

# THE ARLIS/New York News



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

Vol. 5 No. 2 1982

## Ninth Annual Awards Meeting.....

Tuesday, May 11 at 6 p.m.

at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Guest Speaker ~ GEORGE LOWRY (Swann Galleries)

PLEASE USE MAIN ENTRANCE 5th Ave & 82 St



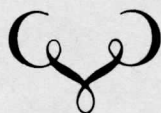
### ELECTION NEWS

The voice of the membership has been heard! In an unprecedented return of ballots (probably due to having an actual choice of candidates), the Chapter elected DANIEL STARR Vice-Chairperson/Chairperson-Elect for 1982. Warmest congratulations to Daniel, and many thanks to both candidates for a race well run.

Sherman Clarke tells us that the following item appeared in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum Newsletter (Vol.5, No.2, Winter 1982):

"The Art Libraries Society of New York cited the Museum for 'witty and imaginative treatment of unusual subject matter' in four recent catalogues: Hair, Tsuba, Tiles, and The Oceanliner. The Tsuba catalogue, which documents the Cooper-Hewitt's collection of Japanese sword guards and fittings, also received the 1981 Merit Award of the Art Directors Club...."

The Cooper-Hewitt catalogues received calligraphic citations in the Museum category at the Eighth Annual Awards Meeting last May.



# From the Chair

I write my first "From the Chair" column from a Chair into which I have at last settled relatively comfortably, with a lot of help from my friends. Our first meeting in the elegant setting of the Center for Inter-American Relations was a revelation to me -- how many small behind-the-scenes activities go on to guarantee an apparently effortless production! With advisors to encourage and support, and Eleanor Townsend's guacamole to sustain, I must confess I actually enjoyed the meeting. I think all of us found it pleasant to take a trip outside our library world to learn of something very old (and very new) -- and this from such great heights!

The Nominating Committee did such a splendid job that a slate of two candidates was proposed for the special election to fill the post of Vice-Chairperson/Chairperson-Elect. Our thanks to both Daniel Starr and Sonja Bay for agreeing to run. It was very encouraging to have a real election and to see how greatly the voting participation by the membership increased. (Note: See ELECTION RESULTS, p. 1)

An ad hoc committee has been formed to investigate the handling of the ARLIS/New York Archives at F.I.T. and its relation to the annual Awards. (Needless to say, the Acquisitions Committee has been hard at work and much material is awaiting sorting and eventual cataloging.) The preparation of the Checklist and the criteria for cataloging are among the questions to be considered by the ad hoc committee. Daniel Starr, Janette Rozine, Lorraine Weberg, Cheryl Wachter, and I will be reporting to the Executive Committee as soon as possible with recommendations. The final result of all this reappraisal and decision-making will then be reported to the membership.

At the ARLIS/NA sessions in Boston, I had an opportunity to meet with the Chairs of various chapters. It was a most interesting interchange, which stressed similarities and problems even more than divergencies. I raised the question of the Federal proposal to downgrade librarian's positions. (Note: See the following article.) Although

all the chapters were aware of the proposal, only the DC/Maryland/Virginia Chapter had taken action, in the form of letters from the members and a letter from the union. Their Chairperson agreed to send me a copy of their letters, and to keep me informed of any further action they plan to take. Karen Muller, Chairperson of ARLIS/NA, said that a letter would be sent from the National office. The L.I.C.B., Vol. 41, No. 4 (Jan. 22) had a short article about the proposed changes which appeared to be mainly an attempt to allay the fears of current employees.

As one of the largest chapters within ARLIS/NA it is necessary that we lodge a formal protest to this affront to our profession. This is a particularly dismaying proposal in a time of the "New Federalism," when we, too, often find ourselves in a state of fiscal stress and psychological isolation. The "private sector" to which we must look for support turns out to be each other. It is vital that we maintain our standing as a group of skilled professionals. All chapters across the country have voiced concern about efforts to expand membership and to increase participation in chapter activities. I feel very keenly that this is a matter of great importance to our own chapter. As an organization of professionals, we have a wide variety of strengths and skills. These should be utilized as fully as possible for the benefit of the chapter and its members. I hope that, with the support of the ARLIS/New York Executive Board and all those who have been so generous with their time, I shall be able to continue in the elegant tradition of my predecessors and help to keep ARLIS/New York a vital and growing organization.

Paula Frosch  
Chairperson, ARLIS/New York

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UPCOMING METRO PROGRAMS:

May 18 Librarian Burn-Out

May 21 Commercial Binding

Contact METRO Office for details.  
(212) 398-0290

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## ARLIS/NY speaks out

Those members who missed the item in the February 1 issue of Library Journal about the Office of Personnel Management's proposal to downgrade federal librarians were shocked to hear Donya Schimansky's report at the February 16 Chapter meeting. Much concern was expressed at the Boston conference about the proposal and its possible ramifications in other public sectors.

At an emergency meeting of the ARLIS/New York Executive Board on March 11, the Board and the Professional Concerns Committee voted unanimously to urge each of the members of the New York Chapter to write to the Office of Personnel Management to protest. A letter was prepared and sent to each of the members to sign and forward to Washington as quickly as possible.



## Archive Committee meets

The new ad hoc committee to study the present status of and future considerations for the ARLIS Archives at F.I.T. held its first meeting of March 25. Committee members Paula Frosch, Daniel Starr, Janette Rozene, Cheryl Wachter, and Lorraine Weberg quickly reached the conclusion that the Archive cannot be abandoned. Reasons cited were that: F.I.T. has made a serious commitment of time and space to the project; that the Archive and the awards are the main professional activity of the Chapter; that the work is unique; and that the material contained in the Archive, much of it ephemeral, will increase in value for scholars and researchers.

Much lively discussion then ensued regarding the cataloging of the material, and, since the two are inextricably linked, the publication of the Checklist. There was no question that the cataloging and indexing procedure currently in use is both too complicated and too time-consuming. This, in turn, delays publication of the Checklist. The first (and last) issue

covered 1975 material. The 1976 Checklist was prepared but never printed due to lack of interest when the announcement of its imminent publication was placed in the ARLIS/NA Newsletter. Fewer than ten orders were received, and the project was placed on hold.

The committee considered ways to make access to the Archive material both quick and simple, and came up with the following proposal: that the material be indexed rather than cataloged. An index by artist could be compiled rather quickly; and in place of lengthy descriptive cataloging, a symbol system could be used to show type of material (i.e. whether it's a postcard announcement or a 50-page catalog).

The committee also considered the future of the awards given by the Chapter. Currently, awards are based on material on hand, but there is some concern that the acquisitions process is faulty: catalogs are not automatically mailed to us; and by the time the acquisitions committee goes out on foot, may not even be still available.

The number of awards given was also bought under scrutiny. While the number of awards seems to have increased, there are repeat winners, and smaller galleries may not be getting the recognition and encouragement they deserve.

The committee also reaffirmed the scope of the Archive holdings and eligibility for awards: New York City (the five boroughs).

A question was also raised about museums. Should the catalogs of the major museums be kept and/or be eligible for awards?

The committee welcomes the input of the Chapter, and would like to have an open discussion of these issues at the May 11 meeting. Please speak up!

• A special indexing committee will be formed to establish procedures, prepare the indexing forms, and to study ways and means to publish the index. Members who are interested in indexing are urged to volunteer. The committee also needs members who are knowledgeable about word processing, micro-(personal) computers and/or systems to help develop a system that will be compatible to a memory or printing system. Contact program coordinator Cheryl Wachter at work (212) 841-4252, or at home (212) 662-0090.

# Minding Our Business:

## THE TREASURER

If the duties of the Treasurer, as outlined in the amended ARLIS/NY By-laws, Article IV, Section E-4, sound rather foreboding, take heart. They really aren't. In practice, the work offers much satisfaction. One should not forget that in dealing with financial records one actually deals with human beings, full of exciting ideas and projects, rather than simply juggling with figures.

The responsibility involves taking in the receipts and paying outstanding bills. Receipts consist chiefly of dues and contributions from our members. They are deposited in a special checking account, so that bills may be paid promptly. Paying bills on time is very important. It maintains the Chapter's good credit reputation with institutions that lend us space for our meetings, as well as with guest speakers, and other people who perform various services for us.

It gives our members a feeling of reliability, so they do not hesitate to lay out their own funds for various projects on which they work, since they can count on being speedily reimbursed. On the human side, this function affords the opportunity for a most pleasant exchange of correspondence. Many members accompany their bills with notes describing the projects they have in mind, their work, and even their hobbies. Given the high intellectual caliber of our membership, this information is always interesting and stimulating.

Of course, the exchange of information has to be mutual, and the Treasurer must keep the Executive Board and the membership at large informed about the financial status of the Chapter. This is done in several ways. At each Executive Board meeting a summary report is submitted to ascertain that funds are available for the projected programs. At the annual business meeting the Treasurer reads a preliminary financial report to the membership, furnishes additional information if necessary, and welcomes

questions from members. At the end of the year a final report is prepared for inclusion in the ARLIS/New York News. In the event that financial activity was especially heavy during a given year, the Treasurer may decide to file an additional mid-year report for publication in the newsletter.

Naturally, no member has to wait for any of the above reports to find out what the state of finances of our Chapter is. Books and accounts are open for examination to anyone who wishes to see them. This leads to another important function of the Treasurer: the necessity of keeping scrupulously up-to-date records of the Chapter's financial activities. Members may examine the Chapter's records at any time. Should they wish to avail themselves of this prerogative, please feel free to do so. Call first, however, to make an appointment -- your Treasurer's quarters are rather limited in space and could not accommodate too many people at the same time!

Probably the saddest duty of your Treasurer would be to have to announce that programs could not be carried out because of lack of funds. Happily, this has not happened so far, and, let us hope, will not occur in the future, thanks to the vitality and generosity of our membership.

✻ Céline Palatsky  
Treasurer, ARLIS/New York

## New Members

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members to the New York Chapter. Four new colleagues have joined us since January. We look forward to seeing them at meetings and hope that they will take an active part in Chapter committees and activities.

RICHARD ARNOLD -- Metropolitan Museum  
STEVEN KOWALIK -- Hunter College Art Dept.  
TERRY FOY-McCARTHY -- Bklyn. Children's Mus.  
BARBARA E. REED -- Rotch Library, MIT





# Looking Back.....

Attendance at the Tenth Anniversary meeting of ARLIS/NA in Boston, February, 1982, broke records with a registration of 382 as of the day of the Membership meeting. The Boston conference was centered in the Copley Plaza Hotel, flanked by Trinity Church to the east, and Boston Public Library at the west side of Copley Square. The handsome architectural setting helped to set the tone for a lot of the meetings. The conference was well planned to satisfy a variety of interests. Despite some crowding in a few meetings (a penalty of success) the conference program went off well. My only complaint was that there was too little time to do it all!

I knew that things were going well, as far as registration was concerned, when attendance at the Sunday evening convocation at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum was limited to 300, and there were too many of us to be accommodated there. For this "founding father" (i.e. charter member) of ARLIS/NA it was nostalgia time when our Chair, Karen Muller from the Art Institute of Chicago, read off the names of the charter members and we stood to acknowledge the applause of our colleagues. (Had only ten of us done all this?) After the convocation the charter members stood for a group photograph, the result of which I haven't seen. (Would we have recognized ourselves if that picture could have been transported back via time machine to the first meeting at Columbia University's library school in January 1973? A staggering thought!)

Ten years is a short time, in many ways, but the extent of ARLIS/NA's growth and maturity in that time makes 1972/73 seem a long time ago indeed. Entirely the brainchild of Judy Hoffberg, who stimulated a roomful of us in Chicago, June 1972, to move toward establishing it, ARLIS/NA was for its first five years heavily dependent upon Judy for almost every aspect of its activity. During that time Judy was both Executive Secretary and Newsletter Editor, after serving as first Chair.

When Judy decided that she could no longer give so much of herself to the So-

ciety, and when in turn the Executive Board knew that it could no longer ask so much of one person, that it must take the reins of ARLIS/NA and work as a team, we entered a trying period of transition. During that time, I learned that moving an organization from direction by a strong individual to direction by a strong committee, the Executive Board, is a delicate but necessary thing, ultimately, for the continued health of the organization. When ARLIS/NA held its Seventh conference in Toronto in 1979, after a year marked by irregular publication of the newsletter (and thus a breakdown in communication with the membership), it was meeting without College Art Association for the first time since ARLIS/NA began -- a maverick move that would have been chancy under even the best of circumstances. We were facing a test. Well, attendance at Toronto surpassed any ARLIS/NA registration up to that time, and the conference was a complete success. That was when I knew that ARLIS/NA was going to make it, come hell or high water.

Every ARLIS/NA conference has been good; the format has varied from close scheduling in some years to less tightly-packed programs in others, so we know that no one format is the only right one. The newsletter has thrived. Still, the Society was on shaky financial pinnings, and every year there was a harrowing time just before membership renewals when cash reserves were low.

In view of this, there was cause for rejoicing at the announcement in Boston that ARLIS/NA has a money market nest egg finally, and that the **old days of peaks-and-valleys** finances may be past. The Society has never looked healthier. We aren't rich yet, and ARLIS/NA still needs financial support from its members and friends, but baby, we've come a long, long way.

William B. Walker  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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\* HAVE YOU SENT IN YOUR 1982 \*  
\* MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS YET??? \*  
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# Gearing up

The Archives Acquisition Committee, co-chaired this year by Barry Redlich, Janette Rozene, and Daniel Starr, met at the Fashion Institute of Technology on February 9. Prior to the meeting, the committee mailed out approximately 350 solicitation letters to all the galleries and museums in the five boroughs. Responding to the call for volunteers, 17 members joined the committee and began to fan out all over the city to collect the material. Gratifying results could be seen within days! So a very big "thank you" to all the volunteers who devoted both time and shoe leather to the project: Paula Baxter, May Castleberry, Marie Center, David Combs, J. Ross Day, Erica Doctorow, Janis Ekdahl, Russell Ferguson, Ingeborg Freitag, Sybille Millard, Maureen O'Brien, Lorraine Perrotta, Jessie Rabban, Eleanor Townsend, Ginni Weimer, Frances Young, and Stephen Zietz.

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The work of preparing for the annual awards meeting never stops. Once the material began to arrive at the Archive, Paula Frosch lost no time in appointing this year's awards jury. Chaired by Sonja Bay of the Guggenheim Museum, the jury held its first meeting at F.I.T. on April 20. Joining Sonja this year for this pleasurable yet very difficult task are: Francis Bondurant (NYU Institute of Fine Arts), Erica Doctorow (Adelphi University), and Ingeborg Freitag (Lehman Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art).

## News of Members

On June 30, Peggy Zorach will retire from the Brooklyn Museum Art Reference Library, after 21 years as its Chief Librarian. Peggy says she plans to spend time in Maine, to travel, and to just generally enjoy New York City. The entire Chapter joins in wishing Peggy the best of luck.



Suzanna Simor was appointed Assistant Professor and Head of the Art Library at Queens College in September 1981. Best wishes and congratulations!

## AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Former Chapter Chair Donya Schimansky has published an article in the latest issue of Art Libraries Journal (Vol.6, No.3, Winter 1981), entitled "A Policy for the Development of Collections in Museum Art Libraries in the United States."

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" 'The New Soft Look': Jackson Pollock, Cecil Beaton, and American Fashion in 1951" by Richard Martin, appears in the 1981 annual volume of Dress: The Journal of the Costume Society of America. The essay "represents one unit of a larger study of the imagery collateral to fashion" which Richard hopes to publish at a later date.



## Hands Across the Sea

Clive Phillpot reports that approximately four to six members of ARLIS/UK will be stopping over in New York on their way to the IFLA conference in Montreal. The conference will take place Aug. 22-28. If any of our members can provide accommodation for one or more of our colleagues during the week of Aug. 15-22, please contact Clive at the Museum of Modern Art:  
(212) 956-7235

### THE ARLIS/NEW YORK NEWS

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## at the Galleries.....

BRAM VAN VELDE, 1895-1981. Feb. 6 - Mar. 13, 1982. Lefebvre Gallery. 12 p., col. ill., port., chron., text by P. Alechinsky.

ANTHONY CARO: BRONZE SCREENS AND TABLE SCULPTURES. Jan. 9 - 30, 1982. Andre Emmerich Gallery. 7 leaves, 6 col. ill., no text.

JULIO GONZALEZ, SCULPTURE & DRAWINGS. Oct. 2 - 31, 1981. Pace Gallery. 38 p., ill., text by R. Krauss.


JAMES ROSATI, RECENT SCULPTURE. Dec. 5, 1981 - Jan. 2, 1982. Marlborough Gallery. 24 p., ill. (some col.), chron., bibliog., including ill. of 3 recent monumental commissions.

JACQUES LIPCHITZ, SELECTED SCULPTURE IN LARGE SCALE, 1927-1971. Nov. 1981 - Feb. 1982. Marlborough Gallery. 48 p., ill., chron., statements by the artist.

ROUAN, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS 1973-1981. Feb. 1982. Pierre Matisse Gallery. 24 p., 2 folded plates, ill. (some col.), text by Edward F. Fry, statements by the artist.

ROLPH SCARLETT, WORKS FROM c.1940. Jan. 12 - Feb. 6, 1982. Washburn Gallery. 8 p., ill., port.

HERMANN DUDLEY MURPHY (1867-1945). Feb. 24 - Apr. 17, 1982. Graham Gallery. 40 p., ill. (some col.), chron., bibliog., text by William A. Coles, extensive catalog notes.

 Daniel Starr  
Museum of Modern Art



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GALLERY-GOERS --- Won't you share your findings with the rest of the membership? All it takes is a couple of lines.....

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## Professional Concerns: a committee report

The Professional Concerns Committee-- Paula Baxter, Donya Schimansky, Martita Schwarz, Suzanna Simor (Chair) -- has been vigorously at work on several projects.

When the members first met in June of last year, they discussed a variety of concerns to address, among them: art librarians' professional status/rank (i.e., faculty, curatorial, etc.); salaries, fringe benefits and perquisites; job descriptions; personnel evaluation, performance appraisal; publicity, released and excused time (for professional activities, research and publications outside of the immediate employment); library instruction.

For this year, the committee agreed on two priorities: a directory and a resource file of our Chapter members; and a compilation of data on members' present professional standing in their jobs (i.e., status and rank) together with accompanying conditions of work, fringe benefits and perquisites. The first project has now reached a stage where there is something to report, and indeed a product, albeit partial, in hand:

The committee has prepared a Directory and Resource File Questionnaire and has submitted it to the Executive Board, with a proposal to submit it to the entire membership. The stress of the entire project is on self help. The committee is aware of the storehouse of professional qualifications, experience and expertise among our Chapter members. It would like to open access to this valuable information as well as to promote its exchange, and would also like to make this documentation of our strengths available so that it could serve us in arguing our professional positions in the outside world.

Thus, from the questionnaire's introduction: "To facilitate and encourage professional and personal links among the members, as well as to aid us in sharing our needs and expertise, the Professional Concerns Committee of ARLIS/NY proposes to publish a directory of Chapter members and to assemble a resource file on their professional qualifications and strengths. A

desire for an ARLIS/NY directory (Who's Who) has been expressed by a number of members. The committee recognizes the merits of a directory as a handy reference tool and aims to compile one which will serve us well. In addition, the committee proposes to use the opportunity which a compilation of directory data offers in order to collect information on our members' areas of expertise and experience. This resource file would provide a profile of ARLIS/NY members, demonstrating the general level of education, skills and experience common among the group, and the specific interests and knowledge of individual members."

The form we have worked out consists of sixteen questions. The first ten are intended to furnish information for the directory, i.e., Who's Who in the Art Libraries Society of North America, New York Chapter, 1982. These include: name, institutional affiliation (name and kind), current position (or position title and rank), brief career summary (past positions), education (degrees), subject specialty (e.g., archaeology, Medieval art, architecture, photography, decorative arts), skills (e.g., languages, indexing/abstracting, automation, media/design, exhibitions, conservation, archives, rare books, public relations, grants), publications and creative work, professional association memberships (including positions held or special functions), addresses and telephone numbers for business and home.

The committee seeks to computerize the directory. Computerization would make compilation easier, possibly would give us a better listing, and above all would greatly facilitate updating and revisions. (It might give us spin-off services as well, e.g., mailing labels when we need them.)

The remaining six parts of the questionnaire are complementary and are designed to provide data for a resource file, not to be published but to be available to the Chapter. This section covers continuing education (degree and non-degree courses), other activities and achievements (e.g., consultantships, program responsibility for workshops, conferences, seminars; involvement within institution and/or community; hobbies), additional publications, research,


creative work; instructional materials, manuals, etc. available for consultation, exchange, borrowing; teaching (credit or non-credit courses, lectures, library tours, etc.); honors, awards, grants.

How the resource file would work: In each individual case, the decision whether to help or not when contacted would remain the contributing member's. The Professional Concerns Committee (or its successor, as long as the service lasts) would offer only a connection between the seeker and the potential giver of information. If approved, the file would be kept by the Committee's Secretary, elected directly by the membership. The requesting member would contact the Committee Secretary, who would then search the data bank and contact individuals who might be able to help the requesting member. Any other use of the material in the data bank, (i.e., for general statistical purposes) would first be discussed and then would have to be authorized by the Chapter.

In addition to enable us to share our expertise, to seek and find professional help in case of need, in other words to help each other, the compiled information may also be potentially useful to the Chapter in furnishing support to our collective interest, in furthering our cause as specialists in our general profession.

Right now, the committee would very much appreciate any ideas and comments on the project. Please offer yours, for the four of us may be so immersed in it, that perhaps we are missing something crucial! Especially advice and -- even better -- assistance with computerization are welcome.

It has been a lot of work in the Summer and Fall, but we all enjoyed it and indeed had fun. If you think you might want to be part of any of the above, or come with new ideas, please join us! Call any of the committee members, or drop me a note at the Art Library at Queens College (Flushing, NY 11367; tel. 212- 520-7243).

 Suzanna Simor, Chairperson  
Professional Concerns Committee

