

# ARLIS/New York News



Volume 8 Number 3

Summer 1987

ARLIS/New York ANNUAL SUMMER TOUR

*Last year Coney Island, this year ...*

S T A T E N \* I S L A N D

on Saturday, August 22nd, 1987

(details inside!)

## M. Knoedler & Co. Hosts Summer Meeting

May 27 — The Summer meeting of ARLIS/New York was held at the Knoedler Gallery Library. The meeting began with refreshments on the sixth-floor terrace overlooking East Seventieth Street and moved into the library on the seventh floor.

After forty-five minutes Linda Swieszkowski, the Chairperson, called the meeting to order in the Library at 5:45 pm. She thanked Nancy Little, Librarian at Knoedler, for allowing the use of the library for our meeting.

The amendment to the by-laws recommended by Suzanna Simor at the Spring business meeting and published in the most recent newsletter was the first issue of the meeting. It was put before the members present and was passed overwhelmingly by a voice vote.

Linda thanked Alison Pinsler for the fine job she has done as the newsletter editor. Alison will be leaving the chapter for a position at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills at the end of June. Ross Day has agreed to act as interim newsletter editor, but the search is on to find a replacement. If anyone is interested s/he should contact either Linda or Ross.

### New York Conference in 1990 Discussed

The next topic was the possibility of hosting the ARLIS/NA conference in New York in 1990. A statement and a ballot had been sent to the membership in the newsletter and the responses were due by this meeting. Of a membership of 108, only thirty-three responses were received: twenty-two in favor, eleven against.

Linda asked anyone present who had not voted to do so at that time or to talk to her later. Adina Lerner brought up the point that a very small percentage of

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the Editor

WITH THIS AND THE NEXT two issues (Fall and Winter), I assume my brief and temporary editorship of the chapter newsletter. When the new year begins I hope we will have a new editor in place to continue the newsletter's renewed publication.

As ever the newsletter will be appearing prior to each membership meeting. This "hors-serie" issue precedes the summer tour; the Fall number will be coming out before the I. M. Pei & Associates meeting in late September or early October; and the Winter issue will appear before the year-end holiday meeting.

In recognition of the expected dates, DEADLINES will be set for submitting copy. THE DEADLINE FOR THE FALL ISSUE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

I hope that columns which were a regular feature of the newsletter will make a comeback. Among these are a column from the chapter chairperson, one from the editor (where warranted), listings of new members and news of present members. To the latter end, any professional or quasi-professional news (publications, promotions, job changes, activities) would be appreciated. No need for modesty; the editor will be the final arbiter.

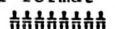
At this writing it appears that the New York chapter will host the 18th ARLIS/NA Conference in 1990. The conference chair will keep us abreast of developments as well as exhorting the chapter members into contributing their talents. Look for a column soon.

Returning in this issue under the fanciful title "What's-Up Documentation" is the earlier "Art on Tap" column. Many of the suggestions made by readers of the old column have been incorporated into the new format: As librarians can discover what is currently on view, the new column will highlight exclusively upcoming events. It is now ordered by the institution in keeping with similar publications. I hope you like it.

Readers of the newsletter will still be able to read about the meeting s/he missed (or attended, of course) and learn of the activities of the Executive Board.

THE EDITOR IS INTERESTED in any additional suggestions for the newsletter. If you have published recently in a journal which you feel your colleagues may not have seen, why not include it in the chapter newsletter. If you would like to do an article as a trial run for Art Documentation, think of ARLIS/New York News first.

It may take a few issues for the newsletter format to settle down; bear with us.



# Art Database Discussion Held

June 9 — A meeting was held at the Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, to discuss informally the various online vendors useful in the art library. The discussion was headed by Virginia Kerr and Kathryn Deiss. Eighteen members were present, a few new members among them.

The discussion began with the various gateways to online usage, including equipment and start-up costs. The group was asked what their policies on searching are and how they actually determine how and by whom the search is done. Questions of staffing and fees were important aspects of the talks.

Virginia Kerr discussed the various vendors, especially Dialog and its many humanities oriented databases. The group considered the many different idiosyncracies of each frequently used database. Tales of frustration along with soaring successes were shared. The new services of Dialog, such as Knowledge Index, DialMail and DialLink, were brought up.

RILA proved to be a problem with most searchers and it was hoped that a future meeting can be arranged with a representative of RILA for the membership.

Other vendors discussed included Art Index (online and CD-ROM), BRS, Questel and RLIN. A.L.

## Highlights from the Executive Board

June 10 — The most recent board meeting was held at the Municipal Art Society. The first issue put forth was the forwarding of the invitation to ARLIS/NA for the national meeting in New York, 1990. The letter was presented in draft and contained all the qualifiers mentioned by the membership who responded to the survey. The board approved its contents and Linda Swieszkowski would send out the final draft soon.

The board discussed a new, improved format for the newsletter and the upcoming trip to Staten Island's Tibetan Museum and Richmond Town Restoration on Aug. 22nd. The fall meeting's agenda at I. M. Pei & Associates was presented along with its possible dates.

The idea of having name tags at all future meetings met with a very positive response and it will be implemented at the next meeting.

Ross Day presented Linda with the amended by-laws to be given to Paula Baxter, Eastern Regional Representative, for approval by ARLIS/NA at the mid-year meeting. Linda also explained some of the issues the Professional Concerns Committee is considering, such as a mentoring program in library schools and an article to be commissioned about the art library profession for a mainstream publication. A.L.

ARLIS/New York News is published by the Art Libraries Society of New York, a regional chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America, 3900 E. Timrod St., Tucson AZ 85711.

ISSN: 0894-3133

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This occasional publication is distributed free of charge to members of ARLIS/New York. For information on membership, contact Adina Lerner, Secretary, ARLIS/New York, P. O. Box 6032, Grand Central Station, New York 10163-6018. Please include the full ZIP + 4 when mailing.

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## Ex Cathedra

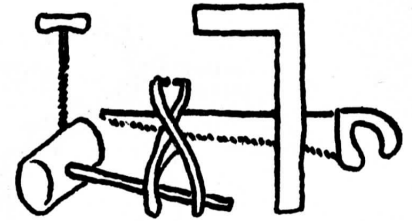
Having just joined the World Future Society and read some of their publications I have been contemplating the advantages of sophisticated communications systems for ARLIS/NA members. What if we all had home computers and could communicate with each other through a bulletin board system? Hobbyists, clubs and other organizations across the country are using new technology to their betterment, surely those of us in the information field should be doing the same.

Making use of Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) ARLIS/NA members could be in constant communication. With an electronic mail function it would be easy to share documents. Reports compiled at the eleventh hour would still arrive on time. I know I would like that feature. And with computer conferencing, committees could meet without the cost of traveling. What a boon for conference planning!

What if ARLIS/NA could offer a home computer system to its members at a reasonable cost? Being able to buy in large quantity should reduce the price to individuals considerably. Perhaps for the active member, who presently makes heavy use of the telephone, the cost of a system would soon pay for itself. Regardless, the enhanced communications and technical expertise that would be gained from the use of such a system, I feel, would be worth it. I'm going to suggest that ARLIS/NA investigate the possibility of purchasing computer systems for the members. Could ARLIS/NA go down in the annals of librarianship as the first library organization where automated communications technology is used to facilitate communication among its members?

In conclusion I would like to applaud the efforts of the ARLIS/New York online users group. This year's meeting was well attended and well presented. If we get the opportunity to assist our organization's growing sophistication with additional automated technology, the skills we learn from work situations will only enhance our capabilities. Learning everything we can about automated systems is definitely to our advantage. A thank-you to Virginia Kerr and Kathryn Deiss for organizing the session.

*Linda Swieszkowski*



ARLIS-New York will be sponsoring a Staten Island excursion Saturday August 22. The program will feature a tour of the Jacques Marchais Center of Tibetan Art and the Richmondtown REstoration. A bus will be provided for ARLIS-New York members (seating cap. 15). Picnic tables and a cafeteria are available at the Richmondtown Restoration. Since advance deposits are required, it is necessary to know as soon as possible how many people will be attending. If you would like to attend, please fill out the tear sheet and return by August 1. The fee for the tour is \$6.50. Checks are payable to ARLIS-NY and should be sent to

ARLIS-NY  
 Box 6032  
 Grand Central Station  
 N.Y., N.Y. 10163-6018

ITINERARY (see reverse for map & directions)

- 10:30 meet at the Staten Island ferry. The bus will pick us up at the court house directly in front of the ferry. ("Smith Minibus", dark blue and white van).
- 11:30 arrive at Jacques Marchais Center.
- 12:00-1:30 tour of the museum by Barbara Lipton, Director.
- 1:45-3:30 lunch, tour of Richmondtown Restoration.
- 3:30 return to Staten Island ferry.




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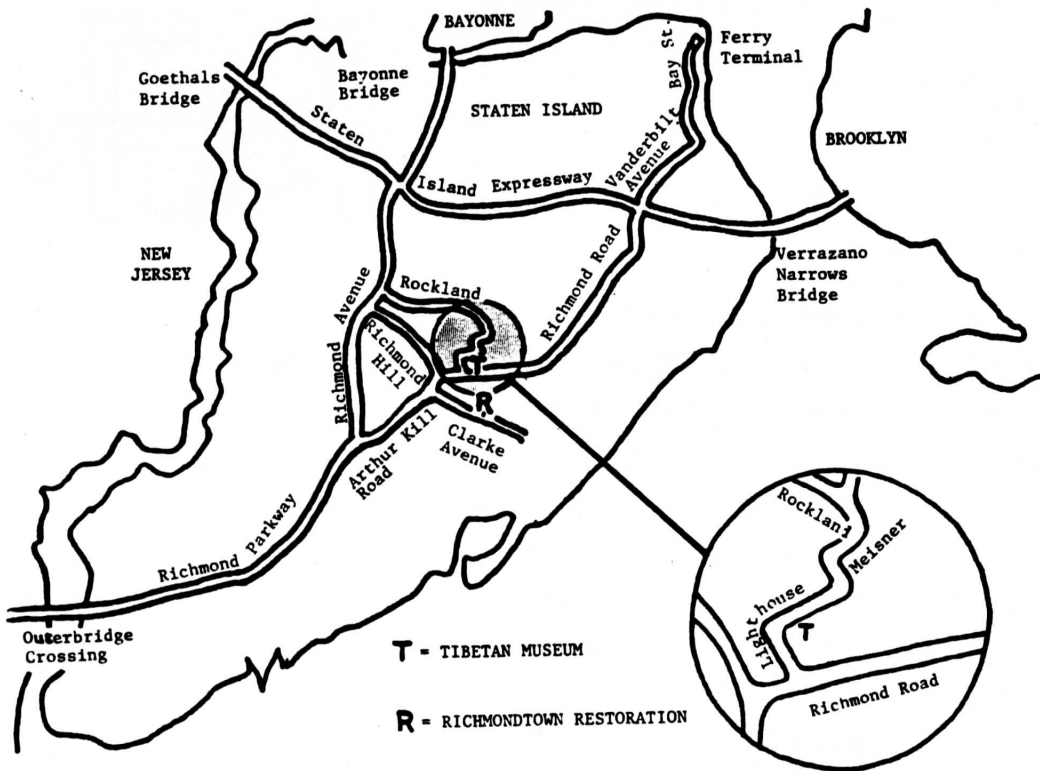
\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name)

I will be attending the tour and wish to reserve a seat on the bus. \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending the tour but will provide my own transportation. \_\_\_\_\_

I am an ARLIS-NJ member. \_\_\_\_\_

Regrettably, limited seating capacity forces us to restrict the bus to ARLIS-NY members.



**From Manhattan**

*Via the Staten Island Ferry:* Take bus S113 to Lighthouse Ave. (Ask the driver to let you off.) Turn right up hill to #338 on the right.

*By car,* turn left out of the ferry terminal onto Bay Street. Follow Bay about two miles. Turn right onto Vanderbilt Avenue. At the fourth light, bear left onto Richmond Road. About five miles ahead, turn right onto Lighthouse Ave. to #338.

**From Brooklyn**

*Via Verrazano Narrows Bridge:* Follow New Jersey West route to Richmond Road/Clove Road exit. At second light, turn left onto Richmond Road. About five miles ahead, turn right onto Lighthouse Ave. to #338.

**From New Jersey**

*Via Goethals Bridge:* Staten Island Expressway to Richmond Avenue. Proceed south. Turn left onto Rockland Road. Bear right at Manor Road and turn right on Meisner Avenue and proceed uphill. Follow Meisner Av. to crest of hill where Meisner becomes Lighthouse Av. Turn right along crest of hill to #338 on the left.

*Via Outerbridge Crossing:* Take Richmond Parkway to the Richmond Avenue North exit. Turn right at the first light onto Arthur Kill Road. Proceed to Richmond Road. Turn left onto Lighthouse Avenue to #338 on right.

# M. Knoedler & Co.

(From page 1)

the membership had responded and those responding frequently gave only a qualified approval. Usually a "yes" was prefaced with the statement that ARLIS/NA should hire a professional planner to relieve the membership from the overwhelming details which had burdened the planning of the 1986 conference in New York.

Linda indicated that an invitation would be extended to ARLIS/NA but would include the membership's reservations. She would insure that the issue of a professional planner was emphasized in the wording of the invitation.

## Upcoming Chapter Activities

A nominating committee is needed. Linda asked that the members think about volunteering for the job. She asked that anyone interested get in touch with her at the Municipal Art Information Exchange (212 980-1297).

The Fall meeting will be held at I. M. Pei's office and details will be in the next newsletter [Notice will appear in the Fall issue — Ed.] There will be a tour this summer to Staten Island, either to Snug Harbor or to the Tibetan Museum. Jean Hines will be planning this and a mailing will be sent to the membership when plans are finalized.

The Professional Concerns Committee submitted a proposal for the ARLIS/NA Conference in 1988. Matthew Hogan will be writing about it in the next newsletter.

Daniel Starr suggested that new members be introduced at each meeting. He then asked them to come forward and say hello. It was also suggested that name tags be supplied at future meetings so it will be easier to identify new members and get reacquainted with the old ones.

## History of the Knoedler Gallery

Nancy Little began with the history of the firm and its library. The firm, founded in 1846, established the library collection at the turn of the century. For many years Knoedler had offices in Paris, London and New York. The firm was owned by the Knoedler family until 1970, when it was acquired by Armand Hammer.

Between 1925 and 1970, the firm and library were located at 14 East Fifty-seventh Street in a building designed by Carrère and Hastings. The Gallery moved to the present location at 19 East Seventieth Street in 1970 and the library relocated into its present space, what was once the gymnasium in the original town house, in 1981.

The noteworthy renovation includes structural steel flooring with mesh grate, which divides the room into two levels. The space has wonderful light, a result of retaining the original windows, and the overall feeling is of a 'fantasy' private library. It is nevertheless a serious scholarly collection. What a thrill it is to see whole shelves of monographs on one artist and nineteenth-century titles in such good condition.

## The Library Collection

The library's mission is to aid the gallery staff in the preparation of shows. The collection includes a substantial archives, featuring artists' correspondence and photographs of works shown in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The library is insufficient to house all of the collection and the majority of its materials are stored in a warehouse in Hoboken. Knoedler also has a microfiche series of its catalogs,

which is available for purchase.

The collection concentrates on nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and American artists. Material on major historical artists' movements/periods, however, such as Rembrandt and the Baroque, are also held. When the library moved to its present location in 1981, it was to have been a subscription library. The idea was abandoned and today the library is open to qualified researchers by appointment. The photographic archives seem to be the most often requested material of scholars.

Only minimal cataloging is done for the collection, which includes many books originally acquired by the firm's London branch. The arrangement is alphabetical by artist. Many of the volumes are quite old and are in excellent condition. Ms. Little estimates that there are 45,000 volumes in the collection. She also acknowledged that she has an unlimited budget for acquisitions.

Kathryn Deiss took the spiral staircase to add that the SCPIO database, available on RLIN, will now include the Knoedler collection of catalogs. The records will be input onto the database by the University of California at Santa Barbara.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm to the terrace for a last nip at the refreshments. A.L.

<p>ARLIS/NEW YORK WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Clare Cohn</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Katie Keller</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Patricia Duzich</td> <td>Herbert Mitchell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Edwards</td> <td>Sara Mock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catherine Gilman</td> <td>Lee Robinson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eumie Imm</td> <td>Linda Seckelson-Simpson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frank Dennis Jackson</td> <td>Ulla Volk</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Yevgenia Zazovskaya</td> </tr> </table>	Clare Cohn	Katie Keller	Patricia Duzich	Herbert Mitchell	Mary Edwards	Sara Mock	Catherine Gilman	Lee Robinson	Eumie Imm	Linda Seckelson-Simpson	Frank Dennis Jackson	Ulla Volk	Yevgenia Zazovskaya		
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Frank Dennis Jackson	Ulla Volk														
Yevgenia Zazovskaya															
<p>AND ONE RETURNING MEMBER:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">James Findlay</p>															

## Summer Closings

Brooklyn Public Library = closed Sundays through Sept. 27

Fashion Institute of Technology = closed weekends to Aug. 30; closed July 28-August 23

Frick Art Reference Library = closed August 1-31

Metropolitan Museum of Art = all libraries closed from August 1 - September 7 except Uris Library and Resource Center (open Wed.-Sunday, 10 - 4:30, Tuesday 10 - 7)

Municipal Art Society Information Exchange = closed Fridays in August

Museum of Modern Art = open Tuesday & Thursdays only, 2 - 5 p.m.

New York Historical Society = closed weekends through Sept. 6

Pierpont Morgan Library = closed August 1-31

Whitney Museum of American Art Library = closed August 1-31

# What's-Up Documentation

## Openings (to Labor Day)

Asia Society (517-8508) — Ice and Green Clouds: Traditions of Chinese Celadon (July 16)

Brooklyn Museum (718 638-5000) — Classic Photographs from The Brooklyn Museum Collection (July 1) — Andrew Topolski: A Sound Measure (July 2)

Cooper-Hewitt Museum (860-6868) — Robert Adam and Kedleston Hall: The Making of a Neo-Classical Masterpiece (June 30) — Underground Images: Subway Posters for the School of Visual Arts (July 28)

Guggenheim Museum (360-3500) — A Decade of Emerging Artists: Selections from the Exxon Series (Sept. 4)

International Center of Photography (860-1777) — Bill Burke: Asian Diary (July 31) — Midtown: David Graham: American Beauty and Barbara Norfleet: All The Right People (July 24)

Metropolitan Museum of Art (535-7710) — The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden (August 1)

Museum of Modern Art (708-9490) — William Rau and the Railroad (July 2) — Projects: Louise Lawler (Sept. 5)

Museum of the City of New York (534-1672) — Summer Diversions: New York Places and Pleasures (June 30) — Summer Silhouettes: Washable Fashion in the Nineteenth Century (July 21)

National Academy of Design (369-4880) — Sketched 'En Pleine Air:' The National Academy of Design and the Painter Etcher Movement (July 8)

Pierpont Morgan Library (685-0008) — Closed August 1-31.

Whitney Museum of American Art (570-3676) — Cindy Sherman (July 10) — Red Grooms (July 23) — Philip Morris (878-2550): The Social Graces: 1905-1944 (July 16)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Linda Swieszkowski  
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New York NY 10022

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