

THE ARLIS/New York News



Art Libraries Society of New York
a regional chapter of ARLIS/North America

vol. 4 no.1 1980

FEBRUARY MEETING OF ARLIS/NEW YORK

CARTOON AND CARICATURE ARTS

Date: Tuesday, February 3, 1981

Place: Whitney Museum of American Art,
945 Madison Ave, NYC

Time: Refreshments, 5:45 to 6:30, in
the Whitney Museum Trustees' Room,
5th Floor; lecture, 6:30, Whitney
Film and Video Auditorium

Speakers:

Ray Smith is owner of the R. Smith
-- Bookseller bookstore in New Haven,
Connecticut. He is currently writing
and researching a book to be published
by Garland -- A Bibliography of American
Graphic Humor, 1865-1945 -- which will
be the subject of his lecture at the
ARLIS/New York meeting.

Mort Gerberg is a professional free-
lance cartoonist whose work appears regu-
larly in the New Yorker, the New York
Times, among other publications, and
includes a syndicated cartoon strip
carried by the Chicago Tribune-New York
News. Mr. Gerberg will discuss contem-
porary cartooning.

J.C. Soares is an art director,
illustrator and author responsible for
over 40 books. He is a regular contri-
butor to the New York Times, for which he
was the former art director and creator
of the Op-Ed page as currently designed.
Mr. Soares will lecture on political
caricature.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRPERSON FOR 1980

Since this is my last column in the
capacity of Chairperson, I would like to
bring you up to date on ARLIS/New York
activities.

At the annual business meeting on
October 28, the Nominating Committee

presented the slate of officers for 1981.
No nominations were offered from the
floor. Ballots were mailed to all the
members, and over 60 were returned.
It's now official -- the ARLIS/New York
officers for 1981 are as follows:

Chairperson	Evelyn Samuel
Chairperson-Elect	James Findlay
Past Chairperson	Donya Schimansky
Secretary	Lorraine Weberg
Treasurer	Celine Palatsky
Members-at-large	GraceAnne de Candido Rebecca Siekevitz

This has been an exciting but also
an exhausting year. I would never have
been able to accomplish this task if I
did not have the encouragement and sup-
port of all the ARLIS/New York Executive
Board members. In the name of all the
membership, as well as in my own, I would
like to express deep appreciation to
Evelyn Samuel, for having planned such ex-
cellent programs; to Lorraine Weberg, for
giving us such interesting and lively re-
ports and for doing the Chapter's admin-
istrative work in such a competent manner;
to Celine Palatsky, for keeping the books
balanced and the organization out of the
red; and to Deirdre Stam, our editor,
for her untiring efforts in almost single-
handedly getting out the newsletter.

The large turnout for the annual
awards meeting was most gratifying. The
citations for excellence were presented
for a variety of categories -- from exhi-
bition catalogs to posters, from familiar
subjects to novel ones.

The quality of the work represented
by the winners is impressive indeed, and
the judging by the Awards Committee pre-
sented quite a challenge. Final selec-
tion was based upon the quality of docu-
mentation in combination with visual
appeal; a treat for the mind and the eye.

In short, although the pace was hec-
tic, I have many happy memories of 1980.
See you next year!

Donya Schimansky

BUSINESS BRIEFS

At the annual business meeting on October 28 at the Metropolitan Museum:

PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON EVELYN SAMUEL said that her main thrusts for the 1980 programs had been twofold: the participation of the membership and joint meetings with other groups. The "works-in-progress" program gave our own members a chance to shine, and should be continued in the future, while the data base program involved participation on another level. The joint programs on prints with the New England Chapter and art thefts with SLA gave the chapter a chance to reach out to other groups with common interests.

Thanks to Program Committee members May Fitzgerald, James Findlay, and Celine Palatsky.

Thanks to Hospitality Committee members Eleanor Townsend, Marion Wolf, and Susan McWilliams.

And the biggest thanks to the Chapter members for showing up!

TREASURER CELINE PALATSKY read the year-end financial report, and it was unanimously approved by the membership.

SECRETARY LORRAINE WEBERG reported a total 1980 membership of 113, slightly down from 1979. While membership is naturally concentrated in the New York area, we do include members as far away as Kansas, Ohio, and Nova Scotia. In addition, the ARLIS/New York News has gone "coast to coast," with subscriptions to the Columbia School of Library Service in New York and the Stanford University Art Library in California.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR DEIRDRE STAM said that the newsletter was started under David Patten as a vehicle for communication, an informal exchange of information. Lately, it has been getting a bit "dry" because the membership hasn't been communicating enough. Write in! Let us know what you're doing and give us your opinions. The newsletter can only be as lively as we make it.

PROFESSIONAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON JAMES FINDLAY thanked members Sonja Bay, Patricia Barnett and Joanne Polster for their work in the past year. The Committee's work has been in two areas: the establishment of a data bank for information on standards, articles of professional interest, and so forth, perhaps to be published; and the establishment of a committee for professional standards on a national level.

ARLIS/NA SECRETARY CLIVE PHILLPOT reported briefly on the San Francisco conference, and urged members who are going to stay at the conference hotel, since this helps the national organiza-

tion financially.

ARCHIVES CHAIRPERSON LORRAINE WEBERG reported that, due to efforts on the part of past Acquisitions Committees, the Archive material now represents over 200 galleries and museums in the New York area, which is double the number represented in the original Archive that was transferred to the Fashion Institute in 1976. In fact, more storage space is needed.

CHAIRPERSON DONYA SCHIMANSKY reported that plans for the Metro seminar on art resources are going forward. The Executive Committee has approved the idea and details are now being worked out.

Lorraine Weberg
Secretary, ARLIS/New York

NEW MEMBERS

ARLIS/New York is happy to welcome the following new members who joined the Chapter in December:

James Ross Day	Goldwater Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Melissa Menthe	Kilmer Area Library, Rutgers University
Rona Roob	Museum of Modern Art

NEWS OF MEMBERS

DORALYNN PINES has changed jobs within the Metropolitan Museum. Since June, she has been the Acquisitions Librarian and Bibliographer in the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Met.

The ARLIS/New York News

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738-5455.

MICHELANGELO: THE BOOK

Members who attended the annual business meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on October 28 had an opportunity not only to view the spectacular work The Vatican Frescoes of Michelangelo, but also to meet its publisher, Robert Abrams of Abbeville Press.

Published at an American selling price of \$4,500, the work consists of two volumes, plus a portfolio of 18 plates. The project was a cooperative effort by Abbeville in New York, Times Books in London, and Kodansha in Japan. Mr. Abrams said that, of the limited edition

of 600 copies, the 200 copies allotted to Japan had sold out in 10 days, and that 75 of the 100 English edition copies had sold out in two days. Very few of the American edition copies were still left, he said, but because he feels so strongly that the work belongs in museums and institutions, he promised to reserve 20 copies at the current price for six months for institutions.

Mr. Abrams described the laborious process involved in photographing the frescoes over a period of six months, plus another six months of color corrections. This process, plus the high quality color photo-technology used in printing the plates which were each tipped in by hand, led to staggering production costs. Mr. Abrams feels that the book reveals Michelangelo in a way never revealed before, except to those who have actually been on the scaffold in the Vatican. These are some of the most reproduced items in the world, he said, and yet the reaction to seeing the plates is as if the viewer has never seen the works before. He called the experience "a terribly exciting revelation."

In the question and answer period which followed, Mr. Abrams was asked why the plates had been destroyed, and if a less expensive edition couldn't have been produced. Mr. Abrams replied that the book is a work of art, and opportunity to own a collection of Michelangelo's imagery in the finest reproduction possible. A limited edition was announced, and that had to be respected.

Mr. Abrams expressed some surprise that more libraries had not acted quickly when the publication of the book was announced. It is a long-term educational process, he said, for libraries to know and to identify those trustees or individuals who could act as benefactor to enable the library to act quickly when an opportunity such as this arises.

One of the biggest problems for a publisher, he said in conclusion, is to find a reliable way to judge the market for such undertakings. The size of a press run could be estimated through advance orders, but how many libraries would be willing to commit themselves in advance without seeing the work? A substantive mechanism is needed, and Mr. Abrams welcomes a continuing dialogue with librarians.

Lorraine Weberg
Secretary, ARLIS/NY

1981 CHAPTER DUES

Your renewal notice for 1981 is included with this newsletter issue. Please take a moment now to fill in the form and mail your check. The Chapter counts on

your support for the publication of the newsletter, for financing Chapter meetings, and for funding special projects.

Your contributions above and beyond the \$6.00 for dues are especially welcomed and appreciated. Remember -- it's tax deductible.

Special thanks to the following members who made contributions to the Chapter in 1980:

Gabriel Austin	Richard Martin
Regina Brauer	Pearl Moeller
Allan D. Chapman	Celine Palatsky
Christiane Collins	David J. Patten
Mary M. Cope	Evelyn Samuel
Connie Corson	Donya Schimansky
Ann-Marie Cutul	Jeanne Shedd
Brian J. Gold	Rebecca Siekevitz
James Humphry III	Suzana Simor
Michael Kolakowsky	Deirdre Stam
Marcia Laszlo	Nancy Volkman
Deirdre Lawrence	Lorraine Weberg
Merrill Lishan	Margaret Zorach
Arnold Markowitz	

GRIBBLE CLIPPING COLLECTION

Harry Wagstaff Gribble reports that his clipping collection is available for acquisition. It consists of approximately 40 linear feet consisting of articles from Art News, Art in America, etc., arranged first by the artist's year of birth, then by name. It could be of interest to the small college or museum library. For information call 212-688-3587.

SEVENTH ANNUAL AWARDS MEETING

Over 55 members and guests gathered at the CUNY Graduate Center on Tuesday evening, December 2, for the seventh annual ARLIS/NY awards meeting. After an extremely pleasant social hour, members and guests witnessed the presentation of calligraphic citations to:

THE KENNEDY GALLERIES -- for their 1979 exhibition catalogs, The Eyes of America and Drawings by Elihu Vedder, "for the consistently high quality of design and reproduction." Larry Fleischman, Director, accepted the award on behalf of the Kennedy Galleries. In his acceptance speech, he cited the importance of art libraries in the "art experience."

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART -- for its 1979 publication, The Age of Spirituality, "for a remarkably complete and impressive scholarly publication on an important era in our cultural history." Margaret Frazer, curator of the exhibition, accepted the award, saying that it

is important for museums to receive recognition for purely scholarly activity.

THE DRAWING CENTER -- for its 1979 exhibition catalog, Visionary Drawings of Architecture and Planning, "for the imaginative presentation and documentation of architectural design." Prof. George Collins accepted the award on behalf of all the individuals who helped in the exhibition. He said that librarians are holding together our inheritance even more than landmark preservation and trusts.

THE ASIA SOCIETY -- for its 1979 exhibition catalog, Journey of the Three Jewels, "for concise and scholarly information presented in a well-designed format with quality reproductions." Accepting the award was Robert Mowry, curator of the Mr. & Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd Art Collection.

GOETHE HOUSE NEW YORK -- for its 1979 publication, Simplicissimus, "for its outstanding contribution to cultural history through the imaginative documentation of a great satirical picture magazine." Mr. Henri Marks, member of Goethe House, and responsible for mounting the exhibition and publishing the catalog, accepted the award, saying that in honoring Goethe House ARLIS was honoring the people who made the catalog possible.

THE NEUBERGER MUSEUM OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE AT PURCHASE -- for its 1979 exhibition catalogs, Will Barnet: Twenty Years of Painting and Drawing and 10 Artists: Artists' Space, "as outstanding and well-designed examples of its publication program." In accepting the award, Suzanne Delehanty said that she was a firm believer in the printed word, and that the publication of exhibition catalogs enables an exhibition to go beyond its limited time and place to be available any time.

BROOKS ALEXANDER, INC. -- for its 1979 exhibition catalog, Alex Katz: Face of the Poet, "for a well-conceived and designed publication showing an excellent combination of literary and visual content." Due to a lecture commitment, Mr. Alexander Brooke could not be present to accept the award, but he had asked Ms. Schimansky to read his statement.

THE SWIRBUL LIBRARY GALLERY OF ADELPHI UNIVERSITY -- for its 1979 exhibition catalog, Hand Bookbinding: The Art & Craft, "for matching content and design with the spirit of the exhibition." ARLIS/New York member Erica Doctorow accepted the award for her library, and introduced Bruce Schnabel and Prof. George Strachan who helped with both the exhibition and the catalog.

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY -- for its 1979 exhibition catalog and poster of Henri Cartier-Bresson:

Photographer, "for the impressive design and quality of the reproductions reflecting the spirit of the exhibition." Bedrich Grunzweig accepted on behalf of the ICP. He said that the catalog is now being published in Europe, in English, French, and German editions. The show was a great success, he said, but "the catalog will live forever."

Calligraphy of the awards citations was done by Tiina Sahni, slide curator at the SUNY Purchase library.

Special thanks to the awards jury for their combined efforts in examining, evaluating, and deciding which of the many excellent publications should be singled out for commendation. The members of the awards jury this year were: Francis Bonduant, cataloger, NYU Institute of Fine Arts; Cornelia Corson, head of cataloging, SUNY at Purchase; May Fitzgerald, librarian, Whitney Museum; Raissa Fomerand, head librarian, Sleepy Hollow Restorations; and Paula Frosch, cataloger, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Special thanks also to Marcia Laszlo and Paula Frosch, without whose help with acquisitions the pickings for the awards jury would have been slimmer indeed!

Lorraine Weberg
Secretary, ARLIS/NY

RUTGERS PROGRAM ON VIDEO

On May 15, 1981, Rutgers GSLIS in cooperation with the University Libraries and the Graduate School of Education will present a program on new video technology and its application in education, libraries and information centers. For information contact Jana Varlejs, Rutgers GSLIS, 4 Huntington St., New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08903. Tel. 201-932-7169.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ARLIS/New York is always in need of volunteers to work on the Archives, to prepare refreshments, and even to type the newsletter. If you would like to further the cause of art librarianship or just to meet some kindred spirits, do consider giving some time. Everyone is welcome. There is work enough for all.

