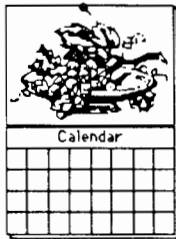




ARLIS/New York News

Volume 16 Number 1

February 1995



EVENTS. . .

WHAT'S NEXT: GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL AND A NYPL EXHIBITION

Please join ARLIS/NY for a walking tour of Grand Central Terminal and the exhibition currently at The New York Public Library, "Garbage!" The tour group will meet on Saturday, February 25, 1995 at 1:00 at the Chemical Bank Commuter Express in the Main Concourse at Grand Central.

We look forward to seeing you during this informative afternoon revolving around New York City history. The cost is only \$15.00/person. Bring a friend, and it will be \$25.00 for both of you! These tours are welcome to all, so invite family members and friends.

Kindly respond by February 17 to Eumie Imm at 212-708-9441. See you there!

Grand Central Terminal, 42nd to 45th Sts. between Vanderbilt and Lexington Avenues. Completed in 1913, and "Gateway to the Nation" in the decades when the railroad was "king," Grand Central Terminal is still admired the world over as the prototypical terminal. In 1978 the Municipal Art Society played an important role in its preservation. Explore this urban landmark from top (the glass catwalks) to bottom (the Guastavino tile vaulting in the ceiling parts of the lower

level.) Our guide will be John Wilson, an urban historian and one of the Municipal Art Society's expert and entertaining guides.

"Garbage! The History and Politics of Trash In New York City" at the New York Public Library, D. Samuel and Jeane H. Gottesman Exhibition Hall, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street. This exhibition will examine the history of New York City through its garbage! Among the topics discussed in the exhibition are the conditions of urban life in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, public health and reform, pollution, recycling, and environmental issues. Join us and one of The New York Public Library's trained guides for a glimpse into this aspect of New York City's urban and social history.

—Eumie Imm
Museum of Modern Art Library

RECAP: HOLIDAY PARTY A SUCCESS

The year's ending holiday festivities were enjoyed by about thirty-five people at the Center for Book Arts on December 6, 1994. After a friendly greeting from Lizzie the Cat, Executive Director Brian Hannon provided a tour of the facilities and discussed the current exhibition of artists' books, "Soviet and Subversive Books from Russia."

Festivities were somewhat bittersweet, as we bid goodbye to one of the New York Chapter's mainstays, Hikmet Doğu. Our tireless Past Chair relocated to Utah at the end of December to be the new Central Branch Librarian of the Davis County Library

in Layton, Utah. After toasting Hikmet, and sampling the sumptuous refreshments, the year's events were recapped, and continuing and incoming Board members were introduced.

Thanks for a successful celebration go to party coordinator, Greta Earnest.

—Jean Hines
Pratt Institute Library



FROM THE CHAIR. . .

Dear Colleagues,
As the new Chair of ARLIS/NY, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that those of us on the Executive Board are committed to offering you a variety of programs and events that we hope will enrich your professional experiences. We are fortunate to live in an area where there is a vastness of cultural riches from which to draw, making our task all the more enjoyable and challenging.

This year's events promise to be every bit as exciting as last year's. We have already planned a Winter tour, and are working on a Spring tour and a workshop on exploring art resources on the Internet. While locations and dates for the last two events have not been secured as I write this, you can be sure that we will keep you informed well in advance so you can make arrangements to attend these programs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's Executive Board members who are no longer on the Board, Hikmet Doğu, Janis Ekdahl, Jean Hines and Debbie Kempe. They did a superb job and helped strengthen the Executive Board's internal structure.

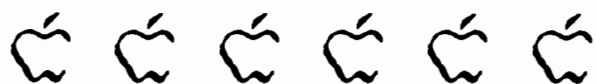
All of us on the Board want to involve as many members as possible in our activities. For example, there are

opportunities to write articles for this newsletter, *ARLIS/NY News*. Perhaps you can tell us about a conference or workshop you attended that could benefit others, or wish to contribute exhibition reviews or a topical column. There will be opportunities throughout the year, as well, to help plan programs, to participate in the travel award and even to run for office!

The Board hopes that you will give us your impressions on how you benefitted from one of our events and where there may be room for improvement. We welcome your ideas and your participation. And may I remind you at this time to please renew your membership (form enclosed in this issue) if you did not already do so in the last few months.

Finally, may I make a short plug for Montréal, site of this year's ARLIS/NA conference, and where I lived for seven years? I hope that many of you are planning to attend the conference, which is to be held from March 10th to 15th at Le Centre Sheraton in downtown Montréal. Montréal is a beautiful, vital city, cold by way of its temperature but not in its spirit. There is plenty to see and do there, as you wander outside between conference sessions and meetings. The shopping is great (and the difference in currency works in our favor) and the number and variety of excellent restaurants truly could rival New York. And I can guarantee that our ARLIS/MOQers—that stands for Montréal/Ottawa/Québec—are a collegial and fun-loving group, who are planning to roll out the red carpet for us with their hospitality. So bring some warm clothing, a French pocket dictionary and let's all experience some *joie de vivre!*

—Alexandra de Luise
Art Library and Art Center
Queens College



MEET THE ARLIS/NY BOARD



Alexandra de Luise, Chair

I have been an Art Librarian in the Art Library at Queens College (part of The City University of New York) since September 1991. This is my second Board position in ARLIS/NY, previously having served proudly as Member-at-Large. My biggest contributions to ARLIS/NY since I've been a Board member have been helping to coordinate the planning of the Frick Art Reference Library business meeting in Fall 1992, the Museum of African Art in the Fall of 1993 and the Yale tour in the Spring of 1994. I was briefly an ARLIS/NY member from 1980 to 1983, then went to Canada. I resumed my membership in 1990 when I returned to the U.S. I got involved because of the opportunities to lend support to an organization that has given so much to me and to work closely with members. I also confess to a certain fondness for organizing events! As Chair, my duties include presiding over Board and business meetings, overseeing the planning and coordinating of programs and meetings, and serving as an advocate for our professional concerns. I hope that in 1995 we will have the opportunity to participate in events which will provide intellectual stimulation and help us to grow in our profession. My residence is Flushing, Queens, where I live with my husband, Normand, our six year old son, Marc, and two cockatiels.

Eumie Imm, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

This is my first Board position with ARLIS. As Vice-Chair of ARLIS/NY, I look forward to working with my fellow Board members and ARLIS/NY Chapter members. I'd like to help organize a content-oriented



workshop or seminar for the Chapter for the next year. I welcome any suggestions. I was lucky to work with some wonderful NY Chapter members during my three-year tenure as

newsletter editor. I'm the Associate Librarian for Reference at The Museum of Modern Art. I came to NYC to go the library school at Columbia University. It was a big acclimatization for a midwesterner from Dayton, Ohio! My interests include figure skating. I practice at the rink in the mornings and on the weekends; this is where I met my fiance!



Maria Oldal, Secretary

I have been a cataloger at the Pierpont Morgan Library since the Fall of 1990. This year it is my pleasure to serve as the Secretary of ARLIS/NY, of which I have been a member since 1993. I got involved with the Society by attending its annual conferences. I have profitted greatly from its programs and I cherish the acquaintances I have made with other ARLIS colleagues. In Montréal I shall assume the position of moderator of the Cataloging Section. I look forward to working with ARLIS members at both North American and Chapter levels. I moved to New York from Budapest, Hungary six years ago, with the purpose of enhancing my professional career. I started out as a librarian following in the footsteps of my father, who was a library director for almost thirty years. In my free time I try to take advantage of the fabulous art and music events New York City offers.



**Ross Day,
Treasurer**

I am currently Associate Museum Librarian of The Robert Goldwater Library, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. I've worked in various capacities there since 1980. I've been a "fixture" (not my word) on the Chapter Board almost continuously since 1985, as Member-at-Large, newsletter editor, Vice-Chair/Chair/Past Chair, keeper of the Membership rolls, and now as Treasurer. In March, I'll wrap up a two-year stint on the Executive Board of ARIS/NA as Northeast Regional Representative. I'm married and the guardian of a ten-year-old Keeshond. Family genealogy and automobile license plate collecting are among my current mania.



**Greta Earnest,
Member-at-Large**

The day after graduating from Bard College with a Bachelor's degree in Art History, I headed out on a four-day road trip across the country, thinking, "This is great, but what is next?" As my friends (who were in the same "boat" so to speak) and I went speeding along roads, streets, highways, and byways at all hours of the day and night, we bought newspapers and read the classifieds. We were searching for a clue as to how we might begin to pay off our recently acquired debts. I began to notice that there were library positions everywhere (that was then...), in all shapes and sizes (small towns, big cities, profit, non-profit, etc.) I was wooed by the flexibility and

versatility, and intrigued by all those acronyms—oh, to decipher them! It was that trip that began my travels along the path to the profession of art librarianship. Serendipity and good fortune led the rest of the way. I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to serve ARIS/NY in my second year as Member-at-Large.



**Paula Gabbard,
Member-at-Large**

Most of my working life has been in libraries: Indiana University, University of South Dakota, University of Missouri, State University of New York at Stony Brook, and since mid-1987, Avery Library at Columbia University. In 1984, soon after I (finally) began working towards a Master's degree in Librarianship, I joined ARIS/NA and ARIS/NY, and in 1990-91 I served on the ARIS/NY Board as Secretary, a pleasant experience that inspired me to become a Board member once again. You may have seen my name occasionally in this newsletter with my colleague, Kitty Chibnik, in our column called "From the Reference Desk." This year I was asked to chair ARIS/NA's Collection Development Committee—my first chairing gig. Personal interests: I'm a movie-loving, jazz-loving foodie. Quote for the moment (from Eleanor Roosevelt): When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot on it and hang on.

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TRAVEL AWARD GIVEN

The ARIS/NY Travel Awards Committee is pleased to name Tammy Wofsey as the winner of the 1994 award to attend the ARIS/NA conference. Tammy is currently

enrolled in the Queens College Library Science program. Although she has attended several ARIS/NY meetings, she will be a first-time attendee at the North American Conference. She has held assistantships at the Queens College Art Library, Columbia University's Butler Library, the Pierpont Morgan Library and the Louis Armstrong Archives.

Congratulations, Tammy! We look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

—Greta Earnest
Pratt Institute Library



CATALOGING NOTES. . .

Is Bad Cataloging Censorship?


Every month, when I receive my issue of *American Libraries*, I read about all the social issues that confront librarianship, and feel, well, left out. Cataloging seems so removed from the battlegrounds reference librarians must visit daily. Taking the broadest interpretation of "equal access to information" —one of the tenets of modern librarianship—cataloging is part of that access. If bad cataloging blocks access, by effectively hiding material from the public, is bad cataloging censorship?

As a cataloger, my initial response is: no, of course not. A cataloging mistake is not the same as censoring materials. However, a cataloger could purposely create mistakes that block access to works of which he or she does not approve. What disturbs me is the idea that a cataloger could hide material through bad cataloging without even being aware of it. My lack of expertise in a certain subject area, for instance, could prevent me from

assigning relevant subject headings or a proper classification number, and the book becomes "lost." I may have a personal bias which prevents me from analyzing a book fairly and thoroughly.

Ultimately, catalogers can only do their best. One can hope that catalogers, like all librarians, operate in "neutral mode," and are aware of their personal biases and compensate as best they can. In the grand scheme of things, cataloging is a very small activity with minor impact, but it is a means of access to information. As such, it is susceptible to the same pitfalls as the whole of librarianship.


—Kay Teel
Elmer Bobst Library
New York University



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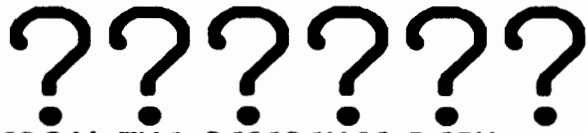
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FROM THE REFERENCE DESK. . .
or, Questions from Cyberspace

In November 1994, the Columbia University Libraries launched a new reference service called "ASK: Electronic Reference Desk." Patrons can ask reference questions online through CLIO Plus, the Libraries' gateway.

Lest light bulbs have suddenly lit up among those of you connected to the Internet and therefore CLIO Plus, the service is limited to those with Columbia electronic mail accounts.

Patrons are given a choice of subject areas to pick from such as Arts, Humanities and History, Social Sciences and "General Reference: when you can't decide." The questions are routed to various notesfiles which are managed by reference librarians. For Arts, after receipt, the questions are divvied up among the librarians within Avery. We also receive the questions for performing arts, film, video and, sometimes, music, which are forwarded to appropriate librarians within the system.

A response via electronic mail is mandated within two working days. However, this can consist of "We're working on your question" or "Please come into the library for a consultation." The goal is to direct the patron to an appropriate source.

So far, the Arts notefile has only received eight questions, unlike some of the other services such as Social Sciences which has received 45! Question 1 did not bode well for the project from our point of view: a request for all references to the German fashion designer "Jill Sanders (Saunders?)" and her business. Not a problem for the

Fashion Institute, but we do not collect in fashion! "All" references—yipes! Luckily, the patron mentioned having seen an article in *Time*. One of our librarians had just read the article. Oh yes, turns out the correct spelling is Jil Sander (no second L, no U, no ending S).

Not surprisingly, spelling seems to be a big problem in doing art research. Question 3 was: "I need a source of information on (don't have spelling) Talouse Latreque(?). And then we received the question about the painter named Ables or Apples or Aples who told a shoemaker not to criticize his painting beyond how the shoelaces were painted.

Remember the reference interview? A bit harder to do via electronic mail. The General Reference box has had a number of questions consisting of topics only (such as business, Cherokee language, ten philosophical mistakes) to which the initial reply could only be "Could you be a bit more specific?"

Since we have only had eight questions, it is a bit too soon to identify trends. So far, the only trend sighted might be a morbid interest in death! We have been asked when and of what Charlie Parker died and whether it was true that one of the men in the firm McKim, Mead and White, the architects of the Columbia campus, was murdered or committed a murder in a fit of passion.

Patrons have, in a surprising number, written back expressing their thanks for our help. While, in part, this might be seen as e-mail etiquette to acknowledge receipt, it also seems to be a quite heartfelt response to the service. Rather than distancing us from our patrons, cyberspace has created an new oddly close form of communication with them.

—Kitty Chibnik and Paula Gabbard
Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Columbia University

ACCESS POLICY PROJECT

TO: Metropolitan Area Academic,
Public, and Museum Art Librarians
FROM: ALG/Metro, Art Section
SUBJECT: Internet Gopher: Access Policies

Soon we'll be sending Metro NY area art libraries a brief questionnaire concerning your access policy. Please help us improve the quality of referral through your participation in this survey.

For further information, contact Paula Gabbard, phone: 212-854-6745, email: gabbard@columbia.edu

—Sharon Chickanzeff
Institute of Fine Arts

AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES?

How often has someone called you with books to donate, and you had to decline them? Wouldn't it be nice to have an easy way to redirect these donations to someone who needs them?

Discussions have continued (since the ARLIS/NY October meeting where the idea was raised) on the development of a referral point or a referral list to help find a constructive alternative to simply saying, "No thanks."

Project members hope to compile a list of needy organizations such as hospitals and hospices, public high schools with a focus on the arts, prisons, and other non-profit entities that could benefit from a donation of art books.

If you would like to help compile this information or have other creative suggestions, please contact Sharon Chickanzeff at 212-772-5825 or Micki Breitenstein at 516-472-2862.

—Sharon Chickanzeff & Micki Breitenstein



ARLIS/NA ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the recent ARLIS/NA election are as follows:

Vice-President/President-Elect:

Jack Robertson, University of Virginia

Secretary: Maryly Snow, University of California at Berkeley

South Regional Rep: Jeannette Dixon,
Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, TX

Northeast Regional Rep: Betsy Peck
Learned, Roger Williams College

Midwest Regional Rep: Stephanie Sigala,
St. Louis Art Museum



MEMBERSHIP NEWS. . .

Welcome to New Members

Gabriel Austin, Anne Britton, Judith Gelertner, Josephine Murphy, Rhoda Terry, Jenney Tobias, Rebecca Wilkins.

About Current Members

Wanda Dole, Assistant Director of Collections and Public Service for the Library at SUNY Stony Brook, delivered two lectures in China in October of 1994: "Strategic Planning and On-the-Job Training of Information Professionals" at the 4th Beijing International Symposium on Computerized Information Management (BISCIM '94), October 14-18; and "Survey and Analysis of Demand for Journals: Preliminary Steps to a Journal Cancellation Project" at the International Seminar on Information Technologies and Information, Shanghai, October 20-24.

Patricia J. Barnett, who was Museum Librarian for Coordinated Information Systems at the Met's Thomas J. Watson Library, has been selected as Andrew W. Mellon Chief Librarian, Frick Art Reference Library of the Frick Collection.

Thank\$ for Your Contribution\$

Sherman Clarke, William J. Dane, Alexandra de Luise, Janis Ekdahl, Paula Gabbard, Hollee Haswell, Steven Kowalik, Josephine Murphy, Ralph F. Ocker, Celine Palatsky, Doralynn Pines, Herbert Schwarz, Lorraine C. Weberg.

Membership Information

Send address changes, renewals and contributions to Ross Day, c/o Goldwater Library, Metropolitan Museum, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028-0198.

TECHNICAL SERVICES MEETING

New York Technical Services Librarians is holding its annual Spring reception on Friday, March 10, 1995 from 3:00-5:00 PM in the Trustees Room of the New York Public Library, 42nd St. & 5th Ave. Librarians and information professionals in the Greater New York area are invited.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

Library Research, \$25-30K. FT, permanent position with contemporary art gallery in mid-town Manhattan. Requires degree or minor in library science and strong computer and database experience, including CD-ROM.. Knowledge of contemporary art required. Person will maintain artist bios and handle staff requests for info on upcoming shows. Contact Lynda Feld, Avis Resources. Ph: 212-753-4272; FAX: 212-486-7949.



ARLIS/NY TREASURER'S REPORT

1994 Summary as of December 28, 1994

Opening Balance	\$3,062.12
Income	\$3,572.00
Expenses	\$2,386.35
Closing Balance	\$4,247.77

ARLIS/NY EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Eumie Imm
Secretary: Maria Oldal
Treasurer: Ross Day
Members-at-Large: Greta Earnest
Paula Gabbard



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Quarter page: \$50
Half page: \$75
Full page: \$100.

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Friday, August 4, 1995
Friday, October 27, 1995



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