a paper by Necati Alkan on the Bábí and Bahá'í religions in Ottoman Turkish sources, detailing some of the treasures hidden in Ottoman archives.

Margaret Anderson followed with an overview of the Australian Bahá'í archive and its use of non-Bahá'í professional consultants to establish their archival program on a sound basis. Australia's archive is a very good illustration of how Bahá'í institutions with no professional resources within the community might go about setting up their archives. Günter Maltz discussed the practical methods for arranging and housing the German Bahá'í archives. Virginia R. da Costa, a trained archivist and the sole attendee from Latin America, provided a portrait of the establishment and current

state of the national Bahá'í archives in Brazil, which faces many environmental challenges.

There were two sessions on 4 January. The first was a panel, moderated by William Collins, on the issue of intellectual control, i.e., cataloging, classification, description, and indexing. J. Michael Kafes described the current efforts to complete and computerize Marian Lippitt's "Worlds of God" index, a means of analyzing and indexing implicit subject content in the Bahá'í Writings. Peter Wise presented a simple classification used in the Irish Bahá'í Bookshop based on categories in Eunice Braun's *A Reader's Guide: The Development of Bahá'í Literature in English*. Paul Gerard, a library cataloger and classification expert from Australia, has spent several years developing a complete revision of the religion (200) section of the Dewey Decimal Classification. The resulting classification schedule eliminates the current Dewey bias toward Christianity and treats all religions equitably. The classification also provides sufficient depth for all religions, including the Bahá'í Faith, so that Bahá'í libraries have a means of treating all religions in a Bahá'í manner and of cataloging a specialized Bahá'í collection. Follow-up discussion revolved around relative merits of choosing to follow the Bahá'í World Centre Library's classification based upon the Library of Congress, the revised Dewey 200s classification by Mr. Gerard, or one of the other classifications that has been developed. There was also considerable discussion about the inadequacies of simple



Attendees at the First International Conference on Bahá'í Libraries and Archives (Photo by Graham Hassall)

keyword searching of the Writings, and the importance of subject analysis like that being conducted for the "Worlds of God" project.

The final presentation session of the conference covered issues in collection development. Moojan Momen spoke on the challenges facing the Afnan Library, a privately managed research library in the United Kingdom that has also been designated a depository library for U.K. Bahá'í publications. Ailsa Hedley, archivist and records manager at the Bahá'í

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The *ABS Bulletin* (ISSN 0840-6138) is published quarterly by the Association for Bahá'í Studies, a nonprofit scholarly organization with 1576 international open memberships and 165 institutional memberships. The Association promotes scholarship on all aspects of the Bahá'í Faith; holds conferences and seminars on promising research fields; develops courses, lectureships, and other formal presentations relating Bahá'í principles to scholarly research fields; and publishes books, as well as the refereed *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*.

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Association for Bahá'í Studies
34 Copernicus Street
Ottawa, ON
Canada, K1N 7K4
Tel. 613-233-1903
Fax 613-233-3644
E-mail: abs-na@bahai-studies.ca
Web site: www.bahai-studies.ca

International Affiliates

Cameroon

The second Cameroon Bahá'í Academy took place on 26 October 2002 at the Regional Bahá'í Centre, Yaoundé. The purpose was to promote, and serve as a forum for, the presentation of research into the Bahá'í Teachings, and to serve as a forum for interaction between Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í scholars. The 28 participants, including one non-Bahá'í, came from Buea, Douala, Dschang, Soa, and Yaoundé.

The key research paper, "Cameroonian Tribal and Family Meetings and the Bahá'í Teachings," was presented by Chongwain Nkuo, a teacher at the Post and Telecommunication School. After his presentation there was an evaluation of his work by the members of a jury made up of David Nkwenti, Head of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Yaoundé; Martyn Sama, an epidemiologist; and Georges Mbenda Behalal, a computer specialist. Other topics presented but without scrutiny of a jury were: "Research Methodology," by Martyn Sama; "Bahá'í Scholarship," by Ferdinand Nkouaga; and "The Culture of Research," by Daniel Nkemleke, a teacher in a school for Advanced Studies.

David Nkwenti, Head of the Department of Anthropology, said he intended to get some of his students to conduct research into the Bahá'í Teachings and anthropological issues.

After each presentation many questions were asked, and at the end there were expressions from the participants of the hope to see a multiplication of opportunities to delve more into the Writings, to learn to write for the Faith, and to contribute in the search for avenues to present the Faith to academia.

The key paper will be published in the December 2002 volume of the Cameroon Bahá'í Studies journal, and the other papers, if finances permit, used to start a new publication of less dense nature.

—*Report by Enoch N. Tanyi*

South Africa

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies in Southern Africa was held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 27-30 December 2002, on the theme "Creating a Culture of Learning." Presentations included "Creating a Culture of Learning" (Sylvia Kaye); "The Concept of Religious Democracy: An Introductory Bahá'í Perspective on the Democracy of the Conscience" (Enos Makhele); "Poetry: The Fruits of the Ancestors" (Bonnie Moore); "Spirituality" (Robert Sarracino); "Science, Religion, and Development" (Farhad Aghdasi); "African Culture and the Bahá'í Faith" (Gloria Maikano); "The Life of Florence Marumo" (Japhta Robodiba); "The Mystery of Sacrifice—A Dramatic Presentation" (Nava Bastani); "Some Reflections on Mount Carmel in the Context of the 'International Year of the Mountains'" (Khoeli Pholosi); "Health, Healing in the Bahá'í Context" (Parastu Meidany); "The Internet and Knowledge Management for the Bahá'í Faith" (Roy Steiner); "Music: A Ladder for the Soul" (Sylvia Schulman); "Some Aspects of Mashriq'u'l-Adhkárs" (Massoud Derakhshani); "Consider Your Enemies as Your Friends: The Agony of Search and the Ecstasy of Discovery" (Roselyn Mazeboke); and "Worship" (Ms. Tobeka).

For more information on the papers that were presented at this

conference visit the Web site of the ABS in Southern Africa, at <www.bahaistudies.org.za>. ☪

Course on ethics and economics at University of Bari

Officials at the University of Bari, Italy, have established a permanent course on ethics and economics that is based on Bahá'í principles and have appointed a well-known Bahá'í businessman as its coordinator.

Titled "Ethics and Economy: Towards a New World Order," the course consists of ten seminars focused on essential Bahá'í values such as consultation, justice and ethics, equality, universal education, and the unity of science and religion as they relate to the world of business and economics.

The University has appointed Giuseppe Robiati as the coordinator of the course. Mr. Robiati is a businessman with extensive experience in engineering and business management, and in the fields of human resources and economics.

Mr. Robiati is also a member of the European Bahá'í Business Forum (EBBF), which played a key role in helping to establish the course.

The University of Bari is the second largest university in Italy. The Ethics and Economics course is scheduled to begin in March 2003.

The initiative evolved from series of workshops and presentations by Mr. Robiati at the University in the 1990s.

—*Bahá'í World News Service*

Barbara Sims made contributions to Bahá'í Scholarship in Asia, Pacific

After steadfastly serving at her pioneer post in Tokyo, Japan, since the beginning of the Ten Year Crusade (1953), Barbara Rutledge Sims ascended to the Abhá Kingdom on 24 April 2002, at the age of 84. At that time she was the National Bahá'í Archivist and had just published her personal memoir, *In the Light of the Rising Sun: Memoirs of A Bahá'í Pioneer to Japan*.

The Universal House of Justice wrote the following tribute to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Japan:

"We were deeply distressed to learn of the passing of dearly-loved Barbara Rutledge Sims, whose devoted services to the Cause over a period of more than five decades will long be remembered. The distinguished record of her many contributions to the development of the Japanese Bahá'í community since her arrival in 1953 can well be a source of inspiration to the friends in Japan.

"Among its outstanding features was her membership of the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, and subsequently that of Japan, for a total of 36 years, including an extensive period of service as Secretary. She authored several books setting out the history of the Faith in Japan, Macau, Korea and Taiwan, culminating in the publication of her memoirs early in 2002. She was well known for her devotion to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh and her unswerving commitment to the promotion of its interests.

"Kindly convey to her family and friends our condolences and the assurance of our prayers in the Holy Shrines for the progress of her luminous soul in the worlds beyond. You are advised to hold memorial gather-

ings in her name in your principal Bahá'í Centres. —The Universal House of Justice."

Mrs. Sims's books on the history of the Faith in Asia are widely read and have been placed on the World Wide Web at <www.bahai-library.org/east-asia>, where they are among the most downloaded material on this site.

When no funds were available, she published the books at her own expense after approval by the National Spiritual Assembly of Japan, then donated copies to the countries discussed.

In addition to her personal memoir, her publications include: *History of the Bahá'í Faith in Japan 1914–1938* by Agnes R. Alexander (edited by Barbara Sims; Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan, 1977); *Traces that Remain: A Pictorial History of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Faith among the Japanese* (Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan, 1989); *The Macau Bahá'í Community in the Early Years*. (Tokyo, 1991); *Japan Will Turn Ablaze: Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Letters of Shoghi Effendi, and the Universal House of Justice, and Historical Notes about Japan* (compiler; Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan, 1992); *The Taiwan Bahá'í Chronicle: A Historical Record of the Early Days of the Bahá'í Faith in Taiwan* (Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Taiwan, 1994); *Selected Communications from the Universal House of Justice Concerning the North East Asian Area Including Japan* (compiler; Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan, 1994); *Raising the Banner in Korea: An Early Bahá'í History* (Tokyo, 1996); and *Unfurling the Divine Flag in Tokyo: An Early Bahá'í History* (Bahá'í Publishing Trust of Japan, 1998).



Barbara Rutledge Sims

Mrs. Sims was also an active supporter of the Associations for Bahá'í Studies and presented papers at conferences in both Japan and North America.

She gave three presentations at the annual conferences of the Association for Bahá'í Studies–North America. In 1995 (San Francisco) she spoke on "Hand of the Cause, Miss Agnes Alexander (1875–1971)" and in 1996 (Edmonton) on "Early Ainu Believers of Japan."

In 1997 (Washington, D.C.) she participated in a special colloquium consisting of two panels discussing the Spiritual Axis in Asia/Pacific, presenting on "The Significance of the Spiritual Axis and the Development of the Bahá'í Faith in the Asia-Pacific Region." This paper was her final presentation.

During a visit to Japan, Hand of the Cause Rúhíyyih Khánum, who frequently corresponded with Mrs. Sims and gave her little gifts, joked lovingly about Mrs. Sims's steadfastness: "Barbara is just like Mount Fuji—always here!" she said.

Although no longer with us physically, her spirit will continue to inspire us through her many contributions to Bahá'í scholarship in Asia/Pacific.

—Sandra Sims Fotos

Association for Bahá'í Studies

27th Annual Conference

“Religion and Community in a Time of Crisis”

29 August–1 September 2003

San Francisco Airport Marriott, Burlingame, California, USA

Please register for EACH person attending the conference,
by fax to 1-613-233-3644, by phone to 1-613-233-1903,
or by mail to 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1N 7K4

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____

Country: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Association for Bahá'í Studies Membership Expiry Date: _____ Life Member:

If this registrant is a child, please indicate age: _____ Do you have any special needs? _____

Four-Day (Full Conference) Fees

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	
Individual Adults	\$70	\$120*	By May 31
	\$80	\$130*	By July 31
	\$90	\$140*	After July 31
Couples	\$120	\$180*	By May 31
	\$130	\$190*	By July 31
	\$140	\$200*	After July 31
Seniors (65+)/ Students/ Unwaged <small>(couple rate available)</small>	\$60	\$85*	By May 31
	\$70	\$95*	By July 31
	\$80	\$105*	After July 31

*This fee includes a one-year membership in the Association for Bahá'í Studies, including a year's subscription to the Journal of Bahá'í Studies and ABS Bulletin, and discounts on ABS publications and conferences. (Canadian memberships are charged at the Cdn. currency rate)

Children/Pre-youth (ages 5–15)	\$50
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REGISTRATION FEES

☞ Please circle one fee.

**ALL CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FEES ARE IN
U.S. DOLLARS**

(*see note at left about membership fee portion)

Total Fees: _____

Scholarship Contribution: + _____
(Add any amount)

GRAND TOTAL: = _____

Method of Payment

- Cheque Money Order
 VISA MasterCard
 American Express

Credit Card Number

Credit Card Expiry Date

Cardholder's Name (please print)

Cardholder's Signature

One-Day Fees

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER	
Individual Adults (any category)	\$20	\$25**	By July 31
	\$25	\$30**	After July 31

**This fee does not include membership.

Children/Pre-youth (ages 5–15)	\$20
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CANCELLATION POLICY: Registration fees are refundable, less 10% administrative fees if the Association is notified by August 15, and less 20% administrative fees if notified after August 15.

LOCATION & RESERVATIONS

The site chosen for this year's Annual Conference is the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, located on San Francisco Bay, one mile from the San Francisco International Airport. The hotel provides a complimentary 24-hour airport shuttle, and a reduced hotel parking rate has been negotiated for conference attendees.

**Address: San Francisco Airport Marriott
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010**
(Note: There are several Marriott hotels near the airport so be sure you have the right one!)



The San Francisco Airport Marriott

**Special conference room rate: Single/double occupancy: US \$89 per night (plus tax)
Triple/quad occupancy: US \$99 per night (plus tax)**

Conference attendees must make hotel reservations directly with the hotel.
To receive the special rate you must ask for the BAHÁ'Í STUDIES special conference rate when making your reservation.
Toll-free Reservations: 1-800-228-9290 Local Reservations: 650-692-9100

Please note: ABS has been guaranteed a block of rooms at this rate until 15 August 2003. After that date, reservations may be accepted on a space-availability basis at the negotiated rate. To ensure that you obtain the low rate, be sure make your reservations as soon as possible, and no later than 15 August.



The Palace of Fine Arts (San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photo)

TOURISM AND ENTERTAINMENT

The conference hotel is located about twenty minutes from downtown San Francisco, with its legendary attractions including Chinatown, Ghirardelli Square, Fishermen's Wharf, Golden Gate Park, and the Golden Gate Bridge. To the south, Silicon Valley and Stanford University are a short drive away, and the University of California, Berkeley, is just across the Bay. For those who have time to explore farther, Half-Moon Bay, Santa Cruz, Bosch Bahá'í School, as well as picturesque Monterey and Carmel-by-the-Sea are within reach.

ROOM SHARING

Reduce your conference costs (and make new friends!) by sharing a room at the hotel. ABS will assist by giving those who wish to find a roommate contact information, but leaves the responsibility of contacting to the interested parties. If you would like to be put on the room-sharing list, please fill out the form below. NOTE: attendees must make their own hotel reservations.

- I wish to be put on the room-sharing list.
I am: Male / Female
Age preference: _____
My arrival date: _____
My departure date: _____
I would like to share a room with: 1 / 2 / 3 others



*Next Stop: the ABS Annual Conference!
(San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photo)*

News from the Centre for Bahá'í Studies

Recent publications by ABS members

Suheil Bushrui, University of Maryland: *The Wisdom of the Arabs* (Oneworld, 2002).

Charles V. Carnegie, University of Maine: *Postnationalism Prefigured: Caribbean Borderlands* (Rutgers University Press; 2002).

Sandra Fotos, Senshu University, Japan: (coeditor) *New Perspectives on Grammar Teaching in Second Language Classrooms* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates) and (coeditor) *New Perspectives on CALL (Computer-Assisted Language Learning) for Second Language Classrooms* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, forthcoming in Fall 2003).

John Hatcher and Amrollah Hemmat, University of South Florida: *The Poetry of Ṭáhirih* (George Ronald, 2002).

Lowell Johnson and Edith Johnson, South Africa: *A History of the Ten Year Crusade in Southern Africa* (CD-ROM), a research document on the establishment of the Faith in Southern Africa; and *Heroes and Heroines of the Ten Year Crusade in Southern Africa* (May 2003). Both titles are available from the South African Publishing Trust, <bpt@bahai.org.za>.

Brian Leopard, University of Nebraska: *Rethinking Humanitarian Intervention: A Fresh Legal Approach Based on Fundamental Ethical Principles in International Law and World Religions* (Penn State University Press, 2002).

Augusto Lopez-Claros, London: *Fiscal Policy Issues During the Transition in Russia* and *The Baltic Countries: From Economic Stabilization to EU Accession* (IMF Occasional Papers); (coauthor) "Economic Reforms: Steady as She Goes" (*The Washington Quarterly* Winter 2002); "Bringing Stability to

Russia" (*The Financial Times*, London, 18 Dec. 2001); "Swapping Soviet Debt for Russian Progress" (*The Wall Street Journal* 23 Aug. 2002).

Michael Penn, Franklin & Marshall College: (coauthor) *Overcoming Violence against Women and Girls: The International Campaign to Eradicate a Worldwide Problem* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).

Let us know of your recent publications so we can share that information with the membership.

The Journal of Bahá'í Studies

The latest issue of the *Journal of Bahá'í Studies*, which has been delayed, will be published shortly. Volume 12, Number 1/2 will include the following articles: "Creation" by Lasse Thoresen; "The Three Stages of Divine Revelation" by Guy Sinclair; "Resilience in Children: Within a Social, Spiritual, and Neurobiological Perspective," by Hoda Mahmoudi and Nasim Ahmadiyah; and "Apocalypse and Millennium: Catastrophe, Progress, and the Lesser Peace" by William P. Collins; as well as reviews

of *The Saddlebag* (review by Phyllis Perrakis) and *The Lab the Temple and the Market: Reflections at the Intersection of Science, Religion, and Development* (review by Glen Eyford).

Call for papers on the Covenant

The *Journal of Bahá'í Studies* invites the submission of papers for an issue on the topic of the Covenant. Aspects of the topic may include, but are not limited to, the following: the Covenant as a way of ordering reality; history and theological implications of the Covenant; answering objections to aspects of the Covenant; the station and authority of the Universal House of Justice; the Guardianship and succession in relation to the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá; "firmness in the Covenant"; the Covenant and scholarship, professions, sexuality, politics, economics, the environment, etc. Articles should be prepared according to the *JBS* guidelines for authors, which can be downloaded at <www.bahai-studies.ca>, and may be submitted electronically to <editor@bahai-studies.ca>. ☪

ABS Mid-Atlantic Area Committee presents

"THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT: FAMILY, COMMUNITY, THE WORLD"

An Interactive Conference

Saturday, 29 March 2003 • 9:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M.
The College of New Jersey in Ewing

Keynote speakers: Michael Penn, Martha Schweitz • Interactive breakout sessions with facilitators Patricia Romano, Evelyn Grammar, Jeffrey Huffines, Ian Rozdilsky, and Elinor Mattern will focus on Family, Community, Environment, Arts, and the World • Registration fee includes lunch and Author's Alley where Bahá'ís and their friends can offer their books and artwork for sale • For more information, contact Janet Richards, Registrar, <janetrich@aol.com>

Calendar of Events

Art and Soul Conference

20–23 March 2003

Baylor University

Waco, Texas, USA

Contact Institute for Faith and Learning, Baylor University, P. O. Box 97270, Waco, TX 76798 USA; tel.:

254-710-4805; e-mail:

<IFL@baylor.edu>; Web site:

<http://www3.baylor.edu/Rel_Lit/>

“The Future of Conflict: Family, Community, the World”

ABS Mid-Atlantic Committee

Spring Conference

29 March 2003

The College of New Jersey

Ewing, New Jersey, USA

Contact Janet Richards, Registrar,

e-mail: <janetrich@aol.com>

“Blacks and Asians in the Making of the Modern World: A Conversation across Fields”

11–13 April 2003

Boston University

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Contact Ronald K. Richardson,

Director, African American Studies,

Boston University, 138 Mountfort

Street, Brookline, MA 02446 USA

27th Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í

Studies–North America

29 August–1 September 2003

San Francisco Airport Marriott

San Francisco, California, USA

Contact Parvin Rowhani, Conference

Coordinator, Association for Bahá'í

Studies, 34 Copernicus Street, Ottawa,

ON K1N 7K4 Canada; tel.: 613-233-

1903; e-mail: <[abs-na@bahai-](mailto:abs-na@bahai-studies.ca)

[studies.ca](mailto:abs-na@bahai-studies.ca)>

Annual Conference of ABS–Japan September 2003

Tokyo Bahá'í Center

Tokyo, Japan

Contact Sandra Fotos, e-mail:

<sfotos@gol.com>

Libraries and archives conference

Continued from page 2

World Centre, explained the relationship of records management to archives. Richard Hollinger, an archivist from the United States, outlined the problems and challenges posed for archives by electronic communications such as e-mail. Dharlene Valeda of Canada discussed electronic online libraries, specifically the Bahá'í Academics Resource Library developed by Jonah Winters (<www.bahai-library.org>). Jonah Winters himself prepared a brief statement about the origins, development, and future directions of the resource library.

The conference papers will be available on the Landegg Web site <www.landegg.edu/main.cfm?SID=438>.

This historic conference was also a working conference that brought together national Bahá'í archivists from Switzerland, Germany, Australia, Brazil, and elsewhere, as well as a national Bahá'í librarian from Belgium and a Bahá'í school librarian from the Townshend School in the Czech Republic.

As part of the work of the conference, the attendees consulted during two evening sessions on specific steps that could be taken to carry forward the momentum of consultation and development generated by the conference.

The group made two important decisions. The first decision was to form a working group composed of Michael Bernhard (Bahá'í World Centre), Parvine Foroughi (Bahá'í World Centre), Ailsa Hedley (Bahá'í World Centre), Richard Hollinger (U.S.), Jan Jasion (France), Günter Maltz (Germany), Dharlene Valeda (Canada), and Peter Wise (Ireland) to (1) articulate basic standards and requirements for establishing Bahá'í libraries and archives at various levels, which can be shared with Bahá'í institutions, communities and interested individuals; and (2) develop a training plan for professional and volunteer staff in Bahá'í libraries and archives, and for the Bahá'í institutions that oversee those libraries and archives.

The second decision was to form a World Association to Promote Bahá'í Libraries and Archives (tentative

name). William Collins was selected as its first president, with Ailsa Hedley and Dharlene Valeda as additional board members. These officers will develop a draft charter for approval, coordinate the efforts of the Working Group, prepare plans to handle membership, and plan further development of the association's communications methods, e.g., e-mail group, revised Web site, and a regular news vehicle such as *Scriptum* <www.bcca.org/librarians/Scriptum/>. Additional working groups or projects will be discussed, including the desirability of a world Bahá'í bibliography.

The attendees hope to meet again in 12 to 18 months to exchange further information, review progress, and make additional substantive decisions.

Further information about the association can be obtained from William Collins, e-mail: <wpc09@hotmail.com>, or in due course from the Web site <www.bcca.org/librarians/>.

—*Report by William P. Collins*